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THE PATRIOT.

See last page for proceedings of the Gen-
eral Assembly up to Thursday, the 7th, inclusive.

Congress.

Monday, Dec. 4.—The members of the Sen-
ate and House of Representatives met in their
respective halls and organized for business.

In the Senate, Mr. Douglas gave notice of his
intention, at an early day, to introduce a bill in
relation to the government of our Territories.—
Mr. Cameron gave notice of his intention to in-
troduce a bill having for its object the taking of
the seventh census.

Tuesday, Dec. 5.—The President's Message
was read in both Houses, and the usual number
of copies ordered to be printed. The reading of
the Message in the Senate occupied two hours
and a half; in the House, two hours and eight
minutes. Notice was given of the introduction
of several bills, in the House,—among them, one
to reduce and render uniform the rates of postage.

Wednesday, Dec. 6.—Certain reports from the
State and Treasury departments laid before the
two Houses. Mr. Gurley elected chaplain to the
House.

Thursday, Dec. 7.—The death of Dixon H.
Lewis, Senator from Alabama, announced in both
Houses, and the customary resolutions passed.
Both Houses adjourned over to Monday.

Important European News.

**France—England—Ireland—The Austrian Re-
bellion—Terrorist Massacre in the streets of
Vienna—Sanguinary Cruelty of the Emperor
—Revolution in Prussia—Berlin in a state
of siege.**

The steamship Britannia has arrived at Boston
with dates from Europe to November 18.

FRANCE.—The greatest anxiety prevails in re-
gard to the election of President, which was to
take place the 10th December. Prince Louis
Napoleon and Gen. Cavaignac were the most
prominent candidates—the chances believed to be
in favor of the former.

GREAT BRITAIN.—There is nothing important.
The number of deaths by the cholera, since its
first appearance, is 613.

IRELAND.—Poverty and starvation prevail to al-
most as great an extent as in 1846.

AUSTRIA.—The contest between the people
and the Emperor has resulted for the present in
favor of the latter.

The last news from Vienna announced its cap-
itulation and the entrance of the imperial troops.
The number of killed during the siege was six
thousand—the greatest loss was on the side of the
imperialists.

Marshal Welden had been appointed Govern-
or of Vienna, and Prince Windischgratz is to
command the army against Hungary. Some
military executions have taken place. The poet
Kaiser is to be hanged. The principal leaders
have not been taken. The Emperor has decid-
ed to reside at Prague.

In the face of the recent trouble in Berlin, the
revolution before that city, its imbecile and san-
guinary despot of Austria has characterized his
success by the most atrocious and cold blooded
murders. In Vienna the defenceless citizens are
shot dead without ceremony, their houses rifled,
and even women and children massacred. The
students of the University, who used almost su-
perhuman exertions in defence of the city, are
captured. If any thing were wanting to urge the
people of Berlin, Frankfurt, Breslau and other
places to revolt, Ferdinand of Austria has fearfully
supplied it.

PRUSSIA.—The King and the Prussian Assem-
bly are at issue and the military preparations
have been made to quell any attempt that may
be made by the populace to rise in favor of the
latter.

At Berlin, the Burgher Guards refused to obey
the king's commands to dissolve the National As-
sembly. A proclamation followed this act of dis-
obedience, and the National Guard, 150,000
strong, under Wrangel, entered the city, and
sent his chief of staff to wait upon the President,
to communicate to him and the deputies sitting
in permanence, that his orders were to close the Hall
of Assembly and cause it to be evacuated, which
was done under the protest of the Assembly.

On the 10th ult., the King issued a proclama-
tion dissolving the Burgher Guard, and the
city was declared in a state of siege. No per-
sons were allowed to form gatherings in the streets,
no meetings were permitted, no placards allowed
to be published, the clubs ordered to be closed,
and all arms to be delivered up.

The constituent Assembly met in Schulzen's
house at 3 o'clock, and re-elected Von Urup as
their President. The Burgher Guard also met
and resolved not to yield or to give up their arms.
Meanwhile, the period named for delivering up
arms and dissolving the civic guards was delay-
ed 24 hours, and would remain open until sunset
on the 13th, when measures would be taken to
compel them, should they not obey.

