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President's Message: Fellow citizens of the Senate.

The brief space which has elapsed since the close of your last session has been marked by no extraordinary political event.

Our grateful thanks are due to an All-merciful Providence, not only for staying the pestilence which in different forms has desolated some of our cities.

Within a few weeks the public mind has been deeply affected by the death of Daniel Webster, filling at his decease the office of Secretary of State.

In the course of the last summer considerable anxiety was caused for a short time by an official intimation from the government of Great Britain that orders had been given for the protection of the fisheries upon the coast of the British provinces in North America.

The unadjusted difference, however, between the two governments as to the interpretation of the first article of the convention of 1818 is still a matter of importance.

The settlement of the question respecting the port of San Juan de Nicaragua, and of the controversy between the republics of Costa Rica and Nicaragua in regard to their boundaries, was considered indispensable to the commencement of the ship canal between the two oceans, which was the subject of the Convention between the United States and Great Britain of the 19th of April, 1850.

I have the satisfaction to inform you that the executive government of Venezuela has acknowledged some claims of citizens of the United States, which have for many years past been urged by our charge d'affaires at Caracas.

The recent revolution in Buenos Ayres and the confederated States having opened the prospect of an improved state of things in that quarter, the governments of Great Britain and France determined to negotiate with the chief of the new Confederacy for the free access of their commerce to the extensive navigable waters by the tributaries of the La Plata; and they gave a friendly no-

tion to the two parties, conventions may be concluded in the course of the present winter.

The affairs of Cuba formed a prominent topic in my last annual message. They remain in an uneasy condition, and a feeling of alarm and irritation on the part of the Cuban authorities appears to exist.

In the mean time, the refusal of the Captain General to allow passengers and the mail to be landed in certain cases, for a reason which does not furnish in the opinion of this Government even a good presumptive ground for such a prohibition, has been made the subject of a serious remonstrance at Madrid; and I have no reason to doubt that due respect will be paid by the government of Her Catholic Majesty to the representations which our Minister has been introduced to make on the subject.

It is but justice to the Captain General to add, that his conduct toward the steamers employed to carry the mails of the United States to Havana has, with the exceptions above alluded to, been marked with kindness and liberality, and indicates no general purpose of interfering with the commercial correspondence and intercourse between the island and this country.

Early in the present year official notes were received from the Ministers of France and England, inviting the Government of the United States to become a party with Great Britain and France to a tripartite Convention, in virtue of which the three powers should severally and collectively disclaim, now and for the future, all intention to obtain possession of the Island of Cuba, and should bind themselves to discountenance all attempts to that effect on the part of any power or individual whatever.

Where this island comparatively destitute of inhabitants, or occupied by a kindred race, I should regard it as voluntarily ceded by Spain, as a most desirable acquisition.

The rejection by the Mexican Congress of the Convention which had been concluded between that Republic and the United States, for the protection of a transit way across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec and of the interests of those citizens of the United States who had become proprietors of the rights which Mexico had conferred on one of her own citizens in regard to that transit, has thrown a serious obstacle in the way of the attainment of a very desirable national object.

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tion of this purpose to the United States, that we might if we thought proper pursue the same course. In compliance with this invitation, our minister at Rio Janeiro and our charge d'affaires at Buenos Ayres have been fully authorized to conclude treaties with the newly organized Confederation, or the States composing it.

A treaty of commerce has been concluded between the United States and the Oriental Republic of Uruguay, which will be laid before the Senate.

The correspondence of the late Secretary of State with the Peruvian charge d'affaires relative to the Lobos Islands was communicated to Congress toward the close of the last session.

In my first annual message to Congress I called your attention to what seemed to me some defects in the present tariff, and recommended such modifications as in my judgment would be best adapted to remedy its evils.

Without repeating the arguments contained in my former message, in favor of discriminating, protective duties, I deem it my duty to call your attention to one or two other considerations affecting this subject.

Our settlements on the shores of the Pacific have already given a great extension, and in some respects a new direction, to our commerce in that ocean.

The general prosperity of our States on the Pacific requires that an attempt should be made to open the opposite regions of Asia to a mutually beneficial intercourse.

