

mination to ex-
 zation, and plan
 of the Pacific?
 ascertained our
 ent any encroach-
 governing senti-
 ers in 1774, who
 wer—the tremen-
 entry, when they
 hey found her in
 the right. And if
 States and individ-
 ore than the origi-
 nally that, too, becau-
 England is powerfu-
 in we are. But
 formidable power
 of the gentleman
 to paralyze the acti-
 a question as the
 England makes
 possessions beyon-
 dures, she has lo-
 credit, and she
 ens at home, who
 long and so severe
 and disorderly, wh-
 ke very impatient
 eans or expectati-
 he adds to it. If
 where it ought to be
 e. And here, sir,
 the American gover-
 will sacrifice the
 great Britain is we
 relies for defence
 cruelties and opp-
 it will be from
 than love. And
 men fighting for
 for our independ-
 e to gain even, at
 and much, very mu-
 a of it. She has
 ted States, where
 ters negotiations, wh-
 we find her not
 negotiate for, Ore-
 sirable tract of co-
 and modestly cla-
 enlightened Chris-
 o war, and propos-
 has been very for-
 eican Secretary of S-
 ed one of our minist-
 e her all above 49 d-
 west of the me-
 a surrender of 5
 country; and this
 great Britain could
 to any portion of
 ver, in her compl-
 ow the centre of
 umbia at its mouth.

a line extended easterly parallel thereto, which (cull-
 ing the mouth 46 deg. and 10 min.) would give us a
 little over 4 deg.—not quite one third. She negotiates
 under every advantage, since every degree, every
 minute, every second, will be so much clear gain.
 Her conduct in this matter reminds me of the desper-
 ation of a hard-faced gambler, who, after he had
 lost his last cent of thousands, proposed to the win-
 ner to flip up a copper, and see who should have the
 whole pile of money on the table; and, when the
 winner, in the phrensy of the moment, consented,
 and the copper was in the air, he exclaimed, "Now,
 heads, I win; tails, you lose." Sir, this is much the
 way England plays with us. When she first sat
 down to negotiate for a portion of the State of
 Maine, she pretended to have no right whatever to
 that which she at last got; but was willing to pur-
 chase it. We were not willing to sell on her terms.
 Nevertheless, she kept negotiating and negotiating
 until she got all she wanted. To be sure, it is said
 we got other territory in payment; but that territory
 was ours, too. She took our property, and traded
 with us for more of our property, and cheated us in
 the bargain.

Sir, the greatest mistake that our country ever
 made was in not insisting fully upon the line of
 1783. Every deviation from it has so far been cal-
 lamitous to our best interests, whenever we have
 come fully to understand them. England has been
 too long skilled in diplomacy for us to think
 of playing evenhanded with her; and hence,
 before the stakes are down, I am for limiting
 our agents, and it is on this very account that
 western members wish to provoke discussion
 upon this Oregon question. We wish to show the
 importance we attach to the great valley of the Co-
 lumbia, so that, if men trade it away, they may be
 aware of the consequences. We have once offered
 to Great Britain, in an unwary moment, to the for-
 ty-ninth parallel. But who dare, sir, say on this
 floor, that our people will warrant or sanction that
 offer again; or an offer to surrender a single inch of
 that country? The gentleman has said that this is
 not the time to act upon this matter. Sir, I beg
 leave to differ with him; and assign, as the very rea-
 son why we should act upon it, the one which he
 gives for not acting. He says a negotiation is about
 to be opened with respect to Oregon. Well, sir, it will
 be mere child's play—empty words alone—to dis-
 cuss the matter after the negotiation is closed, the
 treaty ratified, and, perhaps, half of Oregon given
 away. What avails it to discuss the Ashburton
 treaty now? Like it, or not like it, we cannot help
 ourselves; and, though disapproved by nine-tenths
 of the people who understand it, they have no other
 resort but to sanction it as they would the de-
 crees of Omnipotence. The fiat has gone forth, and
 no one can stay it. This may soon be the case
 with Oregon; and now is the time, just the time, the
 urgent time, to speak out and declare our sentiments,
 ere diplomacy may have done its work. And speak
 we will. Sir, ever since this session commenced,
 we have been introducing proposition after propo-
 sition on this subject. But, until this time, our inge-
 nuity has only been able to keep pace with that of
 the honorable gentlemen opposed to us, in silently
 disposing of them all as fast as we could introduce
 them. I will tell the House that the West has come
 here united to a man upon this subject; (I extremely
 regret, however, to except the honorable gentleman
 from Kentucky.) And we intend to speak out upon
 every possible occasion to arouse this House to a

