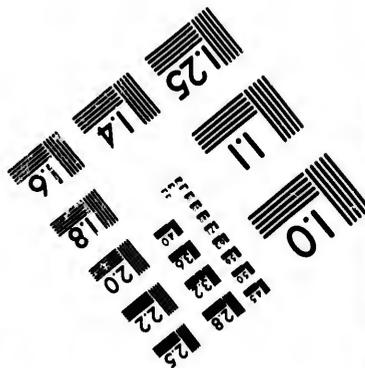
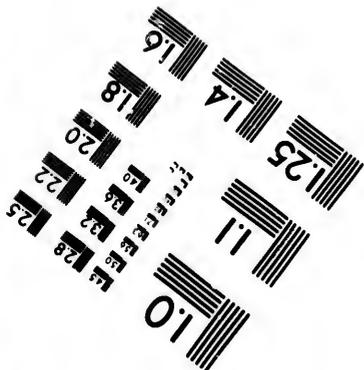
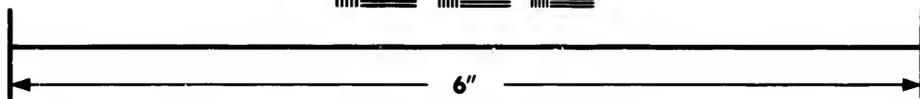
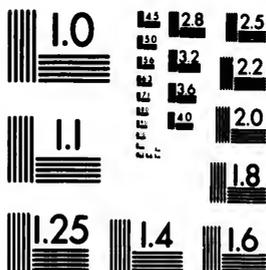


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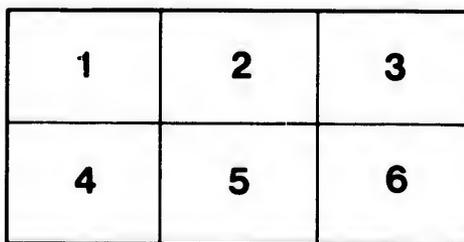
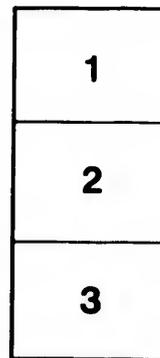
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butter, cheese, fruit, and all that is necessary for the comforts of life. There was one thing hitherto wanting, which the authorities have recently directed their attention to: the inhabitants had already a church—their children will now have a school.

When we consider the difficulties which stand in the way of the establishment of new centres of population in so wild a country, we cannot help auguring well of the prospects of the Colony, especially if we observe that this village, now only twenty months old, and which was founded at an epoch when security was far from existing, has, nevertheless, made most rapid advances, thanks to the courage, the efforts, and unceasing perseverance of its first inhabitants.

What we have above said concerning Draria may be repeated of several localities, among others of Sabel, which only two years and a half ago was a mere wilderness covered with dwarf palms and bushes, and which indefatigable industry has embellished with numerous houses, a beautiful church, with graceful turrets and flowing fountains. It is easily conceivable what advantage the government may derive from individual efforts, by assisting, encouraging, and interesting them in the prosperous result, as much by the well-being which it will insure to the colonists, as by the very labour which it will permit them to undertake.

THE OREGON QUESTION.

DURING the last session of Congress, the President of the United States announced that he was about to invite the British Government to enter into a negotiation for the settlement of their mutual rights, by determining on such a division of the country as, after a strict and proper investigation, should appear to be just and equitable between the two countries.

It is quite fair to assume that some communication or overture was made, and as it must be equally desirable to both governments that the question should be speedily settled, there can be no doubt that the propositions, whatever they were, would be received by the British Government in a peaceful and friendly spirit, with a hope and expectation that, like the long-vexed and agitated North-West Boundary, the proper line of demarcation would be agreed and determined on.

The proper course would then have been, that the question should have been left to the two governments; but, with a heat and impetuosity quite unjustifiable, some member of the Senate of the United

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States introduced a bill into that House which was allowed to go further than it ought to have done, although ultimately withdrawn.

