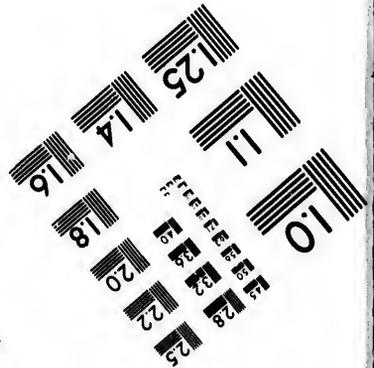
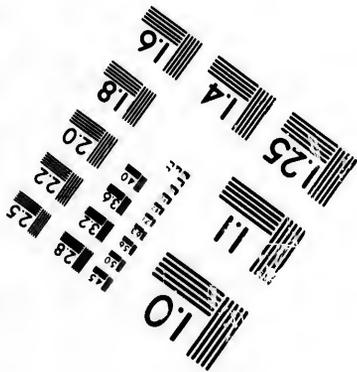
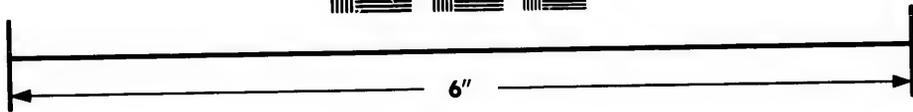
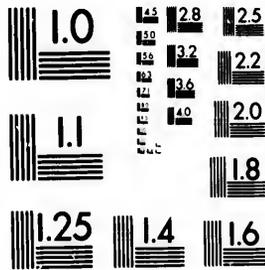


**IMAGE EVALUATION
TEST TARGET (MT-3)**



**Photographic
Sciences
Corporation**

23 WEST MAIN STREET
WEBSTER, N.Y. 14580
(716) 872-4503

1.5 2.8 2.5
3.2 2.2
2.0
8

**CIHM/ICMH
Microfiche
Series.**

**CIHM/ICMH
Collection de
microfiches.**



Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproductions / Institut canadien de microreproductions historiques

1.0
0.7

© 1981

Technical and Bibliographic Notes/Notes techniques et bibliographiques

The Institute has attempted to obtain the best original copy available for filming. Features of this copy which may be bibliographically unique, which may alter any of the images in the reproduction, or which may significantly change the usual method of filming, are checked below.

L'Institut a microfilmé le meilleur exemplaire qu'il lui a été possible de se procurer. Les détails de cet exemplaire qui sont peut-être uniques du point de vue bibliographique, qui peuvent modifier une image reproduite, ou qui peuvent exiger une modification dans la méthode normale de filmage sont indiqués ci-dessous.

- Coloured covers/
Couverture de couleur
- Covers damaged/
Couverture endommagée
- Covers restored and/or laminated/
Couverture restaurée et/ou pelliculée
- Cover title missing/
Le titre de couverture manque
- Coloured maps/
Cartes géographiques en couleur
- Coloured ink (i.e. other than blue or black)/
Encre de couleur (i.e. autre que bleue ou noire)
- Coloured plates and/or illustrations/
Planches et/ou illustrations en couleur
- Bound with other material/
Relié avec d'autres documents
- Tight binding may cause shadows or distortion
along interior margin/
La reliure serrée peut causer de l'ombre ou de la
distortion le long de la marge intérieure
- Blank leaves added during restoration may
appear within the text. Whenever possible, these
have been omitted from filming/
Il se peut que certaines pages blanches ajoutées
lors d'une restauration apparaissent dans le texte,
mais, lorsque cela était possible, ces pages n'ont
pas été filmées.
- Additional comments:/
Commentaires supplémentaires:

- Coloured pages/
Pages de couleur
- Pages damaged/
Pages endommagées
- Pages restored and/or laminated/
Pages restaurées et/ou pelliculées
- Pages discoloured, stained or foxed/
Pages décolorées, tachetées ou piquées
- Pages detached/
Pages détachées
- Showthrough/
Transparence
- Quality of print varies/
Qualité inégale de l'impression
- Includes supplementary material/
Comprend du matériel supplémentaire
- Only edition available/
Seule édition disponible
- Pages wholly or partially obscured by errata
slips, tissues, etc., have been refilmed to
ensure the best possible image/
Les pages totalement ou partiellement
obscurcies par un feuillet d'errata, une pelure,
etc., ont été filmées à nouveau de façon à
obtenir la meilleure image possible.

