

the mere weight of an ordinary legislative debate, but with all the evidences of deliberation and arrangement; and, therefore, calculated to be more dangerous in propagating error.

[It was now three o'clock, and Mr. D. gave way to a motion of

Mr. SEVIER, that the Senate adjourn.

The Senate accordingly adjourned.

THURSDAY, February 19, 1846.

Mr. DIX was about to resume his remarks which he had not concluded at the hour of adjournment yesterday, but yielded the floor to

Mr. J. M. CLAYTON, who said he desired an opportunity to offer a few remarks relative to an allusion made to him by the Senator from New York, [Mr. Dix,] in the opening of his speech yesterday. He is reported to have said:

"In entering into the debate on the question under consideration, I feel constrained to differ in opinion with two distinguished Senators who have preceded me, in relation to the manner in which the discussion should be conducted. I allude to the Senator from Ohio, [Mr. ALLEN,] who opened the debate, and the Senator from Delaware, [Mr. J. M. CLAYTON,] who followed him not now in his seat. Both took the ground, and with equal peremptoriness, that the title to Oregon ought not to be discussed, but for totally different reasons—the Senator from Ohio, because the time for discussing it had gone by, and the Senator from Delaware, because the time for discussing it had not arrived. With the unfeigned respect which I entertain for them, I dissent from their opinion with great diffidence of my own."

As the Senator said, he (Mr. C.) was temporarily absent from his seat, but came in a few minutes after the Senator had made that remark. He had mistaken his (Mr. C.'s) position. When he had the honor of addressing the Senate on the 12th instant, he did object to the discussion of the title in open session, but he avowed distinctly at the time his perfect willingness to enter at any moment on that discussion in executive session. He did not mean to say, nor did he think that he was generally understood at the time as meaning to say, that he objected to the discussion of the question at that very moment. On the contrary, he thought that he expressed his willingness to go into it then, if his associates in the Senate wished to do so—but in executive session. And he begged the Senator to recollect the reason which he assigned why the discussion should be so conducted. He said that, if the question were to be settled by treaty between the two Governments, the remarks made in open session were calculated to prejudice, and must necessarily prejudice, the question which would arise upon the treaty. He thought then, and he thought so still, that if the question were to be settled in that manner, great danger might arise from these public discussions, because it would be recollected that it took but nineteen of them to defeat any treaty; and if the discussion became extended, as was very likely, there was danger that nineteen Senators might become so committed before the whole country in regard to the title, and differing from the Executive, why, then, was it not obvious that their consideration of the treaty would be seriously tram-

melled? On the other hand, he thought then, and thought still, that if discussed in executive session, no such difficulty could occur; no man would be then committed before the country. But open discussion was attended with the danger of so many men committing themselves on some parallel of latitude different from that presented in the treaty.

If the Senator would pardon him a few moments longer, he would make a single reference to a remark which fell from the honorable Senator from Indiana, [Mr. HANNEGAN.] He seemed to apprehend that there was greater danger of strangling Oregon in that chamber than elsewhere. How so? He (Mr. C.) could not possibly comprehend that. If the title to Oregon be clear—if it be such a title as the country could stand up for and fight for—it was one that would bear discussion in executive session as well as anywhere else, and the only difference was, that it would be much more safely discussed in executive session than in open session. The honorable Senator, however, at the conclusion of his eloquent address, seemed to apprehend that if the Senate took the responsibility of discussing this question in secret session, perhaps some Caius Gracchus might drive us from our seats, and forcibly expel our President from his elevated seat.

Mr. HANNEGAN. If the Senator from Delaware will allow me, I will restate what I uttered in this particular, and a misreport of which was given in both the Union and Intelligencer, so gross as to be ridiculous.

Mr. J. M. CLAYTON yielded the floor, when

Mr. H. said, that the language he uttered was, that the withdrawal of so momentous a question from the public eye for secret deliberation and discussion, to be followed—as perchance it might be—by a silent and sudden death of the measure in direct violation of the will of three-fifths of the American people, would be a most serious, if not a melancholy hour in the history of the country. It might prelude the entrance of some Caius Gracchus into that hitherto consecrated chamber, whose heart, big with the fires of freedom, and roused by such an outrage upon public rights, would lead him to address the mighty tribunal without, and by this simple change of attitude, (here Mr. H. pointed to the doors of the Senate, and raised his hands to the galleries,) turning from that venerated chair, reverse thenceforth the cherished forms of this body, impair its dignity, and destroy its lofty and commanding attitude.

Mr. CLAYTON was glad to hear that explanation.]

Mr. DIX then proceeded with his remarks, and said:

I beg the Senator from Delaware to be assured that nothing would give me more pain than to misstate any Senator on this floor; and I accept with great pleasure the explanation which he has made. I desire also to say, in justice to him, as well as to the Senator from Ohio, that I did not use the term "peremptoriness" in referring to the manner in which they had insisted that the question of title ought not, in their opinion, to be discussed. I said they had taken the position in equally strong language.

I now resume the consideration of the important question on which I had the honor to address the