

the President, had well nigh perpetrated this very deed, by offering 49 as our boundary, and nothing saved the poor pioneer and his little child from being transferred to Queen Victoria's dominions but the obstinacy of the British Government. [A laugh.]

But Mr. M. did not so understand that there were any American settlements above 49. What, then, (he asked,) is there to prevent our Government from standing where it has stood for the last thirty years, willing to treat upon the basis of 49? Nothing, that he knew of; nothing but a *certain resolution adopted by a political convention at Baltimore*. Mr. M. said he should not have intruded a subject like this upon the Senate, had it not been mentioned before. The Baltimore convention had been made as legitimate a part of this debate as the convention of Nootka Sound. It was contended here that the President was committed by this resolution to 54° 40'. If this resolution was to produce such a result, it would be well to examine its authority and history. What was its history? He had looked into the published proceedings of that convention. He there found that this resolution was introduced in that body at the last and fourth day of its meetings, at half past seven o'clock in the morning—before breakfast—as the Convention was dissolving, and when four-fifths, as he was informed, of those who had composed it had left, and set out on their way home. This before-breakfast resolution was introduced at a moment like that, and passed, as Mr. M. supposed, unanimously by those who were present. The gentleman who draughted it was said to have been Mr. Benjamin F. Butler. He was chairman of the Committee on Resolutions, and a firm friend of Martin Van Buren, whose nomination had been defeated by the adoption of the two-third rule; and yet that same gentleman, the father of the resolution, was found standing alongside of the leading Democrats of the State of New York in favor of settling this controversy on the parallel of 49°. We found, too, that the present Secretary of the Treasury had been one of the committee who reported this resolution. Yet it was well understood that he, too, was in favor of a compromise on 49°. The Senator from Georgia, (Mr. COLQUITT,) had also been a member of the same committee, and he supposed he need not say that that gentleman took the same ground. Besides, Mr. M. could show from the rules adopted by the Convention that it required the assent of two-thirds of the body to agree to any thing proposed. But more than two-thirds of those who had constituted the Convention, and who had nominated Mr. Polk for the Presidency, were gone before these resolutions were smuggled in without their assent or knowledge. This resolution, then, by the law of the convention in which it was adopted, is void and not binding upon any one. Yet, a resolution like this, adopted under such circumstances, was brought up here to induce Senators and to compel the Executive to depart from what had been the settled policy of this country for thirty years. This Baltimore resolution was to take the place of the opinions of all our negotiators and Secretaries, and of the recorded investigations and deliberate opinions of distinguished Senators, who had been the steadfast friends and advocates of Oregon from the beginning. All these were to be set aside, and this Baltimore Convention was to be set up as the mouthpiece of the American nation.

The weight of such an authority was surpassed only by that of a certain toast, given to the world a few days since at a public dinner eaten in Baltimore in honor of St. Patrick. He begged pardon of the Senate for introducing a toast in so grave a body, but he thought that after the introduction of

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