

would there enjoy the protection of the laws of the United States. Repeated attempts to extend the protection of our laws over Oregon have been made, since that period, and failed. In 1843, a bill to that effect passed the Senate, by the votes of Democratic Senators, but it went no further; and in 1844, a resolve, in the same body, to give notice to Great Britain of our intention to annul the treaty of 1827, was lost by Whig votes.

It is now a great question for the great American people. They will deprecate war, as a great evil; but they will not surrender great rights for fear of war. We agree with the British minister, Mr. Huskisson, in 1838, that "it would be lamentable that, in this age, two such nations as the United States and Great Britain, should be drawn to a rupture on such a subject as the uncultivated wilds of the Northwest coast;" but the American people will also agree with the American Senator, who has said, on this subject, that "a firm, determined spirit, is always necessary to obtain from Great Britain respect and justice."

And when they look at and appreciate this vast interest, in its relations to the great mission of this country to extend, by all rightful means, the area of freedom, until liberty shall become the inheritance of the North American continent, they will respond, with an American heart, to the Mississippi resolve, "That it is the duty of the Government to protect our citizens wherever they may lawfully be, to the fullest extent, in the rights of property and all the privileges which appertain to citizens of the United States."

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