This fact, of increasing surplus in the tre sury, became the subject of anxious consideration at a very early period of my administration, and the path of duty in regard to it seemed to me obvious and clear, namely: first, to apply the surplus revenue to the discharge of the public debt, so far as it could judiciously be done; and, secondly, to devise means for the gradual reduction of the standard of the public exigencies.

Of these objects, the first has been in full course of accomplishment, in a manner and to a degree highly satisfactory. The amount of the public debt, of all classes, was, on the fourth of March, 1853, sixty-nine million one hundred and ninety thousand and thirty-seven dollars; payments on account of which have been made, since that period, to the amount of twelve million seven hundred and three thousand three hundred and twenty-nine dollars, leaving unpaid, and in the continuous course of liquidation, the sum of fifty-six million four hundred and eighty-six thousand seven hundred and eight dollars. These payments, although made at the market price of the respective classes of stocks, have been effected readily, and to the general advantage of the treasury, and have at the same time proved of signal utility in the relief they have incidentally afforded to the money market and to the industrial and commercial pursuits of the country.

The second of the above-mentioned objects, that of the reduction of the tariff, is of great importance, and the plan suggested by the Secretary of the Treasury, which is to reduce the duties on certain articles, and to add to the free list many articles now taxed, and especially such as enter into manufactures, and are not largely, or at all, produced in the country, is commended to your candid and careful consideration.

You will find in the report of the Secretary of the Treasury, also, abundant proof of the entire adequacy of the present fiscal system to meet all the requirements of the public service, and that, while properly administered, operates to the advantage of the community in ordinary business relations.

I respectfully ask your attention to sundry suggestions of improvements in the settlement of accounts, especially as regards the large sums of outstanding arrears due to the government, and of other reforms in the administrative action of his department, which are indicated by the Secretary; as also to the progress made in the construction of marine hospitals, custom-houses, and of a new mint in California and assay office in the city of New York, heretofore provided for by Congress; and also the eminently successful progress of the Coast Survey, and of the Light-house Board.

Among the objects meriting your attention will be important recommendations from the Secretary of War and Navy. I am fully satisfied that the navy of the United States is not in a condition of strength and efficiency commensurate with the magnitude of our commercial and other interests; and commend to your especial attention the suggestions on this subject, made by the Secretary of the Navy. I respectfully submit that the army, which under our system, must always be regarded with the higest interest, as a nucleus around which the volunteer forces of the nation gather in the hour of danger, requires augmentation, or modification, to adapt it to the present extended limits and frontier relations of the country, and the condition of the Indian tribes in the interior of the continent; the necessity of which will appear in the communications of the Secretaries of War and the Interior.

In the administration of the Post Office Department for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1853, the gross expenditure was seven million nine hundred and eighty-two thousand seven hundred and fifty-six dollars; and the gross receipts, during the same period, five million nine hundred and forty-two thousand seven hundred and thirty-four dollars; showing that the current revenue failed to meet the current expenses of the department by the sum of two million forty-two thousand and thirty-two dollars. The causes which, under the present postal system and laws, led inevitably to this result, are fully explained by the report of the Postmaster General; one great cause being the enormous rates the department has been compelled to pay for mail service rendered by railroad companies.

The exhibit in the report of the Postmaster General of the income and expenditures by mail steamers will be found peculiarly interesting, and of a character to demand the immediate action of Congress.

Numerous and flagrant frauds upon the Pension Bureau have been brought to light within the last year, and, in some instances, merited punishments inflicted; but, unfortunately, in others, guilty parties have escaped, not through the want of sufficient evidence to warrant a conviction, but in consequence of the provisions of limitation in the existing laws.

From the nature of these claims, the remoteness of the tribunals to pass upon them, and the mode in which the proof is, of necessity, furnished, temptations to crime have been greatly stimulated by the obvious difficulties of detection. The defects in the law upon this subject are so apparent, and so fatal to the ends of justice, that your early action relating to it is most desirable.