This item is filmed at the reduction ratio checked below/
Ce document est filmé au taux de réduction indiqué ci-dessous.

10X	12X	14X	16X	18X	20X	22X	24X	26X	28X	30X	32X
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>									

The copy filmed here has been reproduced thanks to the generosity of:

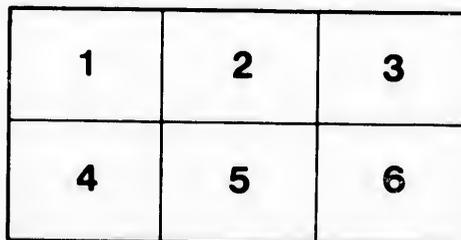
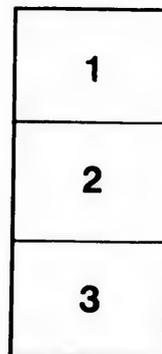
Library Division
Provincial Archives of British Columbia

The images appearing here are the best quality possible considering the condition and legibility of the original copy and in keeping with the filming contract specifications.

Original copies in printed paper covers are filmed beginning with the front cover and ending on the last page with a printed or illustrated impression, or the back cover when appropriate. All other original copies are filmed beginning on the first page with a printed or illustrated impression, and ending on the last page with a printed or illustrated impression.

The last recorded frame on each microfiche shall contain the symbol \rightarrow (meaning "CONTINUED"), or the symbol ∇ (meaning "END"), whichever applies.

Maps, plates, charts, etc., may be filmed at different reduction ratios. Those too large to be entirely included in one exposure are filmed beginning in the upper left hand corner, left to right and top to bottom, as many frames as required. The following diagrams illustrate the method:



L'exemplaire filmé fut reproduit grâce à la générosité de:

Library Division
Provincial Archives of British Columbia

Les images suivantes ont été reproduites avec le plus grand soin, compte tenu de la condition et de la netteté de l'exemplaire filmé, et en conformité avec les conditions du contrat de filmage.

Les exemplaires originaux dont la couverture en papier est imprimée sont filmés en commençant par le premier plat et en terminant soit par la dernière page qui comporte une empreinte d'impression ou d'illustration, soit par le second plat, selon le cas. Tous les autres exemplaires originaux sont filmés en commençant par la première page qui comporte une empreinte d'impression ou d'illustration et en terminant par la dernière page qui comporte une telle empreinte.

Un des symboles suivants apparaîtra sur la dernière image de chaque microfiche, selon le cas: le symbole \rightarrow signifie "A SUIVRE", le symbole ∇ signifie "FIN".

Les cartes, planches, tableaux, etc., peuvent être filmés à des taux de réduction différents. Lorsque le document est trop grand pour être reproduit en un seul cliché, il est filmé à partir de l'angle supérieur gauche, de gauche à droite, et de haut en bas, en prenant le nombre d'images nécessaire. Les diagrammes suivants illustrent la méthode.

8P

IN

SPEECH

OF

MR. COBB, OF GEORGIA,

ON THE

OREGON QUESTION.

DELIVERED

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

JANUARY 8, 1846.

WASHINGTON:
PRINTED AT THE UNION OFFICE.
1846.

MWP
979.51
C653

On motion

Mr. COB (yesterday) purpose, sir a lengthened I feel, however by which myself, and floor, to sub induced me pursue in re fortune, per question, in our country friends from come, and statesman—ered expression of the mark of the man, and his entertained, gard. But character. I to myself, and every consid interest of th the issue. I cacy for the from that wh not of the re shoulders. I cy I conceiv pursue in refe by the resol Foreign Affa by the fact, th that report.* this House an have induced carried out, c —I will not s — At this per consider I w necessary and attempt to sus sesses and ho tory—to the v opinions may civilized worl ed by that m world, with w test on the qu falls upon the

*Mr. Cobb's s on Foreign Affa reported.

SPEECH.

On motion of Mr. Cobb, the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, on the Oregon question.

