

lately revived in interest, since it relates to the earliest discovery of those territories, touching which the new American world has set up such arrogant pretensions; and at last, by a sort of filibustering invasion, causelessly brought on an irritating issue to a question which justice and good sense would have left to be calmly settled by the simplest appeal to facts and honesty; and which had, indeed, been placed on that footing five years ago, by a reference to commissioners, who have not as yet completed their investigation, and made their report or award. The aggression of General Harney is therefore as uncalled for as it is outrageous, and the United States government have found it necessary to repudiate it. In the year 1846, the exploring American General, Fremont, constructed a map, in which the Island of San Juan (only about six miles from Vancouver's Island, with a deep channel between, and nearly thirty from the American continent) was allowed to be British. It has since been held by the Hudson's Bay Company from the Crown; but the gold discoveries on the Fraser River seem to have awakened an ambi-

tious and covetous desire for annexation, which it may be difficult to appease without war. Vancouver Island is not mentioned in McCulloch's great geographical dictionary (ed. 1842); and here is the little satellite among the archipelago on its south-east corner, about which Vancouver boated and paddled sixty-seven years ago, raised into an importance that may set the world in flames. And why? It is the present key to the navigation up De Fuca Strait to the mouth of the Fraser river, and the future key to farther encroachments which threaten all British Columbia. Yet, in fair dealing and honour, nothing could be more readily and satisfactorily adjusted, by the commonest application of science, than the line which it is agreed shall settle the joint occupancy, and divide the claims of the two countries. The line, on leaving the continental land, "shall be continued westward, along the 49th parallel of north latitude, to the middle of the channel which separates the continent from Vancouver's Island, and thence southerly, through the middle of the said channel and of Fuca's Strait to the Pacific Ocean." So runs the clause of the Ashburton treaty.



WESTERN COAST OF NORTH AMERICA, FROM THE RUSSIAN BOUNDARY TO SAN FRANCISCO.



SAN JUAN ISLAND, WITH THE BOUNDARY LINES AS CLAIMED BY THE BRITISH AND AMERICANS RESPECTIVELY.

While writing this paper, the gratifying intelligence reaches Europe that General Scott has arrived on the scene of dispute, as diplomatic negotiator on the part of the United States. He has been instructed to disavow the seizure of the Island of San Juan, as a formal appropriation, and to declare that it shall remain neutral territory until the claims of the two nations have been discussed and decided. The presence of a man like General Scott will tend to soothe the irritation, and to give new hope of the matter being settled in a spirit of friendly adjustment and mutual respect.