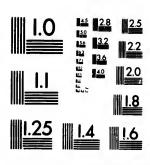


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SPEECH

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MR. HAMLIN, OF MAINE,

ON THE

OREGON QUESTION.

DELIVERED

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

JANUARY 12, 1846.

WASHINGTON:
PRINTED AT THE UNION OFFICE.
1846.

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SPEECH.

4r. J. R. INGERSOLL, who gave notice of an endment which he should offer when in orwhich was read as follows.

evolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of United States of America in Congress assembled, That President of the United States be, and he hereby is, auized to open, at such time as he may deem expedient, a etiation with the government of Great Britain for the pose of terminating, by mutual consent, the convention ch was entered into between the two governments on 6th of August, 1827.

Ar. HAMLIN resumed the floor, and addressed committee during the allotted hour. He came he consideration of the question now presented them, he trusted, with a full understanding of momentous importance, and of the magnitude of interests that were committed to their hands to affected for weal or for wo by the right or the mg decision of this question. The eyes of twenmillions of people were watching their action s, and the hearts of twenty millions of freemen beating with anxiety as to the action at ch they were finally to arrive; and it had been Isaid by the venerable gentleman from Massasetts, [Mr. Adams,] that for years that were there had not been, and for years to come there ald not be, a question submitted to the American gress equal in its moment, equal in its impor-

efore proceeding directly to the discussion of question, he designed to refer, and in a few reks to reply, to positions which had been taken centlemen who had preceded him in this debate. I first, he concurred most cheerfully and most rtily in the sentiments of the gentlemen who had nediately preceded him in relation to the characand the course the debate had assumed, and by it should be diverted to no improper direction. r, wan, had been shouted within these walls and oed over our vast country, to re-act again upon body; and by whom, and on what authority e these echoes sent abroad through the land? cared not whether the shout came up within se walls-whether it was manufactured here or where—he should not be diverted from his path a measure extending our laws over the Oregon clamor, then how long would it be before we would

fr. HAMLIN obtained the floor, but yielded it territory. He referred to a bill prepared by the late amoment to and lamented Doct. Linn. Why was it that gentle-dr. J. R. INGERSOLL, who gave notice of an er the facts here or elsewhere justified, and a position taken in order to produce a panic. Rome had her punic wars, but it was reserved for us to have our panic wars.

Let us examine (continued Mr. H.) briefly the position of the question before us. In 1818, a certain convention was entered into between the respective governments of the United States and Great Britain, relative to the territory upon our northwest coast, known as the Oregon territory. That treaty was, by its own limitations, to remain in force but ten years. In 1827 it was renewed by a treaty which was to be terminated whenever either of the two high contracting parties should give twelve months, notice of their desire for it. And now, forsooth, because we come here in the wny marked out by the treaty to exercise the power thus specially provided for in that treaty, we are to be met as the war party! I repel the imputation, and I hurl it back again, (said Mr. H.) It is that very cry in and of itself that tends more to produce a war than any other course which can be taken here. We on this side of the House are the peace-party. Timid counsels tend to war—"fear admitted to our councils betrays like treason." I cannot sympathize, then, with gentlemen who use this argument, although they may use it honestly; nor will I permit it to divert this discussion, so far as I am concerned, from its true and legitimate track. We ask nothing on this side of the House but the exercise of our constitutional rights-rights that are pointed out and defined by the very treaty under which we are acting. And is it true that the exercise of these rights, as we propose it, is any cause of war? No, Sir. "Old men see visions, and young men dream dreams," the gentleman from Virginia, [Mr. HUNTER] tells us; and my word for it, it was but the dream of the gentleman's waking hours when he made his panic-war speech, on the ground that this notice was a measure designed in any way or calculated to be a war measure. While with gentlemen in all parts of this House, he most cheerfully concurred that peace was to be desired above everything else, save the preservation of our national domain uty by that stale and senseless cry. He had heard and our national honor, he (Mr. H.) did not hold efore, and upon this same subject years ago in war to be an evil from which they should shrink, when other end of this Capitol. When this subject the preservation of our national rights and our nationthere under discussion, it was the same master al honor demanded it. If we were to be deterred from that had then raised this cry of war, war to deep exercising our constitutional rights by that stale the matter carefully and it could not be mistaken. It was such "stuff" in fact as dreams were made of. And it hardly became gentlemen, thus in terror, to sound the note of war now, when we were dealing with a ration worthy to be our foe. For it would not be forgotten, when a fear of collision with a neighboring province was anticipated—a province so miserably weak as to incur the contempt of a great nation-then there were no dreams to disturb our nerves, but action—immediate action—was the rally cry, come what might. Certainly our consistent in "action" now.

