

the founding of a new republic of civil and religious freedom on the shores of the Pacific.

Your memorialist, being at the seat of the General Government in 1848, laboring as best he could to promote the common interest of an infant community which had already planted under a Provisional Government, the vine of christianity and the germ of civil freedom, he received the accompanying medal, promising to make "some appropriate disposition of it." He therefore asks your acceptance of it; and he prays that you may be made the honored instrument, in the hands of the great Ruler of nations, for the establishing on broad and comprehensive principles, the institutions of civilization and liberty, in

"The continuous wood where rolls the Oregon,
And hears no sound save his own dashings."

J. QUINN THORNTON.

From the *Oregon Spectator* of Sept. 3, 1846, I copy the following:

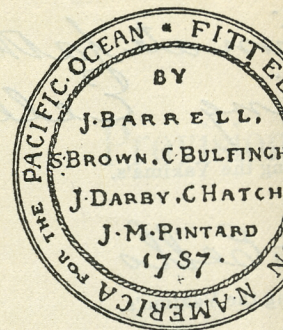
Mr. Winthrop, of Boston, offered the following memorial:

To the honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled: The petition of Martha Gray respectfully sets forth: That your petitioner is the widow of Captain Robert Gray, well known as the navigator who discovered, first entered, and gave its present name to the "Columbia river." That your petitioner was left a widow nearly forty years ago, with four young daughters, and without adequate means for their education and support. That she has struggled thus far through life amidst great difficulties and severe trials, and in her advanced age is still in circumstances requiring strictest economy. That her daughters are yet living, and three of them remain unmarried. That her late husband, Captain Gray, was in the naval service of his country during a part of the war of the Revolution, but that your petitioner is unable under the existing laws to entitle herself to be placed upon the list of United States pensioners, "the act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows and for other purposes," providing only for widows whose marriage took place before the first of January, 1794, and her marriage having taken place in the month of *February*, 1794. That neither her late husband during his life-time, nor his family since his decease, have received the slightest pecuniary benefit from the great discovery herein referred to; and your petitioner now, for the first time, appeals to the justice of her country with confidence; that, at the moment when your honorable body is spreading before the world the claims of the United States to a vast territory of immense value, and founding these claims, to a great extent, upon a discovery made by the energy and perseverance of one of her citizens, the family of that citizen will not be suffered, in their humble circumstances, to go without any remuneration; but that your honorable body will make such provisions as a sense of justice and the honor of the nation seem to require for the aged widow and unprotected daughters of the man who first unfurled the flag of our country upon the "Great River of the West," and who was the first to bear this flag in triumph round the world.

With due respect.

MARTHA GRAY.

Boston, Jan. 17, 1846.



This medal was struck commencing the first expedition.

I have been requested to, in the following are all that I could interest to the reader:

Yours to

March

Came to Oregon in 1836. Mu

your sister

Came to Oregon in 1836. Mu

H. A.

Came to Oregon in 1836.

Affectionately

Came to Oregon in 1836. St