For The Tribune.

ON THE ARRIVAL OF KOSSUTH

Once in an Age a mind appears
That seems by will of Heaven ordained,
To gather in the thoughts of years,
And show to man what Man has gained.

And be he Martyr at the stake,
Or Hero on the well-fought field,
Millions do battle for his sake,
And know not to retreat or yield.

But, gaining on the Future still,
Old errors fall before their way
Like clouds before the sun, until
The morning broadens into day.

Such was our Washington, who stood
Before mankind with purpose high,
And showed them how to carve the Good
From forth the Age then rolling by.

Since his, no name in Patriot ranks
Hath shone with milder, steadier ray,
Nor more deserves the Bondman's thanks
Than his, who is our Guest To-Day.

A welcome, then, from our free land
Unto the Magyar, tried and true!
Though foiled himself, the work he planned
The Future yet shall carry through!

New-York, Oct., 1851. H. CHILTON.

CITY ITEMS.

CITY RAILROAD.—The Hudson River and Harlem Railroad tracks were laid in the streets of the City, under special authority derived from the Legislature. The power was fettered with the condition that the Common Council should assent, and that assent was given. The sovereign power of the State acted through its chief instrumentality, the Legislature, and its subordinate instrumentality, the local City Government. The right, therefore, was complete, according to repeated decisions, long acquiesced in. An application is now pending before the Common Council, to authorize certain private person to lay down rails on the Second-av., and elsewhere, and use them for their own vehicles, to the exclusion of all others; and it is based not on any special power derived from the Legislature, but on the supposed right of the Common Council to grant such privileges independently, as coming within the ordinary contol over the streets of the City. The recent exercise of this power in the cases of the Sixth and Eighth-av. Railroads, shows that the Common Council entertain no doubt on the subject, and a repetition of its exercise may be expected whenever sufficient motives are addressed to them. The question is of the highest consequence, for it involves the subjection of every public street in the City, to use by private individuals in a special and important manner, to the exclusion of the public. Cities are part of the political machinery of the State, for carrying into effect the political power; and their authority is expressed either in charters, or in laws passed by the Legislature. No powers are possessed but such as are thus granted. They are the mere creatures of legislative authority. The charter of New-York, as it came originally from the British Crown, was kept alive by an express provision of the Constitution of this State, and consequently the powers of this City are to be looked for also in its original charter. It will be conceded by all, that if authority to the Common Council to devote the streets to this purpose is not found in the original charter, or in its amendments, or in some subsequent act of the Legislature, it does not exist at all. We are satisfied that the power does not exist, and that the ordinance in relation to the Sixth and Eighth avenue Railroads is wholly void. The charters and laws passed by the Legislature, go into detail in relation to the streets, so far as to declare the width of areas, the proportion which sidewalks shall bear in width to the whole street, and to authorize steps leading to houses to project into the street. The original Charter of 1686, so far as applicable to streets, confined the power of the City to "establishing, laying out, ordering, amending and repairing of all streets," &c. In 1813 an act was passed, authorizing the Common Council to take land for opening or improving streets, of which they might be seized in fee simple, "In trust, nevertheless, that the same be appropriated and kept open for, or as part of a public street, &c., forever, in like manner as the public streets, &c., are and of right ought to be." And they were empowered by the same act to "order and direct the pitching and paving the streets thereof," and to make assessments for the purpose, the moneys to be applied "toward making, altering, amending, pitching, paving, cleansing, and scouring such streets." These specifications do not embrace in terms or effect the right to lay rails. The Legislature, in granting it to the two Corporations above named, have done it in plain and unmistakable language. But it is said the mode and manner of paving are not expressed, and it is argued that the Common Council may authorize a grooved pavement, if they think proper, or a pavement with a raised surface suitable only for particular wheels; and as they may license an omnibus line, and exclude others from the business, they may put down rails and devote them to particular uses. The question of power lies in this nutshell. This power is claimed as part of the power to render the streets suitable for the travel of the whole public; and yet the mode adopted prefers a few, and excludes the mass. The duty imposed on the Common Council to arrange for the paving and regulating the streets, contemplates a public and general, and not a private and special use. An ordinance that should authorize the steps of the Astor House to be brought out one inch beyond the line fixed by statute, would be void; and the encroachment could be treated by the public as a nuisance, subject to be abated. Anything which obstructs, without authority from the Legislature, the ordinary travel in that part of the street devoted to carriages, may also be treated as a nuisance. These are well established rights residing in the whole public. They, in their sovereign capacity, or through the Legislature, may change or alter them; but the Common Council may not withdraw the streets from a public use, and devote them, or any part of them, to a private purpose.

