

continent. To make the exploration as useful as possible Fremont determined to vary the route to the Rocky Mountains from that followed in 1842. The route was open up the valley of the Great Snake River to the South Pass in latitude 42 degrees. The route now determined upon was up the valley of the Kansas River, and thence up the valley of the Platte River, and to same pass in the mountains, if any could be found at the sources of that river.

Fremont started from the little town of Kansas, near the junction of the Kansas and Missouri Rivers, May 1842, and reached Fort Hall September 22. October 5 he was at Fort Boise, and eight days later he saw the Grand Ronde Valley in Eastern Oregon, which he said, "may in time form a superb country."

Fremont's land journey ended at the Dalles on November 4, and the remainder of the trip to Vancouver was made by canoe with the usual portage at the Cascades. Vancouver was reached on the morning of the 8th, and Fremont accepted Dr. McLoughlin's invitation to remain at the fort, "and to make myself at home while I stayed." There were many American immigrants at the fort, and others had already crossed the Willamette Valley.

Through Central Oregon. Fremont hurried preparations for the return trip, and on the 29th he started back up the Columbia River. Near the selected contemplated a circuit to the south and southeast and the exploration of the great basin between the Cascades and the Blue Mountains. Near the generally known as Central Oregon. It followed very closely the 42d degree of longitude, by way of Tygh Valley and along the Deschutes River. Near the California boundary which was reached on December 26, Fremont's party came upon a number of Indians suddenly, and well nigh surprised them in their lodges. A large fire was burning in a few baskets made of straw were lying about with one or two rabbit skins, and there was a little grass scattered about on which the Indians had been lying. The men were deer when two members of the party approached them.

They had been so much pressed that a woman and two children stood behind a sage brush near the lodge, and when (Kit) Carson accidentally stumbled upon her, she immediately began screaming in the extreme. She was brought back to the lodge, and we endeavored in vain to open a communication with her. By dint of force she was brought to the lodge, and we found that she belonged to the Snake Nation, speaking the language of that people. Eight or 10 appeared to live together under the same little shelter, and they seemed to have no other substance than the roots or seeds which they might have stored up, and the hares which they live in. They were enabled to track in the snow and are very skilful in killing. Their skins afford them a little scanty covering. Herding together among sage brush and crossing the mountains, these men, using their instinct only to procure food, these may be considered, among human beings, the nearest approach to the animal state. We had never before seen the face of a white man.

Fremont returned to his starting point July 30, 1844, after an absence of 14 months.

VOYAGES OF SPANIARDS

Disagreement With England and the Transactions at Nootka Sound.

Spain followed up the discovery of America and the conquest of Mexico and South America by a long and eager search for the Northwest Passage to India. This search was continued for nearly 300 years, and at one time or other it was prosecuted by seven of the leading nations—Spain, Portugal, France, England, Holland and Russia—in the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and by the newly arisen United States in the eighteenth century. The hunt for a trade route to the East caused many vessels to be sent to the Pacific Ocean, and many may be said to have been a contributing cause, if not the immediate cause, of the discovery and occupation of Oregon.

After the death of Cabrillo on the California coast in January, 1543, Ferrello assumed command of the expedition sent to the Mendocino straits. He sailed for the straits, and headed the vessels northwest, reaching latitude 43, according to some authorities, and latitude 44, according to others. However, the difference of one degree is not important, as both points are on the coast of Oregon, and Ferrello was the first to reach so high a latitude. Sir Francis Drake, the English sailor, sailed along the coast on his raids upon Spanish shipping and is supposed to have come as high as latitude 45 degrees, but his best mark probably was 43 degrees.

We pass now over the mythical voyages of the olden days to the actual voyage of sailing of Vicecom's fleet from Acapulco, May 5, 1562, pursuant to an order by Philip II, and repeated by Philip III, for a survey of the Pacific. The fleet consisted of six vessels, commanded by Martin de Aguilera, reached latitude 43, off the coast of Oregon, and found where the land ended at a cape point, which was named Cape Blanco.

From the time Aguilera's little vessel conveyed her afflicted crew back to Mexico in 1562, more than a century elapsed, before another voyage was attempted. Bering, a Danish navigator, came with a Russian commission, in 1773, but neither in going nor returning through the straits did he see the coast of Oregon. Bering and Tchirikof sailed from the Bay of Avatcha June 4, 1741. Tchirikof accomplished nothing, but Bering came down to the latitude of the Columbia River. How close he approached to the Oregon coast is not known.

