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While the laws of the Union are thus pre-emptory in their prohibition of the equipment or armament of belligerent vessels in our ports, they may possibly not be absolutely that no person shall, within the territory of jurisdiction of the United States, outfit or equip a vessel for service as a privateer or to be used for the purpose of attacking the territory of another State, either as a soldier or as a marine, or as a man of board of any vessel of war, letter of marque, or privateer. And these prohibitions are also in strict conformity with the law of nations, which declares that to fit out a vessel to be used for the purpose of attacking the territory of another State, either as a soldier or as a marine, or as a man of board of any vessel of war, letter of marque, or privateer, is an act of piracy and a crime against the law of nations.

Such being the public right and the duty of the United States to prohibit the outfitting of vessels for the purpose of attacking the territory of another State, either as a soldier or as a marine, or as a man of board of any vessel of war, letter of marque, or privateer, it is the duty of the United States to prohibit the outfitting of vessels for the purpose of attacking the territory of another State, either as a soldier or as a marine, or as a man of board of any vessel of war, letter of marque, or privateer.

The report of the Secretary of the Navy, with submitted, exhibits in full the naval operations of the past year, together with the present condition of the service; and it makes suggestions of further legislation, to which your attention is invited.

The construction of the six steam frigates for which appropriations were made by the last Congress has proceeded in the most satisfactory manner, with such expedition as to warrant the belief that they will be ready for service early in the coming spring. Important as this addition to our naval force, it still remains inadequate to the contingent exigencies of the protection of the extensive coast and vast commercial interests of the United States.

It will be perceived by the report of the Postmaster General that the present organization of the Department for the management of the mails is not only inadequate to the requirements of the service, but is also inefficient in its management.

The aggregate amount of public land during the past year, located with military surplus and set apart as swamp lands by States, for each of the States, was as follows: Alaska, 1,000,000 acres; Arizona, 1,000,000 acres; California, 1,000,000 acres; Colorado, 1,000,000 acres; Florida, 1,000,000 acres; Georgia, 1,000,000 acres; Idaho, 1,000,000 acres; Illinois, 1,000,000 acres; Indiana, 1,000,000 acres; Iowa, 1,000,000 acres; Kansas, 1,000,000 acres; Kentucky, 1,000,000 acres; Louisiana, 1,000,000 acres; Maine, 1,000,000 acres; Maryland, 1,000,000 acres; Massachusetts, 1,000,000 acres; Michigan, 1,000,000 acres; Minnesota, 1,000,000 acres; Missouri, 1,000,000 acres; Montana, 1,000,000 acres; Nebraska, 1,000,000 acres; Nevada, 1,000,000 acres; New Hampshire, 1,000,000 acres; New Jersey, 1,000,000 acres; New York, 1,000,000 acres; North Carolina, 1,000,000 acres; North Dakota, 1,000,000 acres; Ohio, 1,000,000 acres; Oregon, 1,000,000 acres; Pennsylvania, 1,000,000 acres; Rhode Island, 1,000,000 acres; South Carolina, 1,000,000 acres; South Dakota, 1,000,000 acres; Tennessee, 1,000,000 acres; Texas, 1,000,000 acres; Vermont, 1,000,000 acres; Virginia, 1,000,000 acres; Washington, 1,000,000 acres; West Virginia, 1,000,000 acres; Wisconsin, 1,000,000 acres; Wyoming, 1,000,000 acres.

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