In the House of Representatives, Monday, May 11, 1846, a message, in writing, was received from the President of the United States, by the hands of J. K. Walker, Esq., his Private Secretary; which was read as follows:

"To the Senate and House of Representatives:

"The existing state of the relations between the United States and Mexico, renders it proper that I should bring the subject to the consideration of Congress. In my message at the commencement of your present session, the state of these relations, the causes which led to the suspension of diplomatic intercourse between the two countries in March, 1845, and the long-continued and undressed wrongs and injuries committed by the Mexican Government on citizens of the United States in their persons and property, were briefly set forth.

"As the facts and opinions which were then laid before you were carefully considered, I cannot better express my present convictions of the condition of affairs up to that time, than by referring you to that communication.

"The strong desire to establish peace with Mexico, on liberal and honorable terms, and the readiness of this Government to regulate and adjust our boundary, and other causes of difference with that Power, on such fair and equitable principles as would lead to permanent relations of the most friendly nature, induced me, in September last, to seek the reopening of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Every measure adopted on our part had for its object the furtherance of these desired results. In communicating to Congress a succinct statement of the injuries which we had suffered from Mexico, and which have been accumulating during a period of more than twenty years, every expression that could tend to inflame the people of Mexico, or defeat or delay a pacific settlement of the one question, in any correct view of the subject, in the other. I could not, for a moment, entertain the idea that the claims of our much-injured and long-suffering citizens, many of which had existed for more than twenty years, should be postponed, or separated from the settlement of the boundary question.

"Mr. Slidell arrived at Vera Cruz on the 30th of November, and was courteously received by the authorities of that city. But the Government of General Herrera was then tottering to its fall. The revolutionary party had seized upon the Texas question to effect or hasten its overthrow. Its determination to restore friendly relations with the United States, and to receive our minister, to negotiate for the settlement of this question, was violently assailed, and was made the great theme of denunciation against it. The Government of General Herrera, there is good reason to believe, was sincerely desirous to receive our minister; but it yielded to the storm raised by its enemies, and on the 21st of December last, to the Mexican Minister of Foreign Relations, herewith transmit a note, in the most frivolous pretexts. These are so fully and ably exposed in the note of Mr. Slidell to the 24th of December last, to the Mexican Minister of Foreign Relations, herewith transmitted, that I deem it unnecessary to enter into further detail on this portion of the subject.

"Five days after the date of Mr. Slidell's note, General Herrera yielded to the storm raised by its enemies, and on the 21st of December last, to the Mexican Minister of Foreign Relations, herewith transmitted, that I deem it unnecessary to enter into further detail on this portion of the subject.

"Determined to leave no effort untried to effect
an amicable adjustment with Mexico, I directed Mr. Slidell to present his credentials to the Government of General Paredes, and ask to be officially received by him. There would have been less ground for taking this step had General Paredes come into power by a regular constitutional succession. In that event his Administration would have been considered but a mere constitution of the Government of General Herrera, and the refusal of the latter to receive our minister would have been deemed conclusive, unless an intimation had been given by General Paredes of his desire to reverse the decision of his predecessor:

"But the Government of General Paredes owes its existence to a military revolution, by which the existing constitutional authorities had been overthrown. The form of government was entirely changed, as well as all the high functionaries by whom it was administered."

Under these circumstances, Mr. Slidell, in obedience to my direction, addressed a note to the Mexican Minister of Foreign Relations, under date of the 1st of March last, asking to be received by that Government in the diplomatic character to which he had been appointed. This minister, in his reply, under date of the 12th of March, reiterated the arguments of his predecessor, and, in terms that may be considered as giving just grounds of offence to the Government and people of the United States, denied the application of Mr. Slidell. Nothing, therefore, remained for our envoy but to demand his passports, and return to his own country.