The General Railroad Act authorizes the Common Councils of Cities, to permit such Corporations as are incorporated under that act to lay their tracks in the public streets; but the gentlemen who intend to use the Sixth and Eighth-avs. for this purpose, do not bring themselves within the Act in any respect. The general Railroad Act guards the public against abuse, in case the right were acquired under it; but there would be no propriety in conferring it even under that Act. The only possible justification for authorizing the Hudson River and Harlem roads to use the streets as they do, is the urgent necessity and great importance of holding out unusual facilities to the great lines that have been established, to promote and encourage the travel and trade of the City—objects on which our prosperity in great part depends. It is a deviation, under the express power of the statue, from what is usual and proper in the use of public streets, and is justified only by a great necessity.

The Common Council have granted the right to lay rails on the Sixth and Eighth-avs. for an indefinite term of years, to some half dozen persons in each case, and they are to break up the streets, lay down rails, and use them with their own cars, and exclude all others from the same use. We make no objection, for we know of none, to the particular persons who have received this power, nor to those who ask for it to be applied to the Second-avenue; the objection is to conferring this power on any body of private citizens. If railroads unconnected with great lines of travel are to be used in the City, the public should have the advantage of it, and receive the revenues. The complete and uninterrupted use of the streets cannot be surrendered, without danger. If the power to grant the sole use of parts of the streets to private persons exists, a Common Council besieged by hungry applicants, would never stop until every profitable line were voted away, and that without compensation, and as a reward for party services. We will not suppose that members would share in the benefit, but there is an immense temptation when a profitable route is about to be surrendered, to enjoy the advantage through some nominal person, or with a person partially interested in the job. Against the establishment of such a power in the hands of the City Corporation, there should be a determined resistance at the outset, or our streets, which are now free to all and benefiting all, will be transformed into the condition of private avenues, with innumerable exclusions, hurtful to trade and travel. The mode of testing the question before the Courts is either by indictment against any temporary or permanent structure put in the streets under a void and illegal ordinance, or by injunction applied by owners in front; but the Corporation should resume the authority, and arrange some mode of establishing such roads, that retains wholly the public character of the streets in every part and parcel of them. It would require some legislation during the ensuing winter to do this adequately; and it would be proper to amend the General Railroad Act, and strip the Common Council of authority to grant the right to any body incorporated under it. [Jour. of Com.

PROPOSITION FOR FOUR CORONERS.—The Committee on Laws, to whom was referred a resolution, requesting them to report upon the propriety of applying to the Legislature for a law authorizing the election of four Coroners for the City and County of New-York, submitted to the Board on Tuesday evening the Ordinance appended below. The Committee are of opinion, that one Coroner cannot adequately discharge the onerous duties of that office for the entire City, and that the public interests require that an increase should be made in the number of Coroners, and propose the election of four. There exists a doubt as to whether an enactment of a law providing one Coroner for each Senate District, would not contravene the provisions of the Constitution of 1846, prescribing the mode of electing Coroners by the Electors of the County. The Committee accordingly concur in submitting a draft of an act, in their judgment, meeting the views expressed in the resolution referred to them, without conflicting with any provisions of the Constitution. The Board adopted a resolution directing the Counsel to the Corporation to prepare and lay before the Legislature, at its next session, a memorial, praying the passage of the following act:

AN ACT for the appointment of an additional number of Coroners in the City and County of New-York.

The People of the State of New-York, in Senate and Assembly, convened, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1.—Four Coroners in the City and County of New-York instead of one, as heretofore provided by law, shall hereafter be elected in the same manner, and at the same general election, as Sheriffs; hold their offices for the same term, and be removable in the same manner.

SEC. 2.—The Mayor of said City shall, before the Coroners elected under this act shall enter upon the duties of their office, assign one of said Coroners to each of the Senate Districts of the City of New-York, and they shall respectively exercise their powers, during the term for which they are so elected, within the Districts to which they shall be respectively assigned.

