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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Fellow Citizens of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives:

The view which I have now to present to you of our affairs, Foreign and Domestic, remains the most sanguine anticipations, which have been entertained of the public prosperity...

In advertent to our relations with foreign powers, which are always an object of the highest importance, I have to remark, that of the subjects which have been brought into discussion, with them during the present Administration, some have been satisfactorily terminated...

It having been stipulated by the Seventh Article of the Convention of Navigation and Commerce, which was concluded on the twenty-fourth June, eighteen hundred and twenty-two, between the United States and France...

With Great Britain our commercial intercourse rests on the same footing that it did at the last Session. By the convention of one thousand eight hundred and fifteen, the commerce between the United States and the British dominions in Europe and the East Indies was arranged on a principle of reciprocity...

manifested on the part of this Government, to place the commerce with the colonies likewise on a footing of reciprocal advantage...

The Commissioners who were appointed for the adjustment of the boundary, between the territories of the United States and those of Great Britain specified in the fifth article of the Treaty of Ghent, having disagreed in their decision, and both Governments having agreed to establish that boundary by amicable negotiation between them, it is hoped that it may be satisfactorily adjusted in that mode...

It is a cause of serious regret, that no arrangement has yet been finally concluded between the two Governments, to secure, by joint co-operation, the suppression of the slave trade. It was the object of the British Government, in the early stages of the negotiation, to adopt a plan for the suppression, which should include the cessation of the mutual right of search, by the ships of war of each party, of the vessels of the other, for suspected offenders...

Our commerce with Sweden has been placed on a footing of perfect reciprocity by treaty, and, with Russia, the Netherlands, Prussia, the free Hanseatic Cities, the Dukedom of Oldenburg, and Sardinia, by internal regulations on each side, founded on mutual agreement between the respective Governments...

The principles upon which the commercial policy of the United States is founded, are to be traced to an early period. They are essentially connected with those upon which their independence was declared, and owe their origin to the enlightened men who took the lead in our affairs at that important epoch. They are developed in their first treaty of commerce with France of sixth February, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-eight, and by a formal commission, which was instituted immediately after the conclusion of their revolutionary struggle...

A convention for the settlement of important questions in relation to the Northwest Coast of this Continent, and its adjoining seas, was concluded and signed at St. Petersburg, on the 22d day of last, by the Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States, and Plenipotentiaries of the Imperial Government of Russia. It will immediately be laid before the Senate for the exercise of the constitutional authority of that body, with reference to its ratification. It is proper to add, that the manner in which this negotiation was invited and conducted on the part of the Emperor, has been very satisfactory.

The great and extraordinary changes which have happened in the government of Spain and Portugal, within the last two years, without seriously affecting the friendly relations which, under all of them, have been maintained with those powers by the United States, have been obstacles to the adjustment of the particular subjects of discussion which have arisen with each. A resolution of the Senate, adopted at their last session called for information as to the effect produced upon our relations with Spain, by the recognition, on the part of the United States, of the Independent South American Governments. The papers containing that information are now commingled to Congress. A Charge d'Affaires has been received

from the Independent Government of Brazil. That country, heretofore a colonial possession of Portugal, had, some years since, been proclaimed, by the Sovereign of Portugal himself, an independent kingdom. Since his return to Lisbon, a revolution in Brazil has established a new government there, with an Imperial title, at the head of which, is placed the Prince, in whom the Regency had been vested by the King, at the time of his departure. There is reason to expect that, by a amicable negotiation, the independence of Brazil will, ere long, be recognized by Portugal herself.

With the remaining Powers of Europe, with those on the coast of the Barbary, and with all the new South American States, our relations are of a friendly character. We have Ministers Plenipotentiary residing with the Republics of Colombia, and Chili, and have received Ministers of the same rank from Colombia, Guatimala, Buenos Ayres, and Mexico. Our commercial relations with all those States are mutually beneficial and increasing. With the Republic of Colombia, a treaty of Commerce has been formed, of which a copy is received, and the original is expected. A negotiation for a like treaty would have been commenced with Buenos Ayres, had it not been prevented by the indisposition and lamented decease of Mr. Calveley, our Minister there; and to whom memory the most respectful attention has been shown by the Government of that Republic. An advantageous alteration in our treaty with Tunis, has been obtained by our Consular Agent residing there: the official document of which, when received, will be laid before the Senate.

