

Oceans would become extended and enriched. Capitalists and Mariners might pursue, with more profit and safety, the whale and other fisheries in the Western Seas, and the salmon trade on the Columbia.

A portion of the virtuous and enterprising, but not least faithful population, whom misfortunes have thrown out of employment, and who throng our villages and sea-ports, and seek a better home, might there find opportunities, under the paternal kindness of the government, to succeed to a happier condition, and to greater usefulness to themselves and to their country.

These are objects so obvious, so vast and valuable, as need not be urged by your memorialists, and seem necessarily embraced within the scope of a wise policy. They are yet deemed practicable. Another season—their possession will be thought expedient—but not so easily wrested from the grasp of British power.

The Society view with alarm the progress, which the subjects of that nation have made, in the colonization of the Oregon Territory. Already, have they, flourishing towns, strong fortifications, and cultivated farms. The domicile is made the abode of domestic comforts—the social circle is enlivened by the busy wife and the prattle and sport of children. In the convention of 1818, England secured for her subjects, the privilege of a free trade, that of buying furs of the Indians; but, at first, they practised trapping and hunting; now, they practice buying and improving lands, and assiduously pursue the business of the farmer and mechanic. Their largest town is Vancouver, which is situated on a beautiful plain, in the region of tide water, on the northern bank of the Columbia. At this place, saw and grist mills are in operation. Three vessels have been built, one of about 300 tons, and are employed in the lumber trade. Numerous herds and flocks of horses, horned cattle, and sheep, of the best European breeds, are seen grazing in their ever verdant fields. Grain of all kinds, in abundant crops, are the productions of the soil.

Everything, either in the organization of the government, or in the busy and various operations of the settlements, at this place, at Wallawalla, at Fort Colville, and at De Fuca, indicate the intentions of the English to colonize the country.—Now, therefore, your memorialists, in behalf of a large number of the citizens of the United States, would respectfully ask