"Thus the Government of Mexico, though solemnly pledged by official acts in October last to receive and accredit an American envoy, violated their pledged faith, and refused the offer of a peaceful adjustment of our difficulties. Not only was the offer rejected, but the indignity of its rejection was enhanced by the manifest breach of faith in refusing to admit the envoy, who came because they had bound themselves to receive him. Nor can it be said that the refusal of the envoy to the request of the minister would have been deemed conclusive, unless an intimation had been given by General Paredes of his desire to reverse the decision of his predecessor:

"In my message at the commencement of the present session, I informed you, that, upon the earnest appeal both of the Congress and Convention of Texas, I had ordered an efficient military force to take a position 'between the Nueces and the Del Norte.' This had become necessary to meet a threatened invasion of Texas by the Mexican forces, for which extensive military preparations had been made. The invasion was threatened solely because Texas had determined, in accordance with a solemn resolution of the Congress of Texas, had thus taken part in the act of annexation itself, and is now included within one of our Congressional districts. Our own Congress had, moreover, with great unanimity, by the act approved December 31st, 1845, recognized the country beyond the Nueces as a part of our territory by including it within our own revenue system; and a revenue officer, to reside within that district, has been appointed by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. It became, therefore, of urgent necessity to provide for the defense of that portion of our country. Accordingly, on the 13th of January last, instructions were issued to the general in command of these troops to occupy the left bank of the Del Norte. This river—which is the southwestern boundary of the State of Texas—is an exposed frontier. From this quarter invasion was threatened; upon it and in its immediate vicinity, in the judgment of high military experience, are the proper stations for the protecting forces of the Government. In addition to this important consideration, several others occurred to induce this movement. Among these are the facilities afforded by the ports at Brazos Santiago and the mouth of the Del Norte for the reception of supplies by sea; the stronger and more healthful military positions, the convenience for obtaining a ready and a more abundant supply of provisions, water, fuel, and forage, and the advantages which are afforded by the Del Norte for forwarding supplies to such posts as may be established in the interior and upon the Indian frontier. The movement of the troops to the Del Norte was made by the Commanding General, under positive instructions to abstain from all aggressive acts towards Mexico, or Mexican citizens, and to regard the relations between that Republic and the United States as peaceful, unless she should declare war, or commit acts of hostility indicative of a state of war. He was specially directed to protect private property and respect personal rights.

"The army moved from Corpus Christi on the 11th of March, and on the 28th of that month arrived on the left bank of the Del Norte, opposite to Matamoros, where it encamped on a commanding position, which has since been strengthened by the erection of field-works. A depot has also been established at Point Isabel, near the Brazos Santiago, thirty miles in rear of the encampment. The selection of his position was necessarily confined to the judgment of the general in command.

"The Mexican forces at Matamoros assumed a belligerent attitude, and on the 12th of April, General Ampudia, then in command, notified General Taylor to break up his camp within twenty-four hours, and to retire beyond the Nueces river; and in the event of his failure to comply with these demands, announced that arms, and arms alone, must decide the question. But no open act of hostility was committed until the 24th of April. On that day, General Arista, who had succeeded to the command of the Mexican forces, communicated to the American government:

"Meantime Texas, by the final action of our Congress, had become an integral part of our Union. The Congress of Texas, by its act of December 19th, 1836, had declared the Rio del Norte to be the boundary of that Republic. Its jurisdiction had been extended and exercised beyond the Nueces. The country between that river and the Del Norte had been represented in the Congress and in the Convention of Texas, had thus taken part in the act of annexation itself, and is now included within one of our Congressional districts. Our own Congress had, moreover, with great unanimity, by the act approved December 31st, 1845, recognized the country beyond the Nueces as a part of our territory by including it within our own revenue system; and a revenue officer, to reside within that district, has been appointed by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. It became, therefore, of urgent necessity to provide for the defense of that portion of our country. Accordingly, on the 13th of January last, instructions were issued to the general in command of these troops to occupy the left bank of the Del Norte. This river—which is the southwestern boundary of the State of Texas—is an exposed frontier. From this quarter invasion was threatened; upon it and in its immediate vicinity, in the judgment of high military experience, are the proper stations for the protecting forces of the Government. In addition to this important consideration, several others occurred to induce this movement. Among these are the facilities afforded by the ports at Brazos Santiago and the mouth of the Del Norte for the reception of supplies by sea; the stronger and more healthful military positions, the convenience for obtaining a ready and a more abundant supply of provisions, water, fuel, and forage, and the advantages which are afforded by the Del Norte for forwarding supplies to such posts as may be established in the interior and upon the Indian frontier. The movement of the troops to the Del Norte was made by the Commanding General, under positive instructions to abstain from all aggressive acts towards Mexico, or Mexican citizens, and to regard the relations between that Republic and the United States as peaceful, unless she should declare war, or commit acts of hostility indicative of a state of war. He was specially directed to protect private property and respect personal rights.

