

Fellow Citizens of the Senate  
and of the House of Representatives:  
The interest with which the people  
of the Republic anticipate the assembling  
of Congress, and the fulfillment on that  
occasion of the duty imposed upon a  
new President, is one of the best evidence  
of their capacity to realize the hopes  
of the founders of a political system, at  
a peaceful and unbroken trial. While  
the different branches of the govern-  
ment are, to a certain extent, independ-  
ent of each other, the duties of all,  
in all, have direct reference to the  
source of power. Fortunately, under the  
Constitution, no man is so high, and none  
so low, in the realm of public station,  
as to escape from the scrutiny, or to be  
exempt from the responsibility which  
all official functions imply.

Upon the justice and intelligence of  
the masses, in a government thus or-  
ganized, is the sole reliance of the con-  
fidence, and the only security for the  
peace and the safety of the nation,  
against the usurpations and encroach-  
ments of power on the one hand, and  
the assaults of personal ambition on  
the other.

The interest of which I have spoken,  
is inseparable from an inspiring self-  
governing community, but, at the same  
time, it involves the duty of the govern-  
ment to secure the best possible condi-  
tion of our relations with the other  
nations of the world, by the obliga-  
tions resulting from a sudden extension  
of the field of enterprise; by the spir-  
it with which that field has been enter-  
ed, and the amazing energy with which  
its resources for meeting the demands  
of humanity have been developed.

It is my duty to report to you the  
condition of our country, and the  
characteristics of a wide spread  
and devastating pestilence, has left its  
sad traces upon some portions of our  
country, we have still the most abun-  
dant cause for recent thankfulness,  
in our successful navigation of the  
atmospheric route of a national line.  
It is well that a consciousness of rapid ad-  
vancement and increasing strength be  
habitually associated with an abiding  
sense of dependence upon Him who  
holds in His hands the destiny of na-  
tions and of nations.

Recognizing the wisdom of the broad  
principle of absolute religious toleration  
prevalent in our fundamental law,  
and rejoicing in the benign influence  
which it has exerted upon our social  
and political condition, I should shrink  
from a duty, did I fail to express my  
earnest conviction, that we can place no  
secure reliance upon any apparent pros-  
perity, if it be not sustained by national  
integrity, resting upon the great truth  
affirmed and illustrated by divine revela-  
tion. In the midst of our sorrow for  
the afflicted and suffering, it has been  
conceding to see how promptly dissem-  
inate the true neighbors of districts and  
cities separated widely from each other,  
and endeavoring to watch the strength  
of that common bond of brotherhood,  
which unites all hearts in all parts  
of this Union, when danger threatens from  
abroad, or calamity impends over us at  
home.

OUR DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.  
Our diplomatic relations with foreign  
powers have undergone no special  
change since the adjournment of the  
last Congress. With some of them,  
questions of a disturbing character are  
still being considered, and it is reason-  
able to believe that they may all be  
amicably adjusted.

ENGLAND.  
For some years past Great Britain  
has constructed the first article of the  
treaty of April 1849, in regard to the  
fisheries on the northeastern coast, as  
to exclude our citizens from some  
of the fishing grounds to which they  
freely resorted for nearly a quarter of  
a century subsequent to the date of that  
treaty. The United States have never  
acquiesced in this construction, but  
have always claimed for their fishermen  
all the rights which they had long en-  
joyed without molestation. With a  
view to remove all difficulties on that  
subject, to extend the rights of our fish-  
ermen beyond the limits fixed by the  
convention of 1849, and to regulate  
trade between the United States and the  
British North American provinces, a  
negotiation has been opened, with a fair  
prospect of a favorable result. To pro-  
tect our fishermen in the enjoyment of  
their rights and prevent collision between  
them and British fishermen, I deemed  
it expedient to station a naval force in  
that quarter during the fishing season.  
Embarrassing questions have also arisen  
between the two governments in re-  
gard to Central America. Great Britain  
has proposed to settle them by an am-  
icable arrangement, and our minister at  
London is instructed to enter into  
negotiations on that subject.

A commission for adjusting the claims  
of our citizens against Great Britain,  
and those of Great Britain against  
the United States, organized under the  
provisions of the 8th of February last,  
is now sitting in London for the trans-  
action of business.

