BIBLICAL RECORDER.

"RIGHTEOUSNESS, TEMPERANCE, AND JUDGEMENT TO COME."

DITED BY T. MEREDITH,

NEWBERN, N. C. WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1835.

VOL. 1, NO. 51,

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNI-TED STATES TO THE TWO HOUSES OF CON-GRESS, December, 1835

Fellow-citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives :

In the discharge of my official duty, the task again devolves upon me of communicating with a New Congress. The reflection, that the representation of the Union has been recently renewed, and that the constitutional term of its service will expire with my own, beightens the solicitode with which I shall attempt to lay before it the state elerish, that its labors to improve them may be crowned

You are assembled at a period of profound interest to American patriot. The unexampled growth and prosperity of our country, having given us a rank in the scale of nations which removes all apprehension of danger to our integrity and independence from external foes. the career of freedom is before us, with an earnest from the past, that, if true to ourselves, there can be no formidable obstacle in the future, to its peaceful and uninterrapted pursuit. Yet, in proportion to the disappearance of those apprehensions which attended our weakness. as once contrasted with the power of some of the states of the old world, should we now is solicitous as to those which belong to the conviction, that it is to our own conduct we must look for the preservation of those causes, he which depend the excellence and the duration of our happy system of Government.

In the example of other systems, founded on the will of the people, we trace to internal dissension the influences which have so often blasted the hopes of the friends of freedom. The social elements which were so strong and successful when united against external danger, failed in the more difficult task of property adjusting their own internal organization, and thus gave way the great princiole of self government. Let us trust that this admonition all never be forgotten by the Government or the People the United States; and that the testimony which our experience thus far holds out to the great human family, of the practicability and the blessings of free government, will be confirmed in all time to come.

We have but to look at the state of our agriculture canufactures, and commerce, and the unexampled in-Grease of our population, to feel the magnitude of the trust committed to hs. Never, in any former period of our history, have we had greater reason than we now have to be thankful to Divine Providence for the blessings of health and general prosperity. Every branch of labor we see crowned with the most abundant rewards; in every element of national resources and wealth, and of indicidual comfort, we witness the most rapid and solid improvements. With no interruptions to this pleasing prospect at home, which will not yield to the spirit of harmony and good will that so strikingly pervades the mass of the people in every quarter, amidst all the diversity of no cause of solicitude in regard to our external affairs, which will not, it is hoped, disappear before the principles of simple justice and the forbearance that mark our intercourse with foreign powers, -we have every reason to feel proud of our beloved country.

The general state of our Foreign Relations has not materially changed since my last annual message :

In the settlement of the question of the Northwestern boundary, little progress has been made-Great Britain as declined according to the proposition of the United States, presented in accordance with the resolution of the Senate, unless certain preliminary conditions were adsitted, which I deemed incompatible with a satisfactory and rightful adjustment of the controversy. Waiting for some distinct proposal from the Government of Great Britain which has been invited, I can only repeat the expression of my confidence, that with the strong untual disposition which I believe exists, to make a just arrange met, the preplexing question can be settled with a due regard to the well-founded pretensions and pacific policy of all the parties to it-Events are frequently occurring on the Northeastern frontier, of a character to impress upon all the necessity of a speedy and definitive, terminamtion of the dispute. This consideration, added to the lesire common to both, to relieve the liberal and friennly clations so happily existing between the two countries from all embarrassment, will, no doubt; have its just in

Our diplomatic intercourse with Portugal has been renewed, and it is expected that the claims of our citizens, partielly paid, will be fully satisfied as soon nathe condition of the Queen's Government will permit the proper attention to the subject of them. That Government has, I am happy to inform you, manifested a determination to act upon the liberal principles which have marked our commercial policy ;-the happiest effects upan our future trade between the United States and Portugal, are anticipated from it, and the time is not thought to be remote when a system of perfect reciprocity will be established. The instalments sine under the Convention with the King of the Two Sicilies, have been paid with that scru alous fidelity by which his whole conduct has been characterised, and the hope is indulged, that the adjustment of the vexed question of our claims will be followed by a more extended and mutually beneficial intercourse be-