sense of its duty, and to awake the furthestmost
 regions of our country to our right to every inch of
 Oregon; that, knowing our rights, there may be a
 common rush to their defence, and a common in-
 dignation for him who may treat them away, or
 a Senate who may ratify any such treaty. And
 we thus speak in advance, because it is the
 only speaking that will prove effectual. For,
 when once negotiated away, the unanimous
 voice of the House—the unanimous voice of every
 legislature—ay, the unanimous voice of the whole
 American people cannot recall it. It is gone forever.
 To the friends of Oregon, then, this is not the time
 for silence. The question now pending is to give
 the year's notice required by the second article of the
 convention of 1827—to wit: that we wish to close the
 joint occupancy; for such it has been called, though
 lately England has had the country all to herself.
 This vote should pass this House before the British
 minister arrives, and then he will know somewhat
 of the opinions and determinations of our people;
 and then he and our treaty-making powers can
 shape their course accordingly. The gentleman from
 Kentucky has desecrated our weakness, as well
 as the strength of Great Britain, who, he thinks, will
 be provoked to war by any such vote as the one we
 recommend. He thinks we had better wait ten
 years, and the Oregon settlers will have so multipli-
 ed and strengthened themselves that they could take
 the country without help. Sir, I wonder that this
 modern temporizing policy never suggested itself to
 our sagacious forefathers. It was a rash act, throw-
 ing that tea overboard in the Charlestown harbor!
 The battle of Bunker Hill was entirely too early,
 besides being contrary to the law and constitution!
 Our revolutionary sires were too precipitate alto-
 gether! Had they waited ten years, perhaps Eng-
 land would have given up the country without fight-
 ing for it! And there were men in those days who
 cried out, "we are weak," and wanted to wait a while.
 But the gallant Patrick Henry replied: "We are
 weak, but when shall we be stronger? Will it be
 next week or next year?" Apply this to Oregon.
 When will we be better able to take possession of
 it? Will it be when Great Britain shall have over-
 run it with her troops, armed every Indian, and
 built and manned a fort in every important position?
 Every day's delay, in my opinion, only makes that
 territory the more difficult for us to take possession
 of. And the very remarks of the gentleman, as
 coming from an American congressman, will but
 kindle new ardor in British breasts, and make that
 government still more haughty and imperative in its
 requisitions. They were very impolitic, to say the
 least, at this time; and I think he should not have
 uttered them, under the circumstances, though he
 believed them true. I wonder this advice—"wait
 ten years"—was not thought of before our last war,
 when England was nabbing our gallant seamen. In-
 deed, there were those then that not only cried
 "wait, don't make war with the mighty kingdom
 of England;" but who even went further, and refused
 to vote appropriations for the war; and further yet,
 who fed, for pay, clandestinely, the British army. I
 hope, if gentlemen are not going to aid us in getting
 Oregon, they are not going to join the other side,
 and aid Britain to it. Wait ten years! Away with
 the proposition! Humanity revolts at it. It re-
 minds me of a certain American statesman, who, in
 his moments of patriotic feeling, indignant at his
 country's wrongs, wanted a war by the 4th of July;
 afterwards, cold-blooded policy got possession of