The attention of the Government has been drawn, with great solicitude, to other subjects, and particularly to that relating to a state of maritime war, involving the relative rights of neutral and belligerent in such wars. Most of the difficulties which we have experienced, and of the losses which we have sustained, since the establishment of our independence, have proceeded from the unsettled state of those rights, and the extent to which the belligerent claim has been carried against the neutral party. It is impossible to look back on the occurrences of the late wars in Europe, and to behold the disregard which was paid to our rights, as a neutral power, and the waste which was made of our commerce by the parties to those wars, by various acts of their respective Governments, and under the pretext, by each, that the other had set the example, without great mortification, and a fixed purpose never to submit to the like in future. An attempt to remove those causes of possible variation, by friendly negotiation, and on just principles which would be applicable to all parties, could, it was presumed, be viewed by none, other than as a proof of an earnest desire to preserve those relations with every power. In the late war between France and Spain, a crisis occurred in which it seemed probable that all the convertible principles involved in such wars might be brought into discussion, and settled to the satisfaction of all parties. Propositions, having this object in view, have been made to the Government of Great Britain, France, Russia, and of other Powers, which have been received in a friendly manner by all, but as yet no treaty has been formed with either for its accomplishment. The policy will, it is presumed, be persevered in, and in the hope that it may be successful.

It will always be recollected that with one of the parties to those wars, and from whom we received the most injuries, we sought redress by war. From the other, by whose then reigning Government our vessels were seized in port as well as at sea, and their cargoes confiscated, indemnity has been expected, but has not yet been rendered. It was under the influence of the latter, that our vessels were likewise seized by the Governments of Spain, Holland, Denmark, Sweden, and Naples, and from whom indemnity has been claimed and is still expected, with the exception of Spain, by whom it has been rendered. With both parties we had abundant cause of war, but we had no alternative but to resist that which was most powerful at sea; and pressed us nearest at home. With this, all differences were settled by a treaty founded on conditions fair and honorable to both, and which has been so far executed with perfect good faith. It has been earnestly hoped, that the other would, of its own accord, and from a sentiment of justice and conciliation, make to our citizens the indemnity to which they are entitled, and thereby remove from our relations any just cause of discontent on our side.

It is estimated that the receipts into the Treasury during the current year, exclusive of loans, will exceed eighteen millions five hundred thousand dollars, which with the sum remaining in the Treasury, at the end of the last year amounting to nine millions four hundred sixty-three thousand nine hundred twenty-two dollars and eighty-one cents, will, after discharging the current disbursements of the year, the interest on the public debt, and upwards of eleven million five hundred thousand dollars of the principal, leave a balance of more than three million dollars in the Treasury on the first day of January next.

A larger amount of the debt contracted during the late war, bearing an interest of six per cent, becoming redeemable in the course of the ensuing year, than could be discharged by the ordinary revenue, the act of the twenty-sixth of May, authorized a loan of five million dollars at four and a half per cent, to meet the same. By this arrangement an annual saving will accrue to the public of seventy-five thousand dollars.

Under the act of the twenty-fourth of May last, a loan of five million dollars, was authorized in order to meet the awards, under the Florida Treaty, which was negotiated at Paris, with the Bank of the United States at four and a half per cent, the limit of interest fixed by the act. By this provision the claims of our citizens, who had sustained so great a loss by spoliation, and from whom indemnity had been so long withheld, were promptly paid. For these advances the public will be amply repaid, at no distant day, by the sale of the lands in Florida. Of the great advantages resulting from the acquisition of the territory in other respects, too high an estimate cannot be formed. It is estimated that the receipts into the

Treasury, during the year one thousand eight hundred and twenty-five will be sufficient to meet the disbursements of the year, including the sum of ten million of dollars which is annually appropriated by the act, constituting the Sinking Fund, to the payment of the principal and interest of the public debt.