sion of various measures, had he heard taunts and reproaches, either directly or by implication, cast upon various sections of this Union; and when they ad been directed to that section where it was his pride and his pleasure to reside, he had felt them thrill along his nerves like an electric shock, and the impulses of his heart had been upon his lips to hurl them back again. But time and reflection had chastened these feelings, and he passed them by in sorrow that they should come from the lips of any individual on this floor; and while it was his glory and his pride to be an inhabitant of that section whose motives were so often ques-tioned here, he had a single word to say in behalf of that people. He had no objections to interpose here in defence of what may have been the errors or the wickednesses of her politicians, but in behalf of her citizens he had a word to say. He believed them to be as patriotic as any other class of citi-zens to be found in our Union. They had exhibited their patriotism and their valor on many a wellfought field. Their bones had bleached on many a northern hill, and the barren sands of the South had drunk in their best blood. Sir, (said Mr. H.,) I point with pride to the North, and invite you there to witness a system which has grown up with us, and which is our ornament. I point you to our system of free labor. I point you to our common schools—to our churches, with their spires pointing towards heaven—and I glory in them. They are the monuments that belong to a people who have the true spirit of citizens of a free government. These things were the glory of the north; and Mr. H. gloried in them. They were bloodless moral monumer ts which marked the advancing progress of a free p a ple. But I stop not there; I ask you to go with me throughout this whole broad nation; and I point you to her-I point you to the whole Union as a monument of political grandeur towering towards the heavens, upon which the friend of freedom, wherever upon our globe he may be, may gaze, around whose highest summit the sunlight of glory forever shines, and at whose base a free people reposes, and, I trust, forever will repose. So much for New England, my home; so much for the Union, my country.

Mr. H. now advanced to a more direct discussion of the question immediately before them; and he first asked the attention of this House to the duty which they, as guardians of the public weal, owed to themselves and to our common country. He ernment will pursue its onward course by its m called their attention to that duty which, as a com- power, until it shall extend from the isthmus of

be stripped of every right we do possess by inviting a single duty which rises over, above, and bey, gentle other governments to aggressions upon us. Analyze all others, it was that of the American republimitable is afford protection to the American citizen where he may be found upon the American soil. It is one of the highest duties incident to the charge car That mitted to their hands; wherever our national Sta floats upon the breeze, it should be a certain in Mr. H. n of ample protection to the American citizen inestion in his rights of person and of property. Why, as ours; i true (asked Mr. H.) that, in the nineteenth cele he had ry, under this government, which we believe tad been th the best the world has ever seen-is it true thate in autho cry, "I am an American citizen," shall not be the Amer course should not now be retarded; for we should sure a safeguard, and a pledge of protection, as, into that then suffer a just reproach. Let us be as firm and cry, "I am a Roman citizen" was in the paid to res days of Rome: It was said by an ancient phile consider There was another remark to which he wished to allude. Too often within these walls, in the discussion of various measures, had he heard taunts and jury visited by a foreign power upon its rule. This jury visited by a foreign power upon its rite. This humble citizen, best discharged the duties les establ cumbent upon it. And is it not truly so? What, xamine ca greater degree than the strict discharge of its dutial point o its citizens will call forth their affections and their asion with alty, and will draw them forth to protect the insixtend our tions and defend the standard of their common courpose of try in the hour of that country's peril? The cithe cotton-s who realizes the full assurance that his rights is broad as always be defended with a sleepless vigilance, mgs, to the in his turn, ever be ready to discharge with proof the repr ness and fidelity all the duties that country mayountry. he rules es quire of him.

