

MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

In answer to a resolution of the Senate relative to the British establishments on the Columbia, and the state of the fur trade, &c.

JANUARY 25, 1831.

Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

JANUARY 26, 1831.

Ordered to be printed, and that 1500 additional copies be furnished for the use of the Senate.

January 24, 1831.

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit herewith a report from the Secretary of War, containing the information requested by the resolution of the Senate of the 21st instant, in relation to "the state of the British establishments in the valley of the Columbia, and the state of the fur trade, as carried on by the citizens of the United States and the Hudson's Bay Company."

ANDREW JACKSON.

WASHINGTON CITY,

22d January, 1831.

SIR: The enclosed communication from Gen. W. H. Ashley, Joshua Pilcher, and from J. D. Smith, David E. Jackson, and W. L. Sublette, contains all the information to be found in this Department on the subject of the resolution of the Senate of the 21st instant.

Very respectfully,

J. H. EATON.

To the PRESIDENT of the United States.

WASHINGTON CITY, March , 1829.

SIR: You request me to communicate to you, by letter, my opinion, as it regards a military force best calculated for the protection of our western frontier, the fur trade, and our trade and intercourse direct from Missouri and Arkansas to the Mexican provinces, &c. &c.

In answer to your first inquiry, I will remark, that my ideas on this subject were communicated to a part of the representation in Congress from Missouri three years ago. I then did, and do yet, believe that a mounted force is the only one that can operate advantageously in that country. This force ought, in my opinion, to consist of about five hundred mounted riflemen, who should be enlisted expressly for that service, anticipating at the time of enlistment the privations peculiar to it, or selections made of suitable men now in the army. These troops ought to subsist themselves, which they could do with convenience, so soon as the officers become acquainted with the country in which they would have to operate. In addition to the rifle, one half of the command should be armed with sabres. Four pieces of light artillery would be found convenient and useful. The patent rifle which I examined in your office appears, in one particular, to be well calculated for this service, in as much as it can be conveniently and quickly charged on horseback; but I have been heretofore prejudiced against this description of guns, believing that they were subject, by use, to get out of order, and could not be repaired without much difficulty. Putting, therefore, these guns out of the question, of the utility of which I know but little, I would recommend a rifle, the barrel of which should not exceed three feet in length, carrying a ball weighing about three fourths of an ounce, and having metal sufficient to support a ball of that size. I have used the percussion locks but little, but believe them admirably well constructed for general use, but more particularly for the prairies, where severe winds and rains prevail at certain seasons of the year. Great convenience would be experienced from having every gun of the same dimensions, every spring, screw, &c, &c, of the locks, of the same size and form. This being the case, every material of one would fit, and might be used in any one. The gun stick, or thimble rod, ought to be of large size, and of wood; iron sometimes batters the muzzle, and makes the gun shoot wild. The only difference should be in the length of the breech: some should, in this particular, be longer than others, to suit the arms of those who use them. In their weight, and in every other particular, except the breech, they ought to be the same. In that case, when a man became accustomed to the use of one, he could, with the same convenience, use any one of them. The sabre will be found useful, and almost indispensable in operations against Indians mounted on horseback, and armed with bows and arrows, which they use with great dexterity and effect. The Indians in the vicinity of the Rocky mountains are very much in the habit of fortifying some strong point convenient to where they intend attacking their enemy, by the way of covering their retreat, if unsuccessful, and fearing pursuit. They use the same precaution when encamped, whenever they apprehend danger. When covered in this way, they fight desperately before they can be ousted. It is in cases of this kind, as well as in many others, that artillery would be found convenient.

Five hundred troops, armed and equipped as proposed, would, in my opinion, be sufficient to contend against any Indian force that could be conveniently brought against them; a much less number might be in danger of defeat, provided the Indians generally should be disposed to war against us. It seems to me, that, if the Government undertake to protect the frontiers and trade in question, it ought to be done effectually. No half way measures should be adopted; show a sufficient force in the country to put down all opposition, and all opposition will cease without shedding of blood. But show an incompetent force, which may tempt the Indians to attack and de-

feat it, and the result will not only be the loss of many lives and extreme mortification; but the expenditure of money to reach the object in view more than perhaps five or ten times the amount which will be necessary, should the Government pursue the proper course in the first instance. The protection to be afforded should be extended as equally as practicable to all our citizens engaged in the trade of that country, whether to Santa Fe or with the Indians. And as it cannot be expected that every caravan will be furnished an escort, let its destination be where it may, the force ought therefore to be sufficient to overawe the Indians, and thereby render escorts unnecessary. It seems to me that economy of lives and money dictates this course. To operate against the Indians who have heretofore committed outrages upon our Santa Fe traders, one hundred men would be all sufficient; but it is reasonable to suppose that the success of the offenders on this route will induce others to join them. Let us consider the force of the Indians in that quarter who are now recognised as our enemies; those who have taken a menacing attitude, and those who are, or pretend to be, friendly, but who may be brought to action against us. In this way it may be better seen whether protection is necessary, and what that protection ought to be. The Indians south of the Arkansas river I know but little about; they are very troublesome to the Spanish settlements, and are considered dangerous in that quarter. They are charged with participating in the recent depredations on the Santa Fe route; but I am of opinion that the principal actors in these outrages, and perhaps the only ones, were the Arapahoes and the Kewas. These people reside on the head waters of the Arkansas, between the Santa Fe road and the mountains. They extend their excursions to the head waters of the Platte, and across the mountains to the Rio Colorado of the west. They can muster about five hundred warriors, and are tolerably well supplied with arms and ammunition. From many circumstances within my own knowledge, in relation to the conduct of these people, and from accounts received from some of the Santa Fe traders who were robbed last fall, I feel assured that these tribes of Indians have been the offenders. They are the particular friends and relatives of the Blackfoots, who reside on the head waters of the Missouri, and who are our most bitter enemies. These tribes keep up a constant intercourse with each other. In August, 1825, seven hundred families of the Blackfoots visited the Arapahoes, and remained with or near them until the ensuing summer. The Blackfoots have altogether among their several bands from four to six thousand warriors at least. In the course of the last 18 months, these people have repeatedly extended their war excursions entirely across our territory west of the Rocky mountains, and harassed, robbed, and slaughtered our citizens. They can at any time conveniently reinforce the Arapahoes with one or two thousand warriors. They are well armed and supplied with ammunition by the Hudson's Bay Company. Major Doherty, United States Indian Agent, has given it as his opinion that the Pawnees, who are included in his agency, have determined to wage war against us. The character of Major D., his means of information, and his knowledge of the Indian character, entitle his opinion to the greatest credit. I know, too, that the Pawnees have been dissatisfied, and have repeatedly threatened us with war. I was once with that nation more than a month at the same time, when they were very much excited. I heard their threats, and plans to execute them. Notwithstanding all these circumstances, I am inclined to believe that they are not yet prepared, and will not, therefore, yet commence hostilities. They want to feel

their way, and see what will be the result of the recent depredations committed on the Santa Fe route. Should these occurrences pass unnoticed, and nothing should be done to check them, we may anticipate a war with the Pawnees at some period not far distant. When they come to that determination, they will remove (for they have nothing to bind them to their villages, where they now reside a part of each year) to the head waters of the south branch of the river Platte, and there operate with the Arapahoes, Kewas, and Blackfoots. These several nations can muster altogether seven thousand warriors, four thousand of whom would be sufficient to take care of their women and children, while the balance of them go to war. They can subsist themselves altogether, convenient to almost any one point, from the 25th to the 38th degree of longitude, and from the northern to the southern boundary of that portion of our territory. This whole region of country abounds in buffalo and other game. Any one acquainted with the range of these animals may (if they do not find them at the spot where they wish to use them) procure them not far off. They are so numerous that it appears to me that their numbers would increase annually, even were the consumption of them twice or thrice what it now is. By the foregoing statement, I have endeavored to give you my opinion of the force, situation, and disposition of the several bands of Indians from whom we may expect the greatest immediate danger, and also their means of subsistence in the country where their operations against us will be carried on. I will now enumerate the bands with whom we have friendly intercourse, but whose friendship, as I have before observed, is, in my opinion, very precarious. The several tribes, as far as we have extended our acquaintance west of the Rocky mountains, can, I presume, muster from six to eight thousand warriors. They are located in different sections of that country, where our principal fur trade is carried on. On the Missouri, above the mouth of the Platte, we have the Mahaws, who can furnish about four hundred warriors; the Pancaes, two hundred and fifty warriors; the several bands of Sioux, 2,500 warriors; the Shawnees, 400; the Arickaras, 600; the Mandans and Menatarees, 700; the Crows, 800. On the western boundary of the State of Missouri, the Osages, I suppose, can furnish 1,000 warriors; the Ioways, 250; the Kansas about 400; and the several tribes, or parts of tribes, recently located there by the General Government, perhaps from six hundred to one thousand warriors. I however know but little about these last mentioned Indians: their numbers may be greater or less than I have mentioned. Agreeably to this estimate, which I feel assured will not differ in any great degree from the exact number, the whole of the tribes *with whom we have intercourse* within the limits of the United States, and west of the State of Missouri, can furnish about twenty-two thousand warriors, from three to four thousand of whom are located immediately upon the western border of Missouri, and within four or five days' march thereof; twelve or fifteen hundred of the number, the Pawnees, are now threatening us with war; several hundred others of this number, the late emigrants, were, a short time since, (instigated by the British Government) slaughtering our citizens upon our northern frontier, and continued to do so as long as that Government desired it. They had no good cause for their hostility. They lived within the limits of the territory of the United States, from which they could not retreat without the support of the British, and they well knew that when that Government ceased to provide for them, they would again be dependent upon the United States for territory on which they could subsist them-

selves. Notwithstanding all these circumstances, calculated to induce them to cultivate our friendship, or at least to observe a neutral course, at the first suggestion of the British, they raised the tomahawk against us. What faith can be placed on the friendship of these people? They well know that they may at any time repeat their depredations upon us with impunity; that, should the United States provide the means to punish them, they can sue for peace at any time, with a certainty of obtaining it, and of being restored to their former homes and privileges. Under such circumstances, what have they to fear from repeating their outrages upon us? And how different is the situation of these Indians now from what it was upon our northern frontier before the late war; located upon our western frontier, where in their rear they have a wilderness of fifteen hundred miles in extent, peculiarly adapted to the use of Indians, the greater portion of it literally covered with buffalo and other game; strongly fortified by nature with the Rocky mountains, where their retreat can be safely covered, without a strong force to oust them; and behind their natural fortifications, they have their old friends, the British emissaries, preparing materials for rekindling the war fires, should it become necessary. If these Indians should ever be again disposed to raise the tomahawk against us, (and I have not the least doubt of it) they cannot desire a more eligible position than they now occupy.

The facts *generally* herein enumerated are not stated as information coming from others, but from my own personal observations. The conclusions which they have led me to must, I think, appear reasonable to all who will properly consider them. If so, it must forcibly appear that our western frontier, and our citizens engaged in their lawful and laudable pursuits in that country, want the protection of the General Government; and that not less than five hundred troops, equipped as proposed, will afford that protection. Our citizens immediately interested in the country in question ought reasonably to expect this protection as a matter of right; and the Government ought, in my opinion, to feel the reasonableness of their claim, and afford it as a matter of course.

