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seen. No gentleman will pretend to pronounce ab-
solutely the result. It is for us to determine what
we are to do now.

To permit the question to rest in its present con-
dition, without action on the part of our Govern-
ment, will more certainly lead to the results which
gentlemen wish to avoid than the action now pro-
posed. Oregon is now filling rapidly up with
American citizens. During the past year, seven
thousand have left their friends and home on this
side of the mountains, and are now in the valleys
of Oregon. They have carried with them the hab-
its, feelings, and the patriotism of American citi-
zens. Jealous of their rights, with a constitutional
hatred to oppression; ever disposed to oppose the
ambitious designs of England, and unwilling to
submit to the jurisdiction of her laws, which have
been extended over this territory; daring and im-
petuous; collisions must take place between the
American emigrant and the British subject in the
employment of the Hudson Bay Company. The
very agitation of the question in this House creates
a necessity for immediate action. The debates
here will be read by our countrymen on the shores
of the Pacific; their spirit will be stirred within
them when they read the glowing appeals made
to American patriotism; their hatred to British
oppression will be excited when they hear the
fierce denunciations of British rapacity made by
members upon this floor. A conflict is inevitable
there unless our rights are determined and main-
tained by our action here, by which alone a speedy
and honorable settlement of this vexed question
can be effected.

Sir, if the notice is given, it does not follow as a
matter of course that we are to take armed pos-
session of Oregon; it does not follow that we are
to attempt to drive out every English settler, or
that we are to take military possession up to 49°
so as to give offence to England. By the notice,
we only say to England that we are unwilling that
our present connexion with her in relation to the
Oregon territory should any longer be continued;
that we are desirous to determine the extent of our
rights, and to enjoy them in exclusive possession,
and to extend to our citizens there the protection
of our laws.

I am in favor of the notice, Mr. Chairman, as a
measure of peace. It is a measure of peace, and
not of war, and the sequel of this controversy will
establish these conclusions. A system of braggad-
ocio and gasconading has been practised not only
in the United States but in England in relation to
this great question. Both parties are engaged in
it; we stand here on this side of the water and
shake our fists at John Bull, and John Bull in re-
turn hurls back defiance upon us. This is the
relation of the parties, both knowing and under-
standing well the trickery attempted to be played
off upon each other.

Sir, let the notice be given. It will prove to
ourselves that we are in earnest on this great and
absorbing question; that this system of bullying
is at an end; that this question has assumed a
magnitude that demands that our rights to Oregon
shall be maintained; that the attempts to make it
a party question may be defeated and abandoned,
and that it be placed before the country in its true,
its national character.

Again, sir, I am in favor of the notice, to prove

to England that we are in earnest. She has never
believed it; she never will believe it until she re-
ceives notice from the President of the United
States that we no longer desire to hold that terri-
tory in the manner we now hold it. Let England
be convinced we are in earnest; let our people be
so convinced also; and, my word for it, nego-
tiations, when reopened, will be conducted in a
very different spirit from that which has hereto-
fore characterized them.

Let the notice be given to prove to the world
that on this question we are in earnest. Other na-
tions are looking on and watching the progress of
this controversy with anxiety and deep interest.
The issues of this question involve great and mo-
mentous consequences, not only to ourselves, but
to the world. Should war be the result—should
the two greatest nations of the globe engage in a
long and bloody war—nations which are the bul-
warks of Christianity, of moral and religious civi-
lization—it will not be confined to the original par-
ties—to Great Britain and the United States. Sir,
the breaking out of such a war would put the
match to a magazine whose explosion would con-
vulse the world.

There is another reason why this notice should
be given. The country is now in an agitated and un-
settled condition. All is doubt. Uncertainty every
where prevails. It affects every branch of indus-
try; it paralyzes the business of the country and
unravels the strong arm of the mechanic. The
commerce and finances of the nation, the revenues
of the Government, and all the pursuits of active
life, must suffer, and suffer severely, from a longer
continuance of the uncertainty with which this sub-
ject is surrounded. This uncertainty, this *quasi*
war, must be removed. This can be effected by
the notice proposed. It will give us peace. Let
the country know what to expect. Either let them
be certified that there will be no war, or, if war
must come, let the fact be known; and if war is to
be the result, let it come now. Let us not desire
to delay it, and thus reserve its horrors for our pos-
terity. This would be cowardice. If it is to come,
let it fall on our own heads—on the heads of those
who have occasioned it. This cowardly shrink-
ing from present responsibility is incompatible
with the honor of the American statesman, with
the honor of the American character. Should the
conflict come, the rights and the honor of the coun-
try will be nobly sustained—sustained with all the
energy of a great and powerful nation; sustained
by the united hearts and united arms of a brave
and generous people. But, sir, there will be no
war.

There is yet another reason for the notice. If
we wish to perfect our title to Oregon, we must
give the notice. So long as this convention con-
tinues in force this cannot be done. When the
convention shall have been annulled, then, sir, all
the settlements made there by our emigrants will
inure to our benefit, and our title acquire additional
strength from possession and occupation. The set-
tlement of the country, in itself considered, during
the existence of the joint occupancy, evidently
gives us no title: it confers, however, one impor-
tant benefit—it gives us the power to maintain our
rights there. We require additional numerical
force in Oregon. To secure this, dissolve all con-
nexion with England; extend over our citizens the