

FRAZER AND THOMPSON RIVERS.—Northward of Vancouver, the mountains trend so near the Pacific as to obstruct intercourse with the interior, but "inside," to use the language of a witness, "it is a fine open country." This is the valley of Frazer River. Ascending this river, near Fort Langley, "a large tract of land" is represented as "adapted to colonists;" while of Thompson River, the same witness says that "it is one of the most beautiful countries in the world"—climate capable of producing all the crops of England and much milder than Canada. The sources of Frazer River, in latitude 55 degrees, are separated from those of Peace River, which flows through the Rocky Mountains eastwardly into the Athabasca, by the distance of only 317 yards.

SOURCES OF THE COLUMBIA.—The map will show how large a district of British Oregon is watered by the Upper Columbia, and its tributary, the McGillivray, or Flat Bow River. It is estimated above as 20,000 square miles, and has been described in enthusiastic terms by the Catholic Bishop of Oregon, De Smet, in his "Oregon Missions." The territory of the Kootonais Indians would seem, from his glowing description, to be divided in favorable proportions between forests and prairies. Of timber he names birch, pine of different species, cedar and cypress. He remarked specimens of coal, and "great quantities of lead," apparently mixed with silver. The "source of the Columbia" seemed to impress him as a "very important point." He observes that "the climate is delightful;" the "extremes of heat and cold are seldom known, the snow disappearing as it falls." He reiterates the opinion "that the advantages nature seems to have bestowed on the source of the Columbia will render its geographical position very important at some day, and that the magic hand of civilized man would transform it into a terrestrial paradise."

It is an interesting coincidence that Father De Smet published in a St. Louis paper, a few months since, a similar description of this region, adding that it could be reached from Salt Lake City along the western base of the Rocky Mountains with wagons, and that Brigham Young proposed to lead his next Mormon exodus to the source of the Columbia River. Such a movement is not improbable, and would exhibit greater sagacity than an emigration to Sonora. Already the Mormons have established a flourishing half-way post on the Salmon River, a branch of the Columbia, and as De Smet has had many opportunities for ascertaining the designs of the Mormon hierarchy, the next scene of their zeal and industry may be under the protection of the British crown.