

tion to satisfy the claims of the Texan government against the United States, which had been previously adjusted, so far as the powers of the Executive extend. These claims arose out of the act of disarming a body of Texan troops under the command of Major Shilvey, by an officer in the service of the United States, acting under the orders of our government; and the forcible entry into the custom-house at Bryarly's landing, on Red river, by certain citizens of the United States, and taking away therefrom the goods seized by the collector of the customs as forfeited under the laws of Texas. This was a liquidated debt, ascertained to be due to Texas when an independent State. Her acceptance of the terms of annexation proposed by the United States does not discharge or invalidate the claim. I recommend that provision be made for its payment.

[The American Government has never interfered with the relations subsisting between other Governments, never made itself a party to their wars or alliances—or sought to acquire their territories by conquest. The U. States cannot view with indifference the interference of European nations on this continent.]

[We have omitted here about a column, devoted to advising Congress to correct some inequalities existing in our intercourse with Prussia—the Netherlands and Spain, in relation to tariff duties.]

I have thus adverted to all the subjects connected with our foreign relations, to which I deem it necessary to call your attention. Our policy is not only peace with all, but good will towards all the Powers of earth. While we are just to all, we require that all shall be just to us.

The Secretary of the Treasury, in his annual report to Congress, will communicate a full statement of the condition of our finances. The imports for the fiscal year ending on the thirtieth of June last, were of the value of one hundred and seventeen millions two hundred and fifty-four dollars, of which the amount expected was fifteen millions three hundred and forty-eight thousand eight hundred and thirty dollars—leaving a balance of one hundred and one millions nine hundred and seven thousand seven hundred and thirty-four dollars for domestic consumption. The exports for the same year were of the value of one hundred and fourteen millions six hundred and forty-eight thousand six hundred and six dollars; of which, the amount of domestic articles was ninety-nine millions two hundred and ninety-nine thousand seven hundred and seventy-six dollars. The receipts into the treasury during the same year were twenty-nine millions seven hundred and sixty-nine thousand one hundred and thirty-three dollars and fifty-six cents; of which, there were derived from customs, twenty-seven millions five hundred and twenty-eight thousand one hundred and twelve dollars and seventy cents; from sales of public lands, two millions seventy-seven thousand and twenty-two dollars and thirty cents; and from incidental and miscellaneous sources, one hundred and sixty-three thousand nine hundred and ninety-eight dollars and fifty-six cents. The expenditures for the same period were twenty-nine millions nine hundred and sixty-eight thousand two hundred and six dollars and ninety-eight cents; of which eight millions five hundred and eighty-eight thousand one hundred and fifty-seven dollars and sixty-two cents were applied to the payment of public debt. The balance in the treasury on the first of July last, was seven millions six hundred and fifty-eight thousand three hundred and six dollars and twenty-two cents.

The amount of the public debt remaining unpaid on the first of October last, was seven million seven hundred and fifty thousand four hundred and forty-five dollars and fifty-two cents. Further payments of the public debt would have been made, in anticipation of its reimbursement under the authority conferred upon the Secretary of the Treasury under the acts of July twenty-first, 1841, and of April fifteenth, 1842, and March third, 1843, had not the unsettled state of our relations with Mexico menaced hostile collision with that power. In view of such a contingency, it was deemed prudent to retain in the treasury an amount unusually large for ordinary purposes.

[All the monies in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated will be applied to the extinguishment of the public debt; and he hopes soon to be able to congratulate the country on the consummation of that object.]

The attention of Congress is invited to the importance of making suitable modifications and reductions of the rates of duty imposed by our present tariff laws. The object of imposing duties on imports should be to raise revenue to pay the necessary expenses of government. Congress may, undoubtedly, in the exercise of a sound discretion, discriminate in arranging the rates of duty on different articles; but the discriminations should be within the revenue standard, and be made with the view to raise money for the support of the government.