The military command, as proposed, should not be stationary at any one point, but traverse the country from place to place, wherever the good of the service may seem to require. In this way the officers might acquire a knowledge of the country in which they would have to operate, and also the Indian character, where it could be done leisurely, and without injury to the troops. The latter would be necessary, and the former almost indispensable, because such is the situation of the country, that the safety of the command might, in some degree, depend upon this information; for instance, there are sections of the country for 50 to 100 miles in extent, in pursuing certain directions, entirely without water, and other portions of it almost equally destitute of subsistence for men or horses. There are also inaccessible mountains, offering appearances of easy access, which would cause great fatigue and delay in attempting to cross them; while others, of much more rugged appearances, can be easily penetrated, when their avenues are well known. These and numerous other circumstances of equal importance require that the officer commanding troops in that country should have a knowledge of them before expeditious movements through the country should become indispensable. The troops, too, by moving about as proposed, would be daily acquiring a knowledge of their duty, having so frequently to harness their horses, cross large and difficult rivers, securing camps on different situations, and in a variety of ways become much more

efficient in the service. When it might not be necessary for this command to winter elsewhere, they might take up their winter quarters on our western frontier, where they could be subsisted cheap, and, if necessary, afford protection to our frontier. In compliance with your request in relation to my manner of equipping and moving parties of men through the Indian country in the course of my general excursions to the Rocky mountains, I will observe, that, as mules are much the best animals for packing heavy burthens, each man has charge of two of them for that purpose, and one horse to ride. The equipage of each horse or mule consists of two halters, one saddle, one saddle blanket, one bearskin for covering the pack or saddle, and one packstrap for the purpose of binding on the pack, and a bridle for the riding horse. One of the halters should be made light for common use, of beef hide, dressed soft; the other should be made of hide dressed in the same way, or tarred rope, sufficiently strong to hold the horse under any circumstances, and so constructed as to give pain to the jaws when drawn very tight. The rein of each halter should not be less than sixteen feet long. A stake made of tough hard wood, about two inches in diameter, and two feet long, with an iron socket, pointed at one end to penetrate the earth, and at the other end a band of iron to prevent its splitting, should be provided, to be used when in the prairies, with the halter last described; this stake, when well set in the ground, will hold any horse.

In the organization of a party of, say from 60 to 80 men, four of the most confidential and experienced of the number are selected to aid in the command; the rest are divided in messes of eight or ten. A suitable man is also appointed at the head of each mess, whose duty it is to make known the wants of his mess, receive supplies for them, make distributions, watch over their conduct, enforce order, &c. &c.

The party thus organised, each man receives the horse and mules allotted to him, their equipage, and the packs which his mules are to carry; every article so disposed of is entered in a book kept for that purpose. When the party reaches the Indian country, great order and vigilance in the discharge of their duty are required of every man. A variety of circumstances confines our march very often to the borders of large water courses; when that is the case, it is found convenient and safe, when the ground will admit, to locate our camps (which are generally laid off in a square) so as to make the river form one line, and include as much ground in it as may be sufficient for the whole number of horses, allowing for each a range of thirty feet in diameter. On the arrival of the party at their camping ground, the position of each mess is pointed out; where their packs, saddles, &c. are taken off, and with them a breastwork immediately put up, to cover them from a night attack by Indians: the horses are then watered and delivered to the horse guard, who keep them on the best grass outside and near the encampment, where they graze until sunset; then each man brings his horses within the limits of the camp, exchanges the light halter for the other more substantial, sets his stakes, which are placed at the distance of thirty feet from each other, and secures his horses to them. This range of thirty feet, in addition to the grass the horse has collected outside the camp, will be all sufficient for him during the night. After these regulations, the proceedings of the night are pretty much the same as are practised in military camps. At day light (when in dangerous parts of the country) two or more men are mounted on horseback, and sent to examine ravines, woods, hills, and other places within striking distance of the camp, where Indians might secrete themselves, before the

men are allowed to leave their breastworks to make the necessary morning arrangements before marching. When these spies report favorably, the horses are then taken outside the camp, delivered to the horse guard, and allowed to graze until the party has breakfasted, and are ready for saddling. In the line of march, each mess march together, and take their choice of positions in the line according to their activity in making themselves ready to move, viz: the mess first ready to march moves up in the rear of an officer who marches in the front of the party, and takes choice of a position in the line, and so they all proceed until the line is formed; and in that way they march the whole of that day. Spies are sent several miles ahead, to examine the country in the vicinity of the route; and others are kept at the distance of a half mile or more from the party, as the situation of the ground seems to require, in front, rear, and on the flanks. In making discoveries of Indians, they communicate the same by a signal or otherwise to the commanding officer with the party, who makes his arrangements accordingly. In this way I have marched parties of men the whole way from St. Louis to the vicinity of the Grand lake, which is situated about one hundred and fifty miles down the waters of the Pacific ocean, in 78 days. In the month of March, 1827, I fitted out a party of 60 men, mounted a piece of artillery (a four pounder) on a carriage which was drawn by two mules; the party marched to or near the Grand Salt lake beyond the Rocky mountains, remained there one month, stopped on the way back fifteen days, and returned to Lexington, in the western part of Missouri, in September, where the party was met with every thing necessary for another outfit, and did return (using the same horses and mules) to the mountains by the last of November, in the same year.

With great respect,

I have the honor to be

Your obedient servant,

W. H. ASHLEY.

Gen. A. MACOMB,

*Commander in Chief of the Army of the
U. States, Washington city.*

To the Honorable J. H. EATON, *Secretary of War*:

SIR: Having been engaged in the fur trade for several years past, and lately extended my excursions beyond the Rocky mountains, and become personally acquainted with the state of things on the Columbia river, I deem it a duty to make a report of what I saw to my Government, and flatter myself that the information I may be able to give will not be without its use, in determining the policy which the United States may adopt in regard to that country.

I engaged in the Indian trade of the Upper Missouri eleven years ago, say 1819; and having encountered a full share of the accidents and miscarriages which attend that perilous business, I determined, in 1827, on more extensive operations. With this view, I left Council Bluffs in September of that year, with a party of men, forty-five in the whole, and an outfit of merchandise suited to the object. My route lay up the river Platte to its forks,

and thence up its north branch to its source in the Rocky mountains. Here I had to make a *depôt* of merchandise and property, which is done by burying it in the ground, the Indians having completed their designs upon our horses by stealing the last of them. I had set out from Council Bluffs with one hundred and four of these indispensable animals, and was left to make the transit of the mountains almost without any. The snow was deep, but the ascent and descent easy, being a depression of the mountain to such a degree that a carriage would cross without the least difficulty. The depression was not only low, but wide—something like a valley through the mountains, say thirty or forty miles wide, the river Colorado taking its rise from the opposite side. I passed the winter 1827 and '28 on the Colorado. In the spring of 1828, with horses obtained from the Snake Indians for the purpose, one of my partners returned to the depot on the waters of the Platte, but found a considerable part of the merchandise destroyed, the water having penetrated the place where it was buried. The remnant saved from this misfortune was carried across the mountains to the small lake called *Bear lake*, a little to the west of the sources of the Colorado, then a rendezvous for hunters and traders. Here our traffic with these people was completed. My partners and most of the men set out on their return to the Council Bluffs; and myself, with nine men, commenced a tour to the northwest, with the view of exploring the region of the Columbia river, to ascertain the attractions and capabilities for trade. This was in July, 1828, and the excursion which I then engaged in occupied me till June, 1830, (a period of nearly two years,) when I returned to St. Louis. It is of the observations which I made in this excursion that I propose to give you some account—the preceding statement being for elucidation, and to explain the character of a voyage which might otherwise appear extraordinary, if not incredible.

After leaving *Bear lake*, I proceeded northwardly, keeping to the west of the main ridge of the Rocky mountains, to Lewis's river, and thence to Clark's river, both of them being branches of the Columbia. We were destitute of horses—had to climb rugged mountains incessantly, and to procure with difficulty the means of subsistence. Four months were consumed in this way, and, on the first of December, the mountains having become deeply covered with snow, we took up our abode for the winter. This was at a lake called *Flathead lake*—a beautiful sheet of water, in a low, deep valley. The lake is about thirty-five miles in length, by five or six in width. This lake communicates with Clark's river, and is formed by its northern branch. It is surrounded by lofty mountains, whose summits, in many places, are covered with perpetual snow. It lies in a valley, which is extensive, rich, and would support a considerable population. The valley itself is covered with luxuriant grass, and the foot of the mountains with a variety of timber and vegetation, indicating the richest soil. Besides this valley, many spots of rich ground were seen on Clark's river.

But it was not rich land that I was in search of; and, in the month of February, in the year 1829, I recommenced my travels, still proceeding north. In the latter end of the spring, some horses which I had procured were again stolen. A short time subsequent to this loss, I fell in with a small party of men, with whom I had passed a part of the preceding winter, and who had formerly been attached to the interests of a gentleman of St. Louis. The greater part of my men being disheartened with the sufferings and privations they endured, and having no ultimate prospects

sufficiently brilliant to bear them up under present hardships, desired to return; and discharging all but one, to return with their countrymen, I determined to persevere with him, and complete, if possible, the tour of observation and discovery which I had marked out.

Before I left the neighborhood of the Flathead lake, I fell in with a gentleman of the Hudson's Bay Company, who had been long expected there, and who had come out to make his annual trade with the Flathead Indians. For the purpose of this trade, the Hudson's Bay Company have a small post—a mere wintering establishment—situate on Clark's fork, about 250 miles, according to my estimate, above its junction with the Columbia. The post consists of a few log cabins and a stockade, and has nothing permanent in its appearance, and no other defence than the usual precautions required against Indians. By the invitation of this gentleman, I accompanied him on his return to fort Colville, the principal establishment of the Hudson's Bay Company for the mountain region. We descended Clark's fork for five days in *batteaux*, and then made a *portage* of about sixty miles, to avoid the falls of that river, which render its navigation, near its junction with the Columbia, wholly impracticable. We arrived at fort Colville on the first of September, 1829. This post is on the main Columbia river, about thirty miles below the mouth of Clark's fork, and on the *south* side of the river, in latitude 48 degrees 38 minutes. A proprietor of the company, a couple of clerks, and about 25 men, are stationary at this post. It consisted, when I saw it, of log houses for the accommodation of the company, and for storehouses for the merchandise and furs. A stockade was begun before I left there. Some swivels, in addition to common fire-arms, were all the defences which I saw. About 60 or 70 acres of ground were under cultivation, and the crops were fine and abundant. Wheat, barley, oats, Indian corn, Irish potatoes, peas, and garden vegetables of every description, grow well, and were equal in the quality and in the product to any in this country. The wheat was ground at the post on hand mills, though a windmill was erecting, and a plentiful supply of flour obtained. Of domestic animals, there were cattle, hogs, and horses; the post being well supplied with its own bacon, butter, milk, &c.