During the day the whole of the garrison
were under arms. The Palace being occupied by
two battalions of guards, while the force at the
Arsenal had been increased, as likewise at the
principal gates. Gen. Wrangel had his head
quarters in the palace. The gates were closed,
and the soldiers furnished with three days' pro-
visions and a good supply of cartridges. The
whole of the streets leading from Schulzen's

house were occupied by bodies of armed men
ready for the fight. Towards evening the streets
became somewhat clear, and it was evidently not
the intention of the leaders of the movement to
commence hostilities.

HUNGARY.—The accounts from Hungary are
of the most warlike character. The combined
forces, Windischgratz estimates at from one to
two hundred thousand men, divided into three di-
visions, and have already crossed the frontier.—
Jallachich's division is among the troops that
have left. The Hungarian army is reported at
80,000 men.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

[After congratulatory expressions on the peaceful
enjoyment of our free institutions—gratified allusion
to the progress of political freedom in Europe, and re-
marks on our present friendly relations with the gov-
ernments of the old and new world, including that of
Mexico. His President proceeds with the following
speculation on—]

The Effects of the Mexican War.

One of the most important results of the war
into which we were recently forced with a neigh-
bouring nation, is the demonstration it has affor-
ded of the military strength of our country. Be-
fore the late war with Mexico, European, and
other foreign Powers entertained imperfect and
erroneous views of our physical strength as a na-
tion, and of our ability to prosecute war, and
especially a war waged out of our own country.
They saw that our standing army on the peace
establishment did not exceed ten thousand men.
Accustomed themselves to maintain in peace
large standing armies for the protection of thrones
against their own subjects, as well as against
foreign enemies, they had not conceived that it was
possible for a nation without such an army, well
disciplined and of long service, to wage war suc-
cessfully. They held in low repute our militia,
and were far from regarding them as an effective
force, unless it might be for temporary defensive
operations when invaded or our own soil.

The events of the late war with Mexico have not only
undiscovered them, but have removed erroneous
impressions which prevailed to some extent even
among a portion of our own countrymen. That
war has demonstrated, that upon the breaking
out of hostilities not anticipated, and for which
no previous preparation had been made, a volunteer
army of citizen-soldiers equal to veteran troops,
and in numbers equal to any emergency, can in
a short period be brought into the field. Unlike
what would have occurred in any other country,
we were under no necessity of resorting to drafts
or conscriptions. On the contrary, such was the
number of volunteers, who patriotically rendered
their services, that the chief difficulty was in mak-
ing selections and determining who should be dis-
appointed and compelled to remain at home. Our
citizen-soldiers are unlike those drawn from the
population of any other country. They are com-
posed indiscriminately of all professions and pur-
suits: of farmers, lawyers, physicians, merchants,
manufacturers, mechanics and labourers; and
this, not only among the officers, but the private
soldiers in the ranks. Our citizen-soldiers are
unlike those of any other country in other re-
spects. They are armed, and have been accus-
tomed from their youth up to handle and use fire-
arms; and a large proportion of them, especially
in the Western and more newly-settled States,
are expert marksmen. They are men who have
a reputation to maintain at home by their good
conduct in the field. They are intelligent, and
there is an individuality of character which is
found in the ranks of no other army. In battle,
each private man, as well as every officer, fights
not only for his country, but for glory and distinc-
tion among his fellow citizens when he shall re-
turn to civil life.

