

nating in trespasses, and still without law; yet I would respect that title, which, in the new States, is understood to mean something. In that valley they are out of our way, and while there, can never be in our way. They are beyond 49°. I am willing, sir, out of a spirit of generosity, (for I should so regard such concession,) and for the sake of peace and a speedy settlement of this difficulty, that the President may provide for these people upon the principles of equity and justice, and deal liberally towards them, and give them the fullest justice. How he shall do this I shall not stop to inquire. When he shall act upon this subject, I will see what he has done, and approve of it if I can. I will not stop to inquire whether this shall be done by a cession of that country to Great Britain, or by paying these people for their patches and shanties, as we have done to the Pottawatomies, the Wyandots, and other savages, or by granting them reservations and citizenship; where, however hopeless the task, we may have the opportunity to try and do something for them. I leave all these things to the better judgment of the President, which I shall approve or not when his act in this respect shall be laid before me. And in doing this, sir, I do not find it necessary to disparage our title to Oregon. We can do this, and at the same time believe that our title to the whole of Oregon is unquestionable. We gave up, without complaint, a part of this very country to Russia. We gave up, more recently, a part of the State of Maine to Great Britain, and for that surrender of a part of Maine, in company with all New England, in a treaty made by a New England Secretary of State, I voted. Yes, sir, I am one of the sinners that did that deed, and for giving that vote I have never yet felt a blush upon my cheek or a thorn in my pillow. This treaty was made by the assent of the commissioners of the States of Maine and Massachusetts, and we paid in money to Maine and Massachusetts what they deemed a fair equivalent for the ceded territory.

The Florida treaty was a treaty of *acquisition* and "*mutilation*." Whilst we acquired Florida, and the Spanish title to the northwest coast of America, we ceded, by this treaty, to Spain, a part of our territory lying south of Red river. I will not go into the extent of this cession, further than to say, that a part of it included a county and a half belonging to Arkansas: I mean, sir, the county of Miller, and half of the county of Lafayette. Sir, this county and a half embraced as much territory as some of the New England States. These counties, under another name, originally constituting a part of Missouri, and subsequently forming a part of Arkansas, were settled at an early day by native-born citizens of the United States. They were organized counties, in which we had our courts of justice, from the citizens of which we collected taxes, and from which we had representatives in our Legislature. These counties, without the knowledge of Arkansas, and without the knowledge of those living in them, were ceded away to his Majesty the King of Spain, without even the decency of a guaranty in their behalf of the right of property and the liberty of conscience. Before, however, the boundary line cutting them off from their native land was run, and the country formally de-

livered over to Spain, the revolution in Mexico broke out, and Spain was expelled by the success of that rebellion from all of their possessions on this continent, except the strip of country lying between the Sabine and Red river, into which a Mexican soldier never marched, and of course never conquered. During the pendency of this revolution, our citizens, in the counties of Miller and Lafayette held on to us, and we to them, continuing our courts, collecting taxes, enumerating them on our census, and extending to them the right of suffrage, and allowing the right of representation in our Legislature. Thus they remained, when in 1830 or 1831, I moved a resolution in the House of Representatives, requesting the Executive to *repurchase* of Spain this detached remainder of her once extensive possessions in North America. My resolution was debated in the House of Representatives, and voted down; and this strip of country, which, by the Florida treaty, we had transferred to Spain, and which Mexico never conquered or invaded, was, by this Government, unnecessarily transferred to Mexico. At that time, sir, it could have been had of Spain for the asking; perhaps for six shillings and ninepence. Well, sir, we still held on to our counties, and they adhered to us. No line was run and no delivery made, until Mexico and Texas got into their troubles. In that contest, neither a soldier of Texas or Mexico ever entered the country north of the Sabine. But in 1837, we acknowledged the independence of Texas, and afterwards, in 1839, this line, designated by the Florida treaty, was run, for the first time, and those people then formally delivered over to a foreign Power. Here is a case, a strong case, of a mutilation of our territory. And yet there is another. The western boundary of Arkansas was established, I think, in 1824. That boundary commenced forty miles west of the southwest corner of the State of Missouri, and ran due south to Red river. This line was run immediately afterwards, and it formed the western boundary of all of our western counties, of which there were four or five. In 1828, without the knowledge of Arkansas, and in despite of my strenuous efforts to prevent it, a treaty was made, by which a country constituting the finest part of Arkansas, forty miles wide, and about three hundred miles long, organized into counties, in which we had courts of justice, tax collectors, the right of suffrage and representation in our Legislature, was ceded away: and to whom do you suppose, Mr. President? To Indians—to the Cherokees and Choctaws; and that, too, without the decency ordinarily extended to Indians, of paying these people for their improvements, from which it was stipulated, they were to be expelled for the benefit of the Indians. Against the ratification of this treaty there was the voice of the Senator from Missouri, [Mr. BENTON,] and a few others, only; all the others, with a full knowledge of all the facts, (for I myself had taken the trouble to lay the facts before the Senate,) voted for the ratification of this treaty. And yet, sir, the people of Arkansas, who were once poetically described by an eloquent Senator from Massachusetts, [Mr. CHOATE,] as being the children of the sun, and partaking largely of the warmth of his fires, sub-

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