How, then, is our government to extend that in consider tection, and that aid which are required from sorthern ar its citizens, to those wanderers to the distant porticulacturing its territory westward of the Rocky mountains. they are sit those citizens bear a line of the Rocky mountains. those citizens have been wrested from Americans soil to be tried for alleged offences by foreign laber citizen. They have been dragged from their peaceful hogiven them from their own domestic firesides, and have ring peopl rrom their own domestic firesides, and have ring peoply tried and held amenable to the laws of British pmay grow inces; and here, in the 12th century, from this country, but and fold our arms about us, and say "We world. The pause a while before we give this notice. We view this rouse the lion in his lair. England with her claimers of military posts around the world may be around widely-ext and we do not precisely foresees what will be sarily be the and we do not precisely foresee what will be let them he consequences?" No; the notice should be g transportance, and protection to American citizens should be given by the case of the control of the case of th extended wherever they are found on American and we we and then that flag that had been borne aloft in trius for the work in the banks and in the banks are banks and in the ban in the battle and in the breeze, upon the ocean ply not or npon the lakes, the emblem of protection ply not or each and to every of our citizens, will float part the protection protection protection ply not or each and to every of our citizens, will float cles. Bu ever over the homes of a free and happy pee home equ That fag which now

> "So proudly drinks the morning light O'er ocean's wave in foreign clime. A symbol of our might."

This faithful discharge of governmental de markets will be one of the strongest arguments in fave the advancement of the principles of our own government. The feeling of every citizen that; tection in person and property is secured to him the laws and by the flag of his country, will st more surely than aught else to extend and wi our broad domain. Let it be done, and our g ponent part of this government, they owed to its rien to the frozen regions of the North—from ct izens wherever they may be found. If there were rough, rock-bound coast of the Atlantic, back

for the si South wo creased p factured i West ha It was a North, th a great Union. kets in t treaty st our cott empire.

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er, above, and bey, gentle murmurs of the Pacific. Then, in the lions of dollars is believed to have been of cotton American republimitable language of our own distinguished poet—goods. We have opened the Chinese market, and ican citizen where "Wide shall our own free race increase, And wide extend the elastic chain That binds in everlasting peace State after State—a mighty train." merican soil. It in ent to the charge cal

ver our national ild be a certain in Mr. H. next proceeded to the consideration of this merican citizen inestion in a commercial point of view. Oregon roperty. Why, as ours; it belongs to us; and the question of the nineteenth cere he had no disposition here to examine. It hich we believe to been thoroughly, ably examined by those who here is it true that in authority, and the result has been presented ten," shall not be the American republic. He had no disposition to of protection, as, into that examination. He should be well satis-" was in the past to rest himself on him who at least might y an ancient phile considered the Achilles of this question, in hich feels most rece position that our title was better than that promptly, every! England. It was more; it was a perfect ower upon its rite. This being our territory, then, by laws and red the duties lies established by Great Britain herself, let them truly so? What, xamine carefully into its importance in a commerscharge of its dutiel point of view. They were told on another ocscharge of its dutial point of view. They were told on another ocfections and their asion within these walls that it was necessary to to protect the insixtend our public domain in the southwest for the their common courpose of securing to our country a monopoly of 's peril? The cithe cotton-growing interest; and the argument was e that his rights is broad as our Union; it came home to the feelepless vigilance, ings, to the interests, and to the principles of action charge with proof the representatives from every section of our that country magountry. Let them now weigh by the same rules, the rules established on that occasion, the commert to extend that sial considerations involved in this question. The