Mr. COBB (who held the right to the floor from yesterday) addressed the committee. It is not my purpose, sir, (said he,) to detain the committee with a lengthened argument upon the Oregon question. I feel, however, that, under the peculiar circumstances by which this subject is surrounded, I owe it to myself, and to those whom I represent upon this floor, to submit to the House the reasons which have induced me to that course, which I intend to pursue in reference to this question. It is my misfortune, perhaps, upon so grave and important a question, involving so much for weal or for woe to our country, to differ with many of my political friends from the section of the country from which I come, and to differ with a distinguished southern statesman—a man whose voice is generally considered expressive of the feelings of the southern portion of the country; and I may be permitted to remark of that individual—for his patriotism as a man, and his ability as a statesman—I have ever entertained, and still do entertain, the highest regard. But when considering a question of this character, I am compelled, by a sense of duty I owe to myself, and to my own constituents, to disregard every consideration, save that of the honor and the interest of the country, so far as they are involved in the issue. I alone am responsible to that constituency for the course I may pursue here. If it differs from that which others see fit to take, they partake not of the responsibility. It falls alone upon my shoulders. I assume it, Mr. Chairman. The policy I conceive it to be the duty of this country to pursue in reference to the subject brought forward by the resolution reported by the Committee on Foreign Affairs, is already indicated to the House by the fact, that I have concurred in the propriety of that report.* And my purpose is now to submit to this House and to the country, the reasons which have induced me to believe that that policy must be carried out, or the interest of the country weakened—I will not say destroyed.

At this period of time, Mr. Chairman, I should consider I was inflicting upon the House an unnecessary and an unpalatable argument, if I were to attempt to sustain the title by which this country possesses and holds a just claim to the Oregon territory—to the whole of the Oregon territory. Whatever opinions may be entertained in other portions of the civilized world; whatever opinions may be entertained by that master-spirit of the nations of the other world, with whom we are now thrown into a contest on the question—in this country but one voice falls upon the ear—but one deep, well-founded opin-

*Mr. Cobb is a member of the majority of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, from whom this resolution was reported.

ion exists. No doubts now remain on the minds of American statesmen, that the government of the United States holds a clear and unquestionable title to the whole of the Oregon territory.

I propose not to discuss it; but I desire that this proposition may be considered as admitted; that it shall go before the country in connexion with the argument I propose to make in favor of the policy suggested by the resolution on your table; that it may go to the country as the admitted and indisputable opinion of American statesmen, with scarcely any—if, indeed, any—dissenting voice; that our title to the Oregon territory is thus considered, by us, clear and unquestionable.

There is another proposition, Mr. Chairman, which I will not stop to discuss; but I desire to place it, like the one to which I have just alluded, on the footing of an axiomatic fact, that the importance of this territory to our government and our people—whether it is considered in reference to agriculture, to manufactures, or to commerce—is no longer a debatable issue. Not that I consider it a subject commanding the clear approbation and the warm feelings of the West in its behalf, but I desire to raise it higher, and to place it on a loftier plane. It is a national question, side by side with that important national question—the annexation of Texas—which has already received the sanction of this government. For myself, then, and my constituents, I enter a solemn protest against the opinions which may have been advanced here or elsewhere, that the question of Oregon is a western question, or any other sectional question. It is one in which the whole nation feels a deep and a lively interest, and one upon which the whole nation will, sooner or later, speak with a voice approximating unanimity, if we, sir, do our duty.

I do not propose, Mr. Chairman, to detain you, either, with a recital of the long-pending negotiation which has been carried on between the British government and our own, in reference to the adjustment of this perplexing and vexed question. I desire, however, as preliminary to the first, and perhaps the most important reason which I shall submit to you for my support of this measure, to refer very briefly to the state of the negotiation as it now stands between this government and Great Britain. In 1818 our government and the British government entered into a convention, by which it was agreed that, for certain purposes, each of these governments should be entitled to equal privileges within this disputed territory; whether you term it a convention for the purpose of joint occupation, or for the purpose of commerce, navigation, and settlement, (as that is the language of the convention,) is immaterial to my purpose. Subsequently to this con-

