MESSAGE Of President Jefferson Davis.

Gentlemen of the Congress:

It is my pleasing duty to announce to you that the Constitution framed for the establish ment of a permanent government, for the Confederate States has been ratified by Conventions in each of those States to which it was referred. To inaugurate the government in its full proportions and upon its own substantial basis of the popular will, it only remains that elections should be held for the designation of the officers to administer it.

There is reason to believe that at no distant day other States identified in political principles and community of interests with those which you represent, will join this Confederacy; giving to its typical constellation increased splendor-to its government of free, equal sovereign States, a wide sphere of usefulness, and to the friends of a constitutional liberty a greater security for its harmonious and perpetual existence.

It was not, however, for the purpose of making this announcement that I have deemed it my duty to convoke you at an earlier day than that fixed by yourselves for your meeting. The declaration of war made against the Confederacy by Abraham Lincoln, the President of the United States, in his proclamation issued on the fifteenth day of the present month, rendered it necessary, in my judgment that you should convene at he earliest practical moment, to devise the measures necessary for the defence of the country.

This occasion is indeed an extraordinary one. It justifies me in a brief review of the relations heretofore existing between us and the States which now unite in warfare against us, and in a succinct statement of the events which have resulted in in this warfare; to the end that mankind may pass intelligent and impartial judgment on its motives and objects.

During the war waged against Great Britain by the colonies on this continent, a common danger impelled them to a close alliance, and to the forma- acquisition without harboring a suspicion that their tion of a Confederation,, by the terms of which the colonies, styling themselves States, entered "severally" into a firm league of friendship with each other for their common defence, the security of their liberties, and their mutual and general welfare, binding themselves to assist each other against all force offered to or attacks made upon them or any of them, on account of religion, sovereignty, trade or any other pretence whatever."

In order to guard against any misconstruction of their contract, the several States made explicit declaration, in a distinct article, that "cach State retains its sovereignty, freedom and independence. and every power, jurisdiction and right which not by this Confederation expressly delegated to the United States in Congress assembled."

Under this contract of alliance the war of the Revolution was successfully waged, and resulted in the treaty of peace with Great British in 1783. by the terms of which the several States were, each by name, recognized to be independent.

The articles of Confederation contained a clause whereby all alterations were prohibited, unless confirmed by the legislature of every State after being agreed to by Congress, and in obedience to this provision under the resolution of Congress of the 21st February 1787, the several States appointed delegates, who attended a Convention "for the sole and express purpose of revising the articles of confederation, and reporting to Congress and the several Legislatures such alterations and provisions therein as shall, when agreed to in Congress, and confirmed by the States, render the Federal Constitution adequate to the exigencies of government and the preservation of the Union.

It was by the delegates chosen by the several States, under the resolution just quoted, that the Constitution of the United States was framed in 1787, and submitted to the several States for ratification, as shown by the 7th article, which is in

"The ratification of the Conventions of nine States shall be sufficient for the establishment of this Constitution BETWEEN the States, so ratify-

I have italicised certain words in the quotations just made, for the purpose of attracting attention to the singular and marked caution with which the States endeavored, in every possible form to exclude the idea that the separate and independent sovereignty of each State was merged into one common government and nation, and the earnest desire they evinced to impress on the Constitution dition of inferiority. its true character-that of a compact BETWEEN independent States.

The Constitution of 1787 having, however, omitted the clause already recited from the articles of confederation, which provided in explicit terms, that each State retained its sovereignty and independence, some alarm was felt in the States when invited to ratify the Constitution, lest this omission should be construed into an abandonment of their cherished principle, and they refused to be satisfied until amendments were added to the Constitution, placing beyond any pretence of doubt the reservation, by the States, of all their sovereign rights and powers-not expressly delegated to the United States by the Constitution.

Strange indeed must it appear to the impartial observer, but it is none the less true, that all these carefully worded clauses proved unavailing to preyent the rise and growth in the Northern States of a political school which has presistently claimed that the Government thus formed was not a compact between States, but was in effect a National Government, set up above and over the States. An organization, created by the States to secure the blessings of liberty and independence against foreign aggressions has been gradually perverted into a machine for their control in their domestic careful religious instruction. affairs-the creature has been exalted above its creators; the principals have been made subordi- labor had been directed as not only to allow a nate to the agent appointed by themselves.

