CONGRESSIONAL.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8 1843.

The deep interest imparted to the sitting of the House of Representatives on Tuesday, by the presentation of the Sword of WASHINGTON, was renewed in the Senate yesterday, almost in an equal degree, by the communication to that body of the Joint Resolution of the House, accompanied by the Sword and its companion the Staff of FRANKLIN. After the resolution sent up by the House for concurrence had been read, Mr. Archer, of Virginia, rose and delivered the beautiful and impressive remarks on the subject which are given in their proper place in another column. The profound silence which reigned throughout the full Senate, the thronged lobbies, and crowded galleries during the delivery of Mr. Archer's address, imparted solemnity and a befitting dignity to the scene, well according with the sympathies of the large assembly. For a considerable time after the Senate adjourned, as it did immediately after this ceremony, the Chamber was thronged with numbers of persons of both sexes, pressing forward to enjoy the pleasure of looking on and holding in their hands relics rendered precious by their association, with the cherished memory of the patriots and sages from whom they descended.

WASHINGTON AND FRANKLIN.

In the U. S. Senate, on Wednesday, a message was received from the House, announcing the passage of a joint resolution in relation to the presentation of the sword of General Washington and the cane of Benjamin Franklin; which resolution having been read:

Mr. Archer rose and said that, as the grounds of a proceeding sent from the other House of Congress to this for concurrence could not be assumed to be known necessarily, and the resolution before the Senate imparted a distinguished compliment to a native of his own State, he had been advised, and had yielded to the admonition, that a few words from one of the Senators of Virginia might be regarded as not inappropriate, and perhaps be expected in explanation of the resolution. It was known to every member of the Senate that Gen. Washington, by his will, had bequeathed swords to four of his nephews. One of these swords, plain and the least valuable according to ordinary estimates of value the gentleman to whom the first choice had been permitted had had the just taste to prefer, as that which his glorious ancestor had invariably worn, *in real service*, from the period of early life, when he had, in the cause of his country, then in a colonial condition, first commended himself to honor, and through the entire progress of that great conflict which had resulted in the establishment of our liberties and of his immortal renown. There was not room for a question that the weapon which had just been laid on the table of the President was the identical one to which these interesting associations attached. It might have been proper for him to have stated the evidences of this fact, but the task had already been discharged by his colleague and friend in the other House, who had yesterday, in fulfilling the office of presenting these relics to the nation, added another wreath to the honor of being selected for the function, by the chaste, appropriate, and beautiful address—in entire keeping with the simplicity of the memorial and of the character of its illustrious proprietor—with which he had gratified the House of Representatives.

There might be persons, Mr. Archer said, disposed to regard the reception o memorials so slight as a sword and a cane as not in keeping with the dignity of a Senatorial body. If such there were, he (Mr. A.) was not to be included in the number of them. The disposition he indulged was widely different. Nor was such the thought of our great precursors in the love and maintenance of liberty in the ancient Republics. They had the practice, and regarded it as inestimable, of erecting statues to great departed worth. And why? Could the reason be any other but the effort to keep alive the principle of generous virtue, by presenting and keeping perpetually before the eye the symbols of its authors?

Mr. Archer said that, for his own part he thought that slighter memorials than statues and mausoleums were far more conducive to this effect, where they had apertained to the common use—been connected with the offices of service—shed a light on the peculiarities of temper or habitude or achievement of the persons to which they related. If this remark were just, how applicable, above all others, to Washington, and this symbol, his sword, the type in its simplicity of his character in its office of his achievements! Washington! the only name requiring no eulogy, for the name itself comprehended all eulogy. It had been said by one of the most eminet public men of the age, himself the subject of a monarchy, (Lord Brougham,) that "of uninspired men Washington was to be est eemed incomparably the greatest.' Nor was this to be regarded as exaggerated praise, when it was recollected that greatness was to be measured, not by virtue only, but a combined consideration of its effects; and this same consideration proved that no man great as Washington could perhaps now live. Men, not the inferiors of Washington in virtue and in wisdom, might come into existance, but to the fullest development of grandeur of character circumstances must conspire and form no unimportant part; and no man could again be placed in circumstances such as marked the situation of Washington. Many men it was to be hoped, were destined, in that progress of free institutions which marked the character of the age, to be the founders of liberty for their own countries and times; but what was the peculiarity of the position and office of Washington?—He was, probably, appointed by the ordination of Providence, to prove the founder of libeaty for the human race in all times. From the germ which he had planted promised to spread the influence which was destined, it might be hoped, to gather nation after nation under its shadow, and to yield the life sustaining fruit to all periods in succession.