During the last fiscal year, nine million eight hundred and nineteen thousand four hundred and eleven acres of the public lands have been surveyed, and ten million three hundred and sixty-three thousand eight hundred and ninety-one acres brought into market. Within the same period, the sales by public purchase and private entry amounted to one million eighty-three thousand four hundred and ninety-five acres; located under military bounty land warrants, six million one hundred and forty-two thousand three hundred and sixty acres; located under under other certificates, nine thousand four hundred and twenty-seven acres; ceded to the States as swamp lands, sixteen million six hundred and eighty-four thousand two hundred and fifty-three acres; selected for railroad and other objects, under acts of Congress, one million four hundred and twenty-seven thousand four hundred and fifty-seven acres. Total amount of lands disposed of within the fiscal year, twenty-five million three hundred and forty-six thousand nine hundred and ninety-two acres; which is an increase in quantity sold, and located under land warrants and grants, of twenty million two hundred and thirty-one thousand eight hundred and eighteen acres over the fiscal year immediately preceding. The quantity of land sold during the second and third quarters of 1852, was three hundred and thirty-four thousand four hundred and fifty-one acres. The amount received therefor, was six hundred and twenty-three thousand six hundred and eighty-seven dollars. The quantity sold the second and third quarters of the year 1853, was one million six hundred and nine thousand nine hundred and nineteen acres; and the amount received therefor, two million two hundred and twenty-six thousand eight hundred and seventy-six dollars.

The whole number of land warrants issued under existing laws, prior to the 30th of September last, was two hundred and sixty-six thousand and forty-two; of which there were outstanding, at that date, sixty-six thousand nine hundred and forty-seven. The quantity of land required to satisfy these outstanding warrants, is four million seven hundred and seventy-eight thousand one hundred and twenty acres.

Warrants have been issued to 30th of September last, under the act of 11th February, 1847, calling for twelve million eight hundred and seventy-nine thousand two hundred and eighty acres; under acts of September 28, 1850, and March 22, 1852, calling for twelve million five hundred and five thousand three hundred and sixty acres; making a total of twenty-five million three hundred and eighty-four thousand six hundred and forty acres.

It is believed that experience has verified the wisdom and justice of the present system, with regard to the public domain, in most essential particulars.

You will perceive, from the report of the Secretary of the Interior, that opinions, which have often been expressed in relation to the operation of the land system as yielding a source of revenue to the federal treasury, are erroneous. The net profits from the sale of the public lands to June 30, 1853, amounted to the sum of fifty-three million two hundred and eighty-nine thousand four hundred and sixty-five dollars.

I recommend the extension of the land system over the Territories of Utah and New Mexico, with such modifications as their peculiarities may require.

Regarding our public domain as chiefly valuable to provide homes for the industrious and enterprising, I am not prepared to recommend any essential change in the land system, except by modifications in favor of the actual settler, and an extension of the pre-emption principle in certain cases, for reasons, and on grounds, which will be fully developed in the reports to be laid before you.

Congress, representing the proprietors of the territorial domain, and charged especially with power to dispose of territory belonging to the United States, has, for a long course of years, beginning with the administration of Mr. Jefferson, exercised the power to construct roads within the territories; and there are so many and obvious distinctions between this exercise of power and that of making roads within the States, that the former has never been considered subject to such objections as apply to the latter, and such may now be considered the settled construction of the power of the federal government upon the subject.

Numerous applications have been, and no doubt will continue to be made for grants of land, in aid of the construction of railways. It is not believed to be within the intent and meaning of the constition, that the power to dispose of the public domain, should be used otherwise than might be expected from a prudent proprietor, and, therefore, that grants of land to aid in the construction of roads should be restricted to cases, where it would be for the interest of a proprietor, under like circumstances, thus to contribute to the construction of these works. For the practical operation of such grants thus far, in advancing the interests of the States in which the works are located, and at the same time the substantial interests of all the other States, by enhancing the value and promoting the rapid sale of the public domain, I refer you to the report of the Secretary of the Interior. A careful examination, however, will show that this experience is the result of a just discrimination, and will be far from affording encouragement to a reckless or indiscriminate extension of the principle

I commend to your favorable consideration the men of genius of our country, who, by their inventions and discoveries in science and art, have contributed largely to the improvements of the age, without, in many instances, securing for themselves anything like an adequate reward. For many interesting details upon this subject I refer you to the appropriate reports, and especially urge upon you special attention the apparently slight, but really important, modifications of existing laws therein suggested.

The liberal spirit which has so long marked the action of Congress in relation to the District of Columbia, will I have no doubt, continue to be manifested.

The erection of an asylum for the insane of the District of Columbia, and of the army and navy of the United States, has been somewhat retarded, by the great demand for materials and labor during the past summer; but full preparation for the reception of patients, before the return of another winter, is anticipated: and there is the best reason to believe, from the plan and contemplated arrangements which have been devised, with the large experience furnished within the last few years in relation to the nature and treatment of the disease, that it will prove an asylum indeed to this most helpless and afflicted class of sufferers, and stand as a noble monument of wisdom and mercy.

