

*To the honorable the Senate and the House of Representatives in Congress assembled.*

Your memorialists, citizens of the United States, who are mostly engaged in agricultural and mechanical pursuits, have long and seriously reflected on the subject of colonizing a part of the American territory bordering on the Pacific Ocean, and believe it of great importance for the security of our rights and property on the North-West Coast, and for the peace and subordination of the Indians on our western frontiers. They are convinced, if that territory should be settled by colonists animated by the *spirit* of those civil and religious institutions, which constitutes the living source of our national prosperity, and which dignifies the character, and elevates the pursuits of any people, the happiest consequences must result to our country in particular, and to the rest of mankind. They conceive that so just and precautionary a measure, on the part of Congress, might prevent an immediate inundation of that territory by an European emigration: for, if it should be overflowed by an ignorant and corrupt population, it would be calamitous and distressing to the republics in both Americas. The demoralizing influence of such a population would retard the growth, if not destroy the germ, of a free government.

Its salubrity of climate, its fertility of soil, its peculiar facilities and local advantages for commerce with the trading world, its commodious harbors for the safety and convenience of the navigating interests, its grand river Oregon, diversifying and watering by its thousand streams a wide-spread and beautiful country, its probable abundant productions, and more probable growth in population, have already excited the envy of some, and the admiration of all civilized nations, and will be found to contribute greatly to the resources of the wealth and power of the republic. It is also believed, that a permanent settlement of that country would render our Indian trade safer and more profitable; would give a specific value to millions of property now valueless to Government, and would conduct the streams of commerce, on that part of the globe, through their proper channels, into the reservoir of our national finance. That, while the rights and interests of every individual member of the republic would be respected, commerce and manufactures would be supported, laudable enterprise and industry encouraged, and all things conspire more harmoniously to the prosperity and happiness of our country. That science, the refined principles of a republican government, and Christianity, would unite their meliorating influence in diffusing light and peace over Western America, the East Indies, and the islands in the sea.