

beheld a dark cloud hanging with lowering and threatening aspect. The mutterings of the rising tempest are distinctly heard in the distance; and the hurried clouds and furious wind, which have been raging around us here, admonish us of its speedy approach. Yes, in that House some gentlemen were found bold enough to stand forth far beyond the line which wisdom and prudent counsels would mark out, and, baring their bosoms to the shock, had almost invoked its vengeance and defied its power.

The sound of the war bugle had fallen upon the ears of the nation like a thunder-clap in a clear sky. They had not seen the danger, nor had they anticipated its approach. Well may they ask, with painful anxiety, what does all this mean? I answer, that it has grown out of the first effort of the Executive to settle our difficulties with a foreign Power, with reference to party considerations, which Mr. C. would endeavor to notice more at length in the course of his argument.

Mr. C. had no intention to cast injurious reflections on those who had preceded him in this debate. He trusted that they had all been actuated by the purest and most patriotic motives. If he knew his own bosom, and did not mistake the impulses of his own heart, he was ready to go as far as he who went farthest to sustain the interest, and honor, and integrity of the nation. His colleague over the way, (Mr. STANTON,) who had addressed the House on yesterday, had vouched for the patriotism of gentlemen of his own political school, and seemed fondly to hope that his colleagues, who differed from him in political opinion, would exhibit the same patriotism on the present question. In this remark his colleague seemed to entertain a doubt on that point, but Mr. C. could assure him, and assure the country, that his colleagues on this side of the House, though they might differ with the honorable gentleman in their political course, were actuated by as high and patriotic motives as any gentleman on that floor. He felt that he should be unworthy to represent any portion of the gallant people of Tennessee, could he now betray a cowardly and recreant spirit, that feared to bear aloft the banner of his country. Yes, the people of Tennessee had proved their patriotic spirit in many a hard-fought battle-field, and never yet had been found wanting in maintaining the honor of their native soil. Need he allude to the various memorable spots where they had poured out their best blood in her cause? Need he name the battle-fields of the Horse-Shoe, of Talladega, and of Emucfau? There might be seen their courage and patriotism brightly manifested. Mr. C. would be unworthy to represent them could he act a cowardly part, or should he be actuated by a pitiful and dastardly spirit on a great national question like this. No; he was

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