

non or a block house to defend them, and hundreds of miles of trackless mountains intervening, to prevent our aid. At least, she can maintain her position, and prevent our conquest. If the people of Oregon, British and American, however, act with wisdom, they will keep the peace with each other, and leave the two nations to fight out the war between themselves. After the first gun is fired, we will hear no more of Oregon on this side of the Rocky Mountains. Our people, will have quite fighting enough to employ them nearer home, involving far nearer and dearer interests. The taking or re-taking of Canada, Nova Scotia, or New Brunswick—the maritime supremacy of the seas—our ravaged coasts or burning cities, will demand all the energies rage, ambition, and lust can give to war. As the Duke of Wellington once said in the British Parliament, a war with the United States, can be no “little war.” The fact, that it shall have arisen for such a cause as Oregon, so fairly liable to adjustment, if there was any disposition for peace, will be an infallible indication, of the extremities to which it must go. It must be common to every sea and continent; and convulse, perhaps involve, the whole civilized world in its fearful ravages. How can Oregon be gained by such a war? In but one way. We must be successful, and overthrow the mighty fabric of the British empire. We cannot gain it by a drawn fight, after mutual injuries, like our last war, concluded without the original cause of its existence, being even mentioned in the terms of peace. The nature of the object contended for, will not admit of this. The spirit which creates the contest will not tolerate it. We must, in language used in the other end of the Capitol, be able “to dictate our terms at the cannon’s mouth.” The mightiest nation since the days of Rome, must be vanquished by our arms; and her pride and her glory, be torn from her forever. She is of the same great race with ourselves; and it would be disparaging our proud ancestry to suppose, that any other than a long, exhausting, and terrific struggle, can accomplish her downfall.

Sir, I ask gentlemen, with the most extravagant estimate of our resources, are they sure that we are adequate to such an enterprise, and can thus obtain Oregon? They ought to be sure, for the sacrifices are too mighty to be risked on hazards. It may be, as the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. OWEN) intimated, that we may be compelled to meet Great Britain in arms, and dispute her ascendancy in the world. History has shown that nations, when great, will aim at supremacy; and, from being rivals, soon look upon each other as enemies. Carthage and Rome in ancient times; and Great Britain and France for many centuries past, elucidate this tendency in nations. Despite the strong ties of origin and interests, we may be compelled,