

## S P E E C H .

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The SPEAKER announced, as the unfinished business, the following joint resolution, reported by Mr. C. J. INGERSOLL, from the Committee on Foreign Affairs:

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the President of the United States forthwith cause notice to be given to the Government of Great Britain that the Convention between the United States and Great Britain, concerning the Territory of Oregon, of the sixth of August, 1827, signed at London, shall be annulled and abrogated twelve months after the expiration of the said term of notice, conformably to the second article of the said convention of the sixth of August, 1827.*

Mr. HILLIARD, being entitled to the floor, rose and said:

MR. SPEAKER: In entering upon the discussion of the great question, at present before the House, it will be proper for a moment to recur to the history of the relations of the Government of the United States with that of Great Britain in regard to the Territory of Oregon. It is well known, that, after several fruitless attempts had been made to adjust the difference between them in relation to the sovereignty of that district of country, both Powers had at length agreed to adjourn the question over, and they had mutually entered into the convention of 1818, by which treaty it was understood that the two parties were to enjoy certain privileges in regard to the territory, which were clearly specified and defined. In the summer of 1827, when this convention was about to expire, by its own limitation, provision was made to perpetuate this mutual understanding, simply with the purpose of preserving peace between the parties, and without yielding any portion of the original claims which had been respectively put forth. It is now proposed in this House to terminate that convention, conformably to a provisional article embodied in the instrument itself.

Should that termination be brought about as proposed, what will be the relative positions of this country and of Great Britain in regard to the Oregon territory? For an answer to this question we are referred back to the relation subsisting between them before the convention was entered into. That relation must, then, be renewed, and the two nations will stand as conflicting claimants before the civilized world for the entire control over the whole territory. Here, then, comes in the question as to our title—whether founded on discovery, exploration, and settlement, by our own citizens, or resting on the claims of Spain; for we shall bring both our own title and the title of Spain to fortify our position, when we meet our competitor in the presence of the civilized world. I shall not enter on this question of title, it has recently been exhibited with great ability, and I should only render myself tedious by repeating arguments which have already been placed in the clearest light. I simply desire to say, that, on the question of our title