

with Great Britain was the only equitable partition, and regretted that her plenipotentiaries would not accept it; now he would deny her any part of it! These are rapid and remarkable transitions. Sir, the country will demand of that gentleman, what has produced this change? What manumement of title, what fact to elucidate it, that escaped his research when conducting our negotiations from 1818 to 1827, has been discovered by that gentleman to produce a change so sudden and extraordinary? Well may the people—well may the civilized world—inquire, why this change of policy and position?

Mr. Chairman, in consideration of the past if not of the future—if not to calculate the cost of maintaining our rights—we should pause before we plunge this country into war. We should take counsel of our hearts and our consciences, whether that war would be just, and in a just cause. Sir, I have taken my position. I believe it maintains the honor and the rights of my country, and will command the approbation of the people. It is the compromise offered by our government from 1818 to 1845. I am unwilling to accept less. I will not demand more.

But, Mr. Chairman, if it be the determination of the committee to terminate the treaty of joint occupancy, with the purpose of asserting the right of domain to a part or to the whole of the territory of Oregon, I trust the notice will be couched in those manly terms which shall manifest our sense that it is a right. The treaty provides that it shall be determined at the expiration of twelve months' notice, and secures to each of the high contracting parties the right to give it. The notice needs no apology; and I submit that it is unmanly and unbecoming to make one. And I must be permitted to say, that I cannot admire the spirit that would whisper in the pitiful palaver of a "preamble," or the whining and whimpering of a "whereas."

Mr. Chairman, my constituents are ever ready to maintain the rights and defend the honor of their country. They know nothing of the people of whom I am an humble, but I trust faithful, representative, who suppose they have any unmanly fear of war, calamitous and desolating as it ever has been and ever must be to their interests. They appeal to the history of their country to bear them witness that whenever the gallantry and patriotism of its citizens have been summoned to its standard, they have been the first in the field and the fiercest in the battle.

Sir, the south does earnestly deprecate war, but not, as I have heard intimated, because she is conscious of any element of weakness or danger in her social system. She fears no domestic disquietude in war. But much as we deprecate war, more do we deprecate national dishonor and degradation. And if war come from maintaining the rights and the honor of our country, by the help of Heaven we will meet it, though it drag its victims from every fireside, and slay them on every coast, and plain, and height, in this broad confederacy.

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