It is in many respects desirable that  
the boundary between the United States  
and the British provinces in the north-  
west, as designated in the convention  
of the 18th of June, 1846, and espe-  
cially that part which separates the  
Territory of Washington from the Terri-  
tory of Oregon, should be clearly defined  
and marked. I therefore present  
the subject to your notice.

FRANCE.  
With France our relations continue  
on the most friendly footing. The ex-  
tensive commerce between the United  
States and that country, night, it is  
conceived, be released from some un-  
necessary restrictions, to the mutual ad-  
vantage of both parties. With a view  
to this object, some progress has been  
made in negotiating a treaty of com-  
merce and navigation.

SPAIN.  
Independently of our valuable trade  
with Spain, we have important political  
relations with her, growing out of our  
neighborhood to the islands of Cuba  
and Porto Rico. I am happy to an-  
nounce that since the last Congress  
attempts have been made by unauthor-  
ized expeditions within the U.S. against  
either of those colonies. Should any  
movement be manifested within our  
limits, all the means at my command  
will be vigorously exerted to repress it,  
and to preserve our commerce and our

# North Carolina Star.

place at Havana, or in the vicinity of  
the island of Cuba, between our citizens  
and the Spanish authorities. Consider-  
ing the proximity of that island to our  
shores, lying, as it does, in the track  
of trade between some of our principal  
cities—and the suspicious vigilance  
with which foreign intercourse, particu-  
larly that with the United States, is  
there guarded, a repetition of such oc-  
currences may well be apprehended.—  
No diplomatic intercourse is allowed  
between our consul at Havana and the  
Spanish authorities. A recent explanation  
cannot be made, or prompt re-  
dress afforded, where injury has result-  
ed. All complaint on the part of our  
citizens, under the present arrangement,  
must be, in the first place, presented to  
Spain. Spain again refers it to her  
local authorities in Cuba for investiga-  
tion, and postpones an answer till she  
has heard from those authorities. To  
avoid these irritating and vexatious de-  
lays, a proposition has been made to  
provide for a direct appeal for redress  
to the Captain General by our consul,  
in behalf of our injured fellow-citizens.  
Hitherto, the Government of Spain has  
declined to enter into any such arrange-  
ment. This course on her part is deep-  
ly regretted; for, without some arrange-  
ments of this kind, the good understand-  
ing between the two countries may be  
exposed to occasional interruption. Our  
Minister at Madrid is instructed to  
renew the proposition, and to press it  
again upon the consideration of her  
Catholic Majesty's government.

For several years Spain has been  
calling the attention of this govern-  
ment to a claim for losses, by some of  
her subjects, in the case of the schooner  
*Aurora*. This claim is founded not only  
on the obligations imposed by an exist-  
ing treaty with that country, but also  
on the fact that the schooner, in the  
service of the United States, was de-  
stroyed at sea. It is a subject of inter-  
national law, and one of the most im-  
portant which has of late years presented  
itself to the consideration of the  
Government. It is a subject of inter-  
national law, and one of the most im-  
portant which has of late years presented  
itself to the consideration of the  
Government. It is a subject of inter-  
national law, and one of the most im-  
portant which has of late years presented  
itself to the consideration of the  
Government.

CONGRESS.  
Although disease, assuming at one  
time the characteristics of a wide spread  
and devastating pestilence, has left its  
sad traces upon some portions of our  
country, we have still the most abun-  
dant cause for recent thankfulness,  
in our successful navigation of the  
atmospheric route of a national line.  
It is well that a consciousness of rapid ad-  
vancement and increasing strength be  
habitually associated with an abiding  
sense of dependence upon Him who  
holds in His hands the destiny of na-  
tions and of nations.

Recognizing the wisdom of the broad  
principle of absolute religious toleration  
prevalent in our fundamental law,  
and rejoicing in the benign influence  
which it has exerted upon our social  
and political condition, I should shrink  
from a duty, did I fail to express my  
earnest conviction, that we can place no  
secure reliance upon any apparent pros-  
perity, if it be not sustained by national  
integrity, resting upon the great truth  
affirmed and illustrated by divine revela-  
tion. In the midst of our sorrow for  
the afflicted and suffering, it has been  
conceding to see how promptly dissem-  
inate the true neighbors of districts and  
cities separated widely from each other,  
and endeavoring to watch the strength  
of that common bond of brotherhood,  
which unites all hearts in all parts  
of this Union, when danger threatens from  
abroad, or calamity impends over us at  
home.

