

for some time, in charge of Fort George, near the mouth of the river—now an outpost attached to Vancouver—the famous Astoria, so much vaunted of by the Americans, as their settlement; from which they once threatened, to use Washington Irving's phrase, to "sweep the Pacific;" and spread their internal trade through the Canadas, and the Polar Circles; and banish the *Britishers* as traders, if not as residents, from the whole northern continent—a boastful threat, which they have signally failed to execute. They made, however, every endeavour to realise this most ardent wish of their hearts, but have been completely foiled. In place of being the expellers, they are themselves, in a great measure, the expelled—the result of their own irregular mode of dealing, and cupidity; which have roused against them the distrust, indignation, and hatred of the natives.

Having spent eight years in the Company's service, I was induced, by my father, who had other projects in for me, to return home.

On my return, although I was, from my knowledge of those Americans that traded on the coast, or had *squatted* in the south-western part of Oregon, or have lately been employed by the company as trappers, prepared to hear any monstrous assumptions of right set forth by the American populace, through their *loco-foco* organs of the press, I did not expect that the respectable portion of the press—much less that their functionaries, and ministers of state, even up to the President—would echo the opinions of the rabble that controls the legislature. But, to my surprise, I found that the subject was viewed by them through the democratic spectacles.

At the opening of Congress, in 1843, the President, without any previous provocation to the declaration; but from the desire, if not the necessity, too characteristic of American presidents and governments, of pandering to the passions and feelings of the multitude from whom they derive their periodical being—volunteered the announcement to the whole world, that the whole territory