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THE NAVY.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT. To the House of Representatives of the United States:

In compliance with a resolution of the House of Representatives, of the 15th of December last, requesting the President of the United States "to communicate a plan for the Peace Establishment of the Navy of the United States," I herewith transmit a report from the Secretary of the Navy, which contains the plan required.

In presenting this plan to the consideration of Congress, I avail myself of the occasion to make some remarks on it, which the importance of the subject requires, and experience justifies.

If a system of universal and permanent peace could be established, or if, in war, the belligerent parties would respect the rights of neutral powers, we should have no occasion for a navy or an army. The expense and dangers of such establishments might be avoided. The history of all ages proves that this cannot be presumed; on the contrary, that at least one half of every century, in ancient as well as modern times, has been consumed in wars, and often of the most general and desolating character. Nor is there any cause to infer, if we examine the condition of the nations with which we have the most intercourse and strongest political relations, that we shall, in future, be exempt from that calamity, within any period, to which a rational calculation may be extended. And, as to the rights of neutral powers, it is sufficient to appeal to our own experience to demonstrate how little regard will be paid to them, whenever they come in conflict with the interests of the powers at war, while we argue on the justice of the cause and on our argument alone. The amount of the property of our fellow citizens, which was seized and confiscated, or destroyed, by the belligerent parties, in the wars of the French revolution, of those which followed, before we became a party to the war, is almost incalculable.

The whole movement of our government, from the establishment of our independence, has been guided by a sacred regard for peace. Situated as we are, in the new hemisphere; distant from Europe, and unconnected with its affairs; blessed with the happiest government on earth, and having no object of ambition to gratify; the United States have steadily cultivated the relations of amity with every power. And if, in any European wars, a respect for our rights might be relied on, it was undoubtedly in those to which I have adverted. The conflict being vital, the force being nearly equally balanced, and the result uncertain, each party had the strongest motives of interest to cultivate our good will, lest we might be thrown into the opposite scale. Powerful as this consideration usually is, it was nevertheless utterly disregarded, in every stage of, and by every party to, those wars. To these encroachments and injuries, our regard for peace was finally forced to yield.

In the war to which at length we became a party, our whole coast, from St. Croix to the Mississippi, was either invaded or menaced with invasion; and in many parts, with a strong imposing force, both land and naval. In those parts where the population was most dense, the pressure was comparatively light; but there was scarcely a harbor or city, on any of our great inlets, which could be considered secure. New York and Philadelphia were imminently exposed, the then existing works not being sufficient for their protection. The same remark is applicable in a certain extent, to the cities eastward of the former; and as to the condition of the whole country southward of the latter, the events which marked the war are too recent to require details. Our armies and Navy signified themselves in every quarter where they had occasion gallantly to meet the foe, and the militia voluntarily flew to their aid, with a patriotism, and fought with a bravery, which exalted the reputation of their Government and Country, and which did them the highest honor. In whatever direction the enemy chose to move with his squadrons to land his troops, our fortifications, where any existed, presented but little obstacle to them. They passed those works without difficulty. Their squadrons, in fact, annoyed our whole coast; not of the sea, but every bay, and

great river throughout its whole extent. In entering those inlets, and sailing up them, with a small force, the effect was disastrous, since it never failed to draw to it, in the field while the squadron remained there. The expense attending this species of defence, with the exposure of the inhabitants, and the waste of property, may be readily conceived.

The occurrences which preceded the war, and those which attended it, were alike replete with useful instruction as to our future policy. Those which mark the first epoch, demonstrate clearly, that in the wars of other powers, we can rely only on force for the protection of our neutral rights. Those of the second demonstrate, with equal certainty, that in any war in which we may be engaged hereafter, with a strong naval power, the expense, waste, and other calamities attending it, considering the vast extent of our marine frontier, cannot fail, unless it be defended by adequate fortifications and a suitable naval force, to correspond with those which were experienced in the late war.