OUR DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.  
Our diplomatic relations with foreign  
powers have undergone no special  
change since the adjournment of the  
last Congress. With some of them,  
questions of a disturbing character are  
still being considered, and it is reason-  
able to believe that they may all be  
amicably adjusted.

ENGLAND.  
For some years past Great Britain  
has constructed the first article of the  
treaty of April 1849, in regard to the  
fisheries on the northeastern coast, as  
to exclude our citizens from some  
of the fishing grounds to which they  
freely resorted for nearly a quarter of  
a century subsequent to the date of that  
treaty. The United States have never  
acquiesced in this construction, but  
have always claimed for their fishermen  
all the rights which they had long en-  
joyed without molestation. With a  
view to remove all difficulties on that  
subject, to extend the rights of our fish-  
ermen beyond the limits fixed by the  
convention of 1849, and to regulate  
trade between the United States and the  
British North American provinces, a  
negotiation has been opened, with a fair  
prospect of a favorable result. To pro-  
tect our fishermen in the enjoyment of  
their rights and prevent collision between  
them and British fishermen, I deemed  
it expedient to station a naval force in  
that quarter during the fishing season.  
Embarrassing questions have also arisen  
between the two governments in re-  
gard to Central America. Great Britain  
has proposed to settle them by an am-  
icable arrangement, and our minister at  
London is instructed to enter into  
negotiations on that subject.

A commission for adjusting the claims  
of our citizens against Great Britain,  
and those of Great Britain against  
the United States, organized under the  
provisions of the 8th of February last,  
is now sitting in London for the trans-  
action of business.

It is in many respects desirable that  
the boundary between the United States  
and the British provinces in the north-  
west, as designated in the convention  
of the 18th of June, 1846, and espe-  
cially that part which separates the  
Territory of Washington from the Terri-  
tory of Oregon, should be clearly defined  
and marked. I therefore present  
the subject to your notice.

FRANCE.  
With France our relations continue  
on the most friendly footing. The ex-  
tensive commerce between the United  
States and that country, night, it is  
conceived, be released from some un-  
necessary restrictions, to the mutual ad-  
vantage of both parties. With a view  
to this object, some progress has been  
made in negotiating a treaty of com-  
merce and navigation.

SPAIN.  
Independently of our valuable trade  
with Spain, we have important political  
relations with her, growing out of our  
neighborhood to the islands of Cuba  
and Porto Rico. I am happy to an-  
nounce that since the last Congress  
attempts have been made by unauthor-  
ized expeditions within the U.S. against  
either of those colonies. Should any  
movement be manifested within our  
limits, all the means at my command  
will be vigorously exerted to repress it,  
and to preserve our commerce and our

place at Havana, or in the vicinity of  
the island of Cuba, between our citizens  
and the Spanish authorities. Consider-  
ing the proximity of that island to our  
shores, lying, as it does, in the track  
of trade between some of our principal  
cities—and the suspicious vigilance  
with which foreign intercourse, particu-  
larly that with the United States, is  
there guarded, a repetition of such oc-  
currences may well be apprehended.—  
No diplomatic intercourse is allowed  
between our consul at Havana and the  
Spanish authorities. A recent explanation  
cannot be made, or prompt re-  
dress afforded, where injury has result-  
ed. All complaint on the part of our  
citizens, under the present arrangement,  
must be, in the first place, presented to  
Spain. Spain again refers it to her  
local authorities in Cuba for investiga-  
tion, and postpones an answer till she  
has heard from those authorities. To  
avoid these irritating and vexatious de-  
lays, a proposition has been made to  
provide for a direct appeal for redress  
to the Captain General by our consul,  
in behalf of our injured fellow-citizens.  
Hitherto, the Government of Spain has  
declined to enter into any such arrange-  
ment. This course on her part is deep-  
ly regretted; for, without some arrange-  
ments of this kind, the good understand-  
ing between the two countries may be  
exposed to occasional interruption. Our  
Minister at Madrid is instructed to  
renew the proposition, and to press it  
again upon the consideration of her  
Catholic Majesty's government.

