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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

To the Senate,
and H. of Representatives of the U. States:

If any People ever had cause to render up thanks to the Supreme Being for parental care and protection extended to them in all the trials and difficulties to which they have been from time to time exposed, we certainly are that people. From the first settlement of our forefathers on this continent—through the dangers attendant upon the occupation of a savage wilderness—through a long period of Colonial dependence—through the war of the Revolution—in the wisdom which led to the adoption of the existing Republican forms of Government—in the hazards incident to a war subsequently waged with one of the most powerful nations of the earth—in the increase of our population—in the spread of the arts and sciences, and in the strength and durability conferred on political institutions emanating from the People, and sustained by their will—the superintendence of an overruling Providence, has been plainly visible. As preparatory, therefore, to entering once more upon the high duties of legislation, it becomes us humbly to acknowledge our dependence upon Him, as our guide and protector, and to implore a continuance of His parental watchfulness over our beloved country. We have new cause for the expression of our gratitude, in the preservation of the health of our fellow-citizens, with some partial and local exceptions, during the past season—for the abundance with which the earth has yielded up its fruits to the labors of the husbandman—for the renewed activity which has been imparted to commerce—for the revival of trade in all its departments—for the increased rewards attendant on the exercise of the mechanic arts—for the continued growth of our population, and the rapidly reviving prosperity of the whole country. I shall be permitted to exchange congratulations with you, gentlemen of the two Houses of Congress, on these auspicious circumstances, and to assure you, in advance, of my ready disposition to concur with you in the adoption of all such measures as shall be calculated to increase the happiness of our constituents, and to advance the glory of our common country.

Since the last adjournment of Congress, the Executive has relaxed no effort to render indestructible the relations of amity which so happily exist between the United States and other countries. The treaty lately concluded with Great Britain has tended greatly to increase the good understanding which a reciprocity of interest is calculated to encourage, and it is most ardently to be hoped that nothing may transpire to interrupt the relations of amity which it is so obviously the policy of both nations to cultivate.

A question of much importance still remains to be adjusted between them. The territorial limits of the two countries in relation to what is commonly known as the Oregon territory, still remain in dispute.—The United States would be at all times indisposed to aggrandize themselves at the expense of any other nation; but while they would be restrained by principles of honor, which should govern the conduct of nations as well as that of individuals, from setting up a demand for territory which does not belong to them, they would as unwillingly consent to a surrender of their rights. After

the most rigid, and as far as practicable, un-biased examination of the subject, the United States have always contended that their rights appertain to the entire region of country lying on the Pacific, and embraced within the forty-second and fifty-fourth 40' of North latitude. This claim being controverted by Great Britain, those who have preceded the present Executive, actuated, no doubt, by an earnest desire to adjust the matter upon terms mutually satisfactory to both countries, have caused to be submitted to the British Government, propositions for settlement and final adjustment, which, however, have not proved heretofore acceptable to it. Our Minister at London has, under instructions again brought the subject to the consideration of that Government; and while nothing will be done to compromise the rights, or honor of the United States, every proper expedient will be resorted to, in order to bring the negotiation now in the progress of resumption, to a speedy and happy termination. In the meantime it is proper to remark, that many of our citizens are either already established in the territory, or are on their way thither for the purpose of forming permanent settlements, while others are preparing to follow—and in view of these facts, I must repeat the recommendation contained in previous messages, for the establishment of military posts, at such places on the line of travel, as will furnish security and protection to our hardy adventurers against hostile tribes of Indians inhabiting those extensive regions. Our laws should also follow them, so modified as the circumstances of the case may seem to require. Under the influence of our free system of Government, new republics are destined to spring up, at no distant day, on the shores of the Pacific, similar in policy and in feeling to those existing on this side of the Rocky Mountains, and giving a wider and more extensive spread to the principles of civil and religious liberty.

I am happy to inform you that the cases which have arisen, from time to time, of the detention of American vessels by British cruisers on the coast of Africa, under pretence of being engaged in the slave trade, have been placed in a fair train of adjustment. In the case of the *William & Francis*, full satisfaction will be allowed. In the case of the *Tygris* and *Seamew*, the British Government admits that satisfaction is due. In the case of the *Jones*, the sum accruing from the sale of that vessel and cargo will be paid to the owners while I cannot but flatter myself that full indemnification will be allowed for all damages sustained by the detention of the vessel—and in the case of the *Douglas*, her majesty's Government has expressed its determination to make indemnification. Strong hopes are therefore entertained, that most, if not all of these cases will be speedily adjusted. No new cases have arisen since the ratification of the Treaty of Washington; and, it is confidently anticipated, that the slave trade, under the operation of the eighth article of that treaty, will be altogether suppressed.

The occasional interruption experienced by our fellow-citizens engaged in the fisheries on the neighboring coast of Nova Scotia, has not failed to claim the attention of the Executive. Representations upon this subject have been made, but as yet no definitive answer to those representations have been received from the British Government.

Two other subjects of comparatively minor importance, but nevertheless of too much consequence to be neglected, remain still to be adjusted between the two countries. By the Treaty between the U. States and Great Britain, of July, 1815 it is provided that no higher duties shall be levied in either country on articles imported from the other, than on the same articles imported from any other

place. In 1836, rough rice, by act of Parliament, was admitted from the coast of Africa into Great Britain on the payment of a duty of one penny a quarter, while the same articles from all other countries, including the U. States, was subjected to the payment of a duty of twenty shillings a quarter. Our Minister at London has from time to time brought this subject to the consideration of the British Government, but so far without success. He is instructed to renew his representations upon it.

