

fortified as they were by the speeches and writings of contemporary American statesmen and other authorities,<sup>1</sup> and by the published American maps of Fremont, Preuss, and Preston.

The exact words of the award, "am meisten im Einklange," &c., translated in our Blue Books as "*most* approaching the meaning of the Treaty," are perplexing and apt to mislead, in that they apply an absolute term to a comparative issue. The award is clearly a decision upon a comparative and subordinate issue, not an absolute decision upon the whole Treaty, which has never yet been adjudicated upon.

The people of the Dominion of Canada have been almost taunted with putting up so quietly with the loss ; but it would have been both undignified and unpatriotic to have done otherwise. It is of course folly to cry over spilt milk, but it may not be amiss to inquire how the milk came to be spilt.

We have no ground to flatter ourselves that we have gained a step in conciliating the Americans, educated as they have been in the belief that they were contending for an undoubted right, yielded by us only when it could be no longer withheld.

It is strange, however, that no account ever appears to

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Senator Benton, in his speech of June 18th, 1846, said : " I knew "the Straits of Fuca, and that these straits formed a natural boundary for "us, and also divided the continent *from the islands*, and the fertile from the "desolate regions. I knew that the continental coast and the inhabitable "country terminated on the south shore of those straits, and that the north- "west archipelago—the thousand desolate and volcanic islands, derelict of all "nations—commenced on their shore ; and I wanted to go no farther than "the good-land and continental coast went. I was always in favour of a deflec- "tion of a line through the Straits of Fuca, but I said nothing about it. It "was a detail, and I confined myself to the proposition of the line as a basis. "I had expected the deflection to have commenced further back (*south*) on the "continent, so as to have kept our line a little farther off from Fort Langley, at "the mouth of Fraser's River, almost in sight of which it now passes. If "this had been asked, I, for one, would have been willing to grant it."