Russia's activity in the North Pacific against Spain ever more, and a series of explorations by her vessels continued on July 25, 1774, the corvette Santiago left San Blas in command of Perez, and sailed as high as 54 degrees north latitude, but beyond that point he was content with the natives, and ascertaining the exact latitude of Cape Mendocino, it accomplished nothing.

In 1776 the Santiago, commanded by Heceta, the Spanish captain, sailed from the Bay of Avatcha, and the San Carlos, led by Bodega y Quadra succeeded to the command of the Sonora. It was on this voyage that Heceta discovered the Columbia River. How close he approached to the Oregon coast is not known, but the first publication of Jonathan Carver's book, containing the name "Oregon," and 19 years after his journey of which the volume treated, it was 13 years before Jefferson set his eyes on this way, 17 years before Gray entered the Columbia, and 28 years before Lewis and Clark started for the great West. Bodega sailed as far north as 55 degrees. He landed August 24 in a little harbor on the west coast of Cape Prince of Wales Island, and took possession of the country for Spain.

Nootka Sound Convention.

Kendrick's arrival in Nootka Sound with two Boston trading vessels, and the trafficking of the Englishman Meares with the natives moved Spain to a bold stroke for the territory. She sent a report of the expedition set out from San Blas in March, 1781, and reconnoitered the coast in the San Carlos. This was the first time the encroachments of the Russians were sent to Madrid. The Spanish court protested to the Russian court, but nothing came of the exchange of notes. Early in 1784 the Spanish court demanded that Nootka Sound be taken possession of by Spain in the name of Spain. This was done May 4, without protest from the English or American consuls in the harbor. From the captain of Meares' vessel, the Northwest America, which flew the Portuguese flag. The arrest of Captain Colnett, a Britisher, and the seizure of his

vessel, the Argonaut, by the Spanish, brought on the crisis. Madrid conveyed the first intelligence of the situation in the Northwest in the form of a grant of the territory of the British Cabinet February 30, 1780. It informed George III that certain of his subjects had been trespassing upon the Pacific possessions of Spain, and that consequently the "English" had been seized as a prize and her crew made prisoners. The note closed with an assertion of Spain's exclusive right to trade in the Northwest, and a demand that King George keep his subjects away from the coast. England replied in a belligerent note, denying Spain's claim of exclusive rights and demanding heavy damages for the seizure of the Argonaut. The negotiations were carried on for over two years, Spain modifying her conditions of settlement in the face of England's determined attitude, and England, in turn, as she recognized the ability to strike Spain in her vulnerable point—the American possessions—and finally less exacting when she saw that France might be about to enter the scene. The treaty was settled by what is known as the Nootka convention of October 28, 1791. It was stipulated in this treaty that all buildings and trading posts on the Northwest Coast of America, of which Spanish officers had dispossessed British subjects should be restored; that just reparation should be made by both parties for any acts of violence committed by either upon the subjects of the other; that any property seized should be restored or paid for; that subjects of Great Britain should not approach within 10 leagues of any part of the Coast already occupied by Spain, and that north of that point both parties should have equal rights as well as south of the limit of Spanish settlement in South America.

English-Spanish Treaty of 1794. While Captain George Vancouver was on his way to Nootka as the representative of Great Britain to come to some understanding with the Spaniards under the convention of 1791, and to find an inter-oceanic passage, the Viceroy of Mexico made a final effort to determine by exploration the value of Nootka as a foundation for a Spanish settlement. It is unnecessary to encumber the narrative with the details of this examination beyond saying that the Viceroy, Revillagigedo, recommended in April, 1793, that a station so far north as Nootka was not necessary for the protection of Spanish interests. In the meantime the Spanish Lieutenant Quimper entered the Straits of Fuca for the first time and discovered Puget Sound, which he named Puget and Quadra, the Spanish negotiator, could not agree upon terms at Nootka, the Englishman demanding unconditional surrender of the port, and Quadra refusing to yield. It was decided to submit the status of affairs at the north and submit the question to adjudication at London and Madrid. An agreement was signed at Madrid January 12, 1794, and the terms of it were carried to Nootka March 23, 1795, by Lieutenant Thomas Pierce, as the representative of Great Britain, and General Alava, as the representative of Spain. It contained the following explicit language:

