

of treacherous Indians, and to the avarice of the English, it must remain utterly valueless. It might, however, be reclaimed, and for ever protected by a colony occupying the shores of the Columbia. And what better means could the American Republic desire, for the protection of the lives and property of her citizens, in that territory, and on the Western Ocean? What means could be found more compatible with her interests, and more agreeable to the dictates of her sovereign authority, as it regards justice, philanthropy and her own glory?

English traders, by a proper circumspection and deportment of conduct, and by honest and honourable dealing, have conciliated the friendship of the natives, and secured a profitable trade with them, which consists chiefly in beads and many other articles of no value; in some coarse broad cloths, blankets, and a vast variety of iron and tin wares, which are exchanged principally for skins and furs, the productions of trapping and the chase. Economy has suggested to the Indians, a less valuable and a less cumbersome dress, than the beautiful and rich skin of the sea otter. They are now generally clad and decorated in articles of English merchandize. The exclusive privilege, therefore, of supplying these articles, would be alike beneficial to the merchant and the manufacturer, and would contribute to the wealth and prosperity of the country. Were not the Indian trade a source of great advantage, and the country valuable for colonization, that shrewd and eagle-eyed nation, without justice, would not have made it so long the theatre of commercial enterprise; nor would she have been so eager to possess and make it her own.

*Third.* The fisheries might be more extensively and profitably pursued. They have long constituted a valuable branch of our commerce, and a perennial and vital source of our comforts and prosperity. Fish, in vast shoals and of the most useful kinds, abound in the Western ocean. Whales, both the black and spermaceti, throng those waters, and sport in the very seas and bays of Oregon.

The fisheries deserve the care and protection of government. They deserve it, for other reasons, than the vast profits, they yield to the merchants. They have given employment and salutary discipline and instruction to thousands of our seamen. They have occupied, annually, in the Pacific ocean, fifty thousand tons of shipping, and have brought into ports, cargoes, worth 200 per cent. on the out-fits and charges. The whale fishing craft occupying that ocean, might be built and victualled on the Columbia, at a