

THE WESTERN DEMOCRAT.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY.

A FAMILY PAPER—DEVOTED TO POLITICS, LITERATURE, AGRICULTURE, MANUFACTURES, MINING, AND NEWS.

PRICE \$2 PER YEAR—In Advance.

ROBERT P. WARING, Editor.

"The States—Distinct as the Willow, but one as the Sea."

RUFUS M. HERRON, Publisher.

VOL. 3.

CHARLOTTE, N. C., FRIDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 8, 1854.

NO. 20.

Business Cards, &c.

R. P. WARING,
Attorney at Law,
Office in Longan's Brick Building, 2nd floor.
CHARLOTTE, N. C.

THOMAS TROTTER & SON
Have just opened a splendid stock of WATCHES
and JEWELRY, SILVER & PLATED WARE
and FANCY GOODS of all kinds. No. 5, Granite
Row. Oct. 27, 1854. 141f

J. B. F. BOONE,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DEALER IN
BOOTS & SHOES,
SOLE LEATHER, CALF SKINS,
LINING AND BINDING SKINS,
SHOE TOOLS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.
Charlotte, N. C.
Oct. 20, 1854. 1y

ELMS & JOHNSON,
Forwarding and Commission Merchants
NO. 10 VENDUE RANGE,
CHARLESTON, S. C.
W. W. ELMS. C. JOHNSON.
June 23, '54. 48f.

R. HAMILTON, R. M. GATES,
HAMILTON & GATES,
COMMISSION MERCHANTS,
Corner of Richardson and Laurel Streets,
COLUMBIA, S. C.
June 9 1854 1y

T. STENHOUSE, C. N. AVERILL,
T. STENHOUSE & CO.,
FORWARDING & COMMISSION MERCHANTS,
No. 2 Hope Street,
CHARLESTON S. C.
REFER TO
Hand, Williams & Wilcox, Charleston, S. C.
R. Dulin, Williams, Dixon & Co., Charlotte, N. C.
B. Chandler, Chattanooga, Aug. 11, '54—6m

RHETT & ROBINSON,
FACTORS & COMMISSION MERCHANTS,
Nos. 1 and 2 Atlantic Wharf,
CHARLESTON, S. C.
Liberal advances made on Consignments.
Special attention given to the sale of Flour, Corn,
&c., and from a long experience in the business, we
feel confident of giving satisfaction.
March 17, 1854. 24ly

Dry Goods in Charleston, So. Ca.
BROWNING & LEMAN,
IMPORTERS OF DRY GOODS,
Nos. 209 and 211 King Street, corner of Market Street,
CHARLESTON, S. C.
Plantation Wools, Blankets, &c., Carpets and
Carpet Materials, Silks and Rich Dress Goods, Cloaks,
Mantles and Shawls, Terms Cash. One Price Only.
March 17, 1854. 34ly

CAROLINA INN,
BY JENNINGS B. KERR,
Charlotte, N. C.
January 28, 1853. 28f

WINDOW SHADES,
CURTAIN GOODS, MATRESSES,
Paper Hangings,
AT GREAT BARGAINS.
THE subscriber has in store, of his own manufacture
and importation an enormous stock of WINDOW
SHADES, Curtains, Paper Hangings, Mattresses,
Satin Delaines, Damasks, Lace and Muslin Curtains,
Tassels, Loops, &c. All of which are offered at prices
that are appreciated by all class buyers and economical
house-keepers.
H. W. KINSMAN, 177 King St.
Mar 24, '54 1y Charleston, S. C.

