

be past its best and the underfed animals would be thrown into the mountains for the winter; that the country of the Blackfeet and other fierce tribes had to be crossed, and they knew nothing of the rights of science. When my father came he entirely approved my wrongdoing and wrote to Washington that he would be responsible for my act; and that he would call for a court-martial on the point charged against Mr. Frémont. But there was never further question of the wisdom of arming his party sufficiently—in fact it was but a pretext. The precious time had been secured and “they’d have fleet feet who follow” where such purpose leads the advance. I had grown up to and into my father’s large purpose; and now that my husband could be of such aid to him in its accomplishment, I had no hesitation in risking for him all consequences. We three understood each other and acted together—then and later—without question or delay.

That expedition led directly to our acquiring California; which was accomplished during the third, and last, of the expeditions made under the Government. My father was a man grown when our western boundary was the Mississippi. In 1821 he commenced in the Senate his championship of a quarter of a century for our new territory on the Pacific. Now with California added he could say in that Senate:

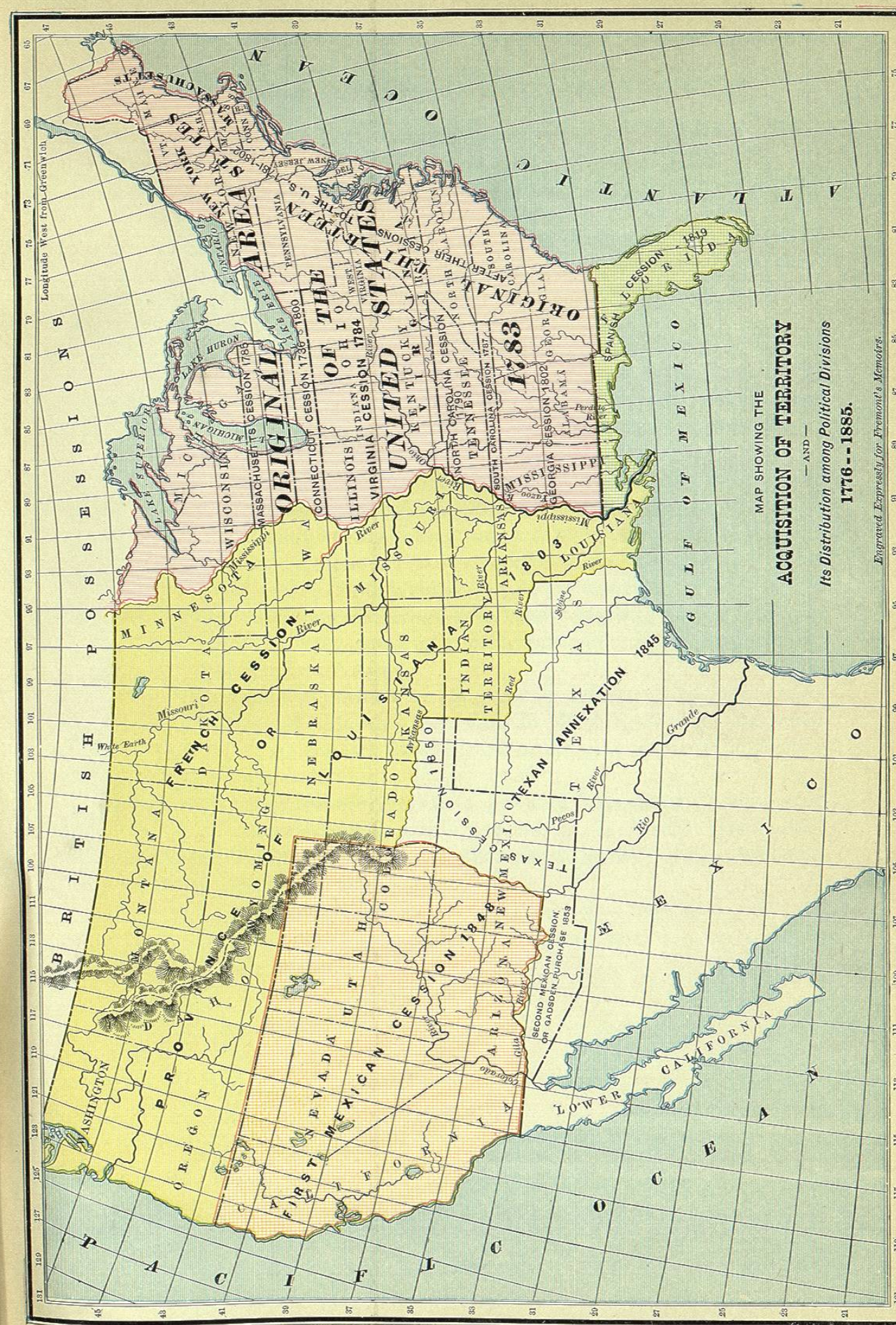
“We own the country from sea to sea—from the Atlantic to the Pacific—and upon a breadth equal to the length of the Mississippi and embracing the whole temperate zone.”

The long contest, the opposition, the indifference, the ignorance, the sneering doubts were in the past. From his own hearth had gone forth the one who carried his hopes to fullest execution; and who now after many perils and anxieties was back in safety—even to a seat in the Senate beside him. Who had enabled him to make true his prophetic words carved on the pedestal of his statue in Saint Louis, whose bronze hand points *West*:

“THERE IS THE EAST;
THERE IS THE ROAD TO INDIA.”

For with our Pacific ports came to us that Asiatic trade which was the underlying cause of all the wars of France and England for a hundred years. France lost India—Canada—and the vigilant English navy prevented her from protecting Louisiana. Then Napoleon avenged himself and made the master move which checkmated England by giving over to her rebellious colonies the Mississippi and the Columbia.

England was loth to lose her grasp. She tried to get by treaty free navigation of the Mississippi and right of way over our territories in access to it. But Jefferson was President. He would not even lay before the Senate the treaty containing that clause.



England tried then by force to get New Orleans—and failed. Then followed her attempt to colonize and in that way hold Oregon under the permitted joint-occupation, weakly prolonged by our Government until we barely escaped war in regaining our boundary.

There remained the Mexican territory of California with its noble harbor of San Francisco ; surveyed by England as her own.

The issue had narrowed as to who should possess this the finest harbor on the coast.

In the early home readings my father had studied the trial of Warren Hastings, and Clive and India were almost as close to his boyhood as our war is to the boys of to-day. The struggle for India and its trade "greater than that of Tyre and Sidon" made the story of a great war on a background of oriental splendor.

To gain for one's country a great rich land was the glory to be envied by him in those dreams of boyhood when nothing seems impossible.

What mysterious foreshadowing may not have moved him to the long labors that led to a greater and richer addition to his own country? That enabled America to hold the Golden Gate to the commerce of the Pacific?

With her territory we inherited from France her long contest, and now when the Mexican war opened up a fresh opportunity it was England and America who faced each other.

Two men were in position to use deciding influence, and both understood the crisis and each other, my father in Washington with his established power in the Senate ; Mr. Frémont on the ground where the decisive blow must be given.

The tenacity of purpose, the staying-power of England was impersonated in one of her American descendants, and the partly French blood added French audacity of execution to the other whose life and purpose was interwoven with that of my father.

Long thought and deliberation had ripened hopes and plans : when the signal came the duel of a century was ended by the raising of the American Flag.