Then the British officer shall unfurl the British flag over the land the small tract of which Meares had been dispossessed, thus restored a sign of possession, and after these preliminaries the officers of the two crowns shall retire respectively their people from the said port of Nootka. And their said majesties have furthermore agreed that the subjects of both nations shall be free to frequent the said port as may be convenient, and to erect there temporary buildings for their accommodation during their residence on such occasions. But neither of the two parties shall make in said port any permanent establishment, or claim there any right of sovereignty or territorial dominion, or the exclusion of the other. And their said majesties will aid each other to maintain their subjects in free access to the said port of Nootka, and to acquire a site on the shore, or to establish there any station, or attempt to establish there any sovereignty or dominion.

Spain transferred nothing but a small patch of ground. She surrendered to the English all she rendered all her rights on the Pacific Coast north of 42 degrees, to the United States in 1819.

ENGLISH EXPLORATIONS.

Voyages of Vancouver and Mackenzie Were the Most Important.

English exploration began when Sir Francis Drake, in the voyage of 1577-80, passed the Strait of Magellan and followed the coast to Northern California or Southern Oregon, naming the country New Albion. Then came Captain James Cook, who anchored in Nootka Sound, which the Spaniard Perez had entered a few years before. James Hanna, an English sailor, sailed from the Bay of Nootka Sound about 1785 and sold the King's George's Sound Company, and its failure in the fur business led to the Nootka Sound and China, 1785-87. Then came Meares, first in the service of the East India Company, and then on his own account, with the voyage of Captain Baring, in 1791, in an expedition, and discovered the Straits of Fuca, in between England's explorations on this coast, a reverse in the murder of Captain Cook by the natives, and the death of Captain Charles Clerke, the next in command of the Cook expedition, and in the fact that she was at war with her American neighbor, Great Britain, turned home in 1786. Cook sailed with two vessels from Plymouth July 13, 1776, 12 days after the colonies had declared their independence. He was instructed to first reach the coast of New Albion for such the English still called California, and was strictly enjoined on his way thither not to touch upon any part of the Spaniards' dominion in the western continent of America, unless driven to it by some unavoidable accident, in which case he should stay no longer than should be absolutely necessary, and to be very careful not to give any umbrage or offense to any of the inhabitants or subjects of His Catholic Majesty (of Spain). And if, in his further progress northward, he should meet any Spanish vessels, he should meet them on equal terms, by the Prince or state (referring to the Russians) upon any part of the coast which he might think proper to visit, he was not to disturb them or give them just cause of offence, but to be friendly to treat them with civility and friendship. He was also instructed to examine the coast thoroughly, and, "with the consent of the natives, to take possession in the name of the King of Great Britain of convenient stations in such countries as he might discover that had not been already discovered or visited by any other European power, and to distribute among the inhabitants such things as would remain as traces of his having been there; but if he should find the countries so discovered to be uninhabited, he was to take possession of them for Great Britain, by setting up proper marks and descriptions as first discoverers and possessors."

RUSSIAN PRETENSIONS.

Origin of the American Claim to 54 40, North Latitude.

Russia's plans on the West Coast, founded upon exploration, were disclosed to the Government by J. E. Prevost, the American Commissioner sent out by the President to receive the formal delivery of Astoria from the British. On his way home in the Fall of 1819 he stopped at the Port of Monterey in California, and wrote a long report of his mission, describing Oregon and its climate, soil and physical features, closing with an account of an incident which he thought most serious. Until 1816 the

LEWIS AND CLARK'S ITINERARY, TABULATED.

Table with columns: MONTH, YEAR, PLACE, REMARKS. It details the journey of Lewis and Clark from May 14, 1804, to September 23, 1806, listing various locations and events along the way.

an edict of the Emperor Alexander and it was then offered 54 degrees and 40 minutes, which was accepted and incorporated in the convention signed on April 1824.

ing southwesterly, he reached Point Menzies on the coast, shown by Vancouver on his map, and then, exploring the Burke and Dean canals, he journeyed up the Cascade Canal.

President Monroe, who demanded of the Russian Minister the grounds upon which it was based. Politics answered that the Russians had long maintained a settlement at Novo Archangelak, in latitude 51, and that 51 degrees was about midway between Novo Archangelak and the mouth of the Columbia. The restriction forbidding an approach to the coast was laid in order to keep out foreign adventurers who, not content with carrying on an illicit trade injurious to the interests of the Russian-American Fur Company, had supplied arms and ammunition to the natives of the Russian possessions in America and incited them to revolt. Against these documents Secretary Adams protested, but Politics cut short the discussion by the statement that he had no authority to continue it.