"Mining Machinery,"
CORNISH PUMPS, Lifting and Forcing, Cornish
Crushers, Stamps, Steam Engines, and general
Mining work, made by the subscribers at short notice.
LANE, COOK & CO.,
Hudson Machine Works,
Hudson, N. Y.
Refer to
Jas. J. Hodge, Esq., New-York.
June 2, 1854 43-y

Norris Works,
Northampton, Penn.
THE subscribers manufacture Mining Machinery, as
follows, viz: THE CORNISH PUMPING ENGINE, high
and low pressure Pumping, Stamping and Hoisting
STEAM ENGINES; CORNISH PUMPS, STAMPS, CRUSHERS,
WINDMILLS, IRON ROLLERS, PULVERISERS of all sizes, and every
variety of Machinery for Mining purposes.
THOMAS, CORSON & WEST,
June 2, 1854 45-ly

MEDICAL NOTICE.
DR. P. C. CALDWELL has associated his son, DR.
JOSEPH W. CALDWELL, with him in the Prac-
tice of Medicine. Office, 2nd story in Elms' new brick
building, near the Courthouse.
March 24, 1854. 35-ly

N. B.—All persons indebted to me by accounts are
requested to settle the same at an early day.
P. C. CALDWELL.

The American Hotel,
CHARLOTTE, N. C.
I BEG to announce to my friends, the public, and pre-
sented patrons of the above Hotel, that I have leased the
same for a term of years from the 1st of January next.
After which time, the entire property will be thoroughly
repaired and renovated, and the house kept in first
class style. This Hotel is near the Depot, and pleasant-
ly situated, rendering it a desirable house for travellers
and families.
Dec 16, 1853. 22f C. M. RAY.

MARCH & SHARP,
AUCTIONEERS AND COMMISSION MERCHANTS,
COLUMBIA, S. C.

WILL attend to the sale of all kinds of Merchandise,
Produce, &c. Also, Real and Personal Property.
Or purchase and sell Slaves, &c., on Commission.
Sales Room—No. 123 Richardson street, and imme-
diately opposite the United States Hotel.
Feb 3, 1854 JESUS H. MARCH, J. M. E. SHARP.

Livery and Sales Stable,
BY S. H. REA,
AT the stand formerly occupied by R. Morrison, in
Charlotte. Horses fed, hired, and sold. Good ac-
commodations for Drivers. The custom of his friends
and the public generally solicited.
February 17, 1854. 30-y

Just Charge It.

A SKETCH FOR NEW BEGINNERS IN LIFE.

BY AUSTIN C. BURDICK.

"Charles, what did this peach preserve cost?"
"I'm sure I don't know, Hannah."
"But you bought it this morning."
"I know I did, but I didn't ask the price of it."
"Did not you pay for it?"
"No."
"O, because I couldn't stop to make change.—
I have opened an account with Mr. Waldron and
shall hereafter settle once in three months."

This conversation was going on at the tea-table
between Charles Mathews and his wife. Mathews
was a young mechanic who had just commenced
housekeeping, and as he was making excellent
wages he could afford to live pretty well. After
he had made known his arrangements to his wife
she remained some time in silent thought.

"Charles," she at length said, in a very mild
persuasive tone, "I think it would be better to
pay for things as you take them. You know you
receive your pay for labor every Saturday night,
and you could pay as you go very easily."

"I know I could," returned Mr. Mathews, with
the air of a man who had unanswerable arguments
at his command; "but then it would not be near
so handy. You see, if I pay my store bill once a
quarter I shall save all the trouble of making
change, and shall not only save time, but also
avoid mistakes."

"Mistakes!" repeated Hannah. "How can mis-
takes occur when you pay for things as you get
them?"

"I will tell you. Sometimes it may not be
convenient to pay for a thing when I get it—I may
forget my money, or I may only take it on trial
—then if I pay for a part and not for all, some
things may get charged which I pay for. No
Hannah, a settlement once a quarter will be the
best and most convenient all around, I am satisfac-
ed of."

"Well, perhaps it may," said the wife, with an
earnest tone and look, and yet with a smile, "but I
cannot think so."

"Why, on all accounts. In the first place, you
will buy more than you would if you paid cash.
Now you needn't shake your head for I know it.
There are many little luxuries, little extras, which
we do not need, but which you will be apt to buy
if you do not have to pay the cash down. I know
something of this credit business, and it is not a
fair thing. In the second place, if you pay cash
for every thing you will get your goods cheaper.
A trader will sell cheaper when he can have the
money in his hand than when he has to carry out
the amount in his ledger."

"But let me tell you, Hannah, that Mr. Wal-
dron will not cheat. He is not the man to take
advantage in that way."

