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CHAS. I. GRADY, Editor and Proprietor, Wilmington, N. C.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

To the Senate and House of Representatives : ear of peace and general prosperity to

hues by executive warract. During hues by executive warract. During the persons of the set in is founded on an alleged construc-property of citizens of the United States, which we consume so largely and do not property of citizens of the United States and Spain. Representations of injurice re-sulting to several persons claiming to be citizens of the Entited States, by reason of the Entities and the transmission of the Entities and the Entities and the transmission of the Entities and the Entits and the Entities and the En

extraordinary and arbitrary unctions exer- can be developed, will give renumerative cised by the Executive power in Cuba, we wages to tens of thousands of laborers not were obliged to make our complaints at now upon the island. This labor will take

MISSION.

In the negotiations thus opened and cured to their citizens by treaty should be respected, and that a joint tribunal should be established in the United States with full urisdiction over all such claims; before such a tribunal each claimant be required to prove his case. On the other hand, Spain would be at liberty to traverse every fact, and thus complete equity would be done. A case which at one time threatened seriously to effect the relations of the United States and Spain has already been lisposed of. In this way the claim of the owners of the Col. Lloyd Aspinwall, for the illegal seizure and detention of that vessel, was referred to arbitration by mutual consent and resulted in an award to the United States for the sum of \$10,702 50 in gold. Another and long pending claim of a like nature-that of a whale ship-has been dis posed of by friendly arbitration during the present year. It was referred by joint consent of the United States and Brazil to the decision of Sir Edward Thornton, her Brittanic Majesty's Minister at Washington, who undertook the task, and, examining the mass of correspondence and testimony submitted by the two Governments, awarded to the United States the sum of \$174,099 in gold, which has since been paid by the Imperial Government. These recent examples show that the mode which the United States have proposed to Spain for adjusting the pending claims is just, and one that may be agreed to by cither nation without unfortunately be without result, it will then

found to be withdrawn in view of the favor-able situation in Cuba, which, however, did not lead to a revocation or suspension of ment, under which her immense resources

