

Congress.

On Monday, the 3d inst, agreeable to the Constitution, the Congress of the United States assembled at the Capitol in Washington City. It was the fullest attendance on record. In the Senate, the Vice-President in the Chair, every member was present but two—in the House, but seven absent. The election of Speaker in the House of Representatives, resulted in the choice of Andrew Stevenson, of Va. who received a majority of votes on the first ballot, as follows: A. Stevenson, 104; J. W. Taylor, of N. Y. 94; P. P. Barbour, of Va. 4; scattering, 4.

On Tuesday, the House received from the President of the U. States, the following

MESSAGE:

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the U. S.
*Fellow-citizens of the Senate,
and of the H. of Representatives:*

A revolution of the seasons has nearly been completed since the Representatives of the People and States of this Union were last assembled at this place, to deliberate and to act upon the common important interests of their constituents. In that interval, the never-slumbering eye of a wise and beneficent Providence, has continued its guardian care over the welfare of our beloved country. The blessing of health has continued generally to prevail throughout the land. The blessing of peace with our brethren of the human race, has been enjoyed without interruption; internal quiet has left our fellow-citizens in the full enjoyment of all their rights, and in the free exercise of all their faculties, to pursue the impulse of their nature, and the obligation of their duty, in the improvement of their own condition. The productions of the soil, the exchanges of commerce, the vivifying labors of human industry, have combined to mingle in our cup a portion of enjoyment as large and liberal as the indulgence of heaven has perhaps ever granted to the imperfect state of man upon earth; and as the purest of human felicity consists in its participation with others, it is no small addition to the sum of our national happiness, at this time, that peace and prosperity prevail to a degree seldom experienced, over the whole habitable globe; presenting, though as yet with painful exceptions, a foretaste of that blessed period of promise, when the lion shall lie down with the lamb, and wars shall be no more. To preserve, to improve, and to perpetuate the sources, and to direct, in their most effective channels, the streams which contribute to the public weal, is the purpose for which government was instituted. Objects of deep importance to the welfare of the Union are constantly recurring, to demand the attention of the Federal Legislature; and they call with accumulated interest, at the first meeting of the two Houses, after their periodical renovation. To present to their consideration, from time to time, subjects in which the interests of the nation

are most deeply involved, and for the regulation of which the legislative will is alone competent, is a duty prescribed by the Constitution, in the performance of which the first meeting of the new Congress is a period eminently appropriate, and which it is now my purpose to discharge.

Our relations of friendship with the other Nations of the earth, political and commercial, have been preserved unimpaired; and the opportunities to improve them have been cultivated with anxious and unremitting attention. A negotiation upon subjects of high and delicate interest with the government of Great Britain, has terminated in the adjustment of some of the questions at issue upon satisfactory terms, and the postponement of others for future discussion and agreement.

[The President then details the existing state of our relations with Great Britain—the convention under the first article of the treaty of Ghent has been satisfactorily adjusted; the conventions regulating the direct commercial intercourse between the U. States and Great Britain, upon terms of the most perfect reciprocity, and effecting a temporary compromise of the respective rights and claims to territory westward of the Rocky mountains, have been continued for an indefinite period. The north-east boundary line is unsettled, the Commissioners of each party having finally disagreed, and it is to be decided by an arbitrator; a special agent has been sent by our government to visit the spot in the state of Maine, where the recent alleged outrages have occurred, the result of whose enquiries when received will be transmitted to Congress. In reference to the trade with the British Colonies, the President says:]

The British Government have not only declined negotiation upon this subject, but, by the principle they have assumed with reference to it, have precluded even the means of negotiation. It becomes not the self-respect of the United States, either to solicit gratuitous favors, or to accept as the grant of a favor, that for which an ample equivalent is exacted. It remains to be determined by the respective governments, whether the trade shall be opened by acts of reciprocal legislation. It is in the mean time satisfactory to know, that apart from the inconveniences resulting from a disturbance of the usual channels of trade, no loss has been sustained by the commerce, the navigation, or the revenue of the U. States, and none of magnitude is to be apprehended from this existing state of mutual interdict.

With the other maritime and commercial Nations of Europe, our intercourse continues with little variation.