"You misunderstand me, Charles. Do you
know that all traders can afford to sell cheap-
er for cash than for credit? Mr. Waldron for a
five dollar bill, would let you have more sugar
than he would for the same amount entered at dif-
ferent times on his ledger. He could afford to do
so. Traders like to secure cash customers. I
think you would find it to our advantage to try
the cash system. Now I do not believe you would
have bought that peach preserve if you had had to
pay the cash for it."

"But I thought that just to please you, Hannah,
and I thought you would accept it gratefully,"
returned the young husband, in a tone that showed
his feelings were touched.

"I know you did, Charles," said the wife, lay-
ing her hand affectionately upon his shoulder, "and
I was grateful for I know you would do anything
to please me; but for the sake of helping you I
would forego all such things. Perhaps—and the
wife spoke very lowly—you might be able to buy
a little cottage of your own one of these days."

"For several days Charles only sent home such
things up from the store as were actually needed.
At length, as he went into the store one morning
on his way to his work, he saw some splendid
looking pickles in fancy jars. He had ordered the
articles he needed, and was about to leave, when
Mr. Waldron spoke:

"Mr. Mathews," said he "don't you want a jar
of these pickles. I carried my wife in a jar last
evening, and she thinks them superior to anything
she ever saw before."

Now Charles knew that his wife had plenty of
plain pickled cucumbers, some that her mother
had put down for her, but Mr. Waldron's wife had
had some of these fancy ones, and why should not
Hannah?

"Shall I send you up a jar?"
"How much are they?"
"Only a dollar."
"Yes, you may send it up—and just charge it if
you please."

"O, certainly. Anything you want you may
order at any time, and you may be assured we
shall be happy to accommodate you."

Now this was flattering to young Mathews' feel-
ings, to think that the trader had such confidence
in him, and he went away with an exceeding good
opinion of himself and his credit, and to the store-
keeper in particular.

"Only a dollar! Yes—only a dollar on the
ledger—that is nothing. But a dollar right out of
one's pocket—that is different—Charles would not
have bought these pickles if the cash had been re-
quired for them."

"Ah, Mathews, look here: I've got something
to show you." This was said by the trader to the
young man on the very next morning after the
purchase of the pickles.

And so Mr. Waldron led our hero out to the
back side of the store and opened a box.

"These Mathews ain't these nice oranges?"
"They are nice," replied Charles, and so they
really were.

"I know your wife would like some of them.—
I carried some in to my wife, and she wanted me
to save her four or five dozen."

"These are nice. How do they come?"
"Let's see; I can send you up three dozen for a
dollar. I got them cheap. You know they are
retailing at five and six cents a piece."

"Yes. Well you may send me up three dozen.
Just charge them if you please."
"Certainly. Anything else this morning?"
"I believe not."

And so Mr. Mathews went on. This morning

it would be a dollar—to-morrow perhaps fifty cents
and then again perhaps only twenty-five cents.—
I didn't seem much. The young man kept just
so much money in his pocket as though he hadn't
bought them. "Only a dollar," he would say to
himself. "That isn't much out of twelve dollars
a week." And so it might not be; but the trouble
was that the next dollar was also only a dollar.
He forgot to add this dollar with the former dol-
lar, and call it "two dollars," and with the next
dollar and call it "three," and so on.

One evening Charles came home with a new
gold chain attached to his watch.

"Where did you get that?" asked his wife.
"Ah," returned the husband, with an impressive
shake of the head, "I made a bargain in this
chain. Now guess what I paid for it?"
"I'm sure I can't guess."
"O, but try—guess something."
"Well, perhaps ten dollars."

"Ten dollars?" echoed Charles with a sort of
disappointed look. "Why, what are you thinking
of?" Jack Cummings bought this chain two
months ago, and paid twenty dollars cash for it.
Why, just left it and see how heavy it is. Eight-
teen carats fine. Jack was hard up for money,
and he let me have it for twelve dollars."