The internal contest still continues in Spain. Distin-

ished as this struggle has unhappily been, by incidents the most sanguinary character, the obligations of the ale treaty of indemnification with us, have been, nevertheless, faithfully executed by the Spanish Government, No provision having been made at the last session of Congress for the ascertainment of the claims to be paid and the apportionment of the funds, under the convention made with Spain, I invite your early attention to the subred-The public evidences of the debt have, according to the terms of the convention, and in the forms prescribed by it, been placed in the possession of the United States, and the interest, as it fell due, has been regularly paid upon

hem Our commercial intercourse with Cuba stands as regulated by the act of Congress. No recent information has been received as to the disposition of the Government Madrid on this subject, and the lamented death of our fecestly appointed Minister, on his way to Spain, with he pressure of their affairs at home, render it scarcely probable that any change is to be looked for during the have been sent to the United States, although the death of one of the Commissioners, at a critical moment embarofficers of the local Government have recently shown an unxious desire, in compliance with the orders from the

hrent Government, to facilitate the selection and delivery fall we have a right to claim.

Negotiations have been opened at Madrid, for the eslishment of a tasting peace between Spain and such the Spanish American Governments of this hemisphere, is have availed themselves of the intimation given to all of them, of the disposition of Spain to treat upon the baof their entire independence. It is to regretted, that multatheous appointments, by all of the ministers to ne Pliate with Spain, had not been made; the negotiation ell would have been simplified, and this long standing dispute, spreading over a large portion of the world, would have been brought to to a more speedy conclusion. Our political and commercial relations with Austria, russia, Sweden, and Depruark, stand on the usual favorable bases. One of the articles of our treaty with Russia, in relation to the trade on the Northwest coast of America having expired, instructions have been given to our Minister at St. Petershing to negotiate a renewal of The long and unbroken amity between the two Govframents gives every reason for supposing the article will be renewed, if stronger motives do not, exist to prevent it han, with our view of the subject, can be anticipated here. Lask your attention to the message of my predecessor at

opening of the second session of the nineteenth Congress, relative to our Commercial intercourse with Holand, and to the documents connected with that subject, communicated to the House of Representatives on the the opinion of my predecessor, that Holland is not under the regulations of her present system, entitled to have her vessels and their cargoes received into the United States on the footing of American vessels and cargoes, reference of it to the Legislature, has alone prevented me Washington, on the 2d of February 1832, and in five Deputies, proposing to make the appropriations necessary

sion into our ports for their ships and cargoes, on the same footing as American, with the allegation we could not dispute, that our vessels received in their ports the identical treatment shown to them in the ports of Holland, upon whose vessels no discrimination is made in the ports of the United States. Giving the same privileges, the Belgians expected the same benefits-benefits that were in

fact enjoyed when Belgium and Holland were united under one government. Satisfied with the justice of their pretension to be placed on the same footing with Holland, I could not nevertheless, without disregard to the of our national concerns, and the devout hope which I principle of our laws, admit, their claim to be treated as Americans; and at the same time a respect for Congress, to whom the subject had long since been referred, has soever." prevented me from producing a just equality, by taking from the vessels of Holland privileges conditionally granted by note of Congress, althoughthe condition upon which the grant was made, has in my judgment, failed since 1822. I recommend, therefore, a review of the act of 1824, and such a madification of it as will produce an equality, on such terms, as Congress shall think best comports with our settled policy, and the obligations of justice to two

friendly powers. With the Sublime Porte, and all the Governments on the coast of Barbary, our relations continue to be friendly. The proper steps have been taken to renew our treaty with Morocco.

