

with the nat-  
tlements as  
hat right to  
This was a  
d not looked  
ntry. How  
t negotiated  
ish title, but  
e, however,  
ed *exclusive*  
overies, and

Spanish title,  
nly prior to  
er position,  
e of the ter-  
in common  
abeyance."  
he Spanish  
ntained her

occupation  
reat Britain  
istence, and  
question of

d not agree-  
py, leaving  
ld say that,  
ainst either,  
me to settle  
rights at the

isely where  
pain or that

our Spanish  
not desire to  
Britain has  
self compe-  
say is, that  
has lead me  
possessed by  
o, we have,

ave address-  
est destiny"  
hty is relied  
le HENRY.)  
t take effect  
be whether  
r have ex-

amined, and, indeed, I was ignorant, until this debate commenced, of its existence, or that it had been admitted to probate. Nor do I recognise, Mr. Chairman, this doctrine of "manifest destiny." I fear it. I greatly fear, that it teaches a very dangerous sentiment. By it we learn, sir, that our Government is to increase its territory until we are ocean bound, both east and west, and until nothing shall remain for acquisition upon our north or south. This sentiment, if encouraged, will delude us into dangerous, extravagant, and, I fear, disastrous measures. We have been told, upon this floor, during this debate, that the people of this Union have spread, and are spreading, and that they will continue to spread, until they cover this continent. This sentiment, sir, seems to possess, for some persons, a kind of charm—a sort of glory, so to speak, that does not suit my fancy.

It has been said of glory that

"It is like a circle in the water,  
Which never ceaseth to enlarge itself  
Until, by broad spreading, it dispenseth to naught."

I fear, sir, that this glorious doctrine of "destiny," which teaches us that our Union is to spread until it covers this continent, will, if it progresses unchecked, land us where glory and the circle are said to end. I cannot and will not encourage it here, nor elsewhere. I will not, therefore, press the acquisition of one inch of territory that is not ours by right; for I do most solemnly declare that I believe all such acquisitions will, in the end, endanger the republic. I will not lend myself to feed or cultivate a sentiment which I consider so pregnant with danger to the peace, safety, and perpetuity of my country.

This, sir, was one of my objections to the annexation of Texas. Another was, that we thereby extended the area of slavery. But, Mr. Chairman, Texas annexation was consummated, and what has followed? An increased and increasing thirst for land. You see, sir, we have created an appetite "which grows by the thing we feed it on." In less than a year from the era of this Texas acquisition you hear it proclaimed in this hall that our "destiny" is to possess this entire continent. Is it not time to pause? And would it not be well for the advocates of our title by "destiny" to read the history of certain republics which once *were*, but now *are not*?

But, sir, much as I deprecate the acquisition of territory which is not our own, still I would not yield an acre, no, not an inch, of that which belongs to us. I would not surrender a barren rock, incapable of producing a spear of grass, or blade of corn, and fit only to receive and check the ever-foaming, dashing waves of the ocean: sincerely as I dread the calamities of war, and much as I implore Heaven to avert them, still I would not dishonorably surrender this rock, if it be ours, in order to avoid these calamities. Our rights must be maintained against the most powerful, as well as against the feeblest nations upon earth. I would not take by force, or fraud, from a dwarf one penny that belongs to him. Nor would I tamely yield to Hercules a farthing of my own.

I will now, Mr. Chairman, allude to the effects of giving or omitting this notice. It has been constantly taken for granted, by those who oppose it, that it will produce war. I do not so regard it. I look upon it as almost necessary to preserve peace in the present posture of our affairs. Its effects most certainly will be amicable, salutary, and healthful to the country. It cannot be that two civilized nations, in forming a treaty for the purpose of preserving peace, would have introduced a stipulation or provision, a