

knows her rights, "and knowing, will dare maintain them." And whether she is now able to enforce her claim, in common with the balance of this Union to Oregon, is a matter of doubt that will not deter her from a bold and independent expression of her claims and her wrongs.

Mr. Chairman, some gentlemen know but little of the wealth, value, and resources of that empire, the valley of the Mississippi, whose inhabitants are honest, industrious, brave, and patriotic; and whose population, after 1850, will be able to demand their rights upon this floor. With the exception of the grant of 500,000 acres of the public lands to the new States, for the purposes of of internal improvement, we are strangers to the public treasury.

[A voice. That was a whig Congress.]

Yes, sir, it was; and I will not deny them that credit which is due to them—such credits are so rare that they should not be withheld when due.

But, Mr. Y. said, that in bestowing that donation they had fallen 540,000 acres short of what had been granted to Ohio for similar objects.

With all this boasted liberality, my state is minus 540,000 acres; and I now give notice, I shall, before the close of the present session, propose some measure to place her on an equal footing with the State of Ohio. If I fail, I will tell my people to be quiet till 1850, when she will have a representation on this floor who will be able to ask for justice and to enforce it; the small pittance which has been expended in the valley of the Mississippi, we will give you credit for, but we will present a long and large account for "back rations."

Mr. Y. said the West, and those in favor of the notice, had been denominated by some gentleman as the war party, and they designate themselves as the peace party. At home, I am considered a man of peace—so are my constituents; but not at the sacrifice of honor. "War, pestilence, and famine," sooner than dishonor. If they mean to assimilate the war and peace parties of the present day with those of the revolution, and the last war, I glory in the appellation. Did our forefathers in the revolution count the cost of a war with England, when we were but a handful, and without money or

munitions of war? Did they ask what the war would cost us to battle against the mother country, who was enforcing upon the colony taxation without representation? Did they ask or count the cost when our gallant sires throw the tea overboard at Boston, and refused to drink it, because it was unjustly forced upon them? No, sir; the only inquiry was—Are the colonies wronged, and we oppressed by unwholesome and unjust laws? The question being answered in the affirmative, we find the Adamsses, and the Hancocks, and legions of others march up to the question and meet it like men and like patriots. Mr. Y. said there was a peace party in 1812 and during the last war. We heard their opposition to the war from the halls of Congress and from the holy sanctuary. The peace party during the last war abused the administration for getting into the war, and their opposition was so violent against the war party that they described James Madison, John Holmes, Felix Grundy, and the d——l, as the leaders of the war party, and called down imprecations upon them for their defence of the rights and interests of the country, for voting supplies for the army, and men and means to defend the country. God forbid that I should ever belong to such a peace party. I hope there is none such at the present day.

Mr. Y. said we were told that we were not prepared for war, because we have no generals to lead us to victory. Sir, we have the heroes of Chippewa, of Erie, and of Sandusky. We have men and arms, upwards of 4,000 pieces of ordnance, and 600,000 small arms, and 1,800,000 militia, with a commander-in-chief who, in an engagement in a night attack, showed his plume by the blaze of the enemy's fire. We have still our Croscans, our Joneses, our Jesups, our Townsends, and others not less distinguished, who are always ready to defend the stars and the stripes without stopping to count the cost. Then, sir, if our interest in Oregon is to cost us a war to maintain it, I say let it come; better war than dishonor, or to be bullied into a surrender of our rights; and if it should come, I say

"Lay on Macduff,
And damned be he that first cries hold, enough."