

entwined together—more closely, perhaps, than those of any two independent countries, which have existed since the world began. One obvious measure of these common interests is the extent of their commerce with each other—an extent which has never before been reached by the commercial intercourse of any other nations. Need I advert to a common religion, a common language, a common literature, common principles of jurisprudence, and the bonds of affinity and of friendship which unite so large a proportion of the citizens of both countries ?

I do not say that a cause might not arise to justify one of these nations, occupying both at present a position so commanding and conspicuous among the powers of the civilized world, in waging war against the other. I do not advocate the doctrine of absolute non-resistance to injury. A tame submission to wanton aggression and insult I believe to be both dishonorable and dangerous to a nation. A manly resistance to injury is eventually more serviceable even to the aggressor. A proper self-respect and a dignified resentment of wrong and designed insult, as well as a scrupulous regard for the rights and feelings of others, are absolutely necessary to the advantageous maintenance of amicable relations between communities, as well as individuals.

But surely every man will admit, that it is no small cause which ought to endanger the peace of two nations connected as are the United States and Great Britain. Nothing but persistence in wrong—wilful wrong—or manifestly intended and deliberately avowed insult on the part of the one, would justify the other in having recourse to arms.

That the controversy about the Oregon territory ought not to lead to war, and *cannot* lead to war without the most flagrant misconduct on the part of the *American government and people*, I expect to prove to the satisfaction of any reasonable man like yourself. Great Britain has done much to clear herself of blame for the consequences of this controversy, by her earnest and persevering endeavors to have it settled, before the question should, by the natural progress of human affairs, become more difficult of adjustment, and by declaring finally her willingness to submit the subject in dispute to an arbitrator. Disinterested parties will, on the one hand, infer from the acts of Great Britain that she is desirous of maintaining a good understanding between the two nations, and that she is willing to accept what a disinterested umpire may consider justice ; and, on