a. In connexion to you to Mr. Chairman,ponent of this aim place him-liament; carry hich the Exe-ress; let that of Congress, nation of the I will be not ally authorized eas of the Uni- the Preside- submitted, re- ulation of the like my mind, sition which I occupy, that my the conclusion ot prepared to e Executive of to give the oc- occupancy, the if to one of two e on which the ot clear to the Congress of the the Executive e suggestion of e last commun- on to the British ut to the Amer- if it, whether he ut, to justify, on ce so clearly de- at which we do oppose the giv- manifestly opposed ns of the Amer- hen, Mr. Chair- and not to sub- liberal propos- ectioned, is it not is it not due to al feelings, that er power, howe- er domineering, ata to which she as no title what- ain ever made a ve her statements e negotiation, we compromise upon eent the respons- Congress? Depon the other side, and no substantial reason can- ble proposition: given why any other proposition will be finally erment has sub- eed upon, when you have been informed by the e furnished with ecutive department of the government—to whose e is her ultimatum-nds this matter is specially committed—that no e is her ultimatum- e position will be made which this government ought d the ultimatum- ept—when, under all these circumstances, you e been submitted- eare first your clear and indisputable title and led by a gulf, we eght, and then refuse to assert that right, or to adopt eason to believe easures for the preservation of that right, will epared to meet ot in the eyes of the world weaken our title to ur rights are un- eregon, and throw a veil—I care not how thin— e. Unless, there at which we now consider so bright and s to the British ear, to our conception at least? Go to the ack, a surrender- ench government, to the British government, e of the American- to any other government, and, after the action that the question Congress, refusing to give this notice—re-

requires prompt, energetic, decisive action on the part of our government—such action as is recommended in the President's message; such as is contemplated by the resolution on your table.

But there is another view, Mr. Chairman, in connexion with the state of the negotiation which I desire to submit to this House. If this Congress should adjourn without having authorized and empowered the Executive to give this notice for the termination of this joint occupancy, there is another inference which may be very clearly and distinctly drawn by the people and the government of Great Britain. Will they not be prepared to say to themselves and to the world, that there exists in the American government a division of opinion between these two departments of that government—the executive and the legislative—which weakens the action of the government, and enervates her energy and ability? The Executive marks out a course of policy evidencing a disposition on the part of that department of the government firmly, energetically to assert and maintain the rights of the government; Congress falters, falls back; Great Britain infers, and justly infers, that there exists on the part of our government such a diversity of sentiment between the two different departments of the government, that it is impossible for that energetic action which the occasion requires to be carried out, and those clear rights of our government properly to be maintained. Are gentlemen prepared by their policy and course of conduct, to authorize an inference of this character on the part of the British government? am not indulging in our course of reflection so much from the apprehension that the British government will make these inferences; if it were not that in my humble judgment this course of conduct would authorize them to infer, and give the inference strength and importance, I would disregard such considerations. But I cannot say that such a course of conduct on our part would not authorize and justify an inference of this sort on the part of our opponents in this contest. Let Congress adjourn without giving the notice under this state of facts connected with the negotiation—under the fact that the recommendation has been made by the Executive—and that Congress has failed to carry it out; and will not both Great Britain and the civilized world who feel any interest in it, be authorized to draw this inference, that the "clear," indisputable, and "unquestionable" title of our government to the whole of Oregon, is not so strong and forcible as we have attempted to make it? But why, sir, after twenty-five years, or more than twenty-five years of negotiation, when the American Congress have been more than twenty times than the proposition which has been made by Congress? Depon the other side, and no substantial reason can be given why any other proposition will be finally agreed upon, when you have been informed by the executive department of the government—to whose hands this matter is specially committed—that no proposition will be made which this government ought to accept—when, under all these circumstances, you declare first your clear and indisputable title and then refuse to assert that right, or to adopt measures for the preservation of that right, will it not in the eyes of the world weaken our title to Oregon, and throw a veil—I care not how thin— unless, there be that which we now consider so bright and clear, to our conception at least? Go to the French government, to the British government, to any other government, and, after the action of Congress, refusing to give this notice—re-

fusing to take possession of what we declare and believe to be ours, and then tell me whether our rights are not weakened in the estimation of those governments; tell me whether our hand is not less strong than when we first entered into the contest? The world will so consider it, and will say there are shrinkings back, and misgivings among us; and we ourselves will look back to the crisis, which I consider the present moment to be, with regret that we allowed it to pass by without doing justice to ourselves, and without doing justice to the honor of our own nation.

It is with me, Mr. Chairman, a question involving our rights, and our final—I will not say acquisition—but our final, complete possession of the whole of this our own territory.

