

justice may be mistaken by
overpowered in an appeal

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fence of himself and his
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t the President, in
ursue, has arrayed
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Secretary of State
submitted to us by
ordinary character.
anan of the 27th
opposition to arbi-
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Mr. Buchanan, in
ground that "the
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arbitration. It is
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he been evidently
January, 1846—
to make, and, in

my judgment, most unwise and dangerous to reject, is, in Mr. Buchanan's reply of the 4th instant, not only rejected, but treated in a manner wholly unbecoming an American statesman; and the only reason assigned—if reason it can be called—in his whole letter, is, that the President "does not believe the territorial rights of this nation to be a proper subject for arbitration." To be sure, sir, he argues that the territory in dispute is more valuable to us than to Great Britain. This might be a very good reason, if the question were whether we should purchase it or not; but I can hardly suppose the Secretary could seriously believe that Great Britain would regard it as a very sound argument why she should yield any portion of the territory which she believes honestly belongs to her. Such reasons as these, sir, assigned by the Secretary of State and sanctioned by the President, seem to lead to but one conclusion; which is, that, whatever their professions may be to the contrary, their secret designs and intentions are to throw this country into a war, not for the purpose of acquiring Oregon, (for that would soon be lost sight of in the smoke and din of the conflict,) but for the purpose of covering up their own party purposes and achieving their political ends.

How long is it, sir, since the assertion and the discovery have been made, that our title to all Oregon is "clear and unquestionable?" The Baltimore Convention, which nominated Mr. Polk for the Presidency, first sent forth this declaration. I fancy there are but few persons who did not then regard it as having been made for party purposes, and not as a grave assertion, to be sustained by all the hazards and calamities of war. It assumed a more startling character when repeated by the President in his inaugural address. It then came upon the country like a clap of thunder from a clear sky. It was not even at that time supposed that it would be followed up and hurried through all the forms of diplomatic correspondence with a haste and in a spirit which seems to preclude the possibility of an amicable or equitable adjustment. This is the effect, sir, of throwing our foreign relations into party contests for political power. Those struggles have hitherto been confined to questions of domestic policy. Having exhausted almost every means of party strife, they have now seized hold of those questions in which other nations are concerned, and which may lead us to the most disastrous consequences. After having admitted, for the space of seven-and-twenty years, and by the negotiation and ratification of two solemn treaties, that Great Britain has rights in Oregon, the President and his party come