

good at all hazards, when the necessity arises for its assertion. But I utterly deny the right of a particular section to claim this as a sectional question, or Oregon as a Western property. The Western States have no more rights, no more interests, in this subject, than have the Eastern. And I protest against *their* right to decide, when we are to go to war for this miserable and worthless territory.

It may be asked, how I would make it good? Why, the most agreeable process, it seems to me, would be that indicated by the honorable chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and called by the honorable member from Indiana "the American multiplication table." I think it very doubtful however, whether our present chief Executive officer is precisely the man to head an operation of that sort; of this I am sure, that at that particular game her Majesty Queen Victoria would beat him, and beat him badly.

[Here Mr. C. J. INGERSOLL observed to Mr. P. that Sir Robert Peel had eleven children.]

Then, Sir, if it were a question not between the two sovereigns themselves, but between their respective Premiers, Sir Robert Peel and Mr. Buchanan, it would be no less against the American side.

Sir, I would leave it to time, to a reasonable extent at least. I would renew the negotiations; if that could not be made successful, I would submit to reference; I would settle the question as honest men may and must settle all such questions, by the umpirage of impartial and competent referees. It is no point of honor to be settled; but purely a question of boundary, between contiguous proprietors.

And finally, Sir, if these means all fail, and this bullying power of Old England, so much and in such bad taste abused in this debate—though, by the way, her part of the bullying and blustering is yet to be enacted on this subject—shall persist in a course of injustice, and above all, shall attempt to bully us—then fight her, Sir, and fight her to the death.

I feel, Mr. Chairman, a reverence too sincere, a devotion too deep, for that venerable Commonwealth, which I so unworthily represent in part here, to insult her by telling you, or the world, where she will be found when that crisis arrives. Virginia belongs to no "peace party in war;" to no war party in peace. And, as she disdains to enact the braggart in the quarrel, so it may be safely assumed, that she will never play the part of the traitor in the conflict.

The President of the United States speaks of our obligations to facilitate emigration to Oregon, and to protect our "patriotic pioneers" who are there. And gentlemen tell us of the attachment of these people to their dear native land. Why do they leave it, Sir? Why is it that, with instinctive aversion, they retire before the advance of civilization—preferring the wild excitement and the rugged discomforts of the wilderness to the repose, the security, and the refinements of social and cultivated life? They manifest their attachment, by disregarding the influences that bind ordinary men to the places of their nativity; by snapping recklessly the ties of blood, and kindred, and social connexions; and calmly, and of their own free choice, deserting a generous soil and a genial clime—abandoning the hearths and the altars of their childhood and youth, they toil through a vast and cheerless wilderness—where savage man and savage beast meets them at every turn—through scenes where danger lurks in every path, and death is whispered in every breeze—to gain at last