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not the adjustment of this difficulty postponed then, because it complicated the difficulty of agreeing upon a treaty with regard to the northeastern boundary, which was then a question of urgent necessity, imminently threatening to disturb the peace of the two nations? Reference to the documents will sustain me in these facts, and in the declaration which I now make, that, immediately after the ratification of the treaty of Washington by England, that Government forwarded instructions to its resident minister here to move the President to forward such instructions to the American minister in London as would authorize him to negotiate a treaty prescribing a boundary between England and the United States on the northwest coast of this continent.

Then Mr. Pakenham was sent here with full power to negotiate a treaty to settle definitively the claims of the two Governments in the Oregon territory. It appears, from the correspondence communicated with the President's annual message, that Mr. Pakenham importuned the authorities of this Government repeatedly, before he could induce them to enter seriously upon the important business which he was commissioned by his Government to adjust. After considerable delay, negotiations commenced, and were in progress on the 4th of March last, between Mr. Calhoun, as the representative of this Government, and the British minister. On that day Mr. Polk was inaugurated President of the United States, and, as is usual on that occasion, delivered an address, in which he reiterated a resolution passed by the political convention which nominated him as a candidate for the presidency, that the title of the United States to the Oregon country is clear and unquestionable, and announced that all the measures necessary to perfect that title, and make it complete by occupancy, would be put in operation, &c. What was the effect of this declaration?

All knew how this declaration exasperated the British ministry and people. No one can have forgotten the replies made to it on the floor of Parliament by Sir Robert Peel, the Minister of the Crown, and Lord John Russell, the head of the Opposition, and how their declarations were instantly responded to by all parties on all sides of the House. Parliament seemed unanimous in the declaration that Britain had rights in Oregon, which she was prepared and determined to maintain at all hazards.

Mr. Calhoun retired from the Department of State, and Mr. Buchanan was appointed his successor; and, under his auspices, the negotiation with Mr. Pakenham was continued; and by him, under the direction of the President, a proposition was made to the British minister to make the parallel of the 49th degree of north latitude the boundary line between England and the United States. This proposition was substantially the same as those made by two preceding administrations of our Government, with this difference, that, in some slight and unimportant particulars, it seemed to be less favorable to England than the propositions which had been previously made by Mr. Monroe's administration and by Mr. Adams's. It was rejected by Mr. Pakenham, and immediately *huffishly* withdrawn by Mr. Buchanan, under the direction of the President. The withdrawal was accompanied by a labored argument, to prove that the title of the United States to the whole of the Oregon territory was "clear and unquestionable." This occurrence transpired in August last. On the first Monday in December last, the President communicated to Congress his annual message, in which he gave us a history of these transactions, apologized for having made a proposition to partition the territory, and, after informing us of the rejection by the British minister of his proposition, proceeded to say:

"The extraordinary and wholly inadmissible demands of the British Government, and the rejection of the proposition made in deference alone to what had been done by my predecessors, and the implied obligation which their acts seemed to impose, afford satisfactory evidence that no compromise which the United States ought to accept can be effected. With this conviction the proposition of compromise, which has been made and rejected, was, by my direction, subsequently withdrawn, and our title to the whole Oregon territory asserted, and, as is believed, maintained by irrefragable facts and arguments."

And further, he informs us:

"All attempts at compromise having failed, it becomes the duty of Congress to consider what measures it may be proper to adopt for the security and protection of our citizens now inhabiting, or who may hereafter inhabit, Oregon, and for the maintenance of our just title to that territory."