

that of Spain too, if she ever had any, leaves them the undisputed sovereignty of that coast, from the sixtieth degree of north latitude down to thirty-six, which is believed to be the situation of the mountains of Mexico, alluded to in all the authors and charts before referred to. If, however, there should remain a doubt, that doubt is relieved by a reference to the subordinate principle recognized by the treaties of Utrecht and of Paris, in 1763. When we know that all the formalities deemed necessary in the possession of a newly discovered country have been complied with on the part of the United States; that, in the year 1785-6, an establishment was made at the mouth of the Columbia river, by Mr. Hendricks, the full and entire benefit of whose courage, enterprize, and success, results to this Union; and at a later day, in 1805, Messrs. Lewis & Clark, in executing the desires of this government, again visited the Columbia and the western ocean, twelve miles from which they built Fort Clatsop, yet to be seen; these establishments made by the United States, not so near the settlements of California as manifestly to encroach upon them, entitles them to the whole country north of Columbia. And, in applying the principle known to govern in such cases, the point equi-distant from the Spanish actual settlements, and the mouth of that river, is the true point at which a line drawn separating the two countries should commence. The actual settlements of Spain are believed to have been, at that time, upon the Colorado of California, in latitude 32° north; but, even supposing the point to be the extreme south of the claim of the United States, which is believed to be 36 degrees, then the line of separation would fall at 41 degrees. And, if any doubt arose as to the claim of the United States to the full extent of the Spanish title, to the north of Fort Clatsop, as high as 60 degrees of latitude, there could remain no doubt, as far as the equi-distant point, which would be at the completion of the 53d degree of latitude, leaving us twelve degrees of coast on that ocean.

From every information which can be obtained, worthy to be relied upon, our coast on the Pacific, for years past, has been the theatre of much individual enterprize, stimulated by the rich returns of numerous whale ships, and the great profit of the fur trade, together with the flattering accounts of Messrs. Lewis & Clark, relative to the resources of the interior, though no regular trade or well organized system of commerce existed until the year 1810, in the course of which year a vessel was fitted out in the city of New York, well supplied with provisions and seed of every description necessary in a permanent occupation of the coast, which they contemplated. This little colony consisted of an hundred and twenty men when it arrived in the Columbia: and after ascertaining its soundings, they removed some miles above Fort Clatsop, and built the town of Astoria, where a portion of them cultivated the soil, whilst the other engaged in the fur trade with the natives. The soil was found to be rich, and well adapted to the culture of all the useful vegetables, found in any part of the United States; as turnips, potatoes, onions, rye, wheat, melons of various kinds, cucumbers, and every species of pease. In the course