The Argentine Republic has again promised to send within the current year a Minister to the United States. A Convention with Mexico for extending the time for the appointment of commissioners to run the boundary fine has been concluded, and will be submitted to the Senate. Recent events in that county have awakened the liveliest solicitude in the The United States. Aware the strong temptations existing, and powerful inducements held out to the citizens of the Cuited States, to mingle in the dissentions of our immediate neighbors, instructions have been given to the District Attorneys of the nited States. When this draft was presented by the hol-United States, where indications warranted it, to prosecute, without respect to persons, all who might attempt; ise him to receive the money, the Government of France to violate the obligations of our neutrality: while, at the allowed it to be profested. In addition to the injury in same time it has been thought necessary to apprise the the nonpayment of the money by France, conformably Government of Mexico that we should require the integri- to her engagement, the United States were exposed

Central America, Venezuela, and New Granada, con- the public moneys. Congress was in session when the stant assurances are received of the continued good undecision of the Chambers reached Washington; and an derstanding with the Governments to which they are sev- immediate communication of this apparently final deciserally accredited With those Governments upon which ion of France not to fulfil the stipulations of the treaty, our citizens have valid and accomulating claims, scarcely was the course naturally to be expected from the Presian advance towards a settlement of them is made, owing | dent. The deep tone of cissatistaction which pervaded

Unfortunately, many of the nations of this hemisphere lution succeeds revolution, injuries are committed upon before a Government sufficiently stable is erected to justify expectation of redress-Ministers are sent and received, and before the discussion or past injuries are fairly begun, fresh troubles arise; but too frequently new injuies are added to the old, to be discussed together, with ter. the existing Government, after it has proved its ability to sustain the assaults made upon it, or with its successor, if overthrown. If this unhappy condition of things continues much louger, other nations will be under the patmui necessity of deciding whether justice to their suffering citizens does not require a prompt redress of injuries by a Government competent audienduring enough to discuss and to make satisfaction for them.

Since the last session of Congress, the validity of our claims upon France, as liquidated by the treaty of 1831, lature, and the money has been appropriated for their discharge, but the payment is, I regret to inform you, still

A brief recapitulation of the most important incidents tempted to be justified.

On entering upon the duties of my station, I found the United States an unsuccessful applicant to the justice of France, for the satisfaction of claims, the validity of which | pressly informed by this Government at the time, to enwas never questionable, and has now been most solemnly | gage, that the question should be pressed to a decision at admitted by France herself. The antiquity of these claims, their high justice, and the aggravating circumstances out of which they arose, are too familier, to the American People to require description. It is sufficient to say that, for a period of ten years and upwards our commerce was with but little intterruption, the subject of constant aggressions on the part of France-aggressions, the ordinary features of which were condemnation of vessels and cargoes under arbitrary decrees, adopted in contravention. as well of the laws of nations, es of treaty stipulations; burnings on the high seas; and seizures and confiscations, under special imperial rescripts, in the ports of other nations occupied by the armies, or under the control of next insisted that the Chambers if prorogued without act-France. Such, is now conceded is the character of the ing on the subject, should be reassembled at a period so wrongs we suffered-wrongs, in many cases, so flagrant, that even their authors never denied our right to reparation. Of the extent of these injuries, some conception may be formed from the fact, that after the burning of a large amount at sea, and the necessary deterioration, in that their decision, however urgently pressed, could not other cases, by long detention, the American property so In all probability, be obtained in time to reach Washingseized and sacrificed at forced sales, excluding what was adjudged to privateers, before or without condemnation, brought into the French treasury upwards of twenty four millions of francs, besides large custom-house du-

The subject has already been an affair of twenty years' uninterrupted negotiation, except for a short time, when France was overwhelmed by the milifary power of united Europe. During this period, whilst other nations were extorting from her, payment of their claims at the point of the bayonet, the United States intermitted their demand for justice, out of respect to the oppressed condition of a gallant people to whom they felt under obligations for fraternal assistance in their own days of suffering and of coming year. Further portions of the Florida archives peril. The batteffects of these protracted and unavailing discussions, as well upon our relations with France as upon our national character, were obvious; and the line tassed the progress of the delivery of them. The higher of duty was to my mind equally so. This was, either to insist upon the adjustment of our claims within a reasonable period, or to abandon them altogether. I could not doubt, that by this course, the interests and bonor of both countries would be best consulted. Instructions were therefore given in this spirit to the Minister who was sent out once more to demand reparation. Upon the meeting of Congress in December, 1829, I felt it my duty to speak of these claims, and the delays of France, in terms calculated to call the serious attention of both countries to the subject. The then French Ministry took exception to ment to negotiate. The American Minister of his own | Congress might be regarded as a menace to Frence, in foreign Governments, but to the Congress of the United been in session, and such was the insensibility of the Min-States, in which it was enjoined upon him, by the constitution, to lay before that body information of the state Minister had been informed that the matter, when introof the Union, comprehending its foreign as well as its do- duced, would not be pressed as a cabinet measure. mestic relations; and that if, in the discharge of this duty he felt it incumbent upon hitado summon the attention of Congress, in due time, to what might be the possible consequences of existing difficulties with any foreign Government, he might fairly be supposed to do so, under a sense of what was due from him in a frank communication with another branch of his own Government, and not from any intention of holding a menage over a foreign power.-The views taken by him received my approba-10th of January, 1825, and 18th January, 1827. Coinciding tion, the French Government was satisfied, and the negotiation was continued. It terminated in the treaty of July 4, 1831, recognizing the justice of our claims; in part, the United States had been suspended. and promising payment to the amount of twenty-five f. Having, in this manner, vindicated the dignity of France,

