

strain what I may be permitted to call his impetuous patriotism. Let him not suffer it to run riot. Let him give himself up to no dream of national honor while he is blind to all the obligations which Christianity and humanity impose. Let him take no course that will not leave as he finds it his native country prosperous and happy. Carry not desolation and havoc through every corner of the land; and, above all, let him pursue that course, and be animated by that spirit, which shall bring on us the praise and approbation instead of the curses of the world.

I am not here, (continued Mr. JOHNSON,) for the purpose of assailing the validity of the American title, and I wish not to be so understood. The title, and the means of defending it, are in the hands of the legitimate department of the Government; and whilst thus in other hands, I am not about to question it to the extent to which I think our title goes, and where I am sure the President intends to carry it, unless driven into a war by the obstinacy of England. But I would rather my head should be stricken off than awaken the American heart into being the aggressor.

How is the negotiation to be again resumed? What are the steps most likely to bring about that result? Are things to remain as they are, or is the advice of the President to us to be adopted? I confess that on this subject my mind has been solicitously anxious, and has undergone recently a change, and that change has been owing to facts to which I have already alluded, impressing me with the conviction, in which I am sure I cannot be deceived, that the President's motives are peaceful. In what condition are we now? The title to Oregon—Oregon, all or none—may be made, not in the hands of Senators of the United States, for they are incapable of turning it to such a purpose; it may be made, I say, a party watchword; it may be made to fill the whole land, and lash it into a state of feverish excitement. Emigrants to that territory, taking the excitement with them; members of the Senate, in the exercise of their admitted authority, proclaiming to those emigrants that they stand on American soil and ought to be protected exclusively by American laws, and that every Englishman is a trespasser; a divided jurisdiction; one system of laws extending its protecting arm over one household, and another system over another; a conflict in my judgment in such a condition of things would be inevitable. The state of things provided for by the treaty of 1818, and continued by that of 1827, cannot last, nor will it last. How, then, is a conflict to be avoided? Clearly by bringing that state of things to an end, by dividing the disputed territory, by erecting each portion into a separate sovereignty, each to be placed under the jurisdiction of its own Government. This can only be done by abrogating the treaty. England does not give the notice, and unless we do, all the dangers to which I have referred will follow.

I think the notice ought to be given, and before I sit down I shall propose a form of notice, somewhat different, but substantially the same with one which has already been submitted to the consideration of the Senate. If I was satisfied that all to which I have alluded would not drive us into a conflict, I should infinitely prefer the present condition of things. The advice of the Senator from South Carolina, (Mr. CALHOUN,) the opinion which he has expressed, wisely expressed—expressed in the very spirit of wisdom—that our policy was a masterly inactivity, was in my judgment the true policy of this nation. By emigration we would, in the course of time, necessarily have made the territory ours. But that masterly inactivity has ceased to be masterly, because of the *unmasterly activity* of some