There is another view in reference to the negotiation, which I propose to submit to you, Mr. Chairman, and to this House. If gentlemen will put themselves to the trouble to investigate the negotiation between this government and the government of Great Britain, on the subject of Oregon, commencing with its earliest inception, and coming down to the present time, they will find that the same reasons which control the conduct of an individual in the management of his private affairs, ought sometimes to be applied to a nation in conducting affairs of national importance; and the very reasons which are now urged for the further postponement of action, efficient action on the part of our government, will be found to have exercised an undue influence in times gone by. I do not say, nor do I wish to be understood, as intimating that there ever has been a period, in the history of this negotiation, when action of this character has been so imperatively required on the part of our government as at the present government; but I do believe that the settlement of this Oregon controversy could have been made with less excitement, with less trouble, with less difficulty in past periods of our history, than it can be made at the present time.

Mr. Chairman, there is no greater error in the conduct of government, or in the conduct of private affairs, than giving way to the disposition of our nature, to postpone "the evil day," as it is sometimes termed. You will find that the postponement of the Oregon controversy, instead of opening the door for its amicable adjustment, on terms more satisfactory, and less calculated to create excitement, has, in each step of its progress, accumulated new and more insurmountable difficulties; and, to-day, we are perhaps further from an amicable adjustment of it than we have been in any past period of our history, unless decided, energetic action is taken to bring it about. What are the reasons urged for the postponement of action? Why, the precedent that it was postponed in 1818 and 1827, when this convention was made and renewed. Well, will any gentleman answer me what has the government made by the continued postponement of the settlement? Since the acquisition of our title from Spain, at every moment the difficulties have increased; they have never been lightened, and they never will be. If gentlemen will submit to my mind a course of reasoning which will show that at any future period this question can be better settled upon principles satisfactory to our country, then, perhaps, I might be prepared to go with them. But I look upon it that delay now, like delay in past times, will but increase the difficulty, heighten the excitement, and further and further prolong the period before a fair

and final settlement can be effected. Will gentlemen listen to me when I allude to a discussion familiar, very familiar, to the older heads in this House, and a discussion not very unfamiliar to those who, in common with myself, took their seats two years ago in this House? At that time the Oregon question attracted discussion not only here but in the other branch of Congress. Do you recollect the reasons then urged for the further postponement of energetic action on the part of our government? It was but a repetition of the argument made years before, as the history of the debates will show. You were told that negotiation was pending; that it would be improper for the legislative department of the government to interfere when the matter was in the hands of that branch of the government, which ought properly to consider it; and that when it was ascertained that negotiation could not be effected, then, and not till then, would be the time for the Congress of the United States to act. I recollect, while listening to remarks of this character, that fell from the lips of a distinguished senator—one whose voice always is listened to with attention and respect—that he told us (and others concurred with him) that the British government had reasons why the Oregon question should go on and be postponed to a later day, and that the British government never looked forward to the settlement of the Oregon territory as an agricultural territory, or with a view to manufactures, or to make it a permanent settlement; that they only wanted the right to the fur trade; that it was being exhausted and passing by; that at present it would bear but a small comparison to what it had been in former years; and that as soon as this interest on the part of the British government had ceased, we would have no difficulty in asserting the whole of our rights to Oregon. Well, sir, this argument is now at an end. You will not interfere with the executive department in determining in favor of this notice, because you will but carry out its recommendations; and I trust that American statesmen will no longer ask that this important result be postponed on the ground that the British government, when it has exhausted its interest in the fur trade, will voluntarily render and yield us up our own. No, Mr. Chairman; our right to Oregon—to the whole of Oregon—is clear and unquestionable; and I desire to see it maintained to the letter and the spirit by the energetic, efficient action of this House and of the other House of Congress.

We are told, that there are not inducements sufficient to carry our government rashly into a contest for this territory. I go not rashly. Sir, twenty-five years and more of negotiation, of reflection, of standing still, (if I may manufacture the term) cannot be considered rash or heedless. There is a duty which we owe not only to our government, as a government, but a duty which we owe to the people who have emigrated to the Oregon territory. Pardon me for a very few remarks on this branch of the subject. We are told if you postpone giving the notice—if you allow this joint occupation to continue, our people will be emigrating to Oregon, that we will be building up our defence in the hardy sons of the West who shall have gone there for the purpose of finding a permanent home; that we will be adding barriers and defences to our possession of the Oregon territory; and we are told in substantiation of this; that within the last two years the emigration thither has greatly increased

