

not sustained
in our favor,
unquestiona-
bly—if he
than that of Great
Britain to fear—to
of enlightened
refusing to do so
in declarations.
ever since we
the world. That
against Spain,
their possessions
Florida's, Island, is
our negotiations
1827, maintained
our right to settle
diplomatic cor-
ruption; and the very
to the United
States what is termed
an. And now,
we learned and
(Mr. ADAMS,) I
ask, to ask what
is the right? Whether
," as has been

(purpose) said :
"able," is to say
relating solely
whether relating to
action we give
question of right
questionable."
title in the Ore-
gon was answered plainly
as told us that
I cannot deny
the Government
be under the

not give that
1817 and 1818?
our title is clear

to the whole territory of Oregon? Why did he compromise it by virtually admitting that Great Britain had rights in Oregon equal to our own? And above all, sir, why did he not, when President of the United States, and having the control of the negotiations in 1826 and 1827, assert, if he so believed, that our title was clear and unquestionable? I have ever been accustomed to regard the opinions of that gentleman, on all questions growing out of our foreign relations, as of the highest authority. His long experience in the diplomatic intercourse, his extensive knowledge of the history and of the laws of nations, give to his opinions a weight, in all matters of that nature, which can be claimed by few in this or any other country. And especially, sir, his minute and accurate information respecting all the circumstances that go to make up our title to Oregon, whatever it may be, have led me to regard his opinions upon that subject as entitled to the greatest respect and consideration. But I confess that the present course of that gentleman fills me with surprise and astonishment, unsettles my opinions of his wisdom and justice, and leads me to apprehend that motives which are not avowed have brought him in conflict with his former acts and opinions. He is now in favor of giving notice to Great Britain for the termination of the convention for the joint occupation of Oregon, and I understand him to say that he will not vote one dollar of appropriations for military defences, unless the resolution for the notice shall pass; and yet he professes not to regard it as a war measure. The resolutions now before the committee are not, strictly speaking, a war measure; but, sir, it is proper to consider them in connexion with the bill which has been introduced from the Committee on Territories, which proposes to organize a territorial government west of the Rocky Mountains, and to extend our laws over all Oregon. One measure inevitably leads to the other. If we abrogate the convention which provides for the joint occupancy of the territory, it will become necessary to extend our *exclusive* jurisdiction over our citizens there, at the end of the twelve months' notice. If we should give "the notice," and adopt no other measure, I admit there would be no cause to apprehend that war would ensue. But, sir, that would be a virtual abandonment of all our rights in that country, and might be regarded as an acknowledgment that we have no claim to any portion of it. Hence it has been found necessary to bring forward the concomitant measure to which I have alluded, extending our laws over that territory. It is the duty of every nation to extend its *exclusive* jurisdiction over its citizens or subjects, wherever they may be on its own