final completion cannot fail to give great additional security to that frontier, and to diminish, proportionably, the expense of defending it in the event of war.

The provisions in the several acts of Congress, of the last session, for the improvement of the navigation of the Mississippi and the Ohio, of the harbor of Presqu'isle, on Lake Erie, and the repair of the Plymouth Beach, are in a course of regular execution; and there is reason to believe, that the appropriation, in each instance, will be adequate to the object. To carry these improvements fully into effect, the superintendence of them has been assigned to officers of the Corps of Engineers.

Under the act of 30th April last, authorizing the President to cause a survey to be made, with the necessary plans and estimates, of such roads and canals, as he might deem of national importance, in a commercial point of view, or the transportation of the mail, a Board has been instituted, consisting of two distinguished officers of the Corps of Engineers, and a distinguished civil Engineer, with assistants, who have been actively employed, in carrying into effect the object of the act. They have carefully examined the route between the Potomac and the Ohio rivers; between the latter and Lake Erie; between the Alleghany and the Susquehannah; and the routes between the Delaware and the Bariten, Barnstable and Buzzard's Bay, and between Boston Harbor and Naraganset Bay. Such portion of the corps of Topographical Engineers, as could be spared from the survey of the coast, has been employed in surveying the very important route between the Potomac and the Ohio. Considerable progress has been made in it, but the survey cannot be completed until the next session. It is gratifying to add, from the view already taken, that there is good cause to believe, that this great national object may be fully accomplished.

It is contemplated to commence early in the next season, the execution of the other branch of the act, that which relates to roads, and with the survey of a route from this City through the Southern States to New-Orleans, the importance of which cannot be too highly estimated. All the officers of both the Corps of Engineers, who could be spared from other services, have been employed in exploring and surveying the routes for canals. To digest a plan for both objects, for the great purposes specified, will require a thorough knowledge of every part of our Union, and of the relation of each part to the others, and of all to the seat of the General Government. For such a digest it will be necessary that the information be full, minute, and precise. With a view to these important objects, I submit to the consideration of Congress the propriety of enlarging both the corps of Engineers, the Military and Topographical. It need scarcely be remarked, that the more extensively these corps are engaged in the improvement of their country, in the execution of the powers of Congress, and in aid of the states, in such improvements as lie beyond that limit, when such aid is desired, the happier the effect will be in many views of which the subject is susceptible. By profiting of their science the works will always be well executed; and by giving to the officers such employment, our Union will derive all the advantage in peace as well as war, from their talents and services, which they can afford. In this mode, also, the military will be incorporated with the civil, and unfounded and injurious distinctions and prejudices of every kind, be done away. To the corps themselves, this service cannot fail to be equally useful, since, by the knowledge they would thus acquire, they would be eminently better qualified, in the event of war, for the great purposes for which they were instituted.

Our relations with the Indian tribes within our limits, have not been materially changed during the year. The hostile disposition evinced by certain tribes on the Missouri during the last year still continues, and has extended in some degree to those on the Upper Mississippi and the upper Lakes. Several parties of our citizens have been plundered and murdered by those tribes. In order to establish relations of friendship with them, Congress at the last session made an appropriation for treaties with them, and for the employment of a suitable military escort to accompany and attend the commissioners, at the places appointed for the negotiations. This object has not been effected. The season was too far advanced when the appropriation was made, and the distance too great to permit it, but measures have been taken, and all the preparations will be completed, to accomplish it at an early period in the next season.

Believing that the hostility of the tribes, particularly on the upper Mississippi and the Lakes, is in no small degree owing to the wars which are carried on between the tribes residing in that quarter, measures have been taken to bring about a general peace among them; which, if successful, will not only tend to the security of our citizens, but be of great advantage to the Indians themselves.

With the exception of the tribes referred to, our relations with all the others are on the same friendly footing, and it affords me great satisfaction to add, that they are making steady advances in civilization, and the improvement of their condition. Many of the tribes have already made great progress in the arts of civilized life. This desirable result has been brought about by the humane and persevering policy of the government; and, particularly, by means of the appropriation for the civilization of the Indians. There have been established, under the provisions of this act, thirty-two schools, containing nine hundred and sixteen scholars, who are well instructed in several branches of literature and likewise in agriculture, and the ordinary arts of life.

