

us; and compel her to move, or surrender the territory under its operation. Why should we not make her to be the aggressor—make her give us the notice, and expel us out of Oregon? In taking the contrary course, we are pursuing the very policy she desires, and are subserving her interests, not ours.

One gentleman, and one only, has attempted to show, that the convention of 1827 operated against us. The gentleman from Indiana, (Mr. OWEN,) whose accurate knowledge of this whole subject, and ability in enforcing his opinions, entitle all that falls from him to great consideration, has stated, that the notice should be given, because our citizens are not allowed by the British, to settle on the north bank of the Columbia. But how are they prevented? The gentleman has told us, in a very grievous tale. One of our poor settlers lately pitched his cabin on the north side of the Columbia river; and forthwith received a bonus of eight hundred dollars to go over to the south side! And this is the enormous evil, under the great scarcity of land, which we must no longer endure, and which calls upon us as a nation, to put an end to the convention! But the gentleman assigned another reason. The notice should be given, in order to prevent collision, because our hardy emigrants *would* go north of the Columbia. How these two reasons, can be consistent with each other, it may not be easy to comprehend. We must give the notice because our settlers cannot go north of the Columbia river; and then, we must give it, because they will. But the notice is, to prevent collision in Oregon!! How that will be, if we are to turn the British out of the territory, in consequence of it, it is hard to understand. If it does avoid collision in Oregon, will it not precipitate it over the whole world? A general war with Great Britain, is his method of avoiding collision in Oregon! Such reasoning, surely, cannot be necessary to a strong cause.

But let us yield, that we have any advantages under the convention of 1827. Suppose it operates to the benefit of Great Britain, instead of ours—how can abrogating the convention, in order that we may extend our “exclusive jurisdiction” over Oregon, gain us the territory? Can we take exclusive jurisdiction? and if we can, is it worth the necessary cost?

Sir, it is hardly worth while to mention Oregon in the war, if we are to have a war with Great Britain for it. If there is any fight there, it requires no great powers of prophesy to foretell, in the present state of things, with whom will be the mastery. Great Britain, with her forts and military preparations, with thousands of Indians under her control, is certainly most likely to prevail against our settlers, scattered and unarmed, without a can-

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