

THE
O R E G O N I A N,
AND
INDIAN'S ADVOCATE.

OUR OBJECT, THE ELEVATION OF THE INDIAN RACE—OUR MEANS, A CHRISTIAN
SETTLEMENT IN OREGON.

FEBRUARY, 1839.

PUBLISHED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE
COMMITTEE OF THE OREGON PROVISIONAL EMIGRATION SOCIETY.

BOSTON :
PRINTED BY DAVID H. ELA, 19 WASHINGTON STREET.
1839.

☞ This pamphlet contains two sheets periodical. Postage—Distance not exceeding
100 miles, 3 cents ; over 100 miles, 5 cents.

A very important question comes up for consideration here. What will be the Government of the people of Western America? Are they to be subject to English laws? Is the United States to establish her jurisdiction there? Is Russia to maintain her power in that quarter? Or, last, is the country to be free, its inhabitants independent of any authority except their own. These are subjects of the greatest moment. The country, we are satisfied, can never be attached to the English domain. This, for many causes, must be the case. To begin with her relation to the United States on this point. Her claim to any portion of the territory, is but a flimsy one. The arguments by which the American title is vindicated, are between the nations unanswerable, and by any honorable mode of reasoning, Great Britain can never make it appear that she has a shadow of a right to Oregon. She can, we are persuaded, never wrest it from the United States but by force; and in this mode of operations she would find herself laboring under very great disadvantages. It is in vain that the Hudson Bay Company have established themselves in Oregon; in vain that English laws give the courts of Canada jurisdiction over the people of the territory. The moment the Hudson Bay Company commences military operations, their trade is ruined and their capital begins to waste; their forts are destroyed, their traders cut off, and all their resources wasted. And no people, English or Americans, of whatever nation or disposition they may be, will ever consent to have persons from among them transported to Canada for trial. There is nothing to fear from the Hudson Bay Company, or from these absurd British laws. It is for the interest of that association to preserve peace, and we may be sure they will leave no means untried to secure this end.

The communication over land, is also in the hands of the United States, and by sea but very little could be done to the injury of citizens of Oregon. Indeed, all the chances are in favor of the United States against Great Britain.

And there is another Government

which would not stand by, and peaceably see Oregon fall into the hands of England.

The two great powers of Europe, are those of Russia and Great Britain. The one pushes forward the limits of her empire, conquers the nations which lie in her way, leaves no power behind her in her march, and she aims at the subjugation of all Asia. England meets her at every step with her colonial policy. She negotiates in Persia, and she furnishes arms to the enemies of Russia in Circassia, and she endeavors to keep between her possessions and those of the Autocrat, some third power which may answer as a washer to prevent too much friction. England and Russia do not love each other, but they do not wish to fight. They stand aloof, and paw, and bellow, but each seems unwilling to rush to the encounter. Yet, they do their best to thwart and baffle, to weaken the power, to waste the property, and to irritate the passions of each other, and must continue to do so, while the politics of the Courts of St. James and St. Petersburg, conflict as they now do.

Well, Russia has not contented herself with her Asiatic domains. She has pushed her posts across Bhering Straits; and by treaty, North America, down to 54' north lat. has been relinquished to her. She values this part of her possessions, both for its lucrative fur trade, and the way it opens to Internal America, and the sea room it gives her in the Northern Pacific. The conquests of England and Russia, have not met as yet at a single point, and should England obtain the Oregon Territory, the line of 54° north would be the first point of contact, and it would also be the point of dispute. Whoever holds Oregon, rules the North Pacific, and whoever rules the North Pacific, governs Eastern Tartary, and checks the encroachments of Russia upon South Eastern Asia. Will Russia, then, suffer this territory to fall into the hands of her rival? Will she put her own possessions in America, with all her interests in that quarter, under the control of her enemy? Will she suffer the last link in the chain

of colonies with which England has well nigh girt the world, to be rivetted without an effort to prevent it? We do not believe it. We are satisfied that the interests of the Court of St. Petersburg will be secured, in this case, by preventing Oregon from falling into the hands of Great Britain.

