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President's Message.

Washington, December 6th, 1825.

The PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
transmitted this day, to both Houses of
Congress, by the hands of Mr. JOHN
ADAMS, Junior, the following

MESSAGE:

Fellow Citizens of the Senate,
And of the House of Representatives:

In taking a general survey of the con-
ditions of our beloved country, with refer-
ence to subjects interesting to the common
welfare, the first sentiment which impres-
ses itself upon the mind, is, of gratitude to
the Omnipotent Dispenser of all Good, for
the continuance of the signal blessings of
his Providence, and especially for that
health which, to an unusual extent, has pre-
vailed within our borders; and for that abun-
dant which, in the vicissitudes of the
seasons, has been scattered with profusion
over our land. Nor ought we less to ab-
scribe to Him the glory, that we are per-
mitted to enjoy the bounties of His hand in
peace and tranquillity—in peace with all
the other nations of the earth, in tran-
quillity among ourselves. There has, indeed,
rarely been a period in the history of civil-
ized man, in which the general condition
of the Christian Nations has been marked
so extensively by peace and prosperity.

Europe, with a few partial and unhappy
exceptions, has enjoyed ten years of peace,
during which all her Governments, whatev-
er the theory of their constitutions may
have been, are successively taught to feel
that the end of their institution is the hap-
piness of the people; and that the exercise
of power among men can be justified only
by the blessings it confers upon those over
whom it is extended.

During the same period, our intercourse
with all those nations has been pacific and
friendly—it so continues. Since the close
of your last session, no material variation
has occurred in our relations with any one
of them. In the commercial and naviga-
tion system of Great Britain, important
changes of municipal regulation have re-
cently been sanctioned by acts of Parlia-
ment, the effect of which, upon the inter-
ests of other nations, and particularly upon
ours, has not yet been fully developed. In
the recent renewal of the diplomatic mis-
sions on both sides, between the two gov-
ernments, assurances have been given and
received of the continuance and increase of
that mutual confidence and cordiality by
which the adjustment of many points of
difference had already been effected, and
which affords the surest pledge for the ulti-
mate satisfactory adjustment of those which
still remain open, or may hereafter arise.

The policy of the United States, in their
commercial intercourse with other nations,
has always been of the most liberal charac-
ter. In the mutual exchange of their respec-
tive productions, they have abstained
altogether from prohibitions; they have in-
dicted themselves the power of laying
taxes upon exports, and whenever they
have favored their own shipping, by special
preferences, or exclusive privileges in their
own ports, it has been only with a view to
countervail similar favors and exclusions
granted by the nations with whom we have
been engaged in traffic, to their own peo-
ple or shipping, and to the disadvantage of
ours. Immediately after the close of the
last war, a proposal was fairly made by
the act of Congress of the 3d of March,
1815, to all the maritime nations, to lay a-
side the system of retaliating restrictions
and exclusions, and to place the shipping
of both parties to the common trade, on a
footing of equality in respect to the duties
of tonnage and impost. This offer was
partially and successively accepted by
Great Britain, Sweden, the Netherlands,
the Hanseatic Cities, Prussia, Sardinia,
the Duke of Oldenburg, and Russia. It
was also adopted, under certain modifica-
tions, in our late commercial convention
with France. And by the act of Congress
of 8th January, 1824, it has received a
new confirmation, with all the nations who
had acceded to it, and has been offered a-
gain to all those who are, or may hereafter
be willing to abide in reciprocity by it.
But all these regulations, whether establish-
ed by treaty, or by municipal enactments,
are still subject to one important restric-
tion. The removal of discriminating duties
of tonnage and of impost, is limited to
articles of the growth, produce, or manu-
facture of the country to which the vessel
belongs, or to such articles as are most us-
ually first shipped from her ports. It will
deserve the serious consideration of Con-
gress, whether even this remnant of restric-
tion may not be safely abandoned; and
whether the general tender of equal competi-
tion, made in the act of 8th January,
1824, may not be extended to include all
articles of merchandise not prohibited, of

what country soever they may be the pro-
duce or manufacture. Propositions to this
effect have already been made to us by
more than one European government, and
it is probable, that, if once established by
legislation or compact with any distinguish-
ed maritime State, it would recommend it-
self by the experience of its advantages, to
the general accession of all.