And Franklin, whose name was associated with Washington s in the presentation of these relics! How curious the coincidence that they should have been associated by such symbols! Franklin, second only to Washington as one of the founders of our Republic, in science a founder greater still! Recent developments made it not improbable that the power of which Franklin had been the first to bring us acquainted with its laws was the one the most efficient and diffused through the entire processes of physical nature; the thorough knowledge of which was to produce results the most imposing and most important which had ever been unlocked to human vision! These were the men associated with the relics now presented to us, and which, as emblems, these relics were appropriate to recall to memory whenever they were viewed; to inspire admiration of the wisdom they had displayed, gratitude for the benefits they had rendered, veneration for the virtue which had adorned them! We had been accustomed to call these illustrious men ours But the time would come when they would equally be exalted as benefactors of human kind, as they had been ours, and their fame the property of their whole race.

Doct r Franklin in the bequest of the cane to General Washington which was now exhibited to us, had said that 'he gave it to his friend and the friend of mankind, who, had it been a sceptre, would have deserved it.' And the sceptre that friend has attained which he deserved. It had been an expression, in the ceremonial offices which occurred on the death of Washington, that he was throned in the hearts of his countrymen The expression fell far short of the full extent of his destiny. It was to be thron ed in the homage—in the admiration—no! these did not convey the just phrase—in the boundless veneration of mankind!

Mr A. said he would no longer be the impediment to the expression of the acclaiming sentiment, which he knew beat in the bosom of every Senator to respond even by the tribute of this humble resolution, to the great titles of Washington and Franklin to our affection, gratitude, and reverence.

The resolution was unanimously adopted, and the Senate then adjourned.

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WASHINGTON, February 9, 1843.

IN SENATE. The chair laid before the Senate a document from the Secretary of the Treasury, containing the answers of collectors of customs to questions propounded to them in reference to the warehousing system.

Domestic Hemp.—Mr. Crittenden called up the joint resolution of the House of Representatives, for establishing agencies in Kentucky and Missouri for the inspection and purchase of water rotted hemp for the use of the Navy of the U. States.

A desultory debate sprung up upon this resolution which was finally ordered to be engrossed by a vote of 27 to 19 and afterwards read a third time & passed.

Pension Bill.—Mr. Evans called up this bill, as reported by the House.

The bill was read a third time and passed.

The Senate then spent the remainder of the sitting in the consideration of Private Bills from the House, and passed one for the relief of Casper W. Weaver.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Reports of Committees—Mr. Fillmore from the Committee on Ways and Means reported a bill for the disbursement of public moneys received otherwise than by provisions of law.

Mr Reynolds, of Illinois, from a Select Committee, reported a bill for the military occupation of Oregon, which was referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Senate Bills.—Senate bills were then taken up and three different motions were made for the reference of the Oregon Bill, viz. to the Committee of the Whole, to the Committee of Foreign Affairs, and to the Committee on Military Affairs; the latter motion prevailed.

District of Columbia—The House then resolved into Committee of the Whole upon the District of Columbia, Mr. Ward, of N. York, in the Chair.

A bill requiring one of the Judges of the Circuit Court to reside in the county of Alexandria, was taken up and passed.

A bill granting $10,000 for an Orphan Asylum in Alexandria, was passed over.

A Bill granting $5000 to the Howard Institution, a charitable association in Washington city, was taken up.

Mr. Reynolds, of Ill. said it was astonishing how much money was appropriated to this District, and "wine and dinners" was the cause of the whole of it. He knew the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. Underwood) was a kind hearted man, and that the people of the District loved him and invited him to dine and drink wine with them. [Laughter.]

Wm. Cost Johnson said that he would not inquire whether the gentleman from Illinois—who had presided over a sovereign State of this Union, and gone as ambassador from that State to England to negotiate loans of large amounts of money, which loans were now oppressing his State beyond endurance—had partaken of the hospitality of the friends and strangers among whom he went on this occasion, but he would say that under whatever circumstances, and for whatever purposes these loans had been obtained, he would join heart and hand in helping the gentleman to extricate his State from the embarrassment in which she was found.

Mr. Smith, of Virginia, insisted that there was no claim upon Congress to support the paupers of the District more than there was to support this class of individuals in any State of the Union.

Mr. Thompson, of Indiana, made an effective speech in favor of the Bill as did, also, Mr. Granger.

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Washington, Feb. 10.

ARMY BILL.

