

think that the American claim holds good for many reasons: first, the channel which we maintain is the boundary, is the widest and most direct from the Gulf of Georgia to the Straits of Fuca, and is most free from the obstructions of small islands; next, the soundings made by the coast surveyors show that it is the deepest channel of the two, as will be observed by the table of figures which we append to our map; and, lastly, it is a known rule that islands are always held to belong to the nearest mainland rather than to any other adjacent island.

We hope, therefore, that the Government will resist any attempt to wrest from us these islands, which, since the execution of the Treaty, have been considered American territory, notwithstanding that the right of property in them has been the subject of discussion at various times. Since the discovery of gold in the Fraser River region, these islands have attracted more attention, commanding as they do the entrance to Frazer River, and it is important that our possession of them should be maintained at all hazard. The aggressive spirit of the British Government, always encroaching where it can find a pretext, must be resisted, and now is the opportune time to do so effectively. In defining the boundary of 1846, we gave more to England than she was entitled to, because of right the 49th parallel would leave nearly three-fourths of Vancouver's Island to American territory; but in order to give her the whole island, we ceded our rights in that particular. England has had all that she claimed, and more than she was fairly entitled to at that time. We had a perfect right to claim up to the fifty-four-forty line, and it is a fact worth mentioning, that at the time when Mr. Polk made the compromise of the 49th parallel boundary, Mr. Buchanan, then Secretary of State, and Robert J. Walker, Secretary of the Treasury, stood out to the last in favour of the fifty-four-forty line, and never yielded our claim to it, though they were outweighed in the Cabinet. It is not likely, then, that the present Administration will make any concessions in the present controversy.

The British journals are clamorous in favour of the English interpretation of this boundary line, and, in the usual grasping spirit of their nation, insist upon securing the Island of San Juan for themselves; but the fact is, that they neither know nor care what the lawful boundary is; if they can acquire an additional piece of territory by bamboozling or bullying us, that is all they care. As an instance of how little British journalists know of the boundaries of the United States, the London "Post," the Premier's own organ and mouthpiece, the other day had the cool assurance to assert that by the Ashburnham Capitulation of 1842, England had ceded to the United States the whole State of Maine, including the fine harbour of Portland, to which she was now about to send her great triumph of marine architecture, the 'Great Eastern.' Now the fact is that, instead of England ceding any territory to us, we gave up that portion of Maine known as the Aroostook country to England, to settle the boundary difficulty, and she had no more claim to Portland than she had to the port of New York. So much for the impudent, encroaching disposition of England. She must be watched and checked, or she will filch her neighbour's territory upon some pretext or other. Hence the necessity of meeting her claims to the Haro Islands boldly, and upholding our right to every inch of ground on the north-western frontier to which the Treaty stipulations entitle us. There must be no compromising or yielding, though we should be compelled to bring the controversy to a bitter end.

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*Extract from the "New York Times" of September 30, 1859.*

THE SAN JUAN QUARREL.

*Olympia, Washington Territory, August 21, 1859.*

SINCE your correspondent reached this remote spot, so suddenly become a centre of world-wide interest, things have assumed a daily