

destruction? Or are they not rather like young Norval, who says that—

"On the Granplan hills, his father fed his flock—  
A frugal swain—,"

who had kept him,

"An only son, at home."

But that—

"He had heard of battles, and longed  
To follow to the field some warlike lord!"

This impulsive, valorous furor which is raging in this House, reminds me somewhat of the brave young Norval. Now my friend from Missouri [Mr. SIMMS,] has said "all of Oregon, or none; now or never." There is no man, sir, with a purer or braver heart than he. Single-handed and equally armed, I would risk him in a contest with any Englishman. But I would, as his friend, and the friend of the gentleman on my left, [Mr. KENNEDY,] pause before I would consent to expose the defenceless breasts of two such gallant spirits to such an armed and skilful adversary as they so heedlessly dare to the arena. Give either, however, a bayonet, or a western rifle, (their favorite weapon,) and I would confidently abide the result. So would I act with my country. Not calculating on the cowardice of our great adversary, I would hold the Union from an unequal conflict, which neither the private nor the public code of honor ever demands under such circumstances; and, like the brave Scottish chieftain, would say to her—"Bide your time."

My friend from Missouri [Mr. BOWLIN] as certainly looks upon this notice as a war measure, and seemed to revel in the idea of the conflict. He likened the situation of the two nations to the porcupine and snakes in the fable. During a storm a porcupine desired to take shelter in a den of snakes. They permitted him; and he commenced rolling and shooting his quills about to such an annoying degree, that the snakes begged him to leave. The armed reptile replied that those who desired to leave could. As for himself, he should remain. The cases are not analogous. England, it is true, is in our den; but she is quiet, and observes the good faith demanded by the treaty. Armed all over she is, however, like the porcupine; and we should learn this wisdom from the fable, not to provoke her to roll over us, and stick her quills into us, unless, perchance, like the snakes, we shall be forced to quit our own den! If, indeed, a porcupine is in our midst by invitation, and our scales are not proof against his missiles, it is wise in us not unnecessarily to provoke him.

In this connexion I desire to notice these animated attacks on England; these burning appeals to our patriotism; these outbreaks of enthusiastic love of country; and firm resolve to resist encroachment and insult. For my life, I cannot help but respond heartily to them all. My indignation is excited; detestation of English arrogance and insult is given birth to; an ardent love of my own country and its institutions is duly raised by these appeals. But I look around in vain for a point to which to apply all this pent-up ammunition. England is quiet, resting under a treaty framed between us twenty-eight years ago, and is on the eve of so modifying her corn-laws as to admit the contents of western "granaries to be emptied upon her shores." This is, then, it seems to me, a useless waste of patriotic enthusiasm; unless gentlemen fear that their's needs exercise to prevent its rusting.

I can well imagine, however, how such a course will operate upon the public mind—how the honest farmer, on reading such furious denunciation of what he is accustomed to think his national enemy, and of her rapacity, &c., can have his feelings wrought up under the idea that his country is the object of English rapacity and overbearance; and therefore he should demand that not an iota of our claims should be yielded to her. And I much fear that this is the surest way of accounting for this strong popular ferment in relation to this question.

Mr. Pakenham's letter, I humbly think, has been subjected, unnecessarily, to this severe and trying ordeal. On reperusing it, I cannot but think that his remarks, which have excited so much indignation, were designed merely to refer to the fact that he had been invited to open the negotiation in a spirit of compromise, and that he found our government receding from, instead of meeting him in that spirit—more having been offered to England at previous dates—offers, too, which he considered more equitable and fair.

This notice, then, if given, would be a *war move*. It is argued as such. Mr. Polk evidently deems it as such. In itself, it is such a move.

What, then, is the *object*? I am told, to obtain all of Oregon. I, too, go for all of Oregon. I go for it up to 54° 40'. I am desirous of attaining that end in a way most consistent with the interests and honor of the country, and most likely to be effectual. Will *war*—will the strong hand be that best mode? I think not, and am therefore opposed to giving the notice at this time.

In the event of war, it certainly would not be waged in Oregon. In the first place, it is too remote from our resources, both of material and men, for us to operate there successfully. It would take an army, fully equipped and carrying its own supplies, (for there are none in Oregon,) full four months to march from our frontiers into Oregon, scaling, Napoleon-like, in their progress, the American Alps. England—mistress of the sea by means of her numerous fleets, could much more readily transport troops and provisions to that point. With us, it would be equivalent to a foreign and aggressive war to carry it on in Oregon. For such a war, it is not treason to say we are weak. Our institutions do not fit us for it. England, then, I take it for granted, would soon have possession of the whole territory, and would soon fortify the passes against any invasion of it on our part hereafter.

The war, however, would be fiercely waged on the ocean and in Canada. Riding in large fleets, the cross of St. George might pass triumphant. In single and more equal combats, it would be as certainly lowered to the stars and stripes. Canada, too, would yield to our valor; and when both parties became tired of the contest, in which the *vitality* of neither would have been touched, Oregon would be found in the hands of England, and Canada would be in our possession. England cares but little for Canada. To her it is an expensive and comparatively useless colony. For Oregon she cares much; for whoever is planted there will, from its splendid ports, command the trade of the great Pacific. Under such circumstances, peace, in all human probability, would be made between the two countries, by which England would be left in possession of Oregon, and the United States in possession of Canada. The North and East, and portions of the South, and even West, would, after a long

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