

ed in the English papers on this subject, and they show to my mind conclusively that great efforts are making to prepare the public mind there for a compromise according to the terms which our Government recently offered. The Times, which is the most influential journal in England, and which is considered the organ of Lord Aberdeen, the Secretary for Foreign Affairs, has been employed with its usual ability in gradually removing the prejudices from the English mind against the establishment of the 49th parallel as a boundary. The London Morning Chronicle, said to be the organ of Lord Palmerston, is also moderate in its tone, and engaged in the good work of promoting a right feeling on the question. So are many of the provincial papers. Therefore I would say, in view of the manifest interest of both nations, that now is the time to press the settlement; and if the notice shall be given, with a recommendation for a compromise, it can hardly be doubted that a satisfactory disposition of the whole matter will be made. The interest and wishes of both nations will be promoted. Though we are two nations, we are of the same family, speaking the same language, and partaking in a considerable degree of the same destiny, as far as it is our destiny to civilize and christianize the world. England and America at this time are doing more to advance the great causes of civilization and Christianity than all other nations together. Let us agree with her quickly, while we are in the way with her—give and receive fair terms of compromise. This we can do, and England can do, without dishonor or the abandonment of principle. When a nation is conscious of its power, it can always afford to act in a spirit of magnanimity. Thus can England do, and thus can we do.

It has been argued that our acquisition of the Spanish title did not strengthen our claim to Oregon. It seems to me that no lawyer or historian, in the exercise of an independent judgment, could come to such a conclusion. I revert to the Spanish title with feelings of deep interest. It is connected with the wild and romantic scenes of the early discovery of this continent. When old Juan Ponce de Leon was governor of Porto Rico, and musing over the hot contests in which he had been engaged upon the plains of Grenada, and amid the rugged passes of the Spanish highlands—while he was listening to the Indian tales of that spring of magic waters far away to the north and west, in which he might bathe his scarred and battered limbs, and come forth restored to all the freshness and elasticity of youth—while he was coasting along the shores of Florida, adding by right of discovery that land of flowers as another jewel to the Spanish crown, receiving however a wound from the poisoned arrow of an Indian, which caused his death instead of finding there the waters of life; while these things were transpiring, other Spanish adventurers were crossing the continent, discovering new lands, and looking out for the first time upon the waters of the Pacific as they broke upon the shore; other adventurers were building vessels and coasting along the shores of Mexico, of California, and afterwards of Oregon, planting there the standard of Spain, and claiming it in the name of their monarch long years before the bays and harbors of Oregon sent back the echoes of the English sailor's "yo, heave yo." When we purchased Florida from Spain, we purchased also all the territory on the Pacific belonging to her north of the 42d parallel. We obtained the Spanish title, not by conquest, not by violence, not at the point of the bayonet; we wrested it not from Spain under threats of force, but we obtained it by peaceful negotiation, and on the payment of a full and adequate consideration.

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