

('Union' of 8th August), setting forth the terms on which the President was willing, at that time, to settle the Oregon question, but evidently with little or no expectation that those terms would be accepted by Great Britain, I might almost say with an expectation scarcely concealed that they would be rejected, when, to use Mr. Buchanan's own words, the President would 'be relieved from the embarrassment in which he has been involved by the acts, offers, and declarations of his predecessors' and be justified in going to war for the whole territory.

"The remarkable thing in this despatch is the confidence which it betrays that, in the course which the President had made up his mind to follow with reference to the Oregon question, he would receive the countenance and support of the Senate and the country, even to the extremity of a war with England. The result has shown that, in this expectation, he did not do justice either to the wisdom and integrity of the Senate, or to the intelligence and good sense of the American people.

"Within a few days after the opening of the late Session of Congress it became evident that Mr. Polk's policy respecting Oregon was viewed with no favour by a large majority of the Senate, nor was the war-cry raised by the more ardent partisans of the Administration responded to in any part of the country.

"In process of time this conclusion forced itself on the mind of the President and his advisers, and hence your Lordship will find in the ulterior despatches of Mr. Buchanan to Mr. MacLane a far more moderate and subdued tone, until at last they exhibit a positive and conciliatory desire to settle the question by compromise, the title of the United States to 'the whole of Oregon' having apparently been forgotten.

"If further proof were wanted of the anxiety of this Government to be extricated from the mistaken position in which they had placed themselves, it would be found in the alacrity in which the terms last proposed by Her Majesty's Government for the settlement of the controversy were accepted.

"Sufficient time has now elapsed since the promulgation of the Treaty to enable us to judge of the light in which the transaction has been viewed throughout the country, and it is gratifying to say that it has been everywhere received with satisfaction and applause.

"No evidence whatever of a contrary feeling has come within my observation, except it be among the disappointed advocates of a war policy, who had staked their political fortune upon the adoption of extreme measures, and even in these quarters, I am bound in truth to say that the irritation is rather against the President and his Ministers for having, as they say, deceived and betrayed them, than from any express condemnation of the Treaty itself.

"I have, &c.
(Signed) "R. PAKENHAM."