Under the appropriation to authorise treaties with the Creek and Quapaw Indians, commissioners have been appointed, and negotiations are now pending, but the result is not yet known.

For more full information respecting the principle which has been adopted for carrying into effect the act of Congress, authorizing surveys, with plans and estimates for canals and roads, and on every other branch of duty incident to the Department of War, I refer you to the Report of the Secretary.

The squadron in the Mediterranean has been maintained in the extent which was proposed in the Report of the Secretary of the Navy of the last year, and has afforded our commerce the necessary protection in that sea. Apprehending, however, that the unfriendly relations which have existed between Algiers and some of the powers of Europe, might be extended to us, it has been thought expedient to augment the force there, and, in consequence, the "North-Carolina," a ship of the line, has been prepared, and will sail in a few days to join it.

The force employed in the Gulf of Mexico, and in the neighboring seas, for the suppression of Piracy, has likewise been preserved essentially in the state in which it was during the last year. A persevering effort has been made for the accomplishment of that object, and much protection has thereby been afforded to our commerce, but still the practice is far from being suppressed. From every view which has been taken of the subject, it is thought that it will be necessary rather to augment than to diminish our force in that quarter. There is reason to believe that the piracies now complained of, are committed by bands of robbers who inhabit the island, and who, by preserving good intelligence with the town, and seizing favorable opportunities, rush forth and fall on unprotected merchant vessels, of which they make an easy prey. The pillage thus taken they carry to their lurking places, and dispose of afterwards at prices tending to seduce the neighboring population. This combination is understood to be of great extent, and is the more to be deprecated because the crime of piracy is often attended with the murder of the crews, these robbers knowing, if any survive, their lurking places would be exposed, and they be caught and punished. That this atrocious practice, should be carried to such extent, is cause of equal surprise and regret. It is presumed that it must be attributed to the relaxed and feeble state of the local governments, since it is not doubted, from the high character of the governor of Cuba, who is well known and much respected here, that, if he had the power he would promptly suppress it. Whether these robbers should be pursued on the land, the local authorities be made responsible for those atrocities, or any other measure be resorted to, to suppress them, is submitted to the consideration of Congress.

In execution of the laws for the suppression of the slave trade, a vessel has been occasionally sent from the squadron to the coast of Africa, with orders to return thence by the usual track of the slave ships, and to seize any of our vessels which might be engaged in that trade. None have been found, and, it is believed, that none are thus employed. It is well known, however, that the trade still exists under other flags.

The health of our squadron while at Thompson's Island, has been much better during the present than it was the last season. Some improvements have been made, and others are contemplated there, which it is believed will have a very salutary effect.

On the Pacific our commerce has much increased: and on that coast, as well as on that sea, the United States have many important interests which require attention and protection. It is thought that all the considerations which suggested the expediency of placing a squadron on that sea, operate with augmented force, for maintaining it there at least in equal extent.

For detailed information respecting the state of our wartime force, on each sea, the improvements necessary to be made on either, in the organization of the naval establishment generally, and of the laws for its better government, I refer you to the report of the Secretary of the Navy, which is herewith communicated.

The revenue of the Post Office Department has received a considerable augmentation, in the present year. The current receipts will exceed the expenditures, although the transportation of the mail, within the year, has been much increased. A report of the Postmaster General, which is transmitted, will furnish in detail, the necessary information respecting the administration and present state of this Department.

