

for trade, and establish jurisdiction within the territory."

do not consider this an American question, I do not like to see a single notice, and at the existing possession of the territory will, all who are pronounced by the side of the question, on the Whig side of the question, and actuate every American the area of freedom, I feel that all these with greater force upon the House. The people have virtue and themselves, and that people is bound to obey

convinced that Mr. distinguished station to his opinions on more than to all other sir, in his election, I ded both these great. What were Mr. Oregon? Let an example, April, 1844, answer. He says:

Government be, not any other foreign Power dominion over any territory of the United

Address, says: "I do not deem it my duty to constitutional means, as to that portion of and the Rocky mountain of the Oregon is and already are our at title by occupying it." \* \* \* "To bring them adequately our soil."

asked why this "hot things remain as they and we will get the, I have only to say, right of instruction ter. The sovereign public servants to giving notice to Great terminate the convention take active and encourage citizens and to war results from this unity fall? Is it not battles of our common honor? Whose have been poured out and the nation against haughty England? and out, in the event the thousands who ce, quietly and in-

dustriously tilling the soil and improving the country,—it is this class upon whom all this great responsibility and calamity (if such shall result) will fall. And, sir, are they not to have the poor privilege of directing their public servants what to do in this matter? I, sir, am one of those who believe that the "sober second thought of the people" is seldom wrong; and I firmly believe that three-fourths of the people of this nation, if they could vote on the resolution now under consideration, would be found voting in the affirmative.

I am not, sir, for extending our laws over a single inch of territory that does not belong to us; and the alternative of war would not deter me from going to the very last inch of what is rightfully our own. Gentlemen may call this demagoguism—bravado—gaseonade—braggadocio—and whatever else they may think becoming. I am responsible only to my constituents and to my God. I believe I know the will of those whom I represent, and I dare to do it, come what may. And as to Him who rules the destinies of nations and of men, I believe that He is on our side, and that He will bless and protect us as He has done in days that are past. Experience was the best light in which to look at the future. In all the wars we have thus far been engaged in, He has thrown His shield of protection over us, and blessed our arms with victory; and I trust, if we are again compelled to hazard a war for the maintenance of our rights in Oregon, we shall again experience the same happy result.

Gentlemen all contend that ours is one of the best Governments on earth. Is there, then, a man who enjoys the peace and privileges, the happy security and freedom which distinguish the inhabitants of this land, who is not willing to risk something to confer the same blessings on the thousands who now, and the millions who will hereafter, inhabit Oregon? He does not deserve the name of an American citizen if he would not. A man so selfish and so dastardly, ill deserves the rich blessings he enjoys.

I deprecate all idea of calling this a party question. It should not be so considered or so treated. In my own State it is not a party question. My Whig colleague, who represents truly the Whig population of the western States and Territories, is willing to go as far for Oregon as he who goes farthest. He goes for the last pebble that reflects the light of an Oregon moon. This shows what the feelings of the great West are on this question.

I might adduce still stronger proofs. With the political party with whom I am in the habit of acting, the distinguished gentleman from Massachusetts has not heretofore been very popular. They consider him as an eminent and a profound statesman; some of his public acts they applaud, but there are more which they disapprove; but now they say, with one accord, that if he continues his present course in relation to our rights in Oregon, his life will terminate in a blaze of glory. With them, this is a question which overrides all others.

It has been said, however, that this strong feeling about Oregon is assumed for political effect, and has been gotten up to aid the fortunes of a particular candidate for the Presidency; in a word, that the Oregon question is neither more nor less

than a great question of President-making. This is not the feeling in the region from which I come. True, in the West, no man would be elected a corporal who did not profess to go for every inch of Oregon. For no other reason is this feeling cherished, than from a determination to maintain our rights. All candidates and their pretensions sink into utter insignificance in comparison.

We boast of being the followers of Thomas Jefferson; and, as such, we ought to go for the greatest good of the greatest number. So long as there exists a doubt in our minds on this question, let the people of Oregon have the benefit of that doubt. I implore gentlemen, by their regard for the great principles of Democracy, to give their hearty support to this truly Democratic measure.

At the Baltimore convention, resolutions were passed embodying the views of the Democratic party throughout the land.

The following is the one in relation to Oregon:

"Resolved, That our title to the whole of the territory of Oregon is clear and unquestionable; that no portion of the same ought to be ceded to England or any other Power; and that the reoccupation of Oregon and the reannexation of Texas at the earliest practicable period, are great American measures, which this convention recommends to the cordial support of the Democracy of the Union."

This resolution met the hearty response of the people in all quarters of the Union. I could cite the committee to hundreds of public meetings responding to the nominations made at Baltimore, and the resolutions passed in relation to Oregon. I will, however, refer only to the great ratification meeting in the city of New York immediately after Mr. Polk's nomination:

"Resolved, That the title of the United States to the territory of Oregon being unquestionable, we hold it to be the bounden duty of our Government, as we believe it to be the sentiment of the united Democratic party, that this territory should be preserved entire and undivided; that no part of it should be surrendered to any foreign Power; and that early and effectual provisions should be made by law for its complete occupation, and for the protection and security of our citizens now settled in and emigrating to it."

These resolutions embodied the views and opinions of the great mass of the Democratic party, and I contend should have some influence upon the Democratic portion of this House. I venture to say there is not a man on this floor who has not received numerous letters approving the ground taken by the President, in his Message, on the Oregon question. From those who are on the Whig side in politics, this approbation could not have been excited by the President's doctrine respecting the sub-treasury or the reduction of the tariff. To what is this owing? It cannot be denied that it is owing to the bold, manly, and independent ground taken in relation to the Oregon question. Never, sir, has a Message of any Chief Magistrate of this nation since the formation of the Government been more enthusiastically applauded and approved than has the annual Message of Mr. Polk. I have received the most decided testimony from my Whig constituents, approving this to the