The whole amount of the public debt on the first of January next, may be estimated at eighty-six millions of dollars, inclusive of two millions five hundred thousand dollars of the loan authorized by the act of the twenty-sixth of May last. In this estimate is included a stock of seven million of dollars issued for the purchase of that amount of the capital stock of the Bank of the United States, and which, as the stock of the Bank, still held by the Government, will at least be fully equal to its reimbursement, ought not to be considered as constituting a part of the public debt. Estimating then, the whole amount of the public debt at seventy-nine million dollars, and regarding the annual receipts and expenditures of the Government, a well founded hope may be entertained, that should no unexpected event occur, the whole public debt may be discharged in the course of ten years, and the Treasury not be left at liberty there after, to be encumbered with the current expenses, to such other objects as are the most conducive to the public security and welfare. That the sum applicable to these objects, will be very considerable, may be fairly concluded, when it is recollected, that a large amount of the public revenue has been applied since the late war, to the construction of the public buildings in this city; to the erection of fortifications along the coast, and of arsenals in different parts of the Union; to the augmentation of the navy, to the extinguishment of the Indian title to large tracts of fertile territory; to the acquisition of Florida; to pensions to revolutionary officers and soldiers, and to invalids of the late war. On many of these objects the expense will annually diminish, and cease at no distant period on most of all. On the first of January, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-five, the public debt amounted to one hundred and twenty-three million four hundred and ninety-one thousand nine hundred and sixty-five dollars and sixteen cents; and notwithstanding the large sum which have been applied to these objects, it has been reduced since that period, thirty-seven million four hundred and forty-six thousand nine hundred and sixty-one dollars and seventy-eight cents. The last portion of the public debt will be redeemable on the first of January, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-five, and while there is the best reason to believe that the resources of the Government will be continually adequate to such portions of it as may become due in the interval, it is recommended to Congress, to seize every opportunity which may present itself, to reduce the rate of interest on every part thereof. The high state of the public credit, and the great abundance of money, are at this time very favorable to such a result. It must be very gratifying to our fellow-citizens, to witness this flourishing state of the public finances, when it is recollected, that no burthen whatever has been imposed upon them.

The Military Establishment, in all its branches, in the performance of the various duties assigned to each, justifies the favorable view which was presented of the efficiency of its organization; and the last session. All the appropriations have been regularly applied to the objects intended by Congress, and, so far as the disbursements have been made, the accounts have been rendered and settled, without loss to the public. The condition of the army, itself, as respects the officers and men, in science and discipline, is highly respectable. The Military Academy, on which the Army especially depends, and to which it is much indebted for the state of improvement, has advanced in comparison with any other institution of the kind, a high degree of perfection. Experience, however, has shown that the dispersed condition of the corps of Artillery is unfavorable to the discipline of this important branch of the Military Establishment. To remedy this inconvenience, eleven companies have been assembled at the Fortification erected at Old Point Comfort, as a school for artillery instruction, with intention, as they shall be perfected in the various duties of that service, to order them to other posts, and to supply their places with other companies, for instruction in like manner. In this mode a complete knowledge of the science and duties of this arm, will be extended throughout the whole corps of artillery. But, to carry this object fully into effect, will require the aid of Congress, to obtain which, the subject is now submitted to your consideration.

Of the progress which has been made in the construction of Fortifications, for the permanent defence of our maritime frontier, according to the plan decided on, and to the extent of the existing appropriations, the Report of the Secretary of War, which is herewith communicated, will give a detailed account. Their 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, 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 the 30th April last, authorizing the President to cause a survey to be made, with the necessary plans and estimates, of such rivers and canals, as he might deem of national importance, in a commercial or military point of view, or for 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 Susquehanna; and the routes between the Delaware and the Raritan, Barbours, and Buzzard's Bay, and between Boston Harbor

and Narragansett Bay. Such portions 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 season. 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 purpose specified, will require a thorough knowledge of every part of our Union, and of the relation of each part to the other, 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 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 in 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 negotiation. This object has not been effected. The reason was too far advanced when the appropriation was made, and the finance 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 civilization. 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 one 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 authorize treaties with the Creeks, 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 to 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 preserving effort has been made for the accomplishment of that object, and such 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 pirates now complained of, are committed by Bands of Robbers who inhabit the land, and who, by preserving good intelligence with the towns, 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 place, and dispose of after