For several years Spain has been  
calling the attention of this govern-  
ment to a claim for losses, by some of  
her subjects, in the case of the schooner  
*Aurora*. This claim is founded not only  
on the obligations imposed by an exist-  
ing treaty with that country, but also  
on the fact that the schooner, in the  
service of the United States, was de-  
stroyed at sea. It is a subject of inter-  
national law, and one of the most im-  
portant which has of late years presented  
itself to the consideration of the  
Government. It is a subject of inter-  
national law, and one of the most im-  
portant which has of late years presented  
itself to the consideration of the  
Government.

CONGRESS.  
Although disease, assuming at one  
time the characteristics of a wide spread  
and devastating pestilence, has left its  
sad traces upon some portions of our  
country, we have still the most abun-  
dant cause for recent thankfulness,  
in our successful navigation of the  
atmospheric route of a national line.  
It is well that a consciousness of rapid ad-  
vancement and increasing strength be  
habitually associated with an abiding  
sense of dependence upon Him who  
holds in His hands the destiny of na-  
tions and of nations.

among themselves. With Mexico, a dis-  
pute has arisen as to the true bound-  
ary line between our territory of New Mex-  
ico and the Mexican State of Chihuahua.  
A former commissioner of the United  
States, employed in running that line  
pursuant to the treaty of Guadalupe Hil-  
dalgo, made a serious mistake in deter-  
mining the initial point on the Rio  
Grande; but inasmuch as his decision  
was clearly a departure from the direc-  
tions for tracing the boundary contained  
in that treaty, and was not concurred in  
by the United States, whose consent was  
necessary to give validity to that  
decision, this government is not bound  
thereby; but that of Mexico takes a  
different view of the subject.

There are also other questions of  
considerable magnitude pending be-  
tween the two republics. Our minister  
in Mexico has ample instructions to ad-  
just them. Negotiations have been o-  
pened, but sufficient progress has not  
been made therein to enable me to  
speak of the probable result. Im-  
pressed with the importance of maintain-  
ing amicable relations with that repub-  
lic, and wishing with liberality to all-  
large capacity for social and material  
development, exist in the respective  
States, which, all being themselves free  
well constituted republics, as they pro-  
ceed, so they alone are capable of  
maintaining and perpetuating the  
American Union. The federal Govern-  
ment has its appropriate line of action  
in the specific and limited powers con-  
ferred on it by the constitution, chiefly  
as to those things in which the States  
have a common interest, in their  
relations to one another, and to foreign  
powers; while the great mass of inter-  
ests which belong to cultivated men,  
and to the laboring classes of the  
country, are left to the personal  
and domestic affairs of society, rest-  
ing upon the general laws, and upon  
the principles of the several States.  
CONGRESS.  
Although disease, assuming at one  
time the characteristics of a wide spread  
and devastating pestilence, has left its  
sad traces upon some portions of our  
country, we have still the most abun-  
dant cause for recent thankfulness,  
in our successful navigation of the  
atmospheric route of a national line.  
It is well that a consciousness of rapid ad-  
vancement and increasing strength be  
habitually associated with an abiding  
sense of dependence upon Him who  
holds in His hands the destiny of na-  
tions and of nations.

Recognizing the wisdom of the broad  
principle of absolute religious toleration  
prevalent in our fundamental law,  
and rejoicing in the benign influence  
which it has exerted upon our social  
and political condition, I should shrink  
from a duty, did I fail to express my  
earnest conviction, that we can place no  
secure reliance upon any apparent pros-  
perity, if it be not sustained by national  
integrity, resting upon the great truth  
affirmed and illustrated by divine revela-  
tion. In the midst of our sorrow for  
the afflicted and suffering, it has been  
conceding to see how promptly dissem-  
inate the true neighbors of districts and  
cities separated widely from each other,  
and endeavoring to watch the strength  
of that common bond of brotherhood,  
which unites all hearts in all parts  
of this Union, when danger threatens from  
abroad, or calamity impends over us at  
home.

OUR DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.  
Our diplomatic relations with foreign  
powers have undergone no special  
change since the adjournment of the  
last Congress. With some of them,  
questions of a disturbing character are  
still being considered, and it is reason-  
able to believe that they may all be  
amicably adjusted.

