

many years both English and American settlements. They were in different sections of the country, and got along quite amicably. The only disturbances resulted from the conflict of the civil authorities of Maine and New Brunswick; and in Oregon similar occurrences would be avoided by the laws of the United States operating exclusively upon our citizens, and those of Canada upon British subjects. But if these local difficulties should spring up and threaten the peace of the country, it would be time to think of a remedy when they were present; their anticipation is certainly a very insufficient reason for now giving this notice. Things have been in their present condition for a whole generation, except the great improvement which the last few years have made for us: why should we court war by making so important a change in them? It will be averted if this notice be withheld; and if such would be the consequence without any injury to national interests or national honor, by all the rights of humanity let it be done. It is probably our fate to have another war with England, but let it be kept off until it become necessary. We are now much more equal to a contest with her than we were in 1812; and when another comes, if come it must, I want every advantage that intervening growth and resources, position, circumstances, and a forecaste of it can give us. I desire my country then to be in such strength and condition that we will be able to meet and vanquish her at every point on this continent. When we unsheath the sword against her again, come it soon or come it late, if it be in my time, will be opposed to returning it to the scabbard until we drive her from the shores of America to her island home. I have a great horror of war, and want but one more with England, and, so far as the subjugation of her colonial power in America could remove cause of future wars, I would go for it at any cost of blood and treasure and suffering. Demagogues are the devils of Republics, and faction their multiform curse. These are the mischievous influences that have so untimely agitated this question, to jeopard the peace of the country and blast its prosperity: devotion to national interests and honor are but hollow pretexs. If war do now ensue from the Oregon question, it will fix upon those who rule, both in England and in the United States, a great and horrible crime. If it were a law of man's destiny that those charged with the affairs of nations, who sport with the lives and happiness of millions to minister to the lust of their own criminal ambition, were to be the first to meet the miseries and slaughter of war, what an incalculable amount of woe would the world have escaped! Such an ordeal would at this conjuncture save both nations from the ravages of this grim Moloch!