Madrid. THE SPANISH AND AMERICAN CLAIMS COM- advantage of every available means of trans-portation to abandon the adjacent islands and seek the blessings of freedom and its sequence each inhabitant receiving the re- a military reservation near Pembina, a corps fiscated with her cargo. ward of his own labors. Porto Rico and of surveyors discovered that the commonly This proposition, which is identical with herence. pending there the United States only Cuba will have to abolish slavery as a received boundary line between the United the construction now put upon the language measure of self-preservation to retain their States and the British possessions, at that of the Convention, was emphatically rejected laborers. San Domingo will become a place, is about 4,700 feet south of the true by the American Commissioners, and, large consumer of the products of the north-ern farms and manufactories. The cheap line, when run on what is now supposed to line supposed to line at the last ses-ern farms and manufactories. The cheap line when run on what is now supposed to line at the last ses-ern farms and manufactories. The cheap line when run on what is now supposed to line at the last ses-ern farms and manufactories. The cheap line when run on what is now supposed to line at the last ses-ern farms and manufactories. The cheap line when run on what is now supposed to line at the last ses-ern farms and manufactories. The cheap line when run on what is now supposed to line at the last ses-ern farms and manufactories. The cheap line at the run on what is now supposed to line at the last ses-ern farms and manufactories. The cheap line at the run on what is now supposed to line at the run on what rates at which her citizens can be furnished be the true position of that parallel, would in the Convention, was substituted. If, and to China and Japan for its revival. Our rep-with food tools and machinery, will make leave the Fort of the Hudson Bay Compa- however it be said that this claim is tound. rescutatives to all these Governments have exwith food, tools and machinery, will make leave the Fort of the Hudson Bay Compa- however, it be said that this claim is foundit necessary that contiguous islands should ny at Pembina within the territory of the ed on provincial or colonial statutes, and tween the United States and the countries to have the same advantages in order to com- United States. This information being not upon the Convention, this Government which they are accredited. But the fact exists pete in the production of sugar, coffee, to- | communicated. to the British Government, | cannot but regard them as unfriendly, and bacco, tropical fruits, &c This will open I was requested to consent, and did consent, in contravention of the spirit, if not of the eign bottoms, and while this state of affairs exto us a still wider market for our products. that the British occupation of the fort of letter of the treaty, for the faithful execu- merce of the world. That between the Pacific The production of our own supply of these | the Hudson's Bay Company should continue | tion of which the Imperial Government is articles will cat off more than \$100,000,000 | for the present. I deem it important, how- alone responsible. of our anoual imports, besides largely in- ever, that this part of the boundary line with a balance of trade against us, includ. such a commission on the part of the United you to confer upon the Executive the ing interest on bonds held by foreigners and States, and recommend that an appropria- power to suspend, by proclamation, the money spent by our citizens traveling in foreasy to see how this result is to be otherwise | tains to the Georgian Bay. It should now | accompliched. The acquisition of San Domingo is an adherence to the Monroe doctrine; it is a measure of National protection; it is asserting our just claim to a controlling influence over the great commercial 'traffic soon to flow from the West to the East by way of the Isthmus of Darien; it is to build up our merchant marine; it is to furnish new markets for the products of our farms, shops, and manufactories; it is to make slavery insupportable in Cuba and Porto Rico at once, and ultimately so in Brazil; it is to settle the unhappy condition of Cuba and rope, the protection of the U. States Minister erate demand will be acceded to by Spain to end an exterminating conflict; it is to provide the best means for paying our honest debts without overtaxing the people; it become my duty to communicate that fact is to furnish our citizens with the necessaries of every day life at cheaper rates than ever before, and it is, in fine, a rapid stride towards that greatness which the intelligence, industry and enterprise of the citizens of the United States entitle this councan Governments has been inaugurated in try to assume among nations. In view of Washington under the auspices of the the importance of this question, I earnestly United States. Pursuant to the recommen- urge upon Congress early action, expressive dation contained in the resolution of the of its views, as to the best means of acquir-House of Representatives of the 17th De- ing San Domingo. My suggestion is that, cember, 1866, the Executive Department of by joint resolution of the two Houses of the Government offered its friendly offices | Congress, the Executive be authorized to for the promotion of peace between Spain appoint a commission to negotiate a treaty and the allied Republics. Hesitations oc- with the authorities of San Domingo for As soon as I learned that a Republic had curred to the acceptance of the offer. Uni- the acquisition of that island, and that an been proclaimed at Paris, and that the people | mately a conference was arranged and open- appropriation be made to defray the expenof France had acquiesced in the change, the ed in this city on the 29th October last, at ses of such commission. The question may Minister of the United States was directed, which I authorized the Secretary of State then be determined either by the action of by telegraph, to recognize it, and tender my to preside. It was attended by Ministers of the two Houses of Congress upon a resolucongratulations, and those of the people of Spain, Peru, Chili and Ecuador. In conse- tion of annexation, as in the case of the acthe United States. The re establishment in quence of the absence of a representative quisition of Texas. So convinced am I of ted States, during the past season, has not men to be that the inhabitants of a country France of a system of government discon- from Bolivia, the Conference adjourned un- the advantages to flow from the acquisition been marked by a friendly feeling. By the through which a navigable river passes hected with the dynastic traditions of Eu til his attendance from that Republic, or of San Domingo, and of the great disadvan-first article of the Convention of 1818, be-hected with the dynastic traditions of Eu til his attendance from that Republic, or of San Domingo, and of the great disadvan-items, 18972, 127 56. In this estimate, however, rope, appeared to be a proper subject for other measures could be adopted towards tages, I might almost say the calamities, to tween Great Britain and the United States, tion of that river to and into the sea, even the felicitations of Americans. Should the compassing its object. The allied and other flow from non-acquisition, that I believe it was agreed that the "inhabitants" of the though passing through the territories of, present struggle result in attaching the Republics of Spanish origin may see in this the subject has only to be investigated to United States should have, forever, in com- another Power. This right does not exhearts of the French to our simpler forms of representative Government, it will be a subject of still further satisfaction to our While we make no effort to im and of preserving their respective territo- pecially upon the revenue of the United named in the convention, within three miles regulations relative to the police of the pose our institutions upon the inhabitants rial integrity, and of our sincere wish to States, of the Mexican Gov- of parts of the British coast, it has been the navigation as may be reasonably necessary, of other countries, and while we adhere to extend our own commercial relations with ernment in excepting from import duties a custom for many years to give to intending but those regulations should be framed in a our traditional neutrality in civil contests them. The time is not far distant when, in large tract of its territory on our borders, fishermen of the United States, a reasonable liberal spirit of comity, and should not imelsewhere, we cannot be indifferent to the the natural course of events, the European have not only been fruitless, but that it is warning of their violation of the technical pose needless business upon the commerce spread of American' political ideas in a political connection with this Continent even proposed in that country to extend the rights of Great Britain. The Imperial Gov-. which has the right of transit. It has been great and highly civilized country like will cease. Our policy should be shaped, limits within which the privileges adverted in view of this, so as to ally the commercial to has hitherto been enjoyed. The expediinterests of the Spanish American States | ency of taking into your serious consideration proper measures for countervailing the policy referred to will, it is presumed, en-EXTRADITION TREATIES.