During the present year many meetings have been held in different States of the Union, at which speeches were made, and resolutions passed, asserting the unequivocal and undoubted rights of the States to the whole of the territory, and calling on the General Government to take instant measures for enforcing them; these proceedings are of very little importance, as we all remember that equally violent measures were taken on the settlement of the Boundary question between Maine and New Brunswick, and which, on its final arrangement between the two governments by the Ashburton Treaty, have been so easily and readily acquiesced in. So it will be on the settlement, whatever it may be, between the governments on the Oregon question, and there for the present it ought to rest, since whatever may be said or written by interested or heated partisans will, it is hoped, have but small weight with those who may as negotiators be appointed to draw up and agree upon its final arrangement. The American President's Message, which has just arrived as we are going to press, distinctly recommends to the United States the taking possession of the Oregon territory; and this decision, if acted upon, appears likely to embroil us again with the American Government.

The Oregon territory is not perhaps in a commercial point of view of any very great importance to England; its products are very few, and only such as we can obtain of much better quality and on easier terms from other countries. It serves as an outlet for the furs of the United North-West and Hudson's Bay Companies into the Pacific and thence to China; but as it embraces the only large river in that part of the world to which we have any claim, it may, in a national sense, such as Gibraltar or Malta, be thought well worth the keeping; and if it should be so considered, we ought not, at whatever cost, to be induced very easily to abandon it.

Whether during the present year negotiations have been going on or not, does not seem to be clearly understood; but as it is a question that cannot be, nor ought to be, much longer in abeyance, we consider that a description of the country, which at least in England is so little known and appreciated, will be generally acceptable, so that whenever the question shall come before the public for their discussion and opinions, the extent, situation, and commercial advantages of the Oregon territory, may be properly understood and duly appreciated.

The Columbia is its only important river, and to whichever country it shall be allotted, must be of great and primary importance: the

better course would be that it should be the settled boundary between us, as far as it conveniently could be, and certainly as far as it was navigable to the sea. The north bank of that river is now occupied by agents and settlers of the Hudson's Bay Company; and on the south bank we have Astoria, founded by the agents of the late Mr. Astor, of New York, and which has been so fully described in Washington Irving's "Astoria." Mr. Astor was a German, settled at New York, and most extensively engaged in the fur trade, in which he realised a very splendid fortune, and his object appears to have been a rivalry of the fur trade with the Hudson's Bay Company, by attracting a large proportion of it from Montreal to New York. He endeavoured to interest the American Government of the day in his views and objects by the settlement, but received very little encouragement; indeed, in a reply made to him by Mr. Jefferson, who was then President, he was distinctly told that it was too far off for a beneficial union with the other States; but that at some future time it would form a free and independent government of itself, connected with the Atlantic States only by the inhabitants being of the same stock and kindred; and whoever considers the immense distance between them, will, no doubt, arrive at the same conclusion.

Whether the course of the Columbia and other rivers may be the best boundary or not, remains yet to be settled; but the tacit occupation of the north bank by the British, and the south bank by the Americans, seems to indicate that for its length it would be so; and other natural or appropriate lines can be easily traced out to meet the final line in lat. 49°, where the boundary between us has been already settled; thus adopting the principle that prevails between Lower Canada and the States, which runs on the parallel of 45° up to a certain point, and then diverges to make the present settlement between Maine and New Brunswick.

Whenever the boundary shall be settled between the governments, Great Britain ought to begin to act upon it. The most eligible site upon the Columbia or the coast should be selected for the erection of a large town to be the seat of government for the whole country; other localities should be forthwith determined on, and ten thousand settlers at once sent out to take and hold possession. Horses and cattle may be found in sufficient numbers in the country. Sheep of the most desirable breeds can be sent in any numbers from New South Wales or Van Dieman's Land; the Government establishments should be kept at the lowest possible scale, as all the revenue that can be expected for some years to be raised would be much better expended than by the payment of

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useless or superfluous officers. The inhabitants should be enrolled as militia; and, for a constitutional constabulary force, no government military establishment can be at all necessary: the occasional visit from some of our ships of war, that for the future will be always found in the Pacific, will be all that can be useful or desirable.