ENGLAND.  
For some years past Great Britain  
has constructed the first article of the  
treaty of April 1849, in regard to the  
fisheries on the northeastern coast, as  
to exclude our citizens from some  
of the fishing grounds to which they  
freely resorted for nearly a quarter of  
a century subsequent to the date of that  
treaty. The United States have never  
acquiesced in this construction, but  
have always claimed for their fishermen  
all the rights which they had long en-  
joyed without molestation. With a  
view to remove all difficulties on that  
subject, to extend the rights of our fish-  
ermen beyond the limits fixed by the  
convention of 1849, and to regulate  
trade between the United States and the  
British North American provinces, a  
negotiation has been opened, with a fair  
prospect of a favorable result. To pro-  
tect our fishermen in the enjoyment of  
their rights and prevent collision between  
them and British fishermen, I deemed  
it expedient to station a naval force in  
that quarter during the fishing season.  
Embarrassing questions have also arisen  
between the two governments in re-  
gard to Central America. Great Britain  
has proposed to settle them by an am-  
icable arrangement, and our minister at  
London is instructed to enter into  
negotiations on that subject.

A commission for adjusting the claims  
of our citizens against Great Britain,  
and those of Great Britain against  
the United States, organized under the  
provisions of the 8th of February last,  
is now sitting in London for the trans-  
action of business.

It is in many respects desirable that  
the boundary between the United States  
and the British provinces in the north-  
west, as designated in the convention  
of the 18th of June, 1846, and espe-  
cially that part which separates the  
Territory of Washington from the Terri-  
tory of Oregon, should be clearly defined  
and marked. I therefore present  
the subject to your notice.

FRANCE.  
With France our relations continue  
on the most friendly footing. The ex-  
tensive commerce between the United  
States and that country, night, it is  
conceived, be released from some un-  
necessary restrictions, to the mutual ad-  
vantage of both parties. With a view  
to this object, some progress has been  
made in negotiating a treaty of com-  
merce and navigation.

SPAIN.  
Independently of our valuable trade  
with Spain, we have important political  
relations with her, growing out of our  
neighborhood to the islands of Cuba  
and Porto Rico. I am happy to an-  
nounce that since the last Congress  
attempts have been made by unauthor-  
ized expeditions within the U.S. against  
either of those colonies. Should any  
movement be manifested within our  
limits, all the means at my command  
will be vigorously exerted to repress it,  
and to preserve our commerce and our

place at Havana, or in the vicinity of  
the island of Cuba, between our citizens  
and the Spanish authorities. Consider-  
ing the proximity of that island to our  
shores, lying, as it does, in the track  
of trade between some of our principal  
cities—and the suspicious vigilance  
with which foreign intercourse, particu-  
larly that with the United States, is  
there guarded, a repetition of such oc-  
currences may well be apprehended.—  
No diplomatic intercourse is allowed  
between our consul at Havana and the  
Spanish authorities. A recent explanation  
cannot be made, or prompt re-  
dress afforded, where injury has result-  
ed. All complaint on the part of our  
citizens, under the present arrangement,  
must be, in the first place, presented to  
Spain. Spain again refers it to her  
local authorities in Cuba for investiga-  
tion, and postpones an answer till she  
has heard from those authorities. To  
avoid these irritating and vexatious de-  
lays, a proposition has been made to  
provide for a direct appeal for redress  
to the Captain General by our consul,  
in behalf of our injured fellow-citizens.  
Hitherto, the Government of Spain has  
declined to enter into any such arrange-  
ment. This course on her part is deep-  
ly regretted; for, without some arrange-  
ments of this kind, the good understand-  
ing between the two countries may be  
exposed to occasional interruption. Our  
Minister at Madrid is instructed to  
renew the proposition, and to press it  
again upon the consideration of her  
Catholic Majesty's government.

For several years Spain has been  
calling the attention of this govern-  
ment to a claim for losses, by some of  
her subjects, in the case of the schooner  
*Aurora*. This claim is founded not only  
on the obligations imposed by an exist-  
ing treaty with that country, but also  
on the fact that the schooner, in the  
service of the United States, was de-  
stroyed at sea. It is a subject of inter-  
national law, and one of the most im-  
portant which has of late years presented  
itself to the consideration of the  
Government. It is a subject of inter-  
national law, and one of the most im-  
portant which has of late years presented  
itself to the consideration of the  
Government.

CONGRESS.  
Although disease, assuming at one  
time the characteristics of a wide spread  
and devastating pestilence, has left its  
sad traces upon some portions of our  
country, we have still the most abun-  
dant cause for recent thankfulness,  
in our successful navigation of the  
atmospheric route of a national line.  
It is well that a consciousness of rapid ad-  
vancement and increasing strength be  
habitually associated with an abiding  
sense of dependence upon Him who  
holds in His hands the destiny of na-  
tions and of nations.

