

Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Mississippi, That the action of the President of the United States, in his efforts to adjust the Oregon controversy, is marked by a spirit of liberal concession, firmness, patriotism, and signal ability, which meets the hearty approbation of this Legislature.

Resolved, That whilst this Legislature commends the exercise of the same spirit in subsequent negotiations, it is their deliberate opinion that every consideration of regard for human progress, the advancement of liberal principles, and the maintenance of the national honor, demands that our rights to the Oregon territory should be asserted and upheld.

Resolved, That, in the catalogue of national calamities, war is second only to national disgrace; that if the one becomes necessary to avert the other, let it come; and with the invocation of the Divine blessing upon a righteous cause, this Legislature pledges the State of Mississippi, in men and money, to support the General Government, in asserting and defending its rights to the territory of Oregon.

These resolutions, Mr. President, were not the resolutions of a party, but of the whole legislative body, irrespective of party, and were adopted with but one dissenting voice in the House, and unanimously in the Senate. From these resolutions—which are, perhaps, as true and faithful expressions of the sentiments of the people of the State as was ever given by a legislative body, I infer most clearly that they approve of the “liberal concession” which has marked the past course of the President, in his efforts to settle the Oregon controversy, and commend the exercise of the same spirit of “liberal concession” in future negotiations; and that they look upon “war as second only to national disgrace.” Concurring entirely with the legislature in these sentiments, and approving what the President has done and recommends in relation to this matter, I shall consent to nothing that will endanger the public peace, unless the honor of the country demands it at my hands. If it does, I shall move forward fearless of consequences, and the people of the State will be ready to go with me.

Mr. President, I am in favor of giving the notice, because I believe that the time has come when the Oregon question must be brought to an issue either of peace or war. I deem the giving of notice now imperiously demanded as a means of preserving peace. I am anxious that the difficulty should be settled, and the speediest possible mode is most acceptable to me. I deem it of much importance that the position of the administration should be sustained on account of its effects both at home and abroad. Our character and the spirit of our people demand it; and a failure to do so will increase the difficulty and excitement in both countries. I prefer it in its simplest form, as least embarrassing to the administration; but as I deem time of the first importance, I shall support that form which will enable the administration to give it at the earliest day. And I still indulge the hope, Mr. President, that it will be given in the same harmony which marked the discussion and vote on the resolutions of the Senator from Michigan, (Mr. CASS.) Its moral power and force will be immensely increased by the proud spectacle of a unanimous vote

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