

culiar felicity of a few; and the short time prescribed for the work, precluding an opportunity for its thorough accomplishment, he has not been able to elucidate its subjects with a clearness and elegance satisfactory to himself; nor has he succeeded in giving that minute and picturesque description of the rural scenes, of which the country is susceptible. He derives no merit from the execution of this little work. He does, indeed, assume to himself a merit, in having a mind invulnerable to the attacks of calumny, and ardent in the investigation of truth; in having pursued the subject of these pages, with a degree of enthusiasm, independence and patience important to its success.

The settlement of the Oregon country has been as long contemplated, as its paramount advantages in climate and soil, and its local opportunities for trade and commerce have been known. Some few, in different parts of the Union have, for years, made it an interesting subject of inquiry and solicitude; and have tasked themselves in the work of unfolding its history, and of securing its privileges to the citizens of the American Republic.

It is believed that the great philosopher and philanthropist, THOMAS JEFFERSON, in his career of useful labours to his country, and ardent desires to advance its glory and the happiness of man, first suggested the plan of colonizing the territory, which, through his patriotic designs, had been purchased and partially explored. In his day, the period had not arrived for the execution of the purpose. Whoever will, at the present time, attentively observe the meliorating improvements and reforms in human affairs, survey the different sections of the earth, and notice their natural and comparative adaptation to the peaceful operations of civilized life, will be convinced that the time has *fully* come, in the order of Providence, when that uncultivated tract is to be changed into a fruitful field; that haunt of savages and wild beasts, to be made the happy abode of refined and dignified man.

In relation to the advantages of the country, we are fully justified in the general remark, that no portion of the globe presents a more fruitful soil, or a milder climate, or equal facilities for carrying into effect the great purposes of a free and enlightened nation. A country so full of those natural means, which best contribute to the comforts and conveniences of life, is worthy the occupancy of a people disposed to support a free representative government, and to