The situation of the post is beautiful, being at the foot of the last range of mountains, and at the principal falls on the upper part of the Columbia. Many spots of ground are fit for cultivation, and the climate is healthy and agreeable. This post, as I have said, is the principal *dépôt* for the mountain trade. Its supplies of merchandise are received by the way of the Columbia, coming in ships as high up that river as fort Vancouver, and afterwards in *batteaux*; the distance from the sea being about six hundred miles. The merchandise thus brought up to fort Colville is traded partly at that post, and partly distributed to the Flathead post, and another on McGilvray's river, another branch of the Columbia, coming from the *south*, and falling into the main river about twenty-five miles above the mouth of Clark's river. The furs collected at all these places are sent down the Columbia in *batteaux* to fort Vancouver, and thence shipped to England and other places. Besides the furs obtained from these posts, others are got by *trapping*; for which purpose, parties have gone as far south as the Colorado, for six or seven years past. I remained twenty days at fort Colville, received the most kind and hospitable treatment from the gentlemen of the post; and having received from them an offer of the protection of their annual express or packet along the line of their posts and establishments, across the continent to lake Winnipeg, I determin-

ed to accept it, and relinquished the intention of going down the Columbia to its mouth. I am, therefore, dependent on the information I received at fort Colville for what I have to say of fort Vancouver; but having an implicit reliance on its truth, I have no hesitation in communicating it to you. This fort is on the north side of the Columbia, nearly opposite the mouth of the Multnomah, in the region of tide water, and near the head of ship navigation. It is a grand position, both in a military and commercial point of view, and formed to command the whole region watered by the Columbia and all its tributaries. The surrounding country, both for climate and soil, is capable of sustaining a large population; and its resources in timber give ample facilities for ship building. This post is strongly fortified with cannon; and having been selected as the principal, or master position, no pains have been spared to strengthen and improve it. For this purpose, the old post near the mouth of the river has been abandoned. About one hundred and twenty acres of ground are in cultivation; and the product in wheat, barley, oats, corn, potatoes, and other vegetables, is equal to what is known in the best parts of the United States. Domestic animals are numerous—the horned cattle having been stated to me at three hundred; hogs, horses, sheep, goats, in proportion; also, the usual domestic fowls; every thing, in fact, indicating a permanent establishment. Ship building has commenced at this place. One vessel has been built and rigged, sent to sea, and was then in the trade of the Pacific Ocean. I also met a gentleman on my way to lake Winnipeg, at the portage between the Columbia and the Athabasca, who was on his way from Hudson's bay to fort Colville, with a master ship carpenter, whom I saw in his company, and who was destined for fort Vancouver, for the purpose of building a ship of considerable burthen—I think three or four hundred tons. Both grist and saw mills have been built at fort Vancouver; with the latter they saw the timber, which is needed for their own use, and also for exportation to the Sandwich islands; upon the former their wheat is manufactured into flour; and, from all that I could learn, I am induced to think that this important post is silently growing up into a colony, and is, perhaps, intended as a future military and naval station, which was not expected to be yielded to the United States at the expiration of the treaty which granted them a temporary and joint possession.

I set out from fort Colville the 21st of September, 1829, in company with six men of the post, carrying the annual express or packet across the continent. Our route was up the main river Columbia; our conveyance a batteau of four or five tons. In this batteau we ascended the river about three hundred miles, where the river divides into three forks; the main one being still navigable to its head, which issues from a lake in the Rocky mountains. At the three forks, which is called the *Boat Encampment*, because it is the place where the boats are left, and the portage across the mountains commenced, we began our overland journey. We arrived at the boat encampment on the 4th of October, and remained there till the 2d of November, waiting for the arrival of a party from Hudson's bay. They arrived at the end of this time, and by them I had the happiness to hear from the United States. The news had of course to be somewhat old, as they brought it from Hudson's bay. One item of intelligence was the election of President Jackson, which had taken place just about one year before; and here I met the master ship carpenter of whom I have spoken, going on to fort Vancouver. The gentleman at the head of the party, Mr. Heron, spoke in terms of agreeable surprise of the sentiments contained in

the new President's inaugural address. On the 4th we set out. We were still six in company, five besides myself, all on horseback; *we* taking the horses of the party just arrived, and *they* taking the batteau in which we had ascended the river. The weather was still mild, no appearance of ice, and the river reported by all the company to remain open the winter through. We followed a marked trail, winding up the middle fork of the Columbia, and at the end of three days arrived at the dividing ridge of the Rocky mountains, where two small ponds within a few yards of each other, sending their waters in opposite directions, formed the head sources of the Athabasca, and of the middle fork of the Columbia. The snow was here three feet deep, and great difficulty experienced in getting the horses along. As soon as we turned the ridge, a violent change in the temperature was experienced, and a great contrast perceived in the face of the country. On the west side, the weather was mild, and the timber large, and the valley grassy: on the east, all was locked up in snow and ice, the timber small and stunted, and the aspect of the country indescribably wild, desolate, and dreary.

We continued down the Athabasca by land about one hundred and fifty miles, when we got clear of the mountains, and arrived at a small post of the Hudson's Bay Company, called *Jasper's House*, kept up principally for the accommodation of the company in crossing the mountains to and from the Columbia. We arrived at this house on the 11th of November, and remained till the 26th, when we set out again, and undertook to cross the country in a southeast direction, in order to fall upon the north fork of the Saskatchewan river, and follow that down to lake Winnepec, passing the claim of posts which the Hudson's Bay Company have on that river. We spent seven days in this attempt; but, impeded by snow and fallen timber, which rendered the route impracticable for horses, we had to return to Jasper's House. Here we remained till the 17th December, and then recommenced our journey on foot, and in snow shoes, following the Athabasca river in a northeast direction, about three hundred miles, to fort Assinaboin. We walked on the river chiefly, as it was covered with ice. The old man who had charge of Jasper's House now accompanied us to fort Assinaboin, *his nearest neighbor*; he having lived above thirty years in that country. Jasper's House, as near as I could ascertain, is between latitude 53 and 54 degrees north. We arrived at fort Assinaboin on the 1st of January, 1830, having been sixteen days in making the distance from Jasper's House. My baggage was drawn by two dogs on a small sled. Our allowance for provisions was about a pound a day of dried meat, elk, buffalo, big horn, &c. dried and beat up fine part of which had to be given to our dogs. Fort Assinaboin is a small post, chiefly fitted for accommodation. We remained there three days, and then (having been joined by a gentleman from Slave lake) set out on foot, and in snow shoes; left the Athabasca, and proceeded about one hundred miles in a direction nearly southeast, to *Edmonton House*, or *Fort de Prairie*, on the north fork of the Saskatchewan, having made the distance in six days. This is the principal post in all that region of country. Its position is about latitude 52. It distributes merchandise and collects furs for several hundred miles around. The *Blackfoot Indians*, who roam along the foot of the Rocky mountains, and who are so numerous and formidable, and so noted for their hostility to the people of the United States, and whites generally, do most of their trading at this place. The gentleman in charge of the post, Mr. Roand, has been there for thirty years. The post is a strong stockade, with six bastions, and ten or twelve pieces of small ordnance. These pre-

cautions are necessary for safety against the Indians. Remained here five days, and set out on the fifteenth January, with two men of the Hudson's Bay Company, who carried the express. Our course was down the Saskatchewan; sometimes upon it, for it was frozen over, (and the ice covered with snow;) sometimes over land to cut off bends of the river. We were still on foot, and in snow shoes; but my fatigue and labor in travelling were greatly lessened by a most valuable present, kindly made to me by Mr. Roand, of a carriole, and three good dogs to draw it, which carried my baggage always, and myself often. At about two hundred miles from Edmonton House, we came to *Fort Pitt*, a new post, for trade with some neighboring Indians: remained there one day, and then continued down the river about two hundred miles further to *Carlton House*, where we arrived on the first of February. This is an old and extensive establishment, in charge of Mr. Prudens; and here we had to remain eleven days, waiting for the express from Great Slave lake. From this point I had intended to proceed south to the Missouri river; but not being able to procure a guide, I was compelled to continue with the express down the river to *Cumberland House*, about three hundred miles further. The prairie region terminated at Carlton House, and the wooded country commenced. This made travelling difficult, and it was as much as the dogs could do to drag the carriole with the baggage and provisions. I was consequently thirteen days on foot in snow shoes, the snow usually three feet deep, and had a severe time of it. My company from Carlton House was two young Indians, trained up to the service of the company, and well fitted for the part to act—vigilant, active, faithful, and full of resources for conquering the difficulties of the way. One of them had brought the express from *York Factory*, on the Hudson's bay, about one thousand miles, on foot, in a pair of snow shoes; and they were now carrying the express back.

This express consists not of letters only, but of all the accounts of the company, collected from every post, and transmitted annually, along the whole line, from the mouth of the Columbia to Hudson's bay, and thence to the partners of the company in England. With these valuable despatches these Indians were intrusted, and every thing safely and expeditiously conducted. We arrived at Cumberland House on the 24th of February—another old and extensive establishment, where Mr. McIntosh commanded. Remained one day, and recommenced our journey, still proceeding down the river, which bore a little south, and on the first of March arrived at a small post on Moose lake. From this point we turned to the southeast, and proceeded upon the ice, over a chain of small lakes, to the colony planted by the Earl Selkirk on the Red river of lake Winnepec—a distance of about five hundred miles from Cumberland House, which we made in thirty days, including several days of detention. I remained here three days, hospitably entertained by Governor McKenzie. The colony consists of three or four thousand inhabitants, and presents a cheering aspect to a traveller from the dreary regions through which I had passed. The soil was excellent, the farms in good order, crops abundant, houses comfortable, and all the variety of stock which belongs to our settlements. Here I saw the first church and the first school which I had seen for four years. I left this colony on the 29th of March, about midnight—the softness of the snow, which was now beginning to melt, making it necessary to travel in that part of the 24 hours in which the cold was greatest, and the ice and snow hardest. The travelling period, therefore, was from midnight until 10 o'clock in the morning,

On the 31st I got clear of the settlements of the colony, and proceeded up the Assinaboia river about one hundred miles to Brandon House, the last or most southern of the British establishments, in that quarter, between latitude 49 and 50. This is a new trading post, in charge of Doctor Todd, a physician and partner of the company. From the colony I had no other company than a half breed Indian of the country, a resident of the colony, whom I engaged to conduct me to the Mandan Villages. On the 5th of April left Brandon House, and in eighteen days arrived at the Mandan Villages, the distance only one hundred and fifty miles; but the melting of the snow, the alternate freezing and thawing of small lakes, ponds, and creeks, made travelling almost impossible. I arrived at the Mandans on the 22d of April, and had all the sensations and feelings which an arrival at home, after a long and perilous absence, creates; for I had been at the Mandans before; it was within the United States. I knew many of the Indians, and met with several faces which I knew; Mr. Sanford, the Sub-Agent for the Upper Missouri, Mr. Lamont of the American Fur Company, and the German traveller, *Prince Paul of Wirtemberg*, who had come, for the second time, to explore this interior region of North America. At the Mandans I considered my journey terminated, though it was still sixteen hundred miles to St. Louis. I had been seven months getting from fort Colville to the Mandans, having been detained three months and a half on the route, and having travelled near two thousand five hundred miles between these two points during the winter months, and chiefly in snow shoes, a sort of wicker work of four or five feet long, pointed at each end, and twelve or fifteen inches wide at the middle, and fastened under the foot; their use being to prevent sinking into the snow. From the gentlemen of the Hudson's Bay Company I experienced every where the most kind and hospitable treatment, for which my thanks and gratitude are eminently due, and are cordially rendered. Having given this brief narrative of my travels, and thereby made known some important facts, and made manifest my means of information, I propose to add some general observations, which deserve each a separate head and distinct consideration.