Another question, wholly independent of protection, presents itself, and that is, whether the duties levied should be upon the value of the article at the place of shipment, or where it is practicable, a specific duty, graduated according to quantity, as ascertained by weight or measure.

In passing from this survey of our foreign relations, I invite the attention of Congress to the condition of that department of the public business is entrusted.

The condition of the Treasury is exhibited in the annual report from that Department.

The cash receipts into the Treasury for the fiscal year ending the 30th June last, exclusive of trust funds, were forty nine millions seven hundred and twenty-eight thousand three hundred and eighty-eight dollars and eighty-nine cents.

ment of the indemnity to Mexico, under the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, leaving a balance of \$14,632,136 37 in the Treasury on the first day of July last.

The value of foreign merchandise imported during the last fiscal year was two hundred and seven millions two hundred and forty thousand one hundred and one dollar.

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to the general condition of our Indian affairs, I respectfully refer you to the report of the Secretary of the Interior and the accompanying documents.

The Senate not having thought proper to ratify the treaties which had been negotiated with the tribes of Indians in California and Oregon, our relations with them have been left in a very unsatisfactory condition.

In other parts of our territory particular districts of country have been set apart for the exclusive occupation of the Indians, and their right to the lands within those limits has been acknowledged and respected.

The treaties which have been rejected proposed to remedy this evil by allowing to the different tribes, districts of country suitable to their habits of life, and sufficient for their support.

The removal of the remnant of the tribe of Seminole Indians from Florida has long been a cherished object of the Government, and it is one to which my attention has been steadily directed.

The report from the General Land Office shows increased activity in its operations.

The whole amount thus sold, located under land warrants, reported under swamp land grants, and selected for internal improvements, exceeds that of the previous year by 3,342,372 acres.

Much the larger portion of the labor of arranging and classifying the returns of the last census has been finished, and it will now devolve upon Congress to make the necessary provision for the publication of the results in such form as shall be deemed best.

I commend to your favorable regard the suggestion contained in the report of the Secretary of the Interior that provision be made by law for the publication and distribution, periodically, of an analytical digest of all the patents which have been, or may hereafter be, granted for useful inventions.

By the latest advice from the Mexican Boundary Commission it appears that the survey of the river Gila, from its confluence with the Colorado to its supposed intersection with the western line of New Mexico, has been completed.

I would also again call your attention to the fact that the present tariff in some cases imposes a higher duty upon the raw materials imported than upon the article manufactured from it.

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agreed on by the Commissioners as the point where it strikes the southern boundary of New Mexico, to a point one hundred and thirty-five miles below Eagle Pass, which is about two-thirds of the distance along its course of the river to its mouth.

My attention was drawn to this subject by a report from the Department of the Interior, which reviewed all the facts of the case, and submitted for my decision the question whether, under existing circumstances, any part of the appropriation could be lawfully used or expended for the further prosecution of the work.

After a careful consideration of the subject, I came to the conclusion that it could not, and so informed the head of that Department. Orders were immediately issued by him to the commissioner and surveyor to make no further requisitions on the Department, as they could not be paid; and to discontinue all operations on the southern line of New Mexico.

It will also be proper to make further provision by law for the fulfillment of our treaty with Mexico for running and marking the residue of the boundary line between the two countries.

Permit me to invite your particular attention to the interests of the District of Columbia, which are confided by the Constitution to your peculiar care.

Among the measures which seem to me of the greatest importance to its prosperity are the introduction of a copious supply of water into the city of Washington, and the construction of suitable bridges across the Potomac to replace those which were destroyed by high water in the early part of the present year.

At the last session of Congress an appropriation was made to defray the cost of the surveys necessary for determining the best means of affording an unobstructed supply of good and wholesome water.

Further appropriations will also be necessary for grading and paving the streets and avenues, and enclosing and embellishing the public grounds within the city of Washington.

I commend all these objects, together with the charitable institutions of the District, to your favorable regard.

Every effort has been made to protect our frontier, and that of the adjoining Mexican States, from the incursions of the Indian tribes.

Experience has shown, however, that whenever the two races are brought into contact, collisions will inevitably occur.

To prevent these collisions the United States have generally set apart portions of their territory for the exclusive occupation of the Indian tribes.