ment of the navigation of that River. The surveys have been made, and are nearly completed. The Report may be expected at an early period during the present session of Congress.

The Acts of Congress of the last Session, relative to the surveying, marking, or laying out, roads in the territories of Florida, Arkansas, and Michigan, from Missouri to Mexico, and for the continuation of the Cumberland Road, are, some of them, fully executed & others in the process of execution. Those for completing or commencing fortifications, have been delayed only so far as the Corps of Engineers has been inadequate to furnish officers for the necessary superintendance of the works. Under the act confirming the statutes of Virginia and Maryland, incorporating the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company, three Commissioners on the part of the United States have been appointed for opening books and receiving subscriptions, in concert with a like number of Commissioners appointed on the part of each of those States. meeting of the Commissioners has been postponed to await the definitive Report of the Board of Engineers. The light-houses &monuments for the safetyof our commerce mariners; the works for the security of Plymouth Beach, and for the preservation of the islands in Boston Harbor; have received the attention required by the laws relating to those objects respectively. The continuation of the Cumberland Road, the most important of them all, after surmoun ting no inconsiderable difficulty in fixing upon the direction of the road, has commenced under the most promising auspices, with the improvements of recent invention in the mode of construction, and with the advantage of a great reduction in the comparative cost of the work.

The operation of the laws relating to the Revolutionary Pensioners may deserve the renewed consideration of Congress. The Act of 18th March, 1818, while it made provision for many meritorious and indigent citizens, who had served in the War of Independence, opened a door to numerous abuses and impositions. To remedy this, the Act of 1st May, 1820, exacted proofs of absolute indigence, which many really in want were unable, and all susceptible of that delicacy which is affect to many virtues, must be deeply reluctant to give. The result has been, that some among the least deserving have been retained, and some in whom the requisites both of worth and want were combined, have been strick en from the list. As the numbers of these venerable relicks of an age gone by, diminish; as the decays of body, mind and estate, of those that survive, must, in the common course of nature, increase, shoulnot a more liberal portion of indulgence be dealt out to them? May not the want, in most instances, be inferred from the demand, when the service can be duly proveil; and may not the last days of human infirmity be spared the mortification of purchasing a pittance of relief only by the exposure of its own necessities? I submit to Congress the expediency either of provi ding for individual cases of this description by special enac ment, or of revising the Act of 1st May, 1820, with a view to mitigate the rigour of its exclusions, in favor of persons to whom charity now bestowed can scarcely discharge the debt of

The portion of the Naval force of the Union in actual service, has been chieff. employed on three stations: The Medit erranean, the coasts of South America bordering on the Pacific Ocean, and the West Indies. An occasional cruiser has been sent to range along the African shores most poliuted by the traffic of slaves : one armed vessel has been standied on the coast o our eastern boundary, to cruise along the fishing grounds in Hudson's Bay, and on the coast of Labrador; and the first service of a new frigate has been performed in restoring to his native soil, and domestic en joyments, the vetaran hero whose youthful blood and treasure had freely flowed in the cause of our Country's Independence, and whose whole life had been a series of services and sacrifices to the improvement of it fellow-men. The visit of Genl. Lafayette, alike honorable to himself and to our Country, closed, as it had commenced, with the most affecting testimonials of devoted attachment on his part, and of unbounded gratitude of this People to him in return. It will form, hereafter, a pleasing incident in the annals of our Union, giving to real history the intense interest of romance, and signally marking the unourchasable tribute of a great Nation's social affections to the disinterested champion of the liberties of buman-kind.

The constant maintenance of a small squadron in the Mediterranean, is a necessary substitute for the humiliating alternative of paying tribute for the security of our commerce in that sea, and for a precarious peace, at the mercy of every caprice of four Barbary States, by whom it was liable to be violated. An additional motive for keeping a respectable force stationed there at this time, is found in the maratime war raging between the Greeks and the Torks; and in which the neutral navigation of this Union is always in danger of outrage and depredation. A few instances have occurred of such depredations upon our merchant vessels by privateers or pirates wearing the Grecian flag, but without real authority from the Greek or any other Government. The heroic struggles of the Greeks themselves, in which our warmest sympatines of Florida, in the Gulf of Mexico, and au-

with vicissitudes of success adverse and favorable.

