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authorities of the country, so far as may be necessary to enable them to wield all the resources and energies of the nation to bring the war to a successful and glorious termination; and, therefore, in the present state of uncertainty with reference to the future, I am unwilling to indulge in a harsh or uncharitable judgment of their conduct. When the day shall come for the American people to hold them to account for the manner in which they have discharged the high duties entrusted to them, then I propose to have something to say upon these themes, now forbidden by considerations which I need not state. But I must say that, if it shall appear that any public functionary of this Government, charged by his countrymen with the management of the question which now threatens the peace of the nation, has been so lost to patriotism and honor as to lend himself to the guidance of motives and objects, such as are imputed by the remarks to which I have referred—so base and wicked as to put up the peace of the country, with all the interests which stand connected with its preservation, as a gambling stake in a desperate and vile play of mean ambition, he deserves the concentrated execrations of the present and all future generations of mankind; and there ought to be "a whip of scorpions placed in every honest hand, to lash the rascal naked through the world."

But, sir, I waive the discussion of all questions of this kind as unsuited to this occasion, and proceed to address myself to the important subject now under consideration by this committee. The House of Representatives has resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union; and the question for our consideration is, what action ought to be taken by the Congress of the United States upon the resolution reported by the Committee on Foreign Affairs, which is as follows:

"Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the President of the United States forthwith cause notice to be given to the Government of Great Britain that the convention between the United States and Great Britain, concerning the territory of Oregon, of the sixth of August, eighteen hundred and twenty-seven, signed at London, shall be annulled and abrogated twelve months after the expiration of the said notice, conformably to the second article of the said convention of the sixth of August, eighteen hundred and twenty-seven."

In considering this question, we must embrace in one comprehensive view all the interests of this great Republic, as those interests are liable to be affected, injuriously or advantageously, by a disgraceful surrender or firm maintenance of national rights and national honor, by the preservation of peace, with all its countless blessings, or by the occurrence of war, with all its innumerable calamities and evils. In considering this question, we ought to elevate ourselves above every motive which does not have its origin in the purest patriotism, in a sincere desire to arrive at wise conclusions, and to take such action as will best protect the honor and the rights of our country, and promote the happiness and welfare of the twenty millions of people committed to our guardianship. With my mind thus chastened, I have endeavored to consider this question. I have formed my opinion; I have determined upon the line of conduct which I believe it to be my duty to pursue. My opinion is, that we will best discharge our duty to our country by declining to take any action upon the question now before this committee until the last month of the present session of Congress, or until the next session of Congress; and that, if we are forced to vote upon it now, we ought to vote against it. What evil can possibly result from this course? How can the rights of the nation be jeopardized by a postponement of the vote upon this resolution? By such a postponement, we will give further time for the adjustment of the difficulty between the two Governments by negotiation; and we will then come to the consideration of the question better prepared than we now are to determine wisely what ought to be done by Congress to maintain our claims in Oregon. We will then be able to know *certainly* whether there is, in the language of the President, "*satisfactory evidence that no compromise which the United States ought to accept can be effected.*" In urging this course of policy, I am not unmindful of the fact that the resolution now before this committee is *the measure* recommended by the Administration; nor of the fact that a large majority of this House are the political friends and supporters of the present Administration. But are they not more devoted to country than to party? If that majority shall perceive that