



"The powers granted under the Constitution, being derived from the People of the United States, may be resumed by them, whenever perverted to their injury or oppression."—Madison.

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TERMS:

The "Mecklenburg Jeffersonian" is published weekly, at Two Dollars and Fifty Cents, if paid in advance; or Three Dollars, if not paid before the expiration of three months from the time of subscribing.

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President's Message.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States:

We have continued reason to express our profound gratitude to the great Creator of all things for numberless benefits conferred upon us as a people. Blessed with genial seasons, the husbandman has his garners filled with abundance; and the necessities of life, not to speak of its luxuries, abound in every direction.

I congratulate you, fellow-citizens, on the happy change in the aspect of our foreign affairs since my last annual Message. Causes of complaint at that time existed between the United States and Great Britain, which, attended by irritating circumstances, threatened most seriously the public peace.

By the 10th article of the treaty of Ghent, it was expressly declared that "whereas the traffic in slaves is irreconcilable with the principles of humanity and justice; and whereas both his Majesty and the United States are desirous of continuing their efforts to promote its entire abolition; it is hereby agreed that both the contracting parties shall use their best endeavors to accomplish so desirable an object."

expressed in different words; and I therefore felt it to be my duty distinctly to declare, in my annual Message to Congress, that no such concession could be made, and that the United States had both the will and the ability to enforce their own laws, and to protect their flag from being used for purposes wholly forbidden by those laws, and obnoxious to the moral censure of the world.

It would have furnished additional cause for congratulation, if the treaty could have embraced all subjects calculated in future to lead to a misunderstanding between the two Governments. The territory of the United States, commonly called the Oregon Territory, lying on the Pacific ocean, north of the forty-second degree of latitude, to a portion of which Great Britain lays claim, begins to attract the attention of our fellow-citizens; and the tide of population, which has reclaimed what was so lately an unbroken wilderness in more contiguous regions, is preparing to flow over those vast districts which stretch from the Rocky mountains to the Pacific ocean.

With the other powers of Europe our relations continue on the most amicable footing. Treaties now existing with them should be rigidly observed; and every opportunity, compatible with the interests of the United States, should be seized upon to enlarge the basis of commercial intercourse.

On the 23d of April last, the commissioners on the part of the United States, under the convention with the Mexican Republic of the 11th of April, 1839, made to the proper department a final report in relation to the proceedings of the commission. From this it appears that the total amount awarded to the claimants by the commissioners and the umpire appointed under that convention, was two million twenty-six thousand and seventy-nine dollars and sixty-eight cents.

erment of Mexico should not find itself in a condition to make present payment of the amount of the awards, in specie or its equivalent.

I am happy to be able to say that information which is esteemed favorable, both to a just satisfaction of the awards, and a reasonable provision for other claims, has been recently received from Mr. Thompson, the Minister of the United States, who has promptly and efficiently executed the instructions of his Government in regard to this important subject.

The citizens of the United States who accompanied the late Texian expedition to Santa Fe, and who were wrongfully taken and held as prisoners of war in Mexico, have all been liberated.

A correspondence has taken place between the Department of State and the Mexican Minister of Foreign Affairs, upon the complaint of Mexico that citizens of the United States were permitted to give aid to the inhabitants of Texas in the war existing between her and that republic.

Mexico has thought proper to reciprocate the mission of the United States to that Government, by accrediting to this a minister of the same rank as that of the representative of the United States in Mexico. From the circumstances connected with this mission, favorable results are anticipated from it.

The ratifications of the treaty between the United States and the Republic of Ecuador, of the 13th of June, 1839, have been exchanged, and that instrument has been duly promulgated on the part of this Government.

Provision has been made by the Government of Chili for the payment of the claim on account of the illegal detention of the brig Warrior at Coquimbo, in 1820. This Government has reason to expect that other claims of our citizens against Chili will be hastened to a final and satisfactory close.

The empire of Brazil has not been altogether exempt from those convulsions which so constantly afflict the neighboring republics. Disturbances which recently broke out are, however, now understood to be quieted. But these occurrences, by threatening the stability of the Governments, or by causing incessant and violent changes in them, or in the persons who administer them, tend greatly to retard provisions for a just indemnity for losses and injuries suffered by individual subjects or citizens of other States.

The vexatious, harassing, and expensive war which so long prevailed with the Indian tribes inhabiting the peninsula of Florida, has happily been terminated; whereby our army has been relieved from a service of the most disagreeable character, and the treasury from a large expenditure.