The people of the Southern States, whose almost exclusive occupation was agriculture, early preceived a tendency in the Northern States to render the common government subservient to their own purposes, by imposing burthens on commerce as a protection to their manufacturing and shipping interests. Long and angry controversy grew out of these attempts, often to benefit one section or the country at the expense of the other. And the danger of disruption arising from this cause was enhanced by the fact that the Norrhern population was increasing by emigratian and other causes in a greater ratio than the population of the South. By degrees, as the Northern States gained preponderance in the national Congress, self interest taught their people to yield ready assent to any plausible advocacy of their right as a majority to govern the minority without control: they learned to listen with impatience to the suggestion of any constitutional impediment to the exercise of their will; and so utterly have the principles of the Constitution been corrupted in the Northern mind, that in the inaugural address delivered by President Lincoln, in March last, he asserts as an axiom, which he plainly deems to be undeniable, that the theory of the Constitution requires that in all cases the majority shall govern; and in other memorable instances, the same Chief-Magistrate did not besitate to liken the relations between a State and the United States to those ruptedly in the majority, based upon the creed tile operations

which exists between a county and a State in which it is situated and by which it was erected. which rests the policy that has culminated in his declaration of war against these Confederate States.

In addition to the long continued and deep seated resentment felt by the Southern States at the persistent abuse of the powers they had delegated to Congress, for the purpose of enriching the manufacturing and shipping classes of the North at the expense of the South, there has existed for nearly half a century another subject of discord, involving interest of such transcendent magnitude as at all times to create the apprehension in the minds of many devoted lovers of the Union, that its permanence was impossible.

When the several States delegated certain powers to the United States Congress, a large portion of the laboring population consisted of African slaves imported into the colonies by the mother country. In twelve out of the thirteen States, negro slavery existed, and the right of property in slaves was protected by law. This property was recognized in the Constitution, and provision was made against its loss by the escape of the slave. The increase in the number of slaves by the further importation from Africa was also secured by a clause forbidding Congress to prohibit the slave trade anterior to a certain date, and in no clause can there be found any delegation of power to the Congress authorizing it in any manner to legislate to the prejudice, detriment or discouragement of owners of that species of property, or excluding it from the protection of the government.

The climate and soil of the Northern States soon proved unpropitious to the continuance of slave labor, whilst the reverse was the case at the South. Under the unrestricted intercouse between the two sections, the Northern States consulted their own interest by selling their slaves to the South, and prohibiting slavery within their limits. The South were willing purchasers of a property suitable to their wants; and paid the price of the quiet possession was to be disturbed by those who were inhibited, not only by want of constitutional authority, but by good faith as vendors, from disquieting a title emanating from themselves.

As soon, however, as the Northern States that prohibited African slavery within their limits had reached a number sufficient to give their representatives a controlling voice in the Congress, a persistent and organized system of hostile measures against the rights of the owners of slaves in the Southern States was inaugurated, and gradually extended. A continuous series of measures was devised and prosecuted for the purpose of renderng insecure the tenure of property in slaves fanatical organizations, supplied with money by voluntary subscriptions, were assiduously engaged in exciting amongst the slaves a spirit of discontent and revolt; means were furnished for their escape from their owners, and agents secretly employed to entice them to abscond; the constitutional provision for their rendition to their owners was first evaded, then openly denounced as a violation of conscientious obligation and religious duty; men were taught that it was a merit to elude, disobey and violently oppose the execution of the laws enacted to secure the performance of the promise contained in the constitutional compact; owners of slaves were mobbed, and even murdered in open day, solely for applying to a magistrate for the arrest of a fugitive slave; the dogmas of these voluntary organizations soon obtained control of the legislatures of many of the Northern States, and laws were passed providing for punishment by ruinous fines and long continued imprisonment in jails and penitentiaries, of citizens of the Southern States who should dare to ask aid of the officers of the law for recovery of their property.

Emboldened by success, the theatre of agita tion and aggression against the clearly expressed constitutional rights of the Southern States was transferred to the Congress; Senators and Representatives were sent to the Common Councils of the nation, whose chief title to this distinction consisted in the display of a spirit of ultra fanaticism, and whose business was, not "to promote the general welfare or ensure domestic tranquility, but to awaken the bitterest hatred against the citizens of sister States by violent denunciation of their institutions; the transaction of public affairs was impeded by repeated efforts to usurp powers not delegated by the Constitution, for the purpose of impairing the security of property in slaves and reducing those States which held slaves to a con-

Finally a great party was organized for the pur pose of obtaining the administration of the government, with the avowed object of using its power for the total exclusion of the slave States from all participation in the benefits of the public domain, acquired by all the States in common. whether by conquest or purchase; or surrounding them entirely by States in which slavery should be prohibited; of thus rendering the property in slaves so inscenre as to be comparatively worthless, and thereby annihilating in effect property worth thousands of millions of dollars. This party, thus organized, succeeded in the month of November last, in the election of its candidate for the Presidency of the United States.