The war with Mexico has demonstrated not
only the ability of the government to organize a
numerous army upon a sudden call, but also to
provide it with all the munitions and necessary
supplies with despatch, convenience and ease,
and to direct its operations with efficiency. The
strength of our institutions has not only been
displayed in the valour and skill of our troops en-
gaged in active service in the field, but in the or-
ganization of those executive branches which
were charged with the general direction and con-
duct of the war. While too great praise cannot
be bestowed upon the officers and men who fought
our battles, it would be unjust to withhold from
those officers necessarily stationed at home, who
were charged with the duty of furnishing the ar-
my, in proper time, and at proper places, with
all the munitions of war and other supplies so
necessary to make it efficient, the commendation
to which they are entitled. The credit due to this
class of our officers is the greater, when it is
considered that no army in ancient or modern times
was ever better appointed or provided than our
army in Mexico. Operating in an enemy's coun-
try, removed two thousand miles from the seat
of the federal government, its different corps spread
over a vast extent of territory, hundreds and even
thousands of miles apart from each other, nothing
short of the untiring vigilance and extraordinary
energy of these officers could have enabled them to
provide the army at all points, and in proper
season, with all that was required for the most
efficient service.

It is but an act of justice to declare, that the
officers in charge of the several executive bureaus,
all under the immediate eye and supervision of
the Secretary of War, performed their respective
duties with ability, energy, and efficiency. They
have reaped less of the glory of the war, not hav-
ing been personally exposed to its perils in battle,
than their companions in arms; but without their
forecast, efficient aid, and co-operation, those in
the field would not have been provided with the
ample means they possessed of achieving for
themselves and their country the unflinching hon-
ours which they have won for both. When all
these facts are considered, it may cease to be a
matter of so much amazement abroad how it hap-
pened that our noble army in Mexico, regulars
and volunteers, were victorious upon every bat-
tle-field, however fearful the odds against them.

The war with Mexico has thus fully developed
the capacity of republican governments to prose-
cute successfully a just and necessary foreign war
with all the vigor usually attributed to more ar-
bitrary forms of government. It has been usual
for writers on public law to impute to republics a
want of that unity, concentration of purpose, and
vigor of execution, which are generally attrib-
uted to belong to the monarchical and aristocratic
forms; and this feat of popular government
has been supposed to display itself more particu-
larly in the conduct of a war carried on in an
enemy's territory. The war with Great Britain,
in 1812, was to a great extent confined within our
own limits, and shed but little light on this sub-
ject. But the war which we have just closed by
an honourable peace, evinces beyond all doubt
that a popular representative government is equal
to any emergency which is likely to arise in the
affairs of a nation. The war with Mexico has
developed most strikingly and conspicuously
another feature in our institutions. It is, that
without cost to the government, or danger to our
liberties, we have in the bosom of our society of
freemen, available in a just and necessary war,
virtually a standing army of two millions of armed
citizen-soldiers, such as fought the battles of Mex-
ico.

But our military strength does not consist alone
in our capacity for extended and successful oper-
ations on land. The navy is an important arm
of the national defence. If the services of the
navy were not so brilliant as those of the army
in the late war with Mexico, it was because they
had no enemy to meet on their own element.
While the army had opportunity of performing
more conspicuous service, the navy largely par-
ticipated in the conduct of the war. Both branches
of the service performed their whole duty to
the country. For the able and gallant services
of the officers and men of the navy—acting in-
dependently as well as in co-operation with our
troops—in the conquest of the California, the
capture of Vera Cruz, and the seizure and occu-
pation of other important positions on the Gulf
and Pacific coasts, the highest praise is due. Their
vigilance, energy, and skill, rendered the most
effective service in excluding munitions of war
and other supplies from the enemy, while they
secured a safe entrance for abundant supplies for
our own army. Our extended commerce was
nowhere interrupted; and for this immunity from
the evils of war, the country is indebted to the
navy.

High praise is due to the officers of the several
executive bureaus, navy yards, and stations con-
nected with the service, all under the immediate
direction of the Secretary of the Navy, for the in-
dustry, foresight, and energy with which every-
thing was directed and furnished to give effici-
ency to that branch of the service. The same vigi-
lance existed in directing the operations of the
navy, as of the army. There was concert of ac-
tion and of purpose between the heads of the two
arms of the service. By the orders which were
from time to time issued, our vessels of war on the
Pacific and the Gulf of Mexico were stationed in
proper time and in proper positions to co-operate
efficiently with the army. By this means their
combined power was brought to bear successfully
on the enemy. The great results which have
been developed and brought to light by this war,
will be of immeasurable importance in the future
progress of our country. They will tend power-
fully to preserve us from foreign collisions, and
to enable us to pursue uninterruptedly our en-
riched policy of "peace with all nations, entan-
gling alliances with none." Occupying, as we do,
a more commanding position among nations than
at any former period, our duties and our respon-
sibilities to ourselves and to posterity are corre-
spondingly increased. This will be the more ob-
vious when we consider the vast additions which
have been recently made to our territorial pos-
sessions, and their great importance and value.

