

then we shall see where the soldiers are. Sir, "it takes time to discipline the slaves of despotism; but every man is a soldier when he combats tyranny." Our policy forbids the keeping of large standing armies in time of peace, but we depend on our citizen soldiery, who are the safest reliance. Sound the alarm that the invaders are at hand, and the question will not be whom can you urge to meet them, but whom can you hold back from the conflict? Tell me not of the want of soldiers to defend our country. Our citizen soldiers fight, not for pay, but for the rights of their country; and when they have achieved the victory their patriotism deserves, they lay aside their armor—they put off their martial character and retire to the bosom of their families, and tell their deeds to inspire the rising generation with the same patriotic ardor. These, Mr. Chairman, are our soldiers, and they will be found equal to any emergency. Let not Great Britain calculate on dissensions among ourselves, for when the first blow shall be struck, whether it be in the North or the South, all local distinctions will be forgotten. We shall alone remember that we are citizens of the same republic; and the South will be ready to fly to the rescue of the North, and the North will be ready to defend the institutions and the rights of the South. But it has been said that our navy is so large as that of Great Britain. It is true that she has a large navy, and out-numbers us in ships; but it is equally true that our situation is infinitely better than it was at the commencement of the last war. Our resources are greater, the facilities for commanding them vastly increased. The efficiency of the British navy has been greatly exaggerated. She has laid out millions in building fleets which the improvements in modern warfare have rendered next to useless. These improvements are constantly going on, and

have already reached a point which renders a large portion of the vast navy of Great Britain on which she has lavished such immense sums utterly unavailable in a war with the United States. If we need fleets we can build them; and it is better for us that we have not exhausted our resources in the construction of a large navy, which would now be unfit for service. During the last war our gallant little navy won for herself enduring fame; and I undertake to say that when the emergency shall again arise, she will fully maintain that high character to which her noble deeds so justly entitle her. In conclusion, permit me to remark, that while I respect the opinions, and do not arraign the motives of those who differ from me on this question, no act of mine shall ever sanction the surrender of any portion of our territory, without a just equivalent. Entertaining the opinions I do, if I were to act otherwise, I should feel that I had not faithfully performed the high and responsible duty which I owe to my constituents, and to my country. Let us pass the notice, and follow it up by giving bounties of land to such of our citizens as may go there to brave the hardships and privations of a frontier life. Let us extend the laws and protection of the United States over that territory. Do these things, and my word for it, these brave pioneers will do much towards protecting themselves. We shall then prove to the world that we regard the great principle that the protection of our laws shall extend to every citizen of this republic, and that we are determined that our rights shall be respected all over the earth. It is natural that there should exist among a free people, some differences of opinion as to the best mode of accomplishing any end; but on this great question, let us present to England, to Europe, and to the world an undivided front, and this will ensure us peace, if peace is attainable.

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