I. AS TO THE COMMAND OF THE FUR TRADE.

It is a well known object of British enterprise, ever since the separation of the United States from the British crown, to obtain the command of the fur trade of North America, both as an object of commerce, and as a means of controlling the Indians. The celebrated fur trader and traveller, Sir Alexander M'Kenzie, stated this in his journal of travels to the Pacific ocean, as far back as 1793; and the British Government has constantly co-operated in the plan which he marked out. For the purpose of showing the extent of these plans, and the perseverance and success with which they have been followed up and completed, I will here make a quotation from the journal of that traveller.

"Experience has proved that this trade, from its very nature, cannot be carried on by individuals. A very large capital, or credit, or indeed both, is necessary; and, consequently, an association of men of wealth to direct, with men of enterprise to act, in one common interest, must be formed on such principles, as that, in due time, the latter may succeed the former, in continual and progressive succession. The junction of such a commercial association with the Hudson's Bay Company is the important measure which I would propose; and the trade might be carried on with a very superior

degree of advantage, both public and private, under the privilege of their charter. By enjoying the privilege of the company's charter, though but for a limited period, there are adventurers who would be willing, as they are able, to engage in and carry on the proposed commercial undertaking, as well as to give the most complete and satisfactory security to Government for the fulfilment of its contract with the company. It would, at the same time, be equally necessary to add a similar privilege of trade on the Columbia river, and its tributary waters."

"By the waters that discharge themselves into Hudson's bay at fort Nelson, it is proposed to carry on the trade to their source at the head of the Saskatchewan river, which rises in the Rocky mountains, not eight degrees of longitude from the Pacific ocean. The Columbia flows also from the same mountains, and discharges itself in the Pacific, in latitude $46^{\circ} 20'$. Both of them are capable of receiving ships at their mouths, and are navigable throughout for boats."

"But, whatever course may be taken from the Atlantic, the Columbia is the line of communication from the Pacific ocean pointed out by nature, as it is the only navigable river in the whole extent of Vancouver's minute survey of that coast. Its banks, also, form the first level country in all the southern extent of continental coast from Cook's entry, and, consequently, the most northern situation fit for colonization, and suitable for the residence of a civilized people. By opening this intercourse between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, and forming regular establishments through the interior, and at both extremes, as well as along the coasts and islands, the entire command of the fur trade of North America might be obtained from latitude 48° north to the pole, except that portion of it which the Russians have in the Pacific. To this may be added the fishing in both seas, and the markets of the four quarters of the globe. Such would be the field for commercial enterprise; and incalculable would be the produce of it, when supported by the operations of that credit and capital which Great Britain so pre-eminently possesses. Then would this country begin to be remunerated for the expenses it has sustained in discovering and surveying the coast of the Pacific ocean, which is at present left to American adventurers, who, without regularity or capital, or the desire of conciliating future confidence, look altogether to the interest of the moment. Such adventurers—and many of them, as I have been informed, have been very successful—would instantly disappear before a well regulated trade."

"Many political reasons, which it is not necessary to enumerate here, must present themselves to the mind of every man acquainted with the enlarged system and capacities of British commerce, in support of the measure which I have very briefly suggested, as promising the most important advantages to the trade of the United Kingdoms." *Vol. 2, pages 388-92.*

All the recommendations, suggestions, and predictions, contained in this quotation, have been fulfilled.

1. The Hudson's Bay and Northwest Company have been united, and are now trading under the name and charter of the former.
2. The trade has been extended to the Columbia river.
3. A colony of civilized people is forming on that river.
4. A line of forts and posts is established across the continent.
5. The mouth of the Columbia is occupied, ships enter it, boats ascend it; the mountains are crossed, and the communication is regular from the Pacific to the Atlantic.
6. American adventurers have almost disappeared, and the British have the command of the fur trade north of 49

degress, and the chief enjoyment of it for some degrees south. "*The political advantages*" of all these events are considerable in time of peace, and must become infinitely more so in time of war, when the command of all the northern Indians may harass the settlements on the Upper Mississippi; and the possession of a naval and military station and a colony on the estuary of the Columbia river, may lead to the annihilation of our ships and commerce on the Pacific ocean.

2. AS TO THE RECIPROCITY OF THE TREATY OF 1818.

The third article of this convention applies to the joint occupation of the country west of the Rocky mountains by the British and Americans, and was intended to grant reciprocal privileges; but the reciprocity is in words only; the British get all the advantages. The words of the convention are, "*That any country that may be claimed by either party on the northwest coast of America, westward of the Stony mountains, shall, together with its harbors, bays, and creeks, and the navigation of all rivers within the same, be free and open for the term of ten years from the date of the signature of the present convention, to the vessels, citizens, and subjects of the two powers,*" &c. By this phraseology, it would be understood that both parties were possessed of territory west of the Rocky mountains, which was drained by navigable rivers, and supplied with harbors, creeks, and bays; when the fact is, that the territory owned by the United States was alone so drained and furnished—the Columbia and its estuary forming the only harbor and navigable river to which the treaty was applicable. The British, therefore, got the joint use of this river and its harbor, and the people of the United States got nothing from the British; and, from the manner in which they are establishing themselves, it would seem that what was intended to be a *joint* and *temporary* use will become a *permanent* and *exclusive* possession. The privilege of a temporary use excludes the idea of forts and establishments of a permanent character; and it is for the proper authority to determine whether such an establishment as fort Vancouver comes within the privilege granted by the convention of 1818. True, that convention is continued, but it is not enlarged; and its determination depends upon a year's notice to be given by either party; but this continuance was not known when that fort was built; and every thing sufficiently announced that there was no design of quitting the possession, even if the convention had not been renewed. The clause "*any country,*" &c. is equally fallacious and deceptive as that which applies to bays and rivers. Nominally, it lays open the country claimed by each power to the traders and hunters of each; but, in point of fact, the country belonging to the United States is alone laid open to the operations of the British. They have spread over the whole region west of the Rocky mountains, quite to the Mexican territory, while no American has gone north of 49 degrees, nor even north of the Columbia, nor often to it. As a trader, he could not possibly go any where, much less upon their own ground to contend with the British, because the American pays high duties on every thing used in the trade—as high as sixty per cent., all charges included, on the blankets and strouds and other woollens; while the British, importing all these by the mouth of the Columbia, pay nothing. The interest of the American citizens, and, peradventure, the security of the United States' title to the Columbia river and its valley, depend upon terminating this delusive convention, and confining each party to his own side of latitude 49.

3. THE PRESENT STATE OF THE FUR TRADE.

As early as the year 1805, the Northwest Company had extended its operations to the waters of the Columbia; and an agent or partner of that concern passed the winter on Clark's fork, about 250 miles above its junction with the main Columbia, at the time Captains Lewis and Clark were at the Pacific. A short time after *their* return to the United States, a company was organised and fitted out by Mr. Astor, of New York, under the superintendence of W. P. Hunt, Esquire, of St. Louis, for the purpose of prosecuting the fur trade on the Columbia. The chief establishment of this company was made at the mouth of the Columbia, and called Astoria; and, notwithstanding the opposition it had to encounter from the Northwest Company, the country being then rich in furs, the proprietors of the American Company had good grounds to hope for the most favorable results. A circumstance, however, soon occurred, which blasted their expectations, and made it necessary for them to close their business, and abandon the country. The commencement of the war with England in 1812 presented difficulties in the prosecution of their business which they had not expected; and they were, in consequence, induced to dispose of their interest in that country to the Northwest Company, and abandon it. From that time until about the year 1821, the Northwest Company remained in the quiet possession of the country, unopposed in a trade from which they must have derived immense profits. It is true, that, in the year 1818, the establishment at the mouth of the Columbia, which had been sold by the American Company to the Northwest, was delivered to an agent of the American Government, conformably to the stipulations of the treaty of Ghent, respecting all parts which have fallen into the hands of the British during the war. This may have been considered as a formal delivery of the whole country; but it appears to have been understood by all parties at the time as a mere nominal transaction, as that company remained in possession, and continued to prosecute their business; and the right to occupy that country for the term of ten years was secured to them by a treaty entered into by our minister at London, and subsequently ratified by the proper authorities.

They accordingly continued their operations until the year 1821, free from all competition—their great rival in the fur trade, the Hudson's Bay Company, never having extended its operations to the west of the mountains in that quarter. About this time, these two rivals found it necessary to put an end to an unprofitable strife, from which they had no longer any thing to expect but a waste of means, and an increase of that hostile spirit which had frequently produced the most inveterate rencounters, and resulted in the loss of many lives. With this view they formed a union; the Northwest Company sold out its stock and establishments to that of the Hudson's Bay, and ceased to exist as a company; and, in this sale, their establishments on the Columbia were of course included.

From that until the present time, the Hudson's Bay Company have remained the sole occupants of the Columbia river. It is true that they have sometimes met with a transient opposition from some hunters from this country, who are probably licensed to trade on the Columbia, but whose real pursuits are that of trapping; but the Hudson's Bay Company may, nevertheless, be considered the sole occupants, as they are the only persons who have any pretensions to a regularly settled system of business, or who

have any establishments in that country. Both the Hudson's Bay Company and citizens of the United States engage in trapping, and each suffer occasionally from the attacks of the Indians. And here I take occasion, as an act of justice to the gentlemen of the Hudson's Bay Company, to say that I saw nothing to justify the opinion that they excited the Indians to kill and rob our citizens. Our laws prohibit the practice of trapping and hunting; but it would seem to be the very height of injustice to prohibit our own citizens from doing upon our own territories what the British are allowed to do, and equally absurd to suppose that the same treaty which covers their operations will not cover ours also. About three hundred men who may be considered citizens of the United States are now engaged in the business, some with much profit to themselves, others with great loss; but all with advantage to the United States, as, from their exertions, the supply of furs are obtained, which are indispensable to the hatting manufactories. As for the fur trade itself, it is laboring under the most serious difficulties, and calls loudly upon the aid and sympathy of the Federal Government. In the first place, the woollen goods used in the trade are loaded with duties to the amount of about sixty per cent., which gives an advantage to that amount to the British traders along the northern wilderness frontier, without being of any advantage, that I can see, to domestic manufacturers, as they make no goods of the same kind. These duties ought, therefore, in my opinion, to be abolished; and it is difficult to conceive of any advantage derived from the revenue obtained from this source, equal to the injury done to the fur trade by their continuance. In the next place, American furs have to pay duties in every foreign country to which they are exported, while furs from every country in the world are imported duty free. Under such circumstances, it is no wonder that the trade has been a perilous one in the United States.

