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## [From the Washington Globe.] SUMMARY OF FACTS RESPECTING THE NORTHWEST COAST OF AMERICA.

The northwest coast of America is the expression usually employed to designate the vast portion of the American continent north of the fortieth parallel of latitude, which extends from the great dividing chain of the Rocky mountains, westward to the Pacific, together with the adjacent islands in that ocean. The territory bordering upon the Pacific southward from the fortieth parallel, to Cape San Lucas, the extremity of the land in that direction, situated nearly under the tropic of Cancer, is known by the general name of *California*, which the Spaniards applied to the whole western section of North-America. The northwest coast and the coast of California together, may be considered as forming the *West Coast of North-America*.

Before the year 1774, the west coast of North-America had been discovered by the Spaniards as far north certainly as the 43d degree of latitude, and most probably ten degrees farther. No part of the coast within those limits had been seen by the people of any civilized nation, until after its discovery by the Spaniards; for Drake undoubtedly went no farther north in 1579, than Cabrillo and Ferrello had gone in 1543. Spanish colonies had also been planted in that coast as far north as the 38th degree; and Spain was then fully and indisputably in the possession of the whole territory extending on the Pacific, south of Cape Mendocino under the 40th parallel.

Within the same period, also, (that is, prior to 1774,) the Russians sailing from Kamschatka had discovered the Aleutian Islands, which stretch in a chain across the northwest part of the Pacific, from America towards Asia, and many points on the American continent and its adjacent islands north of the 55th parallel; and had also made settlements on the Aleutian islands for the prosecution of the fur trade.

In 1774, a Spanish ship sent from Mexico, under Capt. Perez, sailed along the coast northward to the 54th degree, discovering the land in many places, particularly at the entrance of a bay between the 49th and 50th degrees of latitude, called by the Spaniards Port San Lorenzo, which appears to be the same now known as Nootka Sound. The Spanish Government suppressed all accounts of this expedition until 1802, when a short notice of it was published officially in the introduction to the journal of a voyage made in 1792, by the schooners *Sutil* and *Mexicana*.

In 1775, two other Spanish vessels were sent from Mexico under Captains Heceta and Bodega. Heceta did not proceed beyond the 50th degree. On his return, he discovered an inlet or opening in the coast, in the latitude of 45 degrees 16 minutes, which is noted on Spanish maps, published within ten years afterwards as the *Inlet of Heceta*. Other Spanish maps, published within the same period, represented this inlet as the mouth of a river called the *Rio de San Roque*; it is, in fact, the mouth of the river now called the *Columbia*. The other Spanish vessel, under, Bodega, went, as far north as the 57th degree; in the course of which voyage, the Spaniards certainly saw the coasts of the continent and its adjacent

great islands very frequently, and landed in many places, where they left monuments in token of their visits. The Spanish Government endeavored likewise to suppress all accounts of this expedition; fortunately, however, Mr. Barrington, an English gentleman, obtained from Madrid a copy of the journal kept by Maurelle, the pilot of Bodega's vessel, which he translated into English, and published in London in 1781, among his *Miscellanies*.

In 1779, another expedition along these coasts was made by the Spaniards in two vessels, commanded by Captain Arteaga and Bodega, who visited several places situated near the 60th degree; but those parts of the coast had, in the preceding year, been minutely explored by the British, under Capt. Cook.

Cook arrived on the American coast, near the 43d degree of latitude, in 1778. He examined the shores of the continent between that degree and the 49th, with care, and he entered the bay called by him Nootka Sound, where he refitted his ships. He then saw many points on the west coast of the westernmost islands, which line the shore of the continent between the 48th and the 58th parallels; and explored minutely the remainder of the west coast of the continent beyond those islands, as far as the Arctic sea. The British, in this expedition, were ignorant of the discoveries made by the Spaniards in 1774 and 1775; and, in fact, had not Barrington's translation of Maurelle's journey appeared in print before the termination of the British expedition, it would have been impossible to deprive Cook of the merit of having discovered the whole west coast of America north of the 49th degree; as no sufficient evidence could have been adduced in proof of prior discoveries, from the manuscripts of the Spaniards, which might fairly have been assumed to be forgeries, made up from Cook's journals. The British, to the present day, give no credit to the discoveries of Perez, which were not communicated to the world until after the publication of Cook's journals, and their writers studiously omit all mention of the expedition of Bodega and Heceta.

Between 1785 and 1795, the northwest coasts of America were frequented and examined by the fur traders of Great Britain, France, Russia, Austria, and the United States, and they were carefully surveyed by the national ships of Great Britain, Spain, Russia and France. The Russians had established colonies and trading posts on the northernmost parts of the coast; and one attempt had been made by the Spaniards to found a settlement farther south, which occasioned a dispute between their government and that of Great Britain. A Spanish force sent from Mexico, in 1789, took possession of Nootka Sound, which had been one of the principal places of resort for the fur traders of all nations. The Spanish commandant, Martinez, also seized two British vessels, which arrived there while he was in possession, bringing men and materials for the establishment of a trading factory. The owners of these vessels complained to the British government; and their agent, Mr. Meares, moreover represented, falsely, as can be proved, that he had already, in the year before the occupation of the Nootka by the Spaniards, himself purchased the ter-