Similar motives have rendered expedient the keeping of a like force on the coasts of Peru and Chili on the Pacific. The irregular and convulsive character of the war upon the shores, has been extended to the conflicts upon the ocean. An active warfare has been kept up for years, with alternate success, though generally to the advantage of the American Patriots. But their naval forces have not always been under the control of their own governments. Blockades, unjustifiable upon any acknowled principles of international law, have been proclaimed by officers in command; and though disavowed by the supreme authorities, the protection of our own commerce against them, has been made cause of complaint and of erroneous imputations upon some of the most gallant officers of our Navy. Complaints equally groundless, have been made by the commanders of the Spanish Royal forces in those seas; but the most effective protection to our commerce, has been the flag, and the firmness of our own commanding officers. The cessation of the war, by the complete triumph of the Patriot cause, has removed, it is hoped, all cause of dissension with one party, and all vestige of force of the other. But an unsettled coast of many degrees of latitude, forming a part of our own territory, and a flourishing commerce and fishery, extending to the Islands of the Pacific and to China, still require that the protecting power of the Union should be displayed under its flag, as well upon the ocean as

upon the land. The objects of the West India squadron have been to carry into execution the laws for the suppression of the African Slave Trade: for the protection of our commerce against vessels of piratical character, though bearing commissions from either of the belligerent parties: for its protection against open and unequivocal pirates These objects, during the present year, have been accomplished more effectually than at any has long been excluded from the use of our flig; and if some few citizens of our counthe have continued to set the laws of the Union, as well as those of Nature and Hunanity, at defiance, by persevering in that abominable traffic, it has been only by sheltering themselves under the banners of other nations, less earnest for the total exunction of the trade than ours. The irregular privateers have, within the last year, been in a great measure banished from those seas; and the pirates, for months past, appear to have been almost entirely swept away from the borders and the shores of the two Spanish islands in those regions. The active, persevering, and unremitted energy of Captain Warrington, and of the officers and men under his command, on that trying and perilous service, have been crowned with signal success, and are entitled to the approbation of their country. But experience has shown, that not even a temporary suspension or relaxation from assuduity can be indulged on that station, without re-producing piracy and murder in all their horrors; nor is it probable that, for years to coine, out immensely valuable commerce in those seas can navigate in security, without the steady continuance of an armed force devoted to its protection.

It were indeed a vain and dangerous il-

asion to believe, that, in the present or propable condition of human society, a commerce so extensive and so rich as ours, could exist and be pursued in safety, without the continual support of a military marine-the only arm by which the power of this confederacy can be estimated or felt by foreign nations, and the only standing nilitary force which can never be danger ous to our own liberties at home. A pernanent Naval Peace Establishment, therefore, adapted to our present condition, and adaptable to that gigantic growth with which the nation is advancing in its career, is among the subjects which have already ecupied the foresight of the last Congress, and which will deserve your serious deliberations. Our Navy, commenced at an early period of our present political organization, upon a scale commensurate with the incipient energies, the scanty resources, and the comparative indigency of our infancy, those parts of knowledge which lie beyond was, even then, found adequate to cope with all the powers of Barbary, save the first, particularly to geographical and astronomiand with one of the principal maratime cal science. Looking back to the history powers of Europe. At a period of further | only of the half century since the Declaraadvancement, but with little accession of tion of our Independence, and observing strength, it not only sustained with honor the generous emulation with which the gothe most unequal of conflicts, but covered | vernments of France, Great Britain, and uself and our country with unfading glory. Russia, have devoted the genius, the intel-But it is only since the close of the late war, ligence, the treasures of their respective nathat, by the number and force of the ships tions, to the common improvement of the of which it was composed, it could deserve species in these branches of science, is it the name of a Navy. Yet it retains near ly the same organization as when it consisted only of five frigates. The rules and regulations by which it is governed urgent- portion of energy and exertion to the comly call for revision, and the want of a Na- | mon stock? The voyages of discovery, val School of Instruction, corresponding prosecuted in the course of that time, at the with the Military Academy at West Point, expense of those nations, have not only refor the formation of scientific and accomplished officers, is felt with daily increasing | ment of human knowledge. We have been aggravation.

authorizing an examination and survey of the harbor of Charleston, in South-Caroli on, of St. Mary's in Georgia, and of the undertakings, if the mere expenditures of coast of Florida, and for other purposes, has been executed so far as the appropria- expeditions, were to be considered the only tion would admit. Those of the 3d of March last, authorizing the establishment of a Navy Yard and Depot on the Coast as Freemen and Christians have been en- thorizing the building of ten sloops of war, Pereuse, would not burden the exchequer

execution; for the particulars of which and other objects connected with this Department, I refer to the Report of the Secretary of the Navy, herewith communicated.

