Colville, 600 miles higher. There are several other posts along the upper course of the river. These are generally picketed enclosures, occupied by from fifteen to twenty servants of the North-West Company, for the purpose of trading with the Indians for furs. They have at Vancouver **a** large thrashing machine, a saw-mill, a distillery, a grit-mill, and, in short, all the necessary rudiments of a civilized community.@@1

In 1835 a settlement was made on the river Wallamete, by a missionary of the name of Lee, which succeeded well. During the first year, a g∞d crop was raised of green pease and other vegetables. A school was established, at which native children were instructed in rending and in all mecha­nical arts. The state of this country was brought under the consideration of the Congress by a petition from dif­ferent settlers, who were intending to emigrate to it, and there to establish a colony. They requested the counte­nance of the government, and the aid of a military force with which to maintain law and order ; and an estimate was made of the expense of a battalion of troops, and the ne­cessary stores for that purpose.@@\* This colony, the germ of a new state, has in this manner been established; the so­vereignty of the country, obtained by the United States, will be duly maintained; and the seeds of population, planted in the congenial soil, will increase and multiply ; and thus the desert will rejoice in a new and flourishing off-set from the great trunk of the American population.

The active population of the United States is rapidly spreading over the desert that lies to the westward of the cultivated portion of the United States, and the annual purchases of land bring a valuable addition to the revenue. The following is an account of the annual quantity of land that has been sold since the year 1820.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Years. | Quantity of Public Land offered for Sale. | Quantity of Public Land Sold. | Amount paid by Purchasers. |
| 1820 | Acres and 100ths.  8,338,675·94 | Acres and 100ths.  303.404·09 | Dollars.  424.962·20 |
| 1821 | 10,919,480·42 | 781,213·32 | 1,169,224·98  1,023,267·83 |
| 1822 | 9,602,931·37 | 801,226·18 |
| 1823 | 11,414,598∙70 | 653,319∙52 | 850,136·26 |
| 1824 | 7,294,180·48 | 749,323·04 | 953.799·03 |
| 182.5 | 3,419.604∙55 | 893,461·69 | 1,205.068·37 |
| 1826 | 2,880,703·56 | 848,082∙26 | 1,128.617·27 |
| 1827 | 3,314,016∙71 | 926,727·76 | 1,318,106·36 |
| 1828 | 3,268,493 ∙96 | 965,600∙36 | 1,221,357·99 |
| 1829 | 0,148,962·26 | 1,244,860·01 | 1,572,863·54 |
| 1830 | 6,750,798∙77 | 1,929,733·79 | 2,433,432·94 |
| 1831 | 11,005,561∙42 | 2,777,856·88 | 3,657,023·76 |
| 1832 | 4,205,805·26 | 2,462,342·16 | 3,115,376·09 |
| 1833 | 6,614,596·93 | 3,856,227·56 | 4,972,284·64 |
| 1834 | 13,056,805·37 | 4,658,218·71 | 6,099,981·04 |
| 1835 | 13,707,268·05 | 12,564,478·85 | 15,999,804·11  25,167,8.33·06 |
| 1836 | 509,034·50 | 20,074,870·92 |
| 1837 | 133,224∙00 | 5,601,103·12 | 7,007,523·04 |
| 1838\* | 12,25l,966∙00† | 1,388,783·48 | 1,749,401·96 |
| Total. | 134,897,574·25 | 63,480,783·70 | 80,970,063·73 |

\*To 30th Sept. †This quantity (12,251,966) includes all offered for sale in 1838.

The main flood of the American population is now rapidly making its way across the extended plains to the west of the Mississippi ; numbers of adventurous emigrants are already settled in these western regions; the desert is rapidly as­suming the aspect of cultivation, villages and towns sup­planting the primeval forest ; and in a few years the wild animals and the savage will alike disappear before the rapid progress of civilized man. The interminable woods of the west, and the inundations and marshes of the south, yield alike to the resistless sway of persevering energy ; the great mass moves onward with increasing force, under the impulse of causes which no longer brook control, and which will no less bear down, it is to be feared, moral right than physical obstacles in its progress to the barrier of the ocean. Since the adventurous journey of Lewis and Clarke to the mouth of the Columbia river, the settlements have advanced far­ther to the west, and new and easier roads have been found across the wilderness and the Rocky Mountains, and down the great river of the Pacific. This country, the abode of wild animals, has been for more than twenty years a noted resort of the fur traders, and especially those in the service of the North-West Company.

The United States, whose territories almost touch the tropic on the one side, and reach to districts where frost lasts five or six months on the other, embrace greater va­rieties of climate than any other single state in the world. Generally speaking, the climate of the United States is dis­tinguished from that of Europe by three peculiarities. 1. It is absolutely colder for the corresponding degrees of lati­tude, the mean temperature of the year, according to Hum­boldt, being nine degrees of Fahrenheit lower on the east coast of America than on the west coast of Europe at the latitude of 40°, and 12½° lower at the latitude of 50°. 2.

The thermometer has a greater range, as the heat of sum­mer and the cold of winter reach greater extremes. 3. The climate changes more rapidly as we proceed from south to north, or a greater variety of climates is comprised within the same range of latitude. the mean temperature of Quebec, at one extremity, is 42°, and of Cape Sable, at rite other, 72∙70. Between the parallels of 33 and 50, a degree of latitude which makes a change of 1∙13° (Fahrenheit) in Europe, makes a change of 1∙57° in the United States ; and the same annual temperature which is found at a given de­gree of latitude in the United States, is found seven degrees farther north in Europe. The seasons are also differently distributed. Philadelphia, for instance, has the summers of Rome and the winters of Vienna. In Florida, at New Orleans, and at St Mary’s in Georgia, snow is never seen ; but in Pennsylvania snow lasts three months, in Massa­chusetts four, and in Maine five.@@3 In the two latter states, the ice bears loaded waggons, and the sea is sometimes frozen to a considerable distance from the coast. In all the low country, from Florida to the St Lawrence, the extreme summer heat is nearly the same, from 90° to 98°, and the varieties of climate are chiefly marked by the intensity and duration of the winter’s cold. The climate in the basin of the Ohio, compared with that of the Atlantic coast, pos­sesses no very striking peculiarities, but seems, on the whole, to have its mean annual heat a little higher, to be rather more steady and equable, to be less frequently visited by the frigorifie north-west winds, and to have fits of cold weather almost equally severe, but more transitory. The great lakes appear to mitigate the winter cold in the coun­try immediately around them, and probably in the basin of the Ohio too ; for on the west and north-west of this dis­trict the climate is much more rigorous. At Council Bluffs, on the Missouri, in latitude 41½°, the thermometer descends to —22° in winter, and rises to 105° in summer. At St Peter’s Fort, on the Mississippi, in latitude 45°, it ranges from 92° to —30°, and the mean temperature of Ja­nuary is about zero. The absolute height of the fort, which cannot exceed 1000 feet, does not account for this exces­sive cold. We have already mentioned the equable tem­perature of the basin of the Columbia ; and, from the obser­vations made on the Missouri and Upper Mississippi, we have reason to believe that the mildest and the most rigor­ous winters known in any similar latitude are to be found at once on the opposite sides of the great rampart of the

@@@1 See Report on the Territory of Oregan, presented to Congress February 16, 1839.

@@@2 See Letter of the Secretary of War. Jan. 4, 1839. Report from Committee on Foreign Affairs, App. K.

@@@» Humboldt, Prolegomena de Distrib. Geog. Plant. 1817, p. 68-71. Warden, vol. i. p. 287, 333 ; vol. ii. p. 60.