Recognizing the wisdom of the broad  
principle of absolute religious toleration  
prevalent in our fundamental law,  
and rejoicing in the benign influence  
which it has exerted upon our social  
and political condition, I should shrink  
from a duty, did I fail to express my  
earnest conviction, that we can place no  
secure reliance upon any apparent pros-  
perity, if it be not sustained by national  
integrity, resting upon the great truth  
affirmed and illustrated by divine revela-  
tion. In the midst of our sorrow for  
the afflicted and suffering, it has been  
conceding to see how promptly dissem-  
inate the true neighbors of districts and  
cities separated widely from each other,  
and endeavoring to watch the strength  
of that common bond of brotherhood,  
which unites all hearts in all parts  
of this Union, when danger threatens from  
abroad, or calamity impends over us at  
home.

OUR DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.  
Our diplomatic relations with foreign  
powers have undergone no special  
change since the adjournment of the  
last Congress. With some of them,  
questions of a disturbing character are  
still being considered, and it is reason-  
able to believe that they may all be  
amicably adjusted.

ENGLAND.  
For some years past Great Britain  
has constructed the first article of the  
treaty of April 1849, in regard to the  
fisheries on the northeastern coast, as  
to exclude our citizens from some  
of the fishing grounds to which they  
freely resorted for nearly a quarter of  
a century subsequent to the date of that  
treaty. The United States have never  
acquiesced in this construction, but  
have always claimed for their fishermen  
all the rights which they had long en-  
joyed without molestation. With a  
view to remove all difficulties on that  
subject, to extend the rights of our fish-  
ermen beyond the limits fixed by the  
convention of 1849, and to regulate  
trade between the United States and the  
British North American provinces, a  
negotiation has been opened, with a fair  
prospect of a favorable result. To pro-  
tect our fishermen in the enjoyment of  
their rights and prevent collision between  
them and British fishermen, I deemed  
it expedient to station a naval force in  
that quarter during the fishing season.  
Embarrassing questions have also arisen  
between the two governments in re-  
gard to Central America. Great Britain  
has proposed to settle them by an am-  
icable arrangement, and our minister at  
London is instructed to enter into  
negotiations on that subject.

try, and with it, of the human race, in  
freedom, in prosperity, and in happiness.  
The thirteen States have grown to be  
thirty-one, with relations reaching to  
Europe, on the one side, and to the  
other to the distant regions of Asia.  
I am deeply sensible of the immense  
responsibility which the present im-  
punity of the Republic, and the diversity  
and multiplicity of its interests, de-  
pose upon me; the alleviation of which,  
so far as relates to the immediate conduct  
of the public business is, first, in my  
reliance on the wisdom and patriotism  
of the two Houses of Congress; and  
secondly, in the directions afforded me  
by the principles of public policy, as  
enacted by our fathers of the epoch of 1789,  
sanctioned by long experience, and sanc-  
tioned anew by the overwhelming  
voice of the people of the United States.  
PRINCIPLES OF GOVERNMENT.  
Returning to those principles, which  
constitute the organic basis of union,  
we perceive that, vast as are the func-  
tions and the duties of the federal Gov-  
ernment, vested in, or entrusted to, its  
three great departments, the legislative,  
executive, and judicial, yet the substan-  
tive power, the popular force and the  
large capacity for social and material  
development, exist in the respective  
States, which, all being themselves free  
well constituted republics, as they pro-  
ceed, so they alone are capable of  
maintaining and perpetuating the  
American Union. The federal Govern-  
ment has its appropriate line of action  
in the specific and limited powers con-  
ferred on it by the constitution, chiefly  
as to those things in which the States  
have a common interest, in their  
relations to one another, and to foreign  
powers; while the great mass of inter-  
ests which belong to cultivated men,  
and to the laboring classes of the  
country, are left to the personal  
and domestic affairs of society, rest-  
ing upon the general laws, and upon  
the principles of the several States.  
CONGRESS.  
Although disease, assuming at one  
time the characteristics of a wide spread  
and devastating pestilence, has left its  
sad traces upon some portions of our  
country, we have still the most abun-  
dant cause for recent thankfulness,  
in our successful navigation of the  
atmospheric route of a national line.  
It is well that a consciousness of rapid ad-  
vancement and increasing strength be  
habitually associated with an abiding  
sense of dependence upon Him who  
holds in His hands the destiny of na-  
tions and of nations.