A Report from the Postmaster General is also submitted, exhibiting the present flourishing condition of that Department. For the first time for many years, the receipts for the wear ending on the 1st of July last, exceeded the expenditures during the same period, to the amount of more than forty-five thousand dollars. Other facts, equally creditable to the administration of the Department, are, that, in two years from the first of July, 1823, an improvement of more than one hundred and eighty-five thousand dollars in its pecuniary affairs has been realized; that in the same interval the increase of transportation of the mail has exceeded one million five that one thousand and forty new post offices have been established. It hence appears, that, under judicious management the income from this establishment may be relied on as fully adequate to defray its expenses; and, that, by the discontinuance of post roads, altogether unproductive, oth ers of more useful character may be opened, till the circulation of the mail shall keep pace with the spread of our population; and the comforts of friendly correspondence, the exchanges of internal traffic, and the lights of the periodical press, shall be distributed to the remotest corners of the Union, at a charge scarcely percepti ble to any individual, and without the cost of a dollar to the public treasury.

Upon this first occasion of addressing the Legislature of the Union, with which I have been honored, in presenting to their view the execution, so far as it has been effected, of the measures sanctioned by them, for promoting the internal improvement of our country, I cannot close the communication without recommending to their calm and persevering consideration the general principle in a more enlarged extent. The great object of the institution of civil government. former period. The African Slave Trade is the improvement of the condition of those who are parties to the social compact. And no government, in whatever form constitu ted, can accomplish the lawful ends of its institution, but in proportion as it improves the condition of those over whom it is established. Roads and Canals, by multiplying and facilitating the communications and intercourse between distant regions, and multitudes of men, are among the most important means of improvement. But moral, political, intellectual improvement, are duties assigned, by the author of our existence, to social, no less than to individual man. For the furfilment of those duties, governments are invested with power; and, to the attainment of the end, the progressive improvement of the condition of the governed, the exercise of delegated power, is a duty as sacred and indispensable, as the usurpation of power not granted is criminal and odious. Among the first, perhaps the very first instrument for the improvement of the condition of men, is knowledge; and to the acquisition of much of the knowledge adapted to the wants, the comforts, and enjoyments, of human life, public institutions and seminaries of learning are essential. So convinced of this was the first of my predecessors in this office, now first in the memory, as, living, he was first in the hearts of our country, that, once and again, in his addresses to the Congresses, with whom he co-operated in the public service, he earnestly recommended the establishment of seminaries of learning, to prepare for all the emergencies of peace and war-a national university, and a military academy. With respect to the latter, had he lived to the present day, in turning his eyes to the institution at West Point, he would have enjoyed the gratification of his most earnest wishes. But, in surveying the city which has been honored with his name, he would have seen the spot of earth which he had destined and bequeathed to the use and benefit of his country, as the scite for an unversity, still bare and barren.

In assuming her station among the civilized nations of the earth, it would seem that our country had contracted the engagement to contribute her share of mind, of labor and of expense, to the improvement of the reach of individual acquisition; and not incumbent upon us to inquire, whether we are not bound, by obligations of a high and honorable character, to contribute our dounded to their glory, but to the improvepartakers of that improvement, and owe for The act of Congress of 26th May, 1824, it a sacred debt, not only of gratitude, but of equal or proportional exertion in the same common cause. Of the cost of these outfit, equipment, and completion of the charges, it would be unworthy of a great and generous nation to take a second thought. One hundred expeditions of circumnavigation, like those of Cook and La

with Connecticut River, and the improve- gaged, have continued to be maintained and for other purposes, are in the course of of the nation fitting them out, so much as campaign in war. But, if we take into the account the lives of those benefactors of mankind, of which their services in the cau e of their species were the purchase, how shall the cost of those heroic enterprises be estimated? And what compensation can be made to them, or to their countries, for them? Is it not by bearing them in affectionate remembrance? Is it not still more by imitating their example? by enabling countrymen of our own to pursue the samcareer, and to hazard their lives in the same