And it will be still more difficult for Russia, however she may covet the territory, to obtain a foothold in it. Both England and the United States would oppose it. She has, it is true, her Sitka in the North, and her Presidia Ross in the South. She has put her posts on both sides of the country, and she has used every power to conciliate the Indians, while she has fomented and encouraged revolution in Canada, thus seeking to increase her influence in North America. But it will not, after all, avail her. Her constitutional enemy and rival, on the one hand, and the avaricious Yankees, on the other, will oppose obstacles in her way, which she has not met with in Turkey or Circassia, and the Czar must be content with Asia and the bleak north. Oregon will fall into the limits of the United States, or an independent transmontane nation will be raised up.

We have no doubt that the Government of the United States calculates upon the future proprietorship of that vast country. From the fact that a bill is before both houses of Congress for the occupation of the territory, a bill which has received the sanction of two Committees, composed of some of the principal men in the nation, and which fails to be passed at present, rather for fear of embroiling this country with Great Britain, than for any other cause; from the fact that the Secretary of State some time since, gave directions for the collection of all documents, books, &c., relating to the subject, probably for the purpose of making them the basis of instructions to the American Minister to Great Britain; from the fact that several explorations of the territory have taken place under the direction of the Government of the United States, as that of Mr. Slacum, and that the Exploring Expedition is ordered farther to prose-

cute this work by remaining several months on the coast, and sending the scientific corps into the interior; from these and many other facts of the same kind, we infer that there is no disposition on the part of the United States to yield the territory to the claims of England.

But what will the United States accomplish? When will she begin to act efficiently? We are well satisfied she will do nothing at present, unless indeed the issue of the Maine controversy shall compel her to it. She is disposed to remain inactive. True, Dr. Linn is interested; but Dr. Linn is from Missouri, and his constituents have interests at stake in which other citizens have no concern. Mr. Cushing is deeply engaged respecting it, but Mr. Cushing has friends who urge him on to this very worthy work, in which as a patriot he is indeed not at all indisposed to engage. But where are the other ardent supporters of this bill for immediate occupancy? Who beside these has put his shoulder to the wheel? Not one, so far as we are informed. And we know that on the part of the Executive there is a great reluctance, a fear of moving in the matter, a disposition to leave things where they now stand, without an interference with the subject which will throw the nation into war.

We indeed know not why this is. Perhaps the extensive commerce of the Pacific, and the still more valuable trade of the Atlantic, is too much to be put in jeopardy for Oregon. Perhaps a war for such a territory would be unpopular, and the Executive may be unwilling to engage the nation in an unpopular war.

Both these reasons, with probably others, will deter the Government from any present action. What would the great majority of American merchants care for the North West Coast? They have no trade there, no interests of any kind there. Why should their vessels be captured, and the highways of the Atlantic and the Pacific be hedged up? Why should the fountains of their wealth suddenly be dried up, and their families perhaps brought to want, for such a territory? And the people too, the people

who rule in this land, how would they regard a war for Oregon? The feeling is now very prevalent that we have territory enough. It is in every one's mouth, "We have territory enough, what do we want of more?" and it would be hard indeed to persuade the people to relish a war for a tract of land most of them do not want, and many of them would be unwilling to have attached to the United States. With the merchants, and the people against it, shall we have war for Oregon? Will the Executive, will Congress plunge the nation in carnage and blood against the people's will, for a tract of country the nation cares but little for?

Will an administration distress the country, and render itself unpopular for the sake of land beyond the Rocky Mountains? Never. If we should chance for other causes to get by the ears with England, Oregon may, nay, doubtless will be remembered, both in the conflict and the treaty, but a war for Oregon alone, we shall never have by design. If Great Britain can be negotiated out of the territory, if she can be coaxed or frightened to yield it, well. We shall then have it attached to the United States, but we believe not till then. It is possible we shall have war for other causes, or England may voluntarily relinquish what is of almost as much importance to her American interests, as her East India possessions to those of Asia, an event by the way extremely improbable, and the desires of Mr. Cushing and Dr. Linn may then be realized.

Until that time, things will probably remain in *statu quo*. There will be bills before Congress. Possibly bills will be passed; but we think they will be most cautiously carried into operation.

But during this time, while the United States and England are with the greatest ceremony disputing and negotiating, thousands will be pressing into the territory. It will be settled, and Oregon and California will be united in a common cause and destiny. Then will come the realization of the event which Mr. Jefferson predicted, and "the whole extent of that coast will be covered with free and independent Americans,

unconnected with us, but by the ties of blood and friendship."

