

were duly regarded, and would be steadily and perseveringly maintained. We want the name and the authority of the United States, and there can be no doubt, that an act emanating from that source would be regarded by those interested, on both sides, as of more importance than any act of an individual State. So far, then, from any indifference on the part of Maine, as to the action of the General Government, or any desire to be driven to assume the performance of the duty alluded to, she looks with intense anxiety and confident hope to be relieved from this position. She believes it is alike due to the honor of the United States and the rights of Maine, that the General Government should go forward in the work, and that there is less to apprehend, in the result, from such a course, than any other. But Maine feels that the time for decisive action has come; that she cannot be satisfied to have the claim to absolute and exclusive jurisdiction of a large part of her territory longer tolerated and acquiesced in. She knows that it rightfully belongs to her jurisdiction; that it is hers by a clear, perfect, and honest title, as clear, as perfect, and rightful, as her title to any portion of the State; and she cannot consent to have this title impaired, or weakened, by bold encroachments and unscrupulous demands. She cannot consent that a title, transmitted by the fathers of the revolution, shall be destroyed or defeated, by acquiescence in the adverse occupation of a foreign State, and that what was once fairly yielded shall be reclaimed, in utter defiance of a solemn deed of cession. I am confident I am not mistaken in stating, that the Legislature of Maine considered the question as fairly and plainly before the National Government, and that, if the present session of Congress should close with a denial or postponement of the proposed survey, and no commission should be created by the Executive, as contemplated in the resolution referred to, we should have a right, and be bound to regard such a delay or refusal, as evidence of an indisposition on the part of the General Government to accede to our expressed views and wishes, and a denial of justice, and that Maine, in that event, owed it to herself to cause the survey to be made under her own authority. The duty of the Executive of Maine is plainly pointed out, and made imperative and absolute, by the resolves of the Legislature, and I certainly cannot hesitate, so far as I have the means and power, to execute their declared will.

The people of Maine, sir, are not desirous of conflict or war. Both in their habits and their principles, they love and wish for peace and quiet within their borders. They are not ambitious to win laurels, or to acquire military glory, by waging war with their neighbors; and least of all are they desirous of a *border* warfare, which may be the means of sacrificing human life and engendering ill will and bad passions, without bringing the controversy to a conclusion. They are scattered over our thousand hills, engaged in their quiet and peaceful labors, and it is the first wish of their hearts to live peaceably with all men and all nations. They have no anxiety to extend our limits or to gain territory by conquest; but there is a firm and determined spirit in this people which cannot brook insult and will not submit to intentional injury. "They know their rights, and knowing dare maintain them," with calm determination and deliberate purpose; and they appeal, with unshrinking confidence, to their sister States, and to the Government which binds them together, for effective support in this their purpose.

The crisis, as we believe, demands firm and decided language, and the expression of a determined design. Maine has never refused to acquiesce

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