Having abandoned the trade myself, I can now express my sentiments upon this subject without fear of incurring the imputation of having acted from interested motives.

4. FACE OF THE COUNTRY.

The country must be viewed under three distinct regions—

1st. The mountain region, drained by the upper waters of the Multnomah, Lewis's river, Clark's river, and McGilvray's river; all of which fall into the Columbia on its south side.

2d. The plains which lay between the foot of the mountains and the head of tide water.

3d. The tide water region, which extends from the foot of the plains to the sea.

My personal observation was chiefly confined to the first of these regions, over which I travelled from south to north, and spent about a year in making six or seven degrees of latitude, which I traversed in many directions. Lewis's river, where I crossed it, affords some very extensive fertile low grounds, which appeared suitable for any kind of culture. The valleys were well covered with such grass as is common in all parts of the Columbia; and besides these, I found the white clover in great abundance. This was so unexpected that I was induced to make some inquiries, and was informed that blue grass, timothy, and clover, were common in the country, and among its spontaneous productions. The northern branches of Lewis's river issue from rugged mountains, covered with almost impenetrable forests of

content of three hundred and sixty thousand square miles, which is much larger than the principal kingdoms of Europe. The form or configuration of the country is the most perfect and admirable which the imagination can conceive. All its outlines are distinctly marked; all its interior is connected together. Frozen regions to the north, the ocean and its mountainous coast to the west, the Rocky mountains to the east, sandy and desert plains to the south; such are its boundaries.

Within, the whole country is watered by the streams of a single river, issuing from the north, east, and south, uniting in the region of tide water, and communicating with the sea by a single outlet.

Such a country is formed for defence: and whatever power gets possession of it will probably be able to keep it. Several years ago the maxim was proclaimed by President Monroe, and re-echoed by the whole American people, that no part of this continent was open to European colonization. Since that time, the settlements of the Hudson's Bay Company have been formed in the valley of the Columbia; and this company acts under the charter, the treaties, and the acts of Parliament of the British crown. It is rich in wealth, strong in power, and efficient in its organization. It is second only to the East India Company, and, like it, has immense territories and innumerable tribes of natives, besides its own proper strength, under its command. This company, thus backed by the power of the British Government, may bring the maxim of President Monroe to a practical decision.

After making these remarks upon the soil, climate, extent, and configuration of this country, it is hardly necessary to intimate that the power which possesses it will also command the navigation and commerce of the Pacific ocean.

S. NUMBER AND STATE OF THE INDIANS.

These may be stated at thirty thousand souls, exclusive of the Snake Indians. This estimate is not a random guess, but founded on accurate information, derived from the Hudson's Bay Company. The Snakes are exceedingly numerous, and range through the mountains. None of these Indians cultivate any thing; they depend upon hunting and fishing, and of course are exposed to the extremes of feasts and famine. The salmon fishery is their great resource; and to avail themselves of it, they assemble from great distances, and collect along the banks of the river, and principally at the different falls, from the head of tide water to the main source of the river in the Rocky mountains. They cure these fish without salt, by drying in the sun. In the absence of game and fish, they are driven to every extremity to sustain life--devouring every bird, beast, insect, and creeping thing they can get hold of, and tearing up the ground for roots. Those in the plains and gorges of the mountains are excellent horsemen. In point of temper and disposition, they are milder than the Indians east of the mountains, and in morals more honest; but this may be an effect of the discipline of the Hudson's Bay Company, for I never saw Indians in a state of nature who would not steal to which may be added three other bad qualities, to wit: begging, drinking, and lying. On the other hand, they have the virtue of hospitality, and offer without request a part of their food to every traveller. They use their arms with great dexterity on horseback, while pursuing the game at full speed; and are capable of becoming a very formidable enemy, as irregular cavalry, when properly trained.

These observations I address to you, sir, as an organ of communication with the President. As an American citizen, anxious for the prosperity of my country, I deem it my duty to communicate to the Government the observations which I have made upon the state of things to the west of the Rocky mountains. Aiming at truth, brevity, and precision, and to the presentation of prominent points, I have omitted personal details and minute descriptions, and endeavored to exhibit in one view the facts which it may be necessary for the Government to possess.

I have the honor to be, sir,

Your obedient humble servant,

JOSHUA PILCHER.

St. Louis, *October 29, 1830.*

SIR: The business commenced by General Ashley some years ago, of taking furs from the United States territory beyond the Rocky mountains, has since been continued by Jedediah S. Smith, David E. Jackson, and William L. Sublette, under the firm of Smith, Jackson, and Sublette. They commenced busines in 1826, and have since continued it; and have made observations and gained information which they think it important to communicate to the Government. The number of men they have employed has usually been from eighty to one hundred and eighty; and with these, divided into parties, they have traversed every part of the country west of the Rocky mountains, from the peninsula of California to the mouth of the Columbia river. Pack-horses, or rather mules, were at first used; but in the beginning of the present year, it was determined to try wagons; and in the month of April last, on the 10th day of the month, a caravan of ten wagons, drawn by five mules each, and two dearborns, drawn by one mule each, set out from St. Louis. We have eighty-one men in company, all mounted on mules; and these were exclusive of a party left in the mountains. Our route from St. Louis was nearly due west to the western limits of the State; and thence along the Santa Fe trail about forty miles; from which the course was some degrees north of west, across the waters of the Kansas, and up the Great Platte river, to the Rocky mountains, and to the head of Wind river, where it issues from the mountains. This took us until the 16th of July, and was as far as we wished the wagons to go, as the furs to be brought in were to be collected at this place, which is, or was this year, the great rendezvous of the persons engaged in that business. Here the wagons could easily have crossed the Rocky mountains, it being what is called the *Southern Pass*, had it been desirable for them to do so, which it was not for the reason stated. For our support, at leaving the Missouri settlements, until we should get into the buffalo country, we drove twelve head of cattle, beside a milk cow. Eight of these only being required for use before we got to the buffaloes, the others went on to the head of Wind river. We began to fall in with the buffaloes on the Platte, about three hundred and fifty miles from the white settlements; and from that time lived on buffaloes, the quantity being infinitely beyond what we needed. On the fourth of August, the wagons being in the mean time loaded with the furs which had been previously taken, we set out on the return to St. Louis. All the high points of the mountains then in view were white with snow; but the passes and valleys, and all the level country, were green with grass. Our route

back was over the same ground nearly as in going out, and we arrived at St. Louis on the 10th of October, bringing back the ten wagons, the dear-borns being left behind; four of the oxen and the milk cow were also brought back to the settlements in Missouri, as we did not need them for provision. Our men were all healthy during the whole time: we suffered nothing by the Indians, and had no accident but the death of one man, being buried under a bank of earth that fell in upon him, and another being crippled at the same time. Of the mules, we lost but one by fatigue, and two horses stolen by the Kansas Indians; the grass being, along the whole route going and coming, sufficient for the support of the horses and mules. The usual weight in the wagons was about one thousand eight hundred pounds. The usual progress of the wagons was from fifteen to twenty five miles per day. The country being almost all open, level, and prairie, the chief obstructions were ravines and creeks, the banks of which required cutting down, and for this purpose a few pioneers were generally kept ahead of the caravan. This is the first time that wagons ever went to the Rocky mountains; and the ease and safety with which it was done prove the facility of communicating over land with the Pacific ocean. The route from the *Southern Pass*, where the wagons stopped, to the Great Falls of the Columbia, being easier and better than on this side of the mountains, with grass enough for horses and mules, but a scarcity of game for the support of men. One of the undersigned, to wit, Jedediah S. Smith, in his excursion west of the mountains, arrived at the post of the Hudson's Bay Company, called Fort Vancouver, near the mouth of Multnomah river. He arrived there in August, 1828, and left the 12th of March, 1829, and made observations which he deems it material to communicate to the Government. Fort Vancouver is situated on the north side of the Columbia, five miles above the mouth of the Multnomah, in a handsome prairie, and on a second bank about three quarters of a mile from the river. This is the fort as it stood when he arrived there; but a large one, three hundred feet square, about three quarters of a mile lower down, and within two hundred yards of the river, was commenced the spring he came away. Twelve pounders were the heaviest cannon which he saw. The crop of 1828 was seven hundred bushels of wheat; the grain full and plump, and making good flour; fourteen acres of corn, the same number of acres in peas, eight acres of oats, four or five acres of barley, a fine garden, some small apple trees and grape vines. The ensuing spring eighty bushels of seed wheat were sown: about two hundred head of cattle, fifty horses and breeding mares, three hundred head of hogs, fourteen goats, the usual domestic fowls. They have mechanics of various kinds, to wit, blacksmiths, gunsmiths, carpenters, coopers, tinner and baker; a good saw mill on the bank of the river five miles above, a grist mill worked by hand, but intended to work by water. They had built two coasting vessels, one of which was then on a voyage to the Sandwich islands. No English or white woman was at the fort, but a great number of mixed blood Indian extraction, such as belong to the British fur trading establishments, who were treated as wives, and the families of children taken care of accordingly. So that every thing seemed to combine to prove that this fort was to be a permanent establishment. At Fort Vancouver the goods for the Indian trade are imported from London, and enter the territories of the United States, paying no duties; and from the same point the furs taken on the other side of the mountains are shipped. The annual quantity of these furs could not be exactly ascertained, but Mr. Smith was informed indirectly that they amounted to about thirty

thousand beaver skins, besides otter skins and small furs. The beaver skins alone, at the New York prices, would be worth above two hundred and fifty thousand dollars. To obtain these furs, both trapping and trading are resorted to. Various parties, provided with traps, spread over the country south of the Columbia to the neighborhood of the Mexican territory; and in 1824 and 5, they crossed the Rocky mountains, and trapped on the waters of the Missouri river. They do not trap north of latitude 49 degrees, but confine that business to the territory of the United States. Thus this territory, being trapped by both parties, is nearly exhausted of beavers; and unless the British can be stopped, will soon be entirely exhausted, and no place left within the United States where beaver fur in any quantity can be obtained.

The inequality of the convention with Great Britain in 1818 is most glaring and apparent, and its continuance is a great and manifest injury to the United States. The privileges granted by it have enabled the British to take possession of the Columbia river, and spread over the country south of it; while no Americans have ever gone, or can venture to go on the British side. The interest of the United States and her citizens engaged in the fur trade requires that the convention of 1818 should be terminated, and each nation confined to its own territories. By this commercial interest there are other considerations requiring the same result. These are, the influence which the British have already acquired over the Indians in that quarter, and the prospect of a British colony, and a military and naval station on the Columbia. Their influence over the Indians is now decisive. Of this the Americans have constant and striking proofs, in the preference which they give to the British in every particular.

In saying this, it is an act of justice to say, also, that the treatment received by Mr. Smith at Fort Vancouver was kind and hospitable; that, personally, he owes thanks to Governor Simpson and the gentlemen of the Hudson's Bay Company, for the hospitable entertainment which he received from them, and for the efficient and successful aid which they gave him in recovering from the Umquah Indians a quantity of fur and many horses, of which these Indians had robbed him in 1828.