Under the acts of Congress of August 31, 1852, and of March 3, 1853, designed to secure for the cities of Washington and Georgetown an abundant supply of good and wholesome water, it became my duty to examine the report and plans of the engineer who had charge of the surveys under the act first named. The best, if not the only plan, calculated to secure permanently the object sought, was that which contemplates taking the water from the Great Falls of the Potomac, and, consequently, I gave to it my approval.

For the progress and present condition of this important work, and for its demands, so far as appropriations are concerned, I refer you to the report of the Secretary of War.

The present judicial system of the United States has now been in operation for so long a time, and has in its general theory and so much of its details, become so familiar to the country, and acquired so entirely the public confidence, that if modified in any respect, it should only be in those particulars which may adopt it to the increased extent, population, and legal business of the United States.—In this relation, the organization of the courts is now confessedly inadquate to the duties to be performed by them; in consequence of which, the States of Florida, Wisconsin, Iowa, Texas, and California, and districts of other States, are in effect exbluded from the full benefits of the general system, by the functions of the circuit court being devolved on the d strict judges in all those States, or parts, of States.

The spirit of the constitution and a due regard to justice require that all the States of the Union should be placed on the same footing in regard to the judicial tribunals. I therefore comme d to your consideration this important subject, which in, my judgment, demands the speedy action of Congress. I will present to you, if deemed desirable, a plan, which I am prepared to recommend, for the enlargement and modification of the present judicial system.

The act of Congress establishing the Smithsonian Institution provided that the President of the United States, and other persons therein designated, should constitue an "establishment" by that name, and that the members should hold stated and special meetings for the supervision of the affairs of the Institution. The organization not having taken place, it seemed to me proper that it should be effected without delay. This has been done; and an occasion was thereby presented for inspecting the condition of the Institution, and appreciating its successful progress thus far, and its high promise of great and gen ral usefulness.

I have omitted to ask your favorable consideration for the estimates of works of a local character in twenty-seven of the thirty-one States, amounting to one million seven hundred and fifty-four hundred dollars, because, independently of the grounds which have so often been urged against the application of the federal revenue for works of this character, inequality with consequent injustice is inheren in the nature of the proposition, and because the plan has proved entirely inadequate to the accomplishment of the objects sought.

The subject of internal improvements, claiming alike the interest and good will of all, has, nevertheless, been the basis of much political discussion, and has stood as a deep graven line of division between statesmen of eminent ability and patriotism. The rule of strict construction of all powers delegated by the States to the general government has arrayed itself, from time to time, against the rapid progress of expenditures from the national treasury on works of a local character within the States. Memorable as an epoch in the history of this subject is the message of President Jackson, of the 27th of May, 1830, which met the system of internal improvements in its comparative infancy; but so rappid had been its growth, that the projected appropriations in that year for works of this character had risen to the alarming amount of more than one hundred millions of dollars.

In that message the President admitted the difficulty of bringing back the operations of the government to the consruction of the constitution set up in 1798, and marked it as an admonitory proof of the necessity of guarding that instrument with sleepless vigilance against the authority of precedents, which had not the sanction of its most plainly defined powers.

Our govornment exits under a written compact between sovereign States, uniting for specific objects, and with specific grants to their general agent. If, then, in the progress of its administration, there have been departures from the terms and intent of the compact, it is, and will ever be, proper to refer back to the fixed standard which our fathers left us, and to make a stern effort to conform our action to it. It would seem that the fact of a principle having been resisted from the first by many of the wisest and most patriotic men of the republic, and a policy having provoked constant strife, without arriving at a conclusion which can be regarded as satisfactory to its most earnest advocates, should suggest the inquiry whether there may not be a plan likely to be crowned by happier results. Without perceiving any sound distinction, or intending to assert any principle as opposed to improvements needed for the protection of internal commerce, which does not equally apply to improvements upon the seaboard for the protection of foreign commerce, I submit to you, whether it may not be safely anticipated that, if the policy were once settled against appropriations by the general government for local improvements for the benefit of commerce, localities requiring expenditures would not, by modes and means clearly legitimate and proper, raise the und necessary for such constructions as the safety other interests of their commerce might require.

If that can be regarded as a system, which, in the experience of more than thirty years, has at no time commanded the public judgment as to give it the character of a settled policy,—which though it has produced some works of conceded importance, has been attended with an expenditure quite disproportionate to their value,—and has resulted in squandering large sums upon objects which have answered no valuable purpose—the interests of all the States require it to be abandoned, unless hopes may be indulged for the future which find no warrant in the past.