The navy is the arm from which our government will always derive most aid in support of our neutral rights. Every power engaged in war, will know the strength of our naval force, the number of our ships of each class, their condition, and the promptitude with which we may bring them into service, and will pay the due consideration to that argument. Justice will always have great weight in the cabinets of Europe; but in long and destructive wars, exigencies often occur which press so vitally on them, that, unless the argument of force is brought to its aid, it will be disregarded. Our land forces will always perform their duty in the event of war; but they must perform it on the land. Our navy is the arm which must be principally relied on for the annoyance of the commerce of the enemy, and for the protection, with the land forces, for the defence of the country. Capable of moving in any and every direction, it possesses the faculty, even when remote from the coast, of extending its aid to every interest on which the security and welfare of the Union depend. Annoying the commerce of the enemy, and menacing, in turn, its coast, provided the force on each side is nearly equally balanced, it will draw its squadrons from our own; and, in case of invasion from a powerful adversary, by a land and naval force, which is always to be anticipated, and ought to be provided against, our navy may, by like co-operation with our land forces, render essential aid in protecting our interior from incursion and depredation.

Two great objects are therefore to be regarded in the establishment of an adequate naval force: the first to prevent war, so far as may be practicable; the second, to diminish its calamities, when it may be inevitable. Hence the subject of defence becomes intimately connected in all its parts, in war and peace, for the land and at sea. No government will be disposed in its wars with other powers, to violate our rights, if it knows we have the means, are prepared, and resolved to defend them. The motive will also be diminished, if it knows that our defences by land are so well planned and executed, that an invasion of our coast cannot be productive of the evils to which we have heretofore been exposed.

It was under a thorough conviction of these truths, derived from the admonitions of the late war, that Congress, as early as the year 1816, during the term of my enlightened and virtuous predecessor, under whom the war had been declared, prosecuted and terminated, digested, and made provision for the defence of our country, and support of its rights in peace as well as in war, by acts, which authorized and enjoined the augmentation of our Navy to a prescribed limit, and the construction of suitable fortifications throughout the whole extent of our maritime frontier, and wherever else they might be deemed necessary. It is to the execution of these works both land and naval, and under a thorough conviction, that by hastening their completion, I should render the best service to my country, and give the best support to our free republican system of government that my humble faculties would admit of; that I have devoted so much of my time and labor to this great system of national policy, since I came into this office, and shall continue to do it, until my retirement from it, at the end of your next session.

The great object, in the event of war, is to stop the enemy at the coast. If this is done, our cities and whole interior, will be secure. For the accomplishment of this object, our fortifications must be principally relied on. By placing strong works near the mouths of our great inlets, in such positions as to command the entrances into them, as may be done in

many instances, it will be difficult if not impossible, for ships to pass them, especially if other precautions, and particularly that of steam batteries, be resorted to, in their aid. The wars between other powers, into which we have been drawn, in support of our neutral rights, it cannot be doubted that this defence would be adequate to the purpose intended by it; nor can it be doubted, that the knowledge that such works existed, would form a strong motive, with any power, not to invade our rights, and thereby contribute essentially to prevent war. There are, it is admitted, some entrances into our interior, which are of such vast extent, that it would be utterly impossible for any works, however extensive, or well posted, to command them. Of this class, the Chesapeake Bay, which is an arm of the sea, may be given as an example. But, in my judgment, even this Bay may be defended against any power with whom we may be involved in war as a third party, in the defence of our neutral rights. By erecting strong works at the mouth of James River, on both sides, near the Capes, as we are now doing, and at Old Point Comfort and the Rip Raps, and connecting those works together by chains whenever the enemy's force appeared, placing in the rear some large ships and steam batteries, the passage of the river would be rendered impracticable. The guard would also tend to protect the whole country bordering on the bay, and rivers entering into it; as the hazard would be too great for the enemy, however strong his naval force, to ascend the bay, and leave such a naval force behind; since, in the event of a storm, whereby his vessels might be separated, or of a calm, the ships and steam batteries, behind the works, might rush forth and destroy them. It could only be in the event of an invasion by a great power, or a combination of several powers, and as well as by naval forces, that these works could be carried; and, even then, they could not fail to retard the movement of the enemy into the country, and give time for the collection of our regular troops, militia, and volunteers, to that point, and thereby contribute essentially to his ultimate defeat and expulsion from our territory.

Under a strong impression, that a Peace Establishment of our Navy is connected with the possible event of war, and that the naval force intended for either state, however small it may be, is connected with the general system of public defence, I have thought it proper, in communicating this report, to submit these remarks on the whole subject.

JAMES MONROE. Washington, January 30, 1824.

GENERAL JACKSON.