re required from northern and the middle States are essentially manuthe distant porticular trips States—the northern States particularly; cky mountains. they are situated in a high latitude, under a forbid-sted from American climate, and yet they have the industry of nees by foreign liber citizens, the water-power, and the facilities have the matter to rande them. nces by foreign litheir citizens, the water-power, and the facilities their peaceful ho given them by nature to render them a manufacturisides, and liner fing people. The South—the "sunny South"—aws of British pray grow the staple produce of that country; and tury, from this the West may be the granary not only of our own ears, are we to country, but, give it an outlet, the granary of the and say "We world. Then, he said, in a commercial point of so notice. We view this matter came home to the feelings and the gland with her c widely-extended country. The North must necessive what will be sarily be the manufacturing section of this Union: cer should be glet them have on outlet; let there be an easy mode of the citizens should transportation and communication to the far West, and we would become the manufacturers almost

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overnmental de uments in favo les of our own ery citizen that: secured to him country, will st extend and w one, and our : ourse by its m the isthmus of North-from Atlantic, back

nd on American and we would become the manufacturers almost orne aloft in trius of the world. The northern and the middle States upon the ocean must be that portion of our Union, which will support the ocean the portion of our Union, which will support the ocean the portion of our Union, which will support the ocean that the ocean tha n of protection ply not only India but China, and all the eastern zens, will float portions of the world, with their manufactured arti-cand happy peo cles. But he stopped not here. The matter came home equally to the interests of the South, because South would be called upon for their staple, for increased production of that staple, which in its manufactured form is thus destined to fin its way to the markets of the East. It was a question in which the West had no right to assume a particular interest. It was a question which came home equally to the North, the South, the East, and the West. It was a. great national question, co-extensive with our Union. Why, we were already opening our markets in the East; we have already established our treaty stipulations with China; we have already sent our cotton and manufactured goods into the eastern ition. empire. Last year more than six millions of American manufactures were sent to the eastern contineut, and of that amount more than four mility off from themseves, and then, if the President

in opening that market, with the advance which commerce will give in that distant portion of the globe to civilization, to refinement, and to Christianity, we have opened a market which will call for untold millions of the manufactured articles of the northern and middle States—manufactured from this staple of the South. Beside, the commerce of the North was deeply interested in her whaling-ships. That ocean is now covered with nearly 700 ships, and half a hundred smaller vessels, manned by more than 20,000 of our citizens, and sending home as the fruits of their labor more than three millions of oil annually.

Mr. H. proceeded to enlarge upon the value and extent of the commerce which would grow up between the East Indies and our Pacific country, if we had possession of Oregon. The trade between the United States and the East Indies was already very important. But it would be vastly increased when we should find a route for that trade overland to the Pacific and across that ocean to Irdia. Wherever commerce went, there the lights of civilization and Christianity would soon be found. Wherever the people of the East have become enlightened by commercial intercourse with us, she would consume a vast quantity of our products, while they would supply us liberally with theirs. Who could tell what uncounted millions of manufactured goods from the United States would be marketed in the East Indies? Commerce was therefore deeply interested in preserving the integrity of our domain. He would gladly pursue this subject further if time was allowed, and show that this question was one that concerned the commerce of the whole country, and that the whole people of the United States were interested in it. But he was limited in time, and he could not pursue the subject in all its details.

He was in favor of giving this notice, as he had already declared. He was in favor of giving it now. For this course he would give reasons. First, he trusted that by giving the notice, the danger of delay and of obstruction in our councils would be obviated. The gentleman who had immediately preceded him in the debate, [Mr. Toomns,] preferred the amendment of the gentleman from Alabama [Mr. HILLIARD,] which left it discretionary with the President to give the notice at such time as he might see fit. That would lead to serious difficulties. He would say that this proposition came with no good design, so far as he could judge of it, though he had no doubt of the honorable motives of the gentleman who offered it. It would change the issue which ought to be made. Instead of inquiring whethfor the supply of those manufactured articles the er we would act and act now, we would, by this course, give a discretionary power to the Executive to act or not, and either now or at a later period. Some would think that the President had acted too soon if he acted now. Others would think that he had acted too late if he postpoued it. It would give an opportunity to many to shelter themselves from responsibility, and to reproach the President with having acted out of time. The true question was whether we should give the notice now. we assume the responsibility of action, or throw it upon the President? That was an important ques-Why should not we take upon ourselves