The Oregon Territory consists of a large extent of country lying between the Rocky mountains and the Pacific Ocean, and drained by the Columbia river and its tributaries. The boundaries of this country are not entirely settled. The *natural* boundaries of this territory are—on the *east* the Rocky mountains, extending about 900 miles from the 41° to the 54° north lat.; on the *south*, the snowy mountains, extending from the Rocky mountains to Cape Mendocino, on the Pacific, in 40° north latitude; on the *west*, the Pacific Ocean about 500 miles due north to Cape Flattery, at the entrance of the Strait of Fuca, about lat. north 48°; and on the *north*, by a line extending from Cape Flattery about 120 miles north-east, and thence a line along the highlands separating the waters of the Columbia from those of Fraser's river to the Rocky mountains. The country thus described contains about 350,000 square miles. The United States claim the country from the 42° to the 54° of north latitude; while the British urge their claim to the country as far south as the Columbia river; and both parties occupy the country.

The territory drained by the Columbia presents a constant succession of mountain ridges and valleys, or plains of small extent. The principal ridges are two in number, besides the Rocky mountains, running nearly parallel to each other and to the coast; and the country is thus divided into three great regions, which differ materially in climate, soil, and productiveness. The first region, or low country, is that between the coast and chain of mountains nearest to the sea; the second region is between the mountains nearest the sea and the middle ridge, called the Blue mountains; and the third region, or high country, is between the Blue mountains and the Rocky mountains. All these divisions are crossed by the Columbia, the main stream of which is formed in the middle region, by the union of several branches flowing from the Rocky mountains, and receiving in their course supplies from innumerable smaller tributaries, draining the intermediate countries.

The distance from the coast to the nearest chain is, in some places, 100 miles; in others, much less. The intervening country is crossed in various directions by low ridges connected with the principal chain, some of them parallel to it, and others stretching toward the ocean. From this region the Willamette river comes more than 200 miles, in a direction nearly due north, and enters the Columbia on its south side. The valley through which it passes is said to be the most delightful and fertile in North-western America. The climate of the region between the ocean and the first range, though not unhealthy, is not very favourable to agriculture. The summer is warm and dry. From April to October, while the westerly winds prevail, rain seldom falls in any part of Oregon; during the other months, when the south wind blows constantly, the rains are almost incessant in the lower region, though sometimes the dry season continues there longer. Further from the Pacific, the rains are less frequent and abundant; and near the Rocky mountains they are reduced to a few

showers in the spring. In the valleys of the low country snow is rarely seen, and the ground is so little frozen that ploughing may generally be done during the whole winter. Most of the productions of the northern states, excepting Indian corn, succeed tolerably well. Horses and neat cattle will subsist without fodder through the winter. The second bottoms of the rivers, being above inundation, are extremely fertile, and prairies are considerably numerous and extensive. The forests on the uplands, although the soil is tolerably good, abound with such enormous trees, as almost to defy cultivation. A fir tree, growing near Astoria, on the Columbia, eight miles from the sea, was 46 feet in circumference 10 feet from the ground, and 153 feet in length, before giving off a single branch, and not less than 300 feet in its whole height. Another tree, of the same species, on the banks of the Umqua, was 57 feet in circumference, and 216 feet in length below its branches; and sound pines, from 200 to 280 feet in height, and from 20 to 40 feet in circumference, are not uncommon.

The middle region of Oregon, between the mountains nearest the coast and the Blue mountains on the east, is more elevated and dry, and less fertile than the low country. It consists chiefly of plains, between ridges of mountains, the soil of which is generally a yellow sandy clay, covered with grass, small shrubs, and prickly pears. Timber is very scarce; the trees are of soft and useless woods, such as cotton-wood, sumac, and willow, which are found only in the neighbourhood of streams.

The climate is salubrious, the air is dry in summer, the days warm, and the nights cool. The rain begins later and ends sooner than in the lower country. This country is poorly adapted to cultivation, but is well suited to grazing, the grass being abundant in a green or dry state through the year. Horses are here reared in abundance by the Indians, some of whom own hundreds of them. The Blue mountains on the east of this region extend through the whole territory of the Columbia, though frequently broken into several ridges. These mountains are steep, with a volcanic appearance, and their highest peaks are covered with perpetual snow.