Nature herself has marked out Western America for the home of an independent nation. The Rocky Mountains will be to Oregon, what the Alps have been to Italy, or the Pyrenees to Spain. The nation which extends itself across them, must be broken in the centre by the weight of the extremities. When we merely glance at a map, it seems absurd to suppose that Oregon is to belong to a nation whose capital is on the Atlantic seaboard. What! must the people of that land be six months journey from the seat of Government? Must they send their delegates four thousand miles to represent them in the legislature of a nation with whom they can have but few common interests or sympathies? The North and the South are well nigh rent asunder by their sectional feelings, but what is the party strife between these compared to that which must arise between the East and the West, when the East is on the Bay of Fundy, and the West at Nootka Sound?—when the interests of the Atlantic and the Pacific seaboard are brought into competition?

A territory so vast might, indeed, be ruled by an absolute monarch, but it would be, to a republic, a burden too heavy to be borne. It would crush the republic, or a division would take place.

We think that California must go with Oregon. Her disposition is favorable to such an arrangement, and her local situation marks it out as the proper disposal to be made of her.

The Californians have already set at defiance the power of Mexico, and driven her officers from among them. They are ready to embrace any proposition which will save them from the domination of a Government, which displays its energy only in exaction and tyranny, and professing to be enlightened and liberal, is more barbarous and despotic than even that of Turkey.

Mexico has lost, in a great measure, her hold upon California. Will Texas finally grasp that beautiful country, and stretch herself from the Gulf of Mexico to the Pacific? Such is doubtless her

intention, but long years must waste before she can accomplish her purposes. She has difficulties in her own infancy, and weakness, in the great distance, in the mountain ranges which lie between, and in the free, powerful bands of hostile Indians which are fixed on the route from Texas to California. These, with other things, must long prevent Texas from any efficient action in regard to Western possessions.

But the people of Oregon and California must be at once, to a great extent, one people. They must have trade and constant intercourse with each other. The herds of the South must supply the plains of the North, and the products of the Columbia must feed the Californians. The communication by sea, consumes only a few days, and the inland journey will, ere long, occupy a still shorter time. The people will blend together, they will become one in feeling, in sympathy, in interests; and having been thus socially united, the political compact will follow as an easy consequence.

But if California and Oregon shall mingle in one confederacy, the whole can never be attached to the United States; and the people of Oregon will hereafter be called upon to choose between the loss of California, and severance from the United States. Who cannot see that, unless they are perfectly blinded to their own interests, they will prefer the latter?

They will remember that several hundred thousand hostile Indians lie between them and the United States, that for centuries the population of the East and West cannot meet, however rapidly the tide may flow on, and that there must, therefore, be so long an uncultivated and savage land lying between them; that a lofty mountain chain has been reared by the God of Nature, as if to break the force of eastern ambition, and mark the limits of dominion; that Atlantic and Pacific interests must ever conflict; that they are too far removed from the seat of a republican government, to have their wants known or felt, or their petitions heard; too remote to be defended, or to share in common benefits,

and too weak to maintain their own cause in the halls of national legislation, against the delegates of thirty States.

The people of Oregon, whoever they may hereafter be, will most assuredly think on these things, and to us there seems to be scarcely a doubt but they will prefer the severance and maintain their choice.

We speak on this subject only as one observing the signs of the times, and judging from that observation what will hereafter take place. We write not of our own wishes or preferences, but only of events with which we are unconnected, save as all who have an interest in passing occurrences, are connected thereby with them; but we think we speak correctly, when we say that Western America is destined to become free and independent. W.

We do not wish to be considered at all responsible for the opinions or statements of our correspondent, in the preceding article. He speaks for himself, and will defend his own views. We, however, willingly admit the communication, that the whole subject may be thoroughly discussed.—EDS. OREG.

MURDERS BY THE INDIANS IN FLORIDA.—The late papers from the South bring accounts of the murder of the families of a Mr. White, ten miles from Tallahassee, and a Mr. Pendarvis, twelve miles from the same place, by the Indians in Florida. The entire family of the latter (including himself) was butchered. The body of Indians was but eight or ten in number, and though vigilant pursuit was made by a small body of whites, the Indians had completely evaded them. Is there not something wrong in the measures of our Government towards the Seminoles? Every gale from the South comes laden with rumors and details of like atrocities, and yet our Government fails to use efficient means for the protection of the lives of our citizens. We have armed men, it is true, in that territory, but they are either inactive or badly commanded, as the fact that a body of from 200 to 300 Indians are enabled to elude them, conclusively shows.