SEC. 3.—All the provisions of the law applicable to the Coroner of the City and County of New-York, shall apply to the officers elected under this act, except as to the number so to be elected.

SEC. 4.—This act shall take effect immediately.

THE NEW LAKE CHAMPLAIN STEAMER "AMERICA."—This new boat, which for the last few weeks we have been expecting to see upon our waters, has, although later than was at first anticipated, made a trip to test the working of her machinery and boilers. Her appearance on the water is all that can be desired. Her hull was designed and built by that talented boat builder, THOMAS COLLYER, and which for beauty of form is unsurpassed. The machinery, built and set up by Messrs. MOTT & AYRES, Chelsea Iron Works, New-York, under the superintendence of EDWARD A. FARON, their principal engineer, is of superior workmanship. Her boilers, also built by Mott & Ayres, are H. BOARDMAN'S Patent, which are said to be superior to all others in use, on account of their great economy of fuel—the amount of wood used by them the distance the boat run, being in the proportion of sixteen cords in running through the lake; which is claimed to be a saving of one-half the amount used by boilers of a different form; and which saving, on one boat, running one trip through the lake a day, amounts to over five thousand dollars a season. This saving of fuel is also demonstrated by the steamer Clifton, which has had one of Mr. Boardman's boilers in use for several weeks. The America draws about five feet of water. The speed attained on her last trial was forty miles in two hours, and twelve miles in thirty-five minutes; and we understand that the working of her boilers, machinery and all, was to the entire satisfaction of all parties concerned.

Capt. T. D. CHAPMAN, long and favorably known to the traveling public, is to be her commander, and we may expect to see lively times with her next Spring. [Plattsburgh Republican, Nov. 29.

INDUSTRIAL CONGRESS.—The session of this body was held on Tuesday night at the Supreme Court Room, New City Hall. DANIEL WILLIS, Vice President, in the chair, and Henry A. Guild, Secretary.

The Committee on Labor Societies reported progress and had leave to sit again.

Dr. Young, from the Committee to wait on Kossuth, reported an address, which was adopted.

An interesting debate upon the non-intervention policy of our Government in regard to foreign countries was now had, which resulted in the adoption of resolutions recommending a modification of our existing policy and the appointment of Mr. Guild to draft a memorial to Congress, more in accordance with the sympathy of the people for nations struggling for popular institutions. This subject was debated by Messrs. White, Hannot Smith, Young, Bailey, Devyr, Croly, Sharrot and Guild. Adjourned for one week.

STEAMERS TO SAIL.—For the next nine days, a steamer will leave New-York for a foreign port almost every day. On Saturday the 6th, the Atlantic will sail for Liverpool, the Glasgow for Glasgow, and the Cherokee for Chagres. On Sunday the 7th, the Prometheus will sail for San Juan; on the 8th, the Merlin for St. Thomas; on the 9th, the Ohio for Chagres, and the Empire City for Havana and New-Orleans, and on Saturday the 13th the Humboldt for Havre.

MERCANTILE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.—The election of a Committee to nominate officers for the ensuing year, took place in the rooms at Clinton Hall. There was a spirited canvass, and much good-natured excitement. Twenty-six candidates were in nomination, from which the following were chosen:

Floyd Clarkson, with	Cornell, Willis & Co.
Douglass Leffingwell, with	Bowen & McNamee.
Henry J. Brundage, with	Boyd & Wilkins.
Francis Geilatley, with	P. W. Geilatley.
William H. Wickham, with	Mercantile Bank.
Algernon Pickersgill, with	Perkins, Brooks & Co.
William A. Martin, with	P. W. Byrns & Co.

This constitutes the Nominating Committee, whose duty it is to nominate a ticket to be supported at the annual election in January. There will probably be one or two opposition Committees appointed for the purpose of nominating independent candidates.

LIBERAL BEQUESTS.—We publish the bequests of the late A. Graham, Esq., to different charitable and public institutions, by will dated May 29, 1850, a codicil of 9th April, 1851, and a further codicil of 19th October, 1851, as follows:

$5,000 for the support of Free Lectures for the Youth of Brooklyn, N. Y.

$5,000 for a School of Design, and forming a Gallery of Fine Arts.

$5,000 for the purchase of Specimens of Natural History, and procuring free Lectures on the same in the Lecture-Room of the Brooklyn Institute.