As to the injury which must happen to the United States from the British getting the control of all the Indians beyond the mountains, building and repairing ships in the tide water region of the Columbia, and having a station there for their privateers and vessels of war, is too obvious to need a recapitulation. The object of this communication being to state *facts* to the Government, and to show the facility of crossing the continent to the Great Falls of the Columbia with wagons, the ease of supporting any number of men by driving cattle to supply them where there was no buffalo, and also to show the true nature of the British establishments on the Columbia, and the unequal operation of the convention of 1818.

These *facts* being communicated to the Government, they consider that they have complied with their duty, and rendered an acceptable service to the administration; and respectfully request you, sir, to lay it before President Jackson.

We have the honor to be sir,

Yours, respectfully,

JEDEDIAH S. SMITH,
DAVID E. JACKSON,
W. L. SUBLETTE.

-To the Hon. JOHN H. EATON, *Secretary of War*.

WASHINGTON, *December 27, 1828.*

SIR: We have had the honor to receive your letter of the 24th instant, and, in conformity with it, proceed to state our views of the present condition of the fur trade, and of the measures which are necessary to its safe and successful prosecution by citizens of the United States.

Along the whole inland frontier which is bordered by any of the Indian tribes, a partial trade is carried on between them and our citizens by small *equipments*, which are sent into the neighboring country, and sold at the posts established by the War Department. But this limited trade is not important, either in a pecuniary or political point of view. Not many valuable furs are found in this region, nor are any furs very abundant, as most of the animals which supply them recede or disappear before the advance of the white population. And the Indians themselves, who occupy this district, are sufficiently acquainted with our strength to avoid the operation of foreign influence, should any be exerted for unfriendly purposes, either immediate or remote.

But the circumstances attending the prosecution of the trade upon the Missouri, the Upper Mississippi, the St. Peter's, and the upper lakes, are far different. There the game is valuable and abundant; the Indians numerous and warlike, ignorant of our power, and easily accessible to foreign influence. They are almost beyond our reach; and both policy and humanity dictate the propriety of adopting such measures as will counteract or exclude any unfriendly efforts which may be made or meditated.

St. Louis and Michilimackinac are the principal *depôts* of the commerce with our remote Indians: the former for the Missouri, and a part of the Mississippi and the St. Peter's; and the latter for the residue of the Mississippi and the St. Peter's, and for the upper lakes. The goods destined for this trade are conveyed to these *depôts* as early in the spring as practicable, to be ready for the arrival of the traders. These goods consist principally of blankets, coarse woollens, domestic cotton, arms, ammunition, traps, &c. Since the introduction of these articles among the Indians, a corresponding change has taken place in their habits and modes of life; and many of the tribes could not subsist, and all of them would suffer severely, were they deprived of their accustomed supplies. By the existing provisions of the laws, the traders are required to confine themselves to certain posts, previously established, and for which they are licensed. The most remote of those posts is near the entrance of the Yellow Stone, nineteen hundred miles from the mouth of the Missouri. Upon the Mississippi there is a licensed post at Luck lake, near three thousand miles from the mouth of that river; another at Lac du Diable, on the west of the Red river of lake Winnepec, and another on Rainy lake; and between all these and our settled frontier, there are intermediate posts, wherever the situation of the Indians or the circumstances of the trade have rendered the location necessary.

After the Indian trader has procured his proper supply at St. Louis or Michilimackinac, and given his bond and received his license, he departs for his post. The goods are embarked in boats suited to the navigation before him, and manned by a sufficient number of *engagees*, acquainted with the trade, and, by constitution and habit, fitted for its laborious duties. In some parts of the country, the boats are changed on the way for light birch canoes, in order that the party may ascend the rapid precipitous streams along which their route lies. When these streams are interrupted by falls,

the boats and their lading are transported by the men across the portages, and re-embarked upon the stream where the interruption to the navigation ceases. Some of these portages are a number of miles in extent, ascending and descending steep hills, and others are over tremulous marshes, called, in the language of the trade, *ventre de bœuf*, which are crossed upon small cedar poles. The men are frequently disabled for life in the performance of these hazardous tasks.

After the trader reaches his post, his first object is to supply the Indians with such articles as are indispensable, or to furnish them with an *equipment*, as it is called. It will be observed that the Indians are at this time poor, the proceeds of their labor during the preceding winter having been paid to the trader, and exchanged or paid by him for previous supplies. Every family, therefore, must receive an advance, to prepare them for the winter's chase, and this must consist of ammunition and clothing, and is generally proportioned to the number of the family, and the character of the men for skill and punctuality. Without this credit the Indians would perish, and it varies in amount from fifty to two hundred dollars to each family. The loss sustained by the trader from this system may be easily imagined, when it is recollected that there is no means of enforcing the collection of a debt from the Indians, nor is it dishonorable by the customs of the remote tribes to refuse its payment; and after the first year their credits are termed dead debts, as no Indian ever considers it necessary to meet them. During the winter, the Indians are scattered through the country, employed in taking the animals which furnish them with food and furs. In fortunate seasons, they are enabled to take enough of the latter to pay the *credits* they have received; and they are generally willing to do this, unless rival traders interfere with each other, or the proximity of the British trading establishments induces the Indians to supply themselves at one post, and to exchange their furs at another. As early in the spring as the navigation is open, the traders depart for their place of supply, to renew the duties and cares of the preceding year; and during their absence some of their men remain to take charge of the posts and the property left in them, and, in the wild rice regions, to gather a quantity of that useful grain.

The *engagees* employed in this trade are generally Canadians and half breeds, and are hired by the year. Their pay is from 120 to 200 dollars a year, depending on the distance of the posts and the nature of the service. Five or six men are employed at each post; but in the interior, where danger is always to be apprehended from the predatory habits of the Indians, their number is considerably increased. Their subsistence is a heavy expense to the trader, and the privations they must endure can never be realised by any who have not passed through the country. Every winter many of the Indians perish from actual starvation; and when this is the case, the trader and his men must suffer severely, although not in an equal degree. At some of the intermediate posts, provisions are a regular article of trade. The improvidence of the Indians is well known. They seldom in a time of abundance provide for a time of scarcity. Labor is disgraceful among the men of those distant bands, and it is hopeless to argue with them upon the subject. They cannot work, but they can die.

The enterprise of our citizens has explored new sources of trade in the regions between the ranges of the Rocky mountains, and west of them. The ascent of the Missouri, and the eventual employment of the men, give a character to this business different from the circumstances attending the

prosecution of the trade upon the Mississippi and the lakes. The powerful current of the Missouri presents formidable obstacles to the ascending navigator; and unless the goods destined for the Indians can leave St. Louis early in the spring, they cannot reach the Yellow Stone the same season; and of course the capital is left unemployed, while the expenses of the trader are unintermitted. The expeditions to the Rocky mountains generally leave the Missouri at or near the Council Bluffs, and from thence the goods are transported upon horses to the places of destination. They here supply the hunters and trappers who are found in that country. These regions abound with the beaver and otter, and the furs of these animals are almost the only articles which the traders receive. Great sacrifices have been made in the prosecution of this trade. The first attempt was in 1808, when a company was formed with a view to extend its operations to the heads of the Missouri, and to supply all the wants of the intermediate tribes. These Indians on the Upper Missouri had previously depended upon foreign traders, sent from the posts upon the Red river, the Assiniboin and the Saskatchewan. After a few years, this company was compelled to abandon the enterprise, with the sacrifice of nearly all their capital, and with the loss of not less than two hundred men, killed by the Indians. The causes which led to this loss are to be found in the lawless practices of foreign traders, who were then spread over those regions, and who, influenced by the cupidity of trade, instigated the Indians to attack and plunder our trading parties. Another association, called the Pacific Company, was formed in 1810, with similar views, and they proceeded to establish several trading posts upon the Columbia river; but they also yielded to circumstances, and retired from the effort with a heavy pecuniary loss.

It is a moderate computation, that we have lost, in these abortive attempts, and in several minor ones, five hundred men, and at least five hundred thousand dollars. In the contests for superiority in those remote regions, between foreign traders and our own, the Indians are excited to take part; and to this day an influence is exerted, and measures pursued, not less injurious to our citizens than inconsistent with our rights. Within a year, twenty men have been killed by the same means which have heretofore been successfully employed. It is not probable that an efficient remedy can be applied, until we take military possession of the country, and establish such posts as may be found necessary—a measure equally demanded by our interest and safety.

From the review which has been taken of the course of this trade, and of the interchange of commodities between the Indians and the traders, it will not be difficult to account for the influence acquired and exerted by the latter over the former. The traders are generally married into influential families in the Indian country, and many of their men have Indian wives. The Indians look to them for supplies which are essential to their comfort and subsistence. The trader identifies himself with the band in whose country he is located, and in all disputes he espouses their cause, partakes of their prejudices, and feels his own interest involved in theirs. There is a source of protection on one side, and of dependence on the other. The consequence of all this is, that no important measure is adopted without the knowledge of the trader; and if his advice is not formally requested, it still influences the determination adopted at the public council fire. And when a long established trader, who has treated the Indians justly and kindly, chooses to exert his influence for evil or for good, it may well be imagined

that such exertion will not be in vain. Previously to the war of 1812, the Indian trade within our limits was not confined to citizens of the United States, and probably three-fourths of it were in the hands of foreign traders. They possessed a preponderating influence over the Indians; and the consequences of its exertion are well known. Our frontier was involved in Indian hostilities, and the other operations of the war were embarrassed and impeded by the efforts necessary to repel this interior enemy.

It is difficult to estimate with precision the capital at present employed in the Indian trade, because much of it consists in buildings, boats, provisions, and another things which do not appear in the annual returns required to be made. The actual cost of the goods sent into the Indian country in 1827, was \$290,052 39. To this must be added the value of the investments we have stated, the wages of the men, and various contingent expenses, inseparable from such a business. One hundred and fifty four posts are occupied by our traders, and probably not less than two thousand men employed in the trade; and it has required many years to train them to the business, and to fit them for its duties, its risks, and its fatigues. But this subject is more important as a measure of policy affecting our relations with the Indians, than as a branch of national industry and enterprise. We have stated the mode in which the trade is carried on, and we have succinctly shown the time which has been consumed, and the loss of capital and of lives which have been incurred, in securing the positions and forming the establishments now held by our traders. Most of our Indians are migratory tribes, roaming through the forests and prairies, and occupying a border country, divided partly by a natural and partly by an imaginary boundary between the United States and Great Britain. Along this boundary, and in many cases upon our side of it, the British traders are stationed, with ample supplies for the Indians: these traders are enterprising, active, and well acquainted with the habits of the Indians, and the course of the trade; and they are in the employment of a great company, wanting neither power, nor wealth, nor disposition to push any advantages which may be offered to them. Should any circumstances occur to induce our traders to withdraw from the business, the Indians would be immediately supplied by the Hudson's Bay Company; and whether this were done by sending traders into our territories, or by inviting the Indians into theirs, the effect would be the same. Our own establishments would be broken up, and we should lose the fruits of twenty years' exertions; an influence would be again acquired over the Indians, to be again exerted when most useful to one party and most injurious to the other.