The third and last division of Oregon lies between the Blue mountains on the west, and the Rocky mountains on the east. The southern part of this region is a desert of steep rocky mountains, deep narrow valleys, and wide plains covered with sand and gravel. There is little snow in the valleys in the winter, but much on the mountains. It rarely rains, and no dew falls. The difference between the temperature at sunrise and at noon in summer is often forty degrees.

The Columbia is the great river of this territory. The northern branch, which retains the name of the principal stream, rises in the Rocky mountains, in about 54° of north latitude, and pursues a southern course to latitude 52°, where it is joined by two other streams, one coming from the south, along the base of the Rocky mountains, and the other rising in a gorge of that chain in latitude 53°, its head being a small lake, which is within a few feet of another, whence the waters run into the Athabasca, one of the branches of McKenzie's river, which flows to the Arctic Ocean. Two hundred miles south of the junction, the Columbia receives McGillivray's river, and a little lower down Clark's river, which, at the place of union, is nearly as large as the Columbia. The sources of Clark's river are near those of the Missouri, and the interven-

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ing ridge is not very high, allowing of an easy pass across the mountains. In its course, Clark's river spreads out into a lake, thirty-five miles long and five or six broad, situated in a rich valley, surrounded by snow-clad mountains of great elevation. Just before the passage of the Columbia through the Blue mountains, Clark's river enters it; and just above its entrance are the Kettle falls in Clark's river. Thence the Columbia flows west 100 miles to its junction with the Okannagan, a large stream from the north. In latitude $46^{\circ} 8'$ the Columbia is joined by Lewis river, its great southern branch. It rises in an angle formed by the junction of Rocky and Snowy mountains, between the 42° and 44° of north latitude, near the sources of the Colorado, the Platte, the Yellow Stone, and the Missouri rivers. It thence flows along the foot of the Snowy mountains to the Blue mountains, through one ridge of which it passes near the 43° of latitude, having there the Salmon or Fishing falls. It then runs north-west to its junction with the Columbia, having received several small rivers in its course, the largest of which are Wapiticacos and Salmon rivers from the east. The Columbia, just below the junction of its two great branches, receives the Walla-walla, Falls, and other rivers from the south, and then passes the range of mountains nearest the Pacific, in latitude 46° . Below the mouth of the Walla-walla, and before passing the mountains, the Columbia has rapids, impassable at low water, but passable at high water, both up and down. Five miles below them are the *Dalles*, or narrows, where the river rushes through a space not more than 150 feet wide, walled in by basaltic columns on both sides; and thirty-six miles lower down are the *Cascades*, which are falls impassable at all times. The tide comes up to the foot of the Cascades, and the navigation is good for vessels not drawing more than fourteen feet water, to this point, which is 125 miles from the ocean. The Multnomah or Wallamette enters the Columbia from the south, about twenty miles below Fort Vancouver, and is navigable twenty-five miles to the falls. From thence the Columbia proceeds ninety miles in a north-westerly course to its entrance into the Pacific Ocean.

One of the most striking features in this territory are the passes through that immense barrier, the Rocky mountains, which are in general a continuous chain; and which are found, near the north sources of the Columbia, to contain peaks 15 or 16,000 feet in height; and some north, which are thought to be much higher, and are probably the highest mountains in North America.

"It appears that the points of departure, on the eastern side of the mountains, within the jurisdiction of the United States, of all the passes across, are situated in the vicinity of the Black hills, and between the 43d and 45th parallels of latitude; and that among these passes across the mountains, there is one, and probably but one, sufficiently gradual in its ascents and descents, and sufficiently open, to admit of the passage of wheel carriages, and, consequently, of the ready construction of a convenient and good road. This pass goes through an opening in the Black hills, at about $44^{\circ} 30'$ north latitude, and, keeping between these hills and 'Big Horn mountain,' it crosses the tributaries of the Yellow Stone from the south, and finally the Yellow Stone itself. It then crosses the Missouri, or rather the three forks of that river, a short distance above their junction; from whence it pursues a south-westwardly direction, until arriving at the head waters of 'Bitter Root' river; thence down the valley of this river to its junction with the 'Salmon, or Lewis's river:'

