

who denied we could invoke high Heaven, and God himself would lead us forth again ground that to victory.

Mr. C. thought that he had shown that if the notice in its present form was given to Great Britain, war was the inevitable consequence, unless the Administration should abandon its present position. What was the proposition? It was that we should terminate the convention of joint occupation. The President asked that our rights to the whole territory should be asserted and maintained, although we had four times offered to divide the country with Great Britain. If we should enter on the occupation of the whole territory, who did not see that war would be inevitable? It was so: disguise it as we might, war with all its terrors, and all its miseries and sacrifices, would be the result. Such being the case, as the assertion of our right to the whole of the Oregon territory did not in his opinion involve at all the question of the national honor, we might with great propriety look at the condition of the country and its state of preparation for war.

Mr. C. had said that this question did not involve our national honor, and here let him ask gentlemen who were so clamorous upon this occasion, upon what sea had Great Britain insulted our flag? When had our gallant tars been impressed into her service? What American citizen had been visited with oppression by her? Point him to the time and place, show him a single instance when such a thing had taken place, and then he was ready to go as far as he who went farthest. When such a fact should be established, he stood ready and prepared to vindicate the rights of our citizens. Until this should appear, he must not rashly pass the Rubicon, which once passed there could be no receding. This resolution was the Rubicon; pass it in its present shape, and the Government must go on at all hazards, or must content itself to retire within the 49th parallel. Mr. C. should not rashly place the country in that position.

He had said that the nation was not prepared for such a contest; and in this position he was borne out by our past history, as well as by the present condition of the country. Should not our Government consider well that condition? Look at the States of the Union groaning under the weight of heavy indebtedness they cannot meet. Did they not owe more than two hundred millions of dollars, the interest on which alone amounts to more than twelve millions annually? The States were unable to discharge this now, and when was it to be met? Pennsylvania owed forty millions; Illinois owed from fifteen to twenty millions, was largely indebted, and could not even pay the interest on her liabilities. Would gentlemen, under circumstances like these, unless the honor of the nation required it, plunge