millions of francs, in six annual instalments.

from acting on the subject. I should still have waited, days thereafter it was laid before Congress, who immediate the treaty. As this bill subsequently fensive, and certainly would not be complied with, if compact. The treaty had previously been solemnly ratified by the King of the French, in terms which are certainly not mere matters of form, and of which the translation is as follows; "We, approving the above convention, in all and each of the dispositions which are contained in it, do declare, by ourselves, as well as by our heirs and successors, that it is accepted, approved, ratified and confirmed; and by these presents, signed by our hand, we do accept, approve, ratify, and confirm it; promising, on the faith and word of a King, to observe it and to cuse it to be observed inviolably, without ever contravening it, or suffering it to be contravened, streetly or indirectly, for any cause, or under any pretence what

Official information of the exchange of ratifications in the United States reached Paris whilst the Chambers were in session. The extraordinary, and to us injurious. delays of the French Government, in their action upon the subject of its fulfilment, have been heretofore stated to congress, and I have no disposition to enlarge upon them here. It is sufficient to observe that the then pending session was allowed to expire without even an effort to obtain the necessary appropriations; that the two succeeding ones were also suffered to pass away without any thing like a serious attempt to obtain a decision upon the subject; and that it was not until the fourth session, almost three years after the conclution of the treaty, and more than two years after the exchange of ratifications, that the bill for the execution of the treaty was pressed to avote and rejected.

In the meantime, the Government of the U. States. having full confidence that a treaty entered into and so solemnly ratified by the French King, would be executed in good faith, and not doubting that provision would be made for the payment of the first instalment which was to become due on the second day of February, 1833, negotiated a draft for the amount through the Bank of the Uder with the credentials required by the treaty to authorty of our territory to be scrupulously respected by both to a heavy claim on the part of the Bank, under pretence of damages, in satisfaction of which that institu-From our diplomatic agents in Brazil, Chile, Peru, tion seized upon, and still retains, an equal amount of are still self-tormented by domestic dissensions. Revo. jour to avoid this course if I could be satisfied, that by had so long existed between the two countries, I was anxforeigners engaged in lawful pursuits, much time elapses try v ould be compromitted. Without the fullest assurances upon that point, I could not hope to acquit myself of the responsibility to be incurred, in suffering Congress to adjourn without laying the subject before them. Those received by me were believed to be of that charac-

That the feelings produced in the United States by the news of the rejection of the appropriation, would be such as I have described them to have been, was foreseen by the French Government, and prompt measures were taken by it to prevent the c usequences. The King, in person, expressed through our Minister at Paris, his profound regret at the decision of the Chambers, and promised to send, forthwith a national ship, with despatches to his Minister here, authorizing him to give such assurances as would satisfy the Government and the People has been acknowledged by both branches of her Legis- ly executed by France. The national ship arrived, and of the United States, that the treaty would yet be faithfulthe Minister received his justructions. Claiming to act under the authority derived from them, he gave to this Government, in the name of his, the most solemn assurances, that as soon after the new elections as the clarin this protracted controversy, will show how utterly un- ter would permit. the French. Chambers would be contenable are the grounds upon which this course is at vened, and the attempt to procure the necessary appropriations renewed: that all the constitutional powers of the King and his Ministers should be put in requisition to accomplish the object, and he was understood, and so exa period sufficiently early to permit information of the result to be communicated to Congress at the commencement of their next session. Relying upon these assurances, I incurred the reponsibility great as I regarded it to be, of suffering Congress to seperate without communica-