and thence down the valley of this last river to its junction with the Columbia. From these facts, then, the vicinity of the Black hills has to be obtained, in order to cross the Rocky mountains from the east; and the best passage of these mountains, at present known, is the one just described. This vicinity is about 650 miles in a north-westwardly course from the position of Council Bluffs. But, from Council Bluffs, the course of the Missouri, by the latest and most authentic observations, is also north-westwardly, and for about 300 miles nearly parallel to the direction from the Bluffs to the black hills. The Missouri, therefore, would afford water transportation for about 300 miles of this route."—*Report of the Secretary of War, 1842.*

There are many lakes in this country, some of which discharge their waters into the sources of the Columbia, and some, having no outlets, are salt.

The principal harbour is formed by the Columbia river, which, between Cape Disappointment or Hancock and Point Adams at its mouth, is seven miles wide. From each of these points, a sand-bar runs into the water, and the waves of the Pacific, meeting the current of the Columbia with great violence, produce a line of breakers, which renders the navigation hazardous when the wind is at all high. The bar at its mouth is five miles across, and the channel, in one place, only half a mile wide, with a depth of from four and a half to eight fathoms.

The rise and fall of the tides at the mouth of the Columbia is about eight feet, gradually diminishing until you come to the mouth of the Willamette, where little or no difference in the tides is perceptible. At present, or until the channel is buoyed out, and a light-house erected on Cape Disappointment, it is unsafe for vessels of a greater draught of water than from ten to twelve feet to attempt entering the Columbia between the months of November and April, on account of the prevalent westerly winds, which make heavy breakers on the bar.

The inhabitants of this region consist of several Indian tribes, amounting in the whole to from forty to sixty thousand; and establishments formed by the British Hudson's Bay Company for trading with the Indians; together with a few missionary establishments from the United States. "The colony from the United States is situated on the Willamette, a branch of the Columbia, about ninety miles from the mouth of the river, which is undoubtedly the finest grazing and wheat country in Oregon. At present (1841) it consists of about seventy families, who raise considerable grain, and have about three thousand head of cattle. The mission last year raised one thousand bushels of wheat, and made butter, cheese, &c., enough for their own use. They have five hundred head of cattle, and two hundred horses; and last year they sowed four hundred bushels of wheat, one hundred and twenty bushels of peas, and planted a large quantity of potatoes and vegetables of all descriptions. They have hogs, poultry, &c., in abundance. Last year they raised over fifteen hundred bushels of potatoes. The extent of the country comprising the Willamette valley is about three hundred miles long and two hundred broad, interspersed with ravines of wood, generally of sufficient quantities for fuel and fencing. The land, in its natural state, is usually ready for the plough, and is very fertile, producing from twenty-five to forty bushels of wheat to the acre; and the climate is so mild that the cattle subsist in the fields without fodder or shelter of any kind being prepared or provided for

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them through the winter. Salmon can be taken at Wallamette falls, with little trouble, from May to September, in almost any quantity."