"It is cheap, to be sure," returned Hannah, but
yet with not so much pleasurable surprise as her
husband had anticipated. "But," she added "you
did not need it, and I fear you will feel the loss of
the money."

"Pooh! I have money enough. You know I
have not spent much money lately. I have been
pretty saving."

"But you forget our things, Charles. The money
you have on hand is not yours."
"Not mine?"
"No. It belongs to the store-keeper, and to the
butcher, and our landlord. You know they must
be paid."

"Don't you fret about them. I know it don't
cost me any where near twelve dollars a week to
live, for I have made an estimate. There is Wil-
kins, who works right by the side of me in the
shop, he has four children, and only gets the same
wages that I do and yet he lays up some three or
four dollars every week, besides paying his rent."

"Yes," said Hannah, "I know he does. I was
in to see his wife the other day, and she was tel-
ling me how well they were getting along. Mr.
Wilkins takes his basket every Saturday evening
and goes over to the market and buys his week's
quantity of meat and vegetables, and trades for
cash, so that he gets everything at the best advan-
tage. So he does at the store. He lays in a quan-
tity of all those articles which will keep, and buys
them as cheap as he can. Butter, eggs, cheese,
apples, and so on; he buys when the market is
full, and when they are cheap, and he always
buys enough to last his family over the season of
scarcity, when such things are high. This butter,
for instance, he bought for eighteen cents a pound
—a whole firkin of it—and it is much sweeter
than that for which you paid twenty-eight cents
yesterday."

"Twenty-eight cents?" repeated the young man,
in surprise.

"Yes. I asked Mr. Waldron's man who brought
it up, and he said it had risen to twenty-eight
cents. Mr. Wilkins got fifty dozen of eggs some
time ago for twelve cents a dozen, and his wife
packed them down, and they keep well. You will
have to pay Mr. Waldron thirty-three cents for
those he sent up yesterday."

Charles Mathews was somewhat astonished at
this view of the case, but it could not be helped
now; and the subject was dropped. His gold
chain had lost its charm. It did not look so well,
even in his own eyes as had the simple black cord
which he had worn before.

At length the end of the quarter came around.
The first bill paid was the rent, which amounted to
thirty-one dollars. The next was the butcher's
bill, which came to thirty-six dollars. Charles
was astonished to see how the meat bill footed up.
But when he saw how many steaks he had had at
seventeen cents per pound the cause of wonder
was at an end. Next he paid the baker's bill,
which was thirteen dollars. When he came home
in the evening he had paid all his bills except the
grocery bill.

"Waldron sent in his bill to-day," his wife said
after supper.

"Ah, did he? Let me see it."
Hannah brought it, and Charles looked at it.
He was astonished at its length, and when he
came to look at the bottom of the column his face
turned a shade pale. It footed up just fifty-five
dollars—an average of five dollars per week!

"This is impossible!" he uttered as he gazed
upon it. But he examined the different articles,
and he could remember when he ordered them.
Those things which cost "only a dollar," looked
very innocent when viewed alone, but in the ag-
gregate had a different appearance.

"How much shall you lay up this quarter,
Charles?" kindly asked the wife, as she came and
leaned over her husband's shoulder, and parted
the hair on his forehead and smoothed it back.

"How much shall I lay up?" he repeated.
"Not much. Get the slate and let us reckon
up." Charles was resolved to be frank about the
matter, and let his wife know all.

The slate was brought. First Hannah put down
one hundred and fifty-six dollars as the quarter's
wages. Then came the rent, and the butcher,
and the baker.

"Now you may put down twelve dollars for this
chain—and twelve dollars for sundries—that
means cigars, tobacco, nuts, beer, soda, theatre
tickets, and such like things. Now take all that
from my quarter's wages, and see how much re-
mains."

Hannah performed the sum, and gave fifty-two
dollars as the result.

"Fifty-two dollars!" uttered Charles, sinking
back into his chair, "and we have not bought our
articles of clothing nor of furniture. Fifty-two
dollars with which to pay sixty-five. There is
thirteen dollars short this quarter; and I had
meant to save thirty at least."

