

have resulted in the offers made by the contending parties for the settlement of their dispute; and although this is presented naturally to the mind as connected immediately with the objects of the present work, its importance as a general consideration should not be overlooked: for, as abstract right appears to have been abandoned as a means of deciding the question, how can it be settled except on a basis of reciprocal advantage?

The truth, therefore, which is now involved is, not one of right or title, but of commercial necessity and national interest.

It may be remarked, however, that the claims of the two countries are distinct, both in quality and extent; for while the United States now claim the entire territory, Great Britain has never (though professing a belief in her just title to the whole) made any endeavour to obtain more than a part. The difficulty is to apportion it.

All the former offers of the diplomatists who have at various times attempted a settlement of this question, resolve themselves into those which were last made by Messrs. Gallatin and Canning, and to them the moderate men in both countries seem desirous to recur, and of them alone therefore will it be necessary to take any notice, more especially as the entire political aspect of the question, whether of right by discovery, treaty, international law, or custom, has been so ably argued by Messrs. Falconer and Wallace, and now also by Dr. Twiss, that the moderation, to say no more, of the British Government in its demands, no less than its desire to preserve peace, and permit every reasonable advantage to the United States (even at much sacrifice), must be most evident to all.