

of that gentleman's hobby, the hard-money system, if a war should take place? A war would at once deprive him of all the benefit of his long advocacy of the hard-money principle; for his untiring advocacy of which the northwest has so much and so long admired him; for, as the honorable gentleman from South Carolina says, an era of war is always an era of paper money.

Does the gentleman refer to a distinguished citizen of Michigan and senator from that State? That distinguished gentleman lives within eleven hundred yards of the British line, and the occurrence of a war would inevitably consign his houses to the flames, and his property to destruction. Why should he invoke a war? But still (said Mr. W.) I do expect that, in the course of our history, the northwest will, at a short day, too, furnish an actual President of the United States, to the great Empire State, the Ancient Dominion, and to South Carolina. And I do not think that we shall be obliged to make a war for the purpose of effecting that object. Living in the West, I am well informed as to its feelings, and I speak with confidence in regard to them. It has been said by the honorable member from South Carolina, [Mr. RHETT,] that we in the northwest have nothing to lose by a war, as we export nothing, whereas the South would lose the market for her cotton. The honorable gentleman from South Carolina was evidently misinformed on this subject. The wheat and other products of the northwest found its way to England, formerly through Canada, but now directly. The northwest makes as many clear dollars in proportion to her population from the export of her wheat and other products, as South Carolina does from the export of her cotton. The prices of our produce are as well understood in Liverpool, and London, and Charleston, as is the price of cotton. We sell our produce wherever it is wanted—to England, when her starving population require it, and to South Carolina, when her cotton and rice crops are good, and her terrapin crop fails.

In reference to the sentiment which the gentleman from South Carolina had advanced, that those should not hazard a public war—wholesale murder—who do not defend their personal honor according to the peculiar fashion adopted in some parts of the world, because, they say, that tends to murder, I will say that the gentleman is mistaken, if he applies it to us of the northwest, for we do defend our personal honor, according to our own code. The gentleman cannot refuse us our own way of doing this, while he remains a consistent advocate of State sovereignty and State rights.

The gentleman cannot gainsay that Indiana, for example, is a sovereign State, and therefore entitled to establish her own customs and usages. In extreme cases, sir, according to our custom, two gentlemen lock themselves up in a room in the third-story, and then proceed to assert their personal honor; and he that jumps out of the window, at the end of a half-hour, carrying with him the ears, eyes, noses, &c. belonging to both is the victor. That, sir, is our code; and when the whole world, (I mean the civilized world,) shall adopt it, we will fight the whole world according to that system for Oregon, or on any other point. In the event of the universal adoption of this mode, the non-voting constituents of the honorable member from South Carolina would be admirable combatants. In a war with England, it would be nigger against cockney.

But the gentleman is excusable for knowing little of the northwest, for he has never been there. No one ever emigrates from Indiana to South Carolina, and therefore South Carolina knows nothing about us; but many emigrants from South Carolina come among us, and tell us all about it; and they had taken occasion to tell us of the manifold merits and great achievements of that State. I have reason to admire that old State on many accounts. She has taught us the revenue-tariff doctrine; for though it came to us originally from Virginia, it was doubly distilled by South Carolina into a concentrated essence, and we swallowed it, and oved the dose. We admire South Carolina, also, for her talented sons. We admire her honorable bearing. We acknowledge her right to secede from the Union, and will give her, or any other discontented State, a pass for that purpose. But we do not recognise her right to remain in the Union, and yet nullify the laws of the Union. The course of South Carolina is always rather eccentric, in our estimation. She will at one time oppose the election of a President, and then support him after his election; and at another time she will contribute to elect a President, and then oppose his administration. We think she sometimes has carried her views of State sovereignty a *little* too far—to wit, when she affected to nullify the laws of the United States; and that in her political course she is a *little* too South Carolinish. But one thing we will say for South Carolina: we will excuse her and her politicians from the charge of any presidential aspirations at the present time. The finger-board that directed to the White House, pointed also at the late election to Texas and Oregon, and now it pointed to Oregon alone; and there is no other way by which the executive mansion can be reached. I do not see South Carolina on that road.

I now turn my attention to my democratic whig friend from Illinois, [Mr. BAKER,] who had asked the supporters of Mr. Polk to reconcile our clear and unquestionable right to Oregon with the offer of the 49th parallel as a compromise. He asked how Mr. Polk, after making such an assertion of our title, could offer a compromise. I do not find in the message that Mr. Polk described any particular Oregon as ours. There is Russian Oregon, for instance, and Mr. Polk could not claim that. The assertion was made in regard to our title to the whole of our Oregon—to that part of the territory to which our right should be ascertained. How that right should be ascertained he does not say. Perhaps it must be by the "*ultima ratio regum*." But the President was partially committed upon this subject by the action of his predecessors, to offer the 49th parallel not as a right, but as a compromise, for the sake of peace—so his message tells us. Will a Clay man reprehend him for this, when the same offer was made by Mr. Clay himself, although he had said that Great Britain had no colorable title to any part of Oregon?

My friend from South Carolina [Mr. HOLMES,] has also made some remarks on this subject, to which I must pay some attention. The gentleman had contended more strongly for the British right to Oregon, and has more strongly denied the American rights there, than any British statesman or negotiator has ever done. I will turn the honorable gentleman over to his particular friend the honorable chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for an answer to his argument on that point. The gen-