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to General Taylor that he considered hostilities commenced, and should prosecute them. A party of dragoons of sixty-three men and officers were on the same day despatched from the American camp up the Rio del Norte, on its left bank, to ascertain whether the Mexican troops had crossed, or were preparing to cross, the river, and if so, to engage with a large body of these troops, and after a short affair, in which some sixteen were killed and wounded, appear to have been surrounded and compelled to surrender.

The grievous wrongs perpetrated by Mexicans upon our citizens throughout a long period of years, remain unredressed; and solemn treaties, pledging her public faith for this redress, have been disregarded. A Government either unable or unwilling to enforce the execution of such treaties, fails to perform one of its plainest duties. The cup of forbearance had been exhausted, even from prosecuting it, by the system of outrage and Extortion which the Mexican authorities have pursued against them; whilst their appeals through their own Government for indemnity have been made in vain. Our forbearance has gone to such an extreme as to be mistaken in its character.

Upon the pretext that Texas, a nation as independent as herself, thought proper to unite its militia force as may be needed to repel invasion or to secure the country against anticipated invasion. The most energetic and prompt measures, and the immediate appearance in arms of a large and overpowering force, are recommended to Congress as the most certain and efficient means of bringing the existing collision with Mexico to a speedy and successful termination.

I transmit herewith a copy of the correspondence between our Envoy to Mexico and the Mexican Minister for Foreign Affairs; and so much of the correspondence between that Envoy and the Secretary of State, as are necessary to a full understanding of all matters in dispute between this Government and Mexico to an early and amicable adjustment; and, in this view, I shall be prepared to renew negotiations, whenever Mexico shall be ready to receive propositions, or to make propositions of her own.

WASHINGTON, May 11th, 1846.

JAMES K. POLK.
into the treasury, not otherwise appropriated, be, and the same is hereby, appropriated, for the purpose of carrying the provisions of this act into effect.

"Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That the militia, when called into the service of the United States by virtue of this act or any other act, may, if in the opinion of the President of the United States the public interest requires it, be compelled to serve for a term not exceeding six months, after their arrival at the place of rendezvous, in any one year, unless sooner discharged.

"Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That said volunteers shall furnish their own clothes, and if cavalry, their own horses; and when mustered into service shall be armed and equipped at the expense of the United States.

"Sec. 4. And be it further enacted, That said volunteers shall, when called into actual service, and while remaining therein, be subject to the rules and articles of war, and shall be in all respects, except as to clothing and pay, placed on the same footing with similar corps of the United States army; and in lieu of clothing, every non-commissioned officer and private, in any company, who may thus offer himself, shall be entitled, when called into actual service, to receive in money a sum equal to the cost of clothing of a non-commissioned officer or private (as the case may be) in the regular troops of the United States.

"Sec. 5. And be it further enacted, That the said volunteers so offering their services shall be accepted by the President in companies, battalions, squadrons, and regiments, whose officers shall be appointed in the manner prescribed by law in the several States and Territories to which such companies, battalions, squadrons, and regiments, shall respectively belong.