treaty of 1795, between the United States and Spain. Representations of injuries re-sulting to several persons claiming to be citizens of the United States, by reason of such violations, were made to the Spanish Governmeat. From April, 1869, to June last the Spanish Minister at Washingtoh had been clothed with limited power toward redressing such wrongs. That power was found to be withdrawn in view of the favor. The ratifications of the Naturalization Convention between Great Britain and the Unied States have also been exchanged during recess, and thus a long standing dispute beween the two governments has been settled in accordance with the principle always contended for by the United States.

THE NORTHERN BOUNDARY QUESTION.

States.

Commissioners proposed to expressly ex-clude the fishermen of the United States from the privilege of carrying on trade with any of Her Brittanic Majesty's subjects re-United States. The whole nation is intersiding within the limits assigned for their use, and also, that it should not be lawful the agricultural States of the West to the fcr any vessels of the United States, engaged in said fishery, to have on board any goods, wates or merchandise, whatever, except labor; to the inhabitants of the seaboard it such as may be necessary for the prosecu-tion of their voyages, to and from said fish-crease to the annual surplus of wealth. It ing grounds; and any vessel of the United is to be hoped that the government of Great States which shall contravene this regula- Britain will see the justice of abandoning In April last, while engaged in locating tion may be seized, condemned and con- the narrow and inconsistent claim to which her Canadian Provinces have urged her adin the section for the section of section

OUR COMMERCE.

this nation has passed since the last assembling of Congress. We have, through a kind Providence, been blessed with abundant crops, and have been spared from com plications and war with foreign nations .-In our midst comparative harmony has been restored. It is to be regretted, however, that a free exercise of the elective franchise has, by violence and intimidation, been denied to citizens, in exceptional cases, in several of the States lately in rebellion, and the verdict of the people has thereby been reversed. The States of Virginia, Mississippl and Texas have been restored to representation in our National Councils. Georgia is the only State now without representation in Congress. She may be confidently expected to take her place there also at the beginning of the New Year, and then let us hope, will be completed the work of Reconstruction. With an acquiescence on the bart of the whole people in the National obligation to p y the public debt, created as the price of our Union, and the pensions to our disabled soldiers and sailors, and their widows and orphans, and in the changes to the Constitution which have been made necessary by a great rebellion, there is no reason why we should not advance in material prosperity and happiness as no other nation ever has done after so protracted and devastating a war.

PROTECTION TO FOREIGNERS IN FRANCE. Soon after the existing war broke out in Eu- dishonor. It is to be hoped that this modin Paris was invoked in favor of the North | without further delay. If the negotiations Germans domiciled in French territory .---Instructions were issued to grant this pro tection. This has been followed by an ex- to Congress and invite its action on the subtension of American protection to citizens ject. of Saxony, Hesse and Saxe Coburg, Gotha, Colombia, Portugal, Uruguay, the Domini-" can Republic, Ecuador, Chili, Paraguay and Venezuela in Paris. The charge was an onerous one, requiring constant and severe labor, as well as the exercise of patience, prudence and good judgment. It has been performed to the entire satisfaction of this Government, and, as I am officially informed, equally so to the satisfaction of the Government of North Germany.

