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## SYNOPSIS OF THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Representatives:

To express gratitude to God, in the name of the people, for the preservation of the United States, is my first duty in addressing you.

He then refers to the death of Mr. Lincoln and pays an eloquent tribute to his memory.

In speaking of the rebellion and the relation of the States to the Government, he says it has power to enforce the laws, punish treason and insure domestic tranquility in the case of the usurpation of the Government of a State or oligarchy. The Constitution is our sheet-anchor, and the very greatness of our country should allay all fears of an usurpation of power or encroachment by the General Government. The events of the last four years, he hopes, has established, forever, the fact that there is no appeal to force.

The maintenance of the Union brings with it the support of the State Governments in all of their rights; but no State has the right to renounce its own place in the Union, or nullify the laws of the same. The largest liberty will be maintained in the discussion of the acts of the Federal Government, but there is no appeal from its laws, save to the Government itself, or the people who grant to the legislatures and Executive but a limited power, retaining themselves the powers of redress. The sovereignty of the States is the language of the confederacy and not the language of the Constitution.

The Constitution and laws of the United States and the laws that shall be made in pursuance thereof, and all treaties made or which shall be made under that authority, shall constitute the supreme law of the land, and the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby, all State Constitutions or laws to the contrary notwithstanding. The United States Government is a limited one and so is that of the States.

He then refers to the condition of the country when he took his seat as President, and in speaking of the great work of reconstruction, says that military governments established for an indefinite period in the States lately in rebellion would have offered no security for the early suppression of discontent, and would have only divided the people into the vanquishers and the vanquished, and would have engendered hatred rather than restored affection, and would have entailed an incalculable and exhausting expense upon the country. Peaceful emigration to an area from that country is one of the best means of restoring harmony, and emigration would have been prevented; for what emigrant from abroad or good citizen at home would place himself willingly under military rule? The chief followers of the army would have been dependent on the General Government, or men who expected profit from the miseries of their erring fellow-citizens. The powers of patronage and rule which would have been exercised under the President over a vast and populous, and naturally wealthy region, are greater than, unless under extreme necessity, I should be willing to entrust to one man, and, as for himself, he never could consent to exercise them unless on occasions of great emergency. If continued through a period of years they would have endangered the purity of the general administration and the liberties of the States which remained loyal under the policy of military rule over a conquered territory; would have implied that those States whose inhabitants had taken part in the rebellion, had by the acts of those inhabitants, ceased to exist. The true theory is that all pretended acts of secession from the first, were null and void. States cannot commit treason, or can the individual who may have committed treason, make valid treaties, or engage in lawful commerce with foreign powers. The States attempting to secede have placed themselves in a condition where their vitality was impaired, but not extinguished; their functions extended, but not destroyed. But if any State refuses or neglects to perform its offices, there is more need that the General Government should maintain all its authority, and, as soon as possible, resume the exercise of all its functions. On this principle I have acted, and gradually and quietly, and by almost imperceptible steps, sought to restore the rightful energy of the General Government, and that of the States. To that end, Provisional Governors have been appointed for the States, Conventions called, Governors elected, Legislatures assembled, and Senators and Representatives chosen to the Congress of

the United States. At the same time, the United States courts, as far as possible, have been reported, in order that the laws might be enforced through their agency.

His policy of reconstruction, he knew, was attended with risk; its success required the acquiescence of the States it concerns, and resumption of their allegiance and functions as States of the common Union. This risk must be taken in the chances of difficulties; it is the smallest, and to diminish and, if possible, remove all danger, the power to pardon had been asserted. As no State can defend treason, this power is vested exclusively in the Executive, and had been cautiously used. The next great step was an invitation to them to participate in the amendments of the Constitution, rendered necessary by the abolition of slavery. In order to gratify the wish of every patriot and grant a general amnesty, there should be perfect harmony between the late belligerents, and the maintenance of the Union insured by the satisfaction of the proposed amendment. So long as its adoption is delayed, so long will doubt, jealousy and uncertainty prevail. This measure will efface the sad memory of the past, and call population, capital and security to those States, and is not too much to ask of them this pledge of loyalty; and until it is done, no matter how much it may be desired, the past can never be forgotten; and once adopted, we are again re-united beyond all powers of disruption. And fellow-citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives, I leave you to judge, each of you for yourselves, of the election returns and qualifications of your own members.