cause ? In inviting the attention of Congress to the subject of Internal Improvements, upon a view thus enlarged, it is not my design to recommend the equipment of an expedition for circumnavigating the globe for purposes of scientific research and inquiry. We have hundred thousand miles, annually; and objects of useful investigation nearer home, and to which our cares may be more beneficially applied. The interior of our own ter ritories has set been very imperfectly ex plored. Our coasts, along many degrees of latitude upon the shores of the Pacific ocean, though much frequented by our spirited commercial navigators, have been barely visited by our public ships. The River o. the West, first fully discovered and navigated by a countryman of our own, still bears the name of the ship in which he ascended its waters, and claims the protection of our armed national flag at its mouth. With the establishment of a military post there, or at some other point of that coast, recommended by my predecessor, and already matured in the deliberations of the last Congress, i would suggest the expediency of connectin, the equipment of a public ship for the ex ploration of the whole northwest coast o this continent.

The establishment of an vaiform standard of Weights and Measures was one of the specific objects contemplated in the forma tion of our constitution; and to fix that standard was one of the powers delegated by express terms, in that instrument, to Congress. The governments of Great Britain and France have scarcely ceased to right to their respective writing and be occupied with inquiries and speculations on the same subject, since the existence of our constitution, and with them it has expanded into protound, laborious, and ex tensive researches into the figure of the earth, and the comparative length of the pendulum vibrating seconds in various latitudes, from the Equator to the Pole. These researches have resulted in the composition and publication of several works highly interesting to the cause of science. The experiments are yet in the process of performance. Some of them have recently been made on our own shores, within the walls of one of our own colleges, and partly by one of our own fellow-cutzens. It would be honorable to our country if the sequel of the same experiments should be countenanced by the patronage of our government, as they have hitherto been by those of

France and Britain. Connected with the establishment of an University, or separate from it, might be undertaken the erection of an astronomical observatory, with provision for the support of an astronomer, to be in constant attenue ance of observation upon the phenomena of the heavens, and for the periodical publica tion of his observations. It is with no feeling of pride as an American, that the remark may be made, that, on the comparatively small territorial surface of the continent of Europe, there are existing upwards of one nundred and thirty of these light-houses of the skies; while throughout the whole American hemisphere, there is not one If we reflect a moment upon the discove ries, which, in the last four centuries, have been made in the physical constitution of the universe, by the means of these buildings, and of observers stationed in them. shall we doubt of their usefulness, to every nation? And while scarcely a year passes over our heads without bringing some new astronomical discovery to light, which we must fain receive at second hand from Euope, are we not cutting ourselves off from the means of returning light for light, while we have neither observatory nor observer upon our half of the globe, and the earth revolves in perpetual darkness to our un-

searching eyes? When, on the 25th of October, 1791, the first President of the U. States announced to Congress the result of the first enumeration of the inhabitants of this Union, he informed them that the returns gave the pleasing assurance that the population of the U.States bordered on four millions of persons. A the distance of thirty years from that time. the last enumeration, five years since completed, presented a population bordering upon ten millions. Pernaps, of all the evidences of a prosperous and happy condition of human society, the rapidity of the increase of population is the most unequivocal. But the demonstration of our prosperity rests not alone upon this indication. Our commerce, our wealth, and the extent of our territories, have increased in corresponding proportions; and the number of independent communities, associated in our Federal Union, has, since that time, nearly doubled. The legislative representation of the States and People, in the two Houses of Congress. has grown with the growth of their constituent bodies The House, which then consisted of sixty-five members, now numbers upwards of two hundred. The Senate, which consisted of twenty-six members, has now forty-eight. But the Executive, and still more the Judiciary Departments, are yet in a great measure confined to their primitive organization, and are now not adequate to the urgent wants of a still growing community.