[Another column or more, here omitted, is devoted to the discussion of the Tariff. The President defines a revenue tariff to be that rate of taxation which will raise the greatest amount of revenue; that when the tax is put so high that the revenue decreases from what it was at a lower rate, it becomes a protective duty and not a revenue duty. For instance, if experience should prove that a 30 per cent tax on a certain article would produce \$10,000 revenue, and that 33 per cent would produce 7 or 8 or 9 thousand dollars; the former is the revenue duty—the latter the protective duty. Yet it does not follow, says he, that Congress should levy the highest duty that an article will bear within the revenue standard, for that would probably produce more revenue than the Government needs. Care should be taken that all the great interests of the country should, as far as may be practicable, derive equal advantages from the incidental protection which a just system of revenue duties may afford. Many of the provisions of the tariff of 1842 are in violation of these cardinal principles. It throws greater burthens on the poorer classes than on the capitalists of the country. It protects the manufacturer while it does not benefit the laborer who works for him.]

The well-known fact that the tariff act of 1842 was passed by a majority of one vote in the Senate, and two in the House of Repre-

sentatives, and that some of those who felt themselves constrained, under the peculiar circumstances existing at the time, to vote in its favor, proclaimed its defects, and expressed their determination to aid in its modification on the first opportunity, affords strong and conclusive evidence that it was not intended to be permanent, and of the expediency and necessity of its thorough revision.

In recommending to Congress a reduction of the present rates of duty, and a revision and modification of the act of 1842, I am far from entertaining opinions unfriendly to the manufacturers. On the contrary, I desire to see them prosperous, as far as they can be so, without imposing unequal burdens on other interests. The advantage under any system of indirect taxation, even within the revenue standard, must be in favor of the manufacturer; and of this no other interest will complain.

I recommend to Congress the abolition of the minimum principle, or assumed, arbitrary, and false values, and of specific duties, and the substitution in their place of ad valorem duties, as the fairest and most equitable indirect tax which can be imposed. By the ad valorem principle, all articles are taxed according to their cost or value, and those which are of inferior quality, or of small cost, bear only the just proportion of the tax with those which are of superior quality or greater cost.

The articles consumed by all are taxed at the same rate. A system of ad valorem revenue duties, with proper discriminations and proper guards against frauds in collecting them, it is not doubted, will afford ample incidental advantages to the manufacturers, and enable them to derive as great profits as can be derived from any other regular business. It is believed that such a system, strictly within the revenue standard, will place the manufacturing interests on a stable footing, and insure to their permanent advantage; while it will, as nearly as may be practicable, extend to all the great interests of the country the incidental protection which can be afforded by our revenue laws. Such a system, when once firmly established, would be permanent, and not be subject to the constant complaints, agitations and changes which must ever occur, when duties are not laid for revenue, but for the "protection merely" of a favored interest.

By the constitution of the United States it is provided, that "no money shall be drawn from the treasury but in consequence of appropriations made by law." A public treasury was undoubtedly contemplated and intended to be created; in which the public money should be kept from the period of collection until needed for public uses. In the collection and disbursement of the public money no agencies have ever been employed by law, except such as were appointed by the government, directly responsible to it, and under its control. The safe keeping of the public money should be confided to a public treasury created by law, and under like responsibility and control. It is not to be imagined that the framers of the constitution could have intended that a treasury should be created as a place of deposit and safe-keeping of the public money which was irresponsible to the government. The first Congress under the constitution, by the act of the second September, 1789, "to establish the Treasury Department," provided for the appointment of a treasurer, and made it his duty "to receive and keep the moneys of the United States," and "at all times to submit to the Secretary of the Treasury and the Comptroller, or either of them, the inspection of the moneys in his hands."