Mr. Evans at an early hour called for the consideration of the Bill making appropriations for the Calendar and Fiscal years. The Bill was taken up, and various amendments proposed by the Committee of Finance, were concurred in—One of them proposed an appropriation of two thousand dollars for the continuance of meteorological observations. The sum was designed to secure the services of Professor Espy, who is now employed in that Department.

Mr. Benton spoke five or six times in opposition to the amendment proposed. He was seconded by Mr. Tappan.

Mr. Calhour, who, as Secretary of War, originated the system of Meteorological Observations, was anxious to favor Mr. Espy, but had some doubts of the expediency of so doing. In common with Messrs. E. Vans, Buchanan, Linn, Crittenden and Walker, he paid a high compliment to Mr. E.

The following are the yeas and nays upon the amendment:

Ayes 27—Nays 13.

After some other amendments, not affecting the general principles of the bill and of no great importance, the amendments were reported to the Senate, ordered to be engrossed with the bill & then on motion of Mr. White of Ind. who said there was urgent business to consider, the Senate went into the consideration of Executive business; and soon after adjourned.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

February 10.

THE OREGON BILL.

Mr. Reynolds, from a special committee, had reported the Senate bill, and on his motion, it was referred to the committee of the whole.

This vote was reconsidered, and the reference made to the committee on foreign affairs.

[This is rather an unfavorable indication for the Oregon bill.]

STATE DEBTS.

Mr. Adams moved to reconsider the vote ordering the printing of a report of the Committee of Ways and Means upon a memorial, which passed through his hands, in favor of the issue of Government stock to the States. This was the same report of which Mr Cost Johnson complained so bitterly yesterday, and which anticipated the report of a Select Committee, upon the same subject, of which he is the Chairman.

Mr. Adams made an onslaught upon Gov. McNutt and the principle of repudiation, and this brought up Mr Thompson, of Mississippi, who called for the reading of a letter of the Governor, upon which Mr Adams was commenting.—The letter was produced, and read; it was written to the editors of the Richmond Enquirer, detailing the result of the last elections in Mississippi, and giving the assurance that before Mississippi would acknowledge the validity of the $5 000,000 bonds issued on her faith by the Union Bank, she would go to war

Mr. Pickens endeavored to arrest the remarks of Mr A.; but the Speaker decided that the motion to print opened the whole subject to debate.

Mr. Adams proceeded, and pourtrayed the mischief and dishonor arising from the broken faith of the States of the Union, and urged the justice, as well as the expediency, of immediate action, on the part of Congress to relieve the States from burthens in reality imposed upon them by Congress in its refusal to make those Internal Improvements throughout the country for which these debts were contracted, & thus compelling the States to undertake them by themselves.

Mr. Gwin, of Mississippi, rose to reply to Mr. Adams and repel the attack upon his State, but as only five minutes of the morning hour remained, he contented himself with making an answer to one or two of Mr. A's remarks, and promised to explain the position of Mississippi, in reference to her imputed debts, upon another occasion. Mr. Adams had said something about the Chinese war, and in the same connection mentioned the possibility of British steamers ascending the Mississippi. Mr. Gwin said that it would be remembered there was a question of veracity still existing in which the gentleman from Massachusetts was involved, and which concerned this same Mississippi; it was affirmed that Mr. A. had not always shewn the same solicitude about this River, but, at one time, had been willing to surrender the right to its navigation. He felt degraded he said when the gentleman referred to the $21 000.000 with which China had bought her peace from Great Britain as a warning to us, as if it were probable that this country would fall as easy a prey to her rapacity as China.

The morning hour having expired, the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole, Mr. Ward, of New York, in the Chair, upon the bills relating to the District of Columbia.

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WASHINGTON, Feb. 11.

U. S. SENATE

The Senate were in session until a late hour on Friday evening. After the Executive session, the Army Appropriation Bill was finally passed and sent to the House of Representatives for concurrence in the amendments. The Senate then adjourned over to Monday.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

NEW YORK CUSTOM HOUSE.

Mr. Davis of Ky, moved that the Committee of the whole be discharged from the consideration of the Bill to reduce the number of officers employed in the New York Custom House.

Mr. Cushing objected to the consideration of the Bill at this time, but the House went for it with a rush. The Committee of the Whole were discharged and the Bill was passed making a reduction of one hundred and ninety-eight officers. The present number employed is 502. The Bill goes into operation on the first of May next. The aggregate pay, the Bill declares, shall not exceed $326,450.