In conformity with a resolution of Congress of the last session, an invitation was given to General La Fayette to visit the United States, with an assurance that a ship of war should attend at any port of France which he might designate, to receive and convey him across the Atlantic, whenever it might be convenient for him to sail. He declined the offer of a public ship, from motives of delicacy, but assured me he had long intended, and would certainly visit our Union, in the course of the present year. In August last he arrived in New-York, where he was received with the warmth of affection and gratitude to which his very important and disinterested services and sacrifices in our Revolutionary struggle, so eminently entitle him. A corresponding sentiment has since been manifested in his favor throughout every portion of our Union, and affectionate invitations have been given him to extend his visits to them. To these he has yielded all the accommodation in his power. At every designated point of rendezvous, the whole population of the neighboring country has been assembled to greet him, among whom it has excited in a peculiar manner the sensibility of all, to behold the surviving members of our revolutionary contest, civil and military, who had shared with him in the toils and dangers of the war, many of them in a decrepid state. A more interesting spectacle, it is believed, was never witnessed, because none could be founded on purer principles—none proceed from higher or more disinterested motives. That the feelings of those who had fought and bled with him, in a common cause, should have been much excited, was natural. There are, however, circumstances attending these interviews, which pervade the whole community, and touched the breasts of every age, even the youngest among us. There was not an individual present, who had not some relative who had partaken in those scenes, nor an infant who had not heard the relation of them. But the circumstance which was most sensibly felt, and which his presence brought forcibly to the recollection of all, was the great cause in which we were engaged, and the blessings which we have derived from our success in it. The struggle was for independence and liberty, public and personal, and in this we succeeded. The meeting with one who had borne so distinguished a part in that great struggle, and from such lofty and disinterested motives, could not fail to affect, profoundly, every individual, and of every age. It is natural that we should all take a deep interest in his future welfare, as we do. His high claims on our Union are felt, and the sentiment universal, that they should be met in a generous spirit. Under these impressions, I invite your attention to the subject, with a view that, regarding his very important services, losses, and sacrifices, a provision may be made and tendered to him, which shall correspond with the sentiments, and be worthy the character, of the American people.

In turning our attention to the condition of the civilized world, in which the United States have always taken a deep interest, it is gratifying to see how large a portion of it is blessed with peace. The only wars which now exist within that limit, are those between Turkey and Greece, in Europe; and between Spain and the new Governments, our neighbors, in this hemisphere. In both these wars the cause of independence, of liberty and humanity, continues to prevail. The success of Greece, when the relative population of the contending parties is considered, commands our admiration and applause, and that it has had a similar effect with the neighboring Powers, is obvious. The feeling of the whole civilized world is excited, in a high degree, in their favor. May we not hope that these sentiments, winning on the hearts of their respective governments, may lead to a more decisive result? that they may produce an accord among them, to replace Greece on the ground which she formerly held, and to which her heroic exertions, at this day, so eminently entitle her?

With respect to the contest, to which our neighbors are a party, it is evident that Spain, as a power, is scarcely felt in it. These new states had completely achieved their independence, before it was acknowledged by the United States, and they have since maintained it, with little foreign pressure. The disturbances which have appeared in certain portions of that vast territory, have proceeded from internal causes, which had their origin in their former governments, and have not yet been thoroughly removed. It is manifest that these causes are daily losing their effect, and that these new states are settling down under governments elective and representative in every branch, similar to our own. In this course we ardently wish them to persevere, under a firm conviction that it will promote their happiness. In this their career, however, we have not interfered, believing that every people have a right to institute for themselves the government, which, in their judgment, may suit them best. Our example is before them, of the good effect of which, being our neighbors, they are competent judges, and to their judgment we leave it, in the expectation that other powers will pursue the same policy. The deep interest which we take in their independence, which we have acknowledged, and in their enjoyment of all the rights incident thereto, especially in the very important one of instituting their own governments, has been declared, and is known to the world. Separated, as we are, from Europe by the great Atlantic ocean, we can have no concern in the wars of the European governments, nor in the causes which produce them. The balance of power between them, into which ever scale it may turn in its various vibrations, cannot affect us. It is the interest of the United States to preserve the most friendly relations with every power, and on conditions fair, equal, and applicable to all. But, in regard to our neighbors, our situation is different. It is impossible for the European governments to interfere in their concerns, especially in those alluded to, which are vital, without affecting us; indeed, the motive which might induce such interference in the present state of the war between the parties, if a war it may be called, would appear to be equally applicable to us. It is gratifying to know that some of the powers with whom we enjoy a very friendly intercourse, and to whom these views have been communicated, have appeared to acquiesce in them.

