

should act promptly, they would say, he was rash, imprudent, hasty; and if he waited for a while, they would say that he had let slip the golden moment. Why, if the subject had been referred to us, and if the power belonged to us, should we not exercise the power and give the notice at once? If there was any advantage in giving the notice at all, it was proper to give it at the earliest moment without loss of time. If we did not give it now, in what position should we be left? The whole subject would be suffered to take its chance, without an effort on our part to maintain our rights. He knew that it had been recommended to us to adopt "a wise and masterly inactivity"—that was, to do nothing. He would rather call it masterly duplicity, or masterly dishonesty, to take measures, in an indirect way, to get possession of the country, without suffering our object to be known. How long did gentlemen wish to carry on this masterly duplicity? Some of them had fixed a limit to it of twenty years. Sir, (said Mr. H.), I have a single idea on that point. We had told our people that they might occupy that country. Were they to be thus encouraged to go there and settle, and yet not be entitled to our protection? If you do not take them under your wing, can you expect to retain their affection? No. They would be faithless to themselves if they gave you any confidence or affection after such treatment. As well might a mother expect the love of her children whom she repelled from her bosom, and cast out into the world without protection. It would be a most unnatural mother that would cast off her children as we would do were we not to give this notice. Should we acquire a colony by this course of masterly dishonesty, it would make us the reproach of all nations. While he reminded the admirers of the British government that it was one of splendid palaces contrasting with squalid poverty, there was one thing in the British government that he admired, much as he despised all the venting about her power, and greatness, and glory. He admired it for one special quality—its care of its subjects. It gave protection to its subjects all over the world. Wherever the subject of England might be, he was covered with the protection of British laws and British power. This, in his opinion, was an example worthy of imitation.

He would go a step further than the notice, and extend the protection of our laws over our citizens in Oregon. If we did not, we should fall short of our duty. After doing this, he would go still further, and create those bands of iron which were to bind indissolubly together in one union the people of the Atlantic and the people of the Pacific. He would go for a railroad across the Rocky mountains—for annihilating time and space between us and the inhabitants of the Pacific coast. In a military point of view, this railroad would be necessary. We should be obliged, for the protection and defence of the country, to establish this mode of communication. While it would afford military protection for the defence of the country, it would be the means of creating a vast trade between the eastern and western portions of the continent. The immediate consequence of such a trade would be to open a traffic in our manufactures with the people of the East Indies; next, we should be able to drive out all competition on the part of the British fabrics in that lucrative and important trade. We would, by means of this overland communication, be soon able to create immense com-

mercial depots on the coast of the Pacific. We could make voyages to the East Indies in half the time that Great Britain could. Our manufactures would thus compete in that important and increasing market, with those of Great Britain, and, indeed, drive out all competition; and thus they would become established on a firm foundation, without the aid of a black tariff to maintain them. He had always opposed internal improvements by the general government; but he would adopt this improvement as a military work—one necessary for the public defence, though it would be used for civil and commercial purposes. In a military point of view, a defence to the country, it would be far more efficient than battlements along the coast.

Should the United States delay to do the duty to their citizens in Oregon, the British government would avail themselves of the delay to take measures for securing the territory to her subjects. Great Britain had already, by force and fraud, covered the world with more than a hundred colonies. She had done this by blood and carnage, and in violation of the rights of all nations with which she had been connected as an ally, or opposed to a foe. The history of India would tell the whole story. In the year 1600, during the reign of Queen Elizabeth, a charter for commercial purposes was granted to some private trading adventurers. The company have spread death and desolation over the East. Under Warren Hastings every crime, every species of perfidy, and cruelty, and rapine was perpetrated for the acquisition of territory and of wealth for the company. So fearful and prodigious was his rapacity and cruelty, that he became the theme of universal execration by orators and poets. It had been remarked, in one of the invectives against him, that when some wretch, laden with horrid crimes without a name, should stalk through earth, and we want curses for him—

"We'd torture thought to curse the wretch;
And then, to damn him most supreme,
We'd call him Hastings."

It would be easy to run a parallel between the East India Company and the Hudson Bay Company. It would show us the necessity of taking hold of this matter in due time, and of giving this notice now.

Government after government had submitted to British power in the east—some being reduced by fraud and treachery, and others by force, until now the population brought under her sway amounted to more than a hundred and thirty millions. The Great Mogul, the former ruler of Hindostan, was at this day a pensioner on British bounty. And the British government, through the East India company now, at this time, by the force of her arms, is preparing to invade and subjugate the last province of that country. Mr. H. said he would be glad to trace the progress of this government in the East Indies; but not having time for that, he would say that from beginning to end it was stamped with infamy. He called the attention of the committee to these facts, in order to show that unless we gave the notice the Hudson Bay Company, which was formed upon principles akin to that in the east, would by gradual encroachments, become possessed of all the strong positions in Oregon, and be more difficult to dislodge. We might, as he said again, find a parallel in their progress to the corporation that has so long oppressed and devastated the East. By what waters were the Hudson Bay Company originally bounded? By those waters