

No man holds his farm by a clearer title than the United States, by the law of nations, hold title to Oregon. What American farmer will surrender a portion of his land to the overreaching of an encroaching neighbor, or the threats of a lawless trespasser? What American citizen will consent that Oregon shall be yielded, either to the cunning diplomacy or the arrogant assumptions of Great Britain?

THE VALUE AND IMPORTANCE OF OREGON TO THE UNITED STATES.

The doctrine maintained by the Democracy is, that *Great Britain should not be allowed to advance another of her gigantic steps upon the American hemisphere.* But it is not only in a political point of view that the American occupation of Oregon is important. The value and advantages of that vast region are incalculable, and are not sufficiently estimated by the people. A brief selection from volumes of material will show the richness of the prize England is trying to wrest from us.

THE CLIMATE.

The climate, soil, trade, hunting, fishing, capability of defence, safe and capacious harbors, and general resources, render this vast region one of the most desirable portions of the New World.

Cook, Dixon, Pontlock, Vancouver, Kotzebue, Lewis and Clarke, and all other explorers, represent the climate of the northwest coast of America as exceedingly mild, pleasant, and salubrious. Even to the northward of Cape Prince of Wales, latitude 71° , Kotzebue says that, on the 30th of July, a long tract of low land was covered with luxuriant verdure. Cook describes the climate, from March to April, in latitude $49^{\circ} 30'$, as infinitely milder than that on the coast of America under the same latitude. There was no frost in the low grounds, and vegetation proceeded briskly; grass, at this time, was upwards of a foot long.

"The climate south of 53 degrees, assumes a mildness, (says Mr. Prevost, in 1822,) unknown in the same latitude on the eastern side of the continent. The mercury, during the winter, seldom descends below the freezing point. The rains usually commence with November, and continue to fall partially until April. A benign spring succeeds; and when the summer heats obtain, they are so tempered with showers as seldom to suspend vegetation. It was luxuriant on the first of October. High mountains form the coast, arresting the vapors of the ocean, which produces, in the interior, a climate of uncommon mildness. Between this mountainous ridge along the coast, and the chain of mountains which cross the Oregon, lies the rich valley of the Columbia. For several hundred miles in length, and fifty in width, the country is a high level plain, in all its parts extremely fertile. Nearly the whole of this wide-spread tract, in May, was covered with a profusion of grass and plants, amongst them a variety of esculent plants and roots, yielding nutritious and agreeable food. In short, this district, though elevated several thousand feet above the level of the ocean, possesses pure and dry air, with a climate milder than the same latitude in the Atlantic States, and equally healthy; and, if properly cultivated, would yield every object necessary for the subsistence and comfort of civilized man."

The country between the lowest falls on the Columbia river and the ocean, is rich in soil, well timbered and watered, and capable of any species of culture.

The coast, latitude $49^{\circ} 14'$, presents a vast luxuriant landscape; the more interior parts, somewhat elevated and agreeably diversified with hills, from which the land gradually descends to the shore, and terminates in a sandy beach. The ocean teems with otter, seal, and the whale, while the main land abounds in every variety of game, and the waters with salmon, sturgeon, and other species of fish; and all grains and tuberous plants may be cultivated with advantage. The multitudes of salmon in the Oregon are inconceivable; and they extend to its remotest sources. The water is so clear, that they may be seen at the depth of fifteen or twenty feet; so abundant are they, at certain seasons, that, in the scarcity of wood, dried fish are often used as fuel.

Of other sections of this great country, it is said, "the serenity of the climate, the innumerable pleasing landscapes, and the abundant fertility that unassisted nature puts forth, require only to be enriched by the industry of man with villages, mansions, cottages, and other buildings, to render it the most lovely country that can be imagined; whilst the labor of the inhabitants would be amply rewarded in the bounties which nature seems ready to bestow on cultivation."

In a word, that great peninsula, between the mouth of the Columbia and the entrance of De Fuca's strait, enclosing more than two-thirds of the country on the ocean between the river and the straits, possesses advantages for occupation by a civilized nation not surpassed by those of any other country in the world.

Such are the advantages of this favored region, that all who have examined the subject are well satisfied that it might be defended against exterior and internal enemies, at a small expense and readily subsisted from its own resources.

In a letter of Governor Pelby, of the Hudson Bay Company, to the British Colonial Secretary

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