The augmentation of our population, with the expansion of the Union, and increased number of States, have produced effects in certain branches of our system, which merit the attention of Congress.—Some of our arrangements, and particularly the Judiciary establishment, were made with a view to the original thirteen states only. Since then the United States have acquired a vast extent of territory: eleven new states have been admitted into the Union, and territories have been laid off for three others, which will, likewise, be admitted at no distant day. An organization of the Supreme Court, which assigns to the Judges any portion of the duties which belong to the inferior, requiring their passage over so vast a space, under any distribution of the states that may now be made, if not impracticable in the execution, must render it impossible for them to discharge the duties of either branch with advantage to the Union. The duties of the Supreme Court would be of great importance, if its decisions were confined to the ordinary limits of other tribunals; but when it is considered that this court decides, and in the last resort, on all the great questions which arise under our constitution, involving those between the United States, individually, and between the latter and foreign powers, too high an estimate of their importance cannot be formed. The great interests of the nation seem to require that the Judges of the Supreme Court should be exempted from every other duty, than those which are incident to that high trust. The organization of the inferior courts would, of course, be adapted to circumstances. It is presumed that such an one might be formed, as would secure an able and faithful discharge of their duties, and without any material augmentation of expense.

The condition of the Aborigines within our limits, and especially those who are within the limits of any of the states, merits likewise particular attention. Experience has shown, that unless the tribes be civilized, they can never be incorporated into our system, in any form whatever. It has likewise shown, that in the regular augmentation of our population, with the extension of our settlements, their situation will become deplorable, if their extinction is not menaced. Some well digested plan, which will rescue them from such calamities, is due to their rights, to the rights of humanity, and to the honor of the nation. Their civilization is indispensable to their safety; and this can be accomplished only by degrees. The process must commence with the infant state, through whom some effect may be wrought on the parental. Difficulties of the most serious character present themselves to the attainment of this very desirable result, on the territory on which they now reside. To remove them from it by force, even with a view to their own security and happiness, would be revolting to humanity, and utterly unjustifiable. Between the limits of our present states and territories, and the Rocky Mountain and Mexico, there is a vast territory, to which they might be invited, with inducements which might be successful. It is thought, if that territory should be divided into districts, by previous agreement with the tribes now residing there, and civil governments be established in each, with schools for every branch of instruction in literature and the arts of civilized life, that all the tribes now within our limits, might gradually be drawn there. The execution of this plan would necessarily be attended with expense, and that not inconsiderable: but it is doubted whether any other can be devised, which would be less liable to that objection, or more likely to succeed.

In looking to the interests which the United States have on the Pacific Ocean and on the western coast of this continent, the propriety of establishing a military post at the mouth of Columbia river, or at some other point in that quarter, with a view to the security of our acknowledged rights, is submitted to the consideration of Congress. Our commerce and fisheries on that sea, and along the coast, have much increased, and are increasing. It is thought that a military post to which our ships of war might resort, would afford protection to every interest, and have a tendency to conciliate the tribes to the northwest, with whom our trade is extensive. It is thought also, that, by the establishment of such a post, the intercourse between our western states and territories, and the Pacific, and our trade with the tribes residing in the interior, on each side of the Rocky Mountain, would be essentially promoted. To carry this object into effect, the appropriation of an adequate sum to authorise the employment of a fregate, with an officer of the Corps of Engineers, to explore the mouth of the Columbia river and the coast contiguous thereto, to enable the Executive to make the establishment at the most suitable point, is recommended to Congress.

It is thought that attention is also due to the improvement of this city. The communication between the public buildings, and to the other parts, and the ground around the buildings, require it. It is presumed also, that the completion of the canal from the Tiber to the Eastern Branch, would have a very salutary effect. Great exertions have been made, and expense incurred by the citizens, in many instances of various kinds; but those which are considered as belong exclusively to the Government, and are of a nature to require expenditures beyond their ordinary resources. The public lots which remain unsold, would, it is not doubted, be more than adequate to these purposes.