Fort Vancouver, on the north bank of the Columbia, ninety miles from the ocean, is the principal seat of the British fur trade. It has an enclosure, thirty-seven rods long, and 18 wide, strongly stockaded, within which are eight substantial buildings, and many smaller ones. This place has a considerable farming establishment. There are large fertile prairies, which they occupy for tillage and pasture; and forests for fencing materials and other purposes. In the year 1835, there were at this post 450 neat cattle, 100 horses, 200 sheep, 40 goats, and 300 hogs. They have a garden of five acres, abounding with excellent vegetables; with fruit, such as peaches, apples, strawberries; and some exotics, as figs, oranges, and lemons; and various ornamental plants and flowers. There is a flour-mill, worked by ox-power, and a saw-mill, from which boards are sent even to the Sandwich Islands. There is a school here for the children of the establishment. There are shops for blacksmiths, joiners, carpenters, and a tinner. Fort George, or Astoria, is eight miles from the mouth of the Columbia; has two buildings, and a garden of two acres. Fort Walla-walla is on the south side of the Columbia, ten miles below the entrance of Lewis river. On the Wallamette river, fifty-five miles above its entrance into the Columbia, is McKay's settlement, and twelve miles above is Jarvis's settlement, which contain about twenty families. They consist mostly of the retiring servants of the Hudson's Bay Company, with their half-bred families, and a few Americans. Fort Colvin is on the south side of Clark's river, below the Kettle falls, just before it enters the Columbia. There is a considerable farming establishment. Fort Okanogan is at the entrance into the Columbia of the river of that name, 100 miles below Clark's river. The Hudson's Bay Company have also several other trading posts in this territory. The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions have seven stations—viz.: 1st. *Astoria*. 2nd. *Maltonia*, or *Wallamette*. The 3rd station is on the Columbia river, 140 miles from its mouth: the river is navigable for large vessels up to this place; above this it becomes rapid and rocky. 4th. *Puget's Sound*—Here is a fine harbour, which will one day render it an important position in a commercial point of view: it is on the coast, 140 miles north of Columbia river. 5th. On the Wallamette, forty miles above its junction with the Columbia. There is a fall in the Wallamette at this point, supplying great water-power: small craft can ascend to this place. 6th. *Clatsop*, a new station near the mouth of the Columbia. 7th. On the Uniqua river, which empties into the Pacific some 200 miles south of the Columbia.

On the 7th of May, 1792, Captain Robert Gray, in the ship *Columbia*, of Boston, discovered and entered the Columbia river; to which he gave the name of his vessel. He was the first person that established the fact of the existence of this great river, and this gives to the United States the right of discovery. In 1804-5, Captains Lewis Clark, under the direction of the government of the United States, explored the country from the mouth of the Missouri to the mouth of the Columbia, and spent the winter of 1805-6 at the mouth of the Columbia. This exploration of the Columbia, the first ever made, constitutes another ground of the claim of the United States to the country. In 1808, the Missouri Fur Company, at St. Louis, established a trading post beyond the Rocky mountains, on the head waters of Lewis river, the first ever

formed on any of the waters of the Columbia. In 1810, the Pacific Fur Company, under John Jacob Astor, of New York, was formed; and in 1811, they founded Astoria, at the mouth of the Columbia, as their principal trading post, and proceeded to establish others in the interior. A little later in the same year, the North-West Company sent a detachment to form establishments on the Columbia; but when they arrived at the mouth of the river they found the post occupied. In consequence of the exposure of Astoria by the war of 1813, the post was sold out to the North West Company. At the close of the war Astoria was restored, by order of the British Government, to its original founders, agreeably to the first article of the Treaty of Ghent. Various attempts have been made since the war to renew the fur trade in Oregon. In 1821, the Hudson's Bay and North-West Company, who had previously been rivals, were united, and since that time have greatly extended their establishments in the region of Oregon. The British and American Governments have not yet been able to settle by negotiation their conflicting claims to the country. By the treaty for the purchase of Florida, in 1819, the boundary between the Spanish possessions and the United States was fixed in the north-west, at the 42° of north latitude, and the United States succeeded to all the title to Oregon which Spain had by right of discovery. At present, the subjects of Great Britain and of the United States exercise equally the right to occupy this country, and navigate its rivers for the purposes of trade, until the subject is disposed of by negotiation. In the mean time, the great capital, and the complete organisation of the Hudson's Bay Company, enable them to reap nearly all the advantages of the fur trade in the territory of Oregon.

The following communication from Mr. Farnham, the enterprising and well-informed traveller, appeared last month in the "American Agriculturist," a clever periodical issued at New York:—

As the interest excited last winter in the Oregon territory continues unabated, we give place to the following letter. We have the pleasure of a personal acquaintance with Mr. Farnham, and have also read his travels with much interest. He is a shrewd observer, and, so far as we are capable of judging, we do not think that he has underrated the Oregon territory. But we might as well undertake to stay the sun and moon in their course over the peaks of the Rocky Mountains, as emigration to the west by the hardy nomadic population of our country; and the shores of the Pacific, we have no doubt, will soon become the point of attraction for thousands upon thousands of hardy adventurers. Irving's beautiful descriptions of the wild scenes of the Pacific plains and valleys, and the sublimities of the snowy peaks of the Rocky Mountains, have often made us wish to become a wanderer among them.

