

in 1813. We must say a few words on this head. Astoria had been regularly sold, by Mr. Astor's agent, to the British North West Company; it was, however, afterwards formally taken possession of by the British, during the American war, and ultimately (in accordance with the Treaty of Ghent) restored to the United States. The terms of that treaty are clear and imperative: "All places and possessions whatsoever, taken by either party during the war, (with certain exceptions therein specified) shall be restored without delay"; accordingly, in obedience to the letter of this treaty, Astoria, although it was then, and had been from the period of the sale, in the possession of the North-West Company, was delivered up, January, 1818, to the American Government. It was, however, expressly declared in the act of delivery, that the *settlement of Fort George* alone was restored. The Americans cannot, therefore, claim under this delivery one particle of the adjoining territory; besides, it is notorious that the delivery was made on the understanding that the British claims to the territory should not be affected by the surrender, those claims being at that very moment the subject of a negotiation with the United States, at London. But Great Britain can afford to be generous to the United States with reference to Astoria, she can afford to regard it as a national and American establishment, instead of what it really was, a private and three-fourths British concern. She can afford to suppose that it had never been sold or abandoned by the Americans. And when all these gratuitous concessions have been made, we ask, can an isolated establishment, like Astoria, by any possibility give a claim to the exclusive sovereignty of the