Our experience has shown, that when banking corporations have been the keepers of the public money, and been thereby made in effect the treasury, the government can have no guaranty that it can command the use of its own money for public purposes. The late Bank of the United States proved to be faithless. The State Banks which were afterwards employed, were faithless. But a few years ago, with millions of public money in their keeping, the government was brought almost to bankruptcy, and the public credit seriously impaired, because of their inability or indisposition to pay, on demand, to the public creditors, in the only currency recognized by the constitution: Their failure occurred in a period of peace, and great inconvenience and loss were suffered by the public from it. Had the country been involved in a foreign war, that inconvenience and loss would have been much greater, and might have resulted in extreme public calamity. The public money should not be mingled with the private funds of banks or individuals, or be used for private purposes. When it is placed in banks for safe keeping, it is in effect loaned to them without interest, and is loaned by them upon interest to the borrowers from them. The public money is converted into banking capital, and is used and loaned out for the private profit of bank stockholders; and when called for, (as was the case in 1837,) it may be in the pockets of the borrowers from the banks, instead of being in the public treasury contemplated by the constitution. The framers of the constitution could never have intended that the money paid into the treasury should be thus converted to private use, and placed beyond the control of the government.

At present, State banks are employed as depositories, but without adequate regulation of law, whereby the public money can be secured against the casualties and excesses, revulsions, suspensions, and defalcations, to which, from overissues, overtrading, an inordinate desire for gain, or other causes, they are constantly exposed. The Secretary of the Treasury has in all cases, when it was practicable, taken collateral security for the amount which they hold, by the pledge of stocks of the United States, or such of the States as were in good credit. Some of the deposit banks have given this description of security, and others have declined to do so.

Entertaining the opinion that "the separation of the moneys of the government from banking institutions is indispensable for the safety of the funds of the government and the rights of the people," I recommend to Congress that provision be made by law for such separation; and that a constitutional treasury be created for the safe-keeping of the public

money. The constitutional treasury recommended is designed as a secure depository for the public money, without any power to make loans or discounts, or to issue any paper whatever as a currency or circulation. I cannot doubt that such a treasury as was contemplated by the constitution, should be independent of all banking corporations. The money of the people should be kept in the treasury of the people created by law, and be in the custody of agents of the people chosen by themselves, according to the forms of the constitution; agents who are directly responsible to the government, who are under adequate bonds and oaths, and who are subject to severe punishment for any embezzlement, private use, or misapplication of the public funds, and for any failure in other respects to perform their duties. To say that the people or their government are incompetent, or not to be trusted with the custody of their own money, in their own treasury, provided by themselves, but must rely on the presidents, cashiers, and stockholders of banking corporations, not appointed by them, nor responsible to them, would be to concede that they are incompetent for self-government.

In recommending the establishment of a constitutional treasury, in which the public money shall be kept, I desire that adequate provisions be made by law for its safety, and that all executive discretion or control over it shall be removed; except such as may be necessary in directing its disbursement in pursuance of appropriations made by law.

[The part omitted here, recommends that the price of the inferior qualities of public land, be reduced on a gradual scale, according to the quality of the lands offered for sale, so that the large quantities of inferior land may be sold, and the States in which they lie, be relieved from the large quantities of untaxable land within their borders.]

I recommend the continuance of the policy of granting pre-emptions, in its most liberal extent, to all those who have settled, or may hereafter settle, on the public lands, whether surveyed or unsurveyed, to which the Indian title may have been extinguished at the time of settlement.

[These pre-emptions will prevent capitalists from combining and buying up lands already settled, at small prices, and then making the settlers pay double or more for it. A citizen who settles on the public lands, expects when that land is sold by the Government to buy it, but the combinations of capitalists have tended to exclude the settler from buying, and of course to make him pay more to the capitalist than the capitalist paid the government.]

The present system of managing the mineral lands of the U. States is believed to be radically defective. More than a million of acres of the public lands, supposed to contain lead and other minerals, have been reserved from sale, and numerous leases upon them have been granted to individuals upon a stipulated rent. The system of granting leases has proved to be not only unprofitable to the government, but unsatisfactory to the citizens who have gone upon the lands, and must, if continued, lay the foundation of much future difficulty between the government and the lessees. According to the official records, the amount of rents received by the government for the years 1841, 1842, 1843, and 1844, was \$6,354 74, while the expenses of the system during the same period, including salaries of superintendents, agents, clerks, and incidental expenses, were twenty-six thousand one hundred and eleven dollars and eleven cents—the income being less than one-fourth of the expenses. To this pecuniary loss may be added the injury sustained by the public in consequence of the destruction of timber, and the careless and wasteful manner of working the mines. The system has given rise to much litigation between the United States and individual citizens, producing irritation and excitement in the mineral region, and involving the government in heavy additional expenditures.