With an anxious desire for the complexion of the works which are regarded by all good citizens with sincere interest, I have deemed it my duty to ask at your hands a deliberate reconsideration of the question, with a hope that, animated by a desire to promote the permanent and substantial interests of the country, your wisdom may prove equal to the task of divising and maturing a plan, which, applies to this subject, may promise something better than constant strife, the suspension of the powers of local enterprise, the exciting of vain hopes, and the disappointment of cherished expections.

In expending the appriations made by the last Congress, several cases have arisen in relation to works for the improvement of the harbors, which involve question as to the right of soil and jurisdiction, and have threatened conflict between the authority of the State and general governments. The right to consruct a breakwater, jetty, or dam, would seem, necessrily, to carry with it the power to protect and preserve such constructions. This can only be effectually done by having jurisdiction over the soil. But no clause of the constitution is found, on which to rest the claim of the United States to exercise jurisdiction over the soil of a State, except that conferred by the eighth section of the first article of the consition. It is, then, submitted, whether, in all cases where constructions are to be erected by the general government, the right of soil should not first be obtained, and legislative provision be made to cover all such cases.

For the progress made in the construction of roads within the territories, as provided for in the appropriations of the last Congress, I refer you to the report of the Secretary of War.

There is no subject of a domestic nature, which, from its intrinsic importance, and the many interesting questions of future policy which it involves cannot fail to receive your early attention. I allude to the means of communicat on, by which different parts of the wide expanse of our country are to be placed in closer connexion for purposes both of defense and commercial intercourse, and more especially such as appertain to the communication of those great divisions of the Union, which lie on the opposite sides of the Rocky Mountains.

That the govertment has not been unmindful of this heretofore, is apparent from the aid it has afforded, through appropriations for mail facilities and other purposes. But the general subject will now present itself under aspects more imposing and more purely national, by reason of the surve s ordered by Congress, and now in the process of completion, for communication by railway across the continent, and wholly within the limits of the United States.

The power to declare war, to raise and support armies, to provide and maintain a navy, and to call forth the militia to execute the laws, suppress insurrections, and repel invasions, was conferred upon Congress, as means to provide for the common defense, and to protect a territory and a population now widespread and vastly multiplied. As incidental to and indispensable for the exercise of this power, it must sometimes be necessary to construct military roads and pro ect harbors of refuge To appropriations by Congress for such objects, no sound objection can be raised. Happily for our country, its peaceful policy and rapidly increasing population impose upon us no urgent necessity for preparation, and leave but few trackless deserts between assailable points and a patriotic people ever ready and generally able to protect them. These necessary links, the enterprise and energy of our people are steadily and boldly struggling to supply. All experience affirms that, wherever private enterprise will avail, it is most wise for the general government to leave to that and indiv dual watchfulness the location and execution of all means of communication.

The surveys before alluded to were designed to ascertain the most practicable and economical route for a railroad from the river Mississippi to the Pacific ocean. Parties are now in the field making explorations, where previous examinations had not supplied sufficient data, and where there was the best reason to hope the object sought might be found. The means and time being both limited, it is not to be expected that all the accurate knowledge desired will be obtained, but it is hoped that much and important information will be added to the stock previously possessed, and that partial, if not full reports of the surveys ordered will be received, in time for transmission to the two Houses of Congress, on or before the first Monday in February next, as required by the act of appropriation. The magniitude of the enterprise contemplated has aroused, and will doubtless continue to excite, a very general interest throughout the country. In its political, its commercial, and its military bearings, it has varied, great, and increasing claims to consideration. The heavy expense, the great delay, and, at times, fatality attending travel by either of the ishmus routes, have demonstrated the advantage, which would result from interritorial communication by such safe and rapid means as a railroad would supply.

