

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Fellow citizens of the Senate and of the House of Representatives: The brief space which has elapsed since the close of your last session has been marked by no extraordinary political event.

Our grateful thanks are due to an All-merciful Providence, not only for staying the pestilence which in different forms has desolated some of our cities, but for crowning the labors of the husbandman with an abundant harvest.

In the course of the last summer, considerable anxiety was caused for a short time by an official intimation from the government of Great Britain, that the fisheries along the coast of the British province in North America against the alleged encroachments of the fishing vessels of the United States and France.

The unadjusted difference, however, between the two governments, as to the interpretation of the first article of the convention of 1818, is still a matter of importance. American fishing vessels within nine or ten years have been excluded from waters to which they had free access for twenty-five years after the negotiation of the treaty.

These circumstances and the incidents above alluded to have led me to think the true construction of the convention, to open all the other outer bays to our fishermen, was abandoned in consequence of the opposition of the colonies.

Nowwithstanding this, the United States have since the Bay of Fundy was opened to our fishermen in 1845, and the most liberal course toward the colonial fishing interests.

By the revenue law of 1846, the duties on colonial fish entering our ports were greatly reduced, and by the warehousing act it is allowed to be entered in bond without payment of duty.

In this way colonial fish are admitted to the monopoly of the fish made in our market and is entering to some extent into the home consumption. These facts were among those which increased the sensibility of our fishing interest, at the movement in question.

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ally done her, from want of information, should be repaired by an unreserved acknowledgment of her sovereignty.

I have the pleasure to inform you that the course pursued by Peru has been creditable to the liberality of her government.

Our settlements on the shores of the Pacific have already given a great extension, and in some respects a new direction, to our commerce in that ocean.

A direct and rapidly-increasing intercourse has sprung up with Eastern Asia, the waters of the Northern Pacific, even into the Arctic sea, have of late years been known to the general purpose of navigation is becoming daily more common, and makes it desirable to obtain fuel and other necessary supplies at convenient points on the route between Asia and our Pacific shores.

Our unfortunate countrymen who from time to time sail upon the coast of the eastern sea are entitled to protection. Besides these specific objects, the general prosperity of our States on the Pacific requires that an attempt should be made to open the opposite regions of Asia to a mutually beneficial intercourse.

It is obvious that this attempt could be made by no power so great, as that of the United States, whose constitutional system excludes every idea of distant colonial dependencies.

I have directed that you be led to order an appropriate naval force to Japan, under the command of a discreet and intelligent officer of the highest rank known to our service.

I have instructed to endeavor to obtain from the government of that country some relaxation of the inhospitable and anti-social system which it has pursued for particularly to reconstitute in the strongest language against the cruel treatment to which our shipwrecked mariners have often been subjected, and to insist that they shall be treated with humanity.

He is instructed however at the same time to give that government the amplest assurances that the objects of the United States are such and such only as are consistent with a friendly and amicable relationship.

Notwithstanding the jealousy with which the governments of Eastern Asia regard all overtures from foreigners, I am not without hopes of a beneficial result of the expedition.

Should it be crowned with success, the advantages will not be confined to the fisheries, but the fisheries will be equally enjoyed by all the other maritime powers. I have much satisfaction in stating that in all the steps preparatory to this expedition, the Government of the United States has been materially aided by the good offices of the King of the Netherlands.

The cash receipts into the Treasury for the fiscal year ending the 30th June last, exclusive of trust funds, were forty-nine millions seven hundred and twenty-eight thousand three hundred and eighty-eight dollars and eighty-nine cents.

gards to many of the works beyond making the necessary preparations. With respect to a few of the improvements, the sums already appropriated will suffice to complete them, but most of them will require additional appropriations.

It is my duty to recommend that you be led to order an appropriate naval force to Japan, under the command of a discreet and intelligent officer of the highest rank known to our service.

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I think it due to the several Executive Departments of this Government to bear the testimony to the integrity with which they are conducted. With all the careful superintendence which it is possible for the Heads of those Departments to exercise, still the due administration and guardianship of the public money must very much depend on the vigilance, intelligence, and fidelity of the subordinate officers.

I am gratified to believe that they have generally performed their duties faithfully and well. They are appointed to guard the approaches to the public Treasury, and they occupy positions that expose them to all the temptations and seductions of the cupidity of speculators and fraudulent claimants can prompt them to employ. It will be but a wise precaution to protect the Government against that source of mischief and corruption, as far as it can be done, by the enactment of all proper legal penalties.

The laws, in this respect, are supposed to be defective, and I therefore deem it my duty to call your attention to the subject, and to recommend that you be led to make by law for the punishment not only of those who shall accept bribes, but also of those who shall either promise, give, or offer to give to any of those officers or clerks a bribe or reward touching or relating to any matter of their official act or duty.

I have a uniform policy of this Government to abstain from all interference in the domestic affairs of other nations. The consequence has been that while the Nations of Europe have been engaged in desolating wars, our country has pursued its peaceful course to unimpeded progress.

course which they pursued was dictated by a statesman's sense of international justice, by a statesman's prudence, and by a statesman's foresight, looking not merely to the present necessities of the permanent safety and interest of the country.

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It is not strange, however much it may be regretted, that such an experience of enterprise should cause some individuals to mistake change for progress, and the invasion of the rights of others for national progress and glory.

Our Constitution, though not perfect, is doubtless the best that has ever been devised. Therefore let every proposition to change it be well weighed, and if found beneficial, cautiously adopted.

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STATE LEGISLATURE.

DEBATE. On the bill to establish a bank in the Town of Plymouth, it being before the Senate on its second reading.

Mr. McClees advocated its passage. He said it was not a mere matter of convenience only, but it was a matter of actual necessity to have a bank established at Plymouth.

Mr. Bynum moved further to amend the same, and after remarks by Messrs. Bynum, Kelly and Woodfin, the bill was laid upon the table.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, Dec. 6, 1852. The unfinished business of Saturday was resumed, viz: the motion of Mr. Long of Raleigh, to take up, on its 3d reading, the bill to amend the act, and one supplemental thereto, to improve the Cape Fear and Deep Rivers above Fayetteville.

Mr. Amis proposed the motion on the ground that it would facilitate business to dispose of it at once, particularly as the subject had been fully discussed, and the members were now prepared to vote upon it.

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Process. Read, and on motion of Mr. Woodfin, the bill was laid upon the table.

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