

of an American course
tame to submit to. Is
Government, after so
se itself to the protection
region? For, if it sleep
valuable territory is cer-
Give the English only
Columbia river—let them
Disappointment, and all
could not take the com-
them. The cape and
fect 'Gibraltars' on the
on Bay Company have
of the latter, as they
eligible spot on the Co-

is the prevailing opin-
ing ambition of Eng-
the acquisition of Cali-
fornia, the finest on
the Pacific for a naval depôt,
for ships of any draught
the colony from the
Willamette river ninety
miles.

and wheat country in
the Willamette valley
it consists of about
a considerable grain,
and head of cattle,
one thousand bushels
cheese, &c., enough
for five hundred head
of horses; and last year
one thousand bushels
of wheat, one
thousand bushels
of peas, and planted
and vegetables of all

comprising the Wil-
lamette valley, a
hundred miles long
and scattered with ravines
at quantities for fuel
in its natural state, is
now producing from
one half wheat to the acre;
and the cattle subsist
on the shelter of any kind
of them through the
winter at the Willamette
valley. British have taken
our people to build
with little trouble,
most any quantity.
that ten thousand
men. Probably no
other inducements to
readily be procured
at any time."
I have clearly
seen that man from Virginia
at Britain valued
that the territory
were alone. Of its
value have been so fully
appreciated, that
have preceded me
at the most sum-
mer overrated these
and my prediction

Let me here quote a short extract from a speech
of the distinguished Senator from Missouri, [Mr.
Benton,] who has given this question much atten-
tion, and whose opinions are therefore entitled to
great weight. After giving a glowing description
of the beauty, grandeur, and fertility of the coun-
try, he says:

"Such a country is formed for union, wealth,
and strength. It can have but one capital, and
that will be a Thebes; but one commercial empori-
um, and that will be a Tyre, queen of cities.
Such a country can have but one people, one in-
terest, one Government; and that people should
be American, that interest ours, and that Govern-
ment Republican. Accursed and infamous be the
man that divides or alienates it."

We will gain nothing by withholding the notice,
and meanwhile it is our duty—we owe it to our
own hardy pioneers—to quiet the question of title.
It cannot be disguised that the feeling which pre-
vails in that part of the country from which these
emigrants go, is, that the territory is ours, and that
we are going to protect it by our laws. The emi-
grants themselves believe it, as firmly as if it were
already written in the statute-book. They went
there in the same spirit in which the Pilgrims came
to Plymouth; with the same patriotism, the same
love and admiration of free government, and the
same desire to enlarge the area of freedom.

I had intended to say much more on this sub-
ject, but I perceive that my time is fast elapsing.

I regret that the correspondence between our
Secretary of State and the British Envoy came in
before I had an opportunity of making the remarks
I had wished to submit to the committee. I would
not have it understood that anything, from any
quarter, would have any weight with me, beyond
its own intrinsic truth. I was, however, glad to
learn that the President had refused to arbitrate
this question; in this the people will triumphantly
sustain him. But I feel it to be due to myself and
to my constituents, to declare, that—much as I
venerate the character and standing of our distin-
guished Chief Magistrate—if the offer made by
him of latitude 49° as a boundary line had been
accepted by the British Minister, the people of the
West would have denounced the act in such terms
of censure as would have made all future Presi-
dents tremble. I regret exceedingly that Mr. Polk
ever made this offer. I have no doubt he was ac-
tuated in that offer by the purest and best of mo-
tives—in my judgment there are few wiser heads
than his, or purer hearts; but he allowed his sin-
cere deference for the acts of his predecessors to
peril his own popularity. The offer, happily, was
not accepted, and no very serious consequences
have ensued. Had it been accepted, this Admin-
istration would have been forever prostrated—as
will any other that ever hereafter shall surrender a
single inch of American soil, the title to which is
clear and unquestionable.