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not pass the Senate. Was it considered a war measure then? No, sir; and why should it be considered so now? Without a knowledge of the views of my constituents, I voted for the bill then, and they sustained me; but in giving the same vote now, I not only believe that I am doing right, but feel sure that I am obeying the will of those who sent me here. I repudiate the idea that this is a war measure. It is merely proof of our anxiety to settle the question, and of our determination to maintain our rights in that territory, and repel those who trespass on them. But while I repeat that this is no war measure, I would not be understood as saying that this country will not take such further steps as may be necessary to secure our rights in Oregon. The territory is ours, and we must not part with it. Sir, the time has ceased with us when we can act in that spirit of forbearance to Great Britain which characterized the conduct of the patriarch Abraham, when he said to Lot, "If thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left." That might have been possible once when very little value was attached to territory. But not so now with us. We need all the territory we have, and ought not under any circumstances to part with any portion that we possess. But highly as we prize territory, we do not propose to take any that does not belong to us.

Sir, I am aware some gentlemen, who do not appreciate the importance of Oregon, represent it as a distant strip of land of but little value; and they ask, are we going to fight for that? I tell such gentlemen that Oregon is of vast importance to this country, and that its loss would be deeply felt and sorely regretted to the latest moment of the existence of this great republic? Because Oregon is at a great distance from this Capitol, shall we treat her as the Roman empire once treated the island of Britain—clip her off, and tell her to take care of herself? Britain was once a part of the Roman empire; but that government thought her of so little value that they cast her off, and told the people if they could defend themselves against their enemies, good and well, let them do it; the Roman eagle would no longer take them under its wings. On this strip of country, thus severed—which is infinitely smaller than Oregon—is planted that mighty government, whose invincibility has this day been so eloquently described! It is the nation inhabiting this territory which now struggles for the conquest of the world, and carries terror with her name to the most distant parts of the earth! This teaches us the increasing importance of territory, and is a warning to us to guard against the loss of any part of our country, or of any portion of our people. It is quite natural for us to suppose, that, under any circumstances, Oregon is destined to be a part of our confederacy, but it may perhaps turn out otherwise. I here express the hope, and cherish the belief, that she will never be a British colony; that that country will be a republic, inhabited by freemen, I believe almost certain; but whether she is destined to remain a part of this confederacy, or to become a separate and distinct republic, depends upon the policy pursued towards her by this government. If we now refuse her protection, may she not hereafter scorn our proffer of reunion and refuse to be received by us as a State? The case of Texas was different. Texas was a distinct and independent nation, and we were under no obligations to protect her people or territory till she became a

part of this Union. But we are under very different obligations to the people of Oregon, because we own the territory, and it is settled by our own citizens. If we leave her in the moment of her struggles to shift for herself by withdrawing our protection, will she hereafter, when she has established her right to the soil, come and ask to be again incorporated into this Union? I believe not. I must here remark that I would be the last man on this floor, or in this country, to claim a single inch of territory which I did not believe to be ours; but, on the other hand, I say with equal determination that I will never consent to the surrender of an inch that is our own—I care not where it lies, or what may be its value—to gratify the ambition of Great Britain or any other government upon the earth. We boast of being a great and glorious republic; but what constitutes a great government? It is the justice of its laws—the preservation of its rights—and the protection of its citizens. I care not how wealthy or powerful a nation may be; as soon as she ceases to preserve her rights and to protect her citizens she ceases to be great and is destined to fall. If we ever surrender any portion of our territory to Great Britain, gentlemen may rest assured that it will be but the beginning of surrenders; she will never be satisfied with demanding. Peace is our policy. We do not seek a war with Great Britain; but if she declares war against us for defending our right to Oregon, we shall stand justified in the eyes of the world, and every American heart, and every American arm will be found on the side of their country. Sir, the country is in favor of notice, and for maintaining our right to the territory. Even in North Carolina Oregon is stronger than any political party; and, as an evidence of this, I will refer to the fact that my whig colleague from *Lumber river* [Mr. DOCKERY] publicly proclaimed during the canvass, that, before he would surrender any part of Oregon, he would march barefoot over prickly pears to fight for it. I repeat that the "Old North State" is for Oregon.

Mr. DOCKERY rose, and asked his colleague to give him leave to explain. His colleague [Mr. REID] knew more of the geography of his State than to speak of him as his colleague from *Lumber River district*. The remark to which the gentleman alluded was, that he was ready to contend for all to which we had a valid title. I said that there were in Oregon British rights and American rights; and that, when the line was run, I would defend our soil to the utmost extremity; and what he had said about marching over prickly pears was said in that connexion. He had said that, when our rights were determined, then he would be ready to fight for them, though he had to march barefoot over prickly pears.

Mr. REID. Where does my colleague think our rights extend to?

Mr. DOCKERY. Just where the gentleman's favorite President settled it in his negotiations. A laugh.

Mr. REID. Then the gentleman is with the President, and the President says, "our title to the whole of Oregon has been asserted, and, as is believed, maintained by irrefragable facts and arguments." The gentleman's location arose from this connexion: him and myself were members of the legislature at the same time; he had a favorite project for the improvement of *Lumber river*; and from his zeal in favor of the measure, he became associated in my mind with the name of the river, so that I thought