DEAR SIR,—A reply to your request that I would give you a statement of the agricultural capacities of Oregon territory, has been so long delayed, that I scarcely believe you will find anything which I can now write an available apology even for my remissness, and much less a satisfactory answer to the strong desire of our country, to know whether they may or may not find a golden mountain and a vegetable elysium in that territory.

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that one can scarcely put the finger on a date in the history of man, when extravagance in the expectations of the race was more apparent; so that if I should write the mere naked truth, fortified by the observation of every man who has ever resided a twelvemonth in the territory, the desire to prove a garden of beauty "in the far west," to which our restless and energetic countrymen might emigrate, would find quite as much reason and truth in the dreams of their own wishes, and in the romantic representations in Parker's Travels, and Irving's Astoria, as in any statement which would cool the ardour of their pursuit after the ideal fig-bearing, orange-bearing, grape-bearing, wine-flowing soil of the Oregon.

But as you desire to present the mere truth to your readers, the following extract from my Travels in Oregon, &c., will answer your purpose.

In order to obtain a correct knowledge of the agricultural capabilities of the Oregon territory, it is necessary to refer the reader to the accounts already given of its different sections; to the barren valleys of the Saptin and the Columbia above its junction with the Saptin; to the account given of New Caledonia; and the description of that vast tract of deserts, dotted here and there with habitable spots, which occupies the space between the President's range on the west, and the Upper Columbia and the Blue mountains on the east. The remainder of the territory, commonly called the "Low Country," is the only portion of it that bears any claim to an agricultural character. This is bounded north by the Straits de Fuca and Puget's Sound, latitude 48 degrees north, east by the President's Range, south by the parallel of 42 degrees north latitude, and west by the ocean; seven degrees of latitude, and 100 miles of longitude; in round numbers, 400 by 100 miles, equal to 40,000 square miles; which is equal to about 31,000,000 of English acres. About one-third of this may be ploughed, another third pastured. The remainder consists of irclaimable ridges of minor mountains, crossing the country in all directions. To this should be added Vancouver's Island, 200 miles long by 30 in average width, and Washington's or Queen Charlotte's Island, 100 miles long by an average of 15 miles in width; in both which may be supposed to be the same ratio of arable pasture and irclaimable lands—to wit, 1,550,000 of each. And thus we have a rough, but, I believe, a generally correct estimate of the agricultural capacities of Lower Oregon—about 12,000,000 of arable and 12,000,000 of pasture land. The arable land of other parts of the territory, it will be recollected, is so inconsiderable as to be scarcely worthy of mention. There are, I presume, 10,000,000 of acres of pasture land in all the region east of the President's range. Thus we have in Oregon territory 12,000,000 acres of arable country. And if we assume the territory to extend from latitude 42 degrees to 54 degrees north, and from the Pacific Ocean to the main ridge of the Rocky Mountains, an average distance of 400 miles, we shall have a total surface of 215,000,000 acres; 32,000,000, the habitable part, subtracted from this, leaves 183,000,000 acres of deserts and mountains.

The climate of Oregon, also, is unfavourable to great productiveness. From October to April the southerly winds blow, and bring upon the lower country daily and almost incessant rains. From April to October no rain falls; and the exceedingly loose soil becomes so dry, that the grasses wither to hay. On the tract lying between the President's range and the Blue Mountains, and the Upper Columbia, a few storms fall in the winter months. During the remainder

of the year, neither dew nor rains descend upon it; a brown, cheerless waste. But that portion of it which lies near the streams will furnish in winter and summer the finest pasture for sheep on the continent. And as the weather is too warm in California and the country farther south to allow beef to be bred successfully, and as all the domestic graminivorous animals eat their own food in Lower and Middle Oregon the year round, beef and wool may become profitable staples in that distant territory.

