

old English oak; the underwood that had probably attended its early growth, had the appearance of having been cleared away, and left the stately lords of the forest in complete possession of the soil, which was covered with luxuriant herbage, and beautifully diversified with pleasing eminences and valleys, which, with the range of lofty rugged mountains that bounded the prospect, required only to be adorned with the neat habitations of an industrious people to produce a scene not inferior to the most studied effect of taste in the disposal of grounds."

Yet in this delightful terrestrial paradise, thus seen and thus described by Vancouver, under a November sun, this bucaneeering Parson almost perished with the cold in the middle of July!

Father Charlevoix deemed the whole account of the discovery of New Albion by Sir Francis Drake to be fabulous, by reason of the errors, absurdities, and falsehoods of Fletcher.

Pinkerton wholly discredits Fletcher's account of Drake's voyage, and says that his real design was to discourage all hopes of finding a passage by this way into the North Sea.

And yet, on this miserable tale of this miserable priest, a tale discredited by their own historians, by contemporary authors, by subsequent authors, Great Britain attempts to set up a claim of territory; and, to strengthen that claim they urge as a purchase, the ridiculous surrender of the country in latitude 38, 4 degrees S. of the American line by the natives to Sir Francis Drake, who could not tell whether they were in jest or in earnest! and contend that it applies to the whole tract of country between 37 and 48!

Great Britain denies that the United States acquired any right whatever to territory on this Coast from discovery, purchase, or occupation; yet she founds a claim to the same territory, because she entertains a fancy that in 1578, Sir Francis Drake made a purchase of territory around the Port which perpetuates his name. And a purchase which they do not even pretend was followed by occupation. Of whom did he purchase? If the purchase was made at all it was made in 1578.

Since, then, centuries have rolled away. The Indian tribes are constantly migrating, wave succeeds to wave in melancholy succession—they rise and disappear, and leave no trace of former existence. For aught we know, the Creeks or Cherokees might then have kindled their council fires on the shores of the Pacific. For aught we know their places may now be occupied by the remnants of the Mexicans. —The Shawnees of Lake Michigan once inhabited the banks of the Floridian Suwanee. The Tuscaroras of Lake Ontario once dwelled in North Carolina. New tribes may have succeeded to the old. New rights may have been acquired which not even English laws can impugn.

The other fact upon which the British Commissioners rested the claim of their nation, might, if true, be material, viz: "a settlement of their subjects upon the branches of the Columbia, coeval with, if not prior to the settlement by American citizens at its mouth."