An invitation from Russia to negotiate the difference was accepted by the United States and the subject was referred to Henry Middleton, the American Minister

long time both the Oregon country and Texas were included within the Louisiana Purchase, but the weight of historical authority is against this opinion. France, which owned Louisiana and shifted it about at will on the chessboard of ownership, never had a shadow of title to the Oregon country, and never had any rights in Texas which were based upon permanent settlement or which Spain recognized. The eastern boundary of Louisiana was the Mississippi River and the Lakes Maurepas and Pontchartrain to the Gulf of Mexico. The southwestern boundary of the Louisiana region is marked by the line of the Arkansas, the Red and the Sabine, as laid down in the Florida annexation treaty of 1819. Notwithstanding that the boundaries are generally accepted as outlined above, so eminent an authority as the St. Louis Globe-Democrat declared last July that the western and southwestern boundary of Louisiana was the Continental Divide and the Rio Grande. "Not a single

contiguity was not well founded at international law, for the reason that there was between the Oregon country and the Louisiana territory a natural boundary which physical geography pointed out—ranches of mountains, the great rivers draining large basins. It was evidently inferred from a few French maps, and from the fact that the Court of Madrid, August 21, 1804, in any case, the Court of Madrid would have no ground for the fear it shows that the United States would make use of their possession of Louisiana in order to form possessions on the northwest coast of America. Whatever boundary may be agreed upon between Spain and the United States, the line will necessarily be so far removed from the eastern coast of America as to relieve the Court of Madrid from anxiety on that score.

Talleyrand further explained what France had transferred in his letter to General Armstrong, December 21, 1803. France, in giving up Louisiana to the United States, transferred to them all the rights over that colony which she had acquired from Spain; she could not, nor did she wish to, cede any part of the territory which she had acquired from Spain, and she had admitted that Spain had something to transfer.

A glance at the terms of the various transfers of the Louisiana region is convincing of the first change of sovereignty was the treaty of November 3, 1762, in which France ceded the region to Spain. Much misconception of boundaries on the part of meagre Jefferson's title articles from the fact that the full conditions of the treaty of 1762 were not made known in the United States for over 70 years afterward. The granting words were: "The colony or province of Louisiana, in entire possession, purely and simply, without exception, to His Catholic Majesty and his successors in perpetuity, all the country known under the name of Louisiana, which extends from Orleans, and the island on which that place stands."

The treaty of San Ildefonso, in which Spain returned Louisiana to the sovereignty of France, signed at October 1, 1800. The specific words of retrocession follow: "His Catholic Majesty promises and engages on his part to retrocede to the French Republic, with the same extent that it now has in the hands of Spain, and that it had when France possessed it, and such as it should be after the treaties subsequently entered into between Spain and other states. And whereas, in pursuance of the treaty, and particularly of the third article, the French Republic has an entire right to the territory of Louisiana, which she has acquired by the above-mentioned treaty, and which she has acquired by the French Republic, in virtue of the above-mentioned treaty."

Two important facts to be borne in mind are that at no time while Spain held Louisiana did it merge that region into Texas, or Texas into Louisiana, and that they were governed as separate provinces. At no time did France attempt to include Oregon in Louisiana, and after Louisiana had passed to the United States, Talleyrand took particular pains to quiet the Spanish court on the score of American plans on the Northwest coast. As the description in the treaty of 1803 was vague, Madrid, who conducted the negotiations for France, regretted to Napoleon the obscurity in which so important a reference was made. This did not trouble the conscience of Napoleon, who replied that "if an obscurity did not already exist it would, perhaps, be good policy to put one there."

