

SKETCHES OF THE COUNTRY,

WATERED BY

COLUMBIA RIVER,

AND ITS TRIBUTARY STREAMS.

Of that portion of the territory claimed by the United States, between the Rocky mountains and the Pacific ocean, little is yet known, except what has been collected from the travels of Lewis and Clark. Their researches were, however, necessarily very limited, being principally confined to the banks of the Columbia and its tributaries.

According to the boundary specified in the late project for a treaty with Spain, this tract is bounded west by the Pacific ocean; north by the parallel of 49° latitude; east by the mountains which separate the head waters of the Missouri from those of the Columbia. The extent is in length about 800 miles, in breadth 500, containing 400,000 square miles. The sea coast, unlike that of the Atlantic, opens no great bays, or mouths of large navigable rivers, except the Columbia, to aid the transportation of agricultural productions, and to facilitate commerce. That great river, with its four great branches, spreads out in different directions, to a vast extent, drains this spacious region, besides extending some of its ramifications far beyond, both to the north and south.