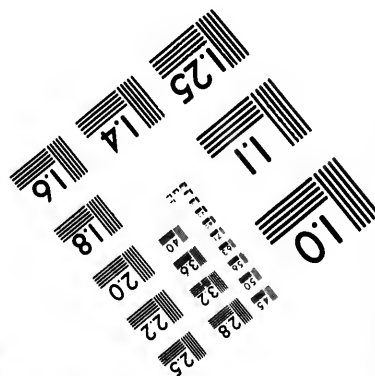
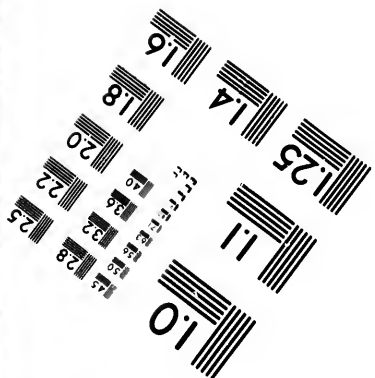
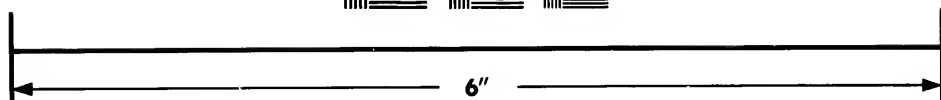
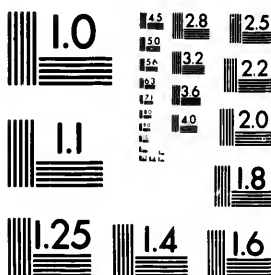


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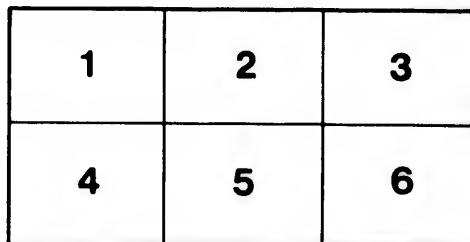
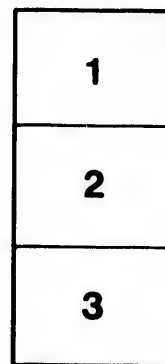
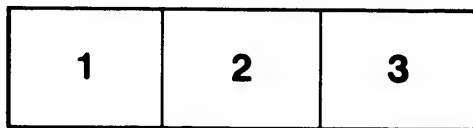
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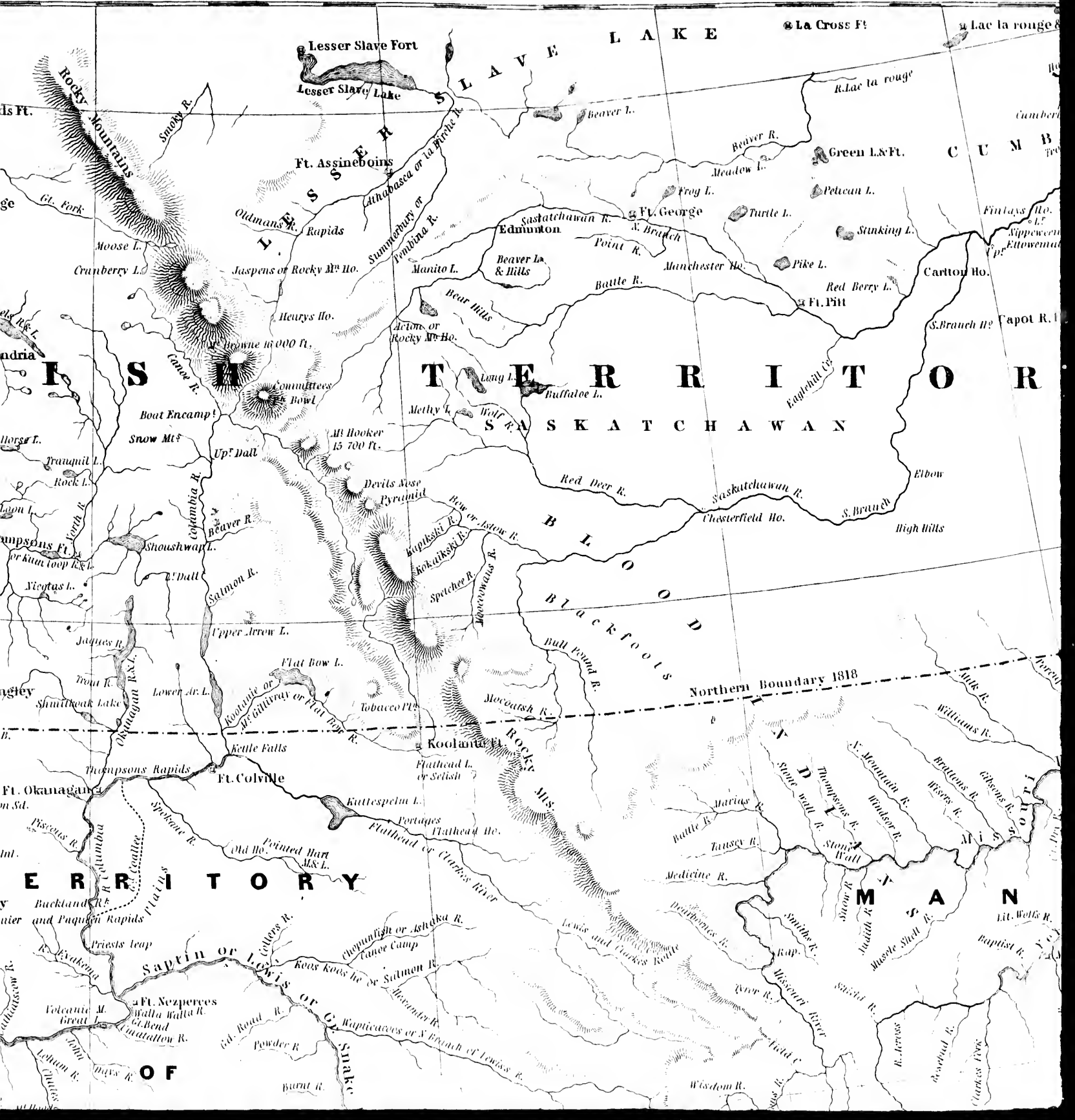


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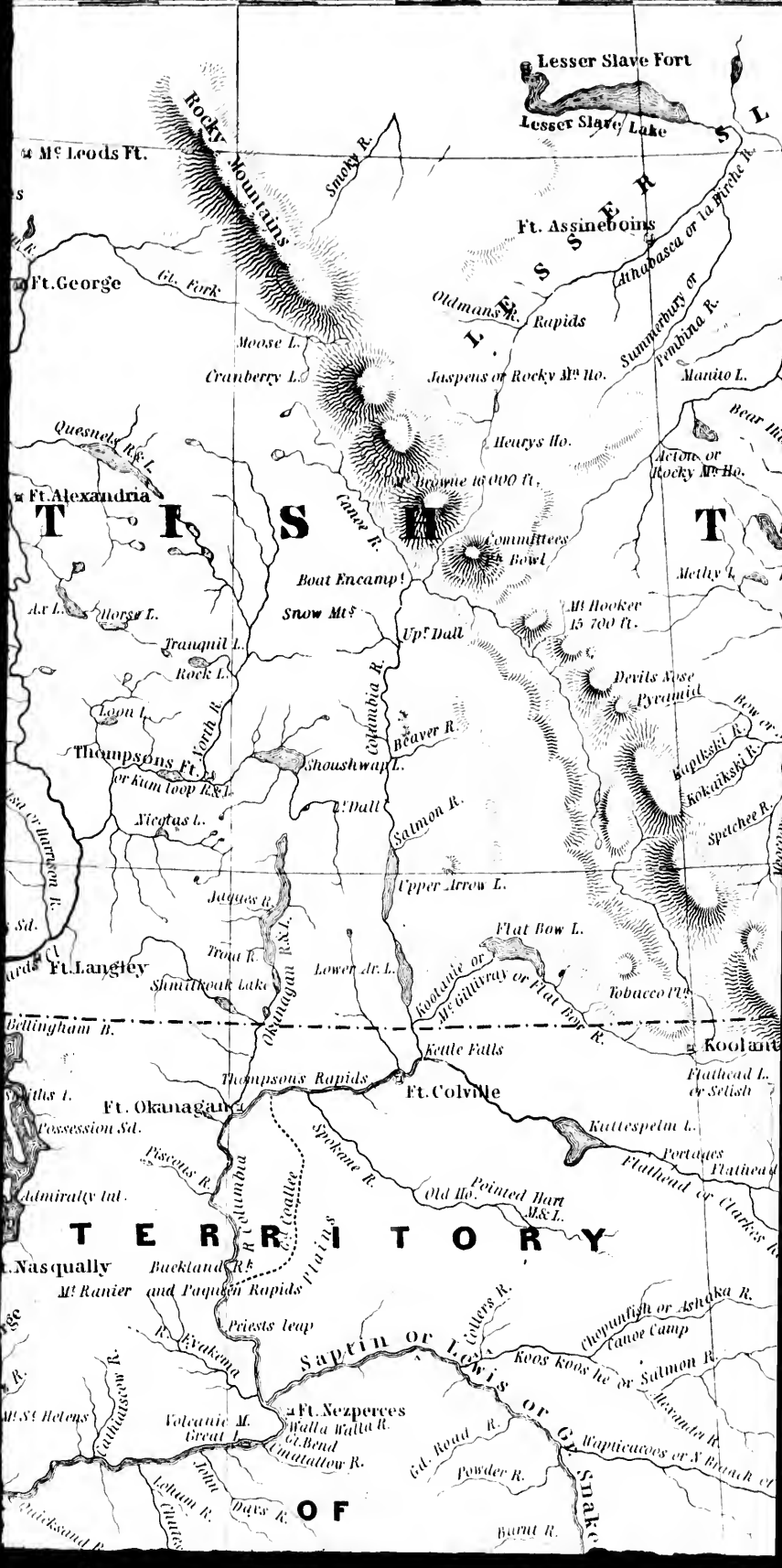
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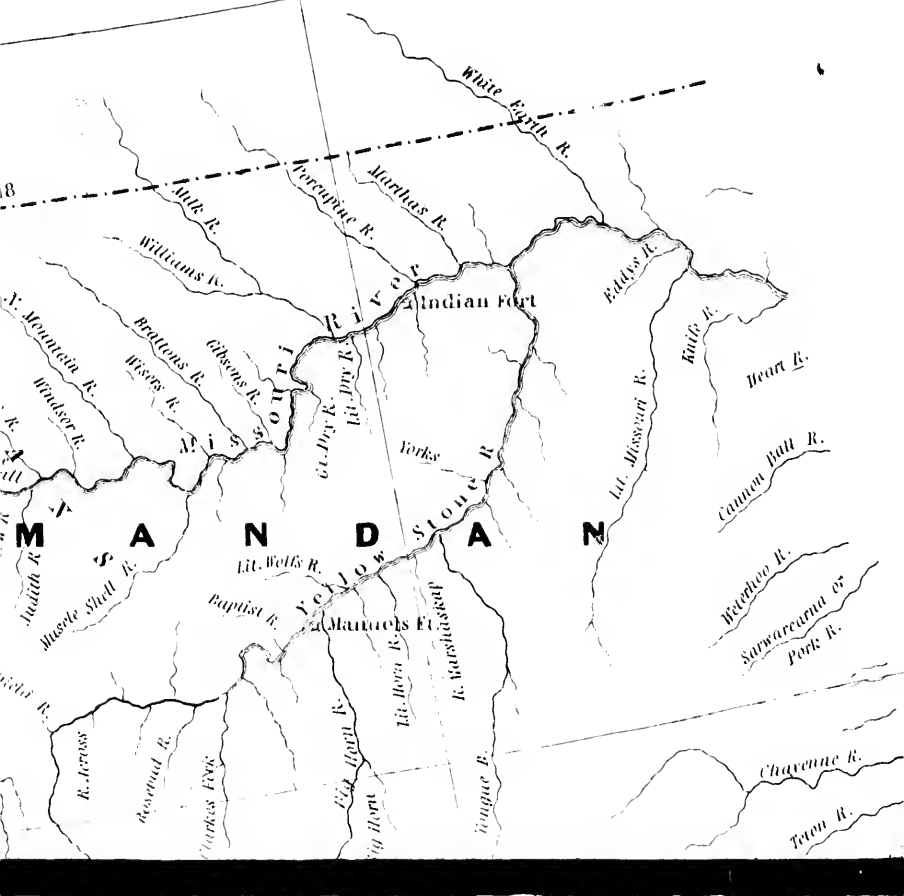
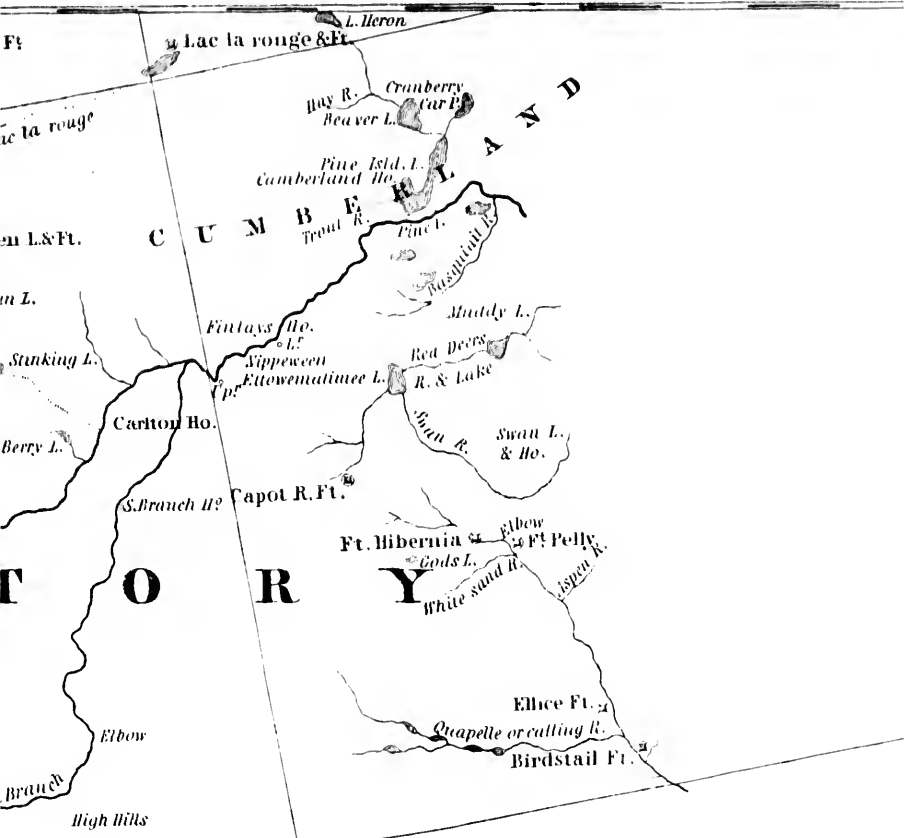






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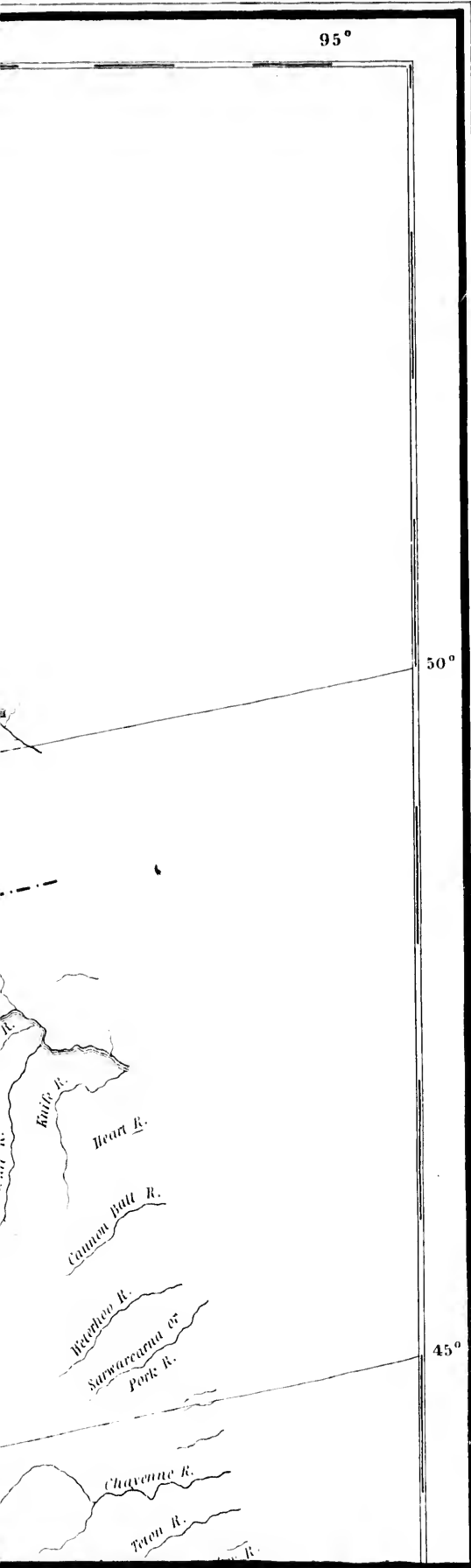
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MAP  
of the  
*UNITED STATES*  
**TERRITORY OF OREGON**

West of the Rocky Mountains,  
*Exhibiting the various Trading Depots or Forts  
occupied by the British Hudson Bay Company con-  
-nected with the Western and northwestern Fur Trade.*

*Compiled in the Bureau of Topographical  
Engineers from the latest authorities under  
the direction of Col. J.J. Abert, by*

*Wash: Hood.*

**1838.**

*M.H. Stansbury del.*

*W. J. Stone sc. Wash?*

PACIFIC

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*The prolongation of the 49<sup>th</sup> parallel of latitude from the Rocky  
Mountains to the Pacific has been assumed as the Northern Boundary  
of the U.S. States possessions on the N.W. coast, in consequence of  
the following extract from the Hon. H. Clays letter to M<sup>r</sup>. Gallatin  
dated June 19<sup>th</sup> 1826. see Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> Cong. 1 sess. Ho. of R. You are  
then authorised to propose the annulment of the third article of the  
"Convention of 1818, and the extension of the line on the parallel of"  
"49, from the eastern side of the Stony Mountains, where it now"  
"terminates to the Pacific Ocean as the permanent boundary"  
"between the territories of the two powers in that quarter. This is"  
"our ultimatum and so you may announce it"*

*The Posts of the British Hudsons Bay Company are marked thus. ©*

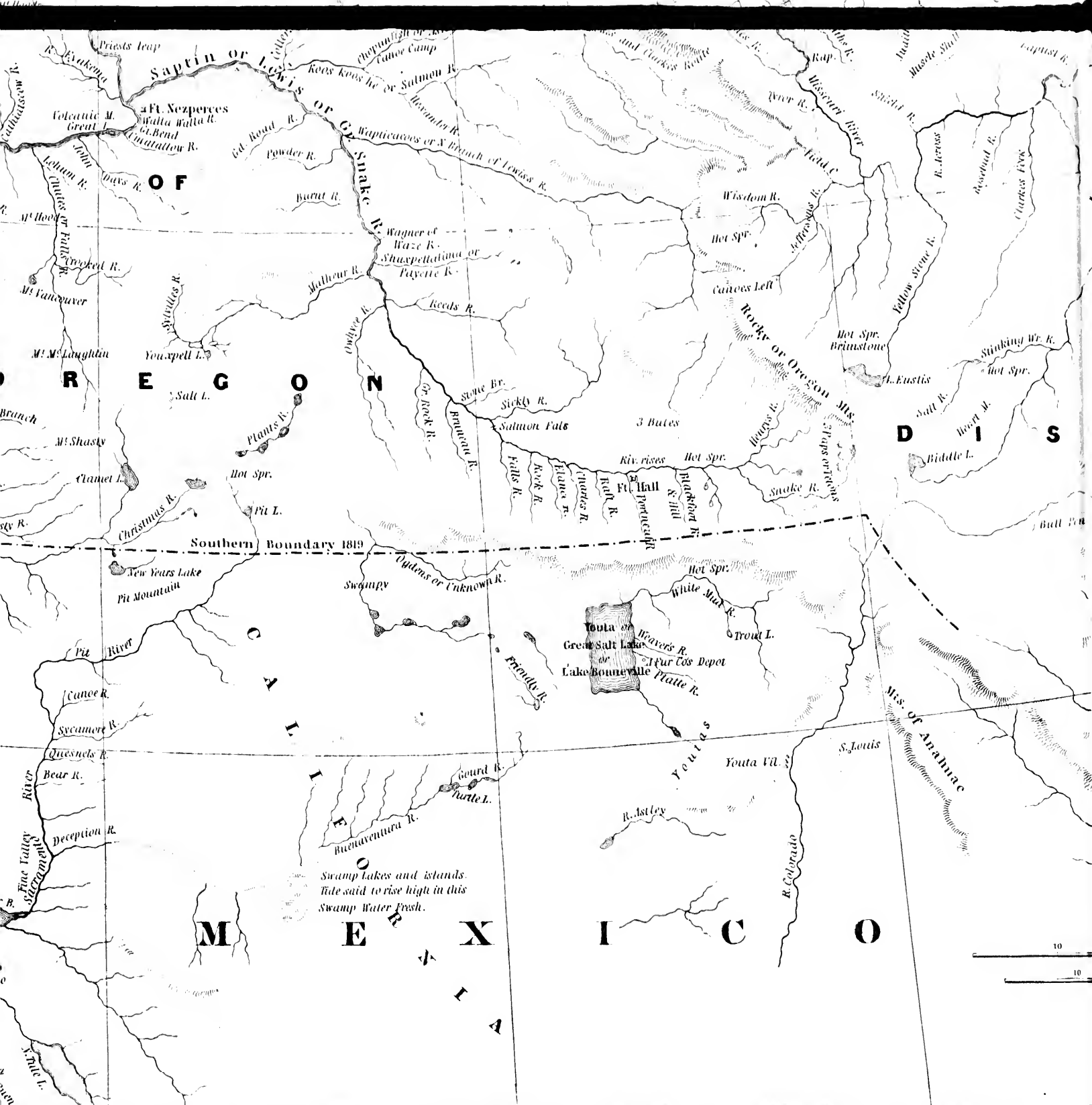


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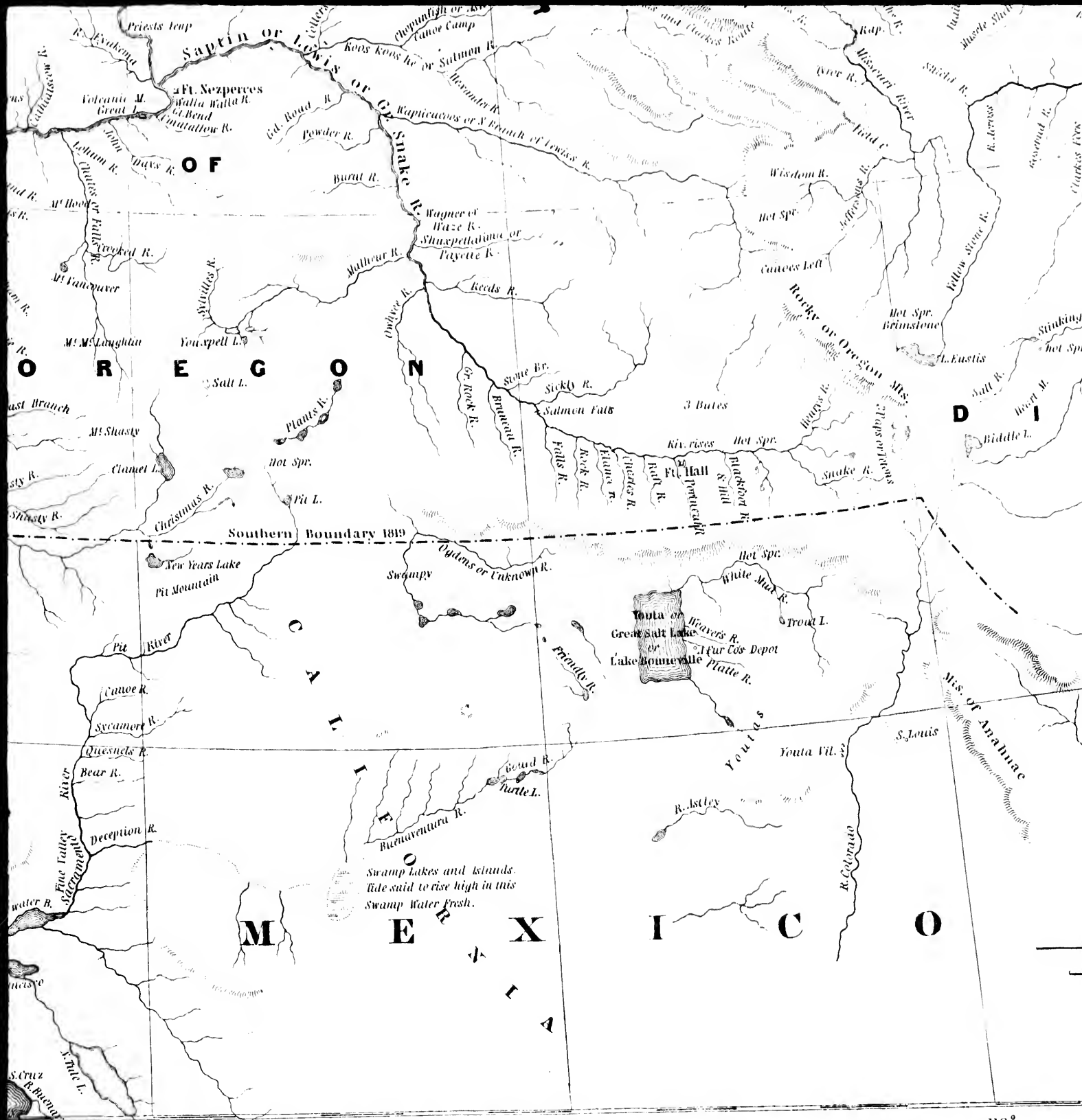
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Southern Boundary 1819

Swamp lakes and islands.  
Tide said to rise high in this  
Swamp Water Fresh.