$12,000 for the course of Sunday Evening Lectures on the Power, Wisdom and Goodness of God, as manifested in his works.

The above bequests, amounting in the whole to $27,000, are to the Brooklyn Institute.

$10,000 to the American Colonization Society.

$500 to the St. Andrew's Society, N. Y.

$500 to the St. George's Society, N. Y.

$500 to the Erin Fraternal Benevolent Society, Brooklyn, N. Y.

$1,500 to the Home of Aged Indigent Respectable Females, Brooklyn, N. Y.

$500 to the Brooklyn Association for the Improvement of the Condition of the Poor.

$500 for the purchase of Books and Newspapers for the use of the inmates of the Insane Asylum and Poor House of Kings County.

$500 to the Workmen in the employ of the Brooklyn White Lead Company.

$2,000 to the House of Industry and Home of the Friendless, N. Y.

$1,000 to the Home for Discharged Female Convicts, New-York.

$5,000 for the purchase of Surgical Instruments, Water-Bed, &c., for Brooklyn City Hospital.

$1,000 to the Brooklyn Orphan Asylum, incorporated April 15, 1835.

$2,500 to the Church of the Saviour, Brooklyn, N. Y.

$2,500 to the Church of the Restoration, Brooklyn, N. Y.

$1,000 to the Antioch College, in the Town of Marion, New-York.

$5,000 to the Meadville Theological School, at Meadville, Penn.

$10,000 to the American Unitarian Association, Boston, Massachusetts.

$1,000 for the Promotion of Unitarian Christianity in a District of England.

$500 to the Modbury Institute, England, founded by himself.

The residue of the Estate is divided among the relatives of the deceased.

FIRES.—At 8 o'clock yesterday morning a fire occurred in a frame building in the rear of No. 46 Leonard-st. A number of men from the Station-House soon extinguished it.

A fire was discovered about 1 o'clock yesterday morning by officers Hoyt and Elmore, corner of Forty-first-st. and Ninth-av. in a frame stable belonging to Mrs. Lee. They gave the alarm, and, repairing to the spot, rescued the horses that were in it. The stable, with its contents, was entirely destroyed. No insurance.

LAND REFORM COMMITTEE.—The meeting of the Executive Committee will take place at the Fourteenth Ward National Reform Headquarters, No. 148 Broadway, on Friday evening next, at 8 o'clock.

BROOKLYN ITEMS.

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND LOUIS KOSSUTH.—At the meeting of the Board of Education on Tuesday, the following Preamble and Resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, The most distinguished of the World's Exiles is about to visit our country for the purpose not only of communicating with the Government, but of inquiring into our laws and institutions, therefore,

Resolved, That the Board have watched the career of Louis Kossuth with the highest admiration, and regard his visit to this country as one of the important events of this century. That in order to facilitate as far as possible the objects of his visit, we tender to him an invitation to examine the Public Schools of this city, and that the presiding officer appoint a Committee of Three to carry this invitation to the illustrious Guest of our Country.

Resolved, That the schools be closed on the day of his reception in Brooklyn.

Messrs. Arnold, J. G. Berryen and Anthony were appointed to carry the intention of the above resolutions into effect.

The following business was also transacted by the Board, which presents some features of general interest:

The School Census.—Resolutions were adopted, referring to the Chairman and Secretary of the Board, to ascertain, by correspondence with the State Superintendent, whether it be necessary for this body to take the census of the children in this City on the 31st inst.; and if it be determined that the census shall be taken on the day named, then the President shall call together the Committee, which is to be appointed by the Chair—one from each School Committee—and, that in case it be necessary to take the census, that the Committee on Supplies be empowered to contract with parties for the taking of said census at 1 cent per head for the inner Wards, and 1 cent per head for the outer Wards.

Condition of Public Schools.—The Visiting Committee for the past month reported School House No. 1, "no better than it should be;" No. 2, somewhat better; the others mostly in an unfavorable condition. The report also very properly refers to the late catastrophe in Greenwich-av., N. Y. and closed with a resolution to refer to Committee on School Houses the matter of causing the doors in all public school houses where it may be, by them, considered necessary to open outward. Adopted, together with report.

The Holidays.—A resolution was adopted directing that the schools be opened after holiday vacation, on Monday, Jan. 5, 1852.

