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this discussion, to impress this House and the people at large with the idea that, in case of a war with England, we would inevitably lose Oregon. How is this, sir? Would a war be certain to lose us Oregon? How? Why, say the opponents of this notice, because we could not move a single vessel from our shores with a view of sailing around Cape Horn to Oregon, without having the mortification of seeing her shattered remains swept back upon our coast by the first breeze. Sir, were those noble craft manned by the granite-hearted, iron-nerved spirits of the last war, thus sent back? The naval history of our country tells that story. And who, after looking over Cooper's Naval History, can stand up here and talk of our navy and its powers, when compared with that of England, as some gentlemen have done, without hiding their faces in the mantle of shame? But what, exclaim those fatherly gentlemen, will become of our citizens in Oregon? Might I not with more propriety ask, what will become of the British in Oregon? Sir, our Yankee boys and western rangers there, as everywhere else, know how to take care of themselves. Why, say those gentlemen, it will be an easy matter for England to convoy around by sea a force sufficient, with the Hudson Bay Company, to exterminate every American from the soil. Have those gentlemen forgotten that, besides the eight to ten thousand emigrants now in that country, we have eighteen thousand whalemen in the Pacific, than whom none more brave or more patriotic ever floated on an American bottom? Let those brave and fearless seamen be called into the service with their three years' stock of provisions—an amount with which they always supply themselves with before leaving home. Give them immediate assurances that, should their services be needed, we will pay them as liberally as we do those in our regular naval service; and in six months after the commencement of a war, not a John Bull would dare show his face south of 54° 40'. They will enter the service of their country with pride and pleasure. They will run their shipping into the Columbia; protect it there with the guns which they always carry, mounted in forts and fortifications; and, with the arms which we can furnish them by land and sea, this Oregon band of twenty-eight thousand persons will bid defiance to any power which may be brought against them.

Sir, we are not alarmed about the safety of the people of Oregon, nor are they, at the idea of giving this notice. They see no "visions;" nor does the fear of British navies and armies disturb their "dreams."

They are much less disturbed in this respect than certain gentlemen from the boasted land of chivalry. They have seen "visions" and dreamt "dreams," until it has produced a disease, which in its type is clearly "intermittent;" the paroxysms returning by-annually—differing in this respect from "intermittents" generally. One year ago those diseased friends were in the state of "asphyxia," cool as a cucumber—no fears of Mexico, backed as she then was by England and France, and "the gentleman with the white hat," and his "parlez-vous" man, Friday, to boot. Not a "vision," nor a "dream" retarded their onward march to the point at which they then aimed. But now, how changed the scene! An awful "paroxysm" has suddenly seized upon

them, and they "shiver in the breeze." Acres of British bayonets suddenly flash upon their visions; navies unnumbered,

With Paixhan guns
And awful bombs,

haunt their midnight slumbers! A mighty change has "come o'er the spirit of their dream." That little Johnny Bull, about whom no one cared a fig one year ago, has, in one short year, consumed sufficient Oregon beef to make him grow a wondrous giant indeed. But stop; these "visions" and "dreams" are all the effusions of a disturbed imagination; all the result of a "paroxysm." Be patient; only wait one year, and they will again be found in a perfect state of asphyxia. Then, when perhaps the question of annexing California—a question involving cotton bales and locomotive cotton pickers—will come up here, gentlemen will again be as "calm as a summer evening, and as cool as the crystals of an April frost."

Mr. Chairman, having referred pretty fully to the consequences to us should a war unfortunately occur, let us for a moment look to the available force which could be brought to bear against us, and to our defensive preparations on the seaboard and along our northern and northeastern frontiers. First, along the seaboard, where we find the peculiar friends of peace. I shall not attempt a description in detail of the vast works of defence on the seaboard, their strength, or their efficiency in war. Nor will I stop to count the cost of all these works, and to state here, what we all know to be true, that the whole American family has been heavily taxed to defray the expenses. Neither will I refer to the notorious fact, that the immense population inhabiting the northern and northeastern shores, which are washed for two thousand miles by British water, have always borne the unjust and unequal system of taxation, which went to build up those seaboard defences; and that they stood up under all this without a murmur, notwithstanding these vast sums were applied for the benefit of our brethren in another section of our Union. We have not, heretofore, nor do we now, complain about the application of large and liberal sums of money to enable our friends to defend their property, their firesides, and their lives. It is true, however, that we have not been able to see the propriety of entirely overlooking the defences of our lake shores. We have looked to the vast preparations of Great Britain on the opposite shore, and then to our defenceless homes. We thought of our neglect, but we murmured not. We beheld their ship canal around the falls of Niagara, through which her fleets might reach all our towns and cities—whose commercial importance has already outstripped many on the seaboard—and sack and burn them without a shot or gun furnished by the General Government to defend them with. Still, with all this neglect of every interest on our northern border, we will not complain. Should war come, we shall not trouble ourselves much about defensive arrangements; it will be an offensive war from the start with us. We shall save John Bull all trouble about meeting us on this side of the lakes. We shall take great pleasure, too, in saving him the trouble of attending the locks on the Welland canal; and we shall do sundry other acts of kindness, too numerous to mention. And if our friends on the seaboard—after having nearly all the money which