Flax, hemp, and cotton can be grown in the lower country. There is water-power in great abundance to manufacture them into fabrics for home consumption and for foreign markets. Pine and cedar timber promises to be among its most valuable articles of export. Indeed the whole western coast of America, and the islands of the Pacific, New Zealand excepted, will ultimately be supplied more or less with the lumber of this region. The inexhaustible stores of salmon and sardines which frequent the Klamet, Umqua, Columbia, and Frazer's rivers, will constitute another most valuable staple.

Indeed, the agricultural resources of the most valuable section of Oregon are inferior to those of any of our states or territories in the valley of the Mississippi, and inferior to those of more than half of the territory in the Atlantic states; and Oregon territory as a whole is, in its soil, the most cheerless and barren portion of the national domain.

Twelve degrees of latitude, and about six degrees of longitude, 800 miles north and south, and 400 east and west, a vast territory; invaluable as an easily-defended frontier; as the home of our national and mercantile fleets in the Pacific; and priceless as the termination of a railroad of 600 miles, uniting Puget's Sound with the navigable waters of the Missouri, and giving an easy and speedy overland transit for our commerce with China, into the heart of the republic. Its agricultural resources are sufficient for this end; and to this end all its value tends.

THOMAS J. FARNHAM.

A Committee was appointed at a recent meeting held at Cincinnati, to examine the probable influence of the settlement of the Oregon on the destiny and history of the Caucasian races, on general science, and on the commercial and political system of the world.

The *Bloomington (Iowa) Herald*, says, we have been permitted to make the following extract from a letter written by W. T. Perry, formerly of this county, to Messrs. Colier and Sherley. It is dated,

OREGON CITY, March 30th, 1843.

I arrived at the settlement in Oregon on the 29th September, where I have remained ever since, at work at my trade (carpenter), as I was of course compelled to, after spending all I had got to get here; but I have done well, being now worth more than when I left Iowa. We have not been sick a day since we left the States. Hannah Abel was married in two weeks after we arrived here—she has done well. Now to the country, which is not as I expected to find it. It is rough and broken, and generally heavy-timbered, principally with fir, yellow pine, cedar, hemlock, spruce, oak, ash, and maple. It is well watered, and about one-tenth prairie, of excellent quality. The tim-

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bered land is also excellent for farming. In the streams is an abundance of fish, among which are the finest salmon in the world.

There is enough to live on in this country. The inhabitants are generally good farmers, raise large quantities of grain, and have from forty to one hundred head of cattle, twenty to sixty head of hogs, and horses without number. Clothing is cheaper here than in Iowa. There is nothing to be found in your stores, but what we have an abundance of, and at a cheaper rate, as they are brought here free of duty. Nothing will bear exportation from Iowa except good rifles. They are worth about \$50 in this country. Good cows will sell at from \$30 to \$50 per head.

Several of our company are dissatisfied with the country, and contemplate going to California this spring. For my part, I am well satisfied and expect to end my days in Oregon. This place (Oregon City) is situated at the head of navigation, and at the foot of Willhammut Falls, one of the greatest water powers in the world. It contains twelve dwelling-houses, three stores, one blacksmith's shop, one cooper's shop; two saw mills and one grist mill are in operation, and another of three run of stones is to be erected this summer. I get \$3 a day for my work, and tools furnished. Common labour is worth \$1 75 per day, without board. No ardent spirits in the country.

WILLIAM T. PERRY.

The Missouri *Expositor* of October 21st states, that Lieutenant Fremont's company passed Independence Rock, near the South Pass of the mountains, about the 10th of September. The Oregon emigrants were ahead of Lieut. Fremont's company, and had divided into three or four smaller parties, for the greater convenience in travelling. No accident of any kind had occurred to them, and their cattle, mules, and horses, were all fat and in fine travelling condition. They were well supplied with every article of food necessary for their trip; and have, doubtless, ere this reached their place of destination. The *Expositor* says—It will be a source of much gratification to the friends of Oregon everywhere, to learn that this company has made its trip with no greater losses and hardships than it has as yet met with. The present company has blazed the way, and future emigrants will have every thing clear before them. Next year, (1844), from all indications, there will be another great out-pouring for Oregon territory.