In the meantime, under the mild and genial climate of the Southern States, and the increasing care and attention for the well-being and comfort of the laboring class, dietated alike by interest and humanity, the African slaves had augmented in number from about 600,000, at the date of the adoption of the constitutional compact, to upwards determination to evacuate Fort Sumter; and furof 4.000,000. In moral and social condition they have been elevated from brutal savages into docile, intelligent and civilized agricultural laborers, and supplied not only with bodily comforts, but with

Under the supervision of a superior race, their gradual and marked amelioration of their own ities had sprung into existence, and had rapidly increased in wealth and population under the social system of the South; the white population of the Southern slaveholding States had augmented from about 1,250,000 at the date of the adoption of the Constitution, to more than 8,500,000 in 1860, and the productions of the South in cotton. rice, sugar and tobacco, for the development and continuance of which the labor of American slaves nearly completed, and on the 5th, 6th and 7th of amount which formed nearly three fourths of the munitions and military supplies, sailed from north-

imperilled, the people of the Southern States were communication of the 12th of March, and theredriven, by the conduct of the North, to the adop- upon received, on the 8th of April, a reply dated tion of some course of action to avert the danger on the 25th of the previous month, from which it with which they were openly menaced. With appears that, during the whole interval, whilst the accept the numerous proposals already received. this view, the Legislatures of the several States commissioners were receiving assurances calculated invited the people to select delegates to Conven- to inspire hope of the success of their mission, the tions to be held for the purpose of determining for Secretary of State and the President of the United

meet so alarming a crisis in their history. period as early as 1798 there had existed in all of the delay created by their own assurances, in orthe States of the Union a party, almost uninter- der to prepare segretly the means for effective hos-

that each State was, in the last resort, the sole This is the lamental and fundamental error on measure of redress. Indeed, it is obvious, that States sending a messenger to Charleston to give main foundations of its political creed.'

people of all the States of the Union at different pected to arrive. elections, especially in the elections of Mr Jefferson in 1825, Mr Madison in 1809 & Mr Pierce in 1852.

In the exercise of a right so ancient, so well established, and so necessary for self-preservation, the people of the Confederate States in their Conventions determined that the wrongs which they had suffered, and the evils with which they were menaced, required that they should revoke the delegation of powers to the Federal Government which they had ratified in their several conventions. They consequently passed Ordinances resuming all their rights as sovereign and independent States States of the Union.

Having done this, they proceeded to form a new confederation, which have also been ratified by the conventions of the several States, with an approach to unanimity far exceeding that of the conventions which adopted the Constitution of 1787. They have organized their new Government in all its departments; the functions of the Executive, Legislative and Judicial Magistrates are performed in accordance with the will of the people as displayed, not merely in a cheerful acquiesence, but established by themselves; and but for the interference of the government of the United States in this legitimate exercise of the right of a people to would now smile on our land

That peace is ardently desired by this government and people, has been manifested in every possible form. Scarce had you assembled in February last, when, prior even to the inauguration of a resolution expressive of your desire for the appointment of commissioners to be sent to the government of the United States "for the purpose of negotiating friendly relations between that government and the Confederate States of America, and for the settlement of all qr tions of disagreement right, justice, equity and good faith.

It was my pleasure as well as my duty to coand before receiving from you the communication of this resolution, I had said, "as a necessity, not a choice, we have resorted to the remedy of separation, and henceforth our energies must be directed to the conduct of our own affairs, and the perpetuity of the Confederacy which we have formed. If a just perception of mutual interest shall permit us peaceably to pursue our separate political career, my most earnest desire will have been fulfilled."

of the Congress and the Executive, that I made choice of three discreet, able and distinguished citizens, who repaired to Washington. Aided by their cordial co-operation and that of the Secretary of State, every effort compatible with self-respect and the dignity of the Confederacy was exhausted before I allowed myself to yield to the conviction that the government of the U. States was determined to attempt the conquest of this people, and that our cherished hopes of peace were unattainable.

ington on the 5th of March, they postponed, at the instigation of a friendly intermediary, doing more than giving informal notice of their arrival. This was done with a view to afford time to the President, who had just been inaugurated, for the discharge of other pressing official duties in the organization of his Administration, before engaging his attention in the object of their mission. It was not until the 12th of the month that they officially addressed the Sccretary of State, informing him of the purpose of their arrival, and stating in the language of their instructions their wish "to make to the government of the United States overtures for the opening of negotiations, assuring the governand people of the Confederate States earnestly desire a peaceful solution of the great questions; that it is neither their interest nor their wish to make any demand which is not founded on strict justice, nor maintain the perpetuity of popular government." do any act to injure their late confederates."