"Sec. 6. And be it further enacted, That the President of the United States be, and he is hereby, authorized to organize companies so tendering their services into battalions or squadrons, battalions and squadrons into regiments, regiments into brigades, and brigades into divisions, as soon as the number of volunteers shall render such organization, in his judgment, expedient; and shall, by and with the advice of the Senate, appoint the generals of brigade and division, and the general staff, as now authorized by law: Provided, however, That major generals and brigadier generals shall have the appointment of their own aids-de-camp; and the President shall, if necessary, apportion the staff, field, and general officers among the respective States and Territories from which the volunteers shall tender their services, as he may deem proper.

"Sec. 7. And be it further enacted, That the volunteers who may be received into the service of the United States by virtue of the provisions of this act, and who shall be wounded or otherwise disabled in the service, shall be entitled to all the benefit which may be conferred on persons wounded in the service of the United States.

"Sec. 8. And be it further enacted, That the President of the United States be, and he is hereby, authorized forthwith to complete all the public armed vessels now authorized by law, and to purchase or charter, arm, equip, and man such merchant vessels and steamboats as, upon examination, may be found fit, or easily converted into armed vessels fit for the public service, and in such number as he may deem necessary for the protection of the seaboard, lake coast, and the general defence of the country.
Sec. 9. And be it further enacted, That, whenever the militia or volunteers are called and received into the service of the United States under the provisions of this act, they shall have the organization of the army of the United States, and shall have the same pay and allowances, except as follows, to wit: Privates of infantry, artillery, and riflemen shall receive ten dollars per month, and privates of volunteer mounted corps twenty dollars per month, for their services and the use and risk of their horses.

And its title was so amended as to read "An act providing for the prosecution of the existing war between the United States and the Republic of Mexico."

The bill was then sent to the Senate.

IN SENATE.
Tuesday, May 12, 1846.

The following bill was received from the House of Representatives: "An act providing for the prosecution of the existing war between the United States and the Republic of Mexico."

The bill was read a first and second time by its title.

Mr. SPEIGHT called for the reading of the entire bill, and the bill was accordingly read.

Mr. ALLEN moved to postpone the prior orders of the day, for the purpose of proceeding, at once, to the consideration of the bill.

Pending this motion, a long and animated debate ensued, and various amendments were offered.

General Cass participated in the debate, and spoke as follows:

Mr. CASS. I do not rise to detain the Senate long, nor to enter into any protracted discussion of the subject now under consideration. I have but little to say, and I shall say that speedily. In the first place, sir, I desire to answer the appeal which I then expressed, and yet feel, insuperable considerations. If we appropriate money and raise men for the mere purpose of repelling an invasion, which my administration will be the result. But that subject more severe it is, the more triumphant for the Administration.