He urges the early restoration of the Circuit Courts of the United States, in order that the laws may be enforced, as it is manifest that treason the most flagrant has been committed. The parties thus charged should have a fair and impartial trial in order that the country and the laws may be fully vindicated, the truth clearly established that treason is a crime that should be punished, the offence made infamous, and the question settled forever.

The case of the Freedman had engaged his most serious consideration. To issue a proclamation granting universal suffrage would have been an assumption of power which nothing in the Constitution or laws would have warranted. That power belonged to the States alone. Every danger of conflict is thus avoided by allowing each State to settle the question for itself. In his judgement, the freedman by patience and the exhibition of many virtues will sooner obtain this right through the States than through the General Government, even if it had the power to intervene. But good faith requires the security of the freedmen in their liberty, their property, their right to labor and claim their just reward. He could not too strongly urge the dispassionate treatment of his subject. He opposes the forced removal and colonization of the Freedmen. Let us rather encourage them to honorable and useful industry, where it may be beneficial to themselves and the country. The public interest would best be promoted if the several States would provide adequate protection and remedies for the freedmen, and, until this is done, there can be no chance for the advantageous use of their labor, and the blame of ill-success will not rest on them.

He predicts for the Gulf States a glorious future when they shall have become densely populated, as they will doubtless be by emigration from the North and the most densely populated countries of Europe.

He was utterly opposed to a tax upon the transit of travel or commerce between States, and the power of Congress should not be used to prevent the free circulation of men and merchandise, a tax upon which constitutes one of the worst forms of monopolies, which is increased, if coupled with a denial of choice of routes. This should be sternly guarded against by appropriate legislation within the limits of the Constitution.

The report of the Secretary of the Interior shows the condition of the Public Lands, the transactions of the Patent Office, the Pension Bureau, the management of our Indian affairs, and the progress of the construction of the Pacific Railroad, and also the successful operations of the Homestead Act, under which 1,160,533 acres of the Public Lands were entered during the fiscal year, during which more than one fourth of the whole was sold or otherwise disposed of, the receipts of these sales being sufficient to cover the expenses incident to the surveys and disposals of the lands.

On the 30th of June last, the number of pensioners were 89,986, requiring for their

annual pay, exclusive of their expenses, \$8,023,445, but owing to the large increase of applications, a much larger amount will be required for the next fiscal year.

The report of the Postmaster General presents an encouraging account of the operations of that Department. The revenues of packages from the loyal States alone greatly exceed the receipts from all the States previous to the war, in the sum of \$6,038,081. The annual average increase of the revenue during the last four years, compared with the revenues of the four years preceding the rebellion, was \$3,533,845.

Progress has been made in restoring the postal service in the Southern States, and he urges the granting of subsidies to ocean mail steamship lines upon established routes and favors the continuance of the present system of limiting their compensation to the postage earnings.

The report of the Secretary of the Navy shows that at the beginning of the present year there were in commission 530 vessels of all classes, armed with 3000 guns, and manned by 51,000 men. The present number in commission is 117, with 830 guns, and 12,128 men. It advocates the enlargement of the navy yards and the establishment of one in fresh water for the ironclads and also for a change of location and enlargement of the Naval Academy.

The report of the Secretary of War gives a general summary of the campaigns of 1864 and 1865, and the operations of the general administration of the Bureau during the last year. The whole national force on the 1st of May, 1865, numbered 1,000,516.

It is proposed to reduce the military establishment to a peace footing, comprising 50,000 troops of all arms, organized so as to admit of an enlargement by filling the ranks to 82,600, if circumstances should require it. 800,000 volunteers have been mustered out and the work of further reduction was being pushed forward. The war estimate had been reduced from \$516,240,131, to \$33,814,461.

The report of the Secretary of the Treasury shows in detail the operations of that Bureau and the estimates for the next fiscal year.

The President urges the adoption of a good revenue system, which says he, is the life of an organized government; and referring to the financial condition of the country, says we must aim at nothing less than a complete effacement of the financial evils that necessarily follow a state of civil war. The earliest remedy must be applied to the disarranged state of the currency, and we should not shrink from devising a policy which, without being oppressive to the people, would immediately begin to affect a reduction of the debt and discharge it fully, within a defined and fixed number of years. It is our first duty to earnestly prepare for our recovery from the ever increasing evils of an irredeemable currency, and calls upon every citizen to assist, by the means pointed out, in restoring the return of a gold standard. By a gradual reduction of the currency we can save the business of the country from disastrous calamities, or by gradually funding its securities to be made redeemable at the pleasure of the Government; and referring to the national debt, he says we should not look upon it as a national blessing, but a heavy burden on the industry of the country.—The expenditures of the present year, ending 30th of June, 1865, as estimated by the Secretary of the Treasury will exceed the receipts \$112,194,497. But it is also estimated that the Revenue for the same year will exceed the expenditures in the sum of \$111,682,818, which sum might be applied to the reduction of the Public Debt, when on the 31st of October, 1865, was \$2,740,854,750. He had faith that it all would be redeemed within a reasonable time; and as our feats of arms had amazed the world, so should we show our superiority by the prompt and faithful discharge of our national obligations.