It is certainly not uncharitable to suppose that the preservation of this influence is important to the British Canadian authorities. No other motive can be rationally assigned for the large distribution of goods which is annually made at Amherstburgh and Drummond's island, to the Indians living within our jurisdiction. We have not the means of estimating the number of Indians who visit these places, nor the value of the goods which are given to them; but we believe that a large proportion of the Indians east of the Mississippi annually resort there for presents; and about sixteen months since, one of us actually counted 160 canoes at one time crossing the western extremity of lake Huron to Drummond's island. Each man receives a blanket, shirt, leggings, and breech cloth, and each woman a blanket, stroud, and leggings. To the children similar articles are given, and ammunition, guns, kettles, and other things, are freely distributed. The tribes who principally

make this annual pilgrimage are the Ottawas, Potawatamies, Chippewas, Wyandots, Shawnese, Miamies, Menominies, Winnebagoes, Sacs, and Foxes. Of these, the four last tribes reside west of lake Michigan, and extend to the Mississippi, and beyond it. Many of them take with them their finest furs, to exchange with the local traders. It is no part of our duty to investigate the right which a foreign power has of thus subsidising, in effect, a body of men living within our territories; but we have no hesitation in saying that its practical operation is seriously injurious. If presents are given, counsels also may be given; and they are given by persons with strong prejudices, in remote positions, and in languages which few civilized auditors can understand. That in many cases they transcend their instructions, is very probable; but that system must be radically wrong which necessarily leads to such results. The Indians are kept in a state of excitement: they are taught to look to a foreign government for advice and protection; and, above all, they believe that present benefits on the one side must be repaid by future services on the other. Our traders have at length succeeded in diminishing some of this influence, and we may look to its termination at no distant day, if the present operations of the trade succeed, and if the gratuitous distribution of goods we have described should be discontinued.

The British traders have two important advantages over ours: they pay no duties upon their goods, and they are allowed a free importation of their furs into the United States. The former enables them, in similar situations, to undersell our traders, and the latter gives them a choice of markets. It is well known that the value of furs is very fluctuating. Accidental circumstances, such as a war in Europe, or a change in some prevailing fashion, will raise the price of particular furs; and these prices will decline as rapidly as they rise. The uncertainty in the state of the market constitutes one of the principal inconveniences of the trade. The supply is, from its own nature, uncertain, and the demand not less so. It has happened in the history of this trade, that shipments have been made to England, which have been sold there at such a sacrifice as to leave some of the charges unpaid, and to sink the whole capital embarked.

The Indians are peculiar in their habits; and, contrary to the opinion generally entertained, they are good judges of the articles which are offered to them. The trade is not that system of fraud which many suppose. The competition is generally sufficient to reduce the profits to a very reasonable amount, and the Indian easily knows the value of the furs in his possession; he knows, also, the quality of the goods offered to him, and experience has taught him which are best adapted to his wants. A blanket forms his principal article of clothing, and when exposed to the weather his house. What is called the Mackinac blanket, weighing about 10½ pounds a pair, is made expressly for the Indian market, and is admirably adapted to their situations. The strouds they use are also manufactured for them; and, in fact, all the goods sold to them are of an excellent quality, and prepared exclusively for this market. They are not made in the United States, and no substitutes can be found which would satisfy the Indians. Their habits and experience cannot be safely broken in upon; and if our traders are unable to supply such articles as they have been accustomed to receive, they will resort to those places where they can be supplied.

We are satisfied that the average profits of the fur trade are not in proportion to the enterprise and skill required to prosecute it, and to the risk attending it. We believe it is generally conducted upon as fair principles as

other branches of business in the United States, and we know many of the persons engaged in it, who are honorable, intelligent men. We are apprehensive, unless some means can be devised to relieve their present embarrassments, that the capital will be gradually withdrawn, and the business itself abandoned. What these means shall be, whether a drawback upon the goods sent into the Indian country, a duty upon imported furs, or any other remedy, we must leave to the wisdom of the committee to determine.

Very respectfully, Sir,

We have the honor to be,

Your obedient servants,

WM. CLARK.

LEW. CASS.

HON. THOMAS H. BENTON, *U. S. Senate.*

CHAP. LXVI.

An act for regulating the fur trade, and establishing a criminal and civil jurisdiction, within certain parts of North America.

[July 2, 1821.]

Whereas the competition in the fur trade between the Governor and Company of Adventurers of England trading into Hudson's Bay, and certain associations of persons trading under the name of "The Northwest Company of Montreal," has been found, for some years past, to be productive of great inconvenience and loss, not only to the said company and associations, but to the said trade in general, and also of great injury to the native Indians, and of other persons, subjects of his Majesty: And whereas the animosities and feuds arising from such competition have also, for some years past, kept the interior of America, to the northward and westward of the provinces of *Upper* and *Lower Canada*, and of the territories of the *United States* of America, in a state of continued disturbance: And whereas many breaches of the peace, and violence, extending to the loss of lives, and considerable destruction of property, have continually occurred therein: And whereas, for remedy of such evils, it is expedient and necessary that some more effectual regulations should be established for the apprehending, securing, and bringing to justice all persons committing such offences, and that his Majesty should be empowered to regulate the said trade: And whereas doubts have been entertained, whether the provisions of an act passed in the forty-third year of the reign of his late Majesty King George the Third, intituled "An act for extending the jurisdiction of the courts of justice in the provinces of *Lower* and *Upper Canada* to the trial and punishment of persons guilty of crimes and offences within certain parts of North America, adjoining to the said provinces," extended to the territories granted by charter to the said Governor and company; and it is expedient that such doubts should be removed, and that the said act should be further extended:" Be it therefore enacted, by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords spiritual and temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, That, from and after the passing of this act, it shall be lawful for his Majesty, his heirs or successors, to make grants or give his

royal license, under the hand and seal of one of his Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, to any body corporate or company, or person or persons, of or for the exclusive privilege of trading with the Indians in all such parts of *North America* as shall be specified in any such grants or licenses respectively, not being part of the lands or territories heretofore granted to the said Governor and Company of Adventurers of *England* trading to *Hudson's Bay*, and not being part of any of his Majesty's provinces in *North America*, or of any lands or territories belonging to the United States of *America*; and all such grants and licenses shall be good, valid, and effectual for the purpose of securing to all such bodies corporate, or companies, or persons, the sole and exclusive privilege of trading with the *Indians* in all such parts of *North America*, (except as hereinafter excepted,) as shall be specified in such grants or licenses, any thing contained in any act or acts of Parliament, or any law, to the contrary notwithstanding.

II. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That no such grant or license, made or given by his Majesty, his heirs or successors, of any such exclusive privileges of trading with the *Indians* in such parts of *North America* as aforesaid, shall be made or given for any longer period than twenty-one years; and no rent shall be required or demanded for or in respect of any such grant or license, or any privileges given thereby under the provisions of this act, for the first period of twenty-one years; and from and after the expiration of such first period of twenty-one years, it shall be lawful for his Majesty, his heirs or successors, to reserve such rents in any future grants or licenses to be made to the same or any other parties, as shall be deemed just and reasonable, with security for the payment thereof; and such rents shall be deemed part of the land revenues of his Majesty, his heirs and successors, and be applied and accounted for as the other land revenues of his Majesty, his heirs or successors, shall, at the time of payment of any such rent being made, be applied and accounted for.

III. And be it further enacted, That, from and after the passing of this act, the Governor and Company of Adventurers trading to *Hudson's Bay*, and every body corporate and company and person to whom every such grant or license shall be made or given, as aforesaid, shall respectively keep accurate registers of all persons in their employ in any parts of *North America*, and shall, once in each year, return to his Majesty's Secretaries of State accurate duplicates of such registers, and shall also enter into such security as shall be required by his Majesty for the due execution of all processes, criminal and civil, as well within the territories included in any such grant, as within those granted by charter to the Governor and Company of Adventurers trading to *Hudson's Bay*, and for the producing or delivering into safe custody, for purpose of trial, of all persons in their employ or acting under their authority, who shall be charged with any criminal offence, and also for the due and faithful observance of all such rules, regulations, and stipulations as shall be contained in any such grant or license, either for diminishing or preventing the sale or distribution of spirituous liquors to the *Indians*, or for promoting their moral and religious improvement, or for any other object which his Majesty may deem necessary for the remedy or prevention of the other evils which have hitherto been found to exist.

IV. And whereas, by a convention entered into between his Majesty and the United States of *America*, it was stipulated and agreed that any country on the Northwest Coast of *America* to the westward of the *Stony Mountains*, should be free and open to the citizens and subjects of the two

powers, for the term of ten years from the date of the signature of that convention; Be it therefore enacted, That nothing in this act contained shall be deemed or construed to authorize any body corporate, company or person, to whom his Majesty may have, under the provisions of this act, made a grant or given a license of exclusive trade with the *Indians* in such parts of *North America* as aforesaid, to claim or exercise any such exclusive trade within the limits specified in the said article, to the prejudice or exclusion of any citizens of the said United States of *America*, who may be engaged in the said trade: Provided always, that no *British* subject shall trade with the *Indians* within such limits without such grant or license as is by this act required.

V. And be it declared and enacted, That the said act, passed in the forty-third year of the reign of his late Majesty, intituled *An act for extending the jurisdiction of the courts of justice in the Provinces of Lower and Upper Canada, to the trial and punishment of persons guilty of crimes and offences within certain parts of North America adjoining to the said provinces*, and all the clauses and provisoes therein contained, shall be deemed and construed, and it is and are hereby respectively declared, to extend to and over, and to be in full force in and through all the territories heretofore granted to the Company of Adventurers of *England* trading to *Hudson's Bay*; any thing in any act or acts of Parliament, or this act, or in any grant or charter to the company, to the contrary notwithstanding.

VI. And be it further enacted, That, from and after the passing of this act, the courts of judicature now existing, or which may be hereafter established in the province of *Upper Canada*, shall have the same civil jurisdiction, power and authority, as well in the cognizance of suits as in the issuing process, mesne and final, and in all other respects whatsoever, within the said *Indian* territories, and other parts of *America* not within the limits of either of the provinces of *Lower* or *Upper Canada*, or of any civil government of the *United States*, as the said courts have or are invested with within the limits of the said provinces of *Lower* or *Upper Canada* respectively; and that all and every contract, agreement, debt, liability and demand whatsoever, made, entered into, incurred or arising within the said *Indian* territories and other parts of *America*, and all and every wrong and injury to the *person* or to *property, real* or *personal*, committed or done within the same, shall be and be deemed to be of the same nature, and be cognizable by the same courts, magistrates or justices of the peace, and be tried in the same manner and subject to the same consequences, in all respects, as if the same had been made, entered into, incurred, arisen, committed or done within the said province of *Upper Canada*; any thing in any act or acts of Parliament, or grant or charter, to the contrary notwithstanding: Provided always, that all such suits and actions relating to *lands*, or to any claims in respect of *land*, not being within the province of *Upper Canada*, shall be decided according to the laws of that part of the *United Kingdom* called *England*, and shall not be subject to or affected by any local acts, statutes or laws of the legislature of *Upper Canada*.