Our Territorial Acquisitions.
Within less than four years the acquisition of Tex-
as has been consummated; all conflicting title to
the Oregon Territory south of the 49th degree of
north latitude, being all that was insisted on by
any of our predecessors, has been adjusted; and
New Mexico and Upper California have been ac-
quired by treaty. The area of these several Ter-
ritories, according to a report carefully prepared
by the Commissioner of the General Land Of-
fice from the most authentic information in his
possession, and which is herewith transmitted,
contains one million one hundred and ninety-three
thousand and sixty-one square miles, or seven
hundred and sixty-three million five hundred and
fifty nine thousand and forty acres; while the ar-
ea of the remaining twenty nine States, and the
territory not yet organized into States east of the
Rocky mountains, contains two million fifty-nine
thousand five hundred and thirteen square miles,
or sixteen hundred and eighteen million one
hundred and twenty-six thousand and fifty-eight
acres. These estimates show that the ter-
ritories recently acquired, and over which our
exclusive jurisdiction and dominion have been
extended, constitute a country more than half
as large as that which was held by the United
States before their acquisition. If Oregon be ex-
cluded from the estimate, there will still remain
within the limits of Texas, New Mexico, and Cal-
ifornia, 800 hundred and 61,500 and 98 square
miles, or five hundred and forty-five million two
thousand seven hundred and twenty acres; be-
ing an addition equal to more than one third of
all the territory owned by the United States be-
fore their acquisition; and including Oregon, nearly
as great an extent of territory as the whole of
Europe, Russia only excepted. The Mississippi
so lately the frontier of our country, is now only
its centre. With the addition of the late acqui-
sitions, the United States are now estimated to be
nearly as large as the whole of Europe.

It is estimated by the superintendent of the coast
survey, in the accompanying report, that the ex-
tent of the S-coast of Texas on the Gulf of Mex-
ico, is upwards of four hundred miles; and of
the coast of Upper California, on the Pacific, of nine
hundred and seventy miles; and of Oregon, in-
cluding the Straits of Fuca, of six hundred and
fifty miles; making the whole extent of seacoast
one thousand six hundred and twenty miles, and
the whole extent on both the Pacific and the Gulf
of Mexico two thousand and twenty miles. The
length of the coast on the Atlantic from the Cape
of Florida to the Sabine, on the eastern boundary
of Texas, is estimated to be three thousand one
hundred miles; so that the addition of seacoast,
including Oregon, is very nearly two-thirds as
great as all we possessed before; and excluding
Oregon is an addition of one thousand three hun-
dred and seventy miles; being nearly equal to
one half the extent of coast which we possessed
before these acquisitions. We have now three
great maritime fronts—on the Atlantic, the Gulf
of Mexico, and the Pacific—making in the whole
an extent of seacoast exceeding five thousand

miles. This is the extent of the seacoast of the
United States, not including bays, sounds, and
small irregularities of the main shore, and of the
sea islands. If these be included, the shore line
of coast, as estimated by the superintendent of the
coast survey, in his report, would be thirty-three
thousand and sixty-three miles.

