

popular amongst that class of men who alone can supply the sinews of war. Mr. Pakenham seems to have succeeded, if hostilities there shall be on account of this question, in throwing all the odium on the government of this country.

LETTER II.

DEAR SIR :

In the conversation to which I alluded in my last letter, I endeavored to maintain that the views commonly—I fear too generally—entertained by the citizens of this country, in regard of our claims to the Oregon, are erroneous, and altogether unreasonable. These erroneous views—these unreasonable claims—are the great obstacle to a peaceful adjustment of the controversy. And, if so, it is the duty of every individual, in conversation or through the press, to contribute according to his abilities to enlighten public opinion on this very important subject—important, I mean, in reference to its possible results—and to endeavor to inculcate sober and moderate views, in place of those which at present prevail.

As soon as we had purchased the claims of Spain to the territory west of the Rocky Mountains, above the forty-second degree of North Latitude, all our makers of maps and compilers of school geographies, took immediate possession of the whole territory. Instead of stating the truth, that the title to this region was a subject of controversy between Great Britain and this country, they exhibited the territory to the whole rising generation, as an undoubted and indisputable possession of the United States. This course was, no doubt, deemed by these parties both patriotic and politic. But the results, it is to be feared, may prove that, like many other acts of low cunning and spurious patriotism, it was as much opposed to sound policy, as it was to a manly and upright course of procedure. Nothing—considering the nature of our institutions—can be conceived, more calculated to lay the foundation for a misunderstanding, and eventually a quarrel between the two nations interested in the territory—nothing more calculated to render this misunderstanding difficult to be satisfactorily adjusted.