To this communication no formal reply was received until the 8th of April. During the interval the commissioners had consented to waive all questions of form. With the firm resolve to avoid war if possible, they went so far, even, as to hold, dur-dent. The President of the United States called for ing that long period, unofficial intercourse, through an intermediary, whose high position and character inspired the hope of success, and through whom constant assurances were received from the govther, that no measures changing the existing status prejudicially to the Confederate States, especially foreign nation to declare war against this Confederacy. at Fort Pickens, was in contemplation, but that in the event of any change of intention on the sub-The crooked paths of diplomacy can searcely furnish an example so wanting in courtesy, in candor, cuments, taken in consideration with further facts which I now proceed to relate:

Early in April the attention of the whole country, as well as that of our commissioners, was at- was under the necessity of confining my action to a tracted to extraordinary preparations for an extensive military and naval expedition in New York and other northern ports. These preparations commenced in secrecy, for an expedition whose destiwas, and is, indispensable, had swollen to an April, transports and vessels of war, with troops, traordinary a demonstration, the commissioners re-With interests of such overwhelming magnitude quested the delivery of an answer to their official Here it may be proper to observe that from a proposals they had to make, and had profited by

That these assurances were given, has been vir- me that it is hard to believe that it sould have emana- and disbursed in modes peculiar to itself, and the United States. judge as well of its wrongs, as of the mode and tually confessed by the government of the United under the law of nations, this principle is an ax- notice of its purpose to use force if opposed in its iom as applied to the relations of independent intention of supplying Fort Sumter. No more sovereign States, such as those which had united striking proof of the absence of good faith in the themselves under the constitutional compact. The conduct of the government of the U. States to-Democratic party of the United States repeated wards the Confederacy can be required than is in its successful canvass in 1856, the declaration contained in the circumstances which accompanied made in numerous previous political contests, that the notice. According to the usual course of nait would "faithfully abide by and uphold the vigation, the vessels composing the expedition deprinciples laid down in the Kentucky and Virginia signed for the relief of Fort Sumter might be exresolutions of 1798, and in the report of Mr Madi- pected to reach Charleston harbor on the 9th of son to the Virginia Legislature in 1799, and that April, yet with our commissioners actually in it adopts those principles as constituting one of the Washington, detained under assurances that notice should be given of any military movement, the no-The principles thus emphatically announced emtice was not addressed to them, but a messenger brace that to which I have already adverted, the was sent to Charleston to give the notice to the right of each State to judge of and redress the Governor of South Carolina, and the notice was so wrongs of which it complains. These principles given at a late hour on the 8th of April, the eve were maintained by overwhelming majorities of the of the very day on which the fleet might be ex-

That the manœuvre failed in its purpose was not the fault of those who contrived it. A heavy tempest delaved the arrival of the expedition, and gave time to he commander of our forces at Charleston to ask and receive the instructions of this government. Even then, under all the provocation incident to the contemptuous refusal to listen to our Commissioners, and the tortuous course of the United States, I was sincerely anxious to avoid the effusion of blood, and directed a proposal to be made to the commander of Fort Sumter, who had avowed himself to be nearly out of provisions, that we should abstain from directing our fire on Fort Sumter if he would promise not to open fire on our forces unless first attacked. This and dissolved their connection with the other proposal was refused, and the conclusion was reached that the design of the United States was to place the besieging forces at Charleston between the simultaneous fire of the fleet and the fort. There remained, compact amongst themselves by new articles of therefore, no alternative but to direct that the fort should at once be reduced.