It would be difficult to calculate the value of
these immense additions to our territorial posses-
sions. Texas, lying contiguous to the western
boundary of Louisiana, embracing within its limits
a part of the navigable tributary waters of the
Mississippi, and an extensive sea-coast, could not
long have remained in the hands of a foreign power
without endangering the peace of our south-
western frontier. Her products in the vicinity of
the tributaries of the Mississippi must have sought
a market through these straits, running into and
through our territory; and the danger of irritation
and collision of interests between Texas as a for-
eign State and ourselves would have been im-
minent, while the embarrassments in the commer-
cial interests between Texas as a foreign State
and ourselves would have been constant and un-
avoidable. Had Texas fallen into the hands, or
under the influence and control of a strong mari-
time or military foreign power, as she might
have done, these dangers would have been still
greater. They have been avoided by her vol-
untary and peaceful annexation to the United
States. Texas, from her position, was a natural
and almost indispensable part of our terri-
tories. Fortunately, she has been restored to our
country, and now constitutes one of the States of
our confederacy.—upon an equal footing with
the original States. The salubrity of climate,
the fertility of soil, peculiarly adapted to the
production of some of our most valuable staple
commodities, and her commercial advantages,
must soon make her one of our most populous
States.

New Mexico, though situated in the interior,
and without a seacoast, is known to contain much
fertile land, to abound in rich mines of the pre-
cious metals, and to be capable of sustaining a
large population. From its position, it is the in-
termediate and connecting territory between our
settlements in Texas and those on the Pacific
coast. Upper California, irrespective of the vast
mineral wealth recently developed there, holds
at this day, in point of value and importance to
the rest of the Union, the same that Louisiana
did, when that fine territory was acquired from
France forty five years ago. Extending nearly
two degrees of latitude along the Pacific,
and embracing the only safe and commodious
harbors on that coast for many hundred miles,
with a temperate climate, and an extensive in-
terior of fertile lands, it is scarcely possible to
estimate its wealth until it shall be brought under
the government of our laws, and its resources
fully developed. From its position, it must com-
mand the rich commerce of China, of Asia and of
the islands of the Pacific, of Western Mexico,
of Central America, the South American States, and
of the Russian possessions bordering on that ocean.
A great emporium will doubtless speedily arise
on the Californian coast, which may be destined
to rival in importance New Orleans itself. The
depot of the vast commerce which must exist on
the Pacific, will probably be some point on the
bay of San Francisco, and will occupy the same
relation to the whole western coast of that ocean,
as New Orleans does to the valley of the Mississippi
and the gulf of Mexico. To this depot our
numerous whale ships will resort with their car-
goes to trade, refit, and obtain supplies. This
of itself will largely contribute to build up a city,
which would soon become the centre of a great
and rapidly increasing commerce. Situated on a
safe harbor, sufficiently capacious for all the na-
vies as well as the marine of the world, and con-
venient to excellent timber for ship building, owned
by the United States, it must become our great
western naval depot.

It was known that mines of the precious metals
existed to a considerable extent in California at
the time of its acquisition. Recent discoveries re-
veal it probable that these mines are more exten-
sive and valuable than was anticipated. The ac-
counts of the abundance of gold in that territory
are of such an extraordinary character as would
scarcely command belief were they not corrobor-
ated by the authentic reports of officers in the pub-
lic service, who have visited the mineral district,
and derived the facts which they detail from per-
sonal observation. Reluctant to credit the reports
in general circulation as to the quantity of gold,
the officer commanding our forces in California
visited the mineral district in July last, for the
purpose of obtaining accurate information on the sub-
ject. His report to the War Department of the
result of his examination, and the facts obtained
on the spot, is herewith laid before Congress.—
When we visited the country, there were about
four thousand persons engaged in collecting gold.
There is every reason to believe that the number
of persons so employed has since been augmented.
The explorations already made warrant the
belief that the supply is very large, and that gold
is found at various places in an extensive district
of country.

Information received from officers of the navy
and other sources, though not so full and minute,
confirm the accounts of the commander of our
military force in California. It appears, also, from
these reports, that mines of quicksilver are found
in the vicinity of the gold region. One of them
is now being worked, and is believed to be among
the most productive in the world. The effects
produced by the discovery of these rich mineral
deposits, and the success which has attended the
labours of those who have resorted to them, have
produced a surprising change in the state of af-
fairs in California. Labour commands a most ex-
orbitant price, and all other pursuits but that of
searching for the precious metals are abandoned.
Nearly the whole of the male population of the
country have gone to the gold district. Ships ar-
riving on the coast are deserted by their crews,
and their voyages suspended for want of sailors.
Our commanding officer there entertains apprehen-
sions that soldiers cannot be kept in the public
service without a large increase of pay. Deser-
tions in his command have become frequent,
and he recommends that those who shall with-
stand the strong temptation, and remain faithful,
should be rewarded.

