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THE NORTH WEST TERRITORY.

By REV. JEN. McD. DAWSON, Ottawa.

The "NORTH WEST TERRITORY" is that portion of British North America which is situated between Lake Superior to the east, the Pacific Ocean and the Russian Dominions (now a portion of the United States) to the west. The 49th parallel of North latitude and the chain of waters from Rainy Lake to the confluence of Pigeon river with Lake Superior, form the boundary between this territory and the United States on the south. To the north, with the exception of some portions of Alaska (lately Russian America), it has no other limits than those of the globe itself—the ice, the snow, the perpetually frozen seas and lands of the Polar regions.

THE PRINCIPAL RIVERS.

North Western America is watered by numerous rivers, the greater of which only need here be named. The Columbia rising in the Rocky Mountains, traverses the Blue Mountain and Cascade Mountain chains. It then, after many windings, sometimes in a southerly, sometimes in a westerly direction, loses itself in the Pacific Ocean at Astoria, three degrees south of the boundary line. The treaty which deprived Great Britain of the better part of the Columbia, left to her the right of navigating this noble river in common with the citizens of the United States. The Fraser river also has its source in the Rocky Mountains. After a circuitous course through the Blue Mountains, the Cascade Mountains and the intervening plains and valleys, it joins the sea at the strait or sound which separates Vancouver Island from the Continent of America. This river is celebrated for its sands of gold. Even as to California and Australia, thousands of adventurers have already been attracted to its banks; and their enterprise has been crowned with success unsurpassed as yet in the annals of gold-digging.

Of Pelly river there need be little mention, as it half belongs to a foreign power. It is quite possible, however, that arrangements might be made with that power (the United States) for navigating this great river to its junction with the sea.

The MacKenzie river is wholly within British territory. It is one