

Pacific Ocean, they will long consent to be under the rules of the American Congress. They will raise the standard for themselves, and they ought to do it."

And before him that great, if not greatest of all American statesmen, Thomas Jefferson, when referring in a letter to John Jacob Astor on March 24, 1812, to a new settlement on Columbia river, speaks of—

"Their descendants spreading through the whole length of that coast, covering it with free and independent Americans, *unconnected with us but by the ties of blood and of interest*, enjoying like us the rights of self-government."

These predictions to the contrary notwithstanding, California is today a loyal part of our Union, and with it Texas and the Floridas and all the states and territories gained by the extension of our dominion.

The policy to extend our dominion having been established as firmly impressed upon the history of our past national life, shall it, and will it be continued, and what territory should it embrace?

Will anybody at this day dispute that the accession of Canada would not be of the highest benefit to the United States? Its population is to an overwhelming degree composed of people of our blood, of our religion, of our customs, trained in the arts of husbandry and of manufacturing, skilled in commerce and trade and navigation, accustomed to self-government, peaceable, law-abiding and enjoying even to a higher degree than our own, the blessings of civil service reform and of an impartial and swift execution of the laws of the land. As there can be no annexation of Canada except with the consent of its people, the problem is rendered difficult because of the political wisdom of the British government. While the Spaniards and Portuguese, after founding their colonies, have held them