

dictated by the majority in this House, the country should be involved in a war, and they be robbed of their property, they *will* fight at least as faithfully in defence of their country as the most valiant on this floor.

(Mr. JOHNSON, of Tennessee, and others—I hope it will prove so.)

I *know* it will, sir. They are not a timid people. Their courage and patriotism have been shewn in repeated instances.

There are some points on which we all seem to be agreed. All profess themselves very desirous of *peace*. There is not, professedly, an advocate for war. Those who advocate the notice, say they do it because it is a peace measure; and those who oppose it, do so because they wish to avoid a war. We are also all exceedingly patriotic, and all unite in the very unnecessary declaration, that, if we are brought into a war, whether by the wisdom or folly of the Administration, we will defend the country. This patriotism is of the very cheapest kind, and these declarations are very harmless, as the probability is, that the blood which is to be shed will come from the veins of others, and not of them. They may do the *talking*, but others will do the *fighting*. And, in relation to our claim of the title to the territory, I agree with others in saying, that I think our claim is the best claim to that country; and if I thought otherwise, I should not be inclined to perform the ungracious task of pointing out the defects of our own title. In our private affairs, we never feel called upon to proclaim a flaw in our title deeds, if any exists. Such defects are soon enough detected, by our vigilant and acute antagonists.

Nor is this a party question. Gentlemen on both sides of the House adopt different sides of the question. It is one of such paramount importance, and on which the future destiny of the country so much depends, that it would be deplorable to have it a subject of mere party warfare. For my own part, sir, "I ask not whence the wind cometh, but whither it goeth," and if any measure proceeds from honorable gentlemen on the other side of the House, which has for its object the public good, the preservation of the honor and peace of the country, "my bark is ready."

On a former occasion, in the discussion of this question, a very distinguished gentleman recommended a "wise and masterly inactivity," the wisdom of doing nothing. It was a happy remark, made, I believe, at an earlier period, by Mr. John Randolph, in a debate in this House, and, before him, by Mr. Burke. And for my own part, sir, I not only think the remark a happy one, but, at the time it was made, it pointed out the true policy of the country. It was unwise even to have agitated this question at that time, by any movement of our own. No difficulties whatever had arisen in the country—no collisions or controversies of any kind. Our own people, in considerable numbers, were settling the country, and, at the same time, settling the question in our favor. Indeed, the question was settling itself. The *patriarchal* method, so highly lauded by the chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, was undoubtedly the best policy. I thought the honorable chairman was somewhat inconsistent in the suggestions of the benefits arising from the occupation of the country by the women and children, the flocks and the herds, and the *two millions of Chinese*, which, facetiously, I doubt not, although with a grave face, he said, would occupy and till the country in two years from this time; and at the same time recommending measures which would bring this question to a very sudden and perhaps hostile issue. He quoted from Shakespeare. There is an older and higher authority, which says "be fruitful and multiply, and replenish

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