The Convention of Commerce and Na-
vigation between the United States and
France, concluded on the 24th June, 1822,
was, in the understanding and intent of
both parties, as appears upon its face, only
a temporary arrangement of the points of
difference between them, of the most im-
mediate and pressing urgency. It was lim-
ited, in the first instance, to two years,
from the 1st of October, 1822, but with a
proviso, that it should further continue in
force till the conclusion of a general and de-
finitive treaty of commerce, unless termina-
ted by a notice six months in advance, of
either of the parties to the other. Its op-
eration, so far as it extended, has been mu-
tually advantageous; and it still continues
in force, by common consent. But it left
unadjusted several objects of great interest
to the citizens and subjects of both coun-
tries, and particularly a mass of claims,
to considerable amount, of citizens of the United
States upon the Government of France,
of indemnity for property taken or destroy-
ed under circumstances of the most aggra-
vated and outrageous character. In the
long period during which continual and
earnest appeals have been made to the eq-
uity and magnanimity of France, in be-
half of these claims, their justice has not
been, as it could not be, denied. It was
hoped that the accession of a new Sover-
eign to the throne would have afforded a
favorable opportunity for presenting them
to the consideration of his Government.
They have been presented and urged, hith-
erto, without effect. The repeated and
earnest representations of our Minister at
the Court of France, remain as yet even
without an answer. Were the demands of
nations upon the justice of each other sus-
ceptible of adjudication by the sentence of
an impartial tribunal, those to which I now
refer would long since have been settled,
and adequate indemnity would have been
obtained. There are large amounts of sim-
ilar claims upon the Netherlands, Naples,
and Denmark. For those upon Spain,
prior to 1819, indemnity was, after many
years of patient forbearance, obtained; and
those upon Sweden have been lately com-
promised by a private settlement, in which
the claimants themselves have acquiesced.
The Governments of Denmark and of Na-
ples have been recently reminded of those
yet existing against them; nor will any of
them be forgotten while a hope may be in-
dulged of obtaining justice by the means
within the constitutional power of the Ex-
ecutive, and without resorting to those mea-
sures of self-redress, which, as well as the
time, circumstances, and occasion, which
may require them, are within the exclusive
competency of the Legislature.

It is with great satisfaction that I am en-
abled to bear witness to the liberal spirit
with which the Republic of Colombia has
made satisfaction for well established
claims of a similar character. And among
the documents now communicated to Con-
gress, will be distinguished a Treaty of
Commerce and Navigation with that Re-
public, the ratifications of which have been
exchanged since the last recess of the Le-
gislation. The negotiation of similar treat-
ies with all the independent South Ameri-
can States, has been contemplated, and
may yet be accomplished. The basis of
them all, as proposed by the United States,
has been laid in two principles; the one,
of entire and unqualified reciprocity; the
other, the mutual obligation of the parties
to place each other permanently upon the
footing of the most favored nation. These
principles are, indeed, indispensable to the
effactual emancipation of the American
hemisphere from the thralldom of coloni-
zing monopolies and exclusions—an event
rapidly realizing in the progress of human
affairs, and which the resistance still op-
posed in certain parts of Europe to the ac-
knowledgegment of the Southern American
Republics as independent States, will, it is
believed, contribute more effectually to ac-
complish. The time has been, and that
not remote, when some of those States
might, in their anxious desire to obtain a
nominal recognition, have accepted of a
nominal independence, clogged with bur-
densome conditions, and exclusive com-
mercial privileges granted to the nation
from which they have separated, to the
disadvantage of all others. They are now
all aware that such concessions to any Eu-
ropean nation would be incompatible with
that independence which they have declar-
ed and maintained.

Among the measures which have been
suggested to them by the new relations
with one another, resulting from the re-
cent changes of their condition, is that of as-
sembling, at the Isthmus of Panama, a
Congress, at which each of them should be
represented, to deliberate upon subjects im-
portant to the welfare of all. The Repub-

lics of Colombia, of Mexico, and of Central
America, have already deputed Plenipo-
tentiaries to such a meeting, and they have
invited the United States to be also rep-
resented there by their Ministers. The in-
vitation has been accepted, and Ministers
on the part of the United States will be
commissioned to attend at those delibera-
tions, and to take part in them, so far as
may be compatible with that neutrality
from which it is neither our intention, nor
the desire of the other American States,
that we should depart.