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able Senator yesterday, he considers there are three conditions in which our country may be placed with relation to another. A state of peace, of war, and of hostilities. This, to me, sir, is a new division of the principle of intercommunication between different countries. War I understand, and peace I understand, and the rights and duties which they bring with them. But a state of hostilities as contradistinguished from these relations, is a new chapter in the law of nations to me. Our Constitution is equally silent upon the subject. I suppose, heretofore, that if we were not at peace with a country, we were at war with it. I had to learn that there was an intermediate state creating new rights and duties, which I am afraid it will be difficult to find, unless a new Grotius starts up upon the occasion. The Senator from Missouri [Mr. Benton] has correctly stated that there may be war without hostilities, and hostilities without war. Belligerent operations may be temporarily suspended, and there may be acts of aggression, which may be called hostilities, which may be committed without the authority of a Government. Reconciliation, for example, may be followed by temporary incursions across the boundary of a country. But there can be no hostilities undertaken by a Government which do not constitute a state of war. War is a fact, sir, created by an effort made by one nation to injure another. One party may make a war, though it requires two parties to make a peace. The Senator from South Carolina contends that as Congress alone have a right, by the Constitution, to declare war, therefore, there can be no war till it is thus declared. There is here a very obvious error. It is certain that Congress alone has the right to declare war; that is, there is no other authority in the United States, which, on our part, can change the relations of peace with another country into those of war. No authority but Congress can commence an aggressive war. But another country can commence a war against us without the co-operation of Congress. Another country can, at its pleasure, terminate the relations of peace with us, and substitute for these the relations of war, with their legitimate consequences. War may be commenced with or without a previous declaration. It may be commenced by a manifesto announcing the fact to the world, or by hostile attacks by land or sea. The honorable Senator from Virginia [Mr. Pennington] has well stated the modern practice of nations on this subject. He has referred both to facts and authorities, showing that acts of hostility with or without a public declaration, constitute a state of war. It was thus the war of 1756 was commenced. It was thus, I believe, was commenced the war between England and France during our Revolution. The peace of Amiens was terminated by an act of hostility, and not by a public manifesto. The capture of the Danish fleet was preceded by no declaration of the intentions of the British Government. Our own war of 1812 was declared on the 18th of June. The manifesto of the Prince Regent, declaring war against us was not issued till January 10, 1813. And yet long before that, our borders had been penetrated in many directions, an army had been subdued and captured, and the whole territory of Michigan had been overrun and seized. All these facts prove conclusively that it is a state of hostilities that produces war, and not any formal declaration. Any other construction would lead to this practical absurdity. England, for instance, by an act of hostility or by a public declaration, announces that she is at war with us. If the view presented by the honorable Senator from South Carolina is correct, we are not at war with her till Congress has acted upon the subject. One party, then, is at war, while the other is at peace; or, at any rate, in this new intermediate state of hostilities, before unknown to the world. Now, sir, it is very clear that Mexico is at war with us, we at war with her. If she terminates the peaceful relations between two countries, they are terminated whether we consent or not. The new state of things that created does not depend upon the will of Congress. The two nations are at war, because one of them has chosen to place them both in that attitude.

But, sir, it is contended by some of the Senators that, in the present case, there is no evidence that the invasion of our territory has been authorized by the Mexican Government; and until that authority is shown, the act itself does not constitute a state of war. I have already said, sir, that there may be accidental or unauthorized encounters which do not therefore constitute war. The case of the "Little Belt" was of that description. Contumely, our minister, charged with full powers, has correctly stated that there may be war without a certificate from a justice of the peace with us, and substitute for these the relations of war. The President calls upon Congress for the necessary means to repel and punish this act of aggression. And we are met, forsooth, at the very threshold of our proceedings, that it does not appear that this invasion has been committed by the authority of the Mexican Government. Why, sir, what evidence is required under such circumstances? Do you want such as is required by a county court in investigating a claim for fifty dollars? Must we have a certificate from a justice of the county court in investigating a claim for fifty dollars? How far may the invaders march before we are satisfied that we are at war with Mexico? Why, sir, such a state of things must be judged by moral evidence, by the circumstances attending it. It might be enough to say, that the invasion itself throws the responsibility upon the Mexican Government, and is a sufficient declaration of the nature and circumstances of an aggression, sufficiently indicate its true character and consequences. A Mexican army invades our territory. The President calls upon Congress for the necessary means to repel and punish this act of aggression. And we are met, forsooth, at the very threshold of our proceedings, that it does not appear that this invasion has been committed by the authority of the Mexican Government. Why, sir, what evidence is required under such circumstances? Do you want such as is required by a county court in investigating a claim for fifty dollars? Must we have a certificate from a justice of the county court in investigating a claim for fifty dollars? How far may the invaders march before we are satisfied that we are at war with Mexico? Why, sir, such a state of things must be judged by moral evidence, by the circumstances attending it. It might be enough to say, that the invasion itself throws the responsibility upon the Mexican Government, and is a sufficient declaration of the nature and circumstances of an aggression, sufficiently indicate its true character and consequences. A Mexican army invades our territory. The President calls upon Congress for the necessary means to repel and punish this act of aggression. And we are met, forsooth, at the very threshold of our proceedings, that it does not appear that this invasion has been committed by the authority of the Mexican Government.
say that, in his opinion, the Mexican general has acted under the direct instructions of the Mexican Government. And are we now to be told, sir, that we must sit still till we ascertain whether his acts have been avowed or disclaimed? No, sir. A hostile army is in our country; our frontier has been penetrated; a foreign banner floats over the soil of our Republic; our citizens have been killed, while defending their country; a great blow has been aimed at us; and while we are talking and asking for evidence, it may have been struck, and our army been annihilated. And what then? The triumph-ant Mexicans will march onwards till they reach the frontiers of Louisiana, or till we receive such a formal certificate of the intentions of the Mexican Government as will unite us in a determination to recognize the existence of the war, and to take the necessary measures to prosecute it with vigor. It has, indeed, been suggested that acts of hostility to constitute a state of war must be directed by the legitimate authority of the country; and if not constitutional at home, they cannot be operative abroad. This is not the least strange among the strange principles we have heard advanced to-day. What have we to do with the constitution of Mexico? What have we to do with the powers of her President, or of her Congress? It is not for us to stop in the midst of our deliberations to turn over the pages of the last (so called) constitution of Mexico, and to seek how the powers of Government are divided among its various functionaries, nor to inquire whom is the last pronunciamento, or who is the present Dictator of that unhappy country. The changes, both of authority and authorities, are so rapid that it is difficult to keep pace with them. Whoever directs the military power of the Mexican Government against us is, for our purposes, the representative of the Mexican nation. Whether he has attained that power by usurpation, by false construction, or by an exercise of legitimate authority, the responsibility of his country is the same. If a fleet of the United States should, by order of the President, bombard an English town, or commit any other act of aggression, certainly we should be held responsible; and such acts of aggression would be considered acts of war. Honorable Senators have said that this act of invasion by the Mexican army may be unauthorized; and they demand of us, what would be the condition of the two countries if such should turn out to be the fact? Why, sir, the answer is equally clear and easy. If the Mexican Government should disavow the act of invasion, withdraw their army, punish their general, and make proper satisfaction for the injury done, peace would be immediately restored. But until this is done, we have only to accept the state of war which is offered to us, and act accordingly.