This order was executed by Gen. Beauregard with the skill and success which were naturally to be expected from the well known character of that gallant officer; and, although the bombardment lasted but thirty-three hours, our flag did not waive over its battered walls until after the appearance of the hostile fleet off Charleston. Fortunately not a life was lost on our side, and we were gratified in being spared the necessity of a useless effusion of blood by the prudent caution of the officers who commanded the fleet, in n the enthusiastic support of the government thus abstaining from the evidently futile effort to enter the harbor for the relief of Major Anderson. I refer to the report of the Secretary of war, and the papers which accompany it, for further details of this brilliant affair. In this connection I cannot refrain from a wellself-government, peace, happiness and prosperity deserved tribute to the noble State, the eminent soldierly qualities of whose people were so conspicuously displayed in the port of Charleston. For months they had been irritated by the spectacle of a fortress held against their peace and independence. Built in part the Chief Magistrate you had elected, you passed own consent to an agent who held no power over them held with persistent tenacity as a means of offence agains them by the very Government which they had

established for their protection. They had beleagured it for months-felt entire confibetween the two governments upon principles of dence in their power to capture it-yet yielded to the requirements of discipline, curbed their impatience, submitted without complaint to the unaccustomed hardships, labors and privations of a protracted seige; operate with you in this work of peace. Indeed, and when at length their patience was rewarded by the in my address to you on taking the oath of office, signal for attack, and success had crowned their stendy and gallant conduct-even in the very moment of tr umph-they evinced a chivalrous regard for the feelings of the brave but unfortunate officer who had been compelled to lower his flag. All the manifestations of exultation were checked in his presence.

Their commanding general, with their cordial ap proval and the consent of his Government, refrained from imposing any terms that would wound the sensited to retire with the honors of war, to salute his flag, to depart freely with all his command, and was escorted It was in furtherance of these accordant views to the vessel in which he embanked with the highest mark of respect from those against whom his guns had been so recently directed. Not only does every event connected with the siege reflect the highest honor on South Carolina, but the forbearance of her people, and of this Government, from making any harsh use of a victory obtained under circumstances of such peculiar provocation, attest to the fullest extent the absence of any purpose beyond securing their own tranquility,

and the sincere desire to avoid the calamities of war Scarcely had the President of the United States re ceived intelligence of the failure of the scheme which he had devised for the reinforcement of Fort Sumter, On the arrival of our commissioners in Wash- when he issued the declaration of war against this Confederacy, which has prompted me to convoke you. In this extraordinary production, that high functionary affects total ignorance of the existence of an independent Government, which, possessing the entire and enthusiastic devotion of its people, is exercising its functions without question over seven soveign Statesover more than four millions of people-and over a territory whose area exceeds half a million of square miles. He terms sovereign States "combinations, too powerful to be suppressed by the ordinary course of judicial proceedings or by the powers vested in the

He call for an army of seventy-five thousand men courts of justice in States where no courts exist whose mandate and decrees are not cheerfully obeyed and rement of the U. States that the President, Congress service to be assigned to the forces called out" will be, not to execute the process of courts, but to capture forts and strongholds situated within the admitted limits of this Confederacy, and garrisoned by its troops; and declares that "this effort" is intended concludes by commanding "the persons composing the combinations aforesaid." to-wit: the five millions of inhabitants of these States, "to retire peaceably to their respective abodes within twenty days."

Apparently contradictory as are the terms of singular document, one point was unmistakably eviservice was to be to capture our forts. It was a plain declaration of war, which I was not at liberty to disregard, because of my knowledge under the Constitution of the United States the President was usurping a sole organ of communication between that country and foreign powers. The law of nations did not permit me to question the authority of the Executive of a

Although I might have refrained from taking active measures for our defence if the States of the Union had ject, notice would be given to the commissioners. all imitated the action of Virginia, North Carolina, Arkansas, Kentucky, Tennessee and Missouri, by denouncing the call for troops as an unconstitutional usurpation of power to which they refused to respond. United States, and were actively engaged in levying as at many points within our territory as possible. proclamation

Deprived of the aid of Congress at the moment, I fence, in accordance with the authority you had confided to me before your adjournment. I deemed it proper further to issue a proclamation inviting applicanently expedient to supply their place by private claims can scarcely exceed \$70.000 per annum, armed vessels, so happily styled by the publicists of the The Postmaster General has already succeeded in or-United States "the militia of the sea," and so often ganizing his department to such an extent as to be in and justly relied on by them as an efficient and admi-

themselves what measures were best adapted to States had determined to hold no intercourse with rection has broken out in this Confederacy against the for its increase. them whatever; to refuse even to listen to any government of the United States, he announces a An Auditor of the Treasury of this department is neblockade of all the ports of these States, and threatens cessary, and a plan is submitted for the organization to punish as pirates all persons who shall molest any of his burean. The great number and magnitude of vessel of the United States under letters of marque the accounts of this department require an increase of issued by this government. Notwithstanding the au- the clerical force in the accounting branch in the Trea-

ted from a President of the United States.