should act promptly, they would say, he was rash, imprudent, hasty; and if he waited for a while, they would say that he had let slip the golden mo-Why, if the subject had been referred to us, and if the power belonged to us, should we not exercise the power and give the notice at once? If there was any advantage in giving the notice at all, it was proper to give it at the earliest moment without loss of time. If we did not give it now, in what position should we be left? The whole subject would be suffered to take its chance, without an eifort on our part to maintain our rights. He knew that it had been recommended to us to adopt "a wise and masterly inactivity"-that was, to do nothing. He would rather call it masterly duplicity, or masterly dishonesty, to take measures, in an indirect way, to get possession of the country, without suffering our object to be known. How long did gentlemen wish to carry on this masterly duplicity? Some of them had fixed a limit to it of twenty years. Sir, (said Mr. H.,) I have a single idea on that point. We had told our people that they might occupy that country. Were they to be thus encouraged to go there and settle, and yet not be entitled to our protection? If you do not take them under your wing, can you expect to retain their affection? No. They would be faithless to themselves if they gave you any confidence or affection after such treatment. As well might a mother expect the love of her children whom she repelled from her bosom, and cast our into the world without protection. It would be a most unnatural mother that would cast off her children as we would do were we not to give this notice. Should we acquire a colony by this course of masterly dishonesty, it would make us the reproach of all nations. While he reminded the admirers of the British government that it was one of splendid palaces contrasting with squalid poverty, there was one thing in the British government that he admired, much as he despised all the varinting about her power, and greatness, and glory. He admired it for one special quality—its care of its subjects. It gave protection to its subjects all over the world. Wherever the subject of England might be, he was covered with the protection of British laws and British power. This, in his opinion, was an example worthy of imitation.

He would go a step further than the notice, and extend the protection of our laws over our citizens in Oregon. If we did not, we should full short of our duty. After doing this, he would go still fur-If we did not, we should full short of ther, and create those bands of iron which were to bind indissolubly together in one union the people of the Atlantic and the people of the Pacific. He would go for a railroad across mountains-for annihilating the Rocky line and space between us and the inhabitants of the Pacific coast. In a military point of view, this rail-road would be necessary. We should be obliged, for the protection and defence of the country, to establish this mode of communication. While it would afford military protection for the defence of the country, it would be the means of creating a vast trade between the castern and western portions The immediate consequence of of the continent. such a trade would be to open a troffic in our manufactures with the people of the East Indies; next, we tant trade.

mercial depots on the coast of the Pacific. could make voyages to the East Indies in half: time that Great Britain could. Our manufactu: would thus compete in that important and increasi market, with those of Great Britain, and, indedrive out all competition; and thus they would to come established on a firm foundation, without the empt aid of a black tariff to maintain them. He had be above the competition of the

ways opposed internal improvements by the general west government; but he would adopt this improvement as a military work—one necessary for the public it was a military work—one necessary for the public was a military point of view, it was defence, though it would be used for civil and commercial purposes. In a military point of view, oregon, a defence to the country, it would be far more efficient than battlements along the coast. cient than battlements along the coast.