120° Longitude West from Greenwich 115° 110°



Swamp Lakes and Islands.  
Tide said to rise high in this  
Swamp Water Fresh.

Southern Boundary 1819

Youta or  
Great Salt Lake  
or  
Lake Bonneville  
Plateau

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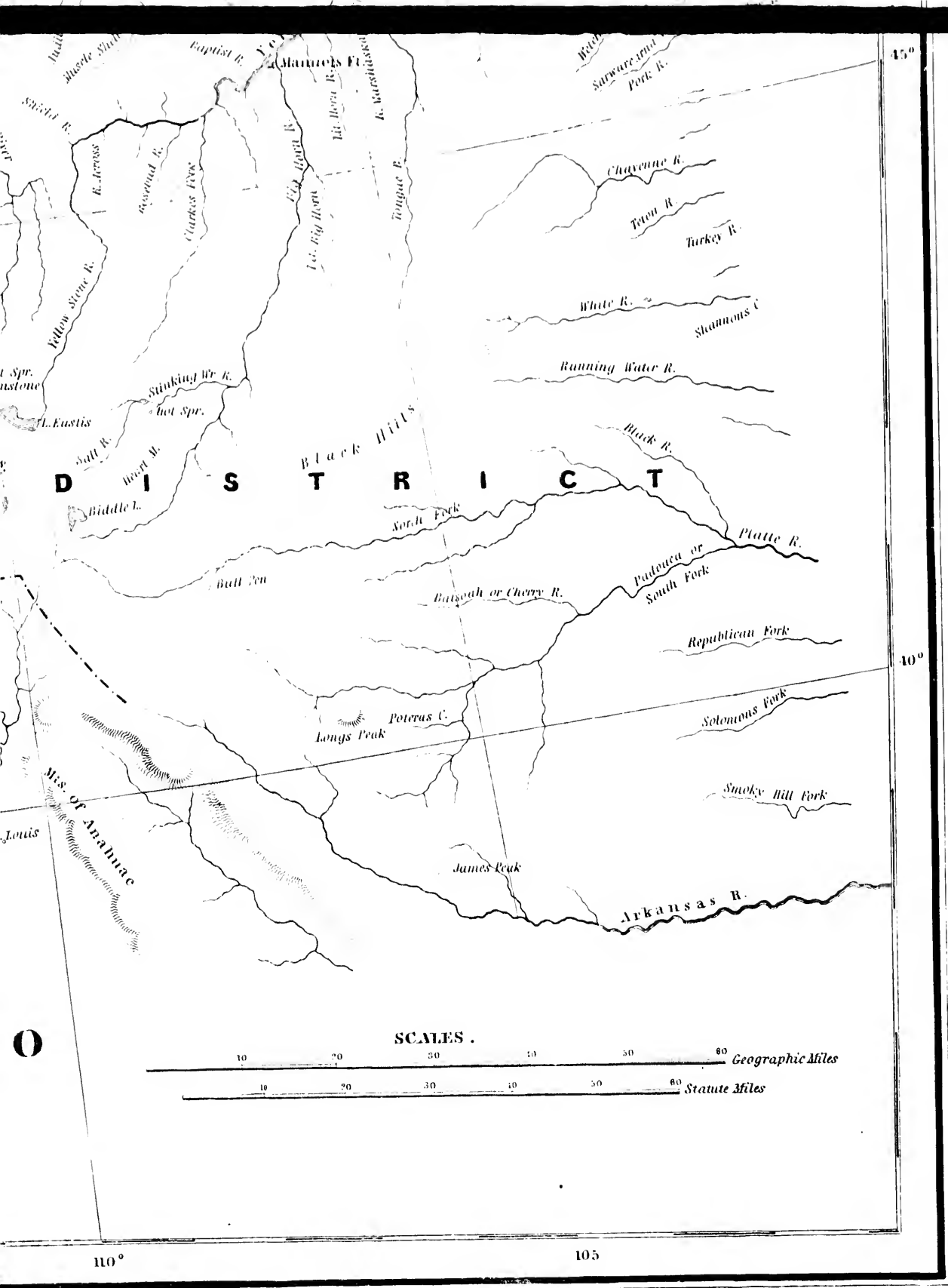
S. Cruz  
R. Rio Grande

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Longitude West from Greenwich

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Mr. CUSHING

*The Committee  
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TERRITORY OF OREGON.  
[SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT.]

FEBRUARY 16, 1839.

10,000 extra copies ordered to be printed.

Mr. CUSHING, from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT :

*The Committee on Foreign Affairs, to which was referred a message from the President of the United States, together with a resolution of the House, in relation to the territory of the United States beyond the Rocky Mountains, report further, and in conclusion :*

The instructions of the House were to the following effect, namely :  
“ To inquire into the expediency of establishing a post on the river Columbia, for the defence and occupation of the territory of the United States watered by said river.”

“ Also, to inquire into the extent of the country claimed by the United States west of the Rocky mountains, and on the northwest coast on the Pacific ocean : the title under which it is claimed, and the evidence of the correctness of that title ; the extent of seacoast, and the number and description of its harbors ; the nature of the climate, soil, productions, and trade ; and, also, whether it is expedient to establish a Territorial Government, or one or more military posts, as possession for the same or any part thereof, and what will be the expense necessary to establish the same, and the annual expense for its support ; what fortifications and ships will be required for said territory, and what number of soldiers and sailors will be necessary for its protection both in time of peace and in case of a war with any foreign power ; and that the committee report hereon to this House.”

Having, in the former part of their Report, disposed of so much of the instructions of the House as regards the extent of the country claimed by the United States west of the Rocky mountains, and the title under which it is claimed, the Committee now proceed to communicate to the House the residue of the information required by their instructions :

“ The extent of seacoast, and the number and description of its harbors ; the nature of the climate, soil, productions, and trade.”

In execution of this part of their duty, the Committee submit to the House a map of the country west of the Rocky mountains, prepared at the Topographical Bureau of the War Department ; They submit, like-

Thomas Allen, print.

wise, two memoirs, which have been communicated to them, on the subject of the geography, climate, soil, productions, trade, and resources, of the country generally; conceiving that the documents themselves will be more acceptable to the House than any abstract of the contents of them which the Committee could make. They annex, also, the report of Mr. Slacum, laid before the Senate at the last session; and refer the House, for additional information of the same kind, to documents communicated from the War Department to the Senate, in 1831. (See Docts. 21st Congress, 2d session, No. 39.)

“Whether it is expedient to establish a Territorial Government, or one or more military posts, as possession for the same or any part thereof; and what will be the expense necessary to establish the same, and the annual expense for its support; what fortifications and ships will be required for said territory, and what number of soldiers and sailors will be necessary for its protection, both in time of peace and in case of a war with any foreign Power.”

The Committee do not consider it expedient to establish a Territorial Government in Oregon at the present time; nor do they propose, specifically, the formation of a military post there, in aid or token of exclusive possession of the country, because they are anxious to observe, in the letter as well as the spirit, the text of the treaties between the United States and Great Britain.

Nevertheless, in obedience to the instructions of the House, they submit letters, one from the Secretary of War, and another from the Secretary of the Navy, containing estimates of expenditure applicable to the military or naval defence of Oregon in certain assumed contingencies contemplated by the order of the House.

In addition to these documents, containing the information specifically called for by the House, the Committee submit some others, which have been communicated to them, in evidence of the necessity there is to provide, by law, for the protection of citizens of the United States, who have already established themselves in Oregon, or contemplate proceeding thither for the purpose of colonization and settlement.

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## APPENDIX H.

MR. LEE'S LETTER.

MIDDLETOWN, (CONN.,) *January 17, 1839.*

SIR: In compliance with your request, I send you, herewith, a brief statement of our enterprise in Oregon, and of the prospects and wants of the country.

We have now in our mission in Oregon, of all ages and both sexes		-	-	-	-	-	25 persons.
We are about to reinforce the mission with, say		-	-	-	-	-	45 more.
Total,		-	-	-	-	-	70
Attached to the mission of the American Board		-	-	-	-	-	16
Settlers going out from the Western States in the spring, missionaries and others, say		-	-	-	-	-	20
In addition, there are about 45 men in the country, settled as farmers, most of them married to Indian women, and some of them with children full grown		-	-	-	-	-	45
Making in all,		-	-	-	-	-	<u>151</u>

The greater portion of those attached to the Methodist mission are farmers, mechanics, teachers, and physicians. The exclusive object of the mission is the benefit of the Indian tribes west of the Rocky mountains. But to accomplish this object, it is found necessary to cultivate the soil, erect dwelling-houses and school-houses, build mills, and, in fact, introduce all the necessaries and helps of a civilized colony; and this more especially, as one of the principal means relied upon for the improvement of the natives is the establishment of extensive manual labor schools for Indian children and youth.

It is believed that, if the Government of the United States takes such measures, in respect to this territory, as will secure the rights of the settlers, most of those who are now attached to the mission will remain as permanent settlers in the country, after the mission may no longer need their services. Hence it may be safely assumed that ours, in connexion with the other settlers already there, is the commencement of a permanent settlement of the country. In view of this, it will be readily seen that we need two things at the hand of Government, for our protection and prosperity:

*First.* We need a guarantee from Government that the possession of the land we take up, and the improvements we make upon it, will be secured to us. These settlements will greatly increase the value of the Government domain in that country, should the Indian title ever be extinguished. And we cannot but expect, therefore, that those who have been pioneers in this arduous work will be *liberally* dealt with in this matter.

*Secondly.* We need the authority and protection of the Government and laws of the United States, to regulate the intercourse of the settlers with each other, to protect them against the peculations and aggressions of the Indians, and to protect the Indians against the aggressions of the white settlers.

To secure these objects, it is not supposed that much of a *military* force will be necessary. If a suitable person should be sent out as a civil magistrate and governor of the territory, the settlers would sustain his authority. In proof of this, it is only necessary to say that almost all the settlers in the Wallamette valley have signed a memorial to Congress, praying that body to extend the United States Government over the territory.

It is especially desirable that the introduction of ardent spirits into the country should be prevented. These, as all know, are ruinous to the white man and the Indian. The temperance movement in the settlement you are already apprized of. Now, the settlers do not desire the importation or manufacture of spirits; and, if the mercenary and evil-minded are prevented from introducing them, the natives and the emigrants will be saved from this desolating scourge.

You are aware, sir, that there is no law in that country to *protect or control* American citizens. And to whom shall we look, to whom *can* we look, for the establishment of wholesome laws to regulate our infant but rising settlements, but to the Congress of our own beloved country? The country will be settled, and that speedily, from some quarter; and it depends very much upon the speedy action of Congress what that population shall be, and what shall be the fate of the Indian tribes in that territory. It may be thought that Oregon is of little importance; but, rely upon it, *there* is the germ of a great State.

We are resolved to do what we can to benefit the country; but we are constrained to throw ourselves upon you for protection.

I am, sir, with great respect, yours, truly,

JASON LEE.

Hon. C. CUSHING.

[Memorial referred to in the above letter.]

JANUARY 28, 1839.

*To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America :*

The undersigned, settlers south of the Columbia river, beg leave to represent to your honorable body :

That our settlement begun in the year 1832, and has hitherto prospered beyond the most sanguine expectations of its first projectors. The products of our fields have amply justified the most flattering descriptions of the fertility of the soil, while the facilities which it affords for rearing cattle are, perhaps, exceeded by those of no country in North America. The people of the United States, we believe, are not generally apprized of the extent of valuable country west of the Rocky mountains. A large **portion** of the territory from the Columbia river, south, to the boundary line between the United States and the Mexican republic, and extending from the coast of the Pacific about two hundred and fifty or three hundred miles to the interior, is either well supplied with timber or adapted to pasturage or agriculture. The fertile valleys of the Wallamette and Umpqua are varied with prairies and woodland, and inter-

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ected by abundant lateral streams, presenting facilities for machinery. Perhaps no country of the same latitude is favored with a climate so mild. The winter rains, it is true, are an objection; but they are generally preferred to the snows and intense cold which prevail in the northern parts of the United States. The ground is seldom covered with snow, nor does it ever remain but a few hours.

We need hardly allude to the commercial advantages of the territory. Its happy position for trade with China, India, and the western coasts of America, will be readily recognised. The growing importance, however, of the islands of the Pacific is not so generally known and appreciated. As these islands progress in civilization, their demand for the produce of more northern climates will increase. Nor can any country supply them with beef, flour, &c., on terms so advantageous as this. A very successful effort has been recently made at the Sandwich islands, in the cultivation of coffee and the sugar cane. A colony here will, in time, thence easily derive these articles and other tropical products, in exchange for the produce of their own labor.

We have thus briefly alluded to the natural resources of the country and to its external relations. They are, in our opinion, strong inducements for the Government of the United States to take formal and speedy possession. We urge this step, as promising to the general interests of the nation; but the advantages it may confer upon us, and the evils it may avert from our posterity, are incalculable.

Our social intercourse has thus far been prosecuted with reference to feelings of honor, to the feeling of dependence on the Hudson's Bay Company, and to their moral influence. Under this state of things, we have thus far prospered; but we cannot hope that it will continue. The agricultural and other resources of the country cannot fail to induce emigration and commerce. As our settlement begins to draw its supplies through other channels, the feeling of dependence upon the Hudson's Bay Company, to which we have alluded as one of the safeguards of our social intercourse, will begin to diminish. We are anxious when we imagine what will be—what must be—the condition of so mixed a community, free from all legal restraint, and superior to that moral influence which has hitherto been the pledge of our safety.

Our interests are identified with those of the country of our adoption. We flatter ourselves that we are the germe of a great State, and are anxious to give an early tone to the moral and intellectual character of its citizens. We are fully aware, too, that the destinies of our posterity will be intimately affected by the character of those who emigrate to the country. The territory must populate. The Congress of the United States must say by whom. The natural resources of the country, with a well-judged civil code, will invite a good community; but a good community will hardly emigrate to a country which promises no protection for life or property. Inquiries have already been submitted to some of us, for information of the country. In return, we can only speak of a country highly favored by nature. We can boast of no civil code. We can promise no protection but the ulterior resort of self-defence. By whom, then, shall our country be populated? By the restless and unprincipled adventurer—not by the hardy and enterprising pioneer of the West; by the Botany Bay refugee; by the renegade of civilization from the Rocky mountains; by the profligate deserted seamen from Polynesia; and the unprincipled sharpers from Spanish Amer-

ica. Well are we assured that it will cost the Government of the United States more to reduce elements so discordant to social order, than to promote our permanent peace and prosperity by a timely action of Congress. Nor can we suppose that so vicious a population could be relied on in case of a rupture between the United States and any other Power.

Our intercourse with the natives among us, guided much by the same influence which has promoted harmony among ourselves, has been generally pacific; but the same causes which will interrupt harmony among ourselves will also interrupt our friendly relations with the natives. It is, therefore, of primary importance, both to them and us, that the Government should take energetic measures to secure the execution of all laws affecting Indian trade and the intercourse of white men and Indians.

We have thus briefly shown that the security of our persons and our property, the hopes and destinies of our children, are involved in the objects of our petition. We do not presume to suggest the manner in which the country should be occupied by the Government, nor the extent to which our settlement should be encouraged. We confide in the wisdom of our national legislators, and leave the subject to their candid deliberations. And your petitioners will ever pray.

MARCH 16, 1838.

J. S. Whitcomb  
James A. O'Neal  
J. M. Bates  
Wm. Canning  
John B. Deporles, his x mark  
Joseph Gervais, his x mark  
Felix Hathaway  
S. H. Smith  
Ewing Young  
P. L. Edwards  
W. H. Willson  
W. J. Hainhust  
Jason Lee  
Cyrus Shepard  
Alanson Beers  
David Leslie  
Charles Rae  
John Rowling

Xavier Ludevant  
T. J. Hubbard  
Samuel G. Campbell  
John P. Edmunds  
Elijah White  
Calvin Tibbets  
William Johnson  
Henry Wood  
Elisha Ezekiel  
Daniel Lee  
H. K. W. Perkins  
Joseph Delord  
Pierre Billique  
André Picord  
Joseph Delozhe  
John B. Perault  
Ettienne Lucia  
John Turner.

#### APPENDIX I.

MR. WYETH'S MEMOIR.

CAMBRIDGE, *February 4, 1839.*

DEAR SIR: As far as my knowledge of the country claimed by the United States west of the Rocky mountains will admit, I will with pleasure comply with your request, and will take up your queries in the order they are put, viz: climate, soil, geography, trade, agriculture, resources of the country, and doings of the Hudson's Bay Company.

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## CLIMATE.

The country is naturally divided into three parts, each of which has a distinct climate. The first division commences at the seacoast, and extends inland to a range of mountains running southeast and northwest, and through which the Columbia passes. Of this range are those high snowy peaks seen far at sea on the Pacific ocean. Its extent from west to east is about one hundred and thirty miles, and southward to the limits of California, and probably very far north. The climate of this division, in summer, is as warm as that of the middle States of the Union, except that the nights are cooler. From April until October very little rain falls; and it is *very* rare to have any rain in June, July, August, and September. From October to April, the rains are almost uninterrupted. In the month of December, 1832, there fell  $9\frac{1}{2}$  inches, which was nothing unusual. As far as I have observed, when the weather in winter is clear, it is also moderately cold. This, however, is a rare exception. Ploughing can be done throughout most winters. Within my knowledge, there has been but one winter when the ground was frozen. This was in January of the winter of 1833. At that time the thermometer, for 16 days, averaged, at sunrise, 19 deg. above zero. The river closed on the 10th of the month, and remained frozen 13 days. This was caused more by the drift ice from above than the cold in that section of country. February of that year gave an average of the thermometer, at sunrise, of 40 deg.

The second division commences at the mountains forming the eastern boundary of that first described, and extends eastward to the Blue mountains, about one hundred and sixty miles. I have travelled in the valley thus formed, about two hundred miles to the south of the Columbia, and as far as to latitude 49 deg. north. Its temperature in summer differs little from that of New England. In January, 1835, the thermometer averaged 31 deg. at sunrise, to the south of the Columbia. The snows are light, and do not last long, and are seldom sufficient to obstruct the feeding of animals. North of the Columbia, I presume, the climate is similar, but colder in proportion to the latitude. I traversed it only from March to April. On the 10th of March, 1833, a considerable variety of flowers were in blossom in latitude 47 deg., but the nights were frosty. In this division very little rain falls in summer; about the middle of October there are usually rains, but not heavy.

The third division extends from the Blue mountains on the west, to the Rocky mountains eastward, a distance of about 280 miles. The distinguishing features of the climate of this division are its extreme dryness, and the difference of temperature between the days and nights. I have remained in this valley six weeks without seeing a cloud. Hardly a particle of moisture is deposited in dews, and none except in the vicinity of the mountains, and there no rain falls except a few days in spring. There is usually little snow in winter. Horses winter well in the river bottoms of this section; but there is a tradition among the Snake Indians, that many years since the snow fell so deep as to prevent their horses obtaining food, and the number of old bones to be seen attest the fact; but it is not usual. While encamped on the river Portneuf, on the 18th August, 1832, at sunrise the thermometer stood at 18 deg. above zero; at noon, the same day, at 92 deg. This was the greatest difference I ever observed; but a difference of 40 deg. from sunrise to noon is not



uncommon. In the immediate vicinity of the largest streams, the climate approximates more to that of the second division.

#### SOIL.

The soil of the Oregon territory exhibits but little variety, from the Pacific to the Rocky mountains, except in the amount of vegetable matter contained in it. The sub-soils have very generally a good mixture of lime, silex, and clay; and in the valleys, where vegetable matter has collected, and to a suitable extent mixed with these original earths, it is very fertile. The space comprised between the Pacific and the mountains, forming the Cascades and Dalles of the Columbia, from the abundance of the winter rains, produces much more vegetation than the country more inland; and this, decaying and mixing with the soil, has produced a deep coat of mould, well calculated for agricultural purposes. This section of the country, which I call the first division, for farming purposes, I regard as equal to any part of the State of New York. In it there is a great amount of barren, inaccessible land; but the watercourses, which are very numerous, afford valleys as fertile as can be found in the United States. Of this section, the immediate seaboard is the worst part; and the Columbia itself affords bottoms of small size only, and too much exposed to inundation; but the Cowilliz river to the north, and the Wallamette to the south, have bottoms both high and extensive; and the smaller streams are of the same character. Of this division, which is about one hundred and thirty miles from west to east, and extending from 42 deg. to 48 deg. north latitude, I should think at least one half was of excellent quality; the other half is inaccessible mountains.

The second division, comprised between the Cascade mountains on the west and the Blue mountains on the east, has a good soil, but in which there is not an over-abundant mixture of vegetable matter. In this section, the river bottoms are neither so frequent or extensive as in the first; but at the foot of the mountains bounding each side of the valley there are large tracts very fertile. The river of Falls extends far south of the Columbia. In this valley, about one hundred miles from its head, its bottom is on a continuous bed of the mineral known in commerce as fuller's earth, which appears to form the substratum of a considerable portion of the country in the vicinity of these mountains.

