

needed to make them facts from the documents to which he had referred; in this verge of civil letter from Alvan F. Waller, one of the missionaries on the Wallamet, dated 6th April, 1842, and not to say in my own, published in the Christian Advocate and Journal of December last; which, after speaking in the highest terms of the agricultural, commercial, and far. Was it such other advantages of the country, refers to the distortions to the rock of the country, which have already occurred between the descendants of the Hudson Bay Company and the recent American settlers. The company claiming, under the right of pre-emption, some of the choicest spots now occupied by American settlers; which proves, and could such things exclusively, the intentions of the company to occupy the best parts of the territory, to the exclusion of the Americans. Will not these land disputes, as first time, from the well as all others, be brought under the operation of the British act of Parliament of 1824?

yet, again, when in a series of thermometrical observations from Dr. Forry, by Mr. Ball, which may be found in the 25th and 26th volumes of Silliman's Journal; they show the average winter temperature at Fort Vancouver to be 41½ degrees of Fahrenheit; the spring 48 degrees; the summer 65 degrees; the fall of 52½ degrees. This is probably a little milder than the climate of Norfolk, Virginia. Mr. L. also reads, in finding or forming a descriptive letter of Mr. Titian Peake, dated here on the 25th ultimo; another from Major Robert Moore, dated at Wallamet, (Oregon,) March 8, 1842; a statement from Mr. Waldron, in a late letter from the same place; a letter of Capt. Steen, of the United States dragoons, from Fort Leavenworth, in which he says: "I have lately had some conversation with Col. Baitson of Jackson county, Missouri, who has returned a short time since from the Oregon Territory, and several other gentlemen from Missouri; they speak in the most exalted terms of the country, soil, climate, water-power, health, fine timber, and many other advantages that country has over Missouri."

A letter of the Messrs. Benson, of New York, transmitting the statement of Captain Spalding. All these are documents, not merely important, but interesting in themselves, though beyond our present command of space. He also referred to the well-known voyagers, Cook, Vancouver, Portlocke, Dixon, Krusenstern, Langsdorf, as well as Lewis and Clarke, and some others. But, interesting as the matter becomes, in the view of the present national question, and important as are the materials thus brought together, we are compelled here to break off.]

So little before 1813 or 1814 did Great Britain ever doubt your claim to the lately-contested territory in Maine, that in 1814 she proposed to purchase that part of it which she desired. She next treated for a right of way. It was refused; and she then set up a claim to the soil. This method has speeded no ill with her; for she has got what she wanted, and MADE YOU PAY FOR IT. Her Oregon game is the same. She has set her heart upon a strip of territory north of the Oregon, and seems determined to pluck it from us, either by circumvention or force. Aware of the political as well as legal advantages of possession, she is strengthening hers in every way not too directly responsible. She is selecting and occupying the best lands, the most favorable sites. There she secures to the settlers under contracts. For any counteraction of yours, she may take, and is taking, possession of the whole territory. She has appropriated sites for mills, manufactories, and farms. If one of these has been abandoned for a better, she reverts to it, if a citizen

of yours occupies it, and ejects him. She tells her people she will protect them in whatever they have laid, or may lay, their hands upon. If she can legitimately do this, why may not we? Is this a joint occupation of which she is to have the sole benefit? Had you as many citizens there as she, you would be compelled to protect them; and if you have not, why is it but because she keeps them off, and you refuse to offer them the inducements which she holds out? Give them a prospective grant of lands, and insure them the shelter of your laws, and they will soon congregate there in force enough to secure your rights and their own.

The Senator from South Carolina somewhat inconsistently argues that the country is bleak, barren, volcanic, rocky, a waste always flooded when it is not parched; and insists that, worthless as it is, Great Britain will go at once to war for it. Strange that she should in 1818 have held so tenaciously to what is so worthless! Stranger still that she should have stuck yet closer to it in 1827, when she had had still ampler time to learn the bootlessness of the possession! And strangest of all, that she should still cling to it with the grasp of death! Sir, I cannot for my life help thinking that she and the Senator have formed a very different estimate of the territory, and that she is (as she ought to be) a good deal the better informed. She knows well its soil, climate, and physical resources, and perfectly comprehends its commercial and geographical importance. And knowing all this, she was ready to sink all sense of justice, still all respect for our clear title, and hasten to root her interests in the soil, so as to secure the strong, even when most wrongful, title of possession.

As proof, among other things, of the worthlessness of the territory, the Senator yesterday maintained that, in the upper country, rain never falls; and in the lower, hardly ever ceases. Now, the facts derived from intelligent residents show that in those parts of the country where it seldom rains, copious dews supply the necessary moisture for vegetable life; while the streams and rills which on all sides descend from the mountains, entertain a perpetual freshness in the arable and pasture lands. It is shown, too, that, on the coast and lowlands, what is called the rainy season is one of gentle showers, not of deluges of rain. If they have more rain, they have less frost and snow than other countries, more fertility, and not less health.

But the documentary information accumulated here for some years past makes all who are conversant with it aware that the Senator mistakes the character of the plains on the east as well as the west side of the Rocky Mountains. He imagines that the vast plains which stretch from the base of that chain to the borders of our inhabited territories are desert sands, destitute alike of vegetation and water. We all know that this is not so; that these great plains are principally rich prairie lands, sustaining countless herds of antelopes, deer, and buffaloes, and capable of most profitable cultivation. They are intersected by great rivers, fed by innumerable streams, supplied by lesser tributaries, diverging in every direction. Timber certainly is scarce; but it springs up and grows with the population, and the banks of the streams afford everywhere strips of wood, quite sufficient to supply any population that can, for a good many years, fix itself there. Mistaken, as the Senator is, as to