

try and the world promise which the own the proposition go for the whole not be surrendering with the power months, take possession of Great Britain. I of the whole country. I am as certain we were to send James. I admit no casus belli notice in connexion of Oregon. So light in the assertion moment the treaty of the United States—open, flagrant to bring the question nullified, to the arbitration power, if giving in form of a notice involving every wisely put into the vigilance. Can then stand? Can Administration? deg. 40 min. I find it impossible to hang on the inconclusive the next of offering to think of the fact the defences or the department are negotiations are unarmed (Great Britain) is prepared for war till affairs be prepared for all circumstances, Administration are and, if I could, in the energies of the consecrated to the moment greatly the war. We should not go beyond the brave, patriotic, entire pecuniary Europe. I should hang till these obstructions strengthening the such as tea and of the present Britain on a submarine engine of war! our Government

would have to resolve itself into a Bank of the United States. It would immediately commence issuing treasury notes. Most, if not all the State banks, would stop specie payments, and shin-plasters would cover the land. If we are to have a war, I shall, myself, be in favor of a metallic currency, but it will consist mainly of *lead and iron*; and you will need a pretty good supply of paper, if for no other purpose, at any rate for wadding. Besides, what are we to think of the imprudence of this Administration, of involving the country in a conflict with Great Britain, while our controversy with Mexico is unsettled? The moment I ascertained the position of this Oregon question, I predicted that the difficulties with Mexico would never be settled until we effected an adjustment with Great Britain.

It seems to me that the policy of this Administration is adapted to bring on us three wars at one and the same time. 1. A war with Great Britain. 2. A war with Mexico. And 3. A war with all the Indian tribes on our western and northwestern frontier. And if to these we add a war on the industry of the country by a destruction of the existing beneficent tariff, a war on the currency by the re-enactment of an oppressive sub-treasury scheme, and also a servile war, (which some gentlemen seem to anticipate,) we shall introduce into the political caldron the elements of innumerable evils; and if it does not prove to be a case of "toil and trouble" to the American people, I shall be greatly mistaken.

I am sensible that it is useless for me to stop for a moment to calculate the cost of such a contest. It is useless to speak of the destruction of credit, national, state, and private—of the interruption of our works of internal improvement, the annihilation of our commerce, the prostration of our manufactures, (for it seems we are to have war and free-trade combined,) and the overthrow of our agricultural interests—of the multitude made poor and the few rich—of taxation in every form—of a crushing national debt, and of the thousands, if not hundreds of thousands, who will be sent to a premature grave, because the answer to all this will be, in the language of the honorable member from Massachusetts, (Mr. ADAMS,) "*the war will be a short and a glorious war.*" I believe in the *glory*, but not in the item of *brevity*.

In conclusion, I wish to notice for a moment what has been said on the *destiny* of this great republic. The most gorgeous pictures have been drawn in this debate of that destiny. It has been assumed as a certain fact, that we are to remain a free and a united people—that a vast population, under the ægis of our institutions, is to pour across this continent, and, reaching the Pacific, is to spread up and down the coast, everywhere building up cities and villages, and establishing the seats of commerce and the arts, and spreading everywhere the blessings of republicanism, civilization, and christianity. But honorable gentlemen must not forget that these glorious results can be attained only on certain conditions, the principal of which are public and private virtue. If we rejoice in the prospects before us, let us rejoice with fear and trembling. Let us undertake at once the purification of public morals—let us crush at once the monster party and the infamy of spoils—let us introduce more disinterestedness into our public councils, spread everywhere the blessings of education and of sound christian principles, and especially let us keep clear of that greatest of all curses to republics, unnecessary wars, and then the brilliant anticipations adverted to may be realized.

Having thus given a faithful exposition of my views, I must commit the result to the Executive, to the judgment of Congress, and to an overruling Providence; if it shall be a pacific result, I shall rejoice—but if otherwise, we must stand by the country, and every man, in his proper place and station, must do his duty.