

from the same causes, to meet Great Britain in a mortal struggle, in which one or the other people must be overthrown. But the gentleman's policy, in precipitating a contest now concerning Oregon, is utterly at variance with such anticipations. If such a contest is to arise, is it our policy to make or hasten it? Time can win us Oregon. Time can place us above such a struggle, or give us power successfully to meet it. Look at our progress to greatness and power. Already, in fifty years, upwards of twenty millions of people, daily increasing beyond all parallel, with a commerce, binding to us, in the golden chains of interest, every nation in every clime. We are gaining, and Great Britain, is relatively losing power every day, both in Oregon and throughout the world. Why should we interrupt our certain and inevitable destiny to supremacy amongst the nations of the earth, by a premature contest, if called for by neither interest nor honor? If Great Britain should believe gentlemen's speculations to be true, she, indeed, might urge on the contest; or, what for her would be far better, leave it to those who are here pressing matters to an issue with her, to work out her policy. But this is not the course which American interests require. Give us fifty, thirty, twenty years—and we can defy Great Britain or the world.

But we are not to have the war with Great Britain alone, if the nature of the struggle shall be such as gentlemen have vauntingly and defyingly maintained. They say, that it will be a war between systems of government—between monarchy and republicanism—between despotic and free governments. Now, that Great Britain should endeavor to give this aspect to any war she may have with us, for any cause, is natural enough. If she can succeed in making the crowned heads of Europe believe, that the spirit of Revolutionary France is abroad in the United States; and that we have seized the sword, to overturn their thrones, and force liberty throughout the world, she will not lack allies in her cause. Our fate—the fate of republican government, entrusted to our care and maintenance, will be sealed. Great as we may be, it will hardly be maintained, that we can vanquish all Christendom combined against us. Sir, again I ask the question, if this is to be the contest, what can we gain by precipitating it? Should we not wait—wait until we gather the strength, which time is certainly and inevitably bringing to our aid? Wait until we are assailed—and then, wait still longer if we can, whilst we make preparations better to fight for liberty and life. If Oregon is to involve us in a contest, in which our very existence is to be staked, let us understand the issue. We are to get Oregon, by vanquishing the world!!

But admit that we succeed—we overthrow the British empire—plant our

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