The third division, commencing at the Blue mountains to the west, and extending eastward to the Rocky mountains, presents wide sandy deserts, almost destitute of water. The deposits of vegetable soil are few and far between; there is very little moisture, except near the rivers, and thousands of acres are white with Epsom and Glauber salts. The soil of this space is almost entirely the wreck of volcanic matter. In this valley is the Great Salt lake, on the bottom of which, when low, the salt is deposited as in a salt pan. Much of the soil on the eastern side of this section is injured by the abundance of salts which it contains. The best part of it is the eastern declivities of the Blue mountains, on Ice Fork, Powder, Brulé, and Big Wood rivers. These rivers have bottoms of some extent and considerable fertility. Also, on Lewis's river, above the American falls, to Pierre's hole, at the head of the river, there are extensive bottoms of tolerable soil. Near the heads of Salmon river there is some good land.

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## GEOGRAPHY.

The Columbia river enters the ocean at latitude 46 deg. 19 min. north, and longitude 124 deg. west from Greenwich; from which point to Wallawallah, in longitude 119 deg. 30 min., its average course is very near east and west, the latter place being in latitude 46 deg. 1 min. north. From this point I have never followed the river, but struck it above, at the entrance of Spokane river, in latitude 47 deg. 55 min. north, longitude 118 deg. 45 min. west, and followed it to Colville, in latitude 48 deg. 37 min. north, longitude 118 deg. 4 min. west; and from this last point I followed Flathead or Clark's river to its head, and there crossed the mountains at lat. 45 deg. north, longitude 111 deg. west. The Columbia discharges a vast volume of water, and is of great depth, but the obstructions to its navigation are almost insurmountable. At its mouth is an extensive and dangerous sand bar, over which, however, there is at the shoalest 5 fathoms of water. With good pilots and steam tow-boats there would probably be little difficulty at the mouth of the river, and the navigation is good for vessels of not more than 14 feet draught, to the Cascades, say about 125 statute miles. The Cascades are falls impassable, either ascending or descending, for any kind of craft; a portage must always be made at this place. The descent is about 35 feet in three miles. From the Cascades to the Dalles is about 36 miles, and for this space the river has a gentle current, and is of great depth and width. The Dalles are very severe rapids, in low water passable with the best boatmen in canoes only; but at high water they are impracticable. At this place the river rushes through a space not more than 150 feet wide, walled in with basaltic columns, in an upright position. Five miles above the Dalles are the falls of the Columbia, which are impassable at low water; but at very high water they may be passed with experienced canoemen, both up and down. When the Columbia rises, from the melting of the mountain snows, the Dalles present so much of a barrier to their escape as to raise the waters above them to a great height. I have measured from the surface of the water, when not very low, 54 feet to high-water mark, as left on the basaltic columns by some previous high water. At such times the river between the Dalles and the falls is like a lake, and the water between them is nearly levelled up to that above. From this point to Wallawallah there are many rapids, but none impassable with good boatmen. The river probably might be used by steamboats to Kettle falls, just below Colville. About 30 miles above Wallawallah are the Priest rapids, which I have never seen, but presume they are not very severe. A short distance above Colville, the Columbia leaves the territory claimed by the United States.

Clark's Fork, or Flathead river, enters the Columbia near the latitude 49 deg. north, and comes from the E. S. E., and in its whole course affords a hard struggle for the best boatmen, with good canoes, and is impracticable for any other kind of vessel.

The Spokane river is of no importance, in regard to navigation; for a short distance only could canoes ascend it, even if there were any object.

Lewis's river enters the Columbia 9 miles above Wallawallah; it passes through the Blue mountains about forty miles east from its entrance, to which place it comes from the southeast, which course it keeps from the Fishing falls; thence it trends northwardly, its northern heads approaching the Madison's fork of the Missouri. It has no forks that are navigable,

even for boats, except the Salmon river. All that can be said of Lewis's river, or any of its branches, is, that it is not impassable for boats. Its obstructions are on Lewis's river, where it passes the Blue mountains, at the Fishing falls, and a series of falls and rapids extending for 50 miles from the American falls downwards. Its only important branch (Salmon river) passes through the Blue mountains, and joins its waters at their western declivity. It is nearly a succession of bad rapids, and is, I believe, the river that Lewis and Clark descended.

The Wallamette enters the Columbia in latitude 46 deg. 30 min. north, longitude 122 deg. 20 min. west. Its course is from the south; it heads about 150 miles from its mouth; it is navigable for vessels of 12 feet draught about 20 miles from its mouth; it then becomes shoaler and more rapid; but vessels drawing 10 feet might ascend to within 2 miles of the falls, or about 25 miles from its mouth. For this distance its navigation is assisted, in May and June, by the rise of the Columbia, which raises its waters higher than its own rise, which occurs in winter and early spring. The falls of this river are perpendicular, and about 22 feet above them steamboats might ply about 50 miles, but beside them nothing but canoes could be used.

The above branches enter the Columbia from the south side. The Oknagan enters it from the north, in latitude 47 deg. 59 min. north, longitude 119 deg. 43 min. west. It comes from the north. I have never seen it, but presume it is barely passable for boats.

The Cowilitz enters the Columbia from the north, in latitude 46 deg. 15 min. north, longitude 122 deg. 40 min. west. This river is boatable a short distance. I have never been on it.

The smaller branches of the Columbia are numerous, and often extend to a great length, but are of no importance to any kind of navigation. The water communication of the country is decidedly bad; and I can see no mode of improving it except at an expense entirely beyond the object. The Wallamette river might be improved to a greater extent than any of the others. The falls of that river might be locked at an expense not beyond an object that may be conceived to exist, some few years hence, when its fertile bottoms shall be cultivated.

The Umbiquoi river enters the Pacific in latitude 43 deg. 51 min. north, and the Clamet in 43 deg. north. They are small streams, heading not far inland, and affording navigation only for boats. It is uncertain if their mouths afford good harbors. These rivers are all well stocked with fish, chiefly of the salmon and trout species. The salmon ascend to the falls of the Wallamette, to the Fishing falls on Lewis's river, to the heads of Salmon and Spokane rivers, and to the Kettle falls on the Columbia, and to the heads of most of the smaller streams, in great numbers. They supply a large portion of the food of the Indians throughout the whole country; all of them afford water power to any desirable extent, and far beyond any country in North America.

The lakes of the country are few and of little importance, except as beautiful objects. Pend'oreille lake, on the Flathead river, is about 30 miles from east to west, and from 4 to 8 miles wide. Its waters are deep and clear. At its eastern extremity there are two islands. The Flathead river passes through it. It affords the largest and best trout I have ever seen. The salmon do not make their way to it. Its shores are high and mountainous. There is a lake near the heads of Spokane

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river, of some few miles in extent, well stocked with fish; and the country north of 47 deg. north latitude affords many small lakes. To the south, where the volcanic formation prevails, there are no lakes except the Great Salt lake, the northern end of which is in 42 deg. 3 min. north latitude. It extends far south. Its waters are so strongly impregnated, that various salts are deposited on its bottom, late in summer, when its waters are low. The muriate of soda is the prevailing salt. There are no fish in its waters. The streams running into it are fresh. It has no outlet. So little of this lake is in the territory in question, that I deem it unnecessary to describe it further, although it is of great interest.

The mountains of this country are on a grand scale. There are three principal ranges: 1st. The Rocky mountains; 2d. The Blue mountains; 3d. The California mountains. The Rocky mountains form the dividing ridge between the waters of the Atlantic and Pacific. They are imposing objects; but the great elevation of the plains, on either side, detracts much from their apparent height. The higher points of the range are covered with perpetual snow; but through them there are excellent passes, suitable for any kind of wheel carriages; and in travelling they are not a great obstruction to those who know the proper passes. They are of primitive formation. Their general range is from S. S. E. to N. N. W. The Blue mountains are the next general range west. It continues north of Lewis's river, under the name of the Salmon river mountains, and crosses the Flathead river and the Columbia immediately north of Colville. This range extends far south, but decreases in height in that direction. It is not covered with perpetual snows, except that part called the Salmon river mountains. The general course of the range is northwest and southeast. The passes are all of a difficult character, the streams are almost impassable, and the land trails are practicable only for packed animals; wheel carriages could not be used on them, and any improvement would involve an enormous expense. It takes two days to pass this range by the best trails; in winter the snows render it impassable. To the north, this range is primitive; white and blue marble abound in it, some of which is very fine. To the south it is volcanic. The traveller going west, from the summit of this range, sees the high points of the California mountains, about one hundred and sixty miles distant, some of which rise more than 16,000 feet from the level of the Pacific. All other views in North America sink to littleness in comparison with this. From this spot I have seen seven of the high points of the California range, extending from north to south. Their perfect whiteness and steep conical shape cause them to appear, in the distance, like huge sugar loaves. The California mountains are the greatest barrier between the Atlantic and the Pacific; it is about 40 miles through them. The river is almost the only passage; in cases of absolute necessity the land trails are used; but it is with great difficulty that horses and mules pass them without any load. Beside these three ranges, the immediate coast is mountainous, but of subordinate height.

The plains of the country are defined by the mountain ranges. Some of them are extensive. Much of the country between the ranges is level, or at most undulating, in comparison with the valley of the Mississippi, only they are of small extent. Minor ranges of hills, dividing between small streams and spurs from the above-described ranges of mountains, often break the uniformity of these plains.

## TRADE.

The trade of the country may be divided into four branches, viz: in agricultural products, lumber, fish, and peltries. Of the first, a few hundred barrels of flour have been exported to St. Francisco and the Sandwich islands, by the Hudson's Bay Company. At the latter place it commands about \$10 per barrel. I do not know what price it bore at St. Francisco, but presume it sold higher; for, notwithstanding Upper California is a fine wheat country, the manufacturing it into flour by such a people precludes the possibility of cheapness; the return in this case was bad beef, badly salted. Several cargoes of sawed lumber have been sent to the Sandwich islands by the Hudson's Bay Company, where it sells at about \$55 per M. Occasionally spars and timber for repairing vessels are carried to the Sandwich islands, where it finds a limited sale at fair prices. Salmon is the only fish that has yet been exported; a part of a cargo was collected in 1835, by the brig *May Dacre*, of Boston, which was partly sold at the islands for \$12 per barrel; the residue was brought to the United States, and disposed of for an average of \$17 per barrel of 30 gallons. The Hudson's Bay Company have sent some to London, but they did not find a profitable market; and the governor of the company then directed that no more be sent; they also send a few to the Sandwich islands, where they usually command about \$14 per barrel of 40 gallons.

Having thus briefly disposed of three branches of trade to which the country must look for its future wealth, but which, being in their infancy, are of little present importance, I turn to the fur trade, which has heretofore and does in some measure now give consequence to the country, more from its political bearing than its pecuniary amount.

This trade is divided into that of the coast and inland; the coast trade was early in the hands of the Americans, who, with expert navigators and swift vessels, explored its numerous inlets and harbors, in search of the sea otter, beaver, and other valuable furs, which were traded of the Indians. This part of the trade is, like that inland, gradually passing into the hands of the Hudson's Bay Company, who have established forts along the coast, and since 1836 have had a steamboat plying for their supply, and the casual trade of the coast. The most southern fort on the coast is a few miles north of latitude 49 deg., at the mouth of Thompson's river. The vigilance of this company allows of no accumulation of furs in the hands of the Indians; their emissaries are constantly on the move, with the best assortments of Indian goods, to pick up the skins, one by one, as fast as the Indians obtain them; and thus no motive is left for any American vessel to stop on the coast. My knowledge being small of the coast trade, I will refer you to other sources for particulars, which you will easily obtain from the merchants who have been engaged in it.

The fur trade in the interior of the country claimed by the United States west of the Rocky mountains was first commenced by J. J. Astor, whose business soon passed into the hands of the Northwest Company. This latter company was soon followed by their great opponents, the Hudson's Bay Company; and, between these, the rivalry of trade soon became open war, and battles were fought, in one of which a deputy governor of the Hudson's Bay Company, with many others, lost his life; after much bloodshed and litigation, the British Government finding it impossible to reconcile the grants of the two companies, induced a coalition between them,

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and they have since been known under the style of the Hudson's Bay Company. Their charter gives them the exclusive monopoly of the fur trade in all the countries of North America held by Great Britain, except a few small trading posts in Canada, which appertain to the Government. The inland trade of the country in question is now entirely in the hands of this company, except a small amount which proceeds from Sante Fé, and Laos, and St. Louis, the returns of which do not amount to more than 80 packs of beaver. It is difficult to estimate the fur trade of this region; but, from all the data that I have been able to obtain, I think it did not amount, in 1836, to more than 230 packs of beaver of 100 pounds each; value in market about \$5 per pound, say \$115,000; and perhaps one fifth of that amount value of other peltries; say, in all, \$138,000 value of furs returned from the country between the latitudes 42 deg. and 49 deg. north, and from the Pacific to the Rocky mountains, excluding the coast trade. This amount is the returns for about \$20,000 (prime cost) worth of goods in London and New York, and the services of about 350 men employed in various parts of the business, and shipping to bring supplies and take back returns, and two years' interest on investment, which is less than the usual time taken for its return. My impression is, notwithstanding the great disparity of the money value of the articles exchanged in this trade, that it has been less profitable than any other in which as much danger of life and property is incurred. The Hudson's Bay Company may be said to have had the full command of it in 1833, and in that year I have good evidence that the profits of their western department, which includes the country in question, did not exceed \$10,000.

It has been made an open charge against the fur traders, that they demoralize the Indians by introducing ardent spirits among them. What may be the practice on the coast I cannot say; but, during five years connexion with the trade, I have never known a beaver traded of an Indian for any kind of ardent spirits; nor do I believe it is ever done, inland, either by the Americans or the Hudson's Bay Company.

The fur trade, although trifling as to amount in a national view, is far otherwise in regard to its bearing on the Indians, and their political relations with the country from which the trade emanates; whatever nation has the exclusive trade of an Indian tribe may wield the whole power of that tribe for such purposes, consistent with Indian character, as it may choose, provided it identifies itself as a nation with that trade. This the United States have never done; and perhaps the aversion to monopolies among us will prevent their ever doing so; but the difficulty might in some measure be remedied by appointing military commanders, to whom the traders should be subordinate and accountable, within certain rules. At present, the United States, as a nation, are unknown west of the mountains; Americans are designated only by some peculiarity of themselves or their leaders, and the different parties are considered as different tribes. This state of things subjects the traders to much danger; for the Indians, seeing perhaps a dozen men, whom they consider as the whole of that concern, have no fear, except that of the immediate contest, to restrain them from plundering and scalping; and where there are rival traders, bound by no common rule of action, the Indians are soon supplied with ammunition to accomplish such purpose of offence as they may design, and are not deterred from such enterprises by the fear that supplies will be withheld from them, as would be the case if there was a common rule of action.

By the indiscriminate trading of all persons with the Indians, individual safety, profit, national policy, and good of the Indians, are alike sacrificed. Where one murder is committed on English parties or individuals, I am certain there are more than ten upon our people. With the British traders every thing is different; one company has the exclusive control of the trade in all places, except where the Americans have enjoyed an equal right, west of the mountains. They can trade as many beaver from a district as they think it will bear without diminishing the breeding stock, and thus continue their trade instead of destroying it. They can prevent the beaver being taken except at the best season. They can refuse supplies of ammunition beyond necessary and immediate consumption, and thereby prevent any accumulation dangerous to themselves. Besides, and stranger than all, which is the fact, that the white man's inventions, in the hands of one tribe, at once become articles of absolute necessity to all others; and there being but one party from whom to obtain them, they must be at peace with that party. Thus the trader who is without competition in an Indian country, however weak his force, not only may compel the Indians to respect him and his property, but, if he chooses, prevent one tribe from warring with another; the practical illustration of which is, that in all the countries where the Hudson's Bay Company have exclusive control, they are at peace with the Indians, and the Indians among themselves. Wars with the Indians on the British frontiers have long since ceased; and this has been effected by giving the control of the Indian trade to one company, and keeping the control of that company in their own hands. The power to revoke the charter of the Hudson's Bay Company renders them subservient to the will of the Government, when they have any object in view.

The greater influence that the British had over the Indians in the last war arose mostly from their better management of their Indian trade. A further evil that attends our loose laws and their looser execution is, that the Indian country is becoming a receptacle for fugitives from justice. The preponderance of bad character is already so great amongst traders and their people, that crime carries with it little or no shame. I have heard it related among white American trappers, as a good joke, that a trapper who had said he would *shoot* any Indian whom he could catch stealing his traps, was seen one morning to kill one; and, on being asked if the Indian had stolen his traps, he answered, no, but he looked as if he was going to. An Indian was thus wantonly murdered, and white men were found to laugh at the joke. As long as there is no power in the Indian country sufficient to restrain or send home criminals, these things will occur.

#### AGRICULTURE.

The agriculture of the country has been chiefly conducted by the Hudson's Bay Company and their retired servants. The residence of the Americans in it has been confined to such short periods, that they have been unable to devote much time to husbandry; they have depended chiefly on game for subsistence; and the Indians, as far as I have been able to observe, have never planted a seed in this whole region.

I shall commence with that part of the country which lies between the California mountains and the Pacific, which I have called the first division. It is well calculated for wheat, barley, oats, rye, peas, potatoes, and all sorts of roots cultivated in the United States; apples succeed well, and

also tobacco an unprofitable about fifteen doubt, with best parts of of wheat r peas, potato mette there son's Bay C to raise little whose age and, having farmer. A there are o near whom have establ Formerly t to what ext ed; I shou this divisio being mild afford. H the country and, also n country is except in i advantages from the e earliest su the upland the enormo too thick a the trees; yond the e ted States the cultura bottoms of In the mountains at the post to the wa Wallawall stream of situated in they raise think the of a pasto mountains supported of the soi has been Columbia

also tobacco ; Indian corn, for some reason, does not succeed well, and is an unprofitable crop. The yield of wheat, with very poor cultivation is about fifteen bushels to the acre, and of the best quality ; there is no doubt, with equal cultivation, the product per acre would equal that of the best parts of the United States. In 1833, there were about 4,000 bushels of wheat raised at Vancouver, besides large quantities of oats, barley, peas, potatoes, &c. About twenty miles above the falls of the Wallamette there are some plantations made by the retired servants of the Hudson's Bay Company ; these, like Canadians elsewhere, trouble themselves to raise little more than their wants demand ; they are usually persons whose age or long service entitle them to indulgence from the company, and, having retired for ease, are not disposed for the labors of a thorough farmer. Also, about thirty miles above the falls of the Wallamette, there are other plantations made by the retired servants of the company, near whom some American missionaries, who went out with me in 1834, have established a station, and I am told have now made a fine farm. Formerly there was some cultivation at Astoria, (now Fort George,) but to what extent it was carried I cannot say, as that part is nearly abandoned ; I should think the land about it not well adapted to cultivation. In this division, horses and neat cattle succeed tolerably well ; the winter being mild, enables them to subsist without other food than the open fields afford. Hogs live and multiply, but cannot be made fat on the range of the country ; there are no nuts except the hazel nut ; acorns are plenty, and, also many roots on which they feed ; but for stock, this part of the country is in every respect inferior to the Middle and Western States, except in its winter ; and this may perhaps counterbalance its other disadvantages. The agriculture of this section must always suffer much from the extreme dryness of the summer ; those products which ripen earliest sustain the least damage, but those that come late often suffer. the upland soils of this section are tolerably good, but the cost of clearing the enormous growth of timber would be much beyond its worth ; it is too thick and heavy to obtain crops by the Western practice of girdling the trees ; it must be removed or burnt, the labor of doing which is beyond the conception of those acquainted only with the forests of the United States ; but there are prairies sufficiently numerous and extensive for the cultivation of the next century, which, being chiefly on the second bottoms of the rivers, are extremely fertile, and above inundation.

In the second division of the country, lying between the California mountains and the Blue mountains, no cultivation has been made except at the posts of Wallawallah and Colville, which has been confined nearly to the wants of these establishments. In the immediate vicinity of Wallawallah, there is no land fit for cultivation, except the bottoms of the stream of the same name, and these are of small extent. Colville, being situated in the vicinity of the mountains, is better supplied with rain ; there they raise wheat, barley, oats, peas, and vegetables, in abundance. I think the agriculture of this district must always be limited to the wants of a pastoral people, and to the immediate vicinity of the streams and mountains ; and irrigation must be resorted to if a large population is to be supported in it. This district, which affords little prospect for the tiller of the soil, is perhaps one of the best grazing countries in the world. It has been much underrated by travellers who have only passed by the Columbia, the land along which is a mere collection of sand and rocks,



and almost without vegetation; but a few miles from the Columbia, toward the hills and mountains, the prairies open wide, covered with a low grass of a most nutritious kind, which remains good throughout the year. In September there are slight rains, at which time the grass starts; and in October and November there is a good coat of green grass, which remains so until the ensuing summer; and about June it is ripe in the lower plains, and, drying without being wet, is like made hay; in this state it remains until the autumn rains again revive it. The herdsman in this extensive valley, of more than one hundred and fifty miles in width, could at all times keep his animals in good grass, by approaching the mountains in summer, on the declivities of which almost any climate may be had; and the dry grass of the country is at all times excellent. It is in this section of the country that all the horses are reared for the supply of the Indians and traders in the interior. It is not uncommon that one Indian owns some hundreds of them. I think this section, for producing hides, tallow, and beef, is superior to any part of North America; for, with equal facilities for raising the animals, the weather in winter, when the grass is best, and consequently the best time to fatten the animals, is cold enough to salt meat, which is not the case in Upper California; there is no question that sheep might be raised to any extent, in a climate so dry and sufficiently warm, where very little snow or rain falls; it is also, I think, the healthiest country I have ever been in; which I suppose arises from the small quantity of decaying vegetable matter, and there being no obstruction, from timber, to the passing winds. Timber is scarce in this section, being confined almost entirely to the immediate borders of the small streams and the neighborhood of the mountains.

In what I have designated as the third division, lying between the Blue mountains to the west and the Rocky mountains eastward, little cultivation has been attempted; the first trial was at Fort Hall, on Snake river, near the entrance of Portneuf, in latitude 42 deg. 30 min. north, and longitude 113 deg. 3 min. west, which I established in the summer of 1834. The wide bottoms of Snake river at that place have some very fertile lands, but a large portion is injured by the salts deposited by the waters of the hills; and although the days are very warm, the nights are too cold for almost every thing but the small grains, all of which that we tried succeeded well; onions, cabbages, and turnips, were also produced of good quality; but it appears to me that this section of country will long remain a receptacle for all kinds of vagrants, both Indian and white, who, when game is gone, will live more on their herds than on the produce of agriculture. Its general features are similar to those of the second division, but there is less rain in the autumn, a little more snow, and very cold in winter, especially near the mountains. Although the general character of the country is sterile in the extreme, yet there are large tracts of land fit for cultivation on the eastern declivities of the Blue mountains, where the nights are less cold, and on the heads of some of the rivers coming into Lewis's or Snake river from the south; and such parts would also be equally good for grazing as the second division; but it will probably be many years before this section will be valuable.

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## RESOURCES.

The furs produced in this country have heretofore been of considerable value, and doubtless will furnish a means, to a small extent, for supplying the wants of a new country; but that business has been carried to its full limit; it may for a few years be kept up to its present point of production, but must soon decrease, especially if the country is thrown open to emigrants, most of whom will become dealers to a greater or less degree in it, and many will turn to the more exciting and immediate profits of the hunter, rather than to the slow labors of the farmer. Having before estimated the returns of this trade, it is needless to do so again; nor can the amount of a trade which in its nature must so soon cease be of much moment, when examining a country as to its fitness for the permanent residence of a nation. I therefore leave it, to point out other sources of wealth, which in prospect are of far greater importance.

Having heretofore spoken of the agriculture of this region, there remains little more to say on that head, except that what I have called the first division would furnish lands reasonably fertile to almost any extent for the production of wheat and all the small grains, tobacco, hemp, hay, potatoes, &c.

That which I have called the second division, the finest grazing in North America, for producing hides, tallow, beef, and wool, most of which articles must find a good market on the coasts and islands of a sea so extensive as the Pacific ocean, almost the whole navigation of which is supplied with standing articles of food from the United States and Europe, and others of which would bear transportation to any part of the world.