These difficulties, which have been encountered in a period of peace, would be magnified and still further increased in time of war. But whilst the embarrassments already encountered, and others under new contingencies to be anticipated, may serve strikingly to exhibit the importance of such a work, neither these, nor all considerations combined, can have an appreciable value, when weighed against the obligation strictly to adhere to the constitution, and faithfully to execute the powers it confers. Within this limit and to the extent of the interest of the government involved, it would seem both expedient and proper, if an economical and practicable route shall be found, to aid, by all constitutional means, in the construction of a road, which will unite, by speedy transit, the populations of the Pacific and Atlantic States. To guard against misconception, it should be remarked that, although the power to construct, or aid in the construction of, a road within the limits of a territory is not embarrassed by that question of jurisdiction which would arise within the limits of a State, it is nevertheless held to be doubtful propriety, even within the limits of a territory, for the general government to undertake to administer the affairs of a railroad, a canal, or other similar construction, and therefore that its connexion with a work of this character should be incidental rather than primary. I will only add, at present, that, fully appreciating the magnitude of the subject, and solicitous that the Atlantic and Pacific shores of the republic may be bound together by the inseparable ties of common interest, as well as of common fealty and attachment to the Union, I shall be disposed, so far as my own action is concerned, to follow the lights of the constitution, as expounded and illustrated by those, whose opinions and expositions constitute the standard of my political faith in regard to the powers of the federal government. It is, I trust, not necessary to say, that no grandeur of enterprise, and no present urgent inducement promising popular favor, will lead me to disregard those lights, or to depart from the path, which experience has proved to be safe, and which is now radiant with the glow of prosperity and legitimate constructional progress. We can afford to wait, but we cannot afford to overlook the ark of our security.

It is no part of my purpose to give prominence to any subject, which may properly be regarded as set at rest by the deliberate judgment of the people. But while the present is bright with promise, and the future full of demand and inducement for the exercise of active intelligence, the past can never be without useful lessons of admonition and instruction. If its dangers serve not as beacons, they will evidently fail to fulfil the object of a wise design. When the grave shall have closed over all, who are now endeavoring to meet the obligations of duty, the year 1850 will be recurred to as a period filled with anxious apprehension. A successful war had just terminated.—Peace brought with it a vast augment tion of territory. Disturbing questions arose, bearing upon the domestic institutions of one portion of the confederacy, and involving the constitutional rights of the States. But, notwithstand differences of opinion and sentiment, which then existed in relation to details and specific provisions, the acquiescence of distinguished citizens, whose devotion to the Union can never be doubted, has given renewed vigor to our institutions, and restored a sense of repose and security to the public mind throughout the confederacy. That this repose is to suffer no shock during my official term, if I have power to avert it, those who placed me here may be assured. The wisdom of men, who knew what independence cost,—who had put all at stake upon the issue of the revolutionary struggle,—disposed of the subject to which I refer, in the only way consistent with the union of these States, and with the march of power and prosperity which has made us what we are. It is a significant fact, that from the adoption of the constitution until the officers and soldiers of the revolution had passed to their graves, or, through the infirmities of age and wounds, had ceased to participate actively in public affairs, there was not merely a quiet acquiescence in, but a prompt vindication of, the constitutional rights of the States. The reserved powers were scrupulously respected. No statesman put forth the narrow views of casuists to justify interference and agitation, but the spirit of the compact was regarded as sacred in the eye of honor, and indispensable for the great experiment of civil liberty, which, environed by inherent difficulties, was yet borne forward in apparent weakness by a power superior to all obstacles. There is no condemnation, which the voice of freedom will not pronounce upon us, should we prove faithless to this great trust. While men inhabiting different parts of this vast continent can no more be expected to hold the same opinions, or entertain the same sentiments, than every variety of climate of soil can be expected to furnish the same agricultural products, they can unite in a common object and sustain common principles essential to the maintenance of that object. The gallant men of the south and the north could stand together during the struggle of the Revolution; they could stand together in the more trying period which succeeded the clangor of arms. As their united valor was adequate to all the trials of the camp and dangers of the field, so their united wisdom proved equal to the greater task of founding, upon a deep and broad basis, institutions, which it has been our privilege to enjoy, and will ever be our most sacred duty to sustain. It is but the feeble expression of a faith strong and universal, to say that their sons, whose blood mingled so often upon the same field, during the war of 1812, and who have more recently borne in triumph the flag of the country upon a foreign soil, will never permit alienation of feeling to weaken the power of their united efforts, nor internal dissentions to paralyze the great arm of freedom, uplifted for the vindication of self-government.

I have thus briefly presented such suggestions as seem to me especially worthy of your consideration. In providing for the present, you can hardly fail to avail yourselves of the light, which the experience of the past casts upon the future.

The growth of our population has now brought us, in the destined career of our national history, to a point at which it well behooves us to expand our vision over the vast prospective.

