

But, sir, if such considerations induced a doubt under the old regime, they dispel all doubt under the new. In our anticipated Southern Confederacy, there will be no "irrepressible conflict" amidst its elements. With a homogeneous people, accustomed to slavery, holding it in reverence for its origin and its effects—with similar institutions, similar climate, similar productions, and a compact and valuable territory, there will be no domestic enemy to excite our vigilance, and to call for defensive or offensive measures. With no territories to people, and no balance of power to strive for and to sustain, we shall need no other supply of labor than the ordinary laws of natural increase and emigration of owners with slaves will give us in abundance. This condition of things may never be altered. Our only outlet for expansion must be through Mexico—and I throw it out as a suggestion—that it is, at least, doubtful whether we should wish an expansion in that direction, that would bring with it the recognition of such a mass of ignorant and superstitious and demoralized population, as Mexican States, if annexed, would necessarily bring. Upon one point I have no doubt, and that is, that we should never extend our borders by aggression and conquest. Springing into existence a nation in all its full proportions, by the disruption of the late Union, like Minerva from the cleft head of Jupiter, I would hope that, like that goddess, our young Republic would be distinguished for justice and wisdom, and that every portion of it would indignantly repudiate that spirit of rapacity and iniquitous conquest which Governor Houston has announced, in order to induce the noble State of Texas to pause in her advance towards a union with her sister seceding States in the formation of a Southern Confederacy.

But, Mr. President, I am extending my remarks beyond the limits which I had assigned to myself. I have, however, another suggestion which I wish to make. From what I have said, you will perceive that I am opposed to the African Slave Trade, under the present order of things, from considerations affecting our industrial interests alone. At the proper time I shall move an amendment, proposing that the Southern Confederacy shall prohibit the trade in slaves from any foreign quarter; and I shall do so from two sufficient considerations: First, because we will have as many slaves in our Confederacy as our Territory can profitably support; second, because we should offer inducements to the slave States, which have not yet seceded, to do so.

The argument I have already made, is in a large degree applicable to the first point. In addition, it may be said, that if we do not adopt a policy of exclusion, as wide as I have suggested, and