

BRITISH AND AMERICAN JOINT COMMISSION ON THE
HUDSON'S BAY AND PUGET SOUND AGRICULTURAL
COMPANIES' CLAIMS.

TO THE HONORABLE THE COMMISSIONERS :

THE GOVERNOR AND COMPANY of Adventurers of England trading into Hudson's Bay, commonly called **THE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY**, claimants, submit the following Memorial and statement of their claims upon the United States ; and for facts and considerations in support of such claims, respectfully declare :—

That, in the year 1846, and for a great number of years previous thereto, the Hudson's Bay Company were in the free and full enjoyment, for their own exclusive use and benefit, of certain rights, possessions, and property of great value, within and upon the Territory on the North-west Coast of America, lying Westward of the Rocky Mountains, and South of the 49th parallel of North latitude ; such rights consisting as well in extensive and valuable tracts of land, whereupon numerous costly buildings and enclosures had been erected and other improvements had been made, and then subsisted, as of a right of trade which was virtually exclusive, and the right of the free and open navigation of the River Columbia within the said Territory.

That the rights, possessions, and property thus held and enjoyed by the Hudson's Bay Company, had been acquired while the said Territory was in the ostensible possession, and under the Sovereignty and Government of the Crown of Great Britain, and the Company held and enjoyed the same, with the knowledge and consent, and under recognitions, both express and implied, of the Crown of Great Britain, and by persons acting under its authority.

That, by the Treaty concluded between Great Britain and the United States of America, on the 15th day of June, 1846, while the Hudson's Bay Company were in the full and free possession and enjoyment of their said rights, it was in effect declared to be desirable for the future welfare of both Countries, that the state of doubt and uncertainty, which had theretofore prevailed, respecting the Sovereignty and Government of the Territory on the North-West Coast of America, lying Westward of the Rocky Mountains, should be finally terminated by an amicable compromise of the rights mutually asserted by the two parties, upon such terms of settlement as might be agreed upon ; and thereupon, by Article I. of the said Treaty, the line of boundary to be thereafter observed between the Territories of Great Britain, and those of the United States of America, then in