During the last summer, the first regiment of dragoons made extensive excursions through the Indian country on our borders, a part of them advancing nearly to the possessions of the Hudson's Bay Company in the north; and a part as far as the South Pass of the Rocky Mountains, and the head waters of the tributary streams of the Colorado of the West. The exhibition of this military force among the Indian tribes in this distant region, and the councils held with them by the commanders of the expeditions, it is believed will have a salutary influence in restraining them from hostilities among themselves, and maintaining friendly relations between them and the United States.

Our relations with the Indian tribes are of a favorable character. The policy of removing them to a country designed for their permanent residence, west of the Mississippi and without the limits of the organized States and Territories, is better appreciated by them than it was a few years ago; while education is now attended to, and the habits of civilized life are gaining ground among them.

I refer you to the report of the Secretary of the Navy for the present condition of that branch of the national defence; and for grave suggestions, having for their object the increase of its efficiency, and a greater economy in its management. During the past year the officers and men have performed their duty in a satisfactory manner. The orders which have been given, have been executed with promptness and fidelity.

The successful use of steam navigation on the ocean has been followed by the introduction of war steamers in great and increasing numbers into the navies of the principal maritime Powers of the world. A due regard to our own safety and to an efficient protection demands a corresponding increase on our part. No country has greater facilities for the construction of vessels of this description than ours, or can promise itself greater advantages from their employment. They are admirably adapted to the protection of our commerce, to the rapid transmission of intelligence, and to the coast defence. In pursuance of the wise policy of a gradual increase of our navy, large supplies of live oak timber, and other materials for ship building, have been collected, and are now under shelter and in a state of

good preservation, while iron steamers can be built with great facility in various parts of the Union. The use of iron as a material, especially in the construction of steamers, which can enter with safety many of the harbors along our coast now inaccessible to vessels of greater draught, and the practicability of constructing them in the interior, strongly recommends that liberal appropriations should be made for this important object. Whatever may have been our policy in the earlier stages of our government, when the nation was in its infancy, our shipping interests and commerce comparatively small, our resources limited, our population sparse and scarcely extending beyond the limits of the original thirteen States, that policy must be essentially different now that we have grown from three to more than twenty millions of people—that our commerce, carried in our own ships, is found in every sea, and that our territorial boundaries and settlements have been so greatly expanded. Neither our commerce, nor our long line of coast on the ocean and on the lakes, can be successfully defended against foreign aggression by means of fortifications alone. These are essential at important commercial and military points, but our chief reliance for this object must be on a well-organized, efficient navy. The benefits resulting from such a navy are not confined to the Atlantic States. The productions of the interior which seek a market abroad, are directly dependent on the safety and freedom of our commerce. The occupation of the Balize below New Orleans by a hostile force would embarrass, if not stagnate, the whole export trade of the Mississippi, and affect the value of the agricultural products of the entire valley of that mighty river and its tributaries.

Considering an increased naval force, and especially of steam vessels, corresponding with our growth and importance as a nation, and proportioned to the increased and increasing naval powers of other nations, of vast importance as regards our safety, and the great and growing interests to be protected by it, I recommend the subject to the favorable consideration of Congress.

The report of the Postmaster General heretofore communicated, contains a detailed statement of the operations of his department during the past year. It will be seen that the income from postages will fall short of the expenditures for the year between one and two millions of dollars. This deficiency has been caused by the reduction of the rates of postage, which was made by the act of the third of March last. No principle has been more generally acquiesced in by the people than that this department should sustain itself by limiting its expenditures to its income. Congress has never sought to make it a source of revenue for general purposes, except for a short period during the last war, with Great Britain, nor should it ever become a charge on the general treasury. If Congress shall adhere to this principle, as I think they ought, it will be necessary either to curtail the present mail service, so as to reduce the expenditures, or so to modify the act of the third of March last as to improve its revenues. The extension of the mail service, and the additional facilities which will be demanded by the rapid extension and increase of population on our western frontier, will not admit of such curtailment as will materially reduce the present expenditures. In the adjustment of the tariff of postages the interests of the people demand that the lowest rates be adopted which will produce the necessary revenue to meet the expenditures of the department. I invite the attention of Congress to the suggestions of the Postmaster General on this subject.