RECOGNITION OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC.

France.

SOUTH AMERICAN PEACE CONFERENCE.

The long deferred peace conference between Spain and the allied South Amerimore closely, and thus give the United States all the pre-eminence and all the advantage which Mr. Monroe and Mr. Clay | gage your earnest attention. contemplated when they proposed to join in a Congress at Panama.

tion be made for that purpose. The land be, in like manner, marked from the Lake Mountains.

THE ALABAMA CLAIMS.

I regret to say that no conclusion has been eached for the adjustment of the claims against Great Britain, growing out of the course adopted by that government during the rebellion. The Capinet of London, so far as its views have been expressed, does not appear to be willing to concede that her Majesty's government was guilty of any negligence, or did or permitted any act durng the war by which the United States has any justifiable complaint. Our firm and unalterable convictions are directly the reverse. I therefore recommend to Congress to authorize the appoinment of a commisto the representative of Her Majesty at Washington, and that authority of these government shall have the ownership of the control of all the demands against Great Britain. It cannot be necessary to add that, whenever Her Majesty's government shall entertain a desire for a full and triendly adwill enter upon their consideration, with an earnest desire for conclusion, consistent with the honor and dignity of both nations.

THE CANADIAN FISHERIES QUESTION.

The course pursued by the Canadian au-

Anticipating that an attempt may possibly creasing our exports. With such a picture, should be definitely fixed by a joint com-it is casy enough to see how our large debt mission of the two governments, and I subabroad is ultimately to be extinguished, mit herewith estimates of the expenses of acts towards our fishermen, I recommend can compete with forsign ships in the carrying with a balance of trade against no includ, such a commission on the part of the United you to confer upon the Executive the power to suspend, by proclamation, the operation of the laws authorizing the eign lands, equal to the entire yield of the boundary has already been fixed and mark-precious metals in this country. It is not so ed, from the summit of the Rocky Moun-bond across the territory of the United bond across the territory of the United. States to Canada; and further, should such Treasury, I hope such encouragement will be an extreme measure become necessary, to given as will secure American shipping on the of the Woods to the summit of the Rocky suspend the operation of any laws whereby high seas and American ship-building at home. vessels of the Dominion of Canada are per- NECESSITY FOR A NEW BUILDING FOR THE mitted to enter the waters of the United

NAVIGATION OF THE ST. LAWRENCE.

A like unfriendly disposition has been manifested on the part of Canada in the other Departments. It is ill-adapted to the the maintenance of a claim of right to ex- purpose for which it is used; has not capacity the maintenance of a claim of right to exclude the citizens of the United States from the navigation of the St. Lawrence. This river constitutes a natural outlet to the in the neighborhood, leave but little hope of ocean for eight States, with an aggregate safety, for either the building or its contents, in population of about 17,600,000 inhabitants, and with an aggregate tonnage of 661,367 and with an aggregate tonnage of 661,367 original acts and resolutions of Congress; of the tons upon the waters which discharge into historic records of the Revolution and of the it. The foreign commerce of our ports on Confederation; of the whole series of diplomation sion to take proof of the amounts and the ownership of these several claims on notice and the major part of it is done in British and papers left with that Department when it bottoms. If the American seamen be ex- was the principal depository of the Govermental cluded from this natural avenue to the archives. claims by the United States, so that the ocean, the monopoly of the direct commerce of the lake ports with the Atlantic would private claims as well as the responsible be in foreign hands, their vessels on trans-Atlantic voyages having an access te our Lake ports, which would be denied to American vessels on similar voyages. To state such a proposition is to refute its justice. During the Administration of Mr. John Quincy Adams, Mr. Clay unanswerably justment of these claims, the United States justice. During the Administration of Mr. John Quincy Adams, Mr. Clay unanswerably demonstrated the natural rights of the citizens of the United States to the navigation of the river, claiming that the act of the Congress of Vienna in opening the Rhine and other rivers to all nations showed the thorities towards the fishermen of the Uni- judgment of European jurists and states-