The successive decennial returns of the census since the adoption of the constitution have revealed a law of steady progressive development, which may be stated, in general terms, as a duplication every quarter-century. Carried forward, from the point already reached, for only a short period of time as applicable to the existence of a nation, this law of progress, if unchecked, will bring us to almost incredible results. A large allowance for a diminished proportional effect of emigration would not very materially reduce the estimate, while the increased average duration of human life, known to have already resulted from the scientific and hygienic improvements of the past fifty years, will tend to keep up through the next fifty, or perhaps hundred, the same ratio of growth, which has been thus revealed in our past progress; and to the influence of these causes may be added the influx of laboring masses from eastern Asia to the Pacific side of our possessions, together with the probable accession of the populations already existing in other parts of our hemisphere, which, within the period in question, will feel, with yearly increasing force, the natural attraction of so vast, pwerful, and prosperous a confederation of self-governing republics, and will seek the privilege of being admitted within its safe and happy bosom, transferring with themselves, by a peaceful and healthy process of incorporation, spacious regions of virgin and exuberant soil, which are destined to swarm with the fast-growing and fast-spreading millions of our race.

These considerations seem fully to justify the presumption, that the law of population above stated, will continue to act with undiminished effect, through at least the next half century; and that thousands of persons who have already arrived at maturity, and are now exercising the rights of freemen, will close their eyes on the spectacle of more than one hundred millions of population embraced within the majestic proportions of the American Union. It is not merely as an interesting topic of speculation that I present these views for your consideration. They have important practical bearings upon all the political duties we are called upon to perform. Heretofore, our system of government has worked on what may be termed a miniature scale, in comparison with the development, which it must thus assume, within a future so near at hand, as scarcely to be beyond the present of the existing generation.

It is evident that a confederation so vast and so varied, both in numbers and territorial extent, in habits and in interests, could only be kept in national cohesion by the strictest fidelity to the principles of the constitution, as understood by those who have adhered to the most restricted construction of the powers granted by the people and the States. Interpreted and appllied according to those principles, the great compact adapts itself with healthy ease and freedom to an unlimited extension of that benign system of federative self-government, of which it is our glorious and, I trust, immortal charter. Let us, then, with redoubled vigilance, be on our guard against yielding to the temptation of the exercise of doubtful powers, even under the pressure of the motives of conceded temporary advantage and apparent temporary expediency.

The minimum of federal government, compatible with the maintenance of national unity and efficient action in our relations with the rest of the world, should afford the rule and measure of construction of our powers under the general clauses of the constitution. A spirit of strict deference to the sovereign rights and dignity of every State, rather than a disposition to subordinate the States into a provincial relation to the central authority, should characterize all our exercise of the respective powers temporarily vested in us as a sacred trust from the generous confidence of our constituents.

In like manner, as a manifestly indispensable condition of the perpetuation of the Union, and of the realization of that magnificent national future adverted to, does the duty become yearly stronger and clearer upon us, as citizens of the several States, to cultivate a fraternal and affectionate spirit, language, and conduct, in regard to other States, and in relation to the varied interests, institutions, and habits of sentiment and opinion, which may respectively characterize them. Mutual forbearance, respect, and non-interference in our personal action as citizens, and an enlarged exercise of the most liberal principles of comity in the public dealings of State with State, whether in legislation or in the execution of laws, are the means to perpetuate that confidence and fraternity, the decay of which a mere political union, on so vast a scale, could not long survive.

In still another point of view, is an important practical duty suggested by this consideration of the magnitude of dimensions, to which our political system, with its corresponding machinery of government, is so rapidly expanding. With increased vigilance does it require us to cultivate the cardinal virtues of public frugality and official integrity and purity. Public affairs ought to be so conducted that a settled conviction shall pervade the entire Union, that nothing short of the highest tone and standard of public morality makes every part of the administration and legislation of the general government. Thus will the federal system, whatever expansion time and progress may give it, continue more and more deeply rooted in the love and confidence of the people.

That wise economy, which is as far removed from parsimony as from corrupt and corrupting extravagance, that single regard for the public good, which will frown upon all attempts to approach the treasury with insidious projects of private interest cloaked under public pretexts,—that sound fiscal administration, which, in the legislative department, guards against the dangerous temptations incident to overflowing revenue, and, in the executive, maintains an unsleeping watchfulness against the tendency of all national expenditure to extravagance,—while they are admitted elementary political duties, may, I trust, be deemed as properly adverted to and urged, in view of the more impressive sense of that necessity, which is directly suggested by the considerations now presented.

Since the adjournment of Congress, the Vice President of the United States has passed from the scenes of earth, without having entered upon the duties of the station, to which he had been called by the voice of his countaymen. Having occupied, almost continuously, for more than thirty years, a seat in one or the other of the two Houses of Congress, and having, by his singular purity and wisdom, secured unbounded confidence and universal respect, his failing health watched by the nation with painful solicitude. His loss to the country, under all the circumstances, has been justly regarded as irreparable.