The Commissioners under the Seventh
Article of the Treaty of Ghent have so
nearly completed their labors, that, by the
Report recently received from the Agent
on the part of the United States, there is
reason to expect that the Commission will
be closed at their next session, appointed
for the twenty-second of May of the ensu-
ing year.

The other Commission, appointed to as-
certain the indemnities due for slaves car-
ried away from the United States, after the
close of the late war, have met with some
difficulty, which has delayed their progress,
in the inquiry. A reference has been
made to the British Government on the
subject, which it may be hoped, will tend
to hasten the decision of the Commission-
ers, or serve as a substitute for it.

Among the powers specifically granted
to Congress by the Constitution, are those
of establishing uniform laws on the subject
of bankruptcies throughout the United
States, and of providing for organizing,
arming, and disciplining the militia, and
for governing such part of them as may be
employed in the service of the United
States. The magnitude and complexity of
the interests affected by legislation upon
these subjects, may account for the fact,
that, long and often as both of them have
occupied the attention, and animated the
debates of Congress, no systems have yet
been devised for fulfilling, to the satisfac-
tion of the community, the duties prescrib-
ed by these grants of power. To conciliate
the claim of the individual citizen to the
enjoyment of personal liberty, with the
effective obligation of private contracts, is
the difficult problem to be solved by a law
of bankruptcy. These are objects of the
deepest interest to society; affecting all
that is precious in the existence of multi-
tudes; of persons, many of them in the
classes essentially dependent and helpless;
of the age requiring nurture, and of the
sex entitled to protection, from the free
agency of the parent and the husband. The
organization of the militia is yet more in-
dispensable to the liberties of the country.
It is, only by an effective militia that we
can at once enjoy the repose of peace, and
bid defiance to foreign aggression; it is by
the militia that we are constituted an ar-
med nation, standing in perpetual panoply
of defence, in the presence of all the other
nations of the earth. To this end, it
would be necessary so to shape its organi-
zation, as to give it a more united and ac-
tive energy. There are laws for establish-
ing an uniform militia throughout the United
States, and for arming and equipping its
whole body. But it is a body of dislo-
cated members, without the vigor of unity,
and having little of uniformity but the
name. To infuse into this most impor-
tant institution the power of which it is
susceptible, and to make it available for
the defence of the Union, at the shortest
notice, and at the smallest expense of time,
of life, and of treasure, are among the ben-
efits to be expected from the persevering
deliberations of Congress.

Among the unequivocal indications of
our national prosperity, is the flourishing
state of our finances. The revenues of the
present year, from all their principal sources,
will exceed the anticipations of the last.
The balance in the Treasury, on the first
of January last, was a little short of two
millions of dollars, exclusive of two mil-
lions and a half, being the moiety of the
loan of five millions, authorized by the act
of 26th May, 1824. The receipts into the
Treasury from the first of January to the
thirtieth September, exclusive of the other
moiety of the same loan, are estimated at
sixteen millions five hundred thousand dol-
lars; and it is expected that those of the
current quarter will exceed five millions of
dollars; forming an aggregate of receipts
of nearly twenty-two millions, independent
of the loan. The expenditures of the year
will not exceed that sum more than two
millions. By those expenditures, nearly
eight millions of the principal of the public
debt have been discharged. More than a
million and a half has been devoted to the
debt of gratitude to the warriors of the
Revolution: a nearly equal sum to the
construction of fortifications, and the ac-
quisition of ordnance, and other permanent
preparatives of national defence; half a
million to the gradual increase of the Navy;
an equal sum for purchases of Territory
from the Indians, and payment of annuities
to them; and upwards of a million for ob-
jects of Internal Improvement, authorized
by special acts of the last Congress. If we
add to these, four millions of dollars for
payment of interest upon the public debt,

there remains a sum of about seven mil-
lions, which have defrayed the whole ex-
pense of the Administration of Govern-
ment, in its Legislative, Executive, and
Judiciary Departments, including the sup-
port of the Military and Naval Establish-
ments, and all the occasional contingencies
of a Government co-extensive with the
Union.

