

of the American Senate in its favor. I, sir, shall vote steadily in favor of the notice, and if I cannot obtain it in the form most acceptable, least embarrassing, and which will enable the administration to use it most speedily, I will vote for it in any form consistent with the dignity and honor of the country, rather than it should fail. For this reason I regret the strong terms of denunciation employed by the Senator from Connecticut, (Mr. NILES,) in speaking of the amendment proposed by the Senator from Georgia, (Mr. COLQUITT.) Whatever preference I may entertain for a more simple form, there is nothing in the amendment to justify so harsh a representation of its spirit, and the expression is calculated to engender ill feelings in this chamber. The more bitterly Senators may denounce those who favor notice in a modified form, the greater the obstacles in the way of obtaining a unanimous vote; and it may endanger its passage in any form. I persuade myself that, if there shall be no indulgence of mere party feeling, no denouncing of each others views, that there will be less diversity when we come to final action upon the question. I can say with truth, sir, that I listened with pleasure to much that has fallen from our political opponents in this debate, and feel assured, if a conflict shall grow out of this controversy, that they will be as ready to sustain the rights of their country, and to meet dangers and sacrifices in her cause, as bravely and as promptly as our friends on this side of the chamber. I regret to hear denunciations from either side upon the question of giving this notice. I feel when I approach any subject, connected as this is, with the foreign relations of the country, that all party feeling should be hushed; that I should take off my shoes, for the ground I tread upon is holy. If, when the resolutions of the Senator from Michigan, (Mr. CASS) were introduced, we were all so united in sentiment, may I not still indulge the hope that by treating the question of notice with moderation and calmness, there will scarce be an objection to its passage.

But the Senators from New Jersey, (Mr. DAYTON,) and Maine, (Mr. EVANS,) said they could see no reasons for giving the notice. The Senator from New Jersey furnished one, and a very cogent one, when he moved some weeks since to postpone this question, in order to dispose of the other important business before the Senate. Since then I am sure the experienced and observant Senator from Maine must have seen many and strong reasons for disposing of this question, and giving the notice. It is certain that we have before us but two lines of policy; one is that of quietly and peaceably getting possession of the territory by the gradual course of settlement; in other words, by the "masterly inactivity" which was spread out before us the other day in all its grand and magnificent proportions, by the distinguished Senator from South Carolina, (Mr. CALHOUN,) who is its oldest, most able, and devoted advocate. If that policy could now be pursued, this measure of giving notice to dissolve the convention for the joint occupancy of the territory might be wrong. But the Senator from South Carolina, (Mr. CALHOUN,) tells us that circumstances which have occurred since 1843, render that policy