Among the indigenous productions of the country that would be useful, is timber, for the various uses of a people, including an abundance of white oak of good quality, and spars of any magnitude. The firs of the country are good timber, but not so valuable as white pine for house building; all of which, to some extent, would be articles of profitable export, and probably the uses for them in that sea will increase, so as in time to give an extensive demand.

The salmon which ascend all the rivers of this country are extremely numerous, and by proper methods may be taken in any numbers; they are of several sorts, all equal and some superior to those of the United States. Persons who visit only the mouths of the rivers have no idea of the countless numbers which ascend them; it is only near the falls of the streams, and as you approach their heads, that their immense numbers can be appreciated. They enter the rivers from May to September, and the strongest keep mid-current, and only turn to the small streams and shores as they begin to tire; it is chiefly then that they are taken by the Indians. Since 1829, an intermittent fever has carried off vast numbers of these Indians, and frightened away many more; and as it prevails below the California mountains in the salmon season, far less opportunities are offered of trading fish of them than formerly; but this is of little importance, as cargoes could never in any case be procured from their exertions. This trade, as a source of wealth to the country in its infancy, will be of great importance; with small expense of time and money, it would be available in one season, and by its returns give much ease to the first settlers.

One of the first wants of this country will be salt for the use of the inhabitants, and for the preservation of those articles of export which require

it. Far in the interior there is abundance of Glauber, Epsom, and common salt. In the salt plains of those regions the two former prevail, and also somewhat in the Great Salt lake, so that care must be taken, in boiling down the water, to take the first deposit, in order to obtain salt for use. There are, also, large veins or beds of rock salt, quite pure, in the mountains of the interior. These are, however, south of latitude 42 deg. north. Crystals of salt have been found at the Big Wood river, which empties into Lewis's or Snake river, in latitude 44 deg. 32 min. north, longitude 117 deg. 1 min. west; and there is, without doubt, on the heads of that river, a deposit. Sandstone is there found, which usually accompanies it. In this division, it may be of use at some very remote period, but cannot at present be considered one of the resources of the country. I am not aware that the article has been found in what I have called the second division of the country, but its geological formation gives reason to think it exists; and should this section become, as it must, a grazing country, it would be of great value. About thirty miles up the Wallamette, salt springs have been found; they are but slightly impregnated, and I conceive of no value, inasmuch as any amount of salt can be made on the seaboard during the long and perfectly dry summer, at far less expense than evaporating their weak waters. The Sandwich islands, from which vessels must always return in ballast, will supply any quantity of salt at a very low rate.

At a more remote period, fuel will be an article of value. Coal has been found only on the Cowillitz river. I have seen only a specimen; it appeared to me what is called lignite; what its quality may be, or in what quantity it exists, I am unable to say; but it will be long before fuel will be wanted, where trees *sometimes* attain to three hundred feet height, and twelve to fourteen feet diameter, and very often to that of two hundred feet and proportionate thickness, and where forests are very dense.

There is in some parts obsidian, pumice stone, and fuller's earth; I am not able to say if these articles are of any value. No metals have, I believe, as yet, been found. The country which is accessible is almost entirely volcanic, covered deep with ancient lavas; it has been traversed mostly with a view of trading or hunting beaver; the mountains, almost inaccessible, afford no object to the trapper, and have been little examined, and from them alone may metals be hoped for; no doubt, as in most other countries, they will be found when an extended population requires them.

Facilities of communication and of manufacturing may be in some measure considered among the resources of a country. The rivers are decidedly bad; no one of them affords good navigation for steamboats, for any great distance; they must, I think, always be inconvenient and dangerous, from their rapid and rocky character. The continuous ranges of mountains, lying parallel with the coast, will render very difficult the construction of railroads extending into the interior, and possibly rocky formation may underlay the earth, so as to render any extension to the south or north very expensive. Canals could be constructed; and, in a country where the winters are so mild, they might be preferable to railroads; there would be plenty of water to supply locks, at almost any level; the melting of the mountain snows, which are close at hand, would afford water in summer, and the rains would keep up the supply in winter.

The bad character of the rivers, and the difficulty of communication, are often at the expense of the world, equal to the expense of the country, and by the

In 1821, the style of the cans in the trade was changed at the time of communication based on the London. In 1821, on the north side of the bay, have since been reduced to a point; there are

Vancouver. At this post, mostly in agriculture, 5 miles above the city, they were sent to the S. S. produced in the hands. Vancouver's inside of which was arranged; the When I was in the bay, the closure; and except what is brought annually to the west coast of the country, to this post. In the interior I have seen. The next day it is a picketed and reversed angles are contrary to the men; it was in latitude 46 deg. The next day I visited; its in

The had character of the natural means of transportation and passage, and the difficulty of improvement, is the worst feature of this country.

Power for manufacturing purposes is supplied by every stream, and often at short intervals on the same stream; probably no country in the world, equally near the seacoast, affords so many waterfalls as that part of the country between the coast and the California mountains; and in no country are they more regular, supplied by melting snows in summer, and by the almost constant rains in winter.

#### HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY.

In 1821, the two great British fur companies became one, under the style of the Hudson's Bay Company; at that time there were no Americans in the country west of the Rocky mountains, and with them the trade was confined to the line of posts on the Columbia, which, commencing at the then headquarters, Fort George or Astoria, formed a line of communication by the way of the Columbia to its heads, thence by the Athabasca to the headquarters of the eastern department at York factory; and by this route they now transmit and receive despatches to and from London. In 1824, the company established themselves at Vancouver, on the north side of the Columbia, about 80 miles from its mouth, and have since made that the centre point of their business. Fort George is reduced to a lookout station, and little trade is done there; it is kept up mainly to give intelligence when vessels arrive on the coast, to furnish pilots, &c.; not more than three persons and a clerk are stationed at that point; there are no defences to protect it; it is merely a dwelling-house.

Vancouver is in latitude 45 deg. 30 min. north, longitude 122 deg. west. At this post there are usually stationed about 200 men, who are employed mostly in agricultural and mechanical pursuits. They have a saw mill about 6 miles above this station, also on the north side of the river, which supply them with lumber for building, and some cargoes yearly, which are sent to the Sandwich islands. Much of the provisions for their shipping is produced at Vancouver, and some flour has been exported to the islands. Vancouver is a stockaded enclosure of about 200 by 300 feet, inside of which the various offices and buildings for the business are arranged; there are no bastions or guns mounted, or apertures for them. When I was there, there were two large field guns in the court of the enclosure; and there is no appearance of any preparation for defence, except what is required against Indians. To this post the supplies are brought annually from Great Britain, for the whole trade of the north-west coast and its interior as far as the Rocky mountains, and the returns of the country are here collected. The whole amount of the furs brought to this post I have small means of determining; that derived from the interior I have heretofore given.

The next post, ascending the river, is Wallawallah; on the south side it is a picketed enclosure of about 70 feet square, with a bastion at each reversed angle, in which are mounted some small howitzers; its defences are contrived only against Indians; it is kept up by a clerk and about 50 men; it was erected by the Northwest Company in 1818, and is in latitude 46 deg. 1 min. north, longitude 119 deg. 30 min. west.

The next post, in ascending the river, is Oknagen, which I have never visited; its importance is less than that of Wallawallah; it is on the north

side of the river, near the entrance of the Oknagen river, in latitude 47 deg. 59 min. north, longitude 119 deg. 43 min. west.

Above this there are no posts, I believe, except Colville, which is on the south side of the river, in latitude 48 deg. 37 min. north, longitude 118 deg. 4 min. west. When I was at this post, its picketed walls were down and repairing; its defences appeared no other than those commonly used against Indians; a chief trader and about 15 men were then posted at this place.

The above are all the posts of the Hudson's Bay Company on the Columbia. On the Flathead river is what is called the Flathead post—a small log cabin, surrounded with a low stockade, to which at certain seasons goods are sent from Colville, for the trade of the Flatheads, Cootanjes, Pendaureilles, and other Indians; it has no defences, and is occupied only a part of the year; this post is in latitude 47 deg. 31 min. north, longitude 114 deg. 28 min. west.

In the year 1834 the Hudson's Bay Company established a post at the mouth of the Big Wood river, which empties into Lewis's river at latitude 44 deg. 20 min. north, longitude 116 deg. 54 min. west, which was built to counteract the effects of Fort Hall, erected by the Columbia River Fishing and Trading Company, in the summer of 1834, near the heads of Lewis's river.

The Hudson's Bay Company have a post on the Umbiquoi river, to which they occasionally send goods, but it is not permanently occupied; I have not seen it, but it can be of little importance, as its business is intrusted to a common Canadian, which is never done by the Hudson's Bay Company in any case where an important interest is at stake.

On the coast, I am not aware of any posts having been established south of latitude 49 deg. north. There is one near the mouth of Thompson's river, which is a little north of that parallel of latitude. They also keep a steamboat running on the coast, and there is little question that their superior means in facilities of procuring goods, and great amount of capital, will soon give them the coast trade, as well as that inland unless some step is taken by the American Government to relieve the American trade from the disadvantages under which it now labors; but as my knowledge of the coast trade is of little value, I will return to the operations of the Hudson's Bay Company inland.

Experience has satisfied me that the entire weight of this company will be made to bear on any trader who shall attempt to prosecute his business within its reach; in proof of which is the establishment of the post at the mouth of the Big Wood river, which was done immediately after Fort Hall was built; and the fact that a party was kept in the vicinity of Fort Hall, with an especial view to injure its trade, the whole time that it remained in the hands of its projectors. There has never been any successful trade in this country by the Americans, and it is only by trapping that they have been able to make any use of it and in this they are much annoyed by the English traders, who follow them with goods, and do not scruple to trade furs from hired men, who they are well aware do not own them. I do not wish to charge the dishonest practice to them alone, nor do I know that they began it, for it is common to both parties, against the other, and also between the different parties of the Americans; but it results in the complete destruction of the American trade and business in the country. No sooner do

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an American concern start in these regions, than one of these trading parties is put in motion, headed by a clerk of the company, whose zeal is stimulated by the prospect of an election to a partnership in it, fitted out with the best assorted goods, from their ample stores, and men who have been long in the service of the company, and whose wages of many years are in its hands as security for their fidelity. Under these circumstances, we come in contact. If there are furs in the hands of the Indians, their superior assortment of goods will obtain them. The trappers who catch the furs are mainly fitted out on credit by the companies, and there are too many of them who do not scruple to avail of an opportunity to sell their peltries for new supplies of luxuries and finery, rather than pay their debts. In this way the American companies are broken up.

It is not uncommon that the parties of the Hudson's Bay Company entirely disregard the treaties between the United States and Great Britain, and pass to the heads of the Missouri, within the acknowledged limits of the United States; this was done in the years 1833, '34, '35, and '36. I was informed that this was contrary to the instructions of the Company, but I think it was with their knowledge and consent.

I have been informed that the British Government have given an assurance to the Hudson's Bay Company that they will not surrender any part of the country north of the Columbia; or, if they do so, they will remunerate them for any establishments that they shall have made in that part of it. About the year 1832 the Hudson's Bay Company commenced a mill at the falls of the Wallamette, and blasted a mill race through the rocks, and collected the frame work; the reason why it was not finished I do not know; I have surmised that it was done either to preoccupy a very valuable location, or that it was abandoned under the apprehension that its situation south of the Columbia would exclude the Company from any indemnity from their Government, in case the line of the Columbia should be adopted between the United States and Great Britain.

For several years past the Hudson's Bay Company have been in the practice of permitting their servants to retire from their employ, and settle on the Wallamette; there are now perhaps some twenty or thirty persons of this description, who are cultivating to a small extent on the bottoms of that river above the falls. In these cases, the obligations between them and the Company are not dissolved, but only suspended at the will of the Company, who can at pleasure recall them at their station; and this is often done, and the power to do so is used to govern them; their pay from the Company ceases during their absence from their stations, but is restored on their return. The Company under no circumstances releases a man in the country; but, unless he will renew his engagement, they return him from whence he came.

The people employed by this Company are about one fourth from the Sandwich islands, about one fourth Orkney-men, and the residue Canadians; their discipline is strict and hard, and subordination, from the highest officers to the lowest engag e, is as perfect as that of the army. The pay for common men is about £17 per annum, for clerks £100; above these are the partners, of various degrees of interest, according to their standing in the concern; to these partnerships they are elected by the governor and committee in London, at the instance of the deputy governor and partners at York factory.

In their personal intercourse with Americans who come into the country,

they are uniformly hospitable and kind. The circumstances under which we meet them are mortifying in the extreme, making us too often but the recipients of the bounty of others, instead of occupants to administer it, as should be the case. No one who has visited their posts, I presume, can say any thing in dispraise of his reception; for myself, setting matters of trade aside, I have received the most kind and considerate attention from them.

In conclusion, I will observe that the measures of this Company have been conceived with wisdom, steadily pursued, and have been well seconded by their Government, and the success has been complete; and, without being able to charge on them any very gross violations of the existing treaties, a few years will make the country west of the mountains as completely English as they can desire. Already the Americans are unknown as a nation, and, as individuals, their power is despised by the natives of the land. A population is growing out of the occupancy of the country, whose prejudices are not with us; and before many years they will decide to whom the country shall belong, unless in the mean time the American Government make their power felt and seen to a greater degree than has yet been the case.

I am your obedient servant,

NATHANIEL J. WYETH.

HON. C. CUSHING.

#### APPENDIX K.

##### LETTER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *January 4, 1839.*

SIR: In reply to the inquiries of the Committee on Foreign Relations, contained in your letter of the 26th ultimo, I have the honor to state that, in my opinion, not less than a battalion, consisting of four or five companies, ought to be sent on the service contemplated by the bill under your consideration. The troops, on arriving at their destination, will be without cover or shelter of any description, and may be exposed to the attacks of the surrounding Indians before they can erect even field works to protect themselves. They ought, therefore, to be in sufficient numbers to furnish guards, and to take the necessary measures of defence while the work of erecting a fort and buildings for the troops is going on. The expense of an additional battalion, for raising and maintaining it for one year, will amount to \$93,952. I say additional, because to abstract so large a number of men from the army, in the present state of the country, when there are so many calls for regular troops, and the frontiers exposed to attack are so insufficiently guarded, would be imminently to increase the danger of a border war. Without more knowledge of the country than we possess, it is difficult, if not impracticable, to form a just estimate of the cost of erecting a fort sufficient for the protection of the troops in time of peace, and to answer the purposes of defence at the breaking out of a war. An experienced officer of engineers ought to be sent out with the expedition, and \$50,000 appropriated to erect a fort. The troops ought to be furnished with subsistence for one year; and I would recommend that about thirty laborers, and an overseer, conversant

with husbands, be able, in themselves, and the troops, a month, and a year for \$2,000 for after \$8,22 necessary a

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with husbandry, he employed to accompany the detachment, who would be able, in that fertile region, to raise, with the aid of the soldiers themselves, an abundance of stock and grain for the future maintenance of the troops. These men might probably be hired for twenty dollars a month, and the overseer for eighty-five dollars; which would be \$8,220 a year for labor. Add to this \$1,800 for implements of agriculture, and \$2,000 for stock, making, altogether, \$12,020 for the first year, and thereafter \$8,220, or allowing for contingencies \$9,000 a year, to produce the necessary annual subsistence of the men.

Whether the forces to be sent out are to consist of additional troops, or to be taken from the line of the army, they ought to be recent recruits, raised for this purpose, both to prevent the renewing them oftener than once in four years, to avoid the expense of transportation; and that care may be taken to enlist as many mechanics as practicable. It might be expedient to offer, both to the laborers and recruits, a tract of land in Oregon, as a reward for four years' faithful services there.

A moderate increase in our Pacific squadron, of two vessels of light draught of water, would, in my opinion, be sufficient, in aid of the land forces; and both together would afford all the protection required by any settlement likely to be made for some time to come, on or near the Columbia river.

I transmit, herewith, an estimate of the expenses of the expedition, and of the annual cost of maintaining it.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

J. R. POINSETT.

Hon. C. CUSHING, of the Committee  
on Foreign Affairs, House of Representatives.

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*Estimate of the expense of establishing a military post on the Columbia river, and the annual cost of maintaining it with a force consisting of five companies, 375 strong.*

Expense of enlisting 355 men	-	-	-	-	\$3,905
Their pay for one year	-	-	-	-	32,760
Their subsistence for one year	-	-	-	-	25,915
Their clothing for one year	-	-	-	-	11,006
Pay and emoluments of 21 commissioned officers for one year	-	-	-	-	19,987
One overseer, at an annual salary of	-	-	-	-	1,020
30 laborers, at \$240 each per annum	-	-	-	-	7,200
For implements of agriculture	-	-	-	-	1,800
For stock	-	-	-	-	2,000
Expense of erecting a fort	-	-	-	-	50,000
Arms, equipment, and ammunition	-	-	-	-	17,690
Camp equipage	-	-	-	-	1,184
Transportation of troops to Chagres, thence by land to Panama, and again by sea to the Columbia	-	-	-	-	25,000
Transportation of supplies, by sea, round Cape Horn, to the Columbia river	-	-	-	-	25,000

\$224,467



If the troops and supplies are carried in Government vessels from Panama to the Columbia river, the expenses of transportation would be about \$20,000 less. And if they are sent in transports from the United States, round Cape Horn, to the Columbia river, the whole expense of transportation would amount to about \$43,000.

After the first year, the annual cost of maintaining the post will be as follows :

Pay of 355 men per annum	-	-	-	-	\$32,760
Clothing per annum	-	-	-	-	11,006
Pay and emoluments of 21 commissioned officers per annum	-				19,987
Annual supply of ammunition	-				1,607
Contingencies, including the pay of overseer and laborers, and living, in lieu of \$25,915 for subsistence	-				9,000
					\$74,360

WAR DEPARTMENT, *January 4, 1839.*

## APPENDIX L.

### LETTER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *January 7, 1839.*

SIR: A desire to afford satisfactory information on the subjects proposed in your two letters of the 26th and 27th of December has delayed my reply until the present time, and I hope will be a sufficient apology.

To the information embodied in the memorial of Mr. Slacum, and the reports of yourself and Mr. Linn of the Senate, the limited researches which my time would allow have added but little, and that little not sufficiently local and precise to enable me to speak with any great degree of confidence. A critical examination of Columbia river, as high up as the junction of the Wallamette, and the adjacent coast, by experienced military and naval officers, with a view to settlement and defence, appears to me the first step towards the attainment of a proper basis for any permanent system of occupation and protection.

Two positions are, however, I should think, sufficiently obvious, namely: that the establishment of a military position, occupied by a force of at least five or six hundred men, is the first and most efficient step to be taken. No naval armament which the United States could, under present or future circumstances, keep up in that quarter, would be adequate to the protection of settlers, either on the borders of the Columbia river, which does not afford a sufficient depth of water for ships of war, in the interior or on the seacoast. To this it may be added, that in order to maintain such a force permanently, it would be necessary either to have the means at hand for repairing and refitting vessels—in other words, a naval establishment of a permanent nature, of easy access, and susceptible of being defended—or to furnish regular relief squadrons, as on our other foreign stations. The expense of either would be very considerable, but cannot be correctly estimated until some settled system of operations is adopted.

Vancouver speaks of having found within the straits of Juan de Fuca a safe and convenient harbor, protected by an island, and capable of being

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defended; the occupation of which, I should think, would be important. With this impression, I have directed the commander of the squadron in the Pacific to employ a sloop of war in making a close and accurate survey of this portion of the strait, with a view to ascertain its advantages as a station or harbor for ships of war over the Columbia river, which is known to be difficult of access for all classes of ships. I also directed Lieutenant Wilkes to devote as much time as other great objects of the expedition would permit to an examination of that river, the coast between it and California, and most especially the bay of St. Francisco, represented as one of the finest in the world. These measures, it is expected, will result in the attainment of all the information necessary to furnish the basis of a permanent system, in relation to the important rights and interests of the United States in that quarter.

While the United States remain at peace with the nations whose conflicting claims or whose gradual encroachments have called your attention to the subject, I am of opinion, and the Board of Navy Commissioners coincide with me, that frequent visits from one or more vessels of the Pacific squadron, so regular as to impress on the minds of the savages, as well as the civilized intruders, the conviction that our rights and interests there are watched over and will be protected, would be sufficient for the present, or until time, as it soon must do, shall disclose the settled policy of Great Britain in relation to this important question, and whether a satisfactory boundary may not be adjusted between the claims of the three great nations which are now coming together from the opposite extremes of the earth.

The frequent and regularly recurring visits from vessels of the squadron in the Pacific would, I think, be sufficient to afford all the necessary assistance which the early settlers would require from a naval force. The distance of this region from all other portions of Western America that have heretofore required the protection of a naval force is so great, that some additional vessels will be necessary, or at least desirable, to secure adequate attention at all the points which might demand their presence.

Under a conviction, however, that the defence of the territory of Oregon must mainly depend on a military force and military positions, aided occasionally by the presence of vessels of war, I am of opinion that the employment of two additional sloops of war, as a reinforcement to the Pacific squadron, will enable the commander July to carry out the instructions already prepared for him in relation to the gulf of California and the northwest coast of America. The sum of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars would be sufficient for that purpose.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. K. PAULDING.

Hon. C. CUSHING, *in Congress.*

#### APPENDIX M.

##### LETTER OF MR. TRACY.

LYNN, (MASS.,) *January 6, 1839.*

SIR: In answer to your communication of the 2d inst., I have the honor to lay before you the following "exposition of the views and objects of the Oregon Provisional Emigration Society."

This society, formed in August, 1838, has for its object the planting of Christian American settlements in Oregon; and it is now engaged in such preliminary arrangements as will tend to secure the prosperity of the enterprise.

Our purpose in making these settlements will be, first, to spread civilization and Christianity among the Indians of that country; and, secondly, to avail ourselves of the advantages the territory offers for agriculture, manufactures, and commerce.

The number of persons whose emigration we shall encourage will be decided by the necessities of the case and the aspect our affairs may hereafter assume. Not less, however, than two hundred men, with their families, will compose our first migrating company; and we shall provide for their being followed, at proper intervals, by other divisions, as the state of the country may authorize, and the wants of civilized society require, until thousands of our citizens shall be planted on that distant coast.

Our design to elevate the Indians will make it necessary to be somewhat cautious in the selection of our men, and we shall encourage the migration of none whose character for industry and virtue is not well established; and we are persuaded that the good of the territory, the honor of our nation, and the permanency and security of American interests generally, will not be put in jeopardy by such a course.

The general expenses of the enterprise will be paid, and pecuniary aid, in the form of a loan, will be afforded to those whose means are inadequate to the cost of emigration and settlement, from a joint stock fund.

Having reached the territory, we shall seek such points of settlement as will afford the greatest facilities for intercourse with the tribes; for agriculture, manufactures, and commerce; and also for defence, in case of hostilities from any quarter.

For the benefit of the Indians, we propose to establish schools, in which instruction in elementary science will be connected with labor; the males being made acquainted with farming or some useful mechanic art, and the females with household duties and economy.

The age at which we shall admit the pupils, and the length of time for which they will be retained, will enable us to break up their Indian habits, and to make them industrious; and the arts and knowledge of which they will become possessors will prepare them to provide for their own wants, and to exert a very powerful influence in the civilization of their brethren. Our hopes will depend principally upon the children of the tribes, but we shall not forget their parents. We shall seek by all means to soften the rigors of their savage condition, and, if we find them incapable of a radical change, we shall at least hope to preserve peace among them; to persuade them to turn their attention to the cultivation of the soil, and to the erection of permanent dwellings; and, in a word, to induce them to adopt enough of the habits of white men to materially better their condition.

From all accounts which we have of the character and disposition of the Oregon Indians, we have no doubt of the practicability of all we propose in relation to them.