ting with them upon the subject. The expectation justly founded upon the promises thus olemnly made to this Government by that of France, were not realized. The French Chambers met on the 31st of July, 1834, soon after the election; and although our Minister in Paris orged the French Ministry to bring the subject before them, they declined doing so. He early that their action on the freaty might be known in Washington prior to the meeting of Congress. This reasonable request was not only declined, but the Chambers were prorogued to the 29th of December, a day so late ton before the necessary adjournment of Congress by the Constitution. The reasons given by the Ministry for refusing to convoke the Chambers at an carier period, were afterwards shown not to be insuperable, by their cial call, for domestic purposes-which fact, however, did not become known to this Government until after the commencement of the last session of Congress.

Thus disappointed in our just expections, it became my imperative duty to consult with Congress in regard to the expediency of a resort to retaliatory measures, in case the stipulations of the treaty should not be speedily complied with; and to recommend such as in my judgment the oc casion called for. To this end, an unreserved communication of the case in all its aspects, became indispensible. To baye shrunk, in making it, from saying all that was necessary to its correct understanding, and that the truth would justify, for fear of giving offence to others, would have been unworthy of us. To have gone, on the other hand, a single step further, for the purpose of wounding the pride of a Government and people with whom we had so many motives for cultivating relations of amity and reciprocated advantage, would have been unwise and improper. Admonished by the past of the difficulty of making even the simplest statement of our wrongs, without disturbing the sensibilities of those who had by their poistry to our rightful claims and just expectations, that our

Although the message was not officially communicated to the French Government, and not with standing the declaration to the contrary, which it contained, the French Minister at Washington, the offer of passports to the American Minister at Paris, and a public notice to the

they next proceeded to illustrate her justice. To this end,

atery passed the acts necessary, on our part, to secure to passed into a law, the provisions of which now constitute annexed as a condition. France the commercial advantages conceded to her in the the main subject of difficulty between the two nations, it becomes my duty, in order to place the subject before invite the attention of Congress, was laid before me, I you in a clear light, to trace the history of its passage, and entertained the hope that the means it was obviously into refer, with some particularity, to the proceedings and tended to afford, of an honorable and speedy adjustment discussions in regard to it. The Minister of Finance, in of the difficulties between the two nations, would have his opening speech, aliaded to the measures which had been accepted; and I therefore did not hesitate to give been adopted to resent the supposed indignity, and recommended the execution of the treaty as a measure re- the Minister who had made himself responsible for the quired by the honor and justice of France. He, as the set; and it was published to the People of the United organ of the Ministry, declared the message, so long as it States, and is now laid before their representatives, to had not received the sanction of Congress, a mere expression had not received the sanction of Congress, a mere expression had not received the sanction of Congress, a mere expression had not received the sanction of Congress, a mere expression had not received the sanction of Congress, a mere expression had not received the sanction of Congress, a mere expression had not received the sanction of Congress, a mere expression had not received the sanction of Congress, a mere expression had not received the sanction of Congress, a mere expression had not received the sanction of Congress, a mere expression had not received the sanction of Congress, a mere expression had not received the sanction of Congress, a mere expression had not received the sanction of Congress, a mere expression had not received the sanction of Congress, a mere expression had not received the sanction of Congress. sion of the personal opinion of the President, for which to restore a good understanding between the two counneither the Government nor the people of the United tries. It would have been at any time, communicated States were responsible, and that an engagement had been to the Government of France, had it been officially reof France was pledged. Entertaining these views, the single condition which the French Ministry proposed to planation which honor and principle permitted, and which sames to the payment of the money, was, that it should could in reason be asked, it was hoped it would no longnot be made until it was ascertained that the Government | er hesitate to pay the instalments now due. The agent of the United States had done nothing to injure the interests of France; or, in other words, that no steps had been the French Minister of his readiness to do so. In reply