—A communication from Miss Peabody, was presented, on the subject of introducing into our schools the American reproduction of Gen. Bem's Chart, and method of teaching history in chronological classification, which was referred to Committee on School Books.

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS

Report of the Secretary of War.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON, Saturday, Nov. 29, 1851.

SIR: I beg leave to submit the following Report of the operations of this Department during the year which has just expired.

The subject which has most engaged the attention of the Deparment has been the defense of Texas, New-Mexico, and the Mexican Territory adjacent to our own, against the incursions of the neighboring Indian tribes.

In my last annual report I briefly adverted to the nature of these incursions. Unlike their race in this part of the continent, these tribes are actuated not so much by hostility to the whites, as by motives of plunder. Accustomed, from time immemorial to carry on a predatory warfare against the Spanish settlements in their vicinity, they submit with reluctance to a new and more powerful race to put a stop to their incursions. The character of the country, which affords wonderful facilities to escape, and presents almost insurmountable obstacles to pursuit, is wonderfully adapted to these marauding expeditions. As infantry is of little use in a service which consists principally in pursuing small parties who are always mounted, I recommended, in my last report, the raising of an additional mounted regiment, equipped with special reference to this service. Congress not having adopted this recommendation, all that remained for the Department to do was to make such a disposition of the force at its disposal as would most effectually protect our own territory and fulfill our treaty obligations to Mexico. Accordingly, prompt measures were taken to concentrate, on the confines of Texas and New-Mexico, as many of the troops adapted to this service, as could be spared from other quarters.

The Indians in California and Oregon having always appeared of an unwarlike character, and disposed to cultivate the good will of the whites, it was thought that the services of the regiment of mounted riflemen might be dispensed with on the Pacific. It was therefore ordered to Texas. Brevet Major General Smith, its commander, was put in command of the eighth military department, and Brevet Brigadier General Hitchcock was ordered to succeed him in the command of the Pacific division.

In the interval of several months which elapsed between the death of Brevet Maj. Gen. Brooke and the arrival of Brevet Maj. Gen. Smith in Texas, the command of that department devolved on Brevet Brigadier General Harney, during which time this officer displayed his accustomed activity in arresting the incursions of the Indians, and the good effect of the measures adopted by him, are already descernible in the comparative tranquility which that section of the country has for some time past enjoyed.

Some of the fiercest and most insolent of the tribes in all that region, occupy the northern portion of Texas where the streams that flow into the Mississippi, as well as those that empty themselves directly into the Gulf, find their sources. From this region, these tribes make frequent forays, not only into Texas and New-Mexico, but across the Rio Grande into the Mexican territory. With the double object of overawing these tribes, and of affording protection to such emigrants as may take that route to Texas, New-Mexico, or California, I deemed it advisable to establish a chain of military posts on that frontier. For this purpose, the Fifth Regiment of Infantry (which was already stationed high up the Red River and the Arkansas) was ordered to advance further into the interior, and to establish a chain of posts, extending in a western direction, and following as nearly as practicable, the route called (from the name of the officer who traced it) "Marcy's Route."

The Seventh Regiment of Infantry was ordered from Jefferson Barracks to occupy the stations abandoned by the Fifth.

In New-Mexico the Indians had become so bold as to commit their depredations within a few miles of the military posts, and I regret to say that in no instance was their audacity chastised. To remedy, if possible, this state of things, Brevet Col. Sumner was ordered to the command of that department.

He arrived at Santa Fé in the month of July last, and his first step was to make a new and, it is believed, a more judicious arrangement of the military posts. His next was to set out with a portion of his command on an expedition into the country of the Navajos, a powerful tribe, which has long spread terror, not only in Texas and New-Mexico, but even in the State of Sonoro. The result of this expedition is not yet known; but if he should accomplish no more than to establish a military post among them, and retaliate upon them, by capturing their herds and destroying their fields, the expedition will not have been fruitless.

Experience has shown that the most effectual way to protect our settlements is to overawe the Indians by a constant display of military force in their immediate neighborhood; for this reason, as well as on account of the demoralizing influence of the towns and villages on the troops, the commanding officers, both in Texas and New-Mexico, were directed to remove the stations as near the frontiers as circumstances would permit. Both these officers have, with their accustomed promptitude, taken steps to carry this measure into effect, and made an entirely new arrangement of posts, looking, as far as practicable, alike to the defense of our own territory and that of Mexico. Strong hopes are entertained that when their plans shall have been fully developed, the Indians will be disposed to make treaties, and to observe them.

