

of the Columbia as a line of compromise. This, while it secures to her every navigable harbour, does not leave us one."

With reference to the country east of the main fork of the river, it may be remarked, that on the plains of this district it is that the horse more particularly abounds; and that, with respect to the abandonment of them, and especially of the Flat-head country, a question of morality as well as of interest is involved.

We have seen that the Indians inhabiting it are of a far more civilized character, or, at least, far more capable of civilization, than those of the coast or northern districts; and that under the influence of American missionaries they are improving in social condition, if in nothing else: nevertheless they are yet in a great measure dependent on the Hudson's Bay Company for many necessities of life, and still consider them the rulers of the country, if not its lawful possessors; they therefore trust to them and in them to Great Britain (perhaps not unmindful of the conduct of the United States to their brethren on the east of the Rocky Mountains) for protection and support; they have prospered under our rule, and seem to afford a prospect of being exceptions to the general rule of their race, and likely to preserve their identity, even under the supremacy of the white man. How then shall we leave them to the uncertain fate attendant on the cession of their country to the United States, the probable chances of a war of extermination, and the certainty that individual settlers, seeking each his own livelihood from agriculture, can ever be to them, in the day of adversity, what the Hudson's Bay Company has

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