What the disposition or action of Congress might be, was then unknown to the French Cabinet. But on the 14th of January, the Senate resolved that it was, at that time, inexpedient to adopt any legislative measures bring, as far as practicable, this unpleasant affair to a in regard to the state of affairs between the United States | close before to the meeting of Congress, that you might and France, and no action on the subject had occurred in have the whole subject before you, I caused our Charge the House of Representatives. These facts were known d'Affaires at Paris to be instructed to ask for the final in Paris prior to the 28th of March, 1835, when the com- determination of the French Government; and in the mittee to whom the bill of indemnification had been referred, reported it to the Chamber of Deputies. That committee substantially re-echoed the sentiments of the States. Ministry, declared that Congress had set aside the proposition of the President, and recommended the passage of us, but is daily expected. That it may be favorable is my the bill, without any other restriction than that originally propered. Thus was it known to the French Ministry and Chambers, that if the position assumed by them, and of our claims, and the obligations of the treaty of 1831; which had been so frequently and solemnly announced and there really existing no adequate cause for further as the only one compatible with the honor of France, was delay, will, at length, it may be hoped, adopt the course maintained, and the bill passed as originally proposed the which the interests of both nations, not less than the fortunate controversy.

But this cheering prospect was soon destroyed by an amendment introduced into the bill at the moment of its ing. indeed, which will not yield to the suggestions of a passage, providing that the money should not be paid until the French Government had received satisfactory explanations of the President's message, of the second December, 1831; and what is still more extraordinary, the in all their ancient force. President of the Council of Ministers adopted this amendment, and consented to its incorporation in the bill. In remainly to their distracted state. or to the pressure of im- the public mind, and the correspondent excitement pro- ed by the recall of their Minister, and the offer of pass- of the Government, that it can neither be surrendered perative domestic questions —Our patience has been, and duced in Congress by only a general knowledge of the ports to ours, they now, for the first time, proposed to ask nor compromitted, without national degradation. low citizens whose interests are involved, may confide immediate measures of redress would be the consequence had declared could not justly be imputed to the Govern will not be made through any ager explanations. Sentiments and propositions, which they hope it is unnecessary for me to say, that such a sacrificain the determination of the Government to obtain for of calling the attention of that body to the subject. Sin- ment or People of the United States, are set up as obstacles to the performance of an act of conceded justice to that Go- from me, for the statement of truth and the performance vernment and People. They had declared that the honor of duty; nor can I give any explanation of my official of France required the fulfilment of the engagement into acts, except such as is due to integrity and justice, and which the King had entered, unless Congress adopted the consistent with the principles on which our institutions recommendations of the message. They ascertained have been framed.—This determination will, I am conthat Congress did not adopt them, and yet that fulfilment fident, be approved by my constituents. I have, indeed

> The conception that it was my intention to insult or menace the Government of France, is as unfounded, as the attempt to extort from the fears of that nation what her sense of justice may deny, would be vain and ridicatous: But the Constitution of the United States imposes on the the degrading imputation. President the duty of laying before Congress the condition of the country, in its foreign and domestic relations, and ces which, since the last session of Congress, have ocof recommending such measures as may, in his opinion, be equired by its interests. From the performance of this duty he cannot be deterred by the fear of wounding the time only necessary to add, that when ever the advices sen ibilities of the people or Government of whom it now daily expected from our Charge d'Affaires shall ple are incapable of submitting to an interferance, by any special communication. Government on earth, bowever powerful, with the free performance of the domestic daties which the constitution has imposed on their public funtionaries. The discussions which intervene between the several departments of our Government belong to ourseives; and, for any thing said in them, our public servants are only responsible to their own constituents, and to each other. If, in the course of their consultations, facts are erroneously stated, or unjust deductions are made, they require no other error, than their love of justice, and what is due to their own character; but they can never submit to be interrogated upon the subject, as a matter of right, by a foreign power. When our discussions terminate in acts, our responsibility to foreign powers commences, not as individuals, but as a nation. The principle which calls in question the President for the language of his message, would equally justify a foreign power in demanding explanation of the language used in the report of a commit-

