tification. Turn and twist the figures as he may and enliven the process with all forms of invective and objurgation against the Claimants, the position still remains the same. The arithmetic does them no more harm than does the invective; his figures of speech and figures of numeration are equally innocuous.

The first set of figures upon which the Respondents fasten as containing an estimate by the Claimants of the value of their possessory rights which bars them from recovering any larger amount, is the statement produced before the Committee of the House of Commons, and printed in the Appendix to their Rep. p. 449. I do not take it as quoted on p. 108 of the Respondents' argument, because it is imperfectly given there. The item alluded to is in the following terms: "*Property and investments* in the territory of Oregon *ceded to the United States* by the Treaty of 1846," and which were secured to the Company as possessory rights under that Treaty. I have but a few words to say on the subject of this item. In the first instance, I would call attention to its peculiar wording, "property and investments ceded to the United States," which is a misstatement; and again to the uncertain manner in which the amount is stated, "$1,000,000, say £200,000 stg.," shewing an inaccuracy in carrying out and converting one denomination of currency into another of not less than $26,000, and indicating how little importance was attached to the figures named. Both these loose forms of statement shew that the document by whomsoever prepared, is not to be relied upon as really an exponent of the rights of the Company.

The fact is, that although it was necessary to include some mention of the claim in the statement, in order to show that it was still unsatisfied, yet the investigation had no reference to that claim, and no mortal sagacity was competent to make even a remote guess of its real value at that time. Between Sir George Simpson's estimate of $1,233,000, exclusive of the navigation of the Columbia, and that of Governor Stevens of $300,000, backed by Mr. Secretary Marcy, a great variety of sums had been discussed from the year 1852, to the date of the statement, 8th June, 1857. As to the $300,000, the Congress of the United States had in 1855, refused to make provision for paying that sum or any other. Mr. Crampton and Mr. Lumley, representing the British Government at Washington, had expressed at different times their opinion that it was the