

to be an adequate security for the peace of the two countries. And my object by the abrogation of that convention, to impose on the parties the whole weight of moral obligation or necessity that will then rest upon them to settle, permanently and definitively, their dispute about Oregon.

The suspension of the negotiation seemed to have left the parties in no good humor with each other. The resolution under consideration was, therefore, drawn in such terms as to meet the whole exigency of the case, and not only to exclude all appearance of defiance and hostility in our proceeding, but to manifest that our object was peace and amicable settlement, and to indicate, further, that to that end we desired to see a renewal of the suspended negotiation. The resolution expresses these purposes, and more, in language of respect and amity, suitable to the occasion and to ourselves.

If it be adopted, and the negotiation be resumed in the spirit of this resolution, I cannot doubt its successful termination. It can hardly be that the Executive will be regardless of the declared will of Congress on the subject. Since the suspension of the negotiation last summer, the negotiators, Mr. Buchanan and Mr. Pakenham, seem to have been confronting each other in diplomatic dignity and silence, each perhaps waiting for and desiring the other to speak the first word. These distinguished gentlemen, both of whom I have the greatest respect, will no longer hesitate—they will be sensible that it will be rather better a good deal should be abated on points of etiquette, and that their countrymen should be required to slaughter each other—they will be sensible, sir, that honor will be due to him who shall speak the first brave word for the Government. The negotiations will be resumed, and, if conducted with wisdom and moderation, they cannot fail to lead to a peaceful settlement of all our differences. War cannot ensue without a high degree of criminality on the part of the one Government or the other.

My friend from Arkansas (Mr. SEVIER) complains of this resolution because, instead of enjoining it upon him, it leaves to the President the discretion and responsibility of giving the notice. It seems to me altogether proper that it should be so. He has recommended to us to authorize the giving of notice, and must bear the responsibility of the measure. It is but suitable to his high office, as the organ of intercourse with foreign nations, that he should exercise some discretion, and take some responsibility on the occasion.

The Hon. Senator from Texas (Mr. HOUSTON) would prefer what he calls a naked apology. He does not like apologies, and would not appear before the British Premier with bated breath," asking terms of him.

I trust, sir, that I know how to appreciate the honor and dignity of my country too well to be capable of proposing anything derogatory to either. I must ask the honorable Senator whether his remarks were intended to apply to this resolution.

Mr. HOUSTON explained, and said that, in the remarks referred to, he had no reference to the resolution of the Senator from Kentucky—his remarks were general in their character and application.

Mr. CRITTENDEN resumed. I was certain the Senator could find nothing in the tone of his resolution deserving his animadversion, and we should concur entirely in the reprobation, in a matter of everything like humbleness or servility in our intercourse with foreign nations. During the present I congratulate the gentleman on his return to our national brotherhood, and I state a circular to assure him that he brings with him no more of the genuine American feeling, in the abhorrence of everything mean and humiliating, than he will find cordially and fully entertained and reciprocated here. There are some in this country who seem to think the execution of our patriotism is to be measured by the contempt with which we speak of other nations, and that our national character is to be sustained and advanced by holding the language of defiance towards the rest of the world. We should discard altogether such ideas, and learn that the true honor of a nation consists in its probity, and the maintenance of its national dignity and courage with which it maintains the right.

The Chairman of the Committee of Foreign Relations (Mr. ALLEN) has indulged in a style of remark and invective that seems to me unsuited to the occasion, or to any exposure of reconciliation or amicable adjustment between this country and England. He speaks of England and her power with contempt, and describes her as a huge, mis-