I have no doubt the boundary of Texas goes to the Rio del Norte. But I do not place the justification of our Government upon any question of title. Granting that the Mexicans have a claim to this country as well as a great nature of the aggression charged, we were in the possession of the country—a possession obtained without conflict. And we could not be divested of this possession but by our own consent, or by an act of war. The ultimate claim to the country was a question for diplomatic adjustment. Till that took place, the possessive right was in us; and any attempt to dislodge us was a clear act of war. It appears to me, sir, that the present is a most important crisis in the history of this country—a crisis which is, perhaps, to affect our character and our destiny for a long series of years. If we meet this act of aggression promptly, vigorously, energetically, as becomes the representatives of a great and spirited people, we shall furnish a lesson to the world which will be profitably remembered hereafter. But if we spend our time in useless discussions, we only exhibit counsels and conduct whose effects will impress themselves upon many a chapter of our future history. Our institutions have no admirers among the monarchical and aristocratical Governments of the Old World. Our condition and progress are a standing reproach to many of the political principles which are there practically adopted. This new doctrine of a balance of power on the American continent is an unerring indication of what they apprehend and what they design. We have but one safe course before us. Let us put forth our whole strength. Let us organize a force that will leave no doubt as to the result. Let us enter the Mexican territory, and conquer a peace at the point of the bayonet. Let us move on, till we meet reasonable proposals from the Mexican Government; and if these are not met on this side of the capital, let us take possession of the city of Monterezuma, and dictate our own conditions. And I trust those conditions will be honorable and reasonable. If all this is done soon, it will be well done. But if delayed, there will be other parties than Mexico who will soon mingle themselves in this affair; and the consequences may be felt throughout the civilized world. I am not afraid to trust the President with the necessary power to vindicate the country, and defend its honor. I believe he will execute his duties ably and patriotically. Before I conclude, I beg leave to tender my thanks to the distinguished Senator from Texas, [Mr. Houstox,] for the patriotic sentiments he has this day uttered. He has shown us that he is as able to advocate the rights of his country in counsel as to maintain them in arms. His name is connected with one of those imperishable deeds which connect themselves with the fate of nations. He led the forces of his adopted country upon that day which secured their independence, and broke the power of Mexico. He had the rare good fortune to overthrow a hostile army, and to capture the Chief Magistrate of a hostile nation. The Romans would have given him an ovation. We will give him what is better than that for a republican—a hearty reception among us, and the tribute of our thanks for his worth and services.