This abundance of gold, and the all-engrossing
pursuit of it, have already caused in California an
unprecedented rise in the price of the necessities of
life. That we may the more speedily and fully
avail ourselves of the undeveloped wealth of these
provinces, it is deemed of vast importance that a branch

of the mint of the United States be authorized to
be established, at your present season, in Califor-
nia. Among other signal advantages which
would result from such an establishment would
be that of raising the gold to its par value in that
Territory. A branch mint of the United States
at the great commercial depot on the west coast,
would convert into our own coin not only the gold
derived from our own rich mines, but also the
bullion and specie which our commerce may bring
from the whole west coast of Central and South
America. The west coast of America and the
adjacent interior embraces the richest and best
mines of Mexico, New Grenada, Central Amer-
ica, Chili, and Peru. The bullion and specie
drawn from these countries, and especially from
those of Western Mexico and Peru, to an amount
in value of many millions of dollars, are now an-
nually diverted and carried by the ships of Great
Britain to her own ports; to be received or used
to sustain her National Bank, and thus contribute
to increase her ability to command so much of the
commerce of the world. If a branch mint be es-
tablished at the great commercial point upon that
coast, a vast amount of bullion and specie would
flow thither to be received, and pass thence to
New Orleans, New York, and other Atlantic cities.
The amount of our constitutional currency
at home would be greatly increased, while its cir-
culation abroad would be promoted. It is well
known to our merchants trading to China and the
west coast of America, that great inconvenience
and loss are experienced from the fact that our
coins are not current at their par value in those
countries.

The powers of Europe, far removed from the
west coast of America by the Atlantic ocean which
intervenes, and by a tedious and dangerous naviga-
tion around the southern cape of the continent of Amer-
ica, can never successfully compete with the
United States in the rich and extensive commerce
which is opened to us at so much less cost by the
acquisition of California.

The vast importance and commercial advan-
tages of California have heretofore remained unde-
veloped by the government of the country of which
it constituted a part. Now that this fine provin-
ce is a part of our country, all the States of the
Union, some more immediately and directly than
others, are deeply interested in the speedy devel-
opment of its wealth, and resources. No section
of our country is more interested, or will be more
benefited, than the commercial, navigating, and
manufacturing interests of the eastern States. Our
shipping and farming interests in every part of the
Union will be greatly benefited by it. As our
commerce and navigation are enlarged and extend-
ed, our exports of agricultural products and of
manufactures will be increased; and in the new
markets thus opened, they cannot fail to com-
mand remunerating and profitable prices.

Organization of Territorial Governments.
The acquisition of California and New Mex-
ico, the settlement of the Oregon boundary, and
the annexation of Texas, extending to the Rio
Grande, are results which, combined, are of great
consequence, and will add more to the
strength and wealth of the nation, than any
which have preceded them since the adoption of
the constitution. But to effect these great re-
sults, not only California, but New Mexico, must
be brought under control of regularly organized
governments. The existing condition of Califor-
nia, and of that part of New Mexico lying west
of the Rio Grande, and without the limits of Tex-
as, imperiously demands that Congress should at
its present session organize territorial govern-
ments over them.

