

pation remains invested in the aborigines. These rights to their native domain are paramount, and supported by a grant from the Creator of earth and man, and is in perfect accordance with justice and the best principles of common law and the human heart. They cannot be acquired by others, but on those common principles, recognized in the transfer of freehold estate among all civilized nations. The right of purchasing any portion of their lands, seems to be a prerogative of that sovereignty justly claimed and exercised by some enlightened and free people. To take from them a part, or the whole of their lands, without an adequate remuneration, on the ground that the improvements in human affairs, and the good of mankind require it, is wrong, and utterly unjustifiable.

Notwithstanding Indians differ from white men in the tincture of their skins, they, nevertheless, have natural rights like other members of the human family. They can buy, sell, and hold property, personal, real or mixed; and are wont to exercise these rights. As well might strangers rob them of their pelts and skins, as to take from them their forests and prairies.

Admitting the self-evident truth, that all men are born free, and with equal rights; the claims, which have been set up by different nations, to territory occupied from time immemorial, solely by Indians, are deserving of no respect or support.

Spain, Russia, France, America and England, have each claimed the Oregon country; and if all of them have not likewise claimed the right of parceling it out to their respective subjects, they have, that of conveying it to other nations. Spain sold it to France and quitclaimed it to America. France deeded it to America. Russia gave up all pretensions to the North West Coast south of $54^{\circ} 40' N.$

The noisy operations of the peaceful arts, and the busy scenes of refined life, please and delight the civilized man, and seem essential to his exist-