VII. And be it further enacted, That all process, writs, orders, judgments decrees and acts whatsoever, to be issued, made, delivered, given and done, by or under the authority of the said courts, or either of them, shall have the same force, authority and effect within the said *Indian* territory and other parts of *America* as aforesaid, as the same now have within the said province of *Upper Canada*.

VIII. And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for the Governor, or Lieutenant Governor, or person administering the government for the time being, of *Lower Canada*, by commission under his hand and seal, to authorize all persons who shall be appointed justices of the peace under the provisions of this act, within the said *Indian* territories, or other parts of *America* as aforesaid, or any other person who shall be specially named in any such commission, to act as a commissioner within the same, for the purpose of executing, enforcing and carrying into effect all such process, writs, orders, judgments, decrees and acts, which shall be issued, made, delivered, given or done by the said courts of judicature, and which may require to be enforced and executed within the said *Indian* territories, or such other parts of *North America* as aforesaid; and in case any *person* or *persons whatsoever*, residing or being within the said *Indian* territories, or such other parts of *America* as aforesaid, shall refuse to obey or perform any such process, writ, order, judgment, decree, or act of the said courts, or shall resist or oppose the execution thereof, it shall and may be lawful for the said justices of the peace or commissioners, and they or any of them are and is hereby required, on the same being proved before him, by the oath or affidavit of one credible witness, to commit the said person or persons so offending as aforesaid to custody, in order to his or their being conveyed to *Upper Canada*; and that it shall be lawful for any such justice of the peace or commissioner, or any person or persons acting under his authority, to convey or cause to be conveyed such person or persons so offending as aforesaid to *Upper Canada*, in pursuance of such process, writ, order, decree, judgment, or act; and such person and persons shall be committed to jail by the said court, on his, her, or their being so brought into the said province of *Upper Canada*, by which such process, writ, order, decree, judgment or act was issued, made, delivered, given or done, until a final judgment or decree shall have been pronounced in such suit, and shall have been duly performed, and all costs paid, in case such person or persons shall be a party or parties in such suit, or until the trial of such suit shall have been concluded, in case such person or persons shall be a witness or witnesses therein: Provided always, that, if any person or persons so apprehended as aforesaid, shall enter into a bond recognizance to any such justice of the peace or commissioner, with two sufficient sureties, to the satisfaction of such justice of the peace or commissioner, or the said courts, conditioned to obey and perform such process, writ, order, judgment, decree, or act as aforesaid, then and in such case it shall and may be lawful for the said justice of the peace or commissioner, or the said courts, to discharge such person or persons out of custody.

IX. And be it further enacted, That in case such person or persons shall not perform and fulfil the condition or conditions of such recognizance, then and in such case it shall and may be lawful for any such justice or commissioner, and he is hereby required, to assign such recognizance to the plaintiff or plaintiffs, in any suit in which such process, writ, order, decree, judgment, or act, shall have been issued, made, delivered, given, or done, who may maintain an action in the said courts in his own name against the said sureties, and recover against such sureties the full amount of such loss or damage as such plaintiff shall prove to have been sustained by him, by reason of the original cause of action in respect of which such process, writ, order, decree, judgment, or act of the said courts were issued, made, delivered, given, or done as aforesaid, notwithstanding any thing contained in any

charter granted to the said Governor and Company of Adventurers of *England* trading to *Hudson's Bay*.

X. And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for his Majesty, if he shall deem it convenient so to do, to issue a commission or commissions to any person or persons to be and act as justices of the peace within such parts of *America* as aforesaid, as well within any territories heretofore granted to the Company of Adventurers of *England* trading to *Hudson's Bay*, as within the *Indian* territories of such other parts of *America* as aforesaid; and it shall be lawful for the court in the province of *Upper Canada*, in any case in which it shall appear expedient to have any evidence taken by commission, or any facts or issue, or any cause or suit, ascertained, to issue a commission to any three or more of such justices to take such evidence, and return the same, or try such issue, and for that purpose to hold courts, and to issue subpoenas or other processes to compel attendance of plaintiffs, defendants, jurors, witnesses, and all other persons requisite and essential to the execution of the several purposes for which such commission or commissions had issued, and with the like power and authority as are vested in the courts of the said province of *Upper Canada*; and any order, verdict, judgment or decree, that shall be made, found, declared or published by or before any court or courts held under and by virtue of such commission or commissions, shall be considered to be of as full effect, and enforced in like manner, as if the same had been made, found, declared or published within the jurisdiction of the court of the said Province; and at the time of issuing such commission or commissions shall be declared the place or places where such commission is to be opened, and the courts and proceedings thereunder held; and it shall be at the same time provided how and by what means the expenses of such commission, and the execution thereof, shall be raised and provided for.

XI. And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for his Majesty, notwithstanding any thing contained in this act, or in any charter granted to the said Governor and Company of Adventurers of *England* trading to *Hudson's Bay*, from time to time, by any commission under the great seal, to authorize and empower any such persons so appointed justices of the peace as aforesaid, to sit and hold courts of record for the trial of criminal offences and misdemeanors, and also of civil causes; and it shall be lawful for his Majesty to order, direct and authorize the appointment of proper officers to act in aid of such courts and justices within the jurisdiction assigned to such courts and justices, in any such commission; any thing in this act, or in any charter of the Governor and Company of Merchant Adventurers of *England* trading to *Hudson's Bay*, to the contrary notwithstanding.

XII. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That such courts shall be constituted, as to the number of justices to preside therein, and as to such places within the said territories of the said company, or any *Indian* territories, or other parts of *North America* as aforesaid, and the times and manner of holding the same, as his Majesty shall from time to time order and direct: but shall not try any offender upon any charge or indictment for any felony made the subject of capital punishment, or for any offence, or passing sentence affecting the life of any offender, or adjudge or cause any offender to suffer capital punishment or transportation, or take cognizance of or try any civil action or suit, in which the cause of such suit or action shall exceed in value the amount or sum of two hundred pounds; and in every case of any offence subjecting the person committing the same to capital

punishment or transportation, the court or any judge of any such court, or any justice or justices of the peace, before whom any such offender shall be brought, shall commit such offender to safe custody, and cause such offender to be sent in such custody for trial in the court of the province of *Upper Canada*.

XIII. And be it further enacted, That all judgments given in any civil suit shall be subject to appeal to his Majesty in Council, in like manner as in other cases in his Majesty's province of *Upper Canada*, and also in any case in which the right or title to any land shall be in question.

XIV And be it further enacted, That nothing in this act contained shall be taken or construed to affect any right, privilege, authority or jurisdiction which the Governor and Company of Adventurers trading to *Hudson's Bay* are by law entitled to claim and exercise under their charter; but that all such rights, privileges, authorities and jurisdictions shall remain in as full force, virtue, and effect, as if this act had never been made; any thing in this act to the contrary notwithstanding.

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS RELATIVE TO THE FUR TRADE.

JANUARY 31, 1831.

Laid on the table by Mr. BENTON, and ordered to be printed with Document No. 39.

COLLECTOR'S OFFICE,*Philadelphia, January 26, 1831.*

DEAR SIR: Observing that a proposition has been made in Congress to request information of your Department on the subject of the fur trade, as carried on by the citizens of the United States and the Hudson's Bay Company, I beg leave to enclose you a tabular sketch, made up from such materials as could occasionally be collected at this office, the subject having attracted my attention as one of interest to the United States. The view here given is necessarily imperfect, but may furnish an item towards indicating the extent and importance of that branch of trade.

I am, dear Sir,

Very truly and respectfully,

Yours, &c. &c.

J. N. BARKER.

The Hon. J. H. EATON,
Secretary of War.

SALES OF FURS IN LONDON—

	IN THE YEAR 1829.				IN THE MONTHS OF AUG. AND SEPT. 1830.		
	By Row, Son, & Co. brokers, 22 Jan., 12 Mar. 10 Sept. 1829.	By the Hudson Bay Co. 14 Jan. & 15 Mar. 1829.	Total.	Price.	By the Hudson Bay Co. 25 Aug. 1830.	By Row, Son, & Co. 9 Sept. 1830.	Total.
Bear - - -	8,023	- -	8,023	5s to 46s 9d per skin	- -	6,000	6,000
Bear, (cub) - -	4,273	- -	4,273	1s to 10s do	- -	-	-
Bear, black, brown, and grey - -	-	2,971	2,971	5s to 55s 6d do	130	-	130
Beaver, parchment - -	-	27,287	27,287	34s 9d to 41s 7d per lb {	lbs. 499	-	lbs. 499
Beaver, cub parchment - -	-	12,408	12,408	31s 8d to 45s 3d do	skins 23,668	-	skins 23,668
Beaver, coat - -	-	549	549	10s to 26s 6d do	lbs. 348	-	lbs. 348
Cat, (lynx included) - -	6,110	11,681	17,791	1s 4d to 14d 1d per skin	930	2,400	skins 3,330
Deer and elk - -	35,340	-	35,340	1s to 15s 9d do	394	-	394
Fisher - -	7,220	1,292	8,512	4s to 9s 6d do	285	2,360	2,645
Fisher tails - -	280	-	280	1s 6d per tail	-	-	-
Fox, white, blue, kitt - -	1,280	5,242	6,523	2s 5d to 10s per skin	-	2,229	2,229
Fox, red - -	36,298	1,602	37,900	2s 1d to 8s 1d do	145	33,374	33,519
Fox, silver - -	252	186	438	20s to £10 13s do	25	106	131
Fox, cross - -	1,657	461	2,118	3s to 47s do	81	-	81
Fox, grey and white - -	1,620	3,028	4,648	1s 4d to 8s 5d do	-	5,291	5,291
Martin - -	73,310	82,268	155,578	2s to 18s do	3,763	29,000	32,768
Martin tails - -	1,200	-	1,200	11d per tail	-	-	-
Mink tails - -	380	-	380	8d do	-	-	-
Mink - -	65,860	14,079	79,934	1s 6d to 4s 4d per skin	709	50,100	50,809
Musquash, (muskrat) - -	5,080	455,667	460,747	8½d to 1s 6d do	409,465	2,000	411,465
Musk ox wool - -	-	226	226	-	-	-	-
Otter - -	4,200	10,862	15,062	13s 6d to 26s 9d do	2,095	5,230	7,325
Rabbit and white hares - -	85,800	5,554	91,354	2s 2d to 6s 3d per c. z.	-	10,000	10,000
Raccoon and badger - -	101,330	402	101,762	1s 1d to 7s per skin	-	68,500	68,500
Squirrel - -	70,800	-	70,800	36s 6d to 84s per 100	-	24,500	24,500
Wolf - -	-	1,258	1,258	5s 4d to 18s 3d per skin	8	-	8
Wolverine - -	-	381	381	3s 11d to 6s do	35	-	35
Chinchilla and others, included in the sales, are not noted, as being the production of the southern parts of America.					Panthers	33	33
					Geese	1,200	1,200

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