For our own emolument, we shall depend principally upon the flour trade; the salmon fishery; the culture of silk, flax, and hemp; the lumber trade; and, perhaps, a local business in furs. We shall establish a

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regular commercial communication with the United States, drawing supplies of men and goods from thence; and, ultimately, we shall contemplate the opening of a trade with the various ports of the Pacific. A few years only will be required to fill the plains of Oregon with herds as valuable as those of the Spanish savannas; and various sources of profit will reveal themselves, as the increase of the population shall make new resources necessary.

We shall wish that no person in connexion with us may have a claim upon any tract of land, unless he shall actually settle upon and improve that land; believing, as we do, that a land speculation in that country would be most prejudicial to its best interests, and, above all things, calculated to destroy the last hopes of the Indian race.

Such are the purposes of our society, which we shall doubtless accomplish, if the Government of the United States regards us favorably. We shall of course be very unwilling to settle in a savage wilderness, without having first obtained a sufficient title to the land we may occupy, and without being assured that political obstacles will not be thrown in the way of our prosperity.

We are confident that our settlement, more than any thing else, would subserve the purposes of our Government respecting the Oregon territory. Our relation to the Indian tribes will give us an influence over them which *Americans* will hardly obtain by any other means, and which, at a future day, may be found an advantage to the United States. We shall by the same means, as well as by our local situation, be prepared to hold in check the avarice of a foreign Power, and to establish and maintain American rights and interests generally, with the least expense to the nation and the best prospect of bloodless success.

I herewith forward you a number of the *Oregonian*, a monthly periodical devoted to the interests of our society; and would beg leave to refer you to the extracts numbered 1, 2, and 3, as a further exposition of our objects. The first extract you will find to be our constitution; the second contains sentiments respecting us, which, as a partial explanation of our views, we are willing to endorse; and the third is an instrument which has been officially adopted by our society.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

F. P. TRACY,

*Secretary of the Oregon Provisional Emigration Society.*

Hon. C. CUSHING.

[EXTRACT NO. 1.]

*Constitution of the Oregon Provisional Emigration Society.*

We, the subscribers, designing only to glorify God, and promote on earth the interests of piety, brotherly affection, justice, and liberty, do hereby adopt, and pledge ourselves to obey, the following constitution and articles of agreement:

ART. I. This association shall be called the OREGON PROVISIONAL EMIGRATION SOCIETY.

ART. II. Persons of good moral character, and who are believers in the Christian religion, and no others, may become members of this society by signing the constitution.

ART. III. The object of this society shall be to collect and furnish to its members all information which might be valuable to persons emigrating to Oregon, to digest and prepare a plan for the Christian settlement of that country, and to make all preparation necessary previously to engaging emigrants.

ART. IV. The officers of this society shall be a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and a committee, who shall be chosen annually on the 30th of August.

ART. V. The president, or, in his absence, the vice president, shall preside in all meetings of the society. The treasurer shall perform the usual duties of that officer. The secretary shall keep faithful records of all the doings and perform all the correspondence of the society, and he shall be *ex officio* secretary of the committee; and the committee shall execute the orders of the society, transact all their business not given into the hands of other officers, and, in the intervals of the meetings of the society, may do all things for the benefit of the association not forbidden by the constitution or a vote of the society.

ART. VI. All the expenses of the society, not otherwise provided for, shall be borne by the members equally; but no member shall be assessed to a greater amount than three dollars in one year.

ART. VII. The power of calling meetings of the society, and of fixing their time and place, belongs to the committee.

ART. VIII. One half of the members of the committee shall constitute a quorum, and a vote of three fourths of the members present at any meeting shall be necessary to decide any question acted upon.

ART. IX. The committee may, in the intervals of the annual meetings, appoint, as members of their body, a number equal to that elected by the society, who shall have all the powers of members, and be under their obligations; and the committee may in the same intervals fill all vacancies which may occur in their body, by death or otherwise. They may also appoint a sub-committee from their own number, which shall have power to do whatever the committee shall direct, under the same rules and regulations as those which govern the committee.

ART. X. This constitution may be altered or amended at any annual meeting of the society, by a vote of two thirds the members present.

#### OFFICERS.

Rev. SAMUEL NORRIS, *President*.      Rev. F. P. TRACY, *Secretary*.  
Rev. SANFORD BENTON, *Vice Pres't*.      Rev. AMOS WALTON, *Treasurer*.

#### COMMITTEE.

Rev. Charles K. True.	Rev. G. F. Pool.
Rev. Amos Binney.	Rev. A. D. Sargeant.
Rev. Amos Walton.	Rev. E. M. Beebe.
Rev. Charles Hayward.	Mr. J. B. Holman.
Rev. Sanford Benton.	Mr. Fales Newhall.
Rev. D. S. King.	Mr. William B. Pike.
Rev. S. G. Hiler, Jr.	Mr. William Walden.

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## APPENDIX N.

## MR. SLACUM'S REPORT.

[Senate Document, 1837-'8, No. 24.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
*Washington, November 11, 1835.*

SIR: Having understood that you are about to visit the Pacific ocean, the President has determined to avail himself of the opportunity thus afforded to obtain some specific and authentic information in regard to the inhabitants of the country in the neighborhood of the Oregon or Columbia river. In the belief that you will willingly lend your services in the prosecution of this object, I now give you, by the President's direction, such general instructions as may be necessary for your guidance in the execution of the proposed commission.

Upon your arrival on the northwest coast of America, you will embrace the earliest opportunity to proceed to and up the river Oregon, by such conveyances as may be thought to offer the greatest facilities for attaining the ends in view. You will, from time to time, as they occur in your progress, stop at the different settlements of whites on the coast of the United States, and on the banks of the river, and also at the various Indian villages on the banks or in the immediate neighborhood of that river; ascertain, as nearly as possible, the population of each; the relative number of whites (distinguishing the nation to which they belong) and aborigines; the jurisdiction the whites acknowledge; the sentiments entertained by all in respect to the United States, and to the two European Powers having possessions in that region; and, generally, endeavor to obtain all such information, political, physical, statistical, and geographical, as may prove useful or interesting to this Government. For this purpose, it is recommended that you should, whilst employed on this service, keep a journal, in which to note down whatever may strike you as worthy of observation, and by the aid of which you will be enabled, when the journey is completed, to make a full and accurate report to this Department of all the information you may have collected in regard to the country and its inhabitants.

Your necessary and reasonable travelling expenses will be paid from the beginning of your journey from the coast of the Pacific to the Columbia river, and till your return to this city. Vouchers, in all cases where it may be practicable to get them, will be required in the settlement of your account at the Treasury Department.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN FORSYTH.

WILLIAM A. SLACUM, Esq.

AMERICAN BRIG LORIENT, OFF SAN BLAS,

*March 26, 1837.*

SIR: My letters from Guaymas, Mazatlan, and San Blas, up to the 10th of October last, will have acquainted you with the difficulties I encountered in endeavoring to get to the Columbia river by the route along the seacoast

from Lower California, and also of my intention to proceed to the Sandwich islands to procure a vessel to take me into the Columbia.

From information I received at Oahu, I considered it necessary to have a vessel under my entire control, in order to be independent of the Hudson's Bay Company, (who have absolute authority over the inhabitants on either side of the river, and from whom alone the commonest wants or supplies could be procured;) at the same time to have a shelter under the flag of my country, from whence I might hold communications with the Indians and whites, and obtain the information required in the "instructions" I had the honor to receive from the Department of State, of November 11, 1835. I have now the honor to communicate the following account of my proceedings, and the result of my observations.

I left Oahu, in the American brig *Loriot*, on the 24th of November last, and on the 22d of December made Cape Disappointment, the northern point of entrance to the Columbia. The wind was high from the westward, and the bar presented a terrific appearance, breaking entirely across the channel from the north to the south shoals. The wind blowing directly on shore, and believing it would be impossible to work off against the heavy westwardly swell, we attempted the passage at twelve M., and crossed the bar safely, in not less than five fathoms, and anchored, at two o'clock, in Baker's bay.

I am thus particular, because the idea generally prevails that the bar of the Columbia should never be crossed when it breaks. In the afternoon the wind strengthened to a gale, but we were completely sheltered by Cape Disappointment.

About eight o'clock at night we were visited by a large canoe, containing twelve Indians of the Chenook tribe. The principal chief, *Chenamus*, and his wife, were of the party; they brought us wild fowl, ducks, geese, &c. The first question *Chenamus* asked, on coming on board, was, "Is this King George or Boston ship?" *Chenamus* told us two vessels were lying at Fort George, distant fourteen miles, on the opposite side of the bay.

It was late in the afternoon of the 23d before we weighed, when we stood up the bay towards Fort George. We anchored at night opposite the fort, (at the entrance of the river formed by Chenook point and Point George,) distant five miles.

Early on the morning of the 24th, I crossed over in the boat to the fort, and found the ships alluded to by the Indians were the Hudson's Bay Company's ships *Nereide* and *Llama*, both loaded and ready for sea; the former with the annual supply of goods suitable for the Indian trade at the Hudson's Bay Company's depots along the coast at the north, from Puggitt's sound, in 47 deg. 30 min. north, to Fort Simpson, in 54 deg. 40 min. north; the latter with a valuable cargo of British manufactures, bound to St. Francisco, California. Ascertained the Hudson's Bay Company's ship "*Columbia*" crossed the bar on the 26th of November, bound to London, with a valuable cargo of furs and peltries, valued at £80,000—\$350,000.

On the morning of the 25th, John Burnig, the Hudson's Bay Company's trader at Fort George, doubtless with a view to inform the chief factors (Messrs. McLaughlin and Finlayson) of the appearance of the *Loriot*, despatched a canoe to Fort Vancouver. I availed myself of this opportunity to write to Mr. Finlayson, (a gentleman whom I had known formerly at

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the Sandwich islands,) requesting him to send me down a pilot and a stove, if to be procured at the fort.

The wind favoring, on the 26th we stood up the river, but made little progress against a strong current; the wind falling light, at night we were compelled to anchor.

On the 31st I received an answer from Mr. Finlayson, (by the pilot whom he sent down,) giving me a polite invitation to visit Fort Vancouver; was told that Mr. Douglass, one of the partners of the Hudson's Bay Company, had come down the river. That gentleman, however, proceeded to Fort George by an inside passage; and I afterwards understood the chief object in his coming down was to inquire into the cause of my visit, as it was already known that the Lorient had no cargo on board.

Up to this period we had made but little headway in working up against the wind, with but few hours' slack tide; but this favored my landing daily, and visiting every Indian lodge and village on the river, from "Chenook" to "Oak point."

The next day, Mr. Douglass, returning from Fort George, called aboard the Lorient, and repeated the invitation given me by Mr. Finlayson, to visit Fort Vancouver; and, as there was but one more Indian settlement between this point and the Hudson's Bay Company's establishment at Vancouver, I embarked with Mr. Douglass, in his canoe, with nine "Canadian voyageurs." We made about fifty miles in twenty-four hours, and landed next day at the fort, where I met a hospitable reception from Dr. John McLaughlin and Mr. Duncan Finlayson.

*Political and statistical.—State of the country.*—In 1670, a charter of Charles the 2d granted an exclusive trade to the governors and company of adventurers of London, trading into Hudson's bay. They were to have the sole trade and commerce of and to all the seas, bays, and straits, creeks, lakes, rivers, and sounds, in whatsoever latitude, that lie within the straits commonly called Hudson's straits, together with all the lands, countries, and territories, upon the coasts of such seas, bays, and straits, which were possessed by any English subject, or subjects of any other Christian State, together with the fishing for all sorts of fish, of whales, sturgeon, and all other royal fish, with the royalty of the seas. As late as 1825, this extensive charter had not received any parliamentary confirmation or sanction.

In consequence of the many difficulties and quarrels between the Northwest and Hudson's Bay Companies, the British Government compelled them to merge their stock into one company, and they are now called the Hudson's Bay Company. This coalition took place in 1821. It is therefore under the charter of the Northwest Company, if such exists, that the Hudson's Bay Company now claim the exclusive right to, and the trade and commerce of, all the country from the north bank of the Columbia river to 54 deg. 40 min. north, *along the coast of the North Pacific ocean*, and from thence of all the country within three marine leagues of the coast to the *Frozen or Arctic sea*.

In 1818, when Fort George (Astoria) was formally given up by Captain Hickey, of his British Majesty's ship Blossom, and Judge Prevost and Captain Biddle, the American commissioners, had placed the customary placards declaratory of the event on Cape Disappointment and Point George, the question would scarcely have been asked by any of his British Majesty's subjects to whom the country of right belonged. Soon after



the departure of the United States ship Ontario, Captain Biddle, the buildings at Fort George were destroyed by fire. It is said the act was committed by the Indians, who likewise took away the placards put up by the American commissioners.

The Northwest Company being at this time established at Fort George, (having purchased of Mr. John Jacob Astor, of New York, his interest in his trading establishment, called by him *Astoria*,) continued to trade with the Indians, and built a trading house near the site of the old fort. This was kept up, first by the Northwest, and since by the Hudson's Bay Company, to the present day. For several years previously to the coalition, however, the interior trade of both companies had become materially lessened by their vicious and destructive opposition to each other; but from *this period, the coalition*, in 1821, the now Hudson's Bay Company have extended their enterprises over an extent of country almost incalculable.

I shall endeavor to point out the enterprise of this company, and the influence they exercise over the Indian tribes within our acknowledged lines of territory, and their unauthorized introduction of large quantities of British goods within the territorial limits of the United States.

Fort Vancouver, the principal depot of the Hudson's Bay Company west of the Rocky mountains, stands on a gentle acclivity, four hundred yards from the shore, on the north bank of the Columbia or Oregon river, about 100 miles from its mouth. The principal buildings are enclosed by a picket forming an area 750 by 450 feet. Within the pickets, there are thirty-four buildings of all descriptions, including officers' dwelling-houses, workshops for carpenters, blacksmiths, wheelwrights, coopers, tanners, &c., all of wood, except the magazine for powder, which is of brick; outside and very near the fort there are forty-nine cabins for laborers and mechanics, a large and commodious barn, and seven buildings attached thereto; a hospital and large boat-house on the shore, six miles above the fort. On the north bank, the Hudson's Bay Company have erected a saw mill on a never-failing stream of water, that falls into the Columbia; cuts 2,000 to 2,400 feet of lumber daily; employs 28 men, chiefly Sandwich Islanders, and ten yoke of oxen; depth of water, four fathoms, at the mill, where the largest ships of the company take in their cargoes for the Sandwich islands market.

The farm at Vancouver contains, at this time, about 3,000 acres of land, fenced and under cultivation, employing generally 100 men, chiefly Canadians and half-breed Iroquois; the mechanics are Europeans. These, with the factors, traders, clerks, and domestics, may be estimated at thirty. The laborers and mechanics live outside the fort, in good log cabins—two or three families generally under one roof; and as nearly every man has a wife, or lives with an Indian or half-breed woman, and as each family has from two to five slaves, the whole number of persons about Vancouver may be estimated at 750 to 800 souls. The police of the establishment is as strict as in the best-regulated military garrison. The men are engaged for the term of five years, at the rate £17 to £15 per annum; but, as the exchange is reduced to currency at the rate of five shillings to the dollar, the pound sterling is valued at \$4; hence, the price of labor is \$5 66 $\frac{2}{3}$  to \$6 66 $\frac{2}{3}$  per month.

The ration consists of eight gallons of potatoes and eight salt salmon a week per man, in winter, and peas and tallow in summer; no bread or meat allowed by the company at any time. Out of this ration, each man

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has to support himself and family, or make his *Indian slaves* hunt and fish for their support.

The farm at Vancouver has produced this year 8,000 bushels of wheat, 5,500 bushels of barley, 6,000 bushels of oats, 9,000 bushels of peas, 14,000 bushels of potatoes, besides large quantities of turnips, (rutabaga,) pumpkins, &c. About 6,000 bushels of wheat, of the old crop, remain on hand this year.

*Stock* consists of about 1,000 head of neat cattle, 700 hogs, 200 sheep, 450 to 500 horses, and 40 yoke of working oxen. There is a large thrashing machine, distillery, (not at present in operation,) and a grist mill. In short, the farm is abundantly supplied with all the requisite utensils for a much larger establishment; and it will be much increased the ensuing year. A thriving orchard is also planted; the apple, quince, pears, and the grape, grow well.

*Trade, &c.*—A large ship arrives annually from London, and discharges at Vancouver; cargo, chiefly coarse woollens, cloths, baizes, and blankets; hardware, cutlery, calicoes, cottons, and cotton handkerchiefs; tea, sugar, coffee, and cocoa; tobacco, soap, beads, guns, powder, lead, rum, playing cards, boots, shoes, ready-made clothing, &c., &c.; besides every description of sea stores, canvass, cordage, paints, oils, chains and chain cable, anchors, &c., to refit the company's ships that remain on the coast. These are the ship *Nereide*, the brig *Llama*, the schooner *Cadborough*, and sloop *Broughton*; the steamboat *Beaver*, of 150 tons, two engines of thirty-horse power each, built in London last year. These vessels are all well armed and manned; the crews are engaged in England, to serve five years, at £2 per month for seamen. The London ship, with the annual supply, usually arrives in the Columbia in early spring, discharges, and takes a cargo of lumber to the Sandwich Islands; returns in August to receive the furs that are brought to the depot (Fort Vancouver) once a year, from the interior, via the Columbia river, from the Snake country, and from the American rendezvous west of the Rocky mountains, and from as far south as St. Francisco, in California. Whilst one of the company's vessels brings in the collections of furs, and peltries made at the different depots along the coast at the north, (see map,) the steamboat is now being employed in navigating those magnificent straits from Juan de Fuca to Sticken. Immense quantities of furs sea otter, beaver, martin, and sable, can be collected along the shores of these bays and inlets. The chief traders at Nasquallah, in 47 deg. 30 min., Fort Langley, in 49 deg. 50 min., Fort McLaughlin, in 52 deg. 10 min., Fort Simpson, in 54 deg. 40 min. north, purchase all the furs and peltries from the Indians in their vicinity and as far as New Caledonia, in the interior, and supply them with guns, powder, lead, tobacco, beads, &c.; all of which supplies are taken from the principal depot at Fort Vancouver.

An express, as it is called, goes out in March, annually, from Vancouver, and ascends the Columbia 900 miles in batteaux. One of the chief factors, or chief traders, takes charge of the property, and conveys to York factory, on Hudson's bay, the annual returns of the business conducted by the Hudson's Bay Company west of the Rocky mountains, in the Columbia district. This party likewise conveys to the different forts along the route, (see map,) goods suitable to the Indian trade; other parties take up supplies, as they may be required, to Wallawallah, 250 miles above Vancouver; to Colville, 600 miles above; to the fort at the junc-

tion of Lewis's river, 700 miles above; and to the south to the Fort McCoys, on the river Umpqua, in latitude 43 deg 50 min. north; and last year, chief trader McLeod took up to the American rendezvous, in about latitude 43 deg. north, a large supply of British manufactures. This assemblage of American trappers and hunters takes place annually on the western side of the Rocky mountains, generally in the month of July, and amounts from 450 to 500 men, who bring the result of their year's labor to sell to the American fur traders. These persons purchase their supplies for the trappers at St. Louis; though, after being subject to the duties on these articles, (chiefly of British manufacture,) they transport their goods about 1,400 miles by land, to sell to citizens of the United States within our acknowledged lines of territory. Last year, they met a powerful opponent, in the agent of this foreign monopoly, chief trader McLeod, who could well afford to undersell the American fur trader *on his own ground*—first, by having the advantage of water communication on the Columbia and Lewis's rivers, for a distance of 700 to 800 miles; and, secondly, by introducing the goods free of duty, which is equal to at least twenty-five to thirty per centum. But a greater evil than this exists in the influence the Hudson's Bay Company exercises over the Indians, by supplying them with arms and ammunition, which may prove, at some future period, highly dangerous to our frontier settlements. Besides this, the policy of this company is calculated to perpetuate the institution of slavery, which now exists, and is encouraged, among all the Indian tribes west of the Rocky mountains.

I shall refer to this more particularly hereafter. From what I have seen, I feel perfectly satisfied that no individual enterprise can compete with this immense foreign monopoly established in our own waters; for instance, an American vessel, coming from New York or Boston, to trade on the northwest coast or the Columbia, would bring a cargo chiefly of British manufactures, on which the duties had been paid; or, if the cargo was shipped for drawback, the vessel would have to enter some other port to discharge and reload, in order to get the benefit of the debenture certificates; whereas the Hudson's Bay Company's vessels come direct from London, discharge at Vancouver, pay no duty, nor are they subject to the expense and delay of discharging and reloading in a foreign port.

Since the year 1828, a party of forty to fifty trappers, (Canadians,) with their women, slaves, &c., generally amounting to 150 to 200 persons, and 300 horses, go out from Vancouver, towards the south, as far as 40 deg. north latitude. These parties search every stream, and take every beaver skin they find, regardless of the destruction of the young animals. Excesses, too, are unquestionably committed by these hunting parties on the Indians; and every small American party (save one) that has passed through the same country has met defeat and death. The parties being much smaller than those of the Hudson's Bay Company, the Indians attack them with success; and the Americans hesitate not to charge the subordinate agents of the Hudson's Bay Company with instigating the Indians to attack all other parties.

In 1829, the American brig Owyhee, Captain Domines, of New York, entered the Columbia, and commenced trading with the Indians for beaver skins and peltries. In the course of nine months, Captain Domines procured a cargo valued at *ninety-six thousand dollars*. It happened that this year the fever that has since desolated the Columbia from the falls

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to Oak point appeared, and Dr. McLaughlin, the chief factor of the Hudson's Bay Company, with all the gravity imaginable, informed me the Indians to this day believe that Domines, of the "*Boston ship*," brought the fever to the river. (How easy was it for the Hudson's Bay Company's agents to make the Indians believe this absurdity, for reasons, too, the most obvious!) Domines was daily assailed with reports that the Indians intended attacking him, when his vessel was lying at the rapids of the *Wallamette*, alias the "*Multonomah*," of Lewis and Clarke. The Rev. Jason Lee told me Dr. McLaughlin had informed *him* that the principal chief of the Wallamette tribe had proposed to cut off the Owyhee, doubtless thinking it would prove agreeable to the Hudson's Bay Company. Dr. McLaughlin, of course, forbid the measure.

The Indians are taught to believe that no vessels but the "company's" ships are allowed to trade in the river, and most of them are afraid to sell their skins but at Vancouver or Fort George; of this I had positive evidence from the Indians themselves, as well as from a remark made by chief trader McLeod, aboard the "*Llama*," in Baker's bay. It was mentioned in the course of conversation that a Madam "*Perand*," wife of one of the Canadian settlers on the Wallamette, had just come in with twenty to thirty fine beaver skins. Some one of the party remarked, turning towards Captain Bancroft, of the *Loriot*, "there is a fine chance for a bargain." Mr. McLeod quickly replied, "D—n the skin shall Madam '*Perand*' sell to cross the bar of the Columbia." This was said in the presence of Captains McNeil, Bancroft, Brotchie, Mr. Burnie, and myself.

The next American vessel that entered the river after the Owyhee and her consort, the "*Convoy*," was the brig "*May Dacre*," of Boston. She arrived in 1835, to procure a cargo of salmon. In consequence of some arrangement, the cause of which I am unacquainted with, Mr. Wyeth, the owner and agent, agreed not to purchase furs, provided Dr. McLaughlin would throw no impediment in his way of procuring salmon. This enterprise failed; only 800 to 900 pounds of salmon were obtained. *Stock, &c.*, of the Hudson's Bay Company is held in shares, (100.) Chief traders and chief factors who reside in America are called partners. Chief factors are entitled to one eighth of one share, or rather the profits arising from the same, equal to about \$4,500 to \$5,000 per annum. Chief traders one sixteenth, or half the above amount, \$2,250 to \$2,500. They are not stockholders in perpetuity, as they cannot sell but as other stockholders, but have only a life estate in the general stock.

