

## THE OREGON QUESTION.

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The Resolution from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, requiring the President to notify Great Britain of the intention of the United States to terminate the joint occupancy of Oregon, and to abrogate the convention of 1827, being under consideration in Committee of the Whole--

Mr. FICKLIN addressed the committee as follows:

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The immense concourse of persons who have pressed to the Capitol each day, and the profound and unusual attention bestowed by members on this floor, sufficiently indicate the importance of the subject under discussion.

The masses everywhere are aroused, and the intense interest felt here is but an epitome of public sentiment in the States.

The Texas resolutions, which were introduced into this House at the last session with more than doubts of their success, gained strength at every step of their onward progress; and on the night of their final passage through the other end of the Capitol, a dread and deathlike silence pervaded the eager throng, who watched with throbbing hearts the first gleams of the new star ascending to its place in our political firmament.

A zeal no less burning—an excitement no less overwhelming—is destined to impel our citizens forward, until the Oregon question is satisfactorily and finally adjusted; and those politicians who recklessly attempt to breast the current of popular opinion, will as certainly be swept away by its wave.

Our geographical position, and the indomitable energy of our people, alike proclaim that this must become an ocean-bound republic; and the decree has gone forth, that we shall acquire territory on this continent whenever we may rightfully do so, and that we should not part with one foot of that which legitimately belongs to us. †

"Texas and Oregon" were cradled together in the Baltimore convention, were inscribed on our banners, and were flung to the breeze in every portion of the Union. The annexation of the former was a bloodless achievement, and the occupation of the latter will be equally so, if we be firm and united. We should suffer no sectional jealousy, no touch of selfish or mercenary feeling, to warp our judgment on a question of this character. Nor should we stop to inquire whether the proposed acquisition of territory, east or west, north or south, gives the balance of power to this or that section of the Union; but, looking with an eye single to the aggrandizement of the nation as a whole, we should extend our limits whenever we can do so without invading the rights of others. On casting about, I am gratified to learn that most of the southern States, unbiassed by sectional jealousies, are with us on this question; and that a large majority of their members on this floor, animated by the true American feeling, are found in the front ranks doing battle for Oregon. The parallel between Texas and Oregon is striking in this, that those of our friends who took the responsibility to vote against Texas fell under the reproaches, not to say denunciations of their brethren, and endured all the horrors of the