

y the chairman, very
ing to retain it, on the
y to satisfy the public
subject had been de-
striking out the pre-
that it should be re-
should be created by

nators united in ad-
ar and indisputable;
l to the preamble of
e they feared that its
ee, prejudice our title
nbt on the subject
o be fully examined,
st come to an end.
e Senate by a very
and the arguments
ving of some consid-
minent Senator from
um,) who made an
a to the bill, because
ge our claims then
tle was so good that
/assertion of it. He
the bill were to pass,
st first to be given
ans approve all the
Senator on this ques-
be found coming to
the final determina-

he comments on the
men of the South in
y intention to charge
North, who see fit to
it of patriotism or de-
best interest of the
many proofs, assum-
noble and generous
interests of the whole
their patriotism. And
men may take *here*, I
var shall come, they
be cause, but will be
ding the rights and
ntry. I have more
e who differ from me
seem to possess; I
differ on great ques-
the West have been
ly driving the coun-
tain by their "west-
in pressing the ques-
characterized as vain.
end here that we ar-
end our rights, both
e say that we believe
vanced by our nego-
o, the whole of Ore-
ation to aid in carry-
ations of the Presi-
re we to be told that
t to avoid war, if we
ing our rights or out-
either, I say give me
we shrink from an
an ignoble fear of
unworthy descend

nts of our patriot fathers! Did they, although a
mere handful, shrink from asserting their rights,
or fear of incurring the displeasure of England?
If our form of government confers more blessings
upon mankind than that of Great Britain, surely
all lovers of freedom, all philanthropists, should
exert their whole energies to secure Oregon, that
those who inhabit it may enjoy the blessings of a
republican government.

In listening to the ingenious and eloquent speech
of the honorable gentleman from Kentucky, [Mr.
G. DAVIS,] I was almost persuaded that the coun-
try watered by Frazer's river belonged to Great
Britain. The honorable gentleman from Kentucky
contended with great zeal, that they had discover-
ed and settled that country, and had as good a title
to it as we had to the country watered by the Co-
lumbia river; and he argued that it would be a gross
outrage now to attempt to take possession of that
portion of Oregon. But near the close of the gen-
tleman's speech, he contended that by delaying to
give the notice, and by going on and settling the
country, we would, in time, be able to take *the*
whole up to 54° 40'. As soon as I heard that, the
whole effect of the gentleman's able and ingenious
argument evaporated. I thought such a proceed-
ing unworthy of a great and growing country like
this. We ought to act in a more frank and manly
manner. We should come out like men, and ex-
press our views and purposes without disguise.
Like the gentleman from Massachusetts, [Mr.
WILKINSON,] I am not for the "*hush policy*." I
want nothing like stage effect. I go for declaring
our rights, and maintaining them. This is what
the people expect at our hands.

It seems that gentlemen opposed to the notice
think that, by not giving notice, we can go on
settling and improving the country; and that Eng-
land will remain passive; and that thereby we shall
be the gainers. This view is based upon the pre-
sumption that the British Government is at once
ignorant, stupid, and imbecile. If England con-
siders her claim to a portion of the country just,
and worth retaining, does any one believe for a mo-
ment that she will remain inactive? Can any gen-
tleman point me to the time, or to the place, when
that Government did not put forth all her power
and energies to acquire and to secure territory?
Do they suppose that the English Ministry are not
advised of all we say and of all we do on this ques-
tion?

The great majority of the American people be-
lieve that the whole of the Oregon territory right-
fully belongs to us; that it is ours; and that we are
called upon by every consideration of patriotism
and love of freedom—by the duty we owe our pa-
triot fathers—to come up now, boldly and manful-
ly, and declare this fact to the civilized world—
that we intend to terminate the treaty of 6th Au-
gust, 1827; and that after the twelve months shall
have elapsed from the time of giving this notice,
we will take possession of our territory, "*peace-
ably if we can, forcibly if we must*." This, Mr.
Chairman, I believe to be our duty; and nothing
short of this will satisfy the country; nothing less
than this will redeem us in the eyes of the world,
after the declarations we have sent abroad in rela-
tion to our claims to this country. If the will of the
people is to be disregarded in the adjustment of

this great question, where is the benefit of our
democratic or republican form of government?
How is it better than a monarchy? Where is our
boasted freedom? Where is the popular will of
the masses? And echo will answer—"Where?"
Gone, sir; gone! abused! violated! trampled upon!
For myself, I have listened attentively to the ar-
guments of the gentlemen who are in favor of de-
lay, and opposed to giving the notice now; and, sir,
for the life of me, I cannot see the truth of their
conclusions. If giving the notice to England is
cause of war now, it will be cause of war if given
next year, or at any future time. If England in-
tends to hold on to any portion of that territory,
and to *fight for it*, it matters not when we attempt
to dispossess them, war will be the result. It may
be true, that for the last two years we have been
increasing our population in Oregon faster than
Great Britain has; but such will not be the result
in time to come, unless we adopt decided and en-
ergetic measures to take and to hold possession of
the country. Whilst we are willing to negotiate,
England has no fears of results. She knows full
well that she can out-negotiate us. Take, for ex-
ample, the northeast boundary. But, sir, when
they see that we claim the whole country, and
come to believe that we intend at any future time
to take possession of it, they will teach us that we
have gained nothing by delay.

The President recommends giving the notice;
and after alluding to the three unsuccessful attempts
that had been made by the two Governments, in
1818, 1821, and 1826, to settle this question by
compromise, he proceeds to state:

"When I came into office, I found this to be the
state of the negotiation. Though entertaining the
settled conviction that the British pretensions of
title could not be maintained to any portion of
the Oregon territory upon any principle of public
law recognised by nations, yet, in deference to what
had been done by my predecessors, and especially
in consideration that propositions of compromise
had been thrice made by two preceding Adminis-
trations to adjust the question on the parallel of
forty-nine degrees, and in two of them yielding
to Great Britain the free navigation of the Colum-
bia, and that the pending negotiations had been
commenced on the basis of compromise, I deemed
it to be my duty not abruptly to break it off. In
consideration, too, that, under the conventions of
1818 and 1827, the citizens and subjects of the
two Powers held a joint occupancy of the coun-
try, I was induced to make another effort to settle
this long-pending controversy in the spirit of mod-
eration which had given birth to the renewed dis-
cussion. A proposition was accordingly made,
which was rejected by the British Plenipotentiary,
who, without submitting any other proposition,
suffered the negotiation on his part to drop, ex-
pressing his trust that the United States would
offer what he saw fit to call 'some further propo-
sal for the settlement of the Oregon question,'
more consistent with fairness and equity, and with
the reasonable expectations of the British Gov-
ernment.' The proposition thus offered and re-
jected repeated the offer of the parallel of forty-
nine degrees of north latitude, which had been
made by two preceding Administrations, but
without proposing to surrender to Great Britain.