Upon the exchange of ratifications of the treaty
of peace with Mexico on the thirteenth of May
last, the temporary governments which had been
established over New Mexico and California by
our military and naval commanders, by virtue of
the rights of war, ceased to derive any obligatory
force from that source of authority; and having
been ceded to the United States, all government
and control over them under the authority of
Mexico had ceased to exist. Impressed with the
necessity of establishing territorial governments
over them, I recommended the subject to the
favorable consideration of Congress in my mes-
sage communicating the ratified treaty of peace,
on the sixth of July last, and invoked their action
at that session. Congress adjourned without mak-
ing any provision for their government. The in-
habitants, by the transfer of their country had be-
come entitled to the benefits of our laws and con-
stitution, and yet were left without any regularly
organized government. Since that time, the
very limited power possessed by the Executive
has been exercised to preserve and protect them
from the inevitable consequences of a state of an-
archy. The only government which remained
was that established by the military authority dur-
ing the war. Regarding this to be a *de facto*
government, and that by the presumed consent
of the inhabitants it might be continued tempo-
rarily, they were advised to conform and submit
to it for the short intervening period before
Congress would again assemble and could legisla-
on the subject. The views entertained by the
Executive on this point are contained in a com-
munication of the Secretary of State, dated the
seventh of October last, which was forwarded for
publication to California and New Mexico, a copy
of which is herewith transmitted.

The small military force of the regular army,
which was serving within the limits of the ac-
quired territories at the close of the war, was retain-
ed in them, and additional forces have been or-
dered there for the protection of the inhabitants,
and to preserve and secure the rights and interests
of the United States. No revenue has been or
could be collected at the ports in California, be-
cause Congress failed to authorize the establish-
ment of custom houses, or the appointment of
officers for that purpose.

The Secretary of the Treasury, by a circular
letter addressed to the collectors of the customs, on
the seventh day of October last, a copy of which
is herewith transmitted, exercised all the power
which was invested by law.

In pursuance of the act of the fourteenth
of August last, extending the benefit of our post-
office laws to the people of California, the Postmas-
ter General has appointed two agents, who have
proceeded, the one to California, and the other to
Oregon, with authority to make the necessary
arrangements for carrying its provisions into ef-
fect.

The monthly line of mail steamers from Pana-
ma to Astoria has been required to "stop and de-
liver" and take mails at San Diego, Monterey, and

San Francisco. These mail steamers, connected
by the isthmus of Panama with the line of mail
steamers on the Atlantic between New York
and Chagres, will establish a regular mail com-
munication with California.

The Question of Slavery in the New Territories.
It is our solemn duty to provide, with the least
practicable delay, for New Mexico and California,
regularly organized territorial governments. The
causes of the failure to do this at the last session of
Congress are well known, and deeply to be re-
gretted. With the opening prospects of increased
prosperity and national greatness which the ac-
quisition of these rich and extensive territorial
possessions affords, how transitional would it be to
forego or to reject these advantages, by the agita-
tion of a domestic question which is coeval with
the existence of our government itself, and to en-
danger by internal strife, geographical divisions,
and heated contests for political power, or for any
other cause, the harmony of the glorious Union
of our confederated States; that Union which
binds us together as one people, and which for
sixty years has been our shield and protection
against every danger. In the eyes of the world
and of posterity, how trivial and insignificant will
be all our internal divisions and struggles com-
pared with the preservation of this Union of the
States in all its vigour and with all its countless
blessings! No patriot would foment and excite
geographical and sectional division. No lover
of his country would deliberately calculate the
value of the Union. Future generations would
look in amazement upon the folly of such a course.

Other nations at the present day would look upon
it with astonishment; and such of them as desire
to maintain and perpetuate thrones and monar-
chical or aristocratical principles, will view it with
exultation and delight, because in it they will
see the elements of faction, which they hope must
ultimately overturn our system. Ours is the
great example of a prosperous and free self-gov-
erned republic, commanding the admiration and
the imitation of all the lovers of freedom throughout
the world. How solemn, therefore, is the duty,
how impressive the call upon us and upon all
parts of our country, to cultivate a patriotic spirit
of harmony, of good fellowship, of compromise
and mutual concession, in the administration of
the incomparable system of government formed
by our fathers in the midst of almost insuperable
difficulties, and transmitted to us, with the in-
junction that we should enjoy its blessings and
hand it down unimpaired to those who may come
after us!