Should the United States delay to do the of the duty to their citizens in Oregon, the Britis of the government would avail themselves of the delay take measures for securing the territory to her sumificated from Privile Levil Control of the delay take measures for securing the territory to her sumificated from Privile Levil Control of the delay to the delay the delay the delay to the dela jects. Great Britain had already, by force and fraular had covered the world with more than a hundred collary had covered the world with more than a hundred collary had nies. She had done this by blood and carnage, an length in violation of the rights of all nations with which she had been connected as an ally, or opposed to below the following the reign of Queen the collar to the whole stopped to the propose of the propose was the collar transfer of the connected to some private trading adventurers. The stopped to the company have spread death and desolution over the content of the conte company have spread death and desolation over the East. Under Warren Hastings every crime, ever [A memb

species of perfidy, and cruelty, and rapine was per Yes, sir petrated for the acquisition of territory and of wealten if she

and we want curses for him-"We'd torture thought to curse the wretch;
And then, to damn him most supreme,

We'd call him Hastings." It would be easy to run a parallel between thed valuable East India Company and the Hudson Bay Compa-ly an in ny. It would show us the necessity of taking hold in. The of this matter in due time, and of giving this noticeley had n

Government after government had submitted to engthene British power in the east-some being reduced by, delayed fraud and treachery, and others by force, until now itish prete the population brought under her sway amounted in, the ge to more than a hundred and thirty millions. The ryoung Great Mogul, the former ruler of Hindostan, was dhe coul at this day a pensioner on British bounty. And the gen the British government, through the East India amed in company now, at this time, by the force of her arms, tion of is preparing to invade and subjugate the last thout the province of that country. Mr. H said he would prising S be glad to trace the progress of this government actures, in the East Indies; but not having time for that, he ters rus would say that from beginning to end it was pusands stamped with infamy. He called the attention of ,ve to th the committee to these facts, in order to show that s and sl unless we gave the notice the Hudson Bay Com-tures w pany, which was formed upon principles akin to due tir that in the east, would by gradual encroachments, be- nerica, s come possessed of all the strong positions in Oregon, it would and be more difficult to dislodge. We might, as tend do should be able to drive out all competition on the part he said again, find a parallel in their progress to the to gentl of the British fabrics in that lucrative and impor- corporation that has so long oppressed and devas- icue, and We would, by means of this overland tated the East. By what waters were the Hudson to obtain communication, be soon able to create immense com- Bay Company originally bounded? By those waters a position

by the company. So fearful and prodigious wained by chis rapacity and cruelty, that he became the themeans by wof universal execration by orators and poets. Instination had been remarked, in one of the invectives against in Englishim, that when some wretch, laden with horridet of terri crimes without a name, should stalk through earth, While ge ed in the ung onesre losing ves and

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ortant and increasi Britain, and, indet

of the Pacific. set Indice in half: Our manufactu:

desolation over tho.

laden with horridet of territory.

delay to do the fof our settlers to protect them, and give the no-egon, the Britis of the termination of the joint convention. ves of the delay ment claimed the right to make settlements on the erritory to her summent claimed the right to make settlements on the by force and fraucific coast north of the Spanish settlements. In a hundred color, had taken place on the other side, and the id and carnage, and coachments of Great Britain were not observed. In the state of the side of the state of t

every crime, ever [A member here said, she is nearly there now.] d rapine was per Yes, sir, (said Mr. H.,) she will soon be there, itory and of wealten if she is not there now. What, then, can be d prodigious wained by delaying the notice, which is the only became the themeans by which we can arrest her progress? Proors and poets. Instination had been said to be the thief of time; invectives against in English diplomacy, it had proved to be the

alk through earth, While gentlemen talked of war, which only exed in the visions of old men, or the dreams of wretch; ung ones—while this bugbear was held up, we re losing the opportunity to secure for ourallel between the dvaluable country. What now would arise, was dson Bay Comparly an inference on the part of these gentle-ity of taking hold.

