

This unwarrantable step of the map-makers and geographers, has now been followed up by the formal declaration of our executive, that this country possesses an undoubted title to the whole territory between the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific Ocean, from Lat.  $42^{\circ}$  North to  $54^{\circ} 40'$ . This claim has been elaborately defended by Mr. Buchanan, especially in his letter to Mr. Pakenham of August 30th, 1845. To this letter, Mr. Pakenham, I presume, felt himself precluded from making any reply, by the new turn which the negotiation had taken—by the withdrawal of the compromise offered by Mr. Buchanan, and the assertion of a claim to the whole Oregon territory. The total change of the aspect of the negotiation, no doubt, rendered it necessary for the British minister to apply to his government, before he took any further step. This has afforded Mr. Buchanan the opportunity, (as he must have foreseen when writing this letter that it would,) to have the last word. And the consequence is, that Mr. Buchanan's arguments because *unanswered*, appear to the great bulk of the community *unanswerable*. There is certainly no other reason for thinking Mr. Buchanan's reasoning unanswerable; though the greater portion of the representatives of the people, (if we are to believe the assertions made in their speeches,) as well as their constituents, consider it absolutely conclusive, and as having established the perfect right and title of this country to the whole region along the Pacific, up to  $54^{\circ} 40'$ . I think that it will not be difficult to convince you, or any intelligent and unprejudiced man, that these arguments of Mr. Buchanan, however plausible and ingenious, are destitute of any solid foundation, on principles of national law, and, consequently, utterly inconclusive, and that the claim of the United States to the northern portion of the Oregon territory is altogether unreasonable.

It does not appear, from the published correspondence, that this claim had ever been seriously urged by this government, previous to the negotiation between Mr. Pakenham and Mr. Buchanan. The utmost demand pressed before this, was that Latitude  $49^{\circ}$  North should be considered as the boundary between the United States and the British possessions from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Ocean. It will be observed that this fact affords strong presumption against the justice of the claim. For preceding American negotiators in this controversy were not very likely to fail, either of perceiving or of stating the whole extent of the just claims