

Mr Chairman, I trust I am not wanting in respect for the opinions of those who differ with me in regard to the probable results of giving an un-conditional notice for the abrogation of the joint convention, and of asserting an exclusive claim, and of exercising an exclusive sovereignty over the whole of the Oregon territory. With the most profound deference to the opinions of the illustrious gentleman from Massachusetts, (Mr. ADAMS,) whose agency and far reaching sagacity the country is so largely indebted for the rights and claims there which we are now contending for; and with all deference to the opinions of others, who express so much confidence that these measures will not lead to hostilities, I am utterly unable to bring my own mind to that conclusion. While I will go as far as these, or any other gentlemen, in any and every act which may be necessary to maintain the true dignity and the true honor of the country, I would, for this very reason, try every just and fair expedient to preserve the peace of the country.

Mr. Foot's remarks were arrested at this point by the expiration of the hour.

*Note.*—This speech was delivered in the House of Representatives the day before the recent correspondence between the two Governments, touching the subject of Oregon, was communicated to the House by the President.