They had not shown how it would arise, giving this notice by had not shown us the modus operand. But we have the British partners would be the week the British partners would be the modus operand.

had submitted to all know that the British pretensions would be eing reduced by delayed the notice, the more arrogant would the force, until now itish pretensions become. One point more. Our old sway amounted in, the gentleman from Virginia says, see visions, millions. The millions. The ryoung men dream dreams. He was not old, Hindostan, was dhe could not see visions; and the deams he left no bounty. And the gentleman from Virginia. Let those who the East India amed imagine that a war will arise from our aspect of her arms. orce of her arms, tion of our rights; he did not believe it. But jugate the last thout the aid of visions he saw a populous and enhis government etures, and commerce, and navigation. The me for that, he tters rushing down to the Pacific would turn to end it was accorded to the said and grindles. Our neople would to end it was pusands of wheels and spindles. Our people would the attention of ye to that region, and carry with them all their r to show that a and skill in all the various branches of manuson Bay Com- tures which we have established in this region. nciples akin to due time they will supply a large portion of roachments, be-nerica, as well as Asia, with their fabrics.

tions in Oregon, It would not be long before our settlements would We might, as tend down to the Mexican boundary. He appealprogress to the to gentlemen from the South to come up to the ed and devas- icue, and avail themselves of this fair opportunire the Hudson to obtain Oregon. He asked their attention to y those waters a position we occupied before the American peoand the world, in regard to this subject, and as-

Britain, and, indee thus they would in the though of a connexion with the note in them. He had mpany had, by virtue of a connexion with the nents by the general howestern Company, stretched across to the Paper this improvement. It was the policy of Great Britain to plant best for civil and cost it was to operate through chartered companies, of the public was no operate through chartered companies, it was to operate through chartered companies, point of view, it was to operate through chartered companies, and one of view, and one of the modes of doset for civil and cost it was to operate through chartered companies, and had recommended to us the passage of the measure now befor us. He had asked for our early action upon it. The stale cry of war ought not to prevent us from discharging this duty; and if we should falter in performing it, we should be branded as unfaithfrom discharging this duty; and if we should falter in performing it, we should be branded as unfaith-ful to our trust. The Executive had laid before us a statement of our just claims, showing that they had a solid and stable basis. The whole world would be convinced of their truth and justice; and would an American Congress be found slow to defend and assert them? He (Mr. H.) would appeal again to the South, and to the spirit of their fathers-of Sumter, Marion, and Pinckneyand call upon them to come up to this duty of defending our soil. Should fear of consequences prevent us from vindicating our rights from foreign nggression? Should the horrors of war deter them from pursuing their line of duty? Will they not come up to the struggle, if need be, and like "reapers descend to the harvest of death?" True, the South has peculiar interests that would be hazarded in a war; but has not the whole Atlantic border a deep stake in the continuance of peace? We, sir, in the northeast have an extensive commerce. Our ships are found in every sea, and we have cities on tho scaboard exposed to the assaults of an enemy. But, sir, we are willing to hazard everything in the defence of our country, and to lay ull our wealth as an offering on the altar of the public safety. But who can believe, sir, that England will go to war, because we do an uct that we are entitled to do by treaty stipulations? This was too absurd an idea to be for a moment entertained by any one.

But there was another view of the subject. He did not pretend to be a wizzard, nor to foretell fufuture events; but coming events sometimes cast their shadows before them. Judging of the future by the past, he would say that the moral force of our institutions would spread themselves over every portion of this continent. Their progress was as certain as destiny. He could not be mistaken in the idea that our fleg was destined to shed its lustre over every hill and plain on the Pacific slope, and on every stream that mingles with the What would monarchical institutions do Pacific. -what would tyrants do-in this age of improve-ment-this age of steam and of lightning? The mariner's compass, the steam engine, the printing press, with the aid of electricity, which has anni-hilated space, have made the world like the ear of Dionysius. The voice of freedom in our halls of worship, in our temples, and the knowledge of our schools, may be heard in distant lands, and will be ecoold back. Let there be no holding back, no folding of arms in quiet; but let us rather, in a calm and dignified manner, meet the crisis in a way worthy of our country, and as American states-

> "And the gun of our nation's natal day, At the rise and set of sets, Shall boom from the far northeast away To the vales of Oregon; And ships on the sea-shore luft and tack, And send the peal of triumph back."