The balance in the treasury on the 1st of January, 1842, (exclusive of the amount deposited with the States, trust funds and indemnities,) was \$230,483 68. The receipts into the Treasury during the three first quarters of the present year, from all sources, amount to \$26,616,593 78; of which more than fourteen millions were received from customs, and about one million from the public lands.

The present tariff of duties was somewhat hastily and hurriedly passed near the close of the late session of Congress. That it should have defects, can, therefore, be surprising to no one. To remedy such defects as may be found to exist in many of its numerous provisions, will not fail to claim your serious attention. It may well merit inquiry, whether the extraction of all duties in cash does not call for the introduction of a system which has proved highly

beneficial in countries where it has been adopted. I refer to the warehousing system. The first and most prominent effect which it would produce, would be to protect the market alike against redundant or deficient supplies of foreign fabrics; both of which, in the long run, are injurious as well to the manufacturer as to the importer.

The apprehension may be well entertained, that, without something to ameliorate the rigor of cash payments, the entire import trade may fall into the hands of a few wealthy capitalists in this country and in Europe. The small importer, who requires all the money he can raise for investments abroad, and who can but ill afford to pay the lowest duty, would have to subduct in advance a portion of his funds, in order to pay the duties, and would lose the interest upon the amount thus paid for all the time the goods might remain unsold; which might absorb his profits.

In revising the existing tariff of duties, should I deem it proper to do so at your present session, I can only repeat the suggestions and recommendations which, upon several occasions, I have heretofore felt it to be my duty to offer to Congress. The great primary and controlling interest of the American people is union; union, not only in the mere forms of government—but in an attachment of States and individuals for each other.

The prudent capitalist will never adventure his capital in manufacturing establishments, or in any other leading pursuit of life, if there exists a state of uncertainty as to whether the Government will repeal to-morrow what it has enacted to-day. Fictitious profits, however high, if threatened with a ruinous reduction by a vacillating policy on the part of Government, will scarcely tempt him to trust the money which he has acquired by a life of labor upon the uncertain adventure.

The report of the Secretary of the War Department exhibits a very full and satisfactory account of the various and important interests committed to the charge of that officer. It is particularly gratifying to find that the expenditures for the military service are greatly reduced in amount; that a strict system of economy has been introduced into the service, and the abuses of past years greatly reformed.

For several years, angry contentions have grown out of the disposition directed by law to be made of the mineral lands held by the Government in several of the States. The Government is constituted the landlord, and the citizens of the States wherein lie the lands are its tenants. The relation is an unwise one; and it would be much more conducive of the public interest that a sale of the lands should be made, than that they should remain in their present condition.

drawn from the enterprise and the industry of the proprietor, than under the present system.

The recommendation of the Secretary in regard to the improvements of the Western waters, and certain prominent harbors on the lakes, merits, and I doubt not will receive, your serious attention. The great importance of these subjects to, and the prosperity of the extensive region referred to, and the security of the whole country in time of war, cannot escape observation.

The report of the Secretary of the Navy will bring you acquainted with that important branch of the public services. Considering the already vast and daily increasing commerce of the country, apart from the exposure to hostile invasion, of an extended seaboard, all that relates to the navy is calculated to excite particular attention. Whatever tends to add to its efficiency, without entailing unnecessary charges upon the treasury, is well worthy of your serious consideration.

A strict system of accountability is established, and great pains are taken to insure industry, fidelity, and economy in every department of duty. Experiments have been instituted to test the quality of various materials, (particularly copper, iron, and coal,) so as to prevent fraud and imposition.

It will appear by the report of the Postmaster General, that the great point which, for several years, has been so much desired, has, during the current year, been fully accomplished. The expenditures of the department for the current year have been brought within its income, without lessening its general usefulness.

I flatter myself that the reduction thus made of the condition of the public administration will serve to convince you that every proper attention has been paid to the interests of the country by those who have been called to the heads of the different departments.

At peace with all the world—the personal liberty of the citizens sacredly maintained, and his rights secured under political institutions deriving all their authority from the direct sanction of the people—with a soil fertile almost beyond example and a country blessed with every diversity of climate and production, what remains to be done in order to advance the happiness and prosperity of such a people?

Under ordinary circumstances, this inquiry could readily be answered. The best that probably could be done for a people inhabiting such a country, would be to fortify their peace and security in the prosecution of their various pursuits, by guarding them against invasion from without, and violence from within. The rest, for the greater part, might be left to their own energy and enterprise. The chief embarrassments which, at the moment, exhibit themselves, have arisen from overaction; and the most difficult task which remains to be accomplished is that of correcting and over-coming its effects.