

SPEECH.

The resolutions reported to the House by the chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations, giving notice to Great Britain of the termination of the treaty of 1818, in relation to the joint occupancy of Oregon, being under consideration—

Mr. SIMS obtained the floor, and addressed the House as follows:

He ought probably, he said, to apologise to the House for claiming their attention; but on the other side of the hall he saw a colleague, who, with himself, resided on the western frontier of Missouri, in the region which was nearest the Oregon Territory; and it must be conceded by gentlemen that those who lived in that quarter took a deep interest in this subject. It might be recollected, too, that the people of far-famed Missouri, and their representatives here, had ever taken an anxious interest in the Oregon question. He would be wanting in his duty, therefore, to the people of Missouri if he failed to make some remarks, though he did not profess to be able to enlighten them on this important subject.

Mr. Speaker, well may you, as well as every member on this floor—nay, the American people—recollect the deep and ardent interest which the lamented LINN, formerly of the United States Senate, from Missouri, felt on this subject. He it was, to a very great extent, who prepared the minds, not only of the people of Missouri, but of the whole Union, on this important subject, that now prevails, with such unanimity of feeling on the immediate steps necessary to be taken for the successful occupation of the territory in dispute. He it was who adhered to the rights of his own country, and at the same time had respect for the rights of others.

Sir, the first proposition which I intend to consider I will put in the form of an interrogatory. I ask this vast and enlightened nation whether Oregon is ours or not? I have heard no man yet who dared to say that our right was not good to the whole territory. Now, sir, if we have a right to