The naval armaments, which, at an early period, forced themselves upon the necessities of the Union, soon led to the establish ment of a Department of the Navy. But the Department of Foreign Affairs, and of the Interior, which, early after the tormation of the Government had been unired in one, continues so united at this time, to the unquestionable detriment of the public service. The multiplication of our relations with the nations and Governments of the old worra, has kept pace with that of our population and commerce; while, within the last ten years, a new family of nations, in our own hemisphere, has arisen among the inhabitants of the earth, with whom our intercourse, commercial and pointed, would, of itself furnish occupation to an active and industrious Department The constitution of the Judiciary, experimental and imperfect as it was, even in the inlancy of our existing Government, is yet more made. quate to the administration of national justice at our present maturity. Nine years have elapsed since a predecessor in this office, now not the last, the citizen who, perhaps, of all others, throughout the Union, contributed most to the formation and estab. listiment of our Constitution, in his valedictory address to Congress, immediately preceding his retirement from public life, argently recommended the revision of the Judiciary, and the establishment of an additional Executive Department. The exgencies of the public service, and its unavoidable deficiencies, as now in exercise, nave anded yearly cumulative weight to the considerations presented by him as persuasive to the measure; and in recommending it to your demberations, I am happy to have the influence of his high aumority, in iid of the undoubting convictions of my own experience.

The laws relating to the a time station of the Patent Office, are deserving or machine details tion, and, perhaps, susceptible it some in the ment. The grant of powel to regulate me act, a of Congress on this subject, has specified that the end to be attained, and the means by a it is to be effected - to promore the progra science and the useful arts, by securing ... ned times to authors and his more the c If an honest pride intent be much flection, that on the records of the ready found inventions, the used has scarcely been transcended numan ingenuity, would not in allayed by the enquiry, where effectively insured to the lave. destined to them by the Constitue ited term of exclusive right to the

On the 24th of December, 1799.

ved by Congress that a marble mone

be erected by the batted Systes, in at the lay of Washington; I sat the General assumption should be requ mit his body to be deposited unde the monament be so design a as rate the great events of his militar the. In reminding Congress of the and that the monament contempla mains yet without execution, i sha ne remarks, that the works to the approaching to completion; that the family, desired by the resur quested and obtained; that a been recently erected in this city, of the sales, over the remain taguished patriot of the flevor ton, has be a reserved within the water are deliberating for the benefit of this in ages, in which the mortal remains may posited of him whose spirit hovers over , listens with delight to every act of the tier in tatives of his Nation, which can tend to ear and adorn his and their Country.

The Constitution under which you are asset

bled, is a charter of limited powers. After i.

and solemn deliberation upon all or any disc

objects, which, arged by an irresitible sense

my own duty, I have recommended to your altention, should you come to the conclusion, that, however desirable in the nselves, the end ment of laws for effecting them would trans and the powers committed to you by that venerable instrument which we are all bound to supp. 1 let no consideration induce you to assume the exercise of powers not granted to you by the people. But if the power to exercise exclusive legislation in all cases whatsoever over the District of Columbia; if the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts, and excises, to pay the debts, and provide for the common defence and general welfare of the United States; it the power to regulate commerce with foreign nitions & among the several States, and with the Indian tribes ; to fix the standard of weights and measures; to establish post-offices and postroads; to declare war; to raise and support armies; to provide and maintain a navy ; to dis" pose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States; and to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying these powers into execution : these powers, and others enumerated in the Constitution, may be effectually brought into action by laws promoting the into provement of Agriculture, Commerce, and Manufactures, the cultivation and encouragement of the Mechanic and of the elegant Arts, the advancement of Literature, and the progress of the Sciences, ornamental and protound,-to refrainfrom exercising them for the benefit of the People themselves, would be to hide in the earth the talent committed to our charge-would be

treachery to the most sacred of trusts. The spirit of improvement is abroad apon the earth It stimulates the heart, and sharpe a the faculties, not of our fellow citizens alunt, but of the nations of Furope, and of their rule. White dwelling with pleasing satisfaction up the superior excellence of our political institution tions, let us not be unmindful that Liber, is Power; that the nation blessed with the largest portion of liberty, must, in proportion to 115 numbers, be the most powerful nation upon earth; and that the tenure of nower by man, is, in the moral purposes of his Creator, upon condition that it shall be exercised to ends of beneficence, to improve the condition of himself and his fellow men. While foreign nations, less blessed with that freedom which is power, than ourselves, are advancing with gigantic strides in the career of public improvement; were we to slumber in indolence, or fold up our arms and proclaim to the world that we are palsied by the will of our constituents, would it not be to cast away the bounties of Providence, and doom ourselves to perpetual inferiority? In the course of the year now drawing to its close, we have beheld, under the auspices, and at the expense of one State of this Union, a new University unfolding its portals to the sons of science, and holding up the torch of human improvement to eyes that seek the light. We have seen, under the persevering and enlightened enterprise of another State, the waters of our Western Lakes