

He (Mr. A.) had now given a sincere expression of his views of the policy of asserting a claim to all Oregon. There was a topic in connexion, to which he was reluctant, and yet thought it necessary, to advert. It had been brought into the debate on the other side of the chamber, and this put him at liberty to make the allusion to it. The authority of the Baltimore Convention had been openly invoked, in the discussion, as one of the appropriate means to influence it. It was proper that the people should be made acquainted with the fact, and with the fearful bearing of this appeal. The Baltimore Convention! What was it? The authority of an association unknown to the institutions of the country, made the subject of appeal to control the legislation of the country! This body, really self-appointed, or nearly so, convened for an alleged specific object, to carry into effect an assumed public sentiment in relation to that object. Its *first proceeding* had been to discard the admitted public sentiment which it purported to have met to effectuate. Its notorious course of proceeding had been, not to receive but to make a public sentiment, in substitution of that which it professed to have been sent to execute; and then to raise political issues which might be inflamed in aid of this operation. A junto, with no authority of any kind, or acting in admitted contradiction and violation of its professed authority, had been successful in dictating its most important election to the country; and its authority was now employed, on the *prestige* of that success, to dictate the legislation of the country on a subject of the most vital importance. This was the first open avowal the country had ever known of *Jacobinism* in its halls of legislation. It was yet to be seen how the avowal would be received.

A supposed peculiar Western interest on this subject of Oregon had been adduced to explain the propensity to extreme measures manifested in that quarter of the country, and by its representatives here. He (Mr. A.) did not ascribe the vehemence of this propensity to the influence of any such selfish consideration. But he did ascribe it to a peculiarity of Western temperament, the incident, perhaps, of their stage of social condition. The people were notoriously brave; but this bravery ran into recklessness of all consequences in controversy with foreign Powers. They were as undoubtedly generous; but they had the quality too often found in alliance with spirit and generosity—impatience of resistance to their views, and the disposition to domineer over it. He (Mr. A.) admitted his indulgence of an extreme anxiety on the subject of this Western temperament, not in relation to the present instance only of its display, but the large future which was before us; the political power of the country being destined, probably, to pass to that region, before this temperament passed away from it, under the influence of its only corrective, diffused education. Ruminating on this topic, he had to confess, had for some time kept him in terror.

Yes, "westward the star of empire holds its way." The fact was as true as the expression was poetical. Great results were probably to come. His (Mr. A.'s) prayer to Heaven was, that, before this planet of power culminated, its beam might so refine as not to wither our enjoyment of freedom at home, and not to affright other climes and times, which a tempered brightness in our example might lure to the admiration and the adoption of popular institutions.