

ours. In 1818 and in 1827 neither party were prepared to colonize, to settle the country; both were prepared to use it, to hunt over it, and to trade with the Indians. The usufruct of one party in these modes was not inconsistent with that of the other. This is not now the case. We are now prepared to settle, to subdue, to cultivate it. England is not. I wish to avail ourselves of this advantage. Terminate this convention, and our settlements will give us good title. Yes, sir; a good title even to 54° 40' north, if they shall be prior in time to those of other nations, and sufficiently extensive. But, with this convention in force, we can acquire nothing by our settlements. The idea of the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. RHETT) that the wave of population, now annually rolling on towards the Pacific from this country, furnishes a reason for the continuance of this convention, appears to my mind not only untenable, but that fact has struck me as a strong and conclusive reason for terminating it. The position is admitted by both Governments, that no act of either party, during the continuance of the convention, can in any way affect the title. You may send forth to Oregon tens of thousands of your countrymen, subdue its vast forests, improve its rivers and its harbors, cover its face with cultivated fields, build cities and towns, palaces and cottages, erect temples to learning, temples to justice, and sanctuaries to the living God, in every ten miles square of its territory, and, with this convention in force, your title will be just what it was in 1818. You would thereby increase your difficulties, produce inevitable conflicts, embarrass your future negotiations by the introduction of new elements of discord; you would have people and improvements to negotiate about, as well as waste land; and you might increase your ability to hold the country by force against your adversary; but you could not strengthen your title; it is so "nominated in the bond," and the faith of the nation is pledged to it. I would strike off these shackles; I would place the country in a position to pursue whatever policy her honor and her interest might demand, untrammelled by the now useless and injurious fetters imposed by this joint convention. There is an additional reason, growing out of this emigration of our people to Oregon, for giving this notice. It is said that seven thousand of them are already there; they had a right to go there; they have been encouraged to do so; they demand of us their birthright, the benefit of our laws, the full benefit of them; the demand is just; we ought to comply with it; this convention prevents us from doing so. I would, therefore, put an end to it. This emigration would increase but for this convention. Our people can acquire no property in the soil; permanent improvements are for that reason discour-

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