"Well, it's no use to mourn over it," said the
wife, in a cheerful tone, for she saw that her hus-
band felt badly. "Let's commence again. There's
nothing like trying, you know."

For some moments Charles remained silent. He
gazed first upon the bill he held in his hand, then
upon the figures on the slate, and then upon the
floor. At last he spoke. There was a peculiar
light in his eyes, and a flush upon his countenance.

"Hannah, I see where the trouble is, and I must
freely admit that I have been wrong. If I had
paid for everything as I bought it I should not
have been where I now am in pecuniary matters.
You were right. I see it all. I have not esti-
mated the value of money as I ought. Let me
once get up again to where I began, and I will do
differently. I must step down to the store this
evening and pay Mr. Waldron what I have, and
the rest I will pay him when I am able."

"That matter can be easily settled," said Han-
nah, with a bright, happy look. "I have more
than enough to make up the amount of that bill.
It is money I had when we were married. Wait
a moment."

Charles protested most earnestly against taking
his wife's money, but she would listen to no argu-
ment on that subject. It was her will and he must
submit. So he went down and paid up the groce-
ry bill, and on his way home he sold his gold
chain for fourteen dollars. He felt happier when he
once more got the old black cord about his
neck, and he had money now to commence the
quarter with.

On the next Monday morning the young man
went into the meat store to send home a piece of
beef for dinner.

"How much will you have?" asked the butcher.
"O, three or four—"

Charles got thus far, and then he stopped. He
had always been in the habit of ordering an in-
definite quantity, and leaving the butcher to cut
it off at the highest figure, and charge the highest
price; and then he remembered how much was
usually wasted.

"Let me have two pounds," he said. He stop-
ped and saw it weighed, and then paid for it.

When he went home at noon he found that his
two pounds of beef had made enough, and there
was none to waste. The next morning he went
to the store. Mr. Waldron had some nice figs,
just come in, which he showed. They were only
a shilling a pound. For a moment Charles hesi-
tated, but as he remembered that he had got to
pay for all he bought he concluded not to take
them. He found that things were not so enticing
when it required cash to get them as when the
payment could be postponed. He paid for what
he bought and went his way; and thus things
went on through the week. When it came Satur-
day night he knew that all the money in his
pocket was his own, after deducting the rent. That
evening he went over to the market with Wilkins,
and bought as much meat and vegetables as he
thought would last him through the week. He
found that he had made a saving of at least 20
per cent. by this operation, and when the oppor-
tunity offered he made the same saving in other
matters.

At the end of that quarter Charles Mathews
did not have to get any slate. He paid his house
rent and found that he had thirty-five dollars left
in his pocket. That was all his—he did not owe
a penny of it.

"Ah, Hannah," he said, as he held the money
in his hand and looked at it, "now I see how easy
it is for a man to be wrong and his wife right. This
money all comes of paying as I go along. It is
very easy and simple to say—JUST CHARGE
IT—and a man can easily buy things under such
circumstances, but when the day of reckoning
comes these three simple words, that sound so
innocent when spoken, are found to be costly
things. I would not have believed it until I tried
it. I could not have believed that a man would
have purchased so many useless articles simply
because he could have them CHARGED. But I see
it now, and if I refused to follow your advice at
first, I have gained experience enough to follow it
more explicitly now."

Charles Mathews never again allowed himself
to be led away by the credit system; but he fol-
lowed the cash rule punctually, and the conse-
quence has been that he can not only buy any
quantity of produce, wood, coal, &c., at cheap
cash prices, but he has cut off the expense of
house rent, for he owns a snug little cottage in the
suburbs, and it is all paid for.