Our depressed commerce is a subject to which that the carrying trade is almost entirely in for-States, China and Japan is about all the carrying trade now conducted in American vessels. would recommend a liberal policy towards that line of American steamers, one that will insure than in f reign countries that, without assist-ance from the Government, they cannot be suc-cessfully built here. There will be severa pro-positions laid before Congress, in the course of the present session, looking to a remedy for this evil. If it should be at some cost to the National

STATE DEPARTMENT.

The condition of the archives at the Department of State calls for the early action of Con-gress. The building now rented by that Department is a frail structure, at an inconvenient distance from the Executive Mansion and from to accommodate the archives, and is not fire-proof. Its remote situation, its slender construction, and the absence of a supply of wate case of the accident of a fire. Its destruction would involve the loss of the rolls containing the and Consular archives since the adoption of the

I recommend an appropriation for the cor struction of a building for the Department o State.

TRANSFER OF BUREAUS RECOMMENDED.

I recommend to your reconsideration the pro priety of transferring to the Department of the the Interior Department to the War Department, the Pension Bareau, so far, as it regulates, the payment of soldiers' pensions. I would further recommend that the payment of naval pensions be transferred to one of the bureaus of the Navy Department.

ESTIMATES FOR THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR.

The estimates for the expenses of the govern ment for the next fiscal year, are \$18,244,346 01 less than for the current one, but exceed the apis included \$22 338,:75 37 for public works heretofore begun under Congressional provisions, and of which only so much is asked as Congress months of 1870 the same relative value has been shout 115. The approach to a specie basis is very greatifying, but the fact cannot be denied that the instability of the value of our currency is prejudicial to our prosperity, and tends to keep up prices to the detriment of trade. The evils of a depreciated and flictuating currency are so great that now, when the premium on gold has fallen so much, it would seem that the time has arrived when, by wise and prudential legislation, Congress should look to a policy which would place our currency at par with gold at no distant day. and forsever infamilia

THE NON-INTERVENTION POLICY.

were asked by the new Govern-We ment to use our good offices, jointly with those of European powers, in the interests of peace: Answer was made that the establisted policy and the true interests of the United States forbade them to interfere in European questions jointly with European Powers. I ascertained, informally and unofficially, that the Government of North Germany was rot then disposed to listen to such representations from any Powers, and though learnestly wishing to see the blessings of peace restored to the belligerents, with all of whom the United States are on terms of friendship, I declined, on the part of this Government, to take a step which could only result in injury to our true interests, without advancing the object for which our intervention was invoked .--Should the time come when the action of the United States can hasten the return of peace by a single hour, that action will be heartily taken. I deem it prudent, in view of the number of persons of German and French birth living in the United States, to issue, soon after the official notice of a state of war had been received from both belligerents, a proclamation defining the duty of the U. States as a neutral, and the obligations of persons residing within their territory to observe our laws, and the laws of nations. This proclamation was followed by others as circumstances seemed to call for them. The people, thus acquainted, in advance, with their duties and obligations, have as sisted in preventing violations of the neutrality of the United States.

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 Con-

SAN DOMINGO TREATY.

During the last session of Congress a treaty for the annexation of the Republic of SanDomingo to the U. States failed to receive the two-thirds vote. I was thoroughly convincedthat the best interests of this country, commercially, demanded its ratification. Time has only confirmed me in this view, and I now firmly believe, the moment it is known that the United States have entirely abandoned the project of accepting, as a part of its territory, the Island of San Domingo, a free port will be negotiated for by European nations.

In the Bay of Samana a large commercial city will spring up, to which we will be a tributary without receiving corresponding

Sea and the Isthmus transit of commerce. sessed with the idea that this contest, ex- except for the purposes of shelter and re- deny that Great Britain may ground her re-

It is the obvious interest, especially of neighboring nations, to provide against impunity to those who may have committed may have sought refuge abroad for this purpose. Extradition treaties have been concluded with several of the Central American Republics and others are in progress. VENEZUNLIAN CLAIMS.

