

THE OREGON QUESTION.

The Joint Resolution for giving the notice to terminate the convention between the United States and Great Britain, relative to the Oregon Territory, being under consideration—

Mr. SEVIER addressed the Senate as follows:

Mr. PRESIDENT: The President of the United States, in the discharge of a public duty to his country, gave us, at the commencement of the present session of Congress, a full and detailed statement of our relations with Great Britain, upon the subject of the Oregon territory; and he recommended Congress, in the conclusion of that statement, to annul and abrogate the conventions of 1818 and 1827, which are now in force, between the United States and Great Britain, and by the terms of which, certain privileges in that territory were conferred upon the respective citizens of the two countries. The President also recommended in his Message, in connection with this subject, other measures, of which I shall not now speak, as they are not now properly before the Senate.

Sir, this Message of the President, recommending the abrogation of those conventions, and a resolution offered by the Senator from Ohio, [Mr. ALLEN,] having in view the same object, were referred, at an early day, to the Committee on Foreign Relations. That committee acted promptly upon the subject, and reported the resolution now under consideration, as embodying the views which that committee deemed most proper for the sanction of the Senate.

This resolution, sir, is brief, clear, definite, comprehensive, and unencumbered with any extraneous

matter. It proposes only to do that which, without offence or explanation, we have the unquestioned right to do.

The chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations, [Mr. ALLEN,] on the eighth of January, (a day, by-the-by, memorable in the annals of our country,) moved, in obedience to the instructions of his committee, to designate an early day for its consideration. That motion he made, but it did not succeed. But a day for that purpose, some weeks more remote, was fixed upon by the Senate. This postponement was made to gratify some Senators, who desired, before acting upon this subject, to hear from England. We were told that a packet about that time was expected, and that it was highly important to wait until it should arrive with its intelligence. Other Senators desired this postponement, because they thought it unwise for the Senate to act until the House of Representatives, which was then considering it, should have disposed of this question. And other Senators, residing convenient to this capital, desired this postponement, that they might be indulged in a visit to their homes, on business or pleasure. All these, constituting a majority of the Senate, were gratified, and accordingly the consideration of this resolution was deferred until the 10th of February. Before that day, sir, the House had disposed of this subject; the expected packet, with its intelligence, had arrived; the absentees had returned, and this resolution was then taken up; and from that day to this its consideration has engrossed nearly the whole of our time. And yet, sir, can any one tell,