The Death of Randolph.
Randolph, in fast declining health, reached
Philadelphia, whither he went to take passage from
that port. He was too late for the Liverpool
packet. He exposed himself to the inclemency of
the weather, took cold, which aggravated his dis-
ease, and hastened its fatal termination. He was
put to bed—his death-bed—in his lodgings at the
City Hotel. The idiosyncrasies which had, of
late years especially, marked his demeanor, dis-
tinguished the last hours of his life. The sudden
bursts of petulance which disasse from him;
the affecting kindness and tenderness which
disse could not wholly take from him; the
rambling conversation in the intervals of acute
suffering; in some passages, as brilliant as ever—
the last gleam of the sinking lamp; the groanings
of remorse, which a review of his past life, at the
bar of a stern self-judging, drew from his con-
trite heart; the fervid prayer; the hushing hope;
the trust qualified by self-condemnation; of the
Saviour whose name he professed; the concluding
act the curtain fell upon the last scenes of
earth, propped up by pillows, he called witnesses
to his confirmation of his will, providing for the
freedom and support of his slaves, and the last
conscious words, which fired his eye and braced
his sinking frame, as, speaking in this connection,
he laid his skeleton hand strongly upon the
shoulder of his faithful servant, John, and said
with emphasis—"especially for this man."

And then—this last charge upon his conscience off—
his mind wandered away to the light, and the
scenes, and the friends of the early days; and,
the mutterings of the voice growing gradually
fainter, as he passed on into the thicker shadows
of the Dark Valley, the fluttering pulse stood still;
and John Randolph, of Roanoke, was numbered
with the dead! (May 24th, 1853, aged 60.)

They carried him back to his solitary home,
and buried him—in death as in life, unsocial and
isolated—in the forest of Roanoke. In the soil
of the Virginia he loved so well, they laid the
corpse of her faithful and devoted son. They left
him to rest, after the long fever of his troubled
dream of life was over, in an humble and seques-
tered grave, beneath two stately pines. There
let him sleep on! The gloom of their shade, and
the melancholy sighing of the wind through their
boughs, are fit emblems of the life which was
breathed out in sadness and in sorrow.

Baldwin's Party Leader.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Yellow-citizens of the Senate
and of the House of Representatives:

The past has been an eventful year, and will
be hereafter referred to as a marked epoch in the
history of the world. While we have been hap-
pily preserved from the calamities of war, our do-
mestic prosperity has not been entirely uninter-
rupted. The crops, in portions of the country, have
been nearly cut off. Disease has prevailed to a
greater extent than usual, and the sacrifice of hu-
man life, through casualties by sea and land, is
without a parallel. But the pestilence has swept
by, and restored salubrity invites the absent to their
homes, and then the return of business to its ordi-
nary channels. If the earth has rewarded the labor
of the husbandman less bountifully than in pre-
ceding seasons, it has left him with abundance for
domestic wants, and a large surplus for exporta-
tion. In the present, therefore, as in the past, we
find ample grounds for reverent thankfulness to
the God of Grace and Providence, for His protecting
care and merciful dealings with us as a people.

Although our attention has been arrested by
painful interest in passing events, yet our country
feels no more than the slight vibrations of the con-
fusions which have shaken Europe. As individ-
uals, we cannot repress sympathy with human
suffering, nor regret for the causes which pro-
duce it. As a nation, we are reminded, that whatever
interrupts the peace, or checks the prosperity, of
any part of Christendom, tends more or less to
involve our own. The condition of states is not un-
like that of individuals. They are mutually de-
pendant upon each other. Amicable relations be-
tween them, and reciprocal good will, are essen-
tial for the promotion of whatever is desirable in
their moral, social and political condition.—
Hence it has been my earnest endeavor to main-
tain peace and friendly intercourse with all na-
tions.

The wise theory of this government, so early
adopted and steadily pursued, of avoiding all en-
tangling alliances, has hitherto exempted it from
many complications, in which it would otherwise
have become involved. Notwithstanding this, our
clearly defined and well-sustained course of action,
and our geographical position so remote from Eu-
rope, increasing disposition has been manifested
by some of its governments to supervise, and, in
certain respects, to direct our foreign policy. In
plans for adjusting the balance of power among
themselves, they have assumed to take us into ac-
count, and would constrain us to conform our
conduct to their views. One or another of the
powers of Europe has, from time to time, undertaken
to enforce arbitrary regulations, contrary in many
respects to established principles of international
law. That law, the United States have, in their
foreign intercourse, uniformly respected and ob-
served, and they cannot recognize any such inter-
positions therein, as the temporary interests of
others may suggest. They do not admit that the
sovereignty of one continent, or of a particular com-
munity of States, can legislate for all others.

