

Columbia or the Straits of Fuca. In March, 1778, he anchored in Nootka sound, and gave it the name of King George's sound; but Nootka was the name given to it by the natives, and it has ever since borne that name. He discovered many utensils of iron and brass, and also two silver spoons, of Spanish manufacture, in the possession of the natives—showing clearly that they had before been visited by the Spaniards.

Captain Cook, continuing his voyage north, saw Mount San Jacinto, which had been named four years before by Bodega; saw Mount St. Elias, and, pushing his voyage north, passed into the Arctic ocean. He afterwards visited Owyhee, where, on the 16th of February, he fell a victim to the natives.

It is claimed by the British minister, Mr. Pakenham, that Captain Berkeley, a British subject, in a vessel under Austrian colors, discovered the Straits of Fuca in 1787, when it will be remembered that Juan de Fuca made the same discovery in 1592—being 195 years previous; and that Captain Duncan, in the year 1787, entered the straits and traded with the natives at the village of Classet: and also that John Meares visited Nootka sound in 1788, four years after it had been visited and taken possession of by Perez. John Meares was a lieutenant in the British navy on half pay. The *Felice*, of which he was supercargo, and the *Iphigenia*, of which William Douglass was supercargo, were fitted out at the Portuguese port of Macao. Both were Portuguese vessels, and ostensibly commanded by Portuguese captains, sailed under the Portuguese flag, and had passports and other papers showing that the vessels were the property of Juan Cavallo, a Portuguese merchant of Macao.

If there had been any virtue in the discovery of Berkeley, it would have belonged to Austria, in whose service he was; or if there had been any merit in the discoveries of Meares, they would have enured to the benefit of Portugal. If Meares had attempted to navigate the North Pacific ocean as a British officer, his vessel would have been subject to seizure, and his officers and crew to punishment, as they had no license from the South Sea or East India companies. Whether he be regarded, therefore, as a British subject, sailing under false colors, or as in the employment of Cavallo, the Portuguese merchant, he could not claim any protection from the British Government, or confer upon her any rights resulting from his discoveries.

During all this period of time, it will be seen by reference to history that Great Britain had made no settlement whatever on the northwest coast of America; that she discovered no portion of the coast which had not been previously discovered by Spain; and that Spain held the undisputed title to it up to 1790, when John Meares called on the British Government to aid him. Had Great Britain possessed the same title that Spain did, can there be a doubt that she would have claimed and held the whole Pacific coast from Panama to Behring's straits?

It will be remembered, that when Great Britain planted her colonies on the Atlantic, she claimed, on the ground of continuity and contiguity of ter-

ritory, that her right of soil extended from the Atlantic to the Pacific ocean. The French Government discovered and explored the Mississippi and other tributary streams, and made settlements along their valleys. A dispute arose between England and France in regard to their territorial rights, and they went to war.

The treaty of Paris, concluded on the 10th of February, 1763, settled the boundary between those two nations; and so much of the 7th section as relates thereto is in these words:

"In order to re-establish peace on solid and durable foundations, and to remove forever all subjects of dispute with regard to the limits of the British and French territories on the continent of America, it is agreed that for the future the confines between the dominions of his Britannic Majesty and those of his most Christian Majesty, in that part of the world, shall be fixed irrevocably by a line drawn along the middle of the river Mississippi, from its source to the river Iberville, and thence, by a line drawn along the middle of this river, and the lakes Maurepas and Pontchartrain, to the sea."

By this treaty Great Britain obtained the Canadas, Florida, and a portion of Louisiana; she parted with all her claims west of the Mississippi, received the full benefit of the doctrine of continuity, and is therefore estopped now from denying the principle.

By the treaty of Louisiana, dated on the 30th of April, 1803, we succeeded to all the rights which France acquired under the treaty of 1763, and have the full benefit of the doctrine of continuity, as England once had to any country lying west of the Mississippi, to which she had claims.

Now I will examine very briefly the title which we have to that territory in our own proper right, growing out of discoveries and settlements by this Government and its citizens.

In June, 1789, Captain Robert Gray, of Boston, explored the eastern coast of Queen Charlotte's island. In the summer of 1791, he visited the coast of the north Pacific, between 54° and 60° of north latitude. In May, 1792, he discovered Bulfinch's harbor; and on the 11th of that month he entered the mouth of the Columbia river, which Heecta could not do when he made the attempt in 1775; and both Meares and Vancouver, after examination, denied the existence of such a river. The tributaries of this river drain the territory of Oregon as far north as the 53d parallel of latitude. In 1804-5, an expedition was made under our Government by Lewis and Clarke, who visited and minutely explored that country. In 1811, settlements were made by the American Company at Astoria, near the mouth of the Columbia river, at Okanagan, six hundred miles above, and at Spokane, some fifty miles further up. They were captured by Great Britain during the war of 1812, and were restored under the treaty of Ghent, the 6th day of October, 1818. It cannot be successfully contended that the surrender did not restore to us all the country of which we were divested by the capture, for the latter was commensurate with the former act. We, therefore, are entitled to the Columbia river and the country drained by it, because we were the first to discover, explore, and settle it.

Uniting as we do the title of Spain, who, by dis-

covery a
centuries
northwe
gether w
discover
certainly
ain, we
and sove
54° 40'

The t
[Mr. W
will and
the Ore
have hi
claim of
Nootka
covery—
closure,
search,
of Adan
is not re
strumen
not exist

I wil
treaty,
between
full and
that co
Great B
examin
The cel
tofore,
vessel,
prime r
of diffic
which t

Lieut
vessels,
capture
Spanish
Spain
at Noot
sor, and
observe
natives
ermen
or with
sail. I
Meares
bly at
made i
with th
monial
many i

I wil
fertile i
who p
most c
on the

"M
'to gr
'wher
'moda
'there
'forw
'party
'durin
'the c