

Spanish commissioners Vancouver and Quadra appointed to carry into effect the provisions of a treaty which had grown out of the affair, could find none; but, they found extensive tracts which had been purchased by Capt. John Kendrick in the same portion of Country, and of the same Indians. Quadra, governor of the colony which two years before, had been commenced at Nootka, and acting for the crown, allowed the purchases made by that American citizen, and thereby, confirmed the title to the lands; and Vancouver at the same time, expressed no misgivings as to Kendrick's right to purchase; and, in the last volume of his voyage he speaks of them as having been fairly acquired.

Reader, let us reason together upon this matter; and understand the principles of justice and of the oracles of God involved in it.

Kendrick and the owners had undoubtedly, a right to purchase at the time, and of the people they did; and that right was *natural* to them. And the government, at all times, has a right to prescribe laws for maintaining order in, and regulating the affairs of the society which her citizens compose; but, with her, it is wholly *acquired*; and, only acquired in the institution of sovereignty, in which she finds no right to control or limit the actions of her citizens in a foreign and unknown land—to regulate their intercourse with the people of a land beyond the reach of her sovereign authority; and, having none, any law enacted by her relative to such intercourse would have no force.

Civil law should be founded on justice, and have authority as a characteristic in its nature. Without these, it can have no force. That a law prohibiting the purchases would be without *justice* and *authority* is obvious to any man\* who candidly and freely reasons upon the subject. Legislative power with a free people is arbitrary. It is limited by natural rights, and in some other respects.

As a provision was made in the treaty of 1846, with Great Britain confirming rights to lands claimed by her subjects on the American side of the boundary; so a similar provision should have been made in respect to the rights of American citizens on the British side: And, now, certainly, nothing would be more reasonable, especially, after so long a delay, than, that *possession* of the lands on the northern side, be *demand*ed for the claimants; and of those, on the southern side, *possession be given* them; and

\* Unsophisticated men, in the humble walks of life, are often better judges in these matters than even some of the most learned legislatures; because the latter make a wrong use of reason—because of their understandings becoming vitiated by the frequent perversion of truth, and constant study and efforts after ways and means to gratify desires for honors, riches and self-aggrandizements.