The sense of Congress is desired, as early as may be convenient, upon the preceedings of the commission upon claims, against Venezuela, as communicated in my messages of March 31, 1869, and March 31, 1870. It has not been deemed advisable to distribute any of the money which has been recovered from that government until Congress shall have acted upon the subject.

ernment is understood to have delegated found in practice more advantageous to arthe whole, or a share of its jurisdiction or range these regulations by mutual agree-

control of these in shore fishing grounds to ment. The United States are ready to the Colonial authority, known as the Do- make any reasonable arrangement as to the minion of Canada, and this semi-indepen- police of the St. Lawrence which may be dent, but irresponsible agent has exercised suggested by Great Britain. If the claim its delegated powers in an unfriendly way. | made by Mr. Clay was just when the popu-Vessels have been seized without notice or | lation of States bordering on the shores of

warning, in violation of the custom previ- the Lakes was 3,400,000, it now derives ously prevailing, and have been taken into greater force and equity from the increased high crimes within their borders, and who the Colonial ports, their voyages broken, population, wealth, production and tonnage National tax gatherer may not disappear from the and the vessels condemned. There is reaof the States on the Canadian border. Since Mr. Clay advanced his argument in behalf son to believe that this unfriendly and vexatious treatment was designed to bear harsh- of our right, the principle for which he contended has been frequently and by ly upon the hardy fishermen of the United various nations recognized by law or by States, with a view to political effect on this treaty, and has been extended to several Government. The statutes of the Dominion of Canada assume a still broader and more other great rivers. By the treaty concluded untenable jurisdiction over the vessels of the at Mayence, in 1831, the Rhine was declared United Statas. They authorize officers, or free from the point where it is first navigable persons, to bring vessels, hovering within to the sea. By the Convention between three marine miles of any of the coasts, bays, Spain and Portugal, concluded in 1885, the creeks, and harbors of Canada, into port to navigation of the Douro throughout its search the cargo, to examine the master on whole extent was made free for the suboath touching the cargo and voyage, and to jects of both Crowns. In 1953 the Argentine inflict upon him a heavy pecuniary penalty Confederation, by treaty, threw open the benefits, and then will be seen the folly of our rejecting so great a prize. The Gor-rement of San Domingo has voluntarily sought this annexation. It is a weak power, sous, and yet possessing one of the riberts territories under the sun. It is capatife of supporting a population of 10,000,000 of people in luxary. The people of San Do-mingo are not capable of maintaining them-selves in this present conditions, and must have and our progress and civilization. Shall we refuse ther? The acquisition of San Domingo is desir. The acquisition of San Domingo is desir. The acquisition of San Domingo is desir. Shall we refuse ther? The acquisition of San Domingo is desir. The acquisition of San Domingo is desire. The acquisition of San Domingo is de free navigation of the Parana and Uruguay if true answers are not given, and if such a

REDUCTION OF TAXATION.

The tax collected from the people has been reduced more than eighty millions of dollars per annum. By steadiness in our present course there is no reason why, in a few short years the National tax gatherer may not disappear from the door of the oitizen simost entirely. With the re-venue stamp dispensed by postmasters in every commutity; a tax upon liq form of all sorts, and tobacco in all its forms, and by a wise adjustment of the tariff which witp it a duty only upon those articles which we could dispense with, known as luxuries, and op those which we use more of than the produce revenue choice which we use more of than we produce, revenue enough may be raised, after a few years of peace and concent reduction of in-debtedness, to fulfill all our obligations. A furth-er reduction of expenses, in addition to a reduction of interest account, may be relied on to make this practicable. Revenue reform, if it make this practicable. Revenue reform, if it means this, has my hearty support. If it implies a collection of all the revenue for the support of Government; for the payment of principal and interest of the public debt, pensions, &c., by di-rectly taking the people, then I am against rev-onue reform, and couff lently believe the people are with me. If it means failure to provide the