

Again, it is obvious from the present state of our relations with Mexico that, if we have a war with Great Britain, we shall certainly have a war at the same time with Mexico. A war with this latter country we are likely enough to have at any rate; and even this, as we have already hinted, may give us more to keep our hands employed, and to drain our pockets, than many people suppose, especially if it should be managed by us in the Florida style, or as the war on the frontiers of Upper Canada was managed during the greater part of the last contest with Great Britain. But, in case we have a war with Great Britain, a war at the same time with Mexico would be a very serious additional calamity. Mexico, protected by British naval armaments from an attack in the gulf of Mexico, and assisted by British treasure and British skill, would be a much more dangerous antagonist than Mexico single-handed and unaided. She could, by distracting our efforts, render immense service to her ally. Besides this, we might calculate on all the Indians on our western and northwestern frontiers as bitter enemies, and perhaps on some within our territories, who are far from being satisfied with the treatment which they have in many instances received from the government at Washington.*

In enumerating the dangers of a war with Great Britain for the whole of Oregon, I might notice the temper and feelings with which both nations would enter into the contest. This country must obviously enter into it a divided people. A large and most respectable portion of the community feel persuaded of the injustice and the

which, Mr. Gallatin says, they have been "personally exposed," and which, I think, he somewhat exaggerates. It is to be remembered, that in most serious collisions which have happened on the borders, the citizens of this country have been the aggressors.

* I leave out of the account altogether the difficulties which would attend an attempt to maintain our ground in Oregon, as no such attempt would likely be made. The defence of that territory, and of the settlers in it, would have to be entirely abandoned. Mr. Calhoun's opinions—of the efficiency of the Mexicans as allies of Great Britain, of the impossibility of defending Oregon, and of the dangers arising from incursions of the Indians on our northwestern borders—presented in his speech in the Senate since the above was written, are much stronger and more decided than those which I had ventured to assert. The views exhibited on these and on kindred matters in Mr. Calhoun's speech ought, both on account of their own intrinsic importance, and the great intelligence, experience and respectability of their author, to produce, and no doubt will produce, a deep impression on all considerate men.