In compliance with the act of Congress of March 2, 1853, the oath of office was administered to him on the 24th of that month, at Arlington estate, near Matanzas, in the island of Cuba; but his strength gradually declined, and was hardly sufficient to enable him to return to his home in Alabama, where, on the eighteenth day of April, in the most calm and peaceful way, his long and eminently useful career was terminated.

Entertaining unlimited confidence in your intelligent and patriotic devotion to the public interest, and being conscious of no motives on my part which are not inseperable from the honor and advancement of my country, I hope it may be my privilege to deserve and secure, not only your cordial co-operation in great public measures, but also those relations of mutual confidence and regard, which it is always so desirable to cultivate between members of co-ordinate branches of the government.

FRANKLIN PIERCE

WASHINGTON, D. C., *December* 5, 1853.

THOMAS G. ATKINS, a well-known and somewhat eccentric citizen of Boston, died there on Saturday last. The Bee says, for half a century past, he kept a dry goods store on Washington street, near School, directly opposite the Old South. In his stock may be found goods which he bought the first year of his trade. He never would sell an article for less than was paid for it which was generally a pretty high rate. Mr. Atkins was a $200,000 man—we don't know but in late years his property has rolled up to $300,000. Though rich as this made him, he was a miserly man, save in one singular exception. His passion and delight was to be in the law. He never was out of it. If people wouldn't "pick a fuss" with him he would with them. We suppose he has spent $50,000 in this amusement.

THE SLAVE TRADE IN CUBA.—Letters from Havana; dated 3d instant, state that the British Consul General Canedo of the landing of two more cargoes of slaves, numbering five hundred, on the south side of the island. It is also stated that a fleet of about ten vessels is waiting on the coast of Brazil for a favorable opportunity to cross over to the African coast for cargoes, and those shipments are intented for the island of Cuba. The slave schooner Maria, not long since fitted out at Cuba, is reported to have been captured by a British cruiser, of Kilongo, on the African coast.

The Southern Standard.

W. D. CHAPMAN, J. R. SMITH } *Publishers and Proprietors.*

ARTICLE TEN—The powers not delegated to the United States by the constitution, nor prohibeted by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people.—*Federal Constitution.*

COLUMBUS:

Saturday Morning, December, 17, 1853.

STATE SOVEREIGNTY — NATIONAL UNION

FOR UNITED STATES SENATOR

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

WE

Never dun any one—never—too modest for that entirely, but the fact is, we need a little needful now, and our necessities are as pressing as they should be at this season of the year. It is not worth while to talk about it much—being no great talker no way—but it is prudent to say, that we must have a little money, and to get it, we would hint to those who owe us, and there are a good many who do that, that they may as well come in, send in, or send by mail, the small amounts they may be owing us. It is a mistake to presume that we do an exclusive credit business, as some seem to suppose—we mean of course those only who have taken our paper for three years nearly, and have never paid us a cent for it. Surely they have mistaken what is right—we ask them to think of it. Should they feel that we are under obligations to work for them for nothing, we only reply that they should at least clothe and board us. They have failed to contribute anything for this object, and they may have done more for the heathen than they have for us in this respect. Our Mission as a preacher of the true doctrine and pure faith should have produced a more abundant harvest—but so it is. We expressly beseech unto the delinquents—to fly from the wrath to come. Without a reformation, or some interposition beyond the promises under the present plan of salvation, there is no more chance of sins in the garden of paradise, for those who fail to pay the Printer, than there is for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle.

Some will construe this into a dun, but we wish all who are indebted to us to understand what we expect from them—Money.

☞ Congress was called to order by the old clerk, and proceeded to ballot for Speaker—Linn Boyd of Kentucky received 103 votes, 109 being necessary to a choice, he was declared elected. Fuller of Pennsylvania received 121 votes for Clerk, 101 being necessary to a choice, he was declared elected.

By resolution Mr. Glossbrenner was declared Sergeant-at-arms, Z. W. Gardner, door-keeper, and J. M. Johnson, postmaster at the House.

Rev. Mr. Stidham, of Mobile, the "Blind Preacher," was elected chaplain.