From the view above presented, it is believed that the situation of the United States is the highest degree prosperous and happy. There is no object, which, as a people, we have the power which we do not possess, or which is within our reach. Blessed with governments, the freest and purest which the world ever knew, with no distinct orders in society, or dividend property, and with any portion of the vast territory over which our dominion extends, we have every motive to union together which can animate a virtuous and enlightened people. The great object is to preserve these blessings, and to hand them down to the latest posterity. Our experience is sufficient to satisfy us, that our progress, under the influence of correct and provident policy, will be rapid and secure from danger. Our institutions have reached an important epoch in the history of the civilized world. On their preservation, and on the faithful discharge of duty, every thing will depend. Every thing that our interests do, to every part of the civilized globe, and to every sea, to which the enterprising citizens are carried by their industry and the pursuits in which they are invited by the wants of others, and have a right to go, we must protect. We must maintain them in the enjoyment of the rights which belong to them, in certain events, to watch over and protect. Our attitude is highly interesting. We have made no alliances with other powers, and particularly with those which are near neighbors. We have duties to perform to all, to which we must be faithful. Against every kind of danger we should be prepared. A strict and unceasing attention to our defence, when practicable, and be prepared to meet it when inevitable.

Against foreign danger the Government seems to be already prepared. The events of the late war admonish us to make our maritime frontier the object of a well digested system of fortifications, and to give efficient protection to our commerce. Commencing our Navy to a certain extent, which has been steadily pursued, and which is now incumbent upon us to complete, as circumstances will permit. In the event of war, which is on the maritime frontier the war will be principally sailed. It is in that quarter, therefore, that we should be prepared to meet the attack, and there that our whole force will be put in action, to prevent the destruction of our towns and the desolation and pillage of the country. To give full effect to this policy, great establishments will be indispensable. Arsenals and dock yards, by every practicable combination, should be made easy, and in every respect convenient. The intercourse, also, between every part of our Union, should be promoted, and facilitated by the exercise of those powers, which may be made to comport with a faithful regard to the principles of our Constitution. With respect to internal causes, these great objects may be pursued, with equal certainty, the policy pursued. Resting on the people, as our governments do, State and National, with their respective powers, it is of the highest importance that they severally keep within the limits prescribed them. Fulfilling that sacred duty is of the first importance, that the movement of the parts be not harmonious; and in case of any deviation, that it should any such occur, that a candid communication be made to the People; and that their will be heard, and promptly obeyed. By these means, improvements being instituted for the common benefit, we cannot fail to prosper, while the public agents, by whom they are attended to the confidence reposed in them as representatives, and control the conduct of others, in the pursuit of these great objects, by honorable and virtuous spirit, and national views and feelings indulged, and let every part reciprocally be cherishing that spirit, and encouraging the same disposition of the others, in what relates to the general welfare, the general interest will not only be promoted, but the local advantage secured by all.

I cannot conclude this communication, the last of the kind which I shall have to make, without recollecting, with great satisfaction and heartfelt gratitude, the many proofs of public confidence, and the generous support by which I have received from my fellow citizens in the various trusts with which I have been honored. Having commenced my career in early youth, and continued it since, with short intervals, I have witnessed the difficulties to which our Union was exposed, and admired the virtue and courage by which they were surmounted. I have seen it prosperous and happy state, beyond the ordinary gratification which I cannot express. That these blessings may be preserved and improved, will be the object of my fervent and last prayers to the Supreme Ruler of the Universe.

JAMES MONROE.

Washington, December 7, 1824.

The Vice Presidency.—Such of the returns have already been received, show that our statesman, to renewed certainty, has been elected Vice-President of a gentleman of such talents and to fill the second office in his country, of sincere congratulation. It will be assistance and respectability to the Executive strength at the same time to the country.

American Writers.—Black wood's for September last, contains an article on our most prominent writers. A Noah, Bogman, Brockden Brown, Bryant, Channing, the clergyman, the Professor of Rhetoric and Belles Lettres at Harvard University, are discussed with a flippancy and flatulency which is disgusting. It is easy, we think, to fix on the author of an American and half educated, half foreign author, whose opinions on any subject would not, while he was here, pass current. It is indeed too much to be obliged to endure English ignorant literary mountebanks to come amongst us to get materials for their books, and then by our own renegadoes—creatures of our own—powerful booksellers in every county, and after being ridiculed in the United States, for their works, except to England, to sell