

38° 34'. At the former of these military positions, for the protection of her commerce it is presumed, she has incurred much expense, and built a fort of great strength, situated upon one of the best harbors on the coast standing upon a point of land projecting into the little bay, giving something the appearance of a conical island in the centre of it; this fort is well supplied at all times with provisions and military stores, mounting an hundred and twenty cannon carrying balls from eighteen to twenty-four pounds weight. That at Bodiga is well constructed and supplied with cannon, and has a good harbor; at this point they have ammunition and merchandize in abundance, and find the Indian trade at this post as well as New-Archangel very considerable; besides the fine condition of this fort and its defences, they have many field pieces, some of brass, of the finest construction, in good order and well mounted. All these supplies have been conveyed to those places through immense oceans round Cape Horn, which would have appalled any but Russian policy and perseverance. The light articles destined for this trade are transported from St. Petersburg, in sledges, which will perform in three months, that which would require two summers of water conveyance to effect; their communications are open to Kamtschatka, to fort St. Peter, and St. Paul, by Ohotsk in the Pacific, where they have the finest harbor in the world, the distance is estimated at ten thousand miles. The nation which can encounter such journeys as these, often through seas of ice, and storms of snow so terrible as to obscure an object beyond the distance of a few paces, to prosecute any branch of commerce, must be well and fully informed of its value. That the objects she has in view may not, by any event, be taken from her grasp, after encountering such vast difficulties, she has found it expedient to occupy one of the Sandwich Islands, which not only enables her effectually to maintain her positions, but to command the whole northern part of the Pacific Ocean. These Islands lying just within the tropics, in the direct course from the lower coast of North America to Canton, are well supplied not only with all the fruits of that climate, but with every vegetable and animal known in this country.

It is worthy of remark, that among other advantages which the Russian position on the opposite coast possesses, is, that a voyage from Kamtschatka to Japan can be made in an open boat, as it is a continued chain of Islands from the Ohotsk sea, until it arrives at its place of destination.

Your Committee are well persuaded that, by a little care and small expense, the citizens of this republic might reap all the benefits of this trade, not only profitable now, but from every view of the subject there is a strong probability that it will increase for many years.

Were an establishment made at the mouth of Columbia, which should be allowed to take with them their women and children, there can be no doubt of success, as so many years experience of the English fur companies have amply shewn this mode has the most powerful effect in separating the minds of the men from pursuits, which often