in proportion to what it was a few years back; and that, drawing the fair inference from the past, we may conclude that, for the future, this tide of emigration will continue to roll into the Oregon territory until we shall have taken possession of it by our own people being permanently located in that country. If I mistake not the feeling and the spirit go to that which has induced emigration to Oregon, it may be fairly attributable to the implied promise which the action of this government heretofore has held out to this people, that this joint occupancy would, before this time, have ceased, and their title to home-lands here has been made secure and certain. To those people who have emigrated to Oregon and things remain as they believed at the time that they abandoned their homes in our western States and emigrated to the Oregon territory that this joint occupancy was to continue from year to year, from time to time, and that they were to be as free there without the protection of the laws of their country; that they would be left there with the title to every foot of land on which they have so located themselves uncertain and insufficient? They settle there not temporarily, but they build up for themselves a home in that territory, which we say is ours, but which we fear to declare in such terms as shall authorize that emigrant people, when they plant themselves on any portion of the Oregon territory, to feel confidence that they are on ground consecrated to American freedom, and which shall never cease to be made prosperous and happy by the prevalence of republican principles. I ask you, if this is not the feeling under which this emigration is carried on? Let this Congress adjourn without giving the notice—instead of it, proclaim by joint resolution that it is the opinion of Congress that this joint occupancy shall continue from time to time—that we are not prepared to maintain and assert our unquestionable rights, but that we propose to do it at some future period—then, if we mistake not the spirit of the West, that emigration is at an end. Can you induce a western man, we have so much public land, when there are so many inducements held out to him to emigrate, where his settlement will be perfectly secure, and that where the government will guarantee to them the land, to abandon all this to go to a country which we have asserted, by a mere declaration, to be ours, but our rights to which we are not yet prepared to maintain and defend?

But suppose that I am not well founded in the view which I have taken of the spirit and motive which have operated upon the minds of our people in causing this late increase of emigration to Oregon, and you take it for granted that the emigration will continue, and that, as time passes by, under the influence of other causes of a similar character, we should be and come greatly strengthened in our Oregon possession: we now avow such to be our policy, I will notify our opponent of the fact. Think you that the sagacity of Great Britain is less astute now than formerly? Will she slumber over her pretensions? Will she sit quietly by and allow the United States to adopt a policy and push that policy vigorously forward to the manifest destruction of her claims and interest, without resorting to some counteracting policy? Let us not deceive ourselves as to the character of those we are dealing with whom we are dealing. Rest assured that if we do not step in our progress by similar measures—if not in kind, certainly in effect—by the British government

territory by resorting to a war. I utterly but respectfully repudiate the idea. Whenever this government shall be engaged in a conflict of this kind with the British government, or with any other government on earth, peace will never be declared upon terms leaving one foot of territory which has ever been consecrated to American freedom and American principles, afterwards to be profaned by monarchical or despotic principles. No; Canada may be acquired; I do not dispute that position of gentlemen who have argued this proposition before the House; but that Oregon will ever be abandoned peacefully, or in the struggle of war, my mind has never yet been brought to that conclusion, nor will it be. Sir, upon this day, this memorable, glorious 8th of January, let it not be said by American statesmen, in an American Congress, that this government can be weakened in, or deprived of, her just and unquestionable rights by a conflict with Great Britain, or with any other government. If war come, I venture the prediction that when it terminates, we will have the consolation of knowing that not a British flag floats on an American breeze; that not a British subject treads on American soil.

We have been asked to calculate the cost of a war with England, and to compare the result with the value of the territory involved in the issue; and in doing so gentlemen have been pleased to present to our contemplation a picture well calculated to sicken the heart of the patriot. The accumulation of a heavy and burdensome debt, thereby tending to the increased taxation upon the people; the loss of valuable lives in the bloody conflict; the destruction of our commerce, and the various interests of the country in intimate association with it; these, and many other considerations of a kindred character have been brought to our notice in most feeling and eloquent appeals, calling upon us to avert these paralyzing efforts upon the industry and energy of our people. I fully appreciate the motives and feelings of those who have indulged in these reflections; but at the same time I must be permitted to respond to them, that it is not the simple question of the value of the territory in dispute to be placed in the opposing scale. There is a principle involved in the issue of far deeper interest, and involving far more important results. It is the principle of concession to British arrogance and British cupidity. Once establish the doctrine of concession of just and clear rights in the stead of a bold and fearless maintenance of them at every cost and hazard, and the days of American glory are numbered.