Recognizing the wisdom of the broad  
principle of absolute religious toleration  
prevalent in our fundamental law,  
and rejoicing in the benign influence  
which it has exerted upon our social  
and political condition, I should shrink  
from a duty, did I fail to express my  
earnest conviction, that we can place no  
secure reliance upon any apparent pros-  
perity, if it be not sustained by national  
integrity, resting upon the great truth  
affirmed and illustrated by divine revela-  
tion. In the midst of our sorrow for  
the afflicted and suffering, it has been  
conceding to see how promptly dissem-  
inate the true neighbors of districts and  
cities separated widely from each other,  
and endeavoring to watch the strength  
of that common bond of brotherhood,  
which unites all hearts in all parts  
of this Union, when danger threatens from  
abroad, or calamity impends over us at  
home.

OUR DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.  
Our diplomatic relations with foreign  
powers have undergone no special  
change since the adjournment of the  
last Congress. With some of them,  
questions of a disturbing character are  
still being considered, and it is reason-  
able to believe that they may all be  
amicably adjusted.

ENGLAND.  
For some years past Great Britain  
has constructed the first article of the  
treaty of April 1849, in regard to the  
fisheries on the northeastern coast, as  
to exclude our citizens from some  
of the fishing grounds to which they  
freely resorted for nearly a quarter of  
a century subsequent to the date of that  
treaty. The United States have never  
acquiesced in this construction, but  
have always claimed for their fishermen  
all the rights which they had long en-  
joyed without molestation. With a  
view to remove all difficulties on that  
subject, to extend the rights of our fish-  
ermen beyond the limits fixed by the  
convention of 1849, and to regulate  
trade between the United States and the  
British North American provinces, a  
negotiation has been opened, with a fair  
prospect of a favorable result. To pro-  
tect our fishermen in the enjoyment of  
their rights and prevent collision between  
them and British fishermen, I deemed  
it expedient to station a naval force in  
that quarter during the fishing season.  
Embarrassing questions have also arisen  
between the two governments in re-  
gard to Central America. Great Britain  
has proposed to settle them by an am-  
icable arrangement, and our minister at  
London is instructed to enter into  
negotiations on that subject.

A commission for adjusting the claims  
of our citizens against Great Britain,  
and those of Great Britain against  
the United States, organized under the  
provisions of the 8th of February last,  
is now sitting in London for the trans-  
action of business.

It is in many respects desirable that  
the boundary between the United States  
and the British provinces in the north-  
west, as designated in the convention  
of the 18th of June, 1846, and espe-  
cially that part which separates the  
Territory of Washington from the Terri-  
tory of Oregon, should be clearly defined  
and marked. I therefore present  
the subject to your notice.

FRANCE.  
With France our relations continue  
on the most friendly footing. The ex-  
tensive commerce between the United  
States and that country, night, it is  
conceived, be released from some un-  
necessary restrictions, to the mutual ad-  
vantage of both parties. With a view  
to this object, some progress has been  
made in negotiating a treaty of com-  
merce and navigation.

SPAIN.  
Independently of our valuable trade  
with Spain, we have important political  
relations with her, growing out of our  
neighborhood to the islands of Cuba  
and Porto Rico. I am happy to an-  
nounce that since the last Congress  
attempts have been made by unauthor-  
ized expeditions within the U.S. against  
either of those colonies. Should any  
movement be manifested within our  
limits, all the means at my command  
will be vigorously exerted to repress it,  
and to preserve our commerce and our

place at Havana, or in the vicinity of  
the island of Cuba, between our citizens  
and the Spanish authorities. Consider-  
ing the proximity of that island to our  
shores, lying, as it does, in the track  
of trade between some of our principal  
cities—and the suspicious vigilance  
with which foreign intercourse, particu-  
larly that with the United States, is  
there guarded, a repetition of such oc-  
currences may well be apprehended.—  
No diplomatic intercourse is allowed  
between our consul at Havana and the  
Spanish authorities. A recent explanation  
cannot be made, or prompt re-  
dress afforded, where injury has result-  
ed. All complaint on the part of our  
citizens, under the present arrangement,  
must be, in the first place, presented to  
Spain. Spain again refers it to her  
local authorities in Cuba for investiga-  
tion, and postpones an answer till she  
has heard from those authorities. To  
avoid these irritating and vexatious de-  
lays, a proposition has been made to  
provide for a direct appeal for redress  
to the Captain General by our consul,  
in behalf of our injured fellow-citizens.  
Hitherto, the Government of Spain has  
declined to enter into any such arrange-  
ment. This course on her part is deep-  
ly regretted; for, without some arrange-  
ments of this kind, the good understand-  
ing between the two countries may be  
exposed to occasional interruption. Our  
Minister at Madrid is instructed to  
renew the proposition, and to press it  
again upon the consideration of her  
Catholic Majesty's government.

