

## CHAPTER XI.

## CONCLUSION.

ALTHOUGH it is not the intention to enter on the thorny paths of political controversy, yet, in accordance with the objects of this work, it may be expected that some notice should be taken of the geographical relations and consequent comparative value of the different parts of the Oregon territory in connection with the propositions that have been made for the settlement of the dispute by the parties concerned. It is much to be wished that such considerations entered more frequently into treaties respecting boundary lines, and that they were not so commonly formed according to mere temporary or extraneous interests; or, as if to save the trouble and thought such a course would require, and forgetful of the abiding character of the geographical, *i. e.*, the natural features of a country, by running an arbitrary line across the map, severing, as is almost certain to be the case, interests most closely connected by nature, and reducing, if not entirely destroying, the value of perhaps otherwise important tracts of country. Such a line on the east of the Rocky Mountains now separates the sources of the northern tributaries of the Missouri from their mouths, and consequently from all connection with that river; while with still stranger perversity it cuts off not only the Moose River from the main stream of the