Its announcement of a mere paper blockade is so the administration of its finances. Its announcement of a mere paper trockade it I call your attention to the additional legislation would seem incredible that it could have been issued quired for this department, to the recommendate by authority—but conceding this to be the case so far the changes in the law fixing the rates of postant as the executive is concerned, it will be difficult to newspapers, periodicals, and scaled packages of the changes in the law fixing the rates of postant as the executive is concerned, it will be difficult to as the executive is concerned, it will be diment to demand and specially to the recommendation of the satisfy the people of these States that their late consatisfy the people of these States that their late conto ignore the usages of civilized nations, and will inaugurate a war of extermination on both sides, by postal service. treating as pirates open enemies acting under the autreating as pirates open enemies acting under the authority of commissions issued by an organized government. If such proclamation was issued, it could only army of the Confederate States the highest grade that of brigadier-general. Hence it was have been published under the sudden influence of that of brigadier-general. Hence it will passion, and we may rest assured mankind will be sometimes occur that where troops of the confe spared the horrors of the conflict it seems to invite. For the details of the administration of the different command, and posted in the views and purposes of for the details of the administration of the different government, will be superceded by an officer of which accompany this message.

The State Department has furnished the necessary instructions for three Commissioners, who have been sent to England, France, Russia and Belgium, since your adjournment, to ask our recognition as a member your adjournment, to ask our recognition as a memocr Confederacy, I recommend that the law of this or of the family of nations, and to make with each of Confederacy, I recommend that the law of this or of the family of nations, and to make with each of Confederacy, I recommend that the law of this or of the family of nations, and to make with each of Confederacy, I recommend that the law of this or of the family of nations, and to make with each of Confederacy, I recommend that the law of this or of the family of t of the family of nations, and to make with each of those powers treaties of amity and commerce. Further zation be amended, so that the grade be that of gram a thorough military education is a commerce. steps will be taken to enter into like negotiations with the other European powers, in pursuance of your resolutions passed at the last session. Sufficient time has not yet elapsed since the departure of these Commissioners for the receipt of any intelligence from them. As I deem it desirable that Commissioners, or other diplomatic agents, should also be sent at an early period to the independent American powers south of our Confederacy, with all of whom it is our interest and earnest wish to maintain the most cordial and friendly relations, I suggest the expediency of making the necessary and recommend that provision be made for their appropriations for that purpose.

Having been officially notified by the public authorities of the State of Virginia that she had withdrawn from the Union, and desired to maintain the closest political relations with us which it was possible at Transportation companies have freely tendered the in this time to establish, I commissioned the Hon. Alex- of their lines for troops and supplies. The President ander H. Stevens, Vice President of the Confederate of the railroads of the Confederacy, in company with States, to represent this Government at Richmond. I others who control lines of communication with States I am happy to inform you that he has concluded a convention with the State of Virginia, by which that honored Commonwealth, so long and justly distinguished among her sister States, and so dear to the hearts of ance of troops and munitions, but voluntarily profine thousands of her children in the Confederate States, to receive their compensation at these reduced rates has united her power and her fortune with ours, and become one of us.

This convention, together with the ordinance of Virginia adopting the provisional constitution of the Confederacy, will be laid before you for your constitutional action. I have satisfactory assurances from other of our late confederates that they are on the point of social position are serving as volunteers in the nah adopting similar measures, and I cannot doubt that ere you shall have been many weeks in session, the whole of the slaveholding States of the late Union will respond to the call of honor and affection, and, by uniting their fortunes with ours, promote our common interests and secure our common safety.

In the Treasury Department, regulations have been devised and put into execution, for carrying out the within their principal harbor, as a standing menace policy indicated in your legislation on the subject of the navigation of the Mississippi river, as well as for fortitude such as to command approbation and just with their own money, its custody confided with their the collection of revenue on the frontier. Free transit the highest expectation of their conduct when acting has been secured for vessels and merchandize passing valor shall be required in place of steady endurance their own benefit, intended to be used by that agent for venience have been avoided as far as possible in organitheir own protection against for ign attack, they saw it zing the revenue service for the various railways enter- make, nor can there be a reasonable doubt of the ing our territory. As fast as experience shall indicate | final success, however long and severe may be the let the possibility of improvement in these regulations, no of their determination to maintain their birth-right effort will be spared to free commerce from all unnecessary embarrassments and obstructions.

