

you for our own, the United States offer you upwards of a hundred millions of acres of their territory, to keep peace, and say nothing more about it.

Our own most enlightened statesmen are sometimes, for the moment, led off from the true issue, by this temporizing diplomacy. At the last session of Congress, a distinguished Senator from South Carolina, now no longer a member of the body which for so many years he had graced by his severe and logical eloquence, made a remarkable declaration. I read from the speech of Mr. Calhoun, delivered in the Senate. After stating, that we had proposed to Great Britain the forty-ninth parallel, and she had, in return, offered us the Columbia river, entering the Pacific about latitude forty-six, as boundary, Mr. Calhoun adds:

"It follows that the portion of territory really in dispute between the two countries is about three degrees of latitude—that is, about one-fourth of the whole."

Do you perceive whither all this tends? We are placed in a false position. Our claims north of forty-nine are given up; and the question is made to be, how much more, south of that parallel, we will consent to sacrifice in addition. Will it be replied, that the sentiment quoted is only a remark incidentally falling from an individual member of Congress, which cannot be used against us? And do you imagine, sir, that the words of John C. Calhoun pass not across the Atlantic? Can you believe, that even the chance admissions of such a man, on a subject so interesting to England as Oregon, are not noted by the British ministry—are not registered at St. James's? Do you suppose that Mr. Packenham, the expected British envoy, has not read that speech? And can you doubt, that he will arrive among us prepared to settle, not whether Oregon is ours or Great Britain's, but how these three degrees of latitude are to be parcelled out between us?

What that is satisfactory or desirable can result from a negotiation commencing under auspices like these? We are informed, it is true, in that portion of the President's message which refers to the hitherto unsuccessful negotiations for a northwestern boundary, that "our minister in London has, under instructions, again brought the subject to the consideration of that Government." I am sorry for it. Twice we have approached Great Britain in a spirit of the most liberal concession. Twice she has rejected our advances. The next proposition should come from her. We have made too many already.

The chief objection entertained by the Committee on Foreign Affairs to the proposed resolution, we may presume to be, that it is likely to cast difficulties in the way of the expected negotiation. If there were reasonable promise of benefit to these United States from this diplomatic encounter, the argument might be a good one. But Europe is an overmatch for us in the courtly game of conventions and protocols. From the past I judge the future. That which baffled the talents of Henry Clay, and the perseverance of the gentleman from Massachusetts, [Mr. ADAMS,] we may, I trust, without failing in due respect to our present Chief Magistrate, be permitted to doubt, whether John Tyler can succeed in effecting.

But that is not the proper issue. The truth is, that until we assume an attitude more independent than has hitherto characterized our proceedings relative to Oregon, no President, no Secretary, no Minister, can reasonably be expected to obtain from Great Britain a satisfactory adjustment of this boundary question.

How are we to assume such an attitude? By retracing, as far as we honorably may, the false steps we have taken; by putting an end to en-