A bill was passed requiring the Land Patents to be signed by the Recorder of the Land office, rather than by the person heretofore specially designated for that object. The office is now held by Mr. Robert Tyler, Jr and the passage of the resolution will abolish it.

Mr. Kennedy, of Md. moved to take up the Reciprocity bill, (reported from the Committee on Commerce) pending which the House adjourned.

MARYLAND LEGISLATURE.

ANNAPOLIS, Feb. 8.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

The sitting of yesterday evening was principally occupied in the discussion of the 'assumption' measure. Mr. Owens concluded his remarks in opposition to the proposition; and was followed by Mr. Risteau on the same side. Other gentlemen manifesting a disposition to participate in the discussion, the final question was postponed.

Mr. Buskirk, Chairman of the Committee of Internal Improvements, reported a bill to complete the Chessapeak and Ohio Canal to Cumberland, and for other purposes,' which was ordered to be printed and made the order of the day for Thursday.

A supplement to an act for the more effectual collection of the county charges in the several counties, was passed.

In the house to-day, Mr. Powder presented the petition of citizens of Baltimore protesting against the passage of a law taxing bachelors;—which was referred.

Mr. Phelps submitted a long preamble and order directing the Committee on Retrenchment to report, at an early day upon the various subject submitted to its consideration; which was laid on the table

The order of the day being the issue of Government stock, was taken up

Mr. Roberts spoke in opposition to the issue, and was followed by Mr. Murry, on the same side. He having concluded, the House adjourned over from half past two till four o'clock.

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ANNAPOLIS. Feb. 9

HOUSE OF DELEGATES

The sitting of yesterday evening was protracted till 12 o'clock. The resolutions contemplating an issue of Government stock still being under consideration Messrs. Murray and Gallagher spoke in opposition to the measure. Mr. Semmes then offered an amendment to the original resolutions declaring that Congress has power to levy duties on imports for the support of Government, and that the modern doctrine for abandoning this principle to resort to direct taxation is unwise unjust, and unconstitutional, which was rejected. Also, that in levying duties for the support of Government, is the duty of Congress to levy them in such a manner as will promote and protect American industry, labor, and interest; which was amended by Mr. Hammond: that though it be constitutional to resort to direct taxation by the General Government, it may nevertheless, and generally will be inexpedient; and by Mr. Causin: That though a resort to direct taxation by the General Government be constitutional, yet such a resort should not be had until resources from imports and excise shall prove insufficient; and by Mr. Hammond: Including in such resources as the proceeds of the sales of the public lands; and by Mr. Lecompte, of Carroll, by striking out 'support of Government,' in the original resolution, and inserting, to pay the debts and provide for the common defence and general welfare of the United States;' and further by Mr. Gallagher: That no greater amount of revenue be collected from imports than is necessary to defray the expenses of the Government; and by Mr. Murry: Including the proceeds of sales of the public lands. The resolution, as amended, was passed. The House adjourned.

The order of the day being the issue of Government stock, was taken up. After the defeat of amendments by Messrs Tuck and Semmes, and assenting to an amendment of Mr. Gallagher, declaring that the imposition of a tariff of duties designed to foster and protect any branch of industry at the expense of another, is unwise, unconstitutional, and subversive of the true interests of the people;'

The matter was then negatived by the following vote: yeas 31, nays 40

After the transaction of some unimportant business, the House adjourned until to morrow at 11 o'clock. a. m

IN SENATE.

In the Senate there was nothing of importance done.

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ANNAPOLIS, Feb. 10, 1843.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

Mr. Buskirk, from the committee on Internal Improvement, laid before the House a communication from the clerk of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company, in obedience to an order exhibiting a list of officers of said company, and their respective salaries. Ordered to be printed.

Mr. Randall submitted an order directing the Committee on Retrenchment to report upon the bill submitted to them, to regulate the pay of members and officers of the Legislature. Adopted.

Mr. Hammond, from the Committee to whom had been referred a bill from the Senate, to repeal the third section of an act directing the manner of sueing out attachments, reported favorably thereon; and the bill was assented to.

Mr. Handy, of Somerset, from the Committee on Lotteries, reported a supplement to an act providing for the construction of an outlet lock of the Tide Water Canal, at Bell's, ferry; which was read by special order, passed and sent to the Senate.

Mr. Buchanan, from the Committee on Retrenchment, reported a bill fixing the per diem ($3) of members and officers of the Legislature Laid on the table.

A bill for the more equal valuation & assessment of slaves in this State, was taken up, and, after some discussion, rejected.