> Under your act authorizing a loan, proposals were issued inviting subscriptions for five millions of dollars, and the call was answered by the prompt subscription of more than eight millions by our own citizens, and not a single bid was made under par. The rapid development of the purpose of the President of the United States to invade our soil, capture our forts, blockade our ports, and wage war against us, induced me to direct that the entire subscription should be accepted. It will now become necessary to raise means to a much larger amount to defray the expenses of maintaining our independence and repelling invasion. I invite your special attention to this subject, and the financial condition of the Government, with the suggestion of ways and means for the supply of the Treasury, will be presented to you in a separate com-

To the Department of Justice you have confided not only the organization and supervision of all matters connected with the courts of justice, but also those connected with patents and with the bureau of public

ception of those of Mississippi and Texas, have been organized by the appointment of Marshals and District Attorneys, and are now prepared for the exercise of their functions.

In two States, just named, the gentlemen confirmed as Judges declined to accept the appointment, and no nominations have vet been made to fill the vacancies. I refer you to the report of the Attorney General, and concur in his recommendation for immediate legislation, especially on the subject of patent rights. Early provision should be made to secure to the subjects o foreign nations the full enjoyment of their property in valuable inventions, and to extend to our own citizens protection, not only for their own inventions, but for such as may hereafter be assigned by persons not aliens

The patent office business is much more extensive and important than had been anticipated. The application for patents, although confined under the law exclusively to citizens of our Confederacy, already average seventy per month, showing the necessity for the prompt organization of a bureau of patents.

The Secretary of War, in his report and accompany ing documents, conveys full information concerning the forces, regular, volunteer, and provisional, raised and called for under the several Acts. Also, an account of the expenditures already made, and the further estimates for the fiscal year ending on the 18th of February, 1862, rendered necessary by recent events. I refer to his report also for a full history of the occurrences in Charleston harbor, prior to and including the bombardment of Fort Sumter, and of the are expected to furnish their own uniforms, and measures subsequently taken for the common defence, will be paid in money by the Confederate States on receiving intelligence of the declaration of war against us made by the President of the United States. There are now in the field at Charleston, Pensacola,

Forts Morgan, Jackson, St. Philip and Pulaski, nineteen thousand men, and sixteen thousand are now en route for Virginia. It is proposed to organize and hold in readiness for instant action, in view of the present exigencies of the country, an army of one hundred thousand men. If further force should be needed, the wisdom and patriotism of Congress can be confidently ernment of the U. S. of peaceful intentions; of the power granted exclusively to the Congress. He is the .appealed to for authority to call into the field additional numbers of our noble spirited volunteers, who are constantly tendering service far in excess of our wants.

The operations of the Navy Department have been necessarily restricted by the fact that sufficient time has not yet elapsed for the purchase or construction of more than a limited number of vessels adapted to the public service. Two vessels purchased have been named the "Sumter" and "Machree," and are now being prepared for sea at New Orleans with all possible dispatch. Contracts have also been made at that city with two differand directness, as was the course of the U. S. gov- I was not at liberty to disregard the fact that many of ent establishments for the casting of ordnance, cannon condition, but to cenvert hundreds of thousands of ernment towards our commissioners in Washing- the States seemed quite content to submit to the exer- shot and shell, with a view to encourage the manufacsquare miles of the wilderness into cultivated lands, ton. For proof of this I refer to the annexed do-

Secretary for the establishment of a magazine and laboratory for preparation of ordnance stores, and the necessary appropriation for that purpose. Hitherto call on the States for volunteers for the common de- such stores have usually been prepared at the navy yards, and no appropriation was made at your last session for this object

The Secretary also calls attention to the fact that no provision has been made for the payment of invalid nation was concealed, only became known when vate armed vessels on the high seas, to the end that pensions to our citizens. Many of these persons are RETAIL PRICES, a good supply of Boots and Short preparations might be made for the immediate issue of advanced in life, they have no means of support, and letters of marque and reprisal, which you alone, under by the secession of these States have been deprived of the Constitution, have power to grant. I entertain no their claim against the government of the U. S. I re- Shoe. TRY THEM. They are warranted to be of the exports of the whole United States, and become ern ports bound southward. Alarmed by so ex- the absence of a fleet of public vessels, it will be emi-