ee, or by a member in debate. has taken exception to the messages of American Presidents. President Washington and the first President Adams, in the performance of their duties to the American People, fell under the animadversions of the French Directory. The objection taken by the Ministry of Charles X., and removed by the explanations made by our Minister upon the spot, has already been adverted to .-When it was understood that the Ministry of the present King took exception to my Message of last year, putting construction upon it which was disavowed on its faciour late Minister at Poris, in answer to the note which first announced a dissatisfaction with the language used in the message, made a communication to the French Government, under date of 29th January, 1835, calculated to reactual convocation on the 1st of December, under a spe-tuicre all impressions which an unreasonable susceptibliity had created. He repeated and called the attention of the French Government to the disavowal contained in the message itself, of any intention to intimidate by me nace-lie truly declared that it contained no charge of ill faith against the King of the French, and properly distinguished between the right to complain, in unexceptionsble terms of the omission to execute an agreement, and an accusation of bad motives in withholding such execuion-and demonstrated, that the necessary use of that right ought not to be considered as an offensive imputation-Although this communication was made without instructions, and entirely on the Minister's own responsibility, yet it was afterwards made the act of this Government. by my full approbation, and that approbation was officialmade known on the 25th of April, 1835, to the French Government It, however, failed to have any effect. The law, after this friendly explanation, passed with the bnoxious amendment, supported by the King's Ministers, and was finally approved by the King.

The people of the United States are justly attached to a pacific system in their intercourse with foreign nations. sition, become responsible for their redress, and earnestly It is proper, therefore, that they should know whether desirous of preventing further obstacles from that source, their Government has adherred to it. In the present inthe message, on the ground of its containing a menace, I went out of my way to preclude a construction of the stance, it has been carried to the utmost extent that was under which it was not agreeable to the French govern- message, by which the recommendation that was made to consistent with a becoming self-respect. The note of the 29th of January, to which I have before alluded, was not be put upon the message, and, at the same time, called to her pride and her power were too well known to expect responsibility of presenting on the same subject, and in the recollection of the French Ministry, that the Presi- any thing from her fears. The message did not reach the same spirit. Finding that it was intended to make dent's message was a communication addressed, not to Paris until more than a month after the Chambers had the payment of a just debt dependent on the performance of a condition which he knew could never be complied with, be thought it a duty make another attempt to convince the French Government, that whilst self respect and regard to the dignity of other nations would always prevent us from using any language that ought to give ofence, yet we could never admit a right in any foreign Government to ask explanations of, or to inter-Ministry decided to consider the conditional recommen- fere in any manner in, the communications which one tion of reprisals, a menace and an insult, which the honor branch of our public councils made with another; that in of the nation made it incumbent on them to resent. The the present case, no such tanguage had been used, and measures resorted to by them to evince their sense of the that this had in a former note been fully and voluntarily supposed indignity, were, the immediate recall of their stared, before it was contemplated to make the explana tion a condition; and that there might be no misappre hension, he stated the terms used in that note, and he Legislative Chambers that all diplomatic intercourse with officially informed them that it had been approved by the President, and that therefore every explanation which could reasonably be asked, or honorably given, had been Congress to the suggestion I have offered respecting it in my for already made-that the contemplated measure had been mer messages.

When this latter communication, to which I especially

The French Government having received all the ex authorized to receive the money was instructed to inform authorised by Congress of a hostile character towards to this notice, he was told that the money could not then he paid, because the formalities required by the act of the Chambers had not been arranged.

Not having received any official communication of the intentions of the French Government, and anxious to event of their refusal to pay the instalments now due. without further explanations, to return to the United

The result of this last application has not reached yet sincere wish. France having new through all the branches of her Gevernment, acknowledged the validity principles of justice, so imperiously require. The treaty being once executed on her part, little will remain to disturb the friendly relations of the two countries, nothpacific and enlightened policy, and to the influence of that inplual good will and of those generous recollections which we may confidently expect will then be revived

In any event, however, the principle involved in the new aspect, which has been given to the controversy, is or of my country shall never be stained by an apology is refused realess they first obtain from the President ex- studied their character to but little purpose, if the sum of planations of an opinion characterized by themselves as twenty-five millions of francs will have the weight of a feather, in the estimation of what appertains to their national independence: and if, unhappily, a different impression should at any time obtain in any quarter they will, I am sure, rally round the Government of their choice with alacrity and unanimity, and silence forever

Having thus frankly presented to you the circumstancurred in this interesting and important matter, with the view of the Executive in regard to them, it is at this have been received, they will be made the subject of a

The condition of the Public Finances was never more flatfer, ing than at the present period.