Proper measures have been taken, in pursuance of the act of the third of March last, for the establishment of lines of mail steamers between this and foreign countries. The importance of this service commends itself strongly to favorable consideration.

The most important duties of the State Department relate to our foreign affairs. By the great enlargement of the family of nations, the increase of our commerce, and the corresponding extension of consular system, the business of this department has been greatly increased. In its present organization, many duties of a domestic nature, and consisting of details, are devolved on the Secretary of State, which do not appropriately belong to the foreign department of the government, and may properly be transferred to some other department. One of these grows out of the present state of the law concerning the Patent Office, which, a few years since, was a subordinate clerkship, but has become a distinct bureau of great importance. With an excellent internal organization, it is still connected with the State Department. In the transaction of its business, questions of much importance to inventors, and to the community, frequently arise, which, by existing laws, are referred for decision to a board, of which the Secretary of State is a member. These questions are legal, and the connection which now exists between the State Department and the Patent Office, may, with great propriety and advantage, be transferred to the Attorney General.

In his last annual message to Congress, Mr Madison invited attention to a proper provision for the Attorney General as an "important improvement in the executive establishment." This recommendation was repeated by some of his successors. The official duties of the Attorney General have been much increased within a few years, and his office has become one of great importance. I therefore recommend that the Attorney General be placed on the same footing with the heads of the other executive departments, with such subordinate officers, provided by law for his department, as may be required to discharge the additional duties which he may be devolved upon him.

Congress possesses the power of exclusive legislation over the District of Columbia; and I commend the interests of its inhabitants to your favorable consideration.

[The two closing paragraphs here omitted, are, first, recommendations in regard to the District of Columbia; and, second, a grateful allusion to the memory of Gen. Jackson.]

JAMES K. POLK. WASHINGTON, Dec. 2, 1845.

Democratic Meeting.

A respectable portion of the democracy of Bladen county, assembled at the Court House in Elizabethtown on Friday the 5th inst. On motion of Gen. Wm. J. Cowan, the meeting was organized by the appointment of Wm. W. Harvey, Esq., Chairman, and T. S. D. McDowell, Secretary. After the object of the meeting was explained by the Chair, the following resolutions were reported:

Whereas, it has been decided that a Democratic Convention will be held in the city of Raleigh on the 8th of January next, for the purpose of nominating a suitable person to be run as the republican candidate for Governor, and believing it necessary that every county should be represented in said Convention, in order to insure the will of the majority of the party, therefore,

Resolved, That the President appoint as many delegates to represent this county in the convention as he may think proper, and that those appointed shall have power to fill all vacancies which may occur in the delegation. Resolved, That whilst we may entertain our personal preferences among the distinguished individuals whose claims have been urged in favor of this office, yet we would refrain from expressing them, considering the interest of the party far more important than the gratification of our own wishes; and whosoever shall be selected by the Convention as our standard bearer in the approaching contest, shall receive our cordial support, and we will use all honorable exertions to secure his election.

In conformity with the first resolution, the following persons were appointed delegates: Geo Wm J Cowan, Colin Monroe, Esq., T S D McDowell, Robert Melvin, Esq., Jas Robinson, Jr, Capt Jas Child, Dr H H Robinson, Jno D Beatty, Jos R Kemp, Geo W Melvin, W D McNeill, J D Saffer, Jas W Llescaent, B F Randolph, K K Council.

On motion of D. Lewis, Esq., the chairman was added to the list of Delegates.

On motion, it was also resolved, that the Secretary forward a copy of the proceedings to the Journal, Carolinian, and Standard.

WM. W. HARVEY, Ch'm. T. S. D. McDowell, Sec'y.

