

made under the authority of the British Government; and its right to do this, though not dependent on, was recognized in the Convention of the Escorial in 1790.

To the above remarks Mr Greenhow replies that he "denies them *in toto*."

"The coasts of Oregon," says Mr Greenhow, "were first explored by the Spaniards, who, in 1774 and 1775, landed there in many places, and 'took possession' for their Sovereign before they had been seen by the people of any other civilized nation; and the first *settlement* made in any part of the regions now known as Oregon, was that of the Spaniards at Nootka in May, 1789. The next, in point of time, were those of the Americans on the Columbia, in 1809, and the subsequent years to 1814. The earliest British settlements west of the Rocky Mountains were made in 1806, in the region north of Oregon. The 'taking possession' by the Spaniards, and afterwards by the British, was, as I have termed it in my History, 'an empty pageant, securing no real rights to those by whom, or in whose names, it was performed;' but the priority in this point belongs to the Spaniards. The settlements at Nootka and Astoria were meant to be permanent: they did not prove so, any more than those made in old time at Babylon, Palmyra, or Thebes."

The history of the Spanish Babylon at Nootka, and of the American Palmyra at Astoria, will not support this statement of Mr Greenhow. Let us first take the Spanish Babylonian settlement. The following are the contradictory accounts given of it by the same author:—

"It should be observed, with regard to the right of the Spanish Government thus to take possession of Nootka, that, before the 6th of May, 1789, when Martinez entered the Sound with that object, *no settlement, factory, or other establishment whatsoever, had been founded or attempted*, nor had any jurisdiction been exercised by the authorities or subjects of a civilized nation in any part of America bordering upon the Pacific between Port San Francisco, near the 33th deg. of N. latitude, and Prince William's Sound, near the 60th."—'Greenhow's History of Oregon,' &c., p. 187.

"—Forgetting or concealing the facts, that Spanish officers had landed on all those coasts, and, on *each occasion*, had most formally taken possession in the name of their monarch, *AND had made a settlement by direct and special orders of their Government*, before any attempt for the same purpose had been made there by the people of any other nation."—'Mr Greenhow's Strictures,' pp. 3 and 4.

I am charged with concealing the fact that the Spaniards, *on each occasion*, when they landed on the coast, "took possession," and made a settlement by the special orders of their Government. In his 'History,' Mr Greenhow admits, that however often the Spaniards may have landed on the coast, before May 6, 1789, they never made, nor even attempted to make, a settlement! The historian has so little control over his own temper, that, in order to contradict me, he denies the authority of his own history! The denial is wrong, and the 'History' is correct. The Spaniards did not make a settlement on each occasion when they landed on the coast.

When Martinez entered the harbour of Nootka, he seized some buildings which had been previously erected by the English. He