

doubted ; and, in addition, presenting an available area of fifty miles, lying close and compact in two channels, affording perfect security for vessels, and without rock or shoal, besides the extensive facilities and advantages offered by the various harbours of Admiralty Inlet, without mentioning those on the opposite shore of Vancouver's Island, one of which at least, viz., that on which the Hudson's Bay Company have established their Fort Victoria, is of a very high character. It is worthy also of remark, that if San Francisco were in the hands of the British, as some desire it should be, it would be totally isolated, and destitute in itself of any means of defence except at its entrance, and must, therefore, cause great expense in protecting it artificially ; but possessed by the Americans, and resting to the right on their part of the Oregon, it could be supported on the left by the Valley of the Colorado, which, by the Gulf of California, would connect the Texas with the Pacific ; while the facilities of defence at Ports Discovery and Hudson have been the theme of universal praise, and if surrounded by a British territory, must render them impregnable.

These considerations force themselves upon us after a survey of the position and natural features of the country. It may be asked, If so, what do we ? Already the American settlers number their thousands, while the servants of the Hudson's Bay Company are principally Indians and half-breeds. We have at home a superabundant population, subject to a very rapid increase on any reduction of the price, if but of the necessaries of life : how can it be better employed than in seeking with its

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