CONFIRMATION OF THE DISCOVERY OF THE ANTARCTIC CONTINENT.—Expedition from the Cape to the Antarctic Regions.

Most of our readers are aware that the barque Pagoda, hired by government for a scientific expedition to the Antarctic regions, lately returned to Simon's Bay; and the following particulars which have transpired, connected therewith may, we believe, be relied on as authentic. This vessel, under the command of Lieut. Moore penetrated we understand further to the southward (between the meridian of Greenwich and 120 E) than any other vessel ever attained before; and completed the whole series of magnetic observations left unfinished by Her Majesty's ships Terra and Erebus. The Pagoda very nearly reached the magnetic pole; but the quantity of compact ice and icebergs which she fell in with, precluded the possibility of her advancement. Many important discoveries were made, which will doubtless be laid before the public as soon as the official report shall have reached home. She was at times surrounded by icebergs, considerably higher than the mast heads notwithstanding which the existence of the Antarctic continent, viz. Victoria Land, has been confirmed beyond a doubt. The "aurora borealis," or northern luminary, was observed to be exceedingly brilliant, so much so, indeed, that at night small print was distinctly legible thereby—a truly rare circumstance in the southern hemisphere! The stores of natural history have been much enriched by collection of birds and fishes, previously unknown. On her homeward track, the Pagoda touched at King George's Sound, where the hospitable treatment of the settlers and natives is highly spoken of—every thing was going on well at that settlement. She next made the Mauritius and returned to Simon's Bay, after a circuit of nearly fourteen thousand miles in 140 days, having in that period fully accomplished the intended objects; when the vessel was delivered up in excellent condition to Capt. H. Byron, jun. her original commander, without a single casualty, not a man having been sick all the voyage, which may be mainly ascribed to the great care and attention bestowed by Admiral Percy in fitting out this barque for her hazardous and solitary task; and there is no doubt that the scientific will be much benefited by its results.—Cape Good Hope Shipping Gazette.

SWINGING DANCES.—At Staunton, Va., during the last week, a seductive case of great enormity was tried before the Superior Court on which a verdict of \$8000 damages was awarded. The suit was brought by Jacob Copenhaver, now of Frederick, against Sampson Peller, for the seduction of his daughter, a girl of about 17 years of age. The parties are reputed and hitherto acknowledged brothers-in-law; though Peller insisted to prove himself a "filius nullius" and the niece had been taken to his house under the pretext of being a nurse and companion of his sick daughter; The verdict in the case, says the Staunton Spectator, is considered a very just one, and Peller is well able to pay it.

When Clingman was electioneering in one of the obscure villages of North Carolina, last summer, he asked a young lady, (a good democrat by the by) if the ladies in the valley were not all in favor of him. She replied we are too good democrats for that. But says Clingman; down in Cleveland all the girls go for me—why not long ago, there at Court, when a young lady was about to give her evidence in Court, the Bible being presented to her, she asked his honor if it would not do as well for her to kiss the lawyer, for she would a great deal rather kiss Mr Clingman. "Yes, great dear rather kiss Mr Clingman," retorted the spirited mountain girl, "and I can tell you why,—she did not want to kiss the truth."—Columbia Carolinian

Miss Grey has been sent to the Penitentiary in Alabama, for challenging a man to mortal combat.

Correspondence of the North Carolinian. Washington, Dec. 3, 1845.

In the House, Mr. C. J. Ingersoll rose to present a lengthy petition from inhabitants of Oregon, praying Congress to establish a monthly mail to that territory, and to pass such laws as will carry into effect previous enactments for their protection, &c. Objection was made to his presentation, as informal, when Mr. I. stated he had just received intelligence of a private nature which called him away suddenly, and he therefore moved a suspension of the rules to enable him to offer it, which was passed and the petition received.