The amount of duties secured on mer-
chandise imported, from the commence-
ment of the year, is about twenty-five mil-
lions and a half; and that which will accrue
during the current quarter, is estimated at
five millions and a half; from these thirty-
one millions, deducting the drawbacks, es-
timated at less than seven millions, a sum
exceeding twenty-four millions will consti-
tute the revenue of the year; and will ex-
ceed the whole expenditures of the year.

The entire amount of public debt remain-
ing due on the first of January next, will
be short of eighty-one millions of dollars.

By an act of Congress of the third of
March last, a loan of twelve millions of dol-
lars was authorized at four and a half per
cent, or an exchange of stock to that
amount of four and a half per cent. for a
stock of six per cent. to create a fund for
extinguishing an equal amount of the pub-
lic debt, bearing an interest of six per cent.
redeemable in the year one thousand eight
hundred and twenty-six. An account of
the measures taken to give effect to this act
will be laid before you by the Secretary of
the Treasury. As the object which it had
in view has been but partially accomplish-
ed, it will be for the consideration of Con-
gress, whether the power with which it
clothed the Executive should not be re-
newed at an early day of the present ses-
sion, and under what modifications.

The act of Congress of the third of
March last, directing the Secretary of the
Treasury to subscribe, in the name and for
the use of the United States, for one thou-
sand five hundred shares of the capital
stock of the Chesapeake and Delaware Can-
al Company, has been executed by the
actual subscription for the amount specifi-
ed; and such other measures have been
adopted by that officer, under the act, as
the fulfilment of its intentions requires.
The latest accounts received of this impor-
tant undertaking, authorize the belief that
it is in successful progress.

The payments into the Treasury from
proceeds of the sales of the Public Lands,
during the present year, were estimated at
one million of dollars. The actual receipts
of the first two quarters have fallen very
little short of that sum; it is not expected
that the second half of the year will be
equally productive; but the income of the
year from that source may now be safely
estimated at a million and a half. The
Act of Congress of eighteenth May, 1824,
to provide for the extinguishment of the
debt due to the United States by the pur-
chasers of public lands, was limited, in its
operations of relief to the purchaser, to
the tenth of April last. Its effect at the
end of the quarter during which it expired,
was to reduce that debt from ten to seven
millions. By the operation of similar pri-
or laws of relief, from and since that of
second March, 1821, the debt had been re-
duced, from upwards of twenty-two mil-
lions, to ten. It is exceedingly desirable
that it should be extinguished altogether;
and to facilitate that consummation, I recom-
mend to Congress, the revival for one
year more, of the Act of 18th May, 1824,
with such provisional modification as may
be necessary to guard the public interest
against fraudulent practices in the re-sale
of the relinquished land. The purchasers
of public lands are among the most useful
of our fellow-citizens; and since the sys-
tem of sales for cash alone has been intro-
duced, great indulgence has been justly ex-
tended to those who had previously pur-
chased upon credit. The debt which had
been contracted under the credit sales had
become unwieldy, and its extinction was
alike advantageous to the purchaser and
the public. Under the system of sales,
matured, as it has been, by experience, and
adapted to the exigencies of the times,
the lands will continue, as they have be-
come, an abundant source of revenue; and
when the pledge of them to the public cre-
ditor shall have been redeemed by the en-
tire discharge of the national debt, the
swelling tide of wealth with which they re-
plenish the common Treasury may be made
to flow in unobstructed streams of improve-
ment from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean.