[A fresh effort has recently been made by the minister of the U. S. residing at Paris, to obtain a reparation of wrongs suffered by our commercial citizens; but no definitive answer has yet been given by the French government. A new treaty of amity, navigation and commerce has been concluded with Sweden; and one with the Hanseatic Republics of Hamburg, Lubeck and Bremen is under consideration. Our friendly relations with Russia continue unabated. A letter of thanks for the sympathies manifested by the people and government of the U. S. has been received from the President of the Greek nation. In the American hemisphere the cause of freedom and independence has continued to prevail; but it is with some concern that the President has observed indications of intestine divisions in some of the Re-

publics of the South, and appearances of less union with one another than is believed to be the interest of all. Among the results of this state of things has been that the treaties concluded at Panama, do not appear to have been ratified by the contracting parties, and that the meeting of the Congress of Tacubaya has been indefinitely postponed—one of our two ministers to that Congress has returned to the U. States, while the minister charged with the ordinary mission to Mexico, remains authorized to attend at the conferences of the Congress whenever they may be resumed. The outrages committed by the Brazilian officers have not been sustained by the government of Brazil; and, assurances having been given that indemnity should be promptly made for all injuries inflicted on citizens of the U. States, a temporary commission a Charge d'Affaires to that country has been issued.]

Turning from the momentous concerns of our Union in its intercourse with foreign nations, to those of the deepest interest in the administration of our internal affairs, we find the revenues of the present year corresponding as nearly as might be expected with the anticipations of the last, and presenting an aspect still more favorable in the promise of the next. The balance in the Treasury on the first of January last, was \$6,358,686 18. The receipts from that day to the 30th of September last, as near as the returns of them yet received can show, amount to \$16,336,581 32. The receipts of the present quarter, estimated at \$4,515,000, added to the above, form an aggregate of \$21,400,000 of receipts. The expenditures of the year may perhaps amount to \$22,300,000, presenting a small excess over the receipts. But of these twenty-two millions, upwards of six have been applied to the discharge of the principal of the public debt; the whole amount of which, approaching seventy-four millions on the first of January last, will on the first day of next year fall short of sixty-seven millions and a half. The balance in the Treasury on the first of January next, it is expected, will exceed \$5,450,000; a sum exceeding that of the first of January, 1825, though falling short of that exhibited on the first of January last.

It was foreseen that the revenue of the present year would not equal that of the last, which had itself been less than that of the next preceding year. But the hope has been realized which was entertained, that these deficiencies would in nowise interrupt the steady operation of the discharge of the public debt by the annual ten millions devoted to that object by the act of 3d March, 1817.

The amount of duties secured on merchandise imported from the commencement of the year until the 30th of September last, is \$21,226,000, and the probable amount of that which will be secured during the remainder of the year, is \$5,774,000; forming a total sum of twenty-seven millions. With the allowances for drawbacks and contingent deficiencies which may occur, though not specially foreseen, we may safely estimate the receipts of the ensuing year at \$22,300,000; a revenue for the next equal to the expenditure of the present year.

[The observance of the strictest economy in the application of the public

funds is recommended, that the nation may be enabled speedily to effect a total discharge of the public debt.]

The condition of the Army, and of all the branches of the public service under the superintendance of the Secretary of War, will be seen by the report from that officer, and the documents with which it is accompanied.

[The documents here referred to, embrace the operations of the Army against the Winnebago Indians* last summer—and stating that every appearance of proposed hostility from the North-western Indians have subsided. Also, the operations of the two Corps of Engineers—and suggesting the expediency of providing for additional numbers of Officers in those Corps.]

The report of the Secretary of the Navy, and those from the subordinate branches of the Military Departments, exhibit to Congress, in minute detail, the present condition of the public establishments dependent upon them; the execution of the acts of Congress relating to them, and the views of the officers engaged in the several branches of the service, concerning the improvements which may tend to their perfection.

The report from the Post Master General exhibits the condition of that department, as highly satisfactory for the present, and still more promising for the future. Its receipts for the year ending the first of July last amounted to \$1,473,551, and exceeded its expenditures by upwards of \$100,000.—It cannot be an over sanguine estimate to predict, that in less than ten years, of which one half have elapsed, the receipts will have been more than doubled. In the mean time, a reduced expenditure upon established routes has kept pace with increased facilities of public accommodation, and additional services have been obtained at reduced rates of compensation. Within the last year the transportation of the mail in stages has been greatly augmented. The number of Post Offices has been increased to seven thousand; and it may be anticipated that while the facilities of intercourse between fellow citizens in person or by correspondence, will soon be carried to the door of every villager in the Union, a yearly surplus of revenue will accrue, which may be applied as the wisdom of Congress, under the exercise of their constitutional powers, may devise, for the further establishment and improvement of the public roads, or by adding still further to the facilities in the transportation of the mails.

[In reference to the Public Lands, the President says, that thirty-three millions of dollars have been paid to France and Spain for two hundred and sixty millions of acres, of which about nine million acres have been sold—the amount paid for the lands sold, is not yet equal to the sums paid for the whole, but leaves a small balance to be refunded—part of the lands sold, were conveyed under extended credits; and the President recommends a further indulgence to the purchasers, who are yet in arrears. The Message concludes as follows:]

There are various other subjects of deep interest to the whole Union, which have heretofore been recommended to the consideration of Congress, as well by my predecessors as under the impression of the duties devolving upon me, by myself. Among