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fect that title by occupying it with their wives and children. But 80 years ago our population was confined on the west by the ridge of the Alleghanies. Within that period, within the lifetime I might say, of some of my hearers, increasing to many millions, have filled the eastern valley of the Mississippi, adventurously ascended the Missouri to its head springs and are already engaged in establishing the blessings of self-government in vallies of which the rivers flow to the Pacific. The world beholds the peaceful triumphs of the industry of our emigrants. To us belongs the duty of protecting them adequately wherever they may be upon our soil. The jurisdiction of our laws, and the benefits of our republican institutions should be extended to them in the distant regions which they have selected for their homes. The increasing facilities of intercourse will easily bring the States, of which the formation in that part of our territory cannot be long delayed, within the sphere of our federative Union. In the meantime, every obligation imposed by treaty or conventional stipulations should be sacredly respected."

CLAIMS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES.

In 1843, the Oregon country was brought prominently into notice, principally by the writings of Washington Irving. Emigration to that territory had just commenced, and for the first time since 1827, the disputed claims occupied the attention of the respective governments.

In the year 1843, negotiations were opened in London, and in 1844, were transferred to Washington. The correspondence, conducted by Mr. Calhoun and Mr. Buchanan, American Secretaries of State, and Mr. Peckenham, the British Minister at Washington, is valuable and interesting in the extreme, as it embraces a view of the question from 1818 to the present time—the respective claims being stated at length.

The American claims to the Oregon are based upon—

The Rights America derived from Spain ;—

The Rights America derived from France ;—and upon

The Discoveries, Explorations, and Settlements of American citizens.

THE RIGHTS AMERICA DERIVED FROM SPAIN.

In the year 1810, Spain ceded Florida to the United State, and with it all the rights, claims and pretensions of his Catholic Majesty, the King of Spain, to the country lying west of the Rocky Mountains and north of the 42 degree parallel. And on this cession America founds a claim to Oregon.

It may be remarked that the Oregon was the subject of negotiation in 1818, whereas, this Florida treaty was not concluded until a year after that date.

In opposition to this claim it is urged,

1st. That Spain could only have any claim from the discoveries of her navigators, and that Drake, an Englishman, sailed along this coast anterior to their alleged discoveries.

2nd. That Spain acknowledged the right of Great Britain to these territories by the Nootka Sound convention in 1790.

The Nootka convention had its rise in the following circumstances: John Mears, a British subject, landed at Nootka in 1788, and founded an establishment there. This establishment was taken possession of by the Spaniards, acting under the orders of the Viceroy of Mexico. Mears appealed to the British Government for redress, and the convention of 1790 was the result.

That convention provides, by its first and second articles, for the restoration of the lands and buildings of which the subjects of Great Britain had been dispossessed by the Spaniards, and the payment of an indemnity for the injuries sustained. "And 5. As well in the places which are to be restored to the British subjects, by virtue of the first article as in all other parts of the north-western coasts of North America, or of the Islands adjacent, situate to the north of the of the parts of the said coast already occupied by Spain, wherever the subjects of either of the two powers shall have made settlements since the month of April, 1789, or shall hereafter make any, the subjects of the other shall have free access, and shall carry on their trade without disturbance or molestation."

This treaty was ratified by that of 1814, and after that the cession of the claims, rights, and pretensions of his Catholic Majesty the King of Spain, to all territory north of the 42 parallel is of as much value as is the grant of the whole continent of America by the Pope to his Catholic Majesty's Predecessors,

To this, Mr. Buchanan replies, "that the declaration of war by Spain against Great Britain in 1796, annulled its provisions and freed the parties from its obligations." Mr. Pakenham replies, that "the stipulation of the Nootka Sound Convention might have been considered as cancelled, in consequence of the war which subsequently took place, were it not that by the treaty concluded at Madrid on the 28th of August, 1814, it is declared "that all the treaties of commerce which had subsided between the two nations (Great Britain and Spain) in 1796, were thereby ratified and confirmed." A most triumphant answer.

THE RIGHTS AMERICA DERIVED FROM FRANCE.

The treaty of 1763 between France and England provided, that "the confines between the dominions of his Brittanic Majesty in that part of the continent of America shall be fixed irrevocably by a line drawn along the middle of the river Mississippi from its source to the river Iberville, &c."

The treaty Louisiana transferred and vested in the United States all the claims acquired by France and surrendered by England, among the rest, all country to the west of the Mississippi river, and according to the American interpretation of that treaty, to the Oregon territory.