

passionate view of the Oregon territory ; and of the relative position, and social pretensions of the contending parties ; the British public, being awakened to the subject, would be enabled to come to a sound judgment on the whole question.

Though I have not given the whole amount of my notes, I am persuaded that this book will convey a fairer, and more concentrated impression, than *all* the *American* factious books that have been hitherto published on the subject.

It is true that this book occasionally portrays some dark features in the American character ; but let the reader clearly observe, that in depicting the American character, I quote American authority ; and that in showing the weakness of their pretensions to the country, I quote historical and diplomatical facts—facts not questionable by the Americans themselves.

In brief, and in simple truth, my object is to give the British public an honest, and, as to leading characteristics, a full, account of the Oregon country. I had another object in view, which was, to give an account of the British North American Fur Trade—of which there has been no consecutive account hitherto given.