

correspondence had taken place, between the British Minister and the Executive of the United States, which would be laid before the House without delay. As to the instructions, he was not aware that the President had been called upon to give any.

Mr. GENTRY proceeded. My opinions, then, are sustained in part by the revelation made by the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs; and, in my humble judgment, when time and circumstances shall have revealed to us all the facts of the case, the opinions which I have expressed will be fully sustained. The Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs tells us that some correspondence has *recently* taken place between the British Minister and the Executive of the United States. I am happy to hear it. I congratulate the country upon that fact. Some progress has been made towards a resumption of negotiation, and the reason for giving notice of the termination of the convention of 1818 ceases; for it was upon the ground that negotiation was at an end that the President recommended that the notice should be given; and it was upon the ground that notice would induce a resumption of negotiation that gentlemen have urged, in this debate, the adoption of the resolution which proposes to give that notice. When all the truth shall be known, it will be seen, that my conjectures relative to the instructions given to Mr. McLane will also be sustained. Until those instructions shall be brought fully to the light I will not express an opinion as to the conduct of the Executive in relation to our Oregon difficulties; until then I abstain from expressing any opinion upon some subjects to which our attention has been somewhat *provoked* by the declarations of the friends of the present Executive Administration during this debate; until then I reserve the expression of my opinion with reference to the declaration made by the gentleman from New York, (Mr. P. KING,) when he said that he "could not but think that the Administration had been greatly in error when it made to England the offer of the 49th parallel of latitude. It might become embarrassed by having assumed such a position. With the responsibility, however, which pertained to him as an American citizen, Mr. K. should freely express his opinions. It had been said that the Administration must have felt sure the offer would be rejected, or it never would have been made. The offer was rejected, and the position of the Administration rendered stronger thereby; and thus it had been saved from experiencing any injury from the error it had committed, if error it was." And further: "Any man of common sense might have known that such a proposition to the British Government would be rejected, as it has been, without even being remitted across the water." Until then I reserve my opinion in regard to the declaration of the gentleman from S. Carolina, (Mr. RHETT,) when he, in reply to the gentleman from New York, (Mr. P. KING,) said that "as the gentleman had been so kind as to inform the House what was said elsewhere of Mr. Calhoun and the South, he would take the liberty of telling the gentleman, in return, what was said of him and those who voted with him in this matter. It was said that this was a quarrel got up for purposes of political power and of President-gambling, and not for Oregon at all; that it was a profligate gambling with the limbs, and lives, and blood, and happiness, of the people of the United States, for an object like this, for the gratification of a reckless ambition."

Perhaps it would be prudent, also, to abstain from expressing an opinion upon the imputation made by the same gentleman from New York against a distinguished Senator from South Carolina, (Mr. CALHOUN,) who is now, most honorably to himself, exerting his high talents and large influence, in the other wing of this Capitol, to preserve the peace of the country; but I would feel that I was conniving at the grossest injustice if I were to fail to express my most unqualified disbelief of the truth of that imputation. I adjourn the discussion of these and other similar allusions, which have been made by the friends of the present Administration in this debate, to the effect that this war about Oregon is only intended to be a war for political purposes, for party effect; a war to strike down one aspirant to the Presidency and build up another. *Future developments* will shed light upon these topics which we are not *now* permitted to see. I do not feel authorized to speak all that I think at present; for if, despite the exertions of the patriotic, the country shall be involved in all the calamities of war, it will be the duty of every patriotic citizen, whether in private or public station, to sustain the constituted

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