

tween different sections of our Union, is not of southern growth. We advocated the annexation of Texas as a "great national measure;" we saw in it the extension of the principles entrusted to our care. And if in the progress of the question it assumed a sectional hue, the coloring came from the opposition that it met; an opposition based not upon a showing of the injury it would bring to them, but upon the supposition that benefits would be obtained by us.

Why is it that Texas is referred to, and treated as a southern measure merely, though its northern latitude is 42°? and why has the West so often been reminded of its services upon Texas annexation? Is it to divide the South and West? If so, let those who seek this object cease from their travail, for their end can never be attained. A common agricultural interest unites us in a common policy, and the hand that sows seeds of dissension between us will find, if they spring from the ground, that the foot of fraternal intercourse will tread them back to earth.

The streams that rise in the West flow on and are accumulated into the rivers of the South; they bear the products of one to the other, and bind the interests of the whole indissolubly together. The wishes of the one wake the sympathies of the other. On Texas annexation the voice of Mississippi found an echo in the West, and Mississippi re-echoes the call of the West on the question of Oregon. Though this Government has done nothing adequate to the defence of Mississippi, though by war she has much to lose and nothing to gain, yet she is willing to encounter it, if necessary to maintain our rights in Oregon. Her Legislature has recently so resolved, and her Gov. error, in a late message, says: If war comes "to us it will bring blight and desolation; yet we are ready for the crisis." Sir, could there be a higher obligation on the representative of such a people than to restrain excitement—than to oppose a policy that threatens an unnecessary war?

Mr. Chairman, I wish not to eulogize the State which I have in part the honor here to represent; and her history, brief as it is, relieves me from the necessity of pledging her services to our Union in the hour of its need. But the marked omission of the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. L. H. Sims,] requires my attention. In recounting the services of the past as earnest for the future, he gave to every neighboring name a place, but left out Mississippi. Passed over it unheeded in his transit from Alabama to New Orleans. Sir, let me tell him that Mississippi's sons bled freely in the Creek campaigns, and were leaders at Pensacola; further let me tell him that when they heard of an invading foe upon the coast of Louisiana, the spirit was so general to sally forth and meet him at the outer gate, that our Governor issued orders to restrain their going; and on the field to which he has so specially alluded—the battle of New Orleans, Mississippi dragoons, led by our gallant Hinds, performed that feat, which the commanding general announced as the admiration of one army and the wonder of the other. Sir, I will only add, that whenever the honor of our country is assailed, whenever its territory is invaded—to the North or to the South, to the East or to the West—if then we shall be warned of the prowess of the foe; if then we shall hear of armed fleets that skim along the sea and wait like

birds of prey to stoop upon our commerce; if then we shall be threatened with a cloud of banners that folded wait to gather on our sky, and darken it with the storm of war; from the gulf shore to the banks of our mighty river, through the length and breadth of Mississippi, her sons will answer with defiance, and scornfully reply,

"Free be your banners flung, we're loth
Their silken folds should feed the moth."

Mr. Chairman, why have such repeated calls been made upon the South to rally to the rescue? When, where, or how, has she been laggard or deserter?

In 1776, the rights of man were violated in the outrages upon the northern Colonies, and the South united in a war for their defence. In 1812, the flag of our Union was insulted, our sailors' rights invaded; and though the interests infringed were mainly northern, war was declared, and the opposition to its vigorous prosecution came not from the South. We entered it for the common cause, and for the common cause we freely met its sacrifices. If, sir, we have not been the "war party in peace," neither have we been "the peace party in war," and I will leave the past to answer for the future.

If we have not sought the acquisition of provinces by conquest, neither have we desired to exclude from our Union such as, drawn by the magnet of free institutions, have peacefully sought for admission. From sire to son, has descended our federative creed; opposed to the idea of sectional conflict for private advantage, and favoring the wider expanse of our Union. If envy, and jealousy, and sectional strife, are eating like rust in the bonds our fathers expected to bind us, they come from causes which our southern atmosphere has never furnished. As we have shared in the toils, so we have gloried in the triumphs of our country. In our hearts, as in our history, are mingled the names of Concord and Camden, and Saratoga, and Lexington, and Plattsburg, and Chippewa, and Erie, and Moultrie, and New Orleans, and Yorktown, and Bunker Hill. Grouped together, they form a record of the triumphs of our cause, a monument of the common glory of our Union. What southern man would wish it less by one of the northern names of which it is composed. Or where is he who, gazing on the obelisk that rises from the ground made sacred by the blood of Warren, would feel his patriot's pride suppressed by local jealousy? Type of the men, the event, the purpose it commemorates, that column rises stern, even severe, in its simplicity; neither niche nor moulding for parasite or creeping thing to rest on; composed of material that defies the waves of time, and pointing like a finger to the source of noblest thought. Beacon of freedom, it guides the present generation to retrace the fountain of our years and stand beside its source; to contemplate the scene where Massachusetts and Virginia, as stronger brothers of the family, stood foremost to defend our common rights; and remembrance of the petty jarrings of to-day are buried in the nobler friendship of an earlier time.

Yes, sir, and when ignorance, led by fanatic hate, and armed by all uncharitableness, assails a domestic institution of the South, I try to forgive, for the sake of the righteous among the wicked—our natural allies, the Democracy of the North. Thus, sir, I leave to silent contempt the malign predic-

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