Some years since a claim was preferred against the British Government on the part of certain American merchants, for the return of export duties paid by them on shipments of woollen goods to the U. States, after the duty on similar articles exported to other countries had been repealed, and consequently in contravention of the commercial convention between the two nations securing to us equality in such cases. The principle on which the claim rests has long since been virtually admitted by Great Britain, but obstacles to a settlement have from time to time been interposed, so that a large portion of the amount claimed has not yet been refunded. Our Minister is now engaged in the prosecution of the claim, and I cannot but persuade myself that the British Government will no longer delay its adjustment.

I am happy to be able to say, that nothing has occurred to disturb in any degree, the relations of amity which exist between the United States and France, Austria and Russia, as well as with the other Powers of Europe, since the adjournment of Congress.—Spain has been agitated with internal convulsions for many years, from the effects of which it is to be hoped she is destined speedily to recover—when, under a more liberal system of commercial policy on her part, our trade with her may again fill its old, and so far as her continental possessions are concerned, its almost forsaken, channels, thereby adding to the mutual prosperity of the two countries.

The Germanic Association of Customs and commerce, which, since its establishment in 1833, has been steadily growing in power and importance, and consists at this time of more than twenty German States, and embraces a population of 27,000,000 of people, united for all the purposes of commercial intercourse with each other and with foreign States, offers to the latter the most valuable exchanges on principles more liberal than are offered in the fiscal system of any other European power. From its origin, the importance of the German Union has never been lost sight of by the U. States. The industry, morality, and other valuable qualities of the German nation, have always been well known, and appreciated. On this subject, I invite the attention of Congress to the report of the Secretary of State, from which it will be seen, that while our cotton is admitted free of duty, and the duty on rice has been much reduced, which has already led to a greatly increased consumption, a strong disposition has been recently evinced by that great body, to reduce, upon certain conditions, their present duty upon tobacco. This being the first intimation of a concession on this interesting subject, ever made by any European power, I cannot but regard it as well calculated to remove the only impediment which so far existed, to the most liberal commercial intercourse between us and them. In this view our Minister at Berlin, who has heretofore industriously pursued the subject, has been instructed to enter upon the negotiation of a commercial Treaty, which, while it will open new advantages to the agricultural interests of the U. States, and a more free and expanded field for commercial operations, will af-

fect injuriously no existing interest of the Union. Should the negotiation be crowned with success, its results will be communicated to both Houses of Congress.

I communicate herewith certain despatches received from our Minister at Mexico, and also a correspondence which has recently occurred between the Envoy from that Republic and the Secretary of State. It must be regarded as not a little extraordinary that the Government of Mexico, in anticipation of a public discussion, which it has been pleased to infer from newspaper publications, as likely to take place in Congress, relating to the annexation of Texas to the United States, should have so far anticipated the result of such discussion as to have announced its determination to visit any such anticipated decision by a formal declaration of war against the United States. If designed to prevent Congress from introducing that question, as a fit subject for its calm deliberation and final judgement, the Executive has no reason to doubt that it will entirely fail of its object. The Representatives of a brave and patriotic people will suffer no apprehension of future consequences to embarrass them in the course of their proposed deliberations. Nor will the Executive department of the Government fail, for any such cause, to discharge its whole duty to the country.

The war which has existed for so long a time between Mexico and Texas has, since the battle of San Jacinto, consisted for the most part of predatory incursions, which, while they have been attended with much of suffering to individuals, and have kept the borders of the two countries in a state of constant alarm, have failed to approach to any definitive result.—Mexico has fitted out no formidable army by land or by sea for the subjugation of Texas. Eight years have now elapsed since Texas declared her independence of Mexico, & during that time she has been recognized as a sovereign power by several of the principal civilized States. Mexico, nevertheless, perseveres in her plans of re-conquest, and refuses to recognize her independence. The predatory incursions to which I have alluded, have been attended, in one instance, with the breaking up of the Courts of Justice, by the seizing upon the persons of the judges, jury and officers of the court, and dragging them, along with unarmed, and therefore non-combatant citizens, into a cruel and oppressive bondage, thus leaving crime to go unpunished and immorality to pass unreprieved. A border warfare is ever more to be deprecated, and over such a war as has existed for so many years between these two States, humanity has had great cause to lament. Nor is such a condition of things to be deplored only because of the individual suffering attendant upon it. The effects are far more extensive. The Creator of the Universe has given man the Earth for his resting place, and its fruits for his subsistence. Whatever, therefore, shall make the first or any part of it a scene of desolation, affects injuriously his heritage, and may be regarded as a general calamity. Wars may sometime be necessary; but all nations have a common interest in bringing them speedily to a close. The U. S. have an immediate interest in seeing an end put to the state of hostilities existing between Mexico and Texas. They are our neighbors, of the same continent, with whom we are not only desirous of cultivating the relations of amity, but of the most extended commercial intercourse, and to practice all the rights of a neighborhood hospitality. Our own interests are deeply involved in the matter, since, however neutral may be our course of policy, we cannot hope to escape the effects of a spirit of jealousy on the part of both of the powers. Nor can this Government be indifferent to the fact that a warfare, such as is waged between those two nations, is calculated to weaken both powers, and finally to render them, and especially the weaker of the two, the subjects of interference on the part of stronger and more powerful nations, which, intent only on advancing their own peculiar views, may sooner or later attempt to bring about a compliance with terms, as the condition of their interposition, alike derogatory to the nation granting them and detrimental to the interests of the U. States. We could not be expected quietly to permit any such interference to our disadvantage.

(See 4th page.)