

aged. No man will build a house without reasonable expectations of being the undisputed master of the door. Under the existing state of things, he may be compelled to abandon his home or his country. By terminating this convention, you encourage industry and emigration, by giving security to property.

The notice ought also to be given, that we may know what the country is, and where it is. I wish to know where to place this god Terminus, who was referred to by the gentleman from Missouri, (Mr. BOWLIN.) It is important to the peace of the country, to know certainly where to place him. Our American god Terminus is somewhat different from the Roman. He has legs; yes, sir, and long ones, too; and he is likely to give us a good deal of trouble. Like the spirit of Democracy, he is progressive and aggressive. He seems to claim under the new and boundless title of "manifest destiny." He follows the pioneer and the hunter, and his tracts all point outward; he never retreats. Wherever he has a pretension of claim, he holds his title to be "clear and unquestionable." Let us fix his location quickly and firmly, or this war of opinion, this war of systems, to which gentlemen have referred, may come upon us before we are ready for it. For this reason, too, I would give the notice. I prefer that it should be given in the manner pointed out in the resolution of my friend from Alabama, (Mr. HILLIARD.) I would give the President this discretion, not to embarrass him or the question, not to evade it or to shun its responsibility, but because, in my judgment, on purely public considerations, it is the most proper, if not the only proper, mode of giving it. The Constitution confers upon him an important part of the treaty-making power. In all treaties he has the initiatory part to perform. He appoints and controls at pleasure our foreign ministers; through them he, and he alone, is fully informed of the disposition, objects, and designs of other Governments. He must therefore be the best judge of the precise time when it is most expedient to give it. If he should ascertain, for instance, that giving the notice would be unjustly seized upon as a pretext for war by Great Britain, he ought to withhold it until notice could be given to our commerce upon the seas, and until adequate forces could be raised, equipped, and advantageously disposed for the national defence. It is not an extraordinary discretion. It is simply remitting him to the full and free exercise of his ordinary constitutional powers. It is a responsibility which he has no right to evade or to shun. I would arm him with his full constitutional powers, and hold him responsible for their proper exercise; but I will not condemn him in ad-