Our city, as usual at this season, is all animation; although our rapidly increasing population, and the vast number of brilliant hotels and public houses give a degree of life to our great thoroughfare unprecedented. In addition to Coleman's, Brown's, Gadsby's, Fuller's, Tyler & Birch's, (first class hotels,) a superb establishment is opening on the corner of 3d street and Pennsylvania Avenue, to be called the St. Charles. I have been through it, and find the chambers, parlors, halls, &c., very superior. The bar-room, or office, as they are politely termed, is dazzling, and would doubtless attract general admiration, were it not for an indication of a licentious taste, in the picture of a recumbent female, full length and perfectly nude. Before I entered this apartment, I was constrained to admire the skill and enterprise manifested in the house, but must confess my pride at our metropolitan progression was somewhat diminished. I understand a similar picture is in Coleman's, though I have not seen it.

An acknowledgment appears in one of our papers of to-day of a donation to the Columbian Typographical Society of one hundred dollars, in pursuance of the bequest of Samuel Harrison Schiff, Esq., accompanied with an expression of the admiration and respect he entertained for the "honorable and useful profession" to which so many of his early years were devoted. He was the founder of the National Intelligencer.

In a fire which occurred here yesterday, an infirm old colored man was burnt to death through the interference of a woman, who went out and locked the old man in—this preventing his escape.

The weather is dry and cold, and at this moment a heavy snow is falling, which it is likely will lay—not quite as long as Rip Van Winkle lay at the foot of the Catskill mountains.

C. D.

OREGON.—The indications which have recently reached us from Oregon, in connection with those conveyed in the President's message, appear to us to foreshadow a more speedy conclusion of the present uncertainty which surrounds the probable destination of that territory; than could have been expected or hoped for a week ago. In regard to our own Government, there can now be no deviation from a fixed determination to no longer parley upon any other northern limit to our claim, than the highest degree and minute which the Russian possessions will admit of. This determination of our government, so far as its executive power is concerned, is expressed with sufficient distinctness in the President's message; and, as far as the responsive voice of the people, as expressed through the public press, has reached us, we have heard no dissent from the apparently unanimous "Amen" with which the determination should be met.

It is true, that a few of the journals politically hostile to the present administration, and which from party necessity must render every act and sentiment uttered by the President unpopular as possible with the people, (as do the President's party, when out of power, towards their successful rivals) have managed to sting out long essays which, while they are but hypercritical dissertations on the tone, temper, and lack of dignity, which they think they discover in the manner in which the President treats the subject, are aimed at the popularity of his sentiments; but, as far as has come under our observation, not one of them has as yet gone so far as to condemn the President's past course in relation to Oregon, or what he proposes for the future. He has the voice and the hearts of the people with him on the subject, and we believe the conviction that our government has thus far done its whole duty in the premises, is universal.—N.Y. True Sun.

TERRIBLE RAILROAD ACCIDENT.—It is our duty, as a public journalist, to record one of the most culpable and reckless pieces of business which has come under our notice for a long time. At 12 o'clock, on Wednesday last, in broad day light, the two trains of cars, the one going North, and the other coming South, came in direct collision, thereby endangering the lives of a large number of passengers, in both trains. Happily, no one was seriously injured. This will appear the most extraordinary part of the affair when we state the circumstances. It is a rule when the trains meet between two "turn outs," that that one which has crossed the half-way line shall make the other run back to the station which it has last left. On Wednesday last, both the up and down trains were rather late. They came in sight of each other at a point, some 26 miles from Wilmington, the half-way line nearly equidistant from each. Both engineers crowding on all steam, as the phrase goes, each endeavoring to reach the half-way line first, in order to make the other run back. As they approached one another, both Engineers gave their engines the reverse action, but alas! too late. The engines would not recede. A awful collision ensued, by which both engines were almost stove to pieces. The Engineers themselves, and the Mail Agents, when they saw that the meeting was inevitable, jumped aboard and escaped injury.

The Directors held a meeting, and discharged both engineers from the service of the Company.—Wilmington Journal.

RIOT IN SAVANNAH.—We learn that during the recent election for Alderman and Mayor of Savannah, a riot occurred, in the endeavor to suppress which, the Mayor had his arm broken and received other injuries. The Militia was then called out and the disturbance suppressed.