☞ O. F. Bledsoe, formerly a citizen of this city, was put upon his trial before the Circuit court in Carroll county, in this state, for the shooting ———, an overseer. [the details of which we published at the time.] We are gratified at being able to state that the case was submitted to the jury on the evidence without argument, and after retiring a few moments the jury returned a verdict of "Not Guilty." Mr. Bledsoe has a host of warm friends here, who will be pleased to hear of this result.

☞ J. F. Gay, of the firm of Gay, Bother & Co., is about closing out, with the intention, as we learn, of opening an establishment in New Orleans. We are not apprised what the particular branch is he designs embarking in, but that is of little moment. He will carry into it business experience and manners courteous, kind and liberal. He is one among our very best citizens—every ready to aid merit, patronize industry, and lend a helping hand to sustain all local or general works of improvement. With Mr. Gay we have had an acquaintance spending over a period of about fourteen years. During the past three years we have met him almost daily, and we should do our own feelings injustice were we to let the occasion pass without returning our thanks to him for a warm and earnest support, and many personal favors we shall be slow to forget. He will carry with him the confidence of this community in his integrity, and the kind wishes of all who know him.

We commend him to all our friends throughout the State who may have business in New Orleans, as one they may safely "tie to." He is prompt, prudent and liberal, and one of the cleverest men out.

The Message.

We are indebted to Jefferson Davis for a copy of this document. It came to hand on Wednesday morning last, and believing that our patrons would think us inattentive to their interests, we suspended all other work in order to lay the entire document before them at the earliest possible moment.

It is unnecessary to speak of the literary merit of this State Paper. It will rank with any previous paper eminating from the Executive Department, in purity of expression and vigor of style. It is remarkable for conciseness, point and polish, and the eye of the critic will detect in it none of the redundancy which shocks the ear and pains the reader. President Pierce is no negative man. His antecedents are characteristic, and friends and foes of his administration will rise from the perusal of this paper with a sense of his fitness for the position he occupies. There is no fence—no paltry equivocation—no studied effort to catch popular applause or tickle the fancy of the groundlings. What he has to say he says in pure Saxon, and in an open, bold and direct manner. No man can mistake his intentions, or misapprehend his motives. He shadows forth no blind policy. He courts inquiries, and pledges himself as yet still adhere to views looking towards re-opening the sectional issues which he regards now as adjusted.

As a States Rights man, we can but commend the spirit that shapes this course, and throughout his Message we meet with sufficient amunition of elementary doctrine to quiet the apprehensions of a more exacting temper than we cherish. He regards our government as being founded upon a "written compact between sovereign States, united for specific objects, and with specific grants to their general agent." The conclusion is unavoidable. There the affirmance of our States Right creed is a repudiation of the construction of the Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions, as interpreted by the Report of Madison. Davis and Cushing concur in these opinions, and we doubt not that their other members of this cabinet fully assent to this Republican doctrine.

This is not all that we most cordially endorse in the Message. The President expressly asserts that "the rule and measure of construction of our powers"—the Executive, Judicial and Legislative—should be in "a spirit of strict deference to the sovereign rights and dignity of every State, rather than a disposition to subordinate the States into a provincial relation to the central authority." These are strong words and sound doctrine, and men who construe the powers vested in the central authorities as limited, specified grants, will breathe freer as they meet this construction flowing out of a National Paper, and recognize this doctrine as the fundamental creed of the man controlling the foreign and domestic policy of the government.

There is another feature in the Message that we must not overlook. It is the recognition of the principle throwing over the citizen in whatever land business or pleasure may call him, the protecting arm of the government. We refer to the Kossta affair.

We had occasion some months since to speak of President Pierce in connection with his antecedents, and it will not have been forgotten that we then asserted that he was a true specimen of the American Progressive. His ideas are bounded by a patriotism entirely consistent with a safe and constitutional expansion, and his Message will show that he looks to the spread of Republican institutions as the natural result of the laws of progress inherent in our system of government. That he is right the experience of the Past proves, and that the spirit of our laws, habits and example are finding advocates throughout the world, whose teachings are rousing up mankind to the assertion of the doctrines of equality, is being evidenced by the efforts which are daily developed everywhere to strike down despotism, unshackle the Press, and give vitality to those principles which places men erect upon the earth. The President is not unmindful of the demands of commerce, nor will he impede by his administration the current that is now pushing our trade into the Pacific, nor chill the hopes of those who are seeking safe resting places among the islands of that sea, for the enterprising mariner, whose sails whiten the extremest portions of "old ocean." The thrifty habits of our people—the enterprize which seeks out new markets, will find in him a fast friend and a liberal Statesman

Without saying more on the subject of the Message, we commend it to the reader.