

for several days in a canoe; but, becoming discouraged by the difficulties of the navigation, he determined to make an effort to reach the Pacific Ocean by land. For this purpose he returned up the river to a point from which he had resolved to advance west by the shortest route to the ocean, where they arrived July 22nd, in latitude $52^{\circ} 23' 43''$. This river, he tells us, was navigable, and, by his account, he reached it in about 56° north. None of the sources of the Columbia are north of 54° . The source of the Columbia is directly south of the source of Peace River; but the object of Mackenzie (to reach the Pacific) would carry him west, and not south. The Columbia is known not to be navigable at any point where it is possible Mackenzie could have touched it. The river asserted to be the Columbia he left on the 4th, and arrived at the ocean on the 22nd of July—an interval in which it is impossible they could have performed the journey, which could not have been less than four or five hundred miles in the most direct route. Mackenzie's general course from the river was southwest; and yet he informs us that, on the 10th, after six days' travelling, he found the latitude to be $53^{\circ} 4' 32''$, which is nearly as far north as any of the sources of the Columbia. For these reasons, the committee is led to the conclusion that Mackenzie did not see the Columbia River. He himself admits that he did not do so until June, 1793, leaving Captain Gray the undisputed discoverer.

The committee submits the following extract of Mr. Greenhow's Memoir, upon the disputed question of prior possession: "With regard to the priority of their discoveries, the plenipotentiaries of Great Britain, in the statement presented by them to the American minister during the negotiation of 1826, make the following observations: 'In reply to the allegations, on the part of the United States, that their claim to the country is strengthened and confirmed by the discovery of the sources of the Columbia, and by the exploration of the course of that river to the sea, by Lewis and Clark, in 1805-6, Great Britain affirms, and can distinctly prove, that, if not before, at least in the same and subsequent years, her Northwestern Trading Company had, by means of their agent, Mr. Thompson, already established their posts among the Flathead and Kootanie tribes on the head waters or main branch of the Columbia, and were gradually extending them down the principal streams of that river; thus giving to Great Britain in this particular, as in the discovery of the mouth of the river, a title of parity at least, if not of priority of discovery, as opposed to the United States. It was from these posts that, having heard of the American establishment forming in 1811 at the mouth of the river, Mr. Thompson hastened thither, descending the river to ascertain the nature of that establishment.' As the words 'in the same and subsequent year,' are rather indefinite, the dates of the occurrences above mentioned will be stated somewhat more exactly. Lewis and Clarke reached the Pacific ocean, after exploring the Columbia River from one of its most eastern head waters in the Rocky Mountains to its mouth, on the 15th of November, 1805. In the spring of 1806, as will hereafter be shown, Mr. Simon Frazer, and other persons in the employment of the Northwest Company, crossed the Rocky Mountains through the great gap near the 56th degree of latitude, and established the first British trading post west of that chain, on Frazer's lake, about two degrees further south; but no evidence has been obtained that British subjects had ever visited any part of the country drained by the Columbia, above the falls of that river, before the summer of 1811. In that year, Mr. Thompson, astronomer of the Northwest Company, and his party, on their way down the stream, for the purpose of anticipating the Americans at its mouth, did build some huts on the northern branch, and did there open trade with the Flathead and Kootanie Indians; and from these posts Mr. Thompson did, indeed, hasten down to the ocean, where he, however, found the citizens of the United States in full possession." Suppose the possession by Thompson and Lewis and Clarke to have been simultaneous, as alleged by the British ministry, the committee is clearly of opinion that even such possession, strengthened by our prior discovery, gives us the better title.

Having thus established in the United States the priority both of discovery and possession, the committee proceeds to a consideration of the events which followed the occupation of Astoria by the British, in December, 1813. By the first article of the treaty of Ghent, it is agreed that "all territory, places, and possessions, whatsoever, taken by either party from the other," etc., "shall be restored without delay." Astoria, having been taken from the Americans during the war, was included in the

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