ritory at that place, and erected a fort and factory on it, under the British flag. The British government, upon the strength of these misrepresentations, demanded the restitution of Nootka, and of other places in the vicinity, which Meares pretended also to have purchased, as well as the recognition of the rights of British subjects to navigate the Pacific, and to make settlements on any part of the west coast of America, north of the most northern settlements of the Spaniards. After some negotiations and preparations on both sides for war, the Spanish government yielded; and stipulations, conformable with the demands of the British, as well as some others, respecting the navigation of the Pacific and South Seas, the right of trade and settlement on their coasts, and the indemnification to be made to British subjects, were embodied in a convention, (commonly called the Nootka treaty) signed in October, 1790. Other negotiations followed respecting the extent of territory to be restored to British subjects; and finally, in 1795, the Spaniards formally delivered up Nootka to the British Commission. Both parties immediately afterwards quitted the place, and no attempt has since been made by any civilized nation to occupy it. The Spaniards endeavored also, in the summer of 1792, to establish a post on the south side of the straits of Fuca, but in a few months afterward they abandoned it. Since that time, no effort whatever was made to extend her dominion on the Pacific north of the Bay of San Francisco, in latitude of 38 1-2 degrees, the most northern point occupied by her subjects, before the conclusion of the convention of 1790.

In 1791, Capt. Robert Gray, the commander of an American merchant ship, discovered the mouth of a river in the latitude of 46 degrees and 16 minutes. Being then unable to enter the river, he returned thither in May, 1792, and sailed up it the distance of fifteen miles from the sea. Upon this river Gray bestowed the name of his ship, the *Columbia*, which it now bears; although attempts are made to identify it with a supposed river *Oregon*, of which Carver, a native of Connecticut, pretended, falsely, no doubt, to have received accounts in 1766, from the Indians near the head waters of the Mississippi. The opening in the American coast, through which the *Columbia* enters the Pacific, is the same discovered by Heceta in 1775, and called on some Spanish maps as before mentioned, the *Rio de San Roque*. For this river Meares had searched in vain, although he examined its very mouth in 1788; and he declares confidently, in his journal, published in 1790, that none such exists. Vancouver had also, in 1792, during the interval between Gray's first and second visits to the mouth of the stream, minutely explored that part of the coast; and although he met Gray while the latter was on his way to make his second attempt, and received an account of the existence of the river, he still refused to credit it, and recorded in his journal his conviction that no river of note entered the Pacific from America, between the 40th and 48th degrees of latitude. Yet the same British navigator did not hesitate to record also in his journal the assertion, that his lieutenant, Broughton, was the first discoverer

of the *Columbia*, and that Gray had never been within twenty miles of its mouth. Gray also discovered a good harbor on the same coast, a little north of the mouth of the *Columbia*, which he called *Bulfinch's harbor*; but which, even upon American maps, is frequently named *Whidbey's harbor*, after Vancouver's lieutenant, who subsequently surveyed it.

Between 1799 and 1794, the British and the Spaniards completely explored the coasts of the continent from the forty-eighth to the fifty-eighth parallels, and the numerous islands adjacent, which form the great northwest Archipelago. The discoveries of the English are well known by means of the journals of Vancouver's voyage; while little can be gathered respecting those made by the Spaniards, from the only source of information, the introduction to the journals of the voyage of the *Sutil* and *Mexicana*. To the American fur traders, however, the world is indebted for many other discoveries in that quarter, as can be proved by documents still existing. The islands, straits, capes, &c. thus discovered, received from the British navigators the names of various members of the royal family, the ministry, and the tory nobility and gentry of England. These names may still be found on our maps, though few of them will probably ever be employed by those who inhabit that part of the world. The Russians, who occupy the northern part of the great northwest Archipelago, and the adjacent coasts of the continent, studiously expunge from their maps every name imposed by a foreign civilized nation.

In 1796, Spain declared war against Great Britain; and from that year to 1814, the trade of the north Pacific coast's was conducted *exclusively* by the Russians and the citizens of the United States. Within that space of time the Russians had formed numerous settlements and trading posts on the coasts of America north of the 55th parallel, and one establishment not far from the bay of San Francisco, near the 39th degree. The west branch of the *Columbia* river was explored in its whole course from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific in 1805, by Messrs. Lewis and Clark, who had been despatched for the purpose by the Government of the United States, after the cession of Louisiana to that power by France. Settlements and trading posts were also established in 1811, by citizens of the United States, at the mouth of the *Columbia* river, and at points on its branches in the interior; and by the Northwest Company of Montreal in 1806, and the following years, in the country north of the sources of the *Columbia*, which had been explored in 1793 by Mackenzie. There is, however, no reason to believe that any British establishment had been formed in any part of the territory drained by the *Columbia*, before the foundation of the American settlement called *Astoria*, at the mouth of that river, in March, 1811.

The establishments formed by the citizens of the United States on the *Columbia*, subsisted until the end of 1813, when in anticipation of their capture by a British naval force, which had been sent for that purpose from London, the buildings and stock of goods on hand were sold by the principal agents to the Northwest Company. Soon afterwards the British