

In pursuing our labors, we have not lost sight of our main design, which was, useful instruction to emigrants and settlers ; connecting a general view of the whole ground, with a more particular description of the unsold public lands.

We have incorporated our own personal observations and remarks on the country, with the most important information that could be obtained from the public commissioners for purchasing of the Indians ; from divers officers stationed in the west during the late war ; from public surveyors ; respectable, well informed Indian traders, travellers and hunters ; and from the most interesting and authentic publications extant.

The subject we treat of, embracing a description of the whole western country, is so extensive and multifarious, that it was not possible to comprehend the minute details of every part, in one volume. But we have endeavored to omit nothing interesting or useful, that could enable an enquirer to form correct general views of the whole, while he acquired more particular information respecting all the public lands most valuable for cultivation and the objects of commerce.

Such as the work is, though we presume not to pronounce it so complete as it might have been rendered, had it been committed to abler hands. We feel confident, that, as it respects the design we had in view, so much useful information can not be found compressed into so small a compass, on the same subject.

THE AUTHOR