Since my last aunual communication, all the remains of the Public Debt have been redeemed, or money has been placed its deposite for this purpose, whenever the creditors choose to receive it. All the other pecuniary engagements of the Government base been honorably and promptly fulfilled, and there will be a balance in the Treasury, at the close of the present year, of about nineteen millions of dollars. It is believed, that after meeting all outstand ing and unexpended approprations, there will remain near eleven millions to be applied to any new objects which Congress may designate, or to the more rapid execution of the works already ih progress. In aid of these objects and to satisfy the current expenditures of the ensuing year, it is estimated that there will be received from various sources twenty millions more in 1800.

Should Coagress make new appropriations, in conformity with

the estimates which will be submitted from the proper departments

amounting to about twenty four millions, still the available surplus. at the close of the next year, after deducting all unexpended appro-This is not the first time that the Government of France printions, will probably be not less than six millions. This adm can, in my judgment, be now usefully applied to proposed improvements in our Navy Yards, and to new national works, which are not enumerated in the present estimates, or to the more rapid completion of those already begun. Either would be constitution al and useful, and would render unnecessary any attempt in que present precuniary condition, to divide the surplus revenue, for to reduce it any faster than will be affected by the existing laws. In any event, as the annual report, from the Secretary of the Treasury will enter into details showing the probability of some decreased in the revenue during the next seven years, and a very considerable deduction in 1842, it is not recommended that Congress should undertake to modify the present tariff, so as to dis turb the principles on which the compromise act was passed. Taxation on some of the articles of general consumption, which are not in competition with our own productions, may be, no coubt, en diminished as to lessen to some extent the source of this revenue. and the same of ject can also be assisted by my more liberal provisions for the subjects of public defence, which, in the present, state of our prosperity and wealth, may be expected to engage your attention. If, however, after satisfying all the demands which can arise from these sources, the unexpended balance in the Treasury should still continue to increase, it be better to hear with the evi until the great changes contemplated in our tariff laws have occurred, and shall enable us to revise the system with that care and, citcomspection which are due to so delicate and important a sub-

It is certainly our duty to diminish as far as we can the burdens of taxation, and to regard all the restrictions which are imposed on the trade and navigation of our citizens as evils which we shall mitigate whenever we are not prevented by the adverse legislation and policy of foreign nations, or those primary duties which the defenc and independence of our country enjoin upon us That we have accomplished much towards the relief of our citizens by the changes wich have accompanied the payment of the public debt. and the adoption of the revenue laws, is manifest from the fact, that compared with 1333, there is a diminution of near twenty-five millions in the last two years, and that our expenditures, independeatly of those for the public debt, have been reduced near nine millions during the same period. Let us trust, that by the consiaccord refuted the construction which was attempted to not only disavowing such a design, but in declaring that the only one which our Minister took upon himself the quest observance of economy and by harmonizing the great fire terests of agriculture, manufactures, and commerce, much more may be accomplished to diminish the hurthers of Government and to increase still further the enterprise & the patriotic affection of all class es of our civizens, and all the members of our happy confederhesis As the data which the Secretary of the Treasury will lay before you, in regard to our financial resources, are full and extended, and will afford a safe guide in your future calculations, I think it unne cessary to offer any further observations on that subject here.

Among the evidences of the increasing prosperity o the country not the least gratifying is that afforded by the receipts from the sales of the public lands, which amount, in the present year, to the unexpected sum of \$11.0 0,0 0. This circumstance attests the rapidity with which agriculture, the first and most important occupation of man, advances, and contribute to the woolfh and power of can attended territory. Being still of the opinion that it is our best policy, as far as we can, consistently with the obligations under which those lands were ceded to the United States, to promote the speedy settlement, I heg leave to call the attention of the presen