The condition of the various branches
of the public service resorting from the De-
partment of War, and their administration
during the current year, will be exhibited
in the Report from the Secretary of War,
and the accompanying documents here-
with communicated. The organization and
discipline of the Army are effective and
satisfactory. To counteract the prevalence
of desertion among the troops, it has been
suggested to withhold from the men a small
portion of their monthly pay, until the pe-
riod of their discharge; and some expedi-
ent appears to be necessary, to preserve
and maintain among the officers so much
of the art of horsemanship as could scarce-

ly fail to be found wanting, on the possi-
ble sudden eruption of a war, which should
overtake us unprovided with a single corps
of cavalry. The Military Academy at
West-Point, under the restrictions of a se-
vere but paternal superintendence, recom-
mends itself more and more to the patron-
age of the Nation; and the number of me-
ritorious officers which it forms and intro-
duces to the public service, furnishes the
means of multiplying the undertakings of
public improvements, to which their ac-
quirements at that institution are pecu-
liarly adapted. The school of Artillery
practice established at Fortress Monroe, is
well suited to the same purpose, and may
need the aid of further legislative provi-
sions to the same end. The Reports from
the various officers at the head of the ad-
ministrative branches of the military ser-
vice, connected with the quartering, clo-
thing, subsistence, health and pay of the
Army, exhibit the assiduous vigilance of
those officers in the performance of their
respective duties, and the faithful accoun-
tability which has pervaded every part of
the system.

Our relations with the numerous tribes
of aboriginal natives of this country, scat-
tered over its extensive surface, and so de-
pendent, even for their existence, upon our
power, have been, during the present year,
highly interesting. An act of Congress of
twenty-fifth May, one thousand eight hun-
dred and twenty-four, made an appropria-
tion to defray the expenses of making Treat-
ies of trade and friendship with the Indian
Tribes beyond the Mississippi. An act of
third March, one thousand eight hundred
and twenty-five, authorized Treaties to be
made with the Indians for their consent to
the making of a road from the frontier
of Missouri to that of New Mexico. And
another act of the same date, provided for
defraying the expenses of holding Treaties
with the Sioux, Chippeways, Menomonees,
Saks, Foxes, &c. for the purpose of
establishing boundaries and promoting
peace between said tribes. The first an-
the last objects of these acts have been ac-
complished, and the second is yet in a pro-
cess of execution. The treaties which,
since the last Session of Congress have
been concluded with the several tribes,
will be laid before the Senate for their con-
sideration conformably to the Constitution.
They comprise large and valuable acqui-
sitions of territory; and they secure an ad-
justment of boundaries; and give pledges
of permanent peace between several tribes
which had been long waging bloody wars
against each other.

On the twelfth of February last, a Treaty
was signed at the Indian Springs, be-
tween Commissioners appointed on the
part of the United States, and certain
Chiefs and individuals of the Creek Nation
of Indians, which was received at the Seat
of Government only a few days before the
close of the last Session of Congress and
of the late Administration. The advice
and consent of the Senate was given to it
on the third of March, too late for it to re-
ceive the ratification of the then President
of the United States: it was ratified on the
seventh of March, under the unsuspecting
impression that it had been negotiated in
good faith, and in the confidence inspired
by the recommendation of the Senate.—
The subsequent transactions in relation to
this Treaty, will form the subject of a sepa-
rate Message.

The appropriations made by Congress,
for public works, as well in the construc-
tions of fortifications, as for purposes of In-
ternal Improvement, so far as they have
been expended, have been faithfully appli-
ed. Their progress has been delayed by the
want of suitable officers for superintend-
ing them. An increase of both the Corps
of Engineers, Military and Topographical,
was recommended by my predecessor at
the last session of Congress. The reason
upon which that recommendation was foun-
ded, subsist in all their force, and have ac-
quired additional urgency since that
time. It may also be expedient to organi-
ze the Topographical Engineers into a
corps similar to the present establishment
of the Corps of Engineers. The Military
Academy at West-Point will furnish, from
the Cadets annually graduated there, offi-
cers well qualified for carrying this mea-
sure into effect.

The Board of Engineers for internal Im-
provement, appointed for carrying into ex-
ecution the Act of Congress of 30th of
April, 1824, "to procure the necessary sur-
veys, plans, and estimates, on the subject
of roads and canals," have been actively
engaged in that service from the close of
the last session of Congress. They have
completed the surveys necessary for ascer-
taining the practicability of a Canal from
the Chesapeake Bay to the Ohio River, and
are preparing a full Report on that subject,
which, when completed, will be laid before
you. The same observation is to be made
with regard to the two other objects of na-
tional importance upon which the board
have been occupied: namely, the accom-
plishment of a National Road from this City
to New Orleans, and the practicability of
uniting the waters of Lake Memphrango