

him. I will add, and the last: Illinois, "inevitable destiny." If, by political ambition, party has foreign interests, inevitable destiny, like men, passion, and the if we are true to our Union, we sustain its life of our commerce ride triumphantly in the battle of destiny give us grounds I base and effect of the

and to state the ever claim and notice one important of history and in all the diplomatic place between Oregon, from the year 1820, exclusively upon the Nootka convention, discussions introduced, as the very as she herself upon the was this change of this question. Governments to their original and contemporaneous upon whose must stand a British title faded foreseen by the grew brighter British negotiations ground, an convention, upon claims and pre she has made negotiation of the Nootka of the Nootka part of her negotiations, she could Francis Drake the 13th of from Plymouth to Egypt, but a predatory ex- ements in America and the Pacific, and after plunging his vessel

with the spoils, in the spring of 1579, he concluded to return home. Fearing, if he sailed south by Magellan's Strait, the Spaniards would intercept him, he sailed northwest to about the 42d degree of latitude, when, by stress of weather, he was driven back to latitude 38°, when he landed in California, refitted his vessel, remained till the spring of 1580, took possession of and called the place New Albion, and in September, 1580, he arrived in England. This is the account of Drake's voyage, as given in 1589 by Francis Pretty, who was with Drake, and which is doubtless correct. He never touched the shore north of the 38th degree, which is two degrees south of our southern boundary.

England does not now rely upon Cook's voyage for title. In 1776, two centuries afterwards, the next British navigator who appeared in the Pacific was Captain James Cook, who was sent by the British Government on an exploring expedition, with instructions to take possession of such places as he might discover, which had not already been "discovered or visited" by other nations. After a voyage of near two years, in which he visited Van Dieman's Land, New Zealand, Friendly and Society Islands, and other places, on the 7th of March, 1788, he arrived opposite the northwest coast of America, in latitude 44°. Thence he sailed north to Nootka Sound, where he landed in April, 1778, remained there near one month, refitting his vessel, and supplying his ship with wood and water, and trading with the natives. Cook took possession of the place, named it St. George's Bay, and the cove, Friendly Cove; thence proceeded north on his voyage, but made no further discoveries in the disputed territory. Cook continued his voyage until the 16th of February, 1779, when he was killed by the natives at Owyhee, one of the Sandwich islands. England can claim nothing from his discoveries, for the reason that Perez, on the part of Spain, had "discovered, visited," and taken possession of Nootka, in 1774, four years before Cook ever saw it.

In 1787, John Meares, whose acts are intimately connected with the Nootka convention, and will be mentioned hereafter, in the capacity of supercargo in a Portuguese trading ship, visited Nootka.

In 1792, Vancouver visited the Straits of Fuca. This was two hundred years after Fuca had discovered the entrance of these straits, and three years after Captain Gray had sailed into them fifty miles.

In 1787, Berkeley, then in the service of the Austrian East India Company, saw the Straits of Fuca, but did not enter them.

In 1793 Alexander McKenzie, an agent of a fur company, passed from Fort Chipewyan south-west across the country, and discovered the headwaters of the river Tachetee Teese, (now called Frazer's river,) down which he and his comrades floated in canoes two hundred miles, then left the streams, passed by land westward to the Pacific, where he arrived in July, 1793, in latitude 52° 20'. From thence he returned by land to Fort Chipewyan, whence he had started, making no other discoveries. So little was known of this stream, that, up to 1812 it was believed to be a branch of the Columbia, when it was discovered to be a sep-

arate stream that emptied into the Straits of Fuca, in latitude 49°. Did Great Britain ever follow up the discoveries of any of her navigators by possession and settlement? If she did, she has never to this day furnished the world with the evidence of it. The first settlement ever made by a British subject west of the Rocky Mountains was made by McKenzie, in the year 1806, when, as an agent of the Northwest Fur Company, he established a trading post on the Tachetee Teese, in latitude 54°. This is the British title, so far as it rests on discovery by her navigators and McKenzie, and these are all she ever made. Of all the discoveries of each nation I have given only the outline, the dates and places, when and where, and by whom they were made. Want of time compels me to omit the details.

Mr. Chairman, a careful and accurate examination, an analysis and comparison of the authentic evidences of the title of the present claimants, as the same is found in the log-books, journals, and contemporaneous writings of the several navigators and others who discovered and explored that country, will fully sustain the truth of this proposition: that the navigators of Britain never made an original discovery of an important part of the territory in dispute. That her navigators made explorations of places previously discovered and explored by Spaniards and Americans, will not be denied; but that she ever made an original discovery of importance in that territory, remains yet to be proved.

Mr. Chairman, let us next examine the Nootka convention; that being the other branch of British claims. And, sir, what is this convention? By whom was it made? And can any right or title to the sovereignty or the soil of Oregon be derived from or predicated upon it. It is a convention entered into by Spain and Britain in 1790. The circumstances that gave rise to this convention, and which are highly important to its true interpretation, are briefly these: In 1788 two trading vessels were fitted out at Macao, in China, for a trading expedition. Upon one of them, John Meares was supercargo, in the employ of a Portuguese merchant. She sailed under Portuguese colors, was commanded by a Portuguese captain, her passports and sea papers were made out in the Portuguese language, and by authority of a Portuguese colony, the vessel and cargo belonging to Juan Cavello, a Portuguese merchant. In 1788 this ship (Felice) arrived at Nootka, on her trading expedition, four years after Perez had discovered that place. Meares while there procured from Maquinna, an Indian chief, at Nootka, a grant of privilege to use a small spot of ground in Friendly Cove, upon which to construct a small trading vessel, on condition, that when he left, he (Meares) would surrender the same back to the Indians, with any buildings he might erect upon it, and for which privilege he gave the Indian chief a pair of pistols. Part of the crew of the Felice was landed at Nootka, to build the proposed craft, and Meares sailed south along the coast on a trading and exploring excursion. In July following, Meares returned to Nootka, and found there two American ships, the Washington and Columbia, before mentioned; also found his new vessel, which was called the Northwest Ame-