A council annually assembles at "*York factory*," where reports from the different "*districts*," east and west of the Rocky mountains, are read and recorded, and their proceedings forwarded to London, to the "*Hudson's Bay house*." Chief factors and chief traders hold a seat at this council board, and Governor Simpson presides. It is here that every new enterprise is canvassed, expense and probable profits carefully inquired into, as each member feels a personal interest in every measure adopted. If it is ascertained that in certain "*districts*" the quantity of beaver diminishes, the trappers are immediately ordered to desist for a few years, that the animals may increase, as the wealth of the country consists in its furs; and so strict are the laws among many of the northern Indian tribes, that to kill a beaver out of season, (*i. e.* in the spring or summer,) is a crime punished with death. The enforcement of this law is strongly

encouraged by the Hudson's Bay Company. Not so careful, however, are the company of the territory not their own; on the contrary, they have established a fort and trading house called "McKoy's Fort," on the river Umpqua, in 43 deg. 50 min. This fine stream falls into the Pacific, but is not laid down in any printed map; ten thousand beaver skins are collected here, and double this amount brought out of the country adjacent, within our lines; and the Indians are encouraged to "trap the streams" at all seasons; from Wallawallah, Lewis's river, and the Snake country, all lying between 42 deg. and 46 deg. north latitude, 50,000 skins are collected. The price of a beaver skin in the "Columbia district" is ten shillings, or \$2, payable in goods at 50 per cent. on the invoice cost. Each skin averages one and a half pound, and is worth in New York or London \$5 per pound; value \$7 50. The beaver skin is the circulating medium of the country.

*Indian slavery.*—The price of a slave varies from eight to fifteen blankets. Women are valued higher than men. If a slave dies within six months of the time of purchase, the seller returns one half the purchase money. As long as the Hudson's Bay Company permit their servants to hold slaves, the institution of slavery will be perpetuated; as the price, eight to fifteen blankets, is too tempting for an Indian to resist. Many instances have occurred where a man has sold his own child. The chief factor at Vancouver says the slaves are the property of the women with whom their workmen live, and do not belong to men in their employ, although I have known cases to the contrary. We shall see how this reasoning applies. These women, who are said to be the owners of the slaves, are frequently bought themselves by the men with whom they live, when they are mere children; of course, they have no means to purchase until their husbands or their men make the purchase from the proceeds of their labor; and then these women are considered the ostensible owners, which neither lessens the traffic nor ameliorates the condition of the slave, whilst the Hudson's Bay Company find it to their interest to encourage their servants to intermarry or live with the native women, as it attaches the men to the soil, and their offspring (half-breeds) become in their turn useful hunters and workmen at the different depots of the company. The slaves are generally employed to cut wood, hunt, and fish, for the families of the men employed by the Hudson's Bay Company, and are ready for any extra work. Each man of the trapping parties has from two to three slaves, who assist to hunt, and take care of the horses and camp; they thereby save the company the expense of employing at least double the number of men that would otherwise be required on these excursions.

After passing ten days at Fort Vancouver, and visiting the Indian lodges near the farm, &c., finding it would be impossible to get a party to accompany me at this season of the year across the mountains, I determined to visit the only white settlement on the river Wallamette, the Multnomah of Lewis and Clark. On the morning of the 10th January, having been furnished by Dr. McLaughlin with a canoe and six men, and all the necessaries for the voyage, I left Fort Vancouver, to ascend the Wallamette. I shall withhold a description of this beautiful river for the present. On the night of the 11th, I passed the falls thirty miles distant. On the 12th, at midnight, I reached "Camp Maud du Sable," the first white settlement on the river. My men had been in the canoe

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padding against a strong current for twenty-two hours, without any intermission except in making the portage at the falls. "Camp Maud du Sable" is distant about fifty-five miles from the Columbia, running nearly due south. The first settler was "Jean Baptiste Desportez McKoy," who came to the country with the American Fur Company in 1809, (Astor's company.) McKoy pitched his tent permanently at this place, six years since. For the first two years he was almost alone; but within four years past the population has much increased, and is now one of the most prosperous settlements to be found in any new country.

The Rev. Jason Lee, missionary of the Methodist Episcopal Church, of New York, having heard, through Dr. McLaughlin, of my intention to visit the Wallamette settlement, politely came down from the mission house, distant eighteen miles, to meet me at this place. In company with this gentleman, I called on all the settlers in the lower settlement, and next day visited the mission house and upper settlement. No language of mine can convey an adequate idea of the great benefit these worthy and most excellent men, the Messrs. Jason and Daniel Lee, Messrs. Shephard and Edwards, their assistants, have conferred upon this part of the country, not by precept, but *example*, as I think the following result of their labors will show.

To use Mr. Jason Lee's own words, "it was after having heard that an Indian, of the Flathead tribe, had crossed the Rocky mountains to inquire of Governor Clark, at St. Louis, about the God that the pale-faces worshipped, that first led me to think of establishing a 'mission' west of the mountains." Two years since, last October, Mr. Lee's party encamped on the ground where their dwelling now stands, immediately on the banks of the "Wallamette." They commenced felling timber with their own hands, and by Christmas they erected the frame of their house and had it half covered in, and fenced 24 acres of land. In the spring they put in a crop, which produced the first year, 1835—

	150 bushels	of wheat,
	35 do.	of oats,
	56 do.	of barley,
	87 do.	of peas,
	250 do.	of potatoes.
Second year, 1836—		
	500 bushels	of wheat,
	200 do.	of peas,
	40 do.	of oats,
	30 do.	of barley,
	4½ do.	of corn,
	3½ do.	of beans,
	319 do.	of potatoes,

with a full supply of garden vegetables. They have built a good barn, added to their dwelling-house, which now consists of four large rooms, 18 by 20 feet, lofts and cellar, have a good garden, and 150 acres of land enclosed under good fencing. With the exception of three months' hired labor of a carpenter to finish the inside of their dwelling and make tables, forms, &c., for their school room, the above is the work of these pious and industrious men, assisted by the Indian children of the school. Their family at present consists of 3 adults, and 19 full-blooded and 4 half-breed Indian children, 10 of whom are orphans. 7 girls and 15 boys at-

tend the school; likewise, 8 half-breeds' children of the neighboring settlers. The children are all taught to speak English. Several of them read perfectly well. They are all well clothed and fed, and are already very cleanly in their habits. The larger boys work on the farm in fine weather. They can plough, reap, and do all ordinary farm work well. Several of them evince good mechanical genius. Mr. Lee assures me that most of the boys have earned their board, clothing, and tuition, estimating their labor at the lowest rate of wages allowed by the Hudson's Bay Company. Their school and family could be much increased, but they do not wish to add to their number until they receive further assistance, thinking it the wisest plan at present, for the sake of example, to attend strictly to the mental and physical instruction of these "neophytes."

The land on which the mission house is established is rich alluvial deposit, open prairie, interspersed with good timber. Mr. Lee acknowledges the kindest assistance from Dr. McLaughlin, of Fort Vancouver, who gave him the use of horses, oxen, and milk cows, and furnished him with all his supplies. Indeed, Dr. McLaughlin has acted towards many of the settlers in the same manner, giving them the use of cattle and horses on the following terms: The *produce* of the neat cattle and horses belong to the Hudson's Bay Company, and are liable to be called for at any time. If the cattle die, the persons holding them are not charged with their value. Horses to be returned in kind, or the sum of \$8, the current value of the horse, is charged.

To convey an idea of the industry and progress of the Wallamette settlement, I beg to refer to paper (B.) It would be doing the Messrs. Lee and their associates injustice, were I to omit speaking of their successful and happy efforts in establishing a temperance society among men who are generally considered as being almost without the pale of moral restraint, (I mean trappers;) and it affords me great pleasure to add, that every white man in the settlement entertains the highest respect for the character and conduct of the Lees and their associates. This circumstance is sufficient evidence of their worth. Papers (C) and (D) will show their laudable efforts in arresting this destructive element, the white man's poison, the Indian's *certain death*. The case of Ewing Young referred to in paper (C,) will be understood by his statement, (E,) and some verbal explanations which I shall make in relation to his case.\*

After duly considering the great benefit that would result to this thriving country if the distillery of Ewing Young could be prevented from being put into operation, and inasmuch as he candidly admitted it was nothing but sheer necessity that compelled him to adopt the measure, I told him (Young) that I thought he had gained his point without adopting the expedient that produced it, as I was authorized by Mr. Finlayson to say, "if he would abandon his enterprise of distilling whiskey, he could be permitted to get his necessary supplies from Fort Vancouver on the same terms as other men;" And, further, I proposed to loan him \$150, get him a supply of decent clothing from the fort, in my name, and give himself and his partner, Carmichael, a passage to California, as he informed me he was exceedingly anxious to go thither to clear himself of the calumny that General Figaou had, through Dr. McLaughlin, circulated against him, producing in effect the most unjustifiable persecution. Mr. Young seemed deeply sensible of my offer; said a cloud hung

\* For these papers, see Sen. Doc. 1836-'7, No. 24.

over him most manly gentleman. tion next and other wealth, a but the p by the H cumstance as chose they r: landed it was very ment, wh leader of Hudson's barked i February tions of t hundred parted w prospect of St. Fr: American with their this access reach the Pacific b woodsme tance to t other obj A large this time a good n Norfolk our Gove tility of t American would ha dian sett for a long monopoly pany, stil who, on Canada, Indian co although tion and it being c disobey knows at rendering dwelling

over him so long, through Dr. McLaughlin's influence, that he was almost maddened by the harsh treatment he had received from that gentleman. I left him under a promise of receiving an answer to my proposition next day. In the course of conversation with Messrs. Lee, Young, and other settlers, I found that nothing was wanting to insure comfort, wealth, and every happiness, to the people of this most beautiful country but the possession of neat cattle, all of those in the country being owned by the Hudson's Bay Company, who refuse to sell them under any circumstances whatever. I then proposed to give to as many of the settlers as chose to embark in the Lorient a free passage to California, where they might procure cattle at \$3 per head. The advantage of being landed in California or Bodega free of expense, and the risk of the road, was very great. A meeting was accordingly held in the lower settlement, where the paper (F) was drawn up. Mr. Young was appointed leader of the party. All the settlers who had money due them from the Hudson's Bay Company contributed to the enterprise. Ten men embarked in the Lorient, and were landed safely at Bodega, on the 20th February. I advanced Mr. Lee \$500. This sum, added to the contributions of the settlers, produced \$1,600, a sum sufficient to purchase five hundred head of cattle in California. I will here remark, that when I parted with Mr. Young, at Monterey, on the 2d March, he had every prospect of procuring all the cattle required, on the north side of the bay of St. Francisco. He had likewise received propositions from several Americans residing at California to return with him to the Wallamette with their stock of cattle, thus doubly reinforcing the settlement from this accession the party will receive in California. They will doubtless reach the Wallamette safely in June, the distance by the coast of the Pacific being about six hundred miles. The men are all experienced woodsmen. I certainly view this measure as one of the highest importance to the future growth and prosperity of this fine country, even if no other object is attained by my visit to the Columbia.

A large cargo of wheat, five thousand five hundred bushels, could at this time be procured from the settlers on the Wallamette. It would find a good market at the Sandwich islands, the Russian settlements at Norfolk sound, (Sitka,) or in Peru; but some steps must be taken by our Government to protect the settlers and the trader, not from the hostility of the Indians, but from a much more formidable enemy than any American trading house establishing itself on the Wallamette or Columbia would have to encounter in the Hudson's Bay Company. All the Canadian settlers have been in the service of the company, and, from being for a long time subject to the most servile submission to the chiefs of the monopoly, are now, although discharged from the service of the company, still blindly obedient to the will of those in authority at Vancouver, who, on their part, urge the plea that, by the legislative enactments of Canada, they are prohibited from discharging their servants in the Indian country. Therefore, they consider the people of the Wallamette, although freemen in every sense of the word, still subject to the *protection* and authority, otherwise *thralldom*, of the *Hudson's Bay Company*; it being only necessary for the authorities at Vancouver to say: "If you disobey my orders, your supplies shall be cut off;" and the settler knows at once that his few comforts, nay, necessaries of life, are stopped, rendering him more miserable than the savage that lurks around his dwelling.



At the public meeting that took place at "Camp Maud du Sable," on the subject of the expedition to California, the liveliest interest appeared to be felt when I told the "Canadians" that, although they were located within the territorial limits of the United States, their pre-emption rights would doubtless be secured them when our Government should take possession of the country. I also cheered them with the hope that, ere long, some steps might be taken to open a trade and commerce with the country. They now only find a market for their wheat, after being compelled to transport it themselves in canoes, (the *portage* of the Walmamette in their way,) at Fort Vancouver, at the low price of 50 cents per bushel, payable in goods at 50 per cent. advance, whilst the Russians are paying \$1 50 this year in California for their supplies for "Sitka." The quantity annually required is about 25,000 bushels.

The entrance of the Columbia river is formed by Cape Disappointment on the north, in latitude 46 deg. 19 min. north, and 123 deg. 59 min. west longitude, and Point Adams on the south, in 46 deg. 14 min. north, and 123 deg. 54 min. west longitude.

*Physical and geographical.*—It was between the years 1780 and 1782, I believe, that Captain Meir, in an English merchant ship of London, saw "Cape Disappointment," and entered the bay between the two capes; but, as "Chenook" and "Tongue point" interlock, Captain Meir left the bay, under the impression that it extended no further inland. He published an account of his voyage in London in 1785-1786, on his return, and called the bay Deception bay. The next year, 1783 to 1784, Captain Gray, of Boston, in the American ship "Columbia," entered the bay and stood up the river as far as the point designated on the map as Gray's bay, where he overhauled and refitted his ship. Captain Gray called the river the "Columbia," after his ship. In 1787, Vancouver entered the river, and Lieutenant Broughton, in the cutter Chatham, stood up the river as far as the bluff; (the old site of Fort Vancouver,) about one mile distant from the site of the present fort. But the Spaniards had doubtless a knowledge of this country long before this period. \* \* \* \* \*

The Russian expedition under Behring, in 1741, did not come as far south as Cape Flattery, in 49 deg. north. As I have not the means, at present, of giving any further information of the early discovery of this part of the country, I shall now speak of its present appearance, &c., begging to claim your attention to the maps of the Columbia and the country south as far as the Russian settlements at Bodega.

In entering the Columbia river, you find a bar extending across the channel, (two miles in width,) from the north to the south shoals. The shoalest water on the bar is four and a half fathoms; but as the prevailing winds in winter are from the westward, and the entrance lies exposed to the swell of the Pacific ocean, the bar breaks with a wind of any force if from the west of north or south and west of east. At present, vessels are kept outside for several days, waiting for clear weather to run in with the shore. This delay would be obviated in a great measure if the coast was surveyed and properly lighted. "Cape Disappointment" is a high, bold promontory, about 400 feet above the sea, covered with timber from its base to the top. "Point Adams" is low, and cannot be seen at a great distance. The sailing directions which I shall be able to present with a chart of the river will more fully explain the appearance

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of the bay and river. As far as the depth of water is marked on the chart, it may be fully relied on. I cannot leave this subject without pointing out the great facility and the advantages that would result from a thorough *cut* of not more than three quarters of a mile through the lowest point of the Cape Disappointment, from Baker's bay to the ocean. The soil is light, and the height not more than sixty feet at the point proposed; and I have not the slightest doubt that a deep and safe channel would soon be made by the action of the tide (at the rate of five to six knots an hour) as it sweeps around the bay, bringing with it the whole volume of water of the Columbia and its tributaries.

Every thing around the shores of Baker's bay shows the richness of the soil. The pines, firs, and the most beautiful variety of flowers, grow to an extraordinary size, whilst the finest grasses are seen at this season fringing the sides of the hills to the water's edge. For the first ten miles, as you ascend the Columbia from Chenook and Point George, which may, properly speaking, be called the mouth of the river, its width is about four miles. It then narrows to about one mile, and continues at this width to Vancouver, (with but two exceptions, for a mile or two.) At "Oak Point" village, the oak is first seen; from thence, the oak, ash, laurel, cotton wood, beach, alder, pines, firs, yew, and cedar, are found to the falls. Geological formations at Fort George are concretions of shells, sandstone, and plumbago. On the Wallamette, remarkably fine gray granite is found.

*Indian statistics.*—The first tribes of Indians in Baker's bay are the Chenooks on the north, Clatsops on the south; the latter live at Point Adams and on Young's river, where Lewis and Clark wintered. Both tribes at this time do not exceed 800. Kum Kunley, the principal chief of the Clatsops, who was always the white man's friend, and who rendered every assistance in his power to Lewis and Clark, is no more; and, as an evidence of the effect of intemperance among these miserable Indians, out of 40 descendants of this chief, not one is this day alive. Chenamus (Chenook) claims authority over the people from "Baker's bay" to the Cowilitz, but Squamaqui disputes his authority from Gray's bay to the above point. From the river Cowilitz to the falls of the Columbia, (see map,) "Kassenow" claims authority. His tribe, since 1829, has lost more than 2,000 souls by fever. They are principally "Klackatucks," very erratic, and the only good hunters on the river below the falls, as all the other tribes immediately on the river below the falls, as well as those who frequent the waters of the Columbia during the season of the salmon and sturgeon, subsist chiefly on fish and wild fowl; and the ease with which they procure food, fish and fowl, with the delicious vegetables the "wappito" and "kamass," engenders the most indolent habits among these people.

Wallamette or Multonomah tribes live in the valley formed by the range of mountains, running north and south, in which Mount Hood and Mount Vancouver are laid down in Arrowsmith's map, (sometimes called the Klamet range, from the Indians of that name,) and on the west by the Kallamook and Yamhills, running south, parallel with the river and ocean. In ascending this beautiful river, even in midwinter, you find both sides clothed in evergreen, presenting a more beautiful prospect than the Ohio in June. For 10 to 12 miles, on the left bank, the river is low, and occasionally overflows; on the right the land rises gradually

from the water's edge, covered with firs, cedar, laurel, and pine. The oak and ash are at this season covered with long moss, of a pale sage green, contrasting finely with the deeper tints of the evergreens.

The first tribe of Indians are the Kallamooks, on the left bank, on a small stream of the same name, 30 miles from its mouth. 2d are Keowewallahs, alias *Tummewatus*, or Wallamettes. This tribe, now nearly extinct, was formerly very numerous, and live at the falls of the river, 32 miles from its mouth, on the right bank. They claim the right of fishing at the falls, and exact a tribute from other tribes who come hither in the salmon season, (from May till October.) Principal chiefs deceased. This river at the present day takes its name from this tribe. 3d. "Kallapooyahs" occupy lodges on both sides of the river. 4th. "Fallatahs" on a small stream of same name, right or west bank. 5th. Champoicks, west bank. 6th. Yamhills, west bank. 7th. Leelahs, both sides. 8th. Hanchoicks. All these five tribes speak Kallapooyah dialect, and are doubtless of that tribe, but at present are divided as designated, and governed by chiefs as named. All these tribes do not exceed 1,200. The ague and fever, which commenced on the Columbia in 1829, likewise appeared on this river at the same time. It is supposed that it has been more fatal in its effects. It has swept off not less than 5,000 to 6,000 souls. In a direction still further south, in Tularez, near St. Francisco, (California,) entire villages have been depopulated. I am happy to add, however, that this scourge to these poor Indians is disappearing. The above-named constitute all the Indians to be found on the Wallamette, from its source in the mountains to the entrance into the Columbia, a distance of about 200 miles.

The brig *Owyhge*, Captain Domines, moored at the rapids about a mile below the falls, in 12 feet water. Above the falls there is doubtless steamboat navigation for 150 miles. For a distance of 250 miles in extent by 40 in breadth, including both sides the river, (6,500,000 acres,) the land is of the most superior quality, rich alluvial deposit, yielding in several instances, the first year, 50 bushels of fine wheat to the acre. The general aspect of the plains is prairie, but well interspersed with woodlands, presenting the most beautiful scenery imaginable. The pastures at this day (12th January) are covered with the richest grasses, 8 to 12 inches high. I should be almost afraid to speak of the extraordinary mildness of the climate of this country, were I not enabled to present you thermometrical observations at Vancouver and Fort Simpson, in 52 deg. north, and Bodéga, in 39 deg. I may fairly state the difference to be equal to 15 deg. of latitude between the coasts of the west and east of this continent. It is to be kept in view that the Wallamette is due south from the Columbia. I found, on my return to Vancouver on the 19th January, that snow had fallen, and the river was closed with floating ice that had come down and blocked up the passage. Although I was not more than 70 to 80 miles south, I neither saw snow nor ice.

I consider the Wallamette as the finest grazing country in the world. Here there are no droughts, as on the pampas of Buenos Ayres or the plains of California, whilst the lands abound with richer grasses, both in winter and summer. In 1818, the Hudson's Bay Company had one bull and two cows; last year they salted 70, and have now upwards of 4,000 head of neat cattle from this stock. No comment is necessary in

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presenting this fact to your notice. The low grounds of the Columbia overflow, and the highlands are covered with timber of great size, which would require immense labor in clearing. Fort Vancouver is the only spot, from Fort George upwards, where a farm of any size could be opened.

From the map of the country south of the Columbia, which I shall be able to prepare from the rough though correct sketches in my possession, you will discover there are four rivers which fall into the Pacific ocean between 41 deg. 33 min. north latitude and Columbia. Three of these, with "Pelican bay," in latitude 42 deg. 4 min. north, are within the limits of the United States, but are not laid down in any *published chart* of the present day.

Klamet river, 41 deg. 33 min. north latitude, 123 deg. 54 min. west longitude.

"Rougues" river, 42 deg. 26 min. north latitude, 124 deg. 14 sec. west longitude.

Cowis river, 43 deg. 31 min. north latitude, 124 deg. 4 min. west longitude.

Umpqua, 43 deg. 50 min. north latitude, 123 deg. 56 min. west longitude.

Last year (1836) the Hudson's Bay Company's schooner "Cadborough" entered two of these rivers with 8 feet water. "Pelican bay" is a good harbor. From the information of Mr. Young and other trappers, I am told the Umpqua is nearly the same size as the Wallamette. The lands are equally good, and well timbered. The river called "Rougues," or sometimes Smith's river, abounds with the finest timber west of the Rocky mountains; and it may be fairly estimated that the valleys of the rivers certainly within the limits of the United States\* contain at least 14,000,000 of acres of land of first quality, equal to the best lands of Missouri or Illinois. The Indians west of the Rocky mountains, between the Columbia and 42 deg. north latitude, may be estimated at 100,000, two thirds of whom are armed by the Hudson's Bay Company. North of the Columbia, along the coast, to Cape Flattery, the "Chehalis" Indians inhabit the country. They have a friendly intercourse with the Indians of Baker's bay, although they speak a different dialect. On the "Cowitz," (see map,) which falls into the Columbia, there are a few Indians of the Klackatuck tribe. Coal has been found here. Dr. McLaughlin now compels the Canadians, whose term of service expires, and who are anxious to become farmers, to settle on this river, as it lies to the north of the Columbia. The reason he assigns is, that the north side of the Columbia river will belong to the Hudson's Bay Company. If one side of the river is claimed, with the same propriety they might claim both sides. The navigation of the Columbia is absolutely necessary to the Hudson's Bay Company; without this they have no passage into the heart of their finest possessions in the interior, New Caledonia, &c. I know not what political influence they command; but this monopoly is very wealthy; and, when the question of our western lines of territory is settled, they (the Hudson's Bay Company) will make the most strenuous efforts to retain free navigation of the Columbia—more important to them than the free navigation of the St. Lawrence is to the people of the United States.