I desired to consider the proposition, which has been submitted to us in the form of an amendment by the gentleman from Alabama, [Mr. HULLIARD] to whose remarks, in support of the views he presented to the House I listened with deep interest, and with the course of whose argument I was gratified and instructed. I am not willing, however, to abandon the proposition recommended by the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and to substitute in lieu of it the one submitted by the honorable gentleman from Alabama; and I will, with the utmost deference to that gentleman, give one or two reasons why I think that, with the views he has expressed—so nobly and so eloquently expressed—he ought to be willing to give the ground to his amendment, and to stand with us in support of the original resolutions. Let us, who agree on this subject, meet on common ground

in support of the resolution reported from the Committee on Foreign Affairs. What is the difference in these propositions? The resolution of the Committee on Foreign Affairs recommends that the President forthwith give the notice. The gentleman proposes, in lieu of that, to assent that the President be empowered to give the notice, whenever the public interests, in his judgment, require it. I consider that this proposition is evasive; and I aver that it must be so considered by this country, and by the British government. Why do you wish to empower the Executive to give the notice when the public interest require it if, at the same time, we are not prepared to express the opinion that the public interest now require it?

Sir, the President of the United States has submitted all the information, in connexion with this subject, which may properly be submitted, and which, in his opinion, may have any influence upon Congress. With this, he gives you his opinion that the notice ought to be given at once, that this joint occupancy shall forthwith cease. The gentleman from Alabama proposes now, that, instead of taking upon ourselves the responsibility of meeting the question and declaring that we agree with the President, and give it to him as our opinion that the notice ought to be given, and call upon him to do it under our instructions, that we merely say to him that he has the power to do it, and we shall leave to him to decide it. Is it the object of the gentleman from Alabama to place upon the Executive the responsibility of giving the notice when the public interest requires it? If so, the Executive has already taken that responsibility, so far as it can be placed upon the shoulders of any man, by the recommendation which he has submitted in his message. If you desire, then, not to relieve yourselves from the responsibility—and I call the attention of the friends of this measure to the distinction which I draw—Congress is willing to assume the responsibility, you believe the time has arrived when this notice should be given, when this joint occupancy should cease, when the rights of the government should be declared, and maintained, cost what it may, that meet it boldly; come up to the question, as presented by the report of the committee, and say to the President, cause the notice to be given. But do not avoid the responsibility; do not step gently behind the screen, and say to the President, "we decline giving an opinion ourselves as to the propriety to be pursued at this time; but we will give you the power, (which perhaps he may already possess,) if, in your judgment, the interest of the country require, it, to give the notice hereafter." Say let us have no evading of this question; if we believe the notice ought to be given, let us so declare by our action.

Such then, sir, are the considerations which have brought my mind to the conclusion that the time has arrived when the government of the United States should assert and maintain her just and indisputable rights to the Oregon territory; and that the policy indicated by the resolution upon you is the proper initiatory step to the efficient and successful accomplishment of that object. Present them to the consideration of this House, and of my constituents, confidently anticipating from them a response as creditable to their hearts as I will be grateful to my own feelings.

ported from the
what is the dis
the resolution o
recommends that
notice. The gen
to assert that th
the notice, when
judgment, re
opposition is eva
so considere
sh government
the Executive v
interest require
pared to expres
est now require

States has sub
nexion with this
submitted, and
have any influ
s, he gives you
ght to be give
ncy shall forth
Alabama pro
king upon our
ing the question
the President, an
the notice ough
do it under ou
him that he ha
ve to him to de
tleman from Ala
the responsibility
blic interest re
as already take
n be placed upon
recommendation
message. If you
lives from the re
n of the friends o
which I draw—
responsibility,
when this notice
occupancy should
rnment should be
that it may, the
question, as pre
mittee, and sa
to be given. Bu
o not step gentl
a President, "w
as to the propo
but we will give
he may already
e interest of the
ice hereafter."
s question; if w
ren, let us so do

tions which hav
on that the tim
nt of the United
her just and in
territory; and the
ution upon you
p to the efficien
of that object.
f this House, an
anticipating from
their hearts as

