

chorage, and in all respects, as convenient for shipping as can be found on the eastern shores of the Pacific. Their general aspect is truly charming—variegated with rivers and lakes, hills and dales and dark woodlands, with other such things as contribute to the charms of the beauteous landscapes of nature's inimitable painting. The forests are richly interspersed with oak and pine, and abound with lordly trees. That part of the Island intersected by the 49th parallel is particularly spoken of, in the "Journey Round the World,"\* by Sir George Simpson, "Governor-in-chief of the Hudson Bay Company's territories," as being a fine country.

That book, page 160, remarks "The neighboring country comprising the southern end of Vancouvers Island† is well adapted for colonization; for, in addition to a tolerable soil and a moderate climate, it possesses excellent harbors, and abundance of timber. It will, doubtless, become in time, the most valuable section of the whole coast above California."

On some of the tracts are localities of lime and coal. These useful articles of commerce are found at the sea-side, where vessels are, now, receiving cargos. Finally, it is said by those who have had good opportunities to know about the tracts, that they possess great natural advantages for agriculture and commerce, and furnish excellent positions for manufacturing and commercial towns; and the foundations of some such towns, it is understood, are, now, being laid. There is not on all our Pacific shores, a fairer country than that about De Fucas Sea; and a more valuable one too, taking into consideration forty or fifty years of occupancy by a people like the enterprising and industrious yankees. The valley of the Sacramento and declivities of the Sierra Nevadas with all their gold-producing capabilities are not exceptions. Any estimate made of the claimants' lands on the Island, less than \$8,000,000, would be unreasonable.

Prior to 1840, the author of this book collected the evidences of the purchases; and in that year, prepared the Congressional

\* That book was published and ready for the public *immediately after* the settlement of the "Oregon question," and the conclusion of the treaty of 1846. Probably, it was written one or two years before that event. The author, unquestionably, was a lover of truth. He had stated, that the "Puget's Sound Agricultural Association" was composed, exclusively, of persons belonging to the H. B. Co. implying, there was really no such association; and, it is believed, the assumption of the name was to afford a plausible pretext for a claim to the possessory rights which were recognized and confirmed in the treaty. It is difficult to understand how the men of that British company, under the convention of 1818, could acquire a just title to any lands in Oregon.

† The reason is obvious why a certain Boston merchant suggested a boundary line which should bend round the southern end of that Island.