We have heretofore noticed the presentation to General Jackson, by Col. Mercer, of the *Journal* carried by Gen. Washington throughout the Revolutionary war; but we did not, we believe, publish the address of Col. Mercer, on the occasion, and the General's answer—also, nor, the letter of Mr. Robinson, and the General's reply. We now give place to them, as we are solicitous that every thing which intimately concerns the achiever of our liberties as well as the preserver of them, should be extensively known, and remembered. Ed. West. Car.

On presenting the pistols, Col. Mercer addressed Gen. Jackson as follows:

General: Allow me to fulfil the request of a friend and constituent, Mr. William Robinson, of Sudley, one of the legatees of General George Washington, by delivering to you the arms that he wore during many of the vicissitudes of that Revolution, which conducted him to the summit of renown and our country to Independence.

They were the gift of his distinguished pupil, Lafayette, and associate the name of the steadiest friend of Liberty in the Old, with the memory of her most distinguished champion in the New World.

Another interest will be imparted to these arms. In becoming yours, on this day, they are destined to multiply the memorials of the most brilliant and extraordinary achievement in the military annals of this eventful age.

To which General Jackson replied:

Colonel: The present tendered to me, by the request of your friend, Mr. Robinson, is most acceptable. No man living entertains a higher veneration for the character, the virtues, and disinterested patriotism of the Father of American Liberty, than I do; and no present, I assure you, could be more acceptable to me, or better prized, than that which once was his. But it possesses additional value: it was the gift of LA FAYETTE to our illustrious Chief; a man who lives, as he merits to live, in the hearts and affections of the people of this country. Without motive, and without any consideration, save what a generous soul, fired

in the cause of Liberty, inspired, LA FAYETTE embarked in our service, and, by the side of WASHINGTON, contended for the liberty we enjoy. These considerations, combined, give to the present you offer, a history, and a value, calculated to excite the warmest feelings of my nature. I accept it, Sir, and shall, while I live, retain it with the greatest satisfaction. That it should be presented on this day, too, inspires me with additional feeling. It was a day, when I, the humble instrument of a superintending Providence, was enabled, through the valor and firmness of the brave yeomanry of my country, to ward off a blow which might, if successful, have greatly endangered our peace, prosperity, and happiness. To those brave and suffering men, mine and the thanks of our country, are due. I pray you accept my thanks, and tender them, if you please, to your friend.

The subjoined is the Letter of Mr. ROBINSON, with the Answer of General JACKSON:

SUDLEY, VA. JAN. 8, 1824.

SIR: Be pleased to accept the pistols which were presented by the Marquis LA FAYETTE to General GEORGE WASHINGTON, and worn by him in the service of his country. It fell to my lot to become, as one of the legatees of General WASHINGTON, the proprietor of this interesting property, and I cannot better dispose of it, than by transferring it to the successor of WASHINGTON, in the Military character of America.

With perfect respect, I have the honor to be your fellow citizen and most obedient servant. WM. ROBINSON. To Gen. JACKSON, Washington.

WASHINGTON, JAN. 8, 1824.

SIR: The pistols, which you have tendered me, through Col. MERCER, have been this day received, and I beg you to accept, in return, my sincere thanks. You could have offered me nothing more acceptable. As instruments which, in the hands of the Father of his country, and of him who was his bosom associate, contributed to the establishment of the independence we enjoy, they derive additional value, and merit to be considered sacred and holy relics. I shall keep them, sir, feelingly impressed with a remembrance of their peculiar history, and of the kindness of yourself expressed towards me, in their presentation.

With sincere respect, I am, sir, your most obedient servant. ANDREW JACKSON.

LAWS OF NORTH-CAROLINA.

AN ACT to amend the Laws making provision for Widows.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That in addition to the provision for the year's support of the Widows and family of persons dying intestate, already made by law, the Widow of every person dying intestate, shall be entitled to retain in her possession, one bed and its necessary furniture, and all the bed clothing of domestic manufacture, all the kitchen furniture, and also the loom, bureau, wheel and cards, of the goods and chattels of the deceased husband, which shall be her absolute property, and shall be exempted from all claims, either of the administrator or of the creditors of said intestate.