It is clear from what has been shown and the quotations that have been made that the claim of the United States to 1762, included the Oregon Territory was a claim that France could never have legitimately made for herself, but which the United States, by the action of Gallatin and Cushing, made for her after the purchase of 1803. Nor was it a claim that ever was acknowledged by Spain. Let us see, then, upon what grounds Spain rested her claim to Oregon Territory. This claim, as Ficklen showed in his address before the Louisiana Historical Society, rested upon voyages of her mariners to the mouth of the Columbia in 1791, 1774 and 1775. Occupation of any portion of this Western country, however, had never passed 42 degrees, the present northern limit of the United States, and thus it will be seen that Spain had not completed her title to the Oregon Territory. Nevertheless, she held that she had good claim as any other nation, and when in 1803 she transferred to the United States, she promptly seized them as intruders. The matter, however, was settled in the so-called Convention of 1806, when Spain did not quitclaim her title to Oregon, but left the question of dominion over the Oregon Territory to be decided by Great Britain that both nations should navigate and fish as well as trade freely in the region and make settlements. Great Britain had advanced claims of discovery of the Columbia River, but the convention tacitly acknowledged that they were worthy of consideration. It is true that the convention was abrogated in 1807 by the treaty of Fontenay, but in 1814, 11 years after the United States purchased Louisiana, it was actually renewed, and I do not find that at this time the United States made any protest against this renewal of the convention between Spain and Great Britain to trade in this Western region and make settlements there. Finally, in 1819, when Spain transferred to the United States the territory north of 42 degrees parallel. This shows clearly that Spain set aside her claims, and in accepting them the United States tacitly admitted that they were worthy of consideration."

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able Calhoun, when Secretary of State, founded the right of the United States to Oregon upon "our own proper claims and those we have derived from France and Spain. We ground the former as against Great Britain on priority of discovery and priority of exploration and settlement. . . . (The Louisiana Purchase) also added much to the strength of our title to the region beyond the Rocky Mountains by restoring to us the important link of contiguity westward to the Pacific, which had been surrendered by the treaty of 1762." The claim of

Jefferson and the Oregon Boundary. Jefferson was more certain about the eastern boundary than the western, and too, more solicitous, for he wrote to William Dunbar in March 1804, that "however we may compromise on our western limits, we never shall on the eastern."

Jefferson's letter to Mellish, the geographer, on December 31, 1818, separates the Oregon country from the Louisiana Purchase, and it makes the mistake, common at the time, of stating that the 49th parallel had been adopted under the Treaty of Utrecht as the line between the French and English possessions. The letter follows: "By the charter of Louis XIV (to Crozat), all the country comprehending the waters which flow into the Mississippi was made a part of Louisiana. Consequently, its northern boundary was the summit of the highlands which its northern boundaries rise. But by the tenth article of the Treaty of Utrecht, France and England agreed to appoint commissioners to settle the boundary between their possessions in that quarter, and these commissioners settled it at the 49th degree of latitude. . . . The western boundary of Louisiana is, rightfully, the Rio Bravo (its main stream) from its mouth to its source, and thence along the highlands and mountains, dividing the waters of the Mississippi from those of the Pacific. . . . On the water of the Pacific, we can find no claim in right of Louisiana. If we claim the United States, we must claim the territory at the mouth of the river in which our settlement rests at the mouth of the Columbia, and the principle of the Jus gentium of America, that when a civilized nation takes possession of a territory, it is considered as a country, that possession is considered as including all its waters. . . . The line of lat-

itude of the southern source of the Multnomat (Willamette) might be claimed as appurtenant to Astoria. Talleyrand allayed the fears of the Spaniards over the transfer of Louisiana to the United States, and recognized the rights of the Spaniards on the Pacific Coast when he wrote to the Court of Madrid, August 21, 1804: "In any case, the Court of Madrid would have no ground for the fear it shows that the United States would make use of their possession of Louisiana in order to form possessions on the northwest coast of America. Whatever boundary may be agreed upon between Spain and the United States, the line will necessarily be so far removed from the eastern coast of America as to relieve the Court of Madrid from anxiety on that score."

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GREAT-GRANDDAUGHTER OF SACAIAWEA. Photo by Lee Moorhouse. A great-granddaughter of Sacajawea, the "Bird Woman," who filled an important place in the Lewis and Clark expedition, lives in Clackamas County, Or. Although only a squaw of the Shoshone tribe, captured when a child, and carried as a slave to the Mandan country, and purchased by the Frenchman Chaboneau for a wife, Sacajawea was one of the spirits of the party. She canoed and tramped and climbed as well as any man in the expedition. Intercepted when her husband could not, and at critical times gave suggestions and advice which the chieftains capitulated weighed at its true value. They were not afraid frankly to acknowledge their debt to her, and they speak highly of her in referring to their parting at the Mandan towns in 1806.

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