> readiness to assume the direction of our postal affairs. rable instrument of defensive warfare. I earnestly on the occurrence of the contingency contemplated by recommend the passage of a law authorizing me to the Act of 15th March, 1861, or even sooner if desired by Congress. The various books and circulars have I cannot close this review of the acts of the govern- been prepared, and measures taken to secure supplies ment of the United States without referring to a of blanks, postage stamps, stamped envelopes, mail proclamation issued by their President, under date of bags, locks, keys, &c. He presents a detailed classifithe 19th inst., in which, after declaring that an insur-

thenticity of this proclamation, you will concur with surv. The revenues of this department are collected

In the military organizations of the States, provident do duty with the militia, the general selected for militia not having the same advantages. To any this contingency in the least objectionable manner. commend that additional rank be given to the general of the confederate army, and concurring in the los of having but one grade of generals in the army of To secure a thorough military education, it is detail essential that officers should enter upon the study their profession at an early period of life, and have a mentary instruction in a military school. Until Best school shall be established, it is recommended that the cadets be appointed and attached to companies and they have attained the age and acquired the knowled to fit them for the duties of lieutenants.

I also call your atention to an omission in the u organizing the army, in relation to military chaplain

In conclus ion I congratutate you on the fact, that every portion of our country there has been exhibit the most patriotic devotion to our common case that we are soon to greet as sisters, assembled in Con vention in this city, and not only reduced largely the rates heretofore demanded for mail service and come. the bonds of the Confederacy, for the purpose of len. ing all the resources of the Government at its dispose for the common defence. Requisitions for troops has been met with such alacrity that the numbers tenden ing their services have, in every instance, greatly a ceeded the demand. Men of the highest official w The gravity of age and the zeal of youth rival and other in the desire to be foremost for the publica fence, and though at no other point than the one ben tofore noticed, have they been stimulated by then citement incident to actual engagement, and the hou of distinction for individual achievement, they has borne what for new troops is the most severe order patient toil and constant vigil, and all the exposurem discomfort of active service, with a resolution m A people thus united and resolved cannot from any sacrifice which they may be called on a

freedom and equality, as a trust which it is their for duty to transmit, undiminished to their posterity. A bounteous Providence cheers us with the promise of abundent crops. The fields of grain, which will within a few weeks, be ready for the sickle, give asm. rance of the amplest supply of food for man; while the corn, cotton, and other staple productions of our soil, afford abundent proof that up to this period the

season has been propitious. We feel that our cause is just and holy; we protes solemnly in the face of mankind that we desire peace at any sacrifice, save that of honor and independence we seek no conquest, no aggrandizement, no concession of any kind from the States with which we were lately confederated; all we ask is to be let alone, that those who never held power over us, shall not now attensi our subjugation by arms. This we will, this we must resist to the direct extremity.

The moment that this pretension is abandoned the sword shall drop from our grasp, and shall be ready to enter into treaties of amity and commerce that cannot but be mutually beneficial. So long as this pretension is maintained with a firm reliance on the Divine Power which covers with its protection the just cause, we will continue to struggle for our inherent right of freedom independence and self-government.

JEFFERSON DAVIS. Montgomery, April 29, 1861.

SOUTHERN ARMY REGULATION. For the benefit of many persons who have made

inquiry as to the regulation of the Confederate States army we publish the following items: Under the bill for the public defence 100,000 volunteers can be accepted, who will be subject to

the rules governing the regular army. The tern of service will be twelve months. All volunteen must be tendered by the Governor of a State Each regiment is composed of ten companies, each consisting of one captain, three lieutenants, four sergeants, four corporals, two buglers, and ninely privates. The pay for colonel is one hundred and seventy-five dollars per month; lieutenant colone, one hundred and seventy dollars; major, one hundred and fifty dollars; captain, one hundred and eight dollars ; first lieutenant, ninety dollars; setond lieutenant, eighty dollars; first sergeant, twenty-one dollars; other sergeants, seventeen del lars; corporals and artificers, thirteen dollars privates, eleven dollars : with yearly allowance of clothing and one ration per-day. The volunteen Government when mustered into service. Each regiment has a quartermaster with the rank of Captain, and commissary with equal rank; a surgeon and assistant surgeon. The Richmond Enquirer states that the prot-

lamation of Gov. Letcher for volunteers in Virginia has been responded to by over seventy thousand

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