I beg leave to call your attention to the topography of "*Pugitt's*

\* Exclusive of the Columbia and Wallamette.

*sound*," and urge, in the most earnest manner, that this point should never be abandoned. If the United States claim, as I hope they ever will, at least as far as 49 degrees of north latitude, running due west from the "*Lake of the Woods*," on the above parallel we shall take in "*Pugitt's sound*." In a military point of view, it is of the highest importance to the United States. If it were in the hands of any foreign Power, especially Great Britain, with the influence she could command (through the Hudson's Bay Company) over the Indians at the north, on those magnificent straits of "*Juan de Fuca*," a force of 20,000 men could be brought by water in large canoes to the sound, ("*Pugitt's*,") in a few days; from thence to the Columbia, the distance is but two days' march, via the Cowilliz. I hope our claim to 54 deg. of north latitude will never be abandoned; at all events, we should never give up *Pugitt's sound*, nor permit the free navigation of the Columbia, unless, indeed, a fair equivalent was offered, such as the free navigation of the St. Lawrence. I am now more convinced than ever of the importance of the Columbia river, even as a place where, for eight months in the year, our whalers from the coast of Japan might resort for supplies, which, in the course of a few years, would be abundant, if the citizens of the United States could receive from the Government the protection due to them. A custom-house, established at the mouth of the Columbia, would effectually protect the American trader from the monopoly which the Hudson's Bay Company enjoy at this time, and a single military post would be sufficient to give effect to the laws of the United States, and protect our citizens in their lawful avocations.

We descended the Columbia in the *Loriot* on the 23d of January, and found the Hudson's Bay Company's ships *Nereide* and *Llama* still in "*Baker's bay*," having been detained since the 22d of December. On the 29th of January, a violent gale from the southeast commenced before daylight. On the morning of the 30th, the *Loriot* parted both cables, and was driven ashore. We received every assistance from the *Nereide* and *Llama*. In two or three days, the *Loriot* was got afloat. In the mean time, Captain Bancroft went up to Fort Vancouver, and succeeded in getting a good chain cable, stream, and anchor. On the 10th of February, the bar was smooth, and the wind from the eastward. We got under way with the Hudson's Bay Company's ships *Nereide* and *Llama*, and crossed the bar safely, and stood on our way towards "*Bodega*," the Russian settlement in California.

Nothing material occurred, from the day we left Columbia, until the morning of the 19th of February, when we made the land off the "*Presidia Ross*." The wind being light, I took the boat at eight miles' distant, and passed in for the fort. About three miles distant from the *Loriot*, I met three *Bydaekas* coming off to us. An officer delivered a polite message from the Russian Governor, and immediately returned to the shore with me. About 2 o'clock I landed, and met a hospitable reception from Mr. Peter Kostrometinoff, the Russian military and civil commandant of the Russian American Fur Company. The *Presidia Ross* lies in 38 deg. 40 min. north latitude, immediately on the ocean, on a hill sloping gradually towards the sea. The rear is crowned by a range of hills 1,500 feet in height, covered with pines, firs, cedar, and laurel, rendering the position of the fort highly picturesque. The fort is an enclosure 100 yards square, picketed with timber 8 inches thick by 18 feet

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high; mounts four 12-pound carronades on each angle, and four 6-pound brass howitzers fronting the principal gate; has two octangular block-houses, with loopholes for musketry, and 8 buildings within the enclosure, and 48 outside, beside a large boat-house at the landing place, blacksmith's shop, carpenter's and cooper's shop, and a large stable for 200 cows, the number usually milked. The Russians first settled at "Bodega," about 18 miles south of Ross, in 1813. It was thought to afford facilities for ship building, and a good point for seal fishing and "sea otter" hunting. Two vessels of upwards of two hundred tons have been built here, and several smaller vessels of 25 to 40 tons. The oak, however, of which these vessels have been built, is not good; although it is an evergreen, and resembles in grain the "post oak," it is of far inferior quality. This establishment of the Russians seems now to be kept up principally as a "point d'appui;" and hereafter it may be urged in furtherance of the claims of the "Imperial Autocrat" to this country, having now been in possession of Ross and "Bodega" for 24 years, without molestation. Two ships annually come down for wheat from Sitka. Their cargoes are purchased in California, likewise tallow and jerked beef, for bills on the Russian American Fur Company, St. Petersburg. These bills fall into the hands of the American traders from Boston and the Sandwich islands, who receive these bills from the Californians as money in payment of goods. Ross contains about 400 souls; 60 of whom are Russians and "Fins," 80 "Kodiacks," the remainder Indians of the neighborhood, who work well with the plough and sickle. All the Russians and Finlanders are artisans. Wages \$35 to \$40 per annum. They export butter and cheese to Sitka. But few skins (seals) are now taken; no sea otters. This year the farm is much increased; 240 fanegas, equal to 600 bushels of wheat, are sown. It generally yields 12 bushels for one. Stock—1,500 head of neat cattle, 800 horses and mules, 400 to 500 sheep, and 300 hogs.

*Climate, &c.*—Within the last three years a very material change has taken place in the climate along this coast. Formerly, in the months of May, June, July, August, September, and October, the winds prevailed from northwest to west; November, December, January, February, March, and April, southwest to south-southeast winds prevailed; but for three years past the winds are exactly reversed. It is, consequently, much colder in winter than formerly. In May and June, fogs settle on the hills near Ross, and produce rust in wheat.

Thermometrical observations at Ross, in 1836—Fahrenheit. Latitude 38 deg. 41 min. north.

In October,	1836, maximum	66 deg.,	average 12 M.
"	" minimum	43	
November,	1836, maximum	72	
"	" minimum	38	
December,	" maximum	62	
"	" minimum	36	
January,	1837, maximum	58	
"	" minimum	38	
February,	" maximum	56	
"	" minimum	43	

*Timber.*—Oaks, four species—two are evergreen; sweet-scented laurel, excellent wood; cedar of Lebanon; "Douglass pine" grows to

an extraordinary size; common pines, firs, alder, and the red wood, a species of cedar, the best wood in the country.

An agent of the Russian Government was here last year. He came through, via Siberia, from St. Petersburg, and visited all the posts in Kamschatka and on the northwest coast. He got permission from the late General Figaroa (then commandant general of California) to put up a large building on the bay of St. Francisco, ostensibly to be used as a granary to receive the wheat purchased in California; but, in effect, it was intended as a block-house, and was to have been made defensible. The timber was got out, and now lies ready to be used. General Figaroa died, and his successor, "Chico," prohibited the Russians from erecting their block-house.

Mr. Kostrometinoff readily granted me permission for the party that accompanied me from the Columbia to land at Bodega. He also furnished a house for their use until their cattle could be collected, and provided me with horses and guides to proceed by land to the bay of St. Francisco. Of my proceedings in California, I must beg to refer to the communication which I shall have the honor to lay before you in a few days, accompanied by a chart of the Columbia, &c.

In the mean time, I have the honor to remain your most obedient servant,

WILLIAM A. SLACUM.

To the Hon. JOHN FORSYTH,  
*Secretary of State.*

*Thermometrical observations taken at Fort Vancouver, latitude 45 deg.  
37 min. north.*

1833,	June,	minimum	7 A. M.	52 deg.	maximum,	12 M.	66 deg.
	July,	do.	do.	47	do.	do.	89
	August,	do.	do.	52	do.	do.	83
	September,	do.	do.	48	do.	do.	81
	October,	do.	do.	35	do.	3 P. M.	73
	November,	do.	do.	30	do.	do.	62
	December,	do.	do.	09	do.	do.	52
1834,	January,	do.	do.	06	do.	do.	43
	February,	do.	do.	28	do.	do.	64
	March,	do.	do.	30	do.	do.	66
	April,	do.	6 do.	32	do.	do.	83
	May,	do.	do.	42	do.	do.	86
	June,	do.	do.	49	do.	do.	90
	July,	do.	do.	55	do.	do.	93
	August,	do.	do.	49	do.	do.	86
	September,	do.	do.	46	do.	do.	86
	October,	do.	do.	36	do.	do.	73
	November,	do.	do.	31	do.	do.	61
	December,	do.	do.	18	do.	do.	49
1835,	January,	do.	do.	29	do.	do.	52
	February,	do.	do.	28	do.	do.	58

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1835, March,	minimum	6 A. M.	31 deg.	maximum,	3 P. M.	61 deg.
1836, April,	do.	7 do.	40	do.	4 P. M.	68
May,	do.	do.	42	do.	do.	81
June,	do.	do.	48	do.	do.	83
July,	do.	do.	55	do.	do.	97
August,	do.	do.	54	do.	do.	98
September,	do.	do.	40	do.	do.	86
October,	do.	do.	41	do.	do.	81
November,	do.	do.	29	do.	do.	61
December,	do.	do.	16	do.	do.	53
1837, January,	do.	do.	22	do.	do.	48

## APPENDIX O.

MR. KELLEY'S MEMOIR.

BOSTON, *January 31, 1839.*

SIR: In compliance with your request, I shall willingly communicate to you a brief account of my connexion with the Oregon country, and of such facts in regard to that valuable portion of our national domain, and of adjoining regions, as have come within my observation and are of public interest.

The perusal of Lewis and Clark's journal, personal conference with intelligent navigators and hunters who had visited and explored the territory beyond the Rocky mountains, and facts derived from other sources entitled to credit, many years ago, satisfied me that this region must, at no remote period, become of vast importance to our Government, and of deep and general interest. Possessing, so far as I could learn, a salubrious climate, a productive soil, and all the other natural elements of wealth, and by its position in reference to divers most important channels of traffic, as well as its configuration of coast, and variety of native productions, being admirably adapted to become a great commercial country, I foresaw that Oregon must, eventually, become a favorite field of modern enterprise, and the abode of civilization.

With these views constantly and vividly before me, I could but desire most earnestly to communicate them to the public, and impress them upon the Government. And, to accomplish these objects, I have done and suffered much; having been particularly attentive to it for many years, and wholly devoted to it a large part of my time.

*One great object* of my labors has been to induce Congress, in the exercise of a sound discretion and foresight, and in conformity with good faith towards Great Britain, to extend the active jurisdiction and guardianship of the General Government over this territory, so that it might be brought under the restraints and protection of political organization and of law, by the country to which it justly belongs.

*Another of my objects* has been to give my fellow-citizens correct information, and thus induce a full and free emigration to this territory, of temperate, orderly, and industrious men; such men as might most certainly carry thither all the advantages of civilization, and lay the foundation of a virtuous community; and thus to convert the wilderness into a



garden, the wild retreats of Indians and roving hunters into the smiling abodes of knowledge and Christianity.

I longed and labored, also, for the highest interests of the native owners of the great West; for their social, intellectual, and moral culture; and my objects were not less benevolent than commercial, and looked as much to the elevation and melioration of the red race as to the benefit of the white.

And, finally, I desired most earnestly that the United States should secure to their western frontier the ocean as its defence, and thus remove from one of our borders, at least, the dangers arising from the vicinity of foreign states—an object which I deemed of vast importance, and upon which I need not enlarge.

These were the objects to whose accomplishment I looked forward, and from which I confidently anticipated many benefits: such as a more friendly and profitable intercourse between our people and the various Indian tribes; the immediate occupation of the harbors and havens of the Oregon, and the use of its abundant ship timber; great profit from the whale and salmon fisheries of the northwest coast; a free and growing commerce with the islands and coasts of the Pacific, with China, and India, and the Southern America; a certain and speedy line of communication over land from the Mississippi to the Oregon, by means of which the Eastern and Western worlds should be united, and their wealth interchanged and increased; and many other particular benefits, which I need not enumerate.

It is not necessary for me to enter, on this occasion, into a narrative of the obstacles which I encountered in the prosecution of my views, and of the many sacrifices which I incurred in order to accomplish objects which I considered as of the highest public utility. Suffice it to say here, that, induced by the considerations I have stated, in 1833 I started from New Orleans for Vera Cruz and Mexico, and after remaining some time in Mexico, I proceeded through Upper California to Oregon.

I shall confine myself, in this communication, to the results of my study and inspection within *the Oregon territory, and the adjoining province of High California.*

I extend my remarks to this part of California, because it has been, and may again be, made the subject of conference and negotiation between Mexico and the United States; and because its future addition to our western possessions is, most unquestionably, a matter to be desired.

#### HIGH CALIFORNIA.

Commencing my remarks, therefore, at Monterey, a seaport town situated in latitude 36 deg. 37 min. north, where I spent the months of June and July, 1834, I intend to proceed with these, in the route of my travels, northward, to the Columbia river. During my route, I was accompanied by Captain Young, a veteran hunter, who had repeatedly traversed this country, and was familiar with most of its features.

Adopting such an arrangement of facts as will, I trust, prove convenient to the committee, I will now call their attention to a *brief geographical account of the northern portion of High California.*

This tract of country extends from the 37th to the 42d parallel north latitude, and forms a portion of the Mexican territories, except some few patches on the coast; it has never been improved by the hand of civiliza-

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tion. A lofty range, called the Snowy mountains, divides it from Oregon. This range extends from the Pacific ocean, eastwardly, to the Rocky mountains, is broken into a great number of subordinate ranges, spurs, and detached peaks. It is bounded by the valley of the Colorado, and by rugged walls of rocky highlands on the east, and its surface is diversified by groups of wooded hills, extensive prairies and marshes, and a multitude of streams, some of which are rapid and others sluggish in their currents. The Colorado drains this district on the east, and empties its waters into the gulf of California. Several rivers on the west flow into the bay of San Francisco.

The prairies, which form perhaps one half of the surface of this region, differ widely in character, extent, in formation, and fertility; but in general they are covered with a deep and rich soil, and with an exuberant vegetation. Their uniformity is broken by numerous well-wooded hills and hillocks, and by those belts of forest which stretch along all the watercourses.

The mountainous regions are, in general, heavily timbered; but occasionally, instead of forests, we find tracts of utter barrenness, bearing the strongest marks of volcanic action, and destitute of all appearance of vegetable life.

There is one continuous line of prairie extending from the gulf of California to the 39th parallel, sometimes a hundred miles wide, and seldom less than ten, opening to the ocean only at the bay of San Francisco, its surface so diversified by fringes of trees along the borders of its streams, and by the wooded capes and peninsulas which break the uniformity of its outline, as to present the appearance of a chain of prairies of every conceivable size and form. Here, amidst the luxuriant grasses and native oats which cover its surface, immense herds of cattle, and wild-game, and droves of horses, find abundant pasturage.

Although most of these prairies are very fertile, my observation led me to doubt whether they could all be readily and profitably cultivated. The soil is in many places strongly impregnated with the muriate of soda, and in others it abounds with asphaltum, by which it is rendered too compact, especially during the excessive heats of the dry season, for tillage. The experiment has been tried on these soils, with fruit trees and esculent roots, and has repeatedly failed. Thus the apple and the potato have both been introduced, and to both the prairie has been found uncongenial, although they both flourish in the hilly region, and near the seashore. My belief is that these prairies are the results of ancient volcanic action, in which respect they do not differ from all the rest of that territory. But while the conformation of the hilly country has aided the efforts of nature, by rains, and dews, and streams of water, to carry off these salts and other elements which are unfriendly to vegetation, and hasten the return of fertility and productiveness, the level prairie has advanced much more slowly in the same direction, retaining for ages, in defiance of the tardy process of leaching and infiltration, vast quantities of mineral substance, destructive to vegetable life. Without the aids of agricultural science, centuries more must elapse before the pure waters of the skies shall wash out from the soil of the prairie these poisonous relics of that awful convulsion of nature which, in ages far beyond human tradition, overwhelmed the western shores of our continent. Immediately along the banks of the rivers by which the prairie is intersected, as if to

demonstrate the correctness of my hypothesis, there is always found a narrow strip of the choicest alluvion.

The seasons of this country are two—the wet and the dry. The wet or winter season extends from November to March, covering about five months of the year. During this period it rains without cessation for many days or weeks together; and during the rest of the year the rain seldom or never falls, and nothing but the heavy dews of the short summer nights relieves the fiery monotony of those seven long months. By the abundant waters of the rainy season, immense tracts of low prairie land are submerged, and thus for a while converted into lakes, which gradually subside as the summer advances, contributing by their stagnant pools and putrid exhalations to render those lowlands exceedingly unhealthy. Some travellers, misled by these temporary floods, have spoken of vast lakes and ponds in the interior of California, instead of which their astonished successors of the following summer have discovered only arid plains or sedgy pools and marshes.

I was told that about once in every ten years it happens that little or no rain falls during the winter season; and that, in consequence of this drought, the whole country is dried up, vegetable life is almost annihilated, and the beasts of the field perish of thirst and starvation.

Along the coast, where the seabreezes have easy and constant access, the climate throughout the year is salubrious and delightful, differing in temperature many degrees, during the dry season, from the prairie lands which lie behind the first range of hills, where the ardor of the sun is mitigated by no cooling wind. The range of hills shuts out the western breezes, and surrounding masses of forest exclude all other winds, and render ventilation impossible on the prairies, so that, while the inhabitants of the coast are enjoying all the delights of a serene and beneficent climate, the panting traveller upon these burning plains is suffering all the discomforts of the torrid zone. In crossing from the prairies in the latitude of 38 deg. 30 min., during the month of August, I found that for several successive days the mercury ranged at 110 deg. (Fahrenheit) in the shade; and sealing wax deposited in one of my boxes was converted into an almost semi-fluid state. At the same time, and in the same parallel, on the borders of the Pacific, the thermometer seldom exhibited a greater temperature than 75 deg., and in the evening a fire was frequently essential to comfort.

This difference of temperature is accompanied by a corresponding diversity of healthfulness. The coast is always healthy; but during the heat of summer the prairies of the interior are pestilential, and diseases abound.

The principal harbors which I visited on the Pacific coast of this province (and I speak only of what I actually saw) are Santa Cruz and San Francisco. The former, about lat. 37 deg. north, is open to the sea, and exposed at times to a tremendous surf. On the northern side of the harbor lies the small town of Santa Cruz.

San Francisco bay or harbor is very spacious, and furnishes several safe and convenient havens and roadsteads. It lies some forty miles north of Santa Cruz. Its entrance, latitude 37 deg. 49 min., is two miles wide, and admits ships of the largest draught and burden. From its entrance it stretches twenty miles towards the north, and thirty miles

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southeasterly, the southern branch of the bay being sheltered by a range of high hills. Throughout the bay the anchorage is safe, so that a more commodious harbor could not be desired. Excepting one in De Fuca straits, it is considered the best in Northwestern America. A number of important streams find an outlet in the harbors above named. Of these, the St. Joaquim may be particularized. It rises in a large lake near the 36th deg. north, moves with a deep, slow, and tranquil current through several hundred miles of prairie, receiving the tribute of many lesser streams from the mountains on the east, and at last discharges its transparent waters into the northerly part of the bay of San Francisco. This tranquil river must eventually become productive of vast benefit to California, not merely as a convenient and ready inlet for commercial purposes, but as a great outlet through which shall be drained those superfluous waters by which so much of the prairie is converted into a marsh, and rendered fruitful only of disease and death. It is indeed a vast canal, constructed by an Almighty Architect, and destined, I doubt not, in future ages, to transport the countless products of a mighty empire.

Another river of note is called the Sacramento. Next to the Columbia it is the largest stream on the western side of the continent. Its head waters are in the Snowy mountains, (of which I have already spoken,) and almost mingle with those of three other mighty rivers—the Colorado, the Rio Del Norte, and the Columbia. Its tributaries flow also from the range of mountains which flank the valley of the Colorado. It empties into the bay of San Francisco, and is navigable for vessels of small burden to its first fork, about eighty miles from its mouth. The branches which unite at that point are both rapid mountain streams; too rapid for easy navigation, but admirably adapted to float down to the waters of the Pacific the valuable timber which covers the mountains where they rise. The Sacramento, in the rainy season, rises fifteen or twenty feet, overflows its banks, assumes the appearance of a succession of lakes, and fertilizes with its alluvion immense tracts of champagne country. Of its numerous branches, and their countless tributary rivers and rivulets, I need not here make mention.

I crossed the rapids of the Sacramento at what was said to be its lowest ford, in latitude 39 deg. 35. min. Several of our horses were borne away by the torrent. The width of the river at that point exceeded 100 yards, and its depth varied from two to four feet. The streams west of this crossing place are said to be full of rapids. The western branch of the river is nearly equal in size to the eastern; but its tributaries are, however, less copious.

It may be advisable to say something more of the aspect of this territory.

The Snowy mountains, (Sierras Nevadas, as Vasquez named them in 1540,) extending from the Rocky mountains to the Pacific, are drained by the largest rivers of North America. From these mountains a spur of rugged hills extends southwardly, between the principal branches of the Sacramento, to that fork of the river of which I have spoken. These hills are manifestly of volcanic origin, and they might well be named the "Volcanic ridge." They abound in basaltic and vitrified stones, scoria, and many other products of volcanic action. Along their base stretches

a beautiful chain of prairies, for 70 or 80 miles, watered by numerous streams and rivulets.

North of the 39th deg. of latitude, the whole character and aspect of the country changes suddenly, and decidedly for the better. At this latitude commences the southerly slope of the Snowy mountains. The soil upon most of the hills seems admirably adapted to the growth of forest trees, and the prairies and pleasant valleys which there abound furnish the best possible land for farming purposes. Now and then, however, occurs a hill destitute of vegetation, scattered over which are to be found dark-colored iron stones, of all shapes, with sharp edges, resembling clinkers in the arches of a brick kiln; and reddish clay and gravel, like pulverized brick.

In this volcanic ridge I found a stratum of earth which the Mexicans called *tepetate*, and which forms a sort of cement. When covered by water, or buried so far below the earth as to retain moisture, it is so soft as to be easily penetrated by an iron bar, but it becomes as solid and impenetrable as a rock on being exposed to the sun or wind.

The prairies in this hilly region are narrow vales, which stretch like beautiful ribbons along the basis of the highlands and the margins of rivers. They are variegated with an infinite variety and abundance of vegetable productions, gay with a thousand blossoms, and fragrant with countless perfumes. Among the grasses which, in the month of September, were in full growth and vigor, I noticed the red clover, wild rye, wild oats, and a peculiar species of coarse grass, whose seed furnishes the natives with their most common article of food.

The timber trees of this region are numerous and valuable, and deserve some notice.

About the highlands of the Sacramento, I discovered abundance of the *white pine*. But this species, though of great size and value, does not compare with the prodigious size and towering height of the Lambert pine, (*pinus Lambertiana*,) or *pino colorado*. Cabrillo, in 1542, gave the name of "Bahia de los Pinos" to the harbor of Monterey, undoubtedly with reference to this splendid species of the conifereæ. The dimensions of the Lambert pine may be inferred from the fact that I found near Santa Cruz an extensive forest, the full-grown trees of which, at the height of twenty feet from the ground, in their diameter, would average from five to six feet. Their trunks run up like the spars of a ship, without branches, to a prodigious height. The wood of this pine has the color of red cedar, as might be inferred from its Spanish name, (*colorado*,) and the rift and softness of white pine. I examined one of the trees which had been felled, and by its concentric laminæ ascertained its age to be 510 years.

These majestic towers of evergreen continue as far northward as 40 degrees.

There are several kinds of *oak*. Of these, the most common is in California called white oak, (*encina blanca*,) rising to the average height of forty feet, its trunk measuring from six to eight feet in girth, with numerous branches, which grow together with such compactness as to furnish an impenetrable retreat to those who seek concealment therein, and in perfect symmetry of form, like the rounded tops of an apple orchard; these oaks present a very pleasing appearance to the eye.

The live oak (*quercus virens*) is likewise found in great abundance.

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It is said to grow only on the highlands ; in this respect differing from the live oak of Florida. It has a diameter of three or four feet, and an altitude of sixty or seventy. For solidity, strength, and durability, judging from specimens in my possession, I deem it equal to any in the world. This invaluable timber extends northward beyond the 40th parallel.

