

THE CLAIMS

TO

THE OREGON TERRITORY.

THAT vast tract of Western America, which is conventionally held in common by Great Britain and the United States, is thus bounded. Besides the natural limits of the Pacific Ocean, the Rocky Mountains, and the Arctic Sea, it is separated from Mexico by the parallel of 42° , and from Russian America by a line, which begins at the lower extremity of Prince of Wales' Island, on the parallel of $54\frac{2}{3}^{\circ}$, ascends the Portland Channel to the parallel of 56° , runs in the general direction of the coast, at a distance never exceeding ten leagues, as far as the meridian of 141° , and then follows the said meridian to the polar ices. But the actually disputed territory is far less extensive towards the North, for though the British have urged arguments which, if good at all, are good as far as the southern boundary, yet the Americans have never claimed, as against England, beyond the parallel of 51° , or, even as against Russia, beyond the parallel of $54\frac{2}{3}^{\circ}$. Taken, therefore, in its widest sense, the disputed territory lies between the Pacific ocean, the Rocky