

the abrogation of this convention, which will endanger the peace of the country, I have only to reply, that we will consider them when they shall be presented. It is true that it has not been alleged that the passage of this resolution will give just cause for war, but it has been argued, and in some cases assumed, that such will be the inevitable consequence; and hence the arguments offered by the opponents of the resolution would generally have been equally appropriate upon a resolution declaring war. This direction, which the debate has been adroitly made to assume, has given an advantage to the opponents of this resolution, to which their position does not entitle them. And that advantage is not confined to this Hall. The newspapers, those potent manufacturers as well as exponents of public opinion, have seconded the cry raised in these walls for peace, peace. And their appeals to the fears and pockets of the people are not unfrequently mixed up with denunciations of those who have indicated their determination to support the resolution, and in that way to begin the assertion of the rights of the nation in Oregon, rights undisputed in this Hall, but admitted on all sides to be "clear and unquestionable."

I am prepared to yield nothing to this mode of treating the question. I, too, am the friend of peace—honorable peace. I yield to none in deep and heartfelt appreciation of its blessings. Honorable peace is the mother of all the virtuous hopes of humanity, of progress, of political and social truth, of civilization, of true national greatness; but dishonorable peace is "the body of death," chained to the national character; like "the leprous distillation of the fabled Upas tree," it silently drops its deadly poison upon the nation's heart and withers and paralyzes it. In comparison with such a peace, war, with its acknowledged horrors, would be a national blessing. I admit it to be the highest duty of every public man, by all proper means, to preserve honorable peace. What is honorable peace? As some gentlemen who have preceded me, while eloquently eulogizing the blessings of peace, have been indifferent to this distinction, and have not troubled the House with any expression of their opinions upon this distinction, I will define what I mean by honorable peace. It is peace maintained without the surrender of any *important* national right, by observing justice and practising good faith to all nations; within these limits I will go "as far as he that goes farthest." I will not transcend them. I shall endeavor to govern my conduct on this floor towards all nations by these principles; from them I shall not be driven, either by clamour from within or clamour from without; nor yet by the oft-repeated argument of the tens of thousands of British cannon, riding upon their ocean homes, upon every wave, and looking out their sul-

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