

ments upon this question. No administration which has ever had the control of the Government, *could stand* against the general indignation which would follow the loss of life and property, consequent upon a war with Great Britain, entered upon without warning, and without any, the slightest preparation for defence.

No part of the Union would, in the event of war, be more exposed than Maryland; and if you should have less confidence than I have in the wisdom of the Federal Executive, it will be your paramount duty to make some provision for placing our State in a posture of defence.

If you should entertain, upon this momentous subject, an opinion different from mine, the thorough re-organization of the militia system will be imperatively required.

But may not this question be settled without injury to the rights of this, and consistently with the honor of both countries?

If, contrary to our expectations, Great Britain should *finally* reject the very liberal compromise offered by our Government; would it in your judgment be injurious to the rights, or inconsistent with the honor of this country, to agree that this question of *title* should be settled by arbitration?

The diplomatic correspondence upon this question, between Mr. Paakenham and Mr. Buchanan, has made a powerful impression upon the public sentiment of the country; and I believe that now the almost universal opinion is entertained in this country, that ours is the *better title* to the *whole territory*. What objection then, can exist, on the part of the Government, or people of this country (who concur in the opinion that our title is well founded) to the submission of this question to the arbitrament of well informed men, the citizens of some other country, who would have no interest in the controversy, and who would be guided solely by the desire to decide the question according to right and justice! Would not the portion of the territory already offered by our government as a compromise, be more than could be assigned to Great Britain by any arbitrators who would be selected? The President in reference to this question, is, I am persuaded, only *anxious to do right*; and to meet the expectations of the country. If then you should concur with me in opinion, that the acceptance by our government of a proposition to arbitrate this question, would not conflict with the rights, or be derogatory to the honor of our country; might not the expression of that opinion, as the sentiment of Maryland, in the contingency of such an offer being made by Great Britain, have some effect upon the counsels of the Nation, and consequent influence in preserving the peace of the country!

In conclusion, permit me to assure you, that entertaining the most implicit confidence in your patriotism and judgment I shall co-operate with you to the utmost of my ability, to promote the welfare of our constituents, and *in peace or war*, to maintain the honor of our State.

THOMAS G. PRATT.