

to give away half of Oregon as the price of that peace with England, which China first defied and only sought when she could do no better. China—a power that escaped the world conquests of Alexander the Great—China that for some two centuries enjoyed the blessings of peace with all the world—has been made to bow in humiliation before the Lion of the petty, barren island of England. Yes, China with her great walls, circumventing her vast dominions; with her 4402 walled cities; with her 430 castles to guard her frontiers; and her 1159 triumphal arches, has been humbled before the cross of St. George, and all this that she might become the consumer of a noxious drug, produced in British India, that she might be made to minister to British avarice and rapacity! Is such an event to pass unheeded?—Does it not admonish the different nations of the earth, from a common sentiment of danger and self-preservation, to rise up and resist the onward and conquering march of the great dictator of the world? Shall it be said that this great republic from motives of fear, has ingloriously surrendered its dismembered territories to Great Britain, as the price of peace, still further to swell the measure of her overshadowing and portentous power? No—never. The disastrous consequences of so shameful and infamous a concession are forewarned in the bloody and tragical pages of British acquisition and conquest. Look to plundered and reeking India, and there behold with horror the forecast of what probably would be our fate. There in 1612 Great Britain begged permission of the Emperor of one of the most splendid and extensive monarchies in the world to found a factory, there now she owns four empires and six provinces, containing 500,000 square miles, and a subjugated and dependant population of 100,000,000 souls. Let us look and learn!—

"Land of the sun! what foot invades
Thy Pagods and thy pillared shades—
Thy cavern shrines, and Idol stones,
Thy Monarchs and their thousand Thrones:
'Tis he of Britain—fierce in wrath
He comes, and India's diadems
Lie scattered in his ruinous path.—
His blood-hounds he adorns with gems,
Torn from the violated necks,
Of many a young and loved Sultana;
Maidens within their pure Zenana;
Priests in the very fane he slaughters,
And chokes up with the glittering wrecks
Of golden shrines the sacred waters!"

But more wonderful, Mr. Chairman, than all other arguments, which tend to determine the wisdom of securing *now* by our action the whole

of Oregon is the distinctness with which the necessary progress of our nation is delineated, as it were, by the finger of the Creator himself, in the geographical formation of our northern continent. This formation is as much the reverse of the other continents of the world as are our political institutions to those of the people who inhabit *them*—*theirs* being based upon the subjection of mankind, *ours* upon perfect individual freedom and equality. Two great mountain chains traverse our continent—the Alleghenies near the Atlantic, and the Rocky mountains near the Pacific—the country filling the great trough of the continent between these barriers, is an immense undulating plane of calcareous soil. This plane passes from the Gulf of Mexico to the Hyperborean seas, and embraces the great valleys of the Mississippi, the St. Lawrence, the Hudson's Bay, and the Mackenzie, flowing to the Arctic circle. Verdant prairies form the dividing ridges between these valleys, without interfering with the grand uniformity of the general surface. Without this rim of mountains is the maritime region, embracing the original thirteen States upon the Atlantic, and that embracing California and Oregon on the Pacific. Within, the rivers rising around the walls of this great amphitheatre, and flowing towards the centres of the different basins, discharge themselves in great arteries towards the different cardinal points of the compass. Of these, the valley of the Mississippi is our own, and so as yet is Oregon, which connects it with the Pacific. By the Columbia and Missouri is formed the great route from the interior to the Pacific. By the main Mississippi, the Ohio and the St. Lawrence pass the routes to the Gulf and the north Atlantic. These streams, connected by art, form channels of transit directly across and through every part of the continent. This is not the case in the old continents, for in Europe and Asia, the Alps in the one and the Hymalaih mountains in the other, form a great boss in the centre, from which radiate the great rivers, separating the land into distinct and isolated fragments.

It is this intimate relationship formed by an infinity of confluent streams and inseparably interwoven by an immense internal navigation, that demonstrates the essential importance of maritime Oregon, to fill out the symmetry and completeness of our Union! The various interests and variety of productions of a single people dwelling within the Mississippi valley, and stretching to both oceans, must secure the *union* and *unity* of our great republic. To stop short of this would leave our territory unbalanced and our Union in jeopardy.