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OFFICIAL ORGAN.

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE. To the Senate and House of Representatives: A year of peace and general prosperity to this nation has passed since the last assembling of Congress.

gress. In an early stage of the contest the authorities of Spain inaugurated a system of arbitrary arrests, of close confinement, and military trials and executions of persons suspected of complicity with the insurgents and of summary embargo of their properties and sequestration of their revenues by executive warrant.

It possesses the richest soil, the best and most capacious harbors, the most salubrious climate, and the most valuable products of the forest, mine and soil of any of the West India Islands.

tending to Chinese waters, would neutralize the Christian influence and power, and that the time was coming when the superstitious masses might expel all foreigners, and restore mandarin influence.

pairing damages, or purchasing wood and obtaining water; that they have no right to enter at the British custom houses, or to trade there, except in the purchase of wood and water, and that they must depart within twenty-four hours after notice to leave.

usual upon strict law, but it is equally difficult to deny that in so doing she exercises harshly an extremely hard law; secondly, that her conduct with respect to the navigation of the St. Lawrence is in glaring and discreditable inconsistency with her conduct with respect to the navigation of the Mississippi.

THE SPANISH AND AMERICAN CLAIMS COMMISSION. In the negotiations thus opened and pending there the United States only claimed that for the future, the rights secured to their citizens by treaty should be respected, and that a joint tribunal should be established in the United States with full jurisdiction over all such claims.

THE NORTHERN BOUNDARY QUESTION. In April last, while engaged in locating a military reservation near Pembina, a corps of surveyors discovered that the commonly received boundary line between the United States and the British possessions, at that place, is about 4,700 feet south of the true position of the 44th parallel.

THE ALABAMA CLAIMS. I regret to say that no conclusion has been reached for the adjustment of the claims against Great Britain, growing out of the course adopted by that government during the rebellion.

NAVIGATION OF THE ST. LAWRENCE. A like unfriendly disposition has been manifested on the part of Canada in the maintenance of a claim of right to exclude the citizens of the United States from the navigation of the St. Lawrence.

OUR COMMERCIAL. Our depressed commerce is a subject to which I called your special attention at the last session, and suggested that we should have to look more to the countries south of us and to China and Japan for its revival.

NECESSITY FOR A NEW BUILDING FOR THE STATE DEPARTMENT. The condition of the archives at the Department of State called for early action of Congress. The building now rented by that Department is a frail structure, at an inconvenient location, and in a very bad state of repair.

PROTECTION TO FOREIGNERS IN FRANCE. Soon after the existing war broke out in Europe, the protection of the U. States Minister in Paris was invoked in favor of the North Germans domiciled in French territory.

SOUTH AMERICAN PEACE CONFERENCE. The long deferred peace conference between Spain and the allied South American Governments has been inaugurated in Washington under the auspices of the United States.

THE CANADIAN FISHERIES QUESTION. The course pursued by the Canadian authorities towards the fishermen of the United States, during the past season, has not been marked by a friendly feeling.

EXTRADITION TREATIES. It is the obvious interest, especially of neighboring nations, to provide against impunity to those who may have committed high crimes within their borders.

REDUCTION OF TAXATION. The tax collected from the people has been reduced more than eighty millions of dollars per annum. By attending to our business course there is no reason why, in a few short years the National tax gatherer may not disappear from the door of the citizen almost entirely.

THE CUBAN WAR. It is not understood that the condition of the insurrection in Cuba has materially changed since the close of the last session of Congress.

RECOGNITION OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC. As soon as I learned that a Republic had been proclaimed in Paris, and that the people of France had acquiesced in the change, the Minister of the United States was directed, by telegraph, to recognize it, and tender my congratulations to those of the people of the United States.

THE TEN-TSIN MASSACRE. The massacres of French and Russian residents at Tien-Tsin (China), under circumstances of great barbarity, were supposed, by some, to have been premeditated and to indicate a purpose among the populace to exterminate foreigners in the Chinese Empire.

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