

it in the assertion of the principle of demanding nothing but what is clearly right, and submitting to nothing wrong, the more readily may we hope for a speedy and favorable issue.

Sir, the danger may be remote—apprehension may be causeless. I am inclined to think that the time has gone by when the combined interests of European monarchies could seriously think of arresting the progress of human rights, at least on the western continent. But “coming events cast their shadows before.” The insidious suggestion of a balance of power upon this continent manifests a trembling apprehension that the Atlantic is not broad and deep enough to protect the East from the all-encroaching influences of rational but progressive Democracy. The political atmosphere of Europe has become dark and lurid; elements never before combined are now found in close alliance. Our ancient friend and ally is prompt to suggest to its ancient and hereditary enemy the readiest means of checking the progress of the far-reaching Republic. The gathering storm is preceded by the deep mutterings of the distant thunder. No human foresight can foretell the fearful catastrophe which may be produced by the bold assertion of a political right, when the contest is stimulated by the passions engendered in the warfare of conflicting principles. Hampden, by resisting the collection of a sixpenny tax, aroused a spirit in England which never again slept until it had overturned the throne, and brought the head of its monarch to the block. The colonies, by resisting an equally trifling tax upon tea, dismembered the British empire, and laid the foundation for a great and now powerful Republic. What mighty revolutions may now be on the verge of their accomplishment, it is impossible for us to foresee. In the mean time, it is our policy to await coolly the progress of events, with a firm reliance upon our undoubted rights, and a stern determination to maintain them at all and every hazard.

Sir, my allotted time has nearly expired, and I have but a word more to say. I hope that the boundary of the 49th parallel may be understood

to be our ultimate offer, and that it will not be renewed, but that it will be considered the limit of our claim, whilst the peaceful relations of the two countries remain unbroken; but if, contrary to my judgment and my sense of justice, the doctrine of the whole of Oregon or none should prevail with the Administration, I would then say that I am fully aware of the objections to engaging in a war with Great Britain upon the issue presented in this controversy. Perhaps no American citizen now living could be personally benefited by the result of the contest, however favorable. It would imply, then, a large draught upon our national feelings to expect a cordial and unanimous assent to measures which must, of necessity, involve such a mighty sacrifice. But, sir, I can easily understand that there may be conditions of national rights and national honor which imperiously demand this last evidence of devotion to one's country. Fully impressed with the fearful responsibility resting upon the representatives of the people, I would then cease to inquire into the justice or expediency of maintaining the stand taken by the Executive; I would merely counsel the most prompt and liberal appropriations for the public defence, and, if war be inevitable—as I believe it would be in that contingency—for prosecuting it with vigor; for, while my sanguine hopes for her future prosperity prompt the patriotic sentiment—“My country, may she ever be right,” yet the knowledge that my fortunes, by inclination, if not necessity, are inseparably connected with hers, impels me to add, “but right or wrong, still my country.” My feelings and sympathies are associated indissolubly with the land of my birth; and if her fair promise and high hopes are to be realized in her future greatness, I shall, in common with the rest of my countrymen, enjoy the glory of the alliance; but if the cloud which is now lowering is to burst with fatal fury, and her bright star is destined to set in darkness and gloom, I cannot, I seek not, to separate my fortunes. I and mine, and all that I prize and love, must share her fate.