

may be adopted which will give the President ample powers, accompanied by an expression of the sense of Congress, that the controversy ought to be settled by pacific negotiation.

For the proper exercise of its powers, let the Administration stand amenable to the country and to posterity. He hoped our action would be such as to impress upon the Executive authority of both nations the necessity of bringing this contest to a conclusion. It is evident that England desires its termination; and he believed she is prepared to unite with us in conditions of settlement, alike honorable to both parties. Under a proper expression from Congress, he was unwilling to believe the President will fail to make an honest endeavor to bring the difficulty to an adjustment. In this respect, he confessed he felt less apprehension than some others; for he was fully convinced that the administration neither intends or expects a war with England. If bold language had been employed, it was intended for domestic effect, and not to break the peace of the world. Let us look at the official action of the Executive as the true exponent of his intentions. Has he recommended to Congress any measures of preparation for defence, any increase of military or naval force, any augmentation of the public resources? In a word, any measure whatever indicating an apprehension that the peaceful relations of the country are to be disturbed? So far from asking an increase of revenue, he recommends a reduction of imposts. That he or his cabinet council intend to pursue a war policy, and expose the country to an attack from the most powerful nation of the world, whilst they fail to suggest to Congress any measures whatever in anticipation of the emergency would involve a responsibility, and indicate an atrocious enormity of purpose, which he was not prepared to impute, and he would not believe it without proof. If he was deceived, and it shall appear that the Administration are determined to delay or prevent a friendly arrangement of the controversy, we all know that the power of the Executive is ample already; and if he shall exercise it for the subversion of the national peace and happiness, upon his head the consequences must rest.

That the differences between the countries are susceptible of fair and equitable arrangement, on principles eminently honorable to both, seems too clear to admit of dispute. Fearful must be the retribution that will be visited upon either Government which, by sullen pertinacity or extreme pretensions, shall shock the civilization of the age, and violate the peace of the world.

In conclusion, Mr. H. made an earnest appeal to the friends of the measure to place the resolution in such proper and fitting form as shall enable moderate, rational men, who cherish the peace, honor, and dignity of the country, to unite in its support. He trusted the friends of the Administration, who brought it into power, and confide in its wisdom and patriotism, will consent to the modification proposed by the gentleman from Alabama. (Mr. HILLIARD,) by which the power to be conferred will be exercised upon the official judgment and discretion of the President. In this form it cannot embarrass pending negotiations, but may serve to fortify and strengthen the hands of the Executive. He appealed to them to give an united expression in favor of peaceful negotiation, that our action may not be misinterpreted by the country or the world. Nothing will more surely tend to preserve peace than a display of union and concert in our national councils. Let our proceedings be such as shall deserve to be approved by the enlightened judgment and patriotism of the country, and then, if war shall come, a spirit of justice will sanction the conflict, and the honor of the country will be vindicated by the resistless energies of a united people.

In our action upon a question like the present, involving the issues of peace and war, it becomes us to proceed in a spirit of moderation, patriotism, and magnanimity worthy the fame and the destiny of a great nation.