

world, and before the American people. Whoever, therefore, votes for this measure, foreseeing, but not desiring its consequences, will be far more responsible for the result, in a moral point of view, than the administration which has acted, as I believe, from an honest though erroneous conviction of duty.

Mr. Chairman, I will conclude by observing, that I am fully aware that nothing which I can say will influence the action of this House. I never expected that it would. But I have presented my views upon this subject fully and frankly, in order that I may place myself fairly before my constituents and friends, who alone feel an interest in my course. My sole aim has been to vindicate myself with them. Would to God that I had the power to reach the heart of the House and the nation! Would to God that I could persuade them to beware, ere they precipitated themselves into a war, and exposed themselves to consequences which no eye but that above can measure or pursue. I would beseech my countrymen first to exhaust all the means of preserving peace with honor. They owe

this to themselves and their posterity, to the character of the country, to the hopes of our race, and the great interests of humanity. If these measures should fail, and war should become inevitable, we should go into it a united people, with one heart and with one mind. We should go into it with those high feelings with which conscious rectitude, and an outraged spirit can alone inspire a man or a people. We should carry with us the sympathies of Christendom; and, more than all, we might devoutly invoke the blessing of the God of battles in a contest which we had alone nothing to provoke, and we had sought by all honorable means to avert. If war should become the only remedy for wounded honor and violated right, all will rally to the rescue of the country, and to avenge its wrongs. As devoted as any in the glorious band, I will venture to say, the sons of the South will be found at the post of duty—not standing by as cold-hearted spectators, or as laggards in the day of trial. No, sir; they will be found

True to the last of their blood and their breath;  
And like reapers descend to the harvest of death.