

intend? If not, the notice ought to be abandoned. But if this is what they propose to do, then it is war—plain, unequivocal war—war of our making, and in which we are to be the aggressors. Negotiation, we are told, has ceased on our part; and it will hardly be supposed, under such circumstances, that it will be further proposed by Great Britain. She will, most probably, after our notice, stand on the defensive. She will say, “we shall not assail you; but here we are, and we shall not move.” We must move, if the policy proposed, is carried out. We must be the aggressors. We must turn Great Britain out of Oregon.

Now in all contests between nations, involving the calamities of war, it is of the very last importance, to have the right. We should not only be satisfied that we are right, but the cause of humanity and justice—the great cause of free government itself, involved in our destinies, demands, that the nations of the civilized world, should perceive that we are right. Wrong, violence and injustice, are the attributes of tyrannies. Peace and justice, are the foundations of all free governments. To move in accordance with our institutions, we must shew, in the clearest manner, that either our essential interests, or our vital liberties, require us to assail another nation, and, perhaps, light up the whole of Christendom with the flames of war.

Sir, I have listened with great attention, to learn, from gentlemen, what are the reasons that require us to change our position, under the Convention of 1827, and become the aggressors in this contest. Is the convention operating to our disadvantage, more than it has done for the last twenty years? On the contrary, under the administration of General Jackson and Mr. Van Buren, it did operate greatly to our disadvantage. Great Britain, scattered over the country her trading posts and settlements. Yet, these administrations acquiesced in its operation. But within the last five years, things have changed. Our citizens have turned their faces to the Pacific; and many thousands have entered that territory. Daily the tidings arrive of new companies, taking up their march across the Rocky Mountains, by the peaceful instrumentality of emigration, to settle the ownership and destiny of that vast country. Thus, we endured the convention of 1827, whilst operating against us; but now, when it is rapidly and surely securing to us the ascendancy in Oregon, and must give us its final mastery, its abrogation is furiously urged. If Great Britain should be dissatisfied with the present state of things, it would be natural enough. Gentlemen should remember, that the negotiations which have lately taken place, and that all negotiations that have heretofore taken place, have been at her instance. Why should we not rest under the Convention of 1827, with all the advantages it secures