After the conclusion of the debate, the question, "Shall the bill pass?" was put, and resulted as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Allen, Archer, Ashley, Atchison, Atherton, Bagby, Barrow, Benton, Breese, Bright, Cameron, Cass, John M. Clayton, Colquitt, Corwin, Crittenden, Dayton, Dix, Houston, Jarnagin, Jenness, Johnson of Maryland, Johnson of Louisiana, Lewis, McDuffie, Mangum, Morehead, Niles, Pennybacker, Rusk, Sample, Sevier, Simmons, Speight, Surgeon, Turner, Upham, Westcott, Woodbridge, and Yulee—40.


Early after the assembling of the 30th Congress last winter, the Whigs (they having a small majority in the House of Representatives) began to offer propositions in the form of preambles and
resolutions in relation to the Mexican war, setting forth the dangerous principles they profess; among which may be found, in the 5th and 6th number of the Congressional Globe, those offered by Stephens, Botts, Van Dyke, Dickey, Hampton, and others.

On the 3d January, 1848, Mr. Hudson, a Whig member from Massachusetts, and one of the memorable fourteen, offered the following resolution, upon which he called the previous question.

Resolved, That the Committee on Military Affairs be directed to insinuate, that, having, by their long and faithful services been the President of the United States to withdraw, to the east bank of the Rio Grande, our armies now in Mexico, and to propose to the Mexican Government forthwith a treaty of peace on the following basis, to wit: That we relinquish all claim to indemnity for the expenses of the war, and that the boundary between the United States and Mexico shall be established at or near the place where the Nueces and the Rio Grande meet; that Mexico shall be held to pay all just claims due to our citizens at the commencement of the war, and that a convention shall be entered into by the two nations to provide for the liquidation of those claims and the mode of payment.

After some conversation on points of order—

The question recurred on the adoption of the resolution; which was decided in the negative, by yeas and nays, as follows:


So the resolution was disagreed to.

It will be seen by the above vote that 41 Whigs recorded their names in favor of withdrawing our armies from Mexico at a very unpropitious time.

On the 25th of January, Mr. Houston, of Delaware—previous notice having been given—introduced the following joint resolution of thanks to Major General Taylor:

Resolved, That the President of the United States be requested to cause the foregoing resolutions to be communicated to Major General Taylor, as a testimony of the high sense entertained by Congress of his judicious and distinguished conduct in the glorious command.

Resolved, That the President of the United States be requested to cause the foregoing resolutions to be communicated to Major General Taylor in such manner as he may deem best calculated to effect the objects thereof.

Mr. Jameson moved their committee to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. Henley moved to amend, by adding an instruction to the committee to add the words "engaged as they were in defending the rights and honor of the nation." On this he asked for the yeas and nays.

Mr. Ashmun, of Mass., another of the fourteen, moved to amend the amendment by adding the words "in a war unnecessarily and unconstitutionally begun by the President of the United States.

After some conversation on the subject, the yeas and nays were ordered on Mr. Ashmun's amendment; and, being taken, they resulted as follows:


See House Journal, page 184; and Congressional Globe, page 93, 1st session 30th Congress.

Thus, it will be perceived, the Whig party in Congress, who, with very few exceptions, had voted at the first session of the twenty-ninth Congress that "by the act of the Republic of Mexico a state of war exists between that Government and the United States," did, at the first session of the thirtieth Congress, last January, solemnly declare that the war was "unnecessarily and unconstitutionally begun by the President of the United States.

Can political inconsistency go further?