

able to road making a state of nature, the town for the last thirty years. They perform the journey women and children principal one of the fifteen years, along the inclined plane many families have in defiance, descending at the Walla-Walla valley in three months of the prairies.* These things attract attention, and he sees rocks, and sternly meaning anything to contrast these rocks, and natural old thirteen States its belts of sandstone has its mountainous as its rainy seasons. Oregon supplies moisture to the breathing swamps is a genial climate South Carolina has fatal fevers, parallel; for all countries in each harbor to other lands. of Oregon. From recorded, its winter that of Augustous of wet and of the eastern coast, from a much milder climate of the eastern shore of the territory is not about; for the

ive plains, some of which receive escarpments of the river, and others are watered by lakes or ponds, many of them so large as to remain filled during the whole summer. The pine trees are very extensive, the trees being of great size, and the timber of the War Department extraordinarily beautiful, straight, and free from knots. The Jackson, Smith, and the timber of the genus *Pinus*, of which there are a great number of species, is gigantic, when compared with our trees in this part of the world; but occasionally one is met with, huge as the most beyond comparison. I measured, with Doctor Gardiner, in the passage of the most important of the fort, a pine of the species *Douglasii*, which had a circumference of forty five feet. Its height was above two hundred feet, and its circumference forty five feet. Large as was in a valley, so gradually the river, measured by the late Mr. David Douglass, as we know that the height of this tree was, I think nearly three hundred feet, and its circumference fifty six feet. The cones of this pine, at length we found according to Mr. Douglass, were from twelve to fifteen inches long, and on our left, also length, resembling in size and form sugar-loaves. On the mountain, some of the places to be of various kinds, and of the first quality, is abundant along the river, as well as the butternut, (*Juglans occidentalis*), above the level of the river, (*Populus balsamifera*), ash, sweet gum, (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), beech, and many other well known trees, but many of them are scarce, or only a few.

The Governor of Port Vancouver, who is an active agriculturist, has spent some time for several years in raising wheat, and the mountain appears to be a capital to the soil, and I can therefore only make the valley, yet, not commonly could be so difficult to grow wheat, as they have wheat is particularly fine; tall, with long and well filled heads, I had an opportunity subsequently of seeing the Chinese wheat, which I had seen before, but I consider it decidedly inferior to that grown on the Columbia. Fruits of various kinds, apples, peaches, plums, &c., do remarkably well. I remember being particularly struck, upon my arrival at Vancouver in the autumn, with the display of apples in the garden of the fort. The trees were crowded with fruit, so that every limb required to be sustained by a prop. The apples were literally packed along the branches, and so closely that I could compare them to nothing more aptly than to ropes of onions as they are sometimes exhibited for sale in our markets.

Allow me, to the same effect, to cite a description of the country lately communicated to me by Mr. Titian Peale, an accomplished naturalist, who is well known in science for the part which he bore in Long's expedition, as well as in the late exploring voyage under Lieutenant Wilkes. He recently favored me with the following letter:

[Mr. Peale says to the following effect: That the Hudson Bay Company has several extensive farms, with mills, &c., on the north side of the Columbia. They are in a very flourishing condition; supply usually about 2,000 bushels of wheat to the Russian colony, much lumber and produce of the dairy to the Sandwich Islands. He mentions their herds of cattle and sheep, kept on the south side of the river. Of the latter, 2,000 had been brought by land from California, just before the arrival of the exploring squadron.

The retainers (*employees*) of the company have numerous farms on the Wallamet, south of the Columbia. He had seen the contracts under which these lands are granted. They are to the effect which we have before recited.

He speaks very favorably of the Americans whom he found settled there. They cannot embark in commerce, for the powerful monopoly of the company would always crush them. They say, however, that, personally, it treats them very honorably.

The soil, climate, and productions are such as will, at no distant day, give the country the same commercial importance on the Pacific, as we hold on the Atlantic. For grain or lumber, it is nearly equal, if not quite, to the United States. These command ready markets on the Mexican and South American coast, and in the many islands. The salmon-fishery of the Columbia can, he thinks, in a few years, be rendered as valuable as the fisheries on our Eastern coast. In this, he is supported by a united stream of testimony.

The country (he says) only wants the protection of our laws, to render it a desirable home for our hardy countrymen of the interior.]

Mr. Linn continued. In addition to the agricultural wealth which would be rapidly created in this fine region, the noble timber which it affords, its fisheries, and its general advantages of commercial position, its value as a resort for our marine in that distant sea, where we have such great interests at stake, should not be forgotten. Of these last, under the late events in China—certain as they are to bring about the most important commercial changes—it behooves us to be careful, in common with the other great navigations. That France is already on the alert, we see in her late seizure of the Marquesas.

As to the question of expense, the Senator from South Carolina may have already seen that only half the sum he yesterday supposed—\$100,000, not \$200,000—is proposed to be employed. Whether or not the country is worth that sum, may, in addition to all other testimony, be judged from the report of your recent exploring expedition; of which (costly as it was) one of the most definite objects was minutely to ascertain the condition, value, resources, and capacities of the territory. Mr. Wilkes speaks in the most enthusiastic terms of all its elements of wealth and greatness.

The Senator from South Carolina yesterday asked, "What do we want with this territory?" To me, sir, it seems answer enough to say, that your just rights grossly neglected, commercial interests