Whereupon, the House, on motion, adjourned to meet at an earlier hour (9 o'clock) to-morrow, so as to adjourn at 11 o'clock, to attend the funeral of Mr. Wm. Johnston, printer to the House.

SENATE.

House bill to reduce the capital of the Chesapeake Bank, Citizens' Bank, and Farmers' and Planters' Bank, of Baltimore, was assented to.

A memorial from Otho H. Williams and others, relative to the Farmers' and Millers' Bank, was received, and referred to the House of Delegates.

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ANNAPOLIS, Feb. 11.

The Speaker announced that the clerk of the Senate had delivered on yesterday the following bills:

The bill entitled, an act to erect a bridge or causeway over Knapp's Narrows at Tilghman's Island, in Talbot county;

Endorsed 'will pass with the proposed amendment,'

Amendment proposed:

Strike out the proviso in the first section.

Which was read and assented to, and the bill ordered to be engrossed.

On motion of Mr Sherwood of Talbot,

Leave was granted to Messrs. Sherwood of Talbot, Colston and Bowdle, to bring in a bill empowering the commissioners of the town of Easton to receive a deed of conveyance of a certain peice of land beyond the limits of said town.

On motion of Mr. Rider,

The House took up the bill entitled an act to authorise the commissioners of Somerset county to appoint a collector of the county levy separately from the collector of the direct tax;

Read the second time by special order.

Mr. Nicols reported a bill entitled, an act to reduce the saleries of all officers paid out of the State Treasury one fourth except salaries paid by the Constitution:

Read the first time and ordered to be printed.

The House then, in obedience to the order adopted on yesterday, adjourned until Monday morning, ten o'clock.

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ANNAPOLIS, Feb 13.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES

A communication was received from the Treasurer showing the amount of the State's indebtedness. It shows a total of $15 211,393 91. It was ordered to be printed.

The House then took up the resolution submitted by Mr. Key, directing the Commissioner of Loans to distribute *pro rata* the money in his hands for payment of interest on public debt; which was passed and sent to the Senate.

A memorial of O H. Williams and others connected with the Farmers' and Millers' Bank, which was received from the Senate, gave rise to some discussion, and it was ordered to be printed. The house then adjourned.

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ANNAPOLIS, Feb. 14.

Mr. Risteau presented the petition of citizens of Baltimore county, of both, political parties, asking the repeal of the agency law of 1840; a reduction of the salary of all officers of the internal improvement companies; and a reorganization of the judiciary of the State. Referred.

Mr Sherwood of Caroline, presented a petition of T. T. Moore, praying the privilege of bringing into this State certain negroes. Referred

On motion of Mr. Handy, of Worcester, it was entered upon the journal that he would have voted for the preamble and resolutions, relative to the issue of Government stock, had he been present when the vote was taken.

Mr. Lecompte, of Dorchester, submitted an order directing the committee on the colored population, to inquire into the expediency of transporting to Africa all convict free negroes. Adopted.

Mr. Lecompte, of Carroll, reported a bill to revive and continue in force all laws that would expire by act of limitation at the present session. Read by special order, passed, and sent to the Senate.

The House then proceeded to the consideration of the special order of the day being the bill from the committee on ways and means, entitled a further supplement to an act for the general valuation and assessment of the property of this State, and to provide a tax to pay the debt of the State passed March session, 1841, ch. 23.' [As reported by Mr. Murray, for the more certain and speedy collection of the direct tax.] The House then resolved itself into a committee of the whole.

After progressing with the reading and amending two or three sections the House took a recess, at half past 2 o'clock, till 4 o'clock P. M.

IN SENATE.

Mr. Ricaud submitted the following message: 'Gentlemen of the House of Delegates: We have received your message, proposing to elect this day, by joint ballot, a Senator in the Congress of the U. S. and respectfully decline concurring in the same. There is at this time no vacancy in the representation of the State of Maryland in the Senate of the United States, nor will any exist before the fourth day of the ensuing March, when it is more than probable the Legislature will be in session, and at some future day the propriety of proceeding to such election as now proposed by the message of your honorable body, will meet our calm and dispassionate consideration, and our decision made for what we consider, and what we trust will prove, the interest and benefit of our common country." Adopted,

OREGON TERRITORY.

As this section of our country is becoming the subject of much interest to the nation, and from existing circumstances, the probable cause of much trouble and angry feelings between us and England, if not the cause of war, we deem it not out of place at this time, to give to our readers, such facts in relation to our title to this Territory, as we have by us. In doing so we draw from history, official documents, &c., as fully as the limits of our paper will admit Though such must necessarily be brief, yet we hope it will be sufficiently explicit. Any remarks that we may have to make, will be deferred to a future number, leaving in the mean time, our readers to examine the subject for themselves.

