

who shall bring it upon us will be not only heavy enough to sink a navy, but will cause those who bring it about to live, as long as God shall suffer them to live, with the execrations of the world upon them, and in a state of self-reproach and mental agony altogether indescribable. I fancy I know how the Senator from Illinois would feel when a widowed wife shall approach him, and looking him reproachfully in the face, shall say: "You are the cause of all this wretchedness; a false sense of national honor goaded you on, till you have brought upon us all this misery. There lies my husband, a blackened corse; and here am I, with my orphan children, wretched beyond utterance; and all for nothing! for, after all, Oregon is lost." And the Senator from Illinois will pardon me for saying he would hang his head in unmitigated regret and shame; he would call the mountains to fall on him; he would give the wealth of the world, if he had it, to bring back that general and individual peace and happiness, which, but for him, might have continued long to bless his native land.

The age we live in denounces war—that savage, beastly mode of settling either territorial or individual controversies. As has been recently said by one now on the verge of the grave, and whose whole life has been devoted to the cause of benevolence, "War is fit only for wild beasts, but is beneath the reason and dignity of man." And as has also been beautifully said by one of England's proudest sons,

"The drying up a single tear has more  
Of honest fame than shedding seas of gore."

The spirit of the age denounces such savage barbarity. That other spirit, which led two powerful Governments to make an amicable and honorable arrangement of a dispute, once so threatening, in regard to our northeastern boundary now prevails—a settlement which the Senator from Ohio thought proper to stigmatize as dishonorable to the nation. If there were nothing else in the life of the American negotiator who participated in that happy result—if he had not before, and often, both in the forum and in the public councils of this nation, filled the measure of human renown—his correspondence upon that occasion alone won for him a reputation for penetrating sagacity, for matchless intellectual power, for sterling patriotism, such as has rarely been equalled, never surpassed, by any statesman, dead or living. I beg pardon for speaking thus in the presence in which I stand; I am defending the nation, rather than the negotiator.

The Senate will pardon me for saying further, that so commanding, so powerful was the influence of a part of that correspondence on a subject which threatened to involve the country in war, that Lord Aberdeen, after reading the views of the American negotiator on the right of search, pronounced the prediction that from that day forward no impressment would again be made of an American sailor. Yet the Senator from Ohio seems to think that in that negotiation the national honor was seriously injured.

Mr. SEVIER. If the Senator will pardon the interruption, I should be glad to ask his authority for stating that such was the remarks of Lord Aberdeen?

Mr. JOHNSON. I speak from personal authority. I thought I said so.

If such ends can be accomplished by negotiation, if such ends have been accomplished, I invite Senators, in justice to themselves, in charity to the nation, to encourage and support, one and all, what I have no doubt is the determination of the Chief Magistrate, to settle the present controversy by the same means. Let the Senator from Indiana, (Mr. HANNBROOK,) learn to re-