For several years Spain has been  
calling the attention of this govern-  
ment to a claim for losses, by some of  
her subjects, in the case of the schooner  
*Aurora*. This claim is founded not only  
on the obligations imposed by an exist-  
ing treaty with that country, but also  
on the fact that the schooner, in the  
service of the United States, was de-  
stroyed at sea. It is a subject of inter-  
national law, and one of the most im-  
portant which has of late years presented  
itself to the consideration of the  
Government. It is a subject of inter-  
national law, and one of the most im-  
portant which has of late years presented  
itself to the consideration of the  
Government.

CONGRESS.  
Although disease, assuming at one  
time the characteristics of a wide spread  
and devastating pestilence, has left its  
sad traces upon some portions of our  
country, we have still the most abun-  
dant cause for recent thankfulness,  
in our successful navigation of the  
atmospheric route of a national line.  
It is well that a consciousness of rapid ad-  
vancement and increasing strength be  
habitually associated with an abiding  
sense of dependence upon Him who  
holds in His hands the destiny of na-  
tions and of nations.

Recognizing the wisdom of the broad  
principle of absolute religious toleration  
prevalent in our fundamental law,  
and rejoicing in the benign influence  
which it has exerted upon our social  
and political condition, I should shrink  
from a duty, did I fail to express my  
earnest conviction, that we can place no  
secure reliance upon any apparent pros-  
perity, if it be not sustained by national  
integrity, resting upon the great truth  
affirmed and illustrated by divine revela-  
tion. In the midst of our sorrow for  
the afflicted and suffering, it has been  
conceding to see how promptly dissem-  
inate the true neighbors of districts and  
cities separated widely from each other,  
and endeavoring to watch the strength  
of that common bond of brotherhood,  
which unites all hearts in all parts  
of this Union, when danger threatens from  
abroad, or calamity impends over us at  
home.

OUR DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.  
Our diplomatic relations with foreign  
powers have undergone no special  
change since the adjournment of the  
last Congress. With some of them,  
questions of a disturbing character are  
still being considered, and it is reason-  
able to believe that they may all be  
amicably adjusted.

ENGLAND.  
For some years past Great Britain  
has constructed the first article of the  
treaty of April 1849, in regard to the  
fisheries on the northeastern coast, as  
to exclude our citizens from some  
of the fishing grounds to which they  
freely resorted for nearly a quarter of  
a century subsequent to the date of that  
treaty. The United States have never  
acquiesced in this construction, but  
have always claimed for their fishermen  
all the rights which they had long en-  
joyed without molestation. With a  
view to remove all difficulties on that  
subject, to extend the rights of our fish-  
ermen beyond the limits fixed by the  
convention of 1849, and to regulate  
trade between the United States and the  
British North American provinces, a  
negotiation has been opened, with a fair  
prospect of a favorable result. To pro-  
tect our fishermen in the enjoyment of  
their rights and prevent collision between  
them and British fishermen, I deemed  
it expedient to station a naval force in  
that quarter during the fishing season.  
Embarrassing questions have also arisen  
between the two governments in re-  
gard to Central America. Great Britain  
has proposed to settle them by an am-  
icable arrangement, and our minister at  
London is instructed to enter into  
negotiations on that subject.

A commission for adjusting the claims  
of our citizens against Great Britain,  
and those of Great Britain against  
the United States, organized under the  
provisions of the 8th of February last,  
is now sitting in London for the trans-  
action of business.

It is in many respects desirable that  
the boundary between the United States  
and the British provinces in the north-  
west, as designated in the convention  
of the 18th of June, 1846, and espe-  
cially that part which separates the  
Territory of Washington from the Terri-  
tory of Oregon, should be clearly defined  
and marked. I therefore present