

included all the extensive region, north of Mexico, lying between the Mississippi and the Rocky Mountains. They claim also, in virtue the right of discovery, the country on the west side of these mountains, watered by the river Columbia, and bounded on one side by the Pacific Ocean. And, in 1821, they obtained East and West Florida from Spain by cession."

Maryland was amongst the foremost of the colonies in leading the way to emancipation.— From the earliest history of the Province, the inhabitants were distinguished for attachment to liberty. The first emigrants of the state, evinced immediately after their landing, the spirit with which they were determined to guard their rights as men, as well as their privileges as Christians. They too were "Pilgrim Fathers" driven by persecution from their country and their friends, to seek a land even beyond oceans and in a wilderness, where God might be worshipped in peace. What is more, the laws and institutions they built up, were consistent with their professions. They kindly opened the doors of the temple of liberty which they set about to erect, to receive others, their fellow men, that might, as they had been, be driven to seek shelter from oppression. If Maryland has been the last state in the Union to extinguish the shadow of religious distinctions from her laws, it is probably because those distinctions have been always so mild, as scarcely to be felt. Fanaticism has never prevailed over the councils of