The Department of Agriculture under its present director had accomplished much towards developing and utilizing the vast agricultural capabilities of the country.

As regards our foreign relations, it had and would be his constant aim to promote peace and amity with all nations and powers; and he had every reason to believe that they, without an exception, were animated by the same disposition. Our relations with the Emperor of China, so recent in their origin, were the most friendly, and our commerce with that dominion is securing new developments. The unbroken harmony between our Government and the Emperor of Russia is securing a new sup-

port from the telegraphic enterprise, which is to connect the two Governments, as also are our South American relations. Our domestic contests, now happily ended, has left some traces, with one at least, of the great maritime powers. The formal accordance of belligerent rights to the insurgent States was unprecedented and has not been justified by the issue, but in the systems of neutrality pursued by the powers which made that concession, there was a marked difference—materials of war were furnished for the insurgents from the workshops of Great Britain, and British ships, manned by British subjects, and prepared for receiving British armaments, sailed from British ports to make war upon our commerce under shelter of commissions from the insurgents, the result of which was most disastrous to the insurgent States by increasing their misery and desolation, by prolonging the war, and did much to drive our flag from the seas, and transfer much of our shipping and commerce to those powers whose subjects had created this necessity. His sincere desire for peace had led him to approve propositions already made to submit the questions to arbitration.—They would have commanded the attention of all the great powers, and are so interwoven with the peace and interest of every one of them, as to have enabled an impartial decision. Great Britain declined the arbitration, and invited us to a joint commission to settle mutual claims, from which those for these depredations were excluded, which was declined. The United States did not present the question as an impeachment of the faith of a power which professed the most friendly disposition, but as involving great questions of law essential to the peace of nations. A pecuniary compensation was not the primary object. It was to the interest of peace and justice to establish the principles of international law. The English Minister rests his grounds for justification on the grounds that the municipal law of a nation, and the domestic interpretations of that law are the measures of the duty as a neutral; but he felt bound to declare before the world that that justification could not be sustained before the tribunal of nations, but would not advise any attempts at redress by legislation, as the future friendship of the two countries must rest on the basis of mutual justice.

The correspondence between the United States and France, which have become subjects of discussion between the two Governments, will be laid before you at the proper time.

At the organization of our Government, Washington, in his address to Congress said that "the preservation of the sacred fire of liberty and the destiny of a republican model of Government are considered as finally staked on the experiment entrusted to the American people;" and the House of Representatives answered him through Madison: "We adore the Invisible Hand that has led the American people through so many difficulties to cherish a conscious responsibility for the destiny of Republican liberty." More than seventy years have passed since then, and the nation has passed through severer trials than were foreseen, and now, at this new epoch in our existence purified by sorrow and strengthened by conflict and established by the virtue of the people, the greatness of the occasion invites us once more to solemnly repeat these words, and hold ourselves answerable for the success of our Government; and considering all the success that has attended us, who says he will not join with me in the prayer that the Invisible Hand which has led us through the cloud that lowered over our path, will so guide us onward to a peaceful resolution of affection, that we of this day may be able to transmit our great inheritance of State Governments in their rights of the General Government in its whole Constitutional vigor to our posterity, and they to theirs through countless generations.

(Signed) ANDREW JOHNSON.  
WASHINGTON, Dec. 4, 1865.

GRACFUL COURTESY.—We read in the Richmond Bulletin:

Gen. Gilmore, U. S. Army, lately interested himself in securing the "pardon" of Gen. Elliott, who defended Fort Sumpter against General Gilmore's siege. Gen. G. asked the President to grant the application as "a personal favor to himself." Gen. Elliott was occupying a fisherman's hut at Port Royal, and was supporting his family by fishing. The pardon will secure immediate restoration of his lands close to where his fisherman's hut now stands.

Mince pies made of onions are a New York dainty.