

European to cross the continent on the north, and in its broadest part, latitude  $52^{\circ} 20'$ . He had started also from the same fort on Hudson's bay, from which Hearne had proceeded. The British had no trading or military posts west of the Rocky mountains previous to the year 1806.

A map of Mexico of Humboldt's, bearing date of the year 1811, designates the whole of the western territory of the United States as "unknown."

In concluding this representation of our ignorance of California and the north-west coast until a comparatively very recent period, I will simply enumerate very briefly the prominent American exploring tours of the present century, by means of which this ignorance has been removed, and the country opened for settlement.

It was not until 1804, the continuous chain of the Rocky mountains being as yet untraversed, and it still being possible that an inland sea existed larger than Lake Superior, that the continent was traversed by explorers through the territory of the United States. The expedition of our government, for which so much credit is due to Jefferson, was commanded by Lewis and Clark, and went down the Columbia river to its mouth. Their full narrative was not published till 1814, and down to 1844 was the principal source of information regarding the interior.

Major Zebulon Pike's expedition in 1805 to 1807, was to find the sources of the Mississippi, and of the Arkansas, Kansas and Platte rivers.

Hunt's expedition of 1811 was to found the settlement of Astoria at the mouth of the Columbia river. This settlement was shortly after abandoned by the American interest, owing to the war with Great Britain.

Major S. H. Long's expedition in 1819 and 1820, was up the Platte to the Rocky mountains, and back by way of the Arkansas river.