Leaving the transatlantic nations to adjust their
political system in the way they may think best
for their common welfare, the independent powers
of this continent may well assert the right to be
exempt from all annoying interference on their
part. Systematic abstinence from intimate polit-
ical connexion with distant foreign nations, does
not conflict with giving the widest range to our
foreign commerce. This distinction, so clearly mark-
ed in history, seems to have been overlooked or
disregarded by some leading foreign States. Our
refusal to be brought within, and subjected to their
peculiar system, has, I fear, created a jealous dis-
trust of our conduct, and induced, on their part,
occasional acts of disturbing effect upon our for-
eign relations. Our present attitude and past
course give assurances, which should not be ques-
tioned, that our purposes are not aggressive, nor
threatening to the safety and welfare of other na-
tions. Our military establishment, in time of
peace, is adapted to maintain exterior defences,
and to preserve order among the aboriginal tribes
within the limits of the Union. Our naval force
is intended only for the protection of our citizens
abroad, and of our commerce, diffused, as it is,
over all the seas of the globe. The government
of the United States, being essentially pacific in
policy, stands prepared to repel invasion by the
voluntary service of a patriotic people, and pro-
vide no permanent means of foreign aggression.
These considerations should allay all apprehension,
that we are disposed to encroach on the rights or
endanger the security of other States.

Some European powers have regarded, with
dissatisfied concern, the territorial expansion of
the United States. This rapid growth has result-
ed from the legitimate exercise of sovereign rights,
belonging alike to all nations, and by many lib-
erally exercised. Under such circumstances it
could hardly have been expected that those among
them, which have, within a comparatively recent
period, subdued and absorbed ancient kingdoms,
planted their standards on every continent, and
now possess, or claim the control of, the islands of
every ocean as their appropriate domain, would
look with unfriendly sentiments upon the acqui-
sitions of this country, in every instance honorably
obtained, or would feel themselves justified in im-
puting our advancement to a spirit of aggression
or to a passion for political predominance.

Our foreign commerce has reached a magnitude
and extent nearly equal to that of the first mari-
time power of the earth, and exceeding that of any
other. Over this great interest, in which not only
our merchants, but all classes of citizens, at least
indirectly concerned, it is the duty of the execu-
tive and legislative branches of the government
to exercise a careful supervision, and adopt proper
measures for its protection. The policy which I
have had in view in regard to this interest em-
braces its future as well as its present security.

Long experience has shown that, in general,
when the principal powers of Europe are engaged
in war, the rights of neutral nations are endan-
gered. This consideration led, in the progress of
the war of our independence, to the formation of
the celebrated confederacy of armed neutrality,
a primary object of which was, to assert the doc-
trine, that free ships, make free goods, except in
the case of articles contraband of war; a doctrine
which, from the very commencement of our na-
tional being, has been a cherished idea of the
statesmen of this country. At one period or
another, every maritime power has, by some so-
lemn treaty stipulation, recognized that principle;

and it might have been hoped that it would con-
tinue to be universally received and respected as a rule
of international law. But the refusal of one
power prevented this, and in the next great war
which ensued, that of the French revolution, it failed
to be respected among the belligerent states
of Europe. Notwithstanding this, the principle
is generally admitted to be sound and salutary
one; so much so, that, at the commencement of
the existing war in Europe, Great Britain and
France announced their purpose to observe it to
the present; not, however, as a recognized inter-
national right, but as a mere concession for the
time being. The co-operation, however, of these
two powerful maritime nations in the interest of
neutral rights, appeared to me to afford an occa-
sion, inviting and justifying, on the part of the
United States, a renewed effort to make the doc-
trine in question a principle of international law,
by means of special conventions between the sev-
eral powers of Europe and America. Accord-
ingly, a proposition, embracing not only the rule,
that free ships make free goods, except contraband
articles, but also the less contested one, that neu-
tral property, other than contraband, through on
board enemy's ships, shall be exempt from con-
fiscation, has been submitted by this government
to those of Europe and America.