In view of the high and responsible duties
which we owe to ourselves and to mankind, I
trust you may be able, at your present session,
to approach the adjustment of the only domestic
question which seriously threatens, or probably
ever can threaten, to disturb the harmony and
successful operation of our system.

The immensely valuable possession of New
Mexico and California are already inhabited by
a considerable population. Attracted by their
great fertility, their mineral wealth, their com-
mercial advantages, and the salubrity of the tem-
perate, emigrants from the older States, in great
numbers, are already preparing to seek new homes
in these inviting regions.

Shall the dissimilarity of the domestic institutions
in the different States prevent us from providing
for them suitable governments? These institutions
existed at the adoption of the Constitution, but
the obstacles which they interposed were overcome
by that spirit of compromise which is now invoked,
in a conflict of opinions or of interests, real or
imaginary, between different sections of our coun-
try, neither can justly demand all which it might
desire to obtain. Each, in the true spirit of our
institutions, should concede something to the other.

Our gallant forces in the Mexican war, by
whose patriotism and unparalleled deeds of arms
we obtained these possessions as an indemnity for
our just demands against Mexico, were composed
of citizens who belonged to no one State or section
of our Union. They were men from slaveholding
and non-slaveholding States, from the North and
the South, from the East and the West. They
were all companions-in-arms and fellow-citizens
of the same common cause. When prosecuting
that war, they were brethren and friends, and
shared alike with each other common toils, dan-
gers, and sufferings. Now, when their work is
ended, when peace is restored, and they return
again to their homes, put off the habiliments of
war, take their places in society, and resume their
pursuits in civil life, surely a spirit of harmony
and concession, and of equal regard for the rights
of all and of all sections of the Union ought to
prevail in providing governments for the acquired
territories—the fruits of their common service.—
The whole people of the United States and of
every State contributed to defray the expenses of
that war; and it would not be just for any one
section to exclude another from all participation
in the acquired territory. This would not be in
consonance with the just system of government
which the framers of the constitution adopted.

The question is believed to be rather abstract
than practical, whether slavery ever can or would
exist in any portion of the acquired territory, even
if it were left to the option of the slaveholding
States themselves. From the nature of the climate
and productions, in much the larger portion of
it, it is certain it could never exist; and in the
remainder, the probabilities are it would not.—
But however this may be, the question, involving,
as it does, a principle of equality of rights of the
separate and several States, as equal co-partners
in the confederacy, should not be disregarded.—
In organizing governments over these Territories,
no duty imposed on Congress by the Constitution
requires that they should legislate on the subject
of slavery, while their power to do so is not only
seriously questioned, but denied by many of the
soundest expounders of that instrument.

Whether Congress shall legislate or not, the
people of the acquired Territories, when assem-
bled in convention to form State constitutions, will
possess the sole and exclusive power to deter-
mine for themselves whether slavery shall or shall
not exist within their limits. If Congress shall
abstain from interfering with it, the people of these
Territories will be left free to adjust it as they
may think proper when they apply for admission
into the Union. No enactment of Congress
could restrain the people of any of the sovereign
States of the Union, old or new, north or south,
slaveholding or non-slaveholding, from determin-
ing the character of their own domestic institu-
tions as they may deem wise and proper. And all
the States possess this right, and Congress

of the mint of the United States be authorized to
be established, at your present season, in Califor-
nia. Among other signal advantages which
would result from such an establishment would
be that of raising the gold to its par value in that
Territory. A branch mint of the United States
at the great commercial depot on the west coast,
would convert into our own coin not only the gold
derived from our own rich mines, but also the
bullion and specie which our commerce may bring
from the whole west coast of Central and South
America. The west coast of America and the
adjacent interior embraces the richest and best
mines of Mexico, New Grenada, Central Amer-
ica, Chili, and Peru. The bullion and specie
drawn from these countries, and especially from
those of Western Mexico and Peru, to an amount
in value of many millions of dollars, are now an-
nually diverted and carried by the ships of Great
Britain to her own ports; to be received or used
to sustain her National Bank, and thus contribute
to increase her ability to command so much of the
commerce