II. Be it further enacted, That the Widow of any person deceased, who shall leave a last will, may, at the same Court at which said will shall be proved, file in said Court a release of all claim to any legacy or share of the personal property of her husband under his will; and the said widow shall then be entitled to the same support for herself and family, for one year, as she would have been entitled to, had her husband died intestate, to be laid off and allotted under the rules and proceedings prescribed in cases of petition of widows of persons dying intestate; and also to one bed and its necessary furniture, all the bed clothing of family domestic manufacture, all the kitchen furniture, and also the loom, together with the bureau, the wheel and cards, if these articles be among the goods and chattels of the deceased; and if the said articles, or any of them, shall have been sold, the widow shall be entitled to the value of the articles thus sold, to be assessed by the commissioners appointed to lay off the year's support, which said provision shall be her absolute property, and shall be exempt from all claims, either of the executor or creditors of said testator.

III. Be it further enacted, That whenever a widow of a deceased person shall file her petition for her year's support, or for the articles allowed her by this act, and the same shall be granted, it shall not be lawful to tax any costs against such petitioner, unless the Court shall be of opinion that the value of such year's support, together with that of the articles allowed by this act, exceed the sum of two hundred and fifty dollars.

AN act securing to the Widows of Intestates the surplus of the personal estate of their deceased husbands where no kindred claim the same.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina, and it is hereby enacted by the Authority of the same,

That if any citizen of this State shall die intestate, leaving a widow and no kindred that are known to exist, the widow may at the expiration of three years from the grant of administration on the estate of her husband, file her petition in the Superior Court of Law of the county in which administration was granted, against the administrator of her husband, stating the facts of the case, that there are no persons of kindred to her knowledge, and praying that the surplus of said estate, after debts and charges paid, may be adjudged to her, which petition shall be sworn or affirmed to by said widow, and copies thereof shall be served upon the administrator, as in other cases of petition; and the same proceedings shall be thereupon had as in other cases of petition. The Court shall order notice of the filing of the said petition, of the facts therein stated, and of the prayer thereof, to be published in some newspaper printed at the seat of government of this State, for at least four months; and if at the next term of said Court, no claimant shall appear, a jury shall be empaneled to enquire whether there be any known kindred of the said intestate; and if said jury, after hearing the petition and answer and such testimony as may be offered, shall find that there was not any known kindred of said intestate living at his or her decease, the Court shall adjudge and decree, that the administrator account with the widow for the whole surplus personal property in the hands of said administrator, after paying debts and charges of administration. And such account shall be taken as accounts are taken in other cases of petition in said Court for distributive shares of intestates estates, and judgment shall be rendered against said administrator for the said surplus. Provided always, That it shall be lawful at any time, pending said petition, for any person claiming to be of kin to the intestate, to apply to said Court by petition, to authorize him to be made defendant to said petition, and to contest the facts stated in the petition.

II. Be it further enacted, That when the said court shall adjudge the said surplus to be paid to the said widow, or to some person for her, in addition to the refunding bond required of distributees, shall enter into bond in double the sum so recovered, with two good securities, with condition that said widow shall refund to the next of kin to her deceased husband, the said surplus of said estate, provided they may make claim thereof within seven years after such judgment, or within the period hereinafter allowed for the claim of such said kindred as may be within the disabilities hereinafter provided for. Provided, That nothing herein contained, shall affect the right of such next of kin as at the date of said bond may be infants, non compos mentis, or beyond seas, who may sue on said bond within three years next after such disability removed.

WASHINGTON IRVING.

Now at Paris, is said to be engaged on several important works, which would prevent his visiting his native country for a length of time. He entertains the warmest recollections of his friends on this side of the Atlantic, and it gives him extreme delight when he meets with any of his countrymen, who can converse with him on the scenes of his native land. We learn from the same gentleman, that no man is more respected, nor has a higher reputation, in Europe, than M. Irving. All parties set a great value on his friendship, and are strongly attached to him by his amiable and gentlemanly deportment. The productions of his pen are most warmly received in Great Britain; and the taunting question, "who reads an American book," is no longer repeated. The London Times, speaking of his "Salmagundi," says: "Under the quaint and somewhat vulgar title of 'Salmagundi,' the British public is now presented with many of the golden thoughts which flow from the elegant pen of Mr. Washington Irving. The happiest efforts of our own happiest writers, we believe, do not excel the productions of this transatlantic classic. In the choice of his subject, whether humorous or pathetic, he possesses the most exquisite taste of any author of any age or nation that we know."—A. T. Pat.

MINISTER TO MEXICO.

The President of the United States has nominated NINIAN EDWARDS, Esq. a member of the U. S. senate, as minister to Mexico. We presume that the President's nomination will be confirmed by the Senate.

Franklin Gazette.