But the most lordly species of oak here found is the white oak, (*Q. naevalis*.) It abounds on the river banks, and covers the low hills on the prairies. It not unfrequently gives a diameter of five feet, measured at a height of ten or twelve feet above the ground, and its branches attain to corresponding dimensions, and extend a prodigious distance horizontally from the stem.

I might pursue to much greater length my statements in regard to this interesting region ; so as to speak of its towns, villages, missions, population, and of all its natural features and productions, more fully and minutely. But while I felt bound to allude, as I have, to the most remarkable facts which I observed during my travels in High California, I have avoided going into details, or making any statements which my own inspection has not enabled me to verify. A few words more concerning the native tribes of California, and I will pass northward to the Oregon.

Most of the native Indians have perished, or have gone into the missions about the bay of San Francisco. Many tribes are utterly extinct ; in places where I was told that, in 1832, there was a population of a thousand or fifteen hundred souls, I found sometimes but one hundred, sometimes not more than fifty, and sometimes none ; and not a vestige of their habitations, save a pile of discolored stones, or a slight depression of the soil. Pestilence and the wrath of man have combined in the work of extermination, until, of the ancient owners of this most interesting territory, very few now occupy its fertile fields. I do not believe, and I speak after due investigation, that the whole Indian population between the Colorado and the Pacific, in 1834, exceeded three thousand souls. But along the Sacramento and elsewhere, there is abundant evidence that, in former times, a teeming and crowded population was spread over that now desolate region.

When I remember the exuberant fertility, the exhaustless natural wealth, the abundant streams and admirable harbors, and the advantageous shape and position of High California, I cannot but believe that at no very distant day a swarming multitude of human beings will again people the solitude, and that the monuments of civilization will throng along those streams whose waters now murmur to the desert, and cover those fertile vales whose tumuli now record the idolatrous worship and commemorate the former existence of innumerable savage generations.

#### OREGON.

I will now present to the committee, in brief, the facts which I gathered during a residence of five months in the Oregon territory, and which relate to the aspect, mountains, rivers and other waters, climate, soil, productions, trade, and population, of that country. My inspection having been confined to the southwesterly portion of Oregon, I shall limit my statements accordingly.

The eastern section of the district referred to is bordered by a mountain range, running nearly parallel to the spine of the Rocky mountains

and to the coast, and which, from the number of its elevated peaks, I am inclined to call the *Presidents' range*.\*

There is a great uniformity of aspect among these peaks. They all resemble the frustum of a cone, the declivity forming an angle of from thirty to thirty-five degrees with the horizon. They lift their bold summits several thousand feet from their mountain bases, are thinly wooded near the bottom, but from mid-distance upward present their barren sides in the naked deformity of rock, lava, cinders, or whatever else might have con- glowing, at some former period, from the deep-caverned volcanic cauldrons below. I did not ascend them; but if it be safe to reason on the analogy furnished by the Mexican peaks, whose summits I did explore, and whose forms are precisely similar, these elevated summits are the chimneys of extinct volcanoes, and retain the vestiges of those craters from which the fiery discharges and eruptions were wont to be made.

I encamped for some time at the base of Mount Jackson, and was equally moved by the sublime spectacle of its abrupt ascent and towering grandeur, and by the beautiful diversity of its aspect and colors, engirdled as it was below with successive belts of forest, shrub, and hardy plant, and terminating aloft in perpetual frost and unbroken desolation. It was my misfortune at this time to be disabled by ill health, so far as to be prevented both from ascending this peak, and from measuring its altitude and fixing its exact latitude.

From the Presidents' range there are two chains of hills extending to the Pacific ocean; one of them branching off from the base of J. Q. Adams peak, flanked on the north by the Umpqua river, and on the south by the Clamet, and terminating on the coast, in latitude ———, in high bluffs; and the other chain running from Adams peak, nearly parallel with the Columbia river, until it reaches the ocean in a lofty summit, called by Lewis and Clark "Clark's Point of View."

In all these chains of hills, and conical peaks, and isolated piles, whether springing from the heart of the prairie or clustering amongst the highlands, I feel confident that we discover unquestionable proof that in former ages this western portion of our continent was convulsed, rent asunder, and thrown into wild disorder, by earthquakes and the operation of subterranean fires.

The first important river in Oregon, on the northerly side of the Snowy mountains, is the Clamet. It is formed of two branches, one of which rises in a lake of the same name, measuring some fifteen or twenty miles over; the other in Mount Monroe.

Both these branches are mountain torrents, rushing furiously over rocky beds to their confluence. After breaking through a ridge of low rocky hills, some thirty miles from the coast, the Clamet proceeds in a north-westerly direction, and with a moderated current, to the Pacific.

Next northwardly from the Clamet is the river Umpqua, very similar in size, character, and direction, rapid during most of its course, but passing through the level country near its embouchure with slackened speed.

\* These isolated and remarkable cones, which are now called among the hunters of the Hudson's Bay Company by other names. I have christened after our ex-Presidents, viz: 1. Washington, latitude 46 deg. 15 min.; 2. Adams, latitude 45 deg. 10 min.; 3. Jefferson, latitude 44 deg. 30 min.; 4. Madison, latitude 43 deg. 50 min.; 5. Monroe, latitude 43 deg. 20 min.; 6. J. Q. Adams, latitude 42 deg. 10 min.; and 7. Jackson, latitude 41 deg. 40 min.

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These two rivers are divided, as I have before stated, by one of the spurs of the Presidents' range. Their margins are finely wooded and timbered, broken into an agreeable variety of hill and dale, and covered with an excellent soil. The pine, oak, and other timber, is very abundant and very heavy, not only along the main stream of these rivers, but among all the highlands where they and their tributaries take rise.

The Wallamette, an important branch of the Columbia river, has its head waters near the sources of the Umpqua, receives numerous tributary streams from the Presidents' range, to which its course runs nearly parallel, and pours its floods into the Columbia, about eighty miles from the ocean. On its upper course it is said to be broken into several beautiful cataracts. For the last hundred miles above its junction, it traverses a comparatively level and open country; and, with the exception of one short portage, is navigable for this whole distance by boats drawing three or four feet of water. It penetrates the ridge of hills bordering the southern shore of the Columbia, and at that place falls over three several terraces of basaltic rock, making in all a descent of twenty-five feet. These falls are twenty miles from the Columbia. Below this point its banks are low, and subject to inundation in the season of "freshets" or vernal floods. It has two mouths, formed by the position of a group of three islands, whose longitudinal extent is sixteen miles, and which, though lying chiefly in the Columbia, project into the current of the Wallamette, and divide its waters in the manner described. This river has been sometimes misnamed the "Multonomah," with reference to a tribe of Indians, now extinct, who formerly occupied the land lying around its southern entrance into the Columbia.

In beauty of scenery, fertility of soil, and other natural advantages, no portion of our country surpasses that which is found upon the Wallamette. The whole valley of this river abounds in white oak and other valuable timber. Fringes of trees grow along the margin of the stream, and back of these are rich bottom lands or prairie ground of inexhaustible fertility, and adorned with all the wealth of vegetation. From these prairies, which are sometimes a few rods and sometimes several miles wide, often rise round isolated hills, heavily wooded, and presenting a lovely contrast to the sea of grasses and flowers from which they spring.

I have now reached the *Columbia* river. The few statements which I propose to make concerning this noble stream will refer to matters which may not come within the knowledge of the committee from other sources.

I made surveys of the Columbia from the Wallamette to the ocean, the results of which appear upon the map which I had the honor to transmit to the committee.

For about 100 miles above its mouth, the banks of the Columbia are generally above the reach of inundation. The periodical floods begin about the first of May, and subside about the middle of June; and of the distance of which I have above spoken, it may be that one tenth part is reached by the waters.

During all seasons of the year the entrance into the Columbia is both difficult and dangerous. Flats and sand bars stretch nearly the whole distance between its two headlands, Point Adams and Cape Hancock, ("Disappointment,") leaving only a narrow channel near the point last named. This channel, however, furnishes at all times more than twenty feet of water.



From October to April, the prevalence of strong westerly winds increases the difficulty of threading this channel. The waves are driven landward with great violence, and break upon the shoals and bars with tremendous force and deafening roar. It sometimes happens, therefore, that vessels are driven by the force of the waves from the channel, and dashed hopelessly upon those treacherous sands.

There are several *harbors*, formed by the curvature of the river banks, which deserve mention.

Of these, *Chenook harbor*, on the northerly shore, is a spacious bay directly back of Cape Hancock, having deep soundings and a good bottom, the outer part of which is somewhat exposed, but within it is sheltered by the cape.

*Gray's harbor*, on the same side of the river, about ten miles from the cape, is better protected than Chenook, but it is comparatively shallow, except for a short distance, where the water measures three and four fathoms. It must become a great place for ship building, in consequence of the vicinity of immense quantities of ship timber.

Nearly opposite is *Astor harbor*, lying a little south of "Tongue point." Though not wholly defended from the westerly winds, it is the best of the harbors yet mentioned, having soundings of from four to seven fathoms, and a muddy bottom. From Astor harbor to Cape Hancock the direct distance is eleven miles; but by the channel it is increased to something over fourteen.

Directly over against Chenook harbor is *Meriwether bay*, a deep opening behind Point Adams, inaccessible to vessels of large size, by reason of sand bars, but furnishing a secure anchorage to the smaller craft.

It would be easy to improve the entrance of the Columbia by cutting a ship channel across a narrow strip of lowland from Chenook bay to a small but deep harbor which lies north of Cape Hancock. The distance does not exceed a hundred rods; a creek extends nearly across, and the spring flood flows quite over it. My belief is that, at some former period, the waters of the Columbia had a free outlet at this place; but that the gradual deposite of sand and alluvion choked up the channel.

So also might a canal be cut at small expense from Chenook harbor, some thirty miles northwestwardly, to Bulfinch's bay, by which the navigation would be greatly facilitated. The intervening land invites this enterprise; for it is not only low and level, but, for a considerable portion of the distance, ponds and natural channels of water furnish great facilities to such a work.

The Columbia is, at all seasons, navigable for ships to the head of tide water, which is two miles from its outlet. The brig *Convoy*, Captain Thompson, in the season of the freshet, ascended forty miles further, to the falls.

The *climate* of this region is mild, salubrious, and healthful. During the whole winter of 1834-'5, settlers on the Columbia were engaged in ploughing and sowing their lands, and cattle were grazing on the prairies. One of the factors of the Hudson's Bay Company, who cultivated an extensive farm on the northern bank of the Columbia, informed me that he sowed one hundred and fifty bushels of wheat during the months of January and February. I knew of but three falls of snow during that winter in the vicinity of the river. These occurred in February, and neither of them exceeded three inches in depth. The 28th

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of February was the coldest day in the season; rain fell during the forenoon. It then cleared off cold, and, for a few hours, houses, trees, and fields, sparkled in an icy covering.

During the winter, nearly every day witnessed an alternation of sunshine and rain; the forenoons being mild and clear, and the afternoons ending in showers or drizzling rain.

The healthfulness of this country is unquestionable. With the exception of some few low and swampy spots on the banks of the Columbia, at and below the junction of the Wallamette, the whole region of the Columbia enjoys a clear and fine atmosphere, and an exemption from all the ordinary causes of endemic disease. It is said that till the year 1830 fever and ague had not been known. In that year, as I was informed, the Indians suffered from intermittent fevers. But there was no reason to attribute this mortality to climate. On the other hand, it is believed that the excessive filth and slovenly habits of the inhabitants of the English settlement at Vancouver were the occasion of the disease. Vancouver itself is situated on a high, delightful, and salubrious spot, and nothing but gross and unpardonable habits of life could render it unwholesome.

All veritable evidence speaks favorably of the climate of this beautiful tract of country, and none but ignorant or deceitful witnesses have ever testified to the contrary.

The valley of the Wallamette is the finest country I ever saw, whether for the gratification of the eye or the substantial comforts of life, for all the natural elements of wealth or for its adaptation to the wants and happiness of civilized man. It declares to the intelligent observer, beyond the power of doubt, that it is intended to be the habitation of myriads of civilized and happy men.

So far as I could learn from intelligent and credible witnesses, the country north of the Columbia, to the 54th parallel, possesses nearly the same character which I have described as belonging to the region which I myself traversed.

The *Hudson's Bay Company*, who have long occupied this territory, and endeavored to monopolize the benefits of its trade, it is believed, possesses greater capital, and employs a larger number of men in its various departments of service, than any other association, excepting, perhaps, the East India Company, under the auspices of the British Government.

For nearly twenty years, ever since, in 1821, the Northwest Company was finally broken up, the Hudson's Bay Company have exercised an almost unlimited control over the Indian tribes and the trade of the whole country west of the Rocky mountains.

It has made great progress in settling that region. In 1834, it had over 2,000 men engaged in trading, farming, mechanical, and commercial operations. Of these individuals, the major part had taken Indian women to wife, by whom they had children of all ages, from infancy to manhood. The company exercise full authority over all, whether Indians, English, or Americans, who are in its service, and in a manner always injurious, and generally disastrous, to all others who undertake to trade or settle in that territory. It may be said, in fact, that Americans, except associated with this company, are not permitted to carry on a traffic within several hundred miles of the company's posts. I cannot state how long the inland trade has thus been cut off. But, until within the last season, our

merchants, since 1834, have not been allowed to participate in the lucrative trade and commerce of the northwest coast. While I was at Vancouver, in that year, the American ship *Europa*, Captain Allen, of Boston, was on that coast. The Hudson's Bay Company, in pursuance of their regular policy, immediately fitted out the brig *Llama*, and instructed her captain, McNiell, (as he himself informed me,) to follow the *Europa* from port to port, and harbor to harbor, and drive her off the coast at any sacrifice, by underselling her, no matter what her prices, whenever she should open a trade. It has been declared by Mr. Simpson, who was at the head of the company's marine, that they were resolved, even at the cost of a hundred thousand pounds, to expel the Americans from traffic on that coast.

I am informed that, in November last, (1838,) the brig *Joseph Peabody*, of New York, was fitted and sent out to attempt once more the northwest fur trade. The voyage is regarded as an experiment, and her chance of success depends on her finding the company unprepared for her arrival. So long as our Government slumbers on her rights, so long must the enterprise of our citizens, even within our own territorial limits, even within American sovereignty, be rendered abortive by the force or fraud of foreign monopolists.

In their intercourse with the Indians, the Company are governed by no higher principle than self-interest, and are frequently guilty of the most arbitrary acts. While I was there, the company surgeon at Vancouver deliberately seized an Indian who had been guilty of some indecency, and proceeded to mutilate his person; and, for this wrong, neither the victim nor his friends dared to ask for redress, or even to make any complaint.

The number of trading posts in Oregon, belonging to this company, in 1834, exceeded twenty. These are called "forts;" but they are mostly regular villages, such as Vancouver, Wallawallah, Oakenagen, Colville, Neperces, &c. At these places are seen houses, stores, workshops, traders, farmers, artisans, herds of cattle, and cultivated farms, waving with abundant harvests; in short, every appearance of permanent and flourishing settlements. Of these farming establishments, full accounts are already supplied by Mr. Slacum. I will only add a few facts in regard to this subject. I saw at Vancouver a large and splendid barn, in which was a thrashing machine that cost \$1,500, and was worked by oxen. Connected with the same farming establishment, I saw also more than 1,000 head of neat cattle, grazing on the ever-verdant prairie, and flocks of sheep, and swine, and horses, and domestic fowls of various kinds, both in and around the village.

The stocks of grain on that farm exceeded any thing of the kind that I had ever seen in the United States. Twelve thousand bushels of wheat, at a very moderate computation, remained in the sheaf at the time of my leaving Vancouver in the spring.

Six miles above Vancouver, on the same side of the river, was a large saw mill, capable of cutting from 20 to 25 thousand feet of boards per day, throughout the year. It can be readily inferred that, with this and other such mills, vast havoc would soon be made on the timber of this region, and the banks of the rivers and streams be cleared of that which is at once the most valuable and the most accessible.

The town of Vancouver, as I have stated, stands on a high and healthy

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spot. I might, with propriety, dwell for a moment upon its picturesque and beautiful landscape. Directly back of the village the ground rises considerably, forming a kind of "steppe" or plateau, from which the prospect is one of the loveliest on which my eye ever rested, diversified by all that is wild, rugged, and sublime, in forest and mountain scenery, or soft and smiling in lowland and meadow, river and plain; all that the bounty of nature or the skill of man combined can furnish to surprise or delight the eye and the taste of the beholder. In the distance, yet looking as though within reach, are the snowy peaks of the Rocky mountains, whose frosty mantle defies the hottest sun of summer. Nearer at hand is a vast ocean of forest, variegated with every hue known to the foliage of trees, whether deciduous or evergreen. At your feet are a thousand appearances of industry, wealth, and prosperity, and before you are the valleys of both the Wallamette and Columbia, spreading and winding afar, and almost wearying the eye with countless varieties of aspect and innumerable forms of loveliness.

Amongst the other forms of industry at Vancouver, ship building should not be omitted. There was a ship yard there in 1834, where several vessels had been built, and where all the vessels of the Hudson's Bay Company were repaired. The neighboring forests abound in timber adapted to naval purposes: such as oak, cedar, spruce, and firs, of gigantic growth. There is, in particular, an extensive forest of white oak within a small distance of the fort.

I found that a canal had been commenced at the falls of the Wallamette by the company, for the purpose of making the head of water available for practical purposes—the propulsion of machinery, &c.

Families who had settled in the valley of the Wallamette continued under the government and control of the Company, receiving therefrom, on loan, all the stock, stores, and implements of agriculture, in consideration of which they stipulated that all the marketable products of their farms should be sold exclusively to the company. Oxen and cows were furnished in like manner, it being the settled policy of the company not to sell or kill any cattle until the country should become well stocked.

All these circumstances indicated a disposition to form permanent interests and establishments; on the part of this great association and its members and servants; and I was assured that, whatever may be the result of the disputed question of sovereignty and occupancy, most of the people of this territory will remain quietly fixed in their residences.

The fisheries of this territory have been comparatively neglected by the Company. They might be made immensely productive and profitable, for there are several species of fish, particularly salmon, which swim in countless numbers in the Columbia and its branches, and are easily taken and prepared for exportation. Formerly they put up 500 or 1,000 barrels of salmon per year at Vancouver alone, and a much larger quantity at Fort Langley.

The trade of the Company consists of furs, lumber, flour, fish, grain, and potatoes. The amount of traffic in furs I have no accurate means of computation; but that it is enormous may be safely inferred from the fact that a single individual at Astoria, in 1834, collected more than 1,800 beaver skins, although that post was nearly deserted.

The furs and peltries are shipped to London. Other exports find a ready market in California and the Sandwich islands: such as fir boards

and other lumber, white oak ship timber, spruce knees and spars, and white ash oars. In return, the company receive provisions, salt, sugar, molasses, spirits, &c. They obtain beef cattle from California, at three dollars per head, and pay for them in lumber, at sixty to one hundred dollars per M.

Some notion of the amount of lumber exported may be obtained from the fact that the vessel which bore me from Oregon to the Sandwich islands brought out the complement of a quantity of boards contracted for at the price of twenty thousand dollars.

The value of flour at the Russian settlements varied from fifteen to twenty dollars per barrel. In more southerly markets, salmon were worth twenty dollars per barrel, and sixty dollars per M was the minimum price of merchantable boards.

I arrived at Vancouver unwell; and was hospitably welcomed by Mr. McLaughlin, the chief factor. Medical aid was rendered me; a house in the village was furnished for my use, and all my physical wants were supplied; but I was forbidden to enter the fort! Before I had been long in the country, I learned that the factor and his agents were preparing, in every artful way, to render my abode there uncomfortable and unsafe. The most preposterous calumnies and slanders were set on foot in regard to my character, conduct, and designs. All my movements were watched, and, in some instances, I was threatened with violence, by persons who had been instigated, as I had reason to believe, by the Company. Had I been willing to place myself under the control and direction of the Company, all would have been peace; but so long as I was resolved to act independently, as an American on American soil, seeking authentic information, for general diffusion, and pursuing the avowed purpose of opening the trade of the territory to general competition, and the wealth of the country to general participation and enjoyment, so long was I an object of dread and dislike to the grasping monopolists of the Hudson's Bay Company.

My abode in Oregon was thus rendered very disagreeable. The loss of my property on the route had obliged me to vary my original plans, and limit my enterprise to such an examination of the country as would enable me to enlighten the American public on my return to the United States. I remained, therefore, in Oregon no longer than was needful to satisfy myself on the desired points of inquiry; and so long as I did remain, I was treated very much like a prisoner of war, although not subjected to actual confinement.

When I left the Oregon country, I took passage in the brig Dryad, Captain Keplin, for the Sandwich islands.

The petition recently presented to the Senate of the United States, signed by residents of Oregon, will fortify my views in regard to the necessity for some degree of protection on the part of Government over the people of that territory.

I come now, in conclusion, to say something of the Indians of Oregon.

This unfortunate race of men, as on the eastern so on the western shore of America, perish and pass away at the approach of white men, like those who are swept off by pestilence. By the accounts of voyagers and travellers who visited Oregon 30 or 40 years ago, it is made evident that the Indian population was then very numerous. But of their hundred tribes, sovereign and subordinate, including probably one hundred and fifty thousand souls, but a small fraction now remains.

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In 1804, within 100 miles upward from the mouth of the Columbia, there were no less than eight Indian tribes, with an average population of nearly a thousand persons to each tribe. In 1834, nothing remained but the remnants of these tribes, including less than four hundred Indians. Two thirds of all the tribes ever known in Oregon are utterly extinct, and the names of many are scarcely remembered.

The Multonomahs, who formerly occupied the Wappatoo islands, and the country around the mouth of the Wallamette, and who numbered 3,000 souls, are all dead, and their villages reduced to desolation. The once numerous Clatsops have lost their national existence, the few who survive seeking a shelter amongst the Chenooks, who are also reduced to less than one fourth of their former numbers.

All the remaining Indians below Vancouver live in the most brutal, sottish, and degraded manner; addicted to the grossest intemperance, and associating with the whites in such manner that there can scarcely be found among them a full-blooded Indian child. Rum and other intoxicating liquors are used as the besom of destruction among the miserable victims of the white man's cruelty. While I was on board one of the company's vessels, at the mouth of the Columbia, I saw the captain dealing out rum by the bucket to the chief of the Chenooks, in return for wild game. I saw the chief, with his family of eight persons, intoxicated on the shore.

Such has been the result of the intercourse between the untutored children of the wild and the inhabitants of civilized and Christian communities.

In concluding this imperfect letter, I ought, in justice to myself, to state that it was not disappointment in regard to the natural advantages of Oregon which prevented my forming a permanent connexion with that region; but I was impelled by a determination to do all in my power, by constant effort in the United States, to lead our Government to extend over Oregon that paternal care which alone is needed to render it the very nucleus of emigration, and the most attractive portion of our national domain.

Having, by the hardships and exposures of a lonely and long-continued adventure of life, been deprived in a great degree of the use of my eyes, my health broken down, and my constitution shattered, I have, of course, since my return, found my exertions restricted and impaired, but by no means terminated. It is consoling to me, in the midst of poverty and suffering, to believe that my fellow-citizens and my country are at last beginning to appreciate the value of the objects and measures for which I have sacrificed my possessions, my health, and the best portion of my life. It is also a matter of congratulation to me that some of those whom my persuasion induced to emigrate to Oregon have there found prosperous settlements, and are now asking Congress to accept them and protect them as citizens; and that I have, therefore, been instrumental in planting the seed of American empire in a soil where it shall take root, and spring up and flourish like the luxuriant productions there scattered by the bounty of nature.

I have the honor to be, dear sir, yours, with the highest consideration and respect,

HALL J. KELLEY.

Hon. CALEB CUSHING.