That we may avoid confusion as much as possible, we shall commence with the first discoveries of the country, and upon Spain has that honor devolved.

Somewhere within forty years after America was discovered, a certain Spanish general, of the name of Hernan Cortez, overran the empire of Mexico, and fixed a settlement on the Pacific Ocean, in latitude 25 degrees, at Culiacan. This appears to be the first discovery and settlement upon the North-west coast of America. From this time until the year 1543, many voyages were made without being productive of any important results. But in this year, two vessels were fitted out, under the command of one Cabrilla, who, dying before the termination of the voyage, was succeeded by Bartolome Ferrelo, who extended his discoveries North as far as the 43d or 44th degree of latitude. In 1578, Sir Francis Drake, "an English captain and successful buccaneer," arrived upon this coast, plundering vessels and towns, as far as the 42d or 43d degree of North latitude. In 1592 under the Spanish flag, Juan de Fuca discovered and sailed through a strait in lat 48 degrees north—which bears his name. Viscaino, in 1603, visited and examined, by authority, the coast discovered by Cabrilla and Ferrelo. Monteroy was settled 1770.

Up to the year 1774, no minute examination of this coast was effected further than the discoveries of Cabrilla and Ferrelo, but in that year an expedition was fitted out by Spain, which was commanded by Juan Perez, who pushed his discoveries beyond the 54th degree of N. lat. In examining the coast, he found in 49½ de. of N. lat., a commodious bay, which he entered and named Port San Lorenzo, (now called Nootka) Another expedition in 1775, sailed for the coast—they saw the entrance of Strait de Fuca. One of the vessels under Heceta, discovered a promotory in 46 deg 10 min. N. lat., which he called San Roque, (nor Cape Disappointment, at the entrance of the Columbia river.) Another vessel, proceeding as far north as 57 degrees landed in a bay, which they named Port Remedios, and under religious ceremonies, took possession of the country from the Gulf of California to Port Remedios In 1776, the bay of San Francisco was settled being the most northern town of California.

Captain Cook, during his expedition to discover a no thwest passage to India, visited in 1778, Port San Larenzo, or Nootka Sound, which he called King George's Sound.

Captain Gray of Boston, commanding the ship Columbia discovered and entered a river in May 1792, which he called after his ship In 1805, Captains Lewis and Clark, examined this river from its head waters to its mouth, under an act of Congress The first settlement ever made by white men in this Territory was effected by the Missouri Fur company of St Louis, in 1808. A fort was erected at the head waters of the Lewis river, the southern branch of the Columbia. Astoria, at the mouth of the Columbia, was established in 1811, by the Pacific Fur Company. This settlement was taken forcible possession of in 1813, by Capt. Black, commanding the Racoon British sloop of war. Independent of Astoria, the Pacific Fur Company had established four other posts, distributed throughout the territory watered by the Columbia.

Having thus rapidly enumerated the several discoveries in this part of America down to the settlements made by Mr. John Jacob Astor, we shall now refer to the treaties made by Spain, England, France, Russia, and America, with regard to this section of country.

The first of these in importance, is the Nootka Sound treaty of 1790, between Spain and Great Britain, in which the former nation established without cavil, her rights to the territory as far north as 50 degrees of latitude. In 1819, by the treaty concluded between the King of Spain and the the U. States, denominated the Florida treaty—all the right of that nation was ceded to us, north of the forty second degree of latitude. Upon Mexico becoming an independent nation, this treaty was confirmed. The Utrecht treaty of 1714 between France and England, fixed the northern boundary at 49 degrees of N. latitude, which was to be the dividing line between the possession of these countries in North America. When Louisiana was purchased of France in 1803, the United States purchased the open question of boundary also. In 1824, the treaty between Russia and our government, fixed the line dividing her N. American possessions and our territory, at 54 degrees 40 min. of N. latitude. The treaty of Ghent stipulated that Great Britain, should restore to the U. States, Astoria, and the other possessions seized by her during the war, which was complied with.

These treaties, as well as the right of discoveries, are strong evidences in our favor, and go far to prove that England, could lay no just claim to any part of the Northwest coast. A further evidence of this is to be found in the articles of convention of 1818, between the U. States and Great Britain, by which pur government agreed to the joint possession of Oregon for the space of ten years, when

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