The United States have thus endeavored to fulfill, to their fullest extent, the obligations imposed upon them by their late treaty with Mexico. It surely was never contemplated that the entire expense and responsibility of defending her territory against those incursions should devolve upon us. The language of the treaty admits of no such construction, and, if it did, it would require of us what it would be obviously impossible for us to perform. As the United States have no right to station their troops within the limits of Mexico, how is it possible for them, entirely, to protect her against tribes, most of whom occupy the vast desert lying between the two countries? All that we can do is to make common cause with her; to make her wrongs our own; to chastise, if possible, the tribes by whom they are committed; to compel them, whenever it is possible to do so, to make restitution of Mexican prisoners and property; and, finally, in our treaties with them, to guard the interests of Mexican citizens as carefully as those of our own, and to punish any violation of the one as severely as we do that of the other. It is manifest, too, that whatever efforts we may make for the protection of Mexico, will not only be fruitless, but absolutely prejudicial, unless they are aided by corresponding efforts on her part. The number of our military posts, the vigilance, activity and courage of our troops, all tend to drive these marauders from our border toward that of Mexico, where they can carry on their depredations with almost certain impunity.

The difference in the character of the inhabitants of the two countries also tends to the same result. Our people are all familiar with the use of arms, and readily form themselves into militia companies for their own defense. It was this circumstance, joined with a native hardihood of character, that enabled the pioneers of all our States to subdue tribes far more formidable than the robber bands that infest the frontiers of Mexico. The inhabitants of Mexico, on the contrary, have little skill in fire-arms, nothing that deserves the name of a militia, and little of that daring intrepidity which distinguished the early settlers of our own country. It is not surprising, therefore, that the Indians stand less in awe of the Mexicans than they do of our people, and that, where both countries present equal temptations to plunder, they should direct their incursions toward the former rather than the latter.

It is not improbable, also, that the feebleness of the Federal authority in Mexico, the distracted state of that Republic, and the civil contests that have so long divided her people, may impair her influence among savages who know no right but power, and no motive but the fear of its exercise.

The portion of Mexico which is said to have suffered most from these depredations, is the State of Sonora. Between that State and the inhabited portions of Texas and New-Mexico, there is an extensive range of mountain and desert, for the most part uninhabitable, and at certain seasons of the year, almost impassable. To send, therefore, to that frontier a sufficient force to afford it any effectual protection, and to maintain it there, would be attended with difficulties almost insuperable. A post, however, has been established at the junction of the Gila and the Colorado, and the commander of the Pacific division has been directed to examine whether it would not be practicable and expedient to establish one or more posts higher up the Gila. His report on that subject has not yet been received. It has been fully ascertained, however, that to maintain even an inconsiderable force in that region, would be attended with an enormous expense.

These depredations in Sonora are committed chiefly by the Apaches and the Navajos—the same tribes that are the most troublesome in Texas and New-Mexico. The troops employed in the defense of our own settlements are, therefore, indirectly aiding in the defense of Sonora; for, if we can succeed in compelling the tribes to make treaties and to fulfill them, the measure will be as conducive to the protection of the Mexican territory as of our own.

It must not, however, be supposed that the Indians that infest the Mexican settlements reside within our limits. It is difficult to assign any definite boundaries to wandering tribes who subsist almost entirely by the chase, or in herds of cattle which they drive before them in their migrations; but it is well known that some of them have their habitual haunts with the limits of Mexico.

There are strong reasons, too, to believe that the vague rumors that have reached this country of ravages committed by Indians in the Mexican States have been grossly exaggerated and sometimes entirely fabricated. An idea seems to have gone abroad among the people of that country, that this Government was bound by its treaty with Mexico to indemnify citizens of that country who might sustain losses by depredations of the Indians, and from information that has reached the Department, there can be no doubt, that in some instances tales of depredations have been invented, with a view of bringing fictitious claims for damages against the Government.

The Indians west of the Rocky Mountains are represented to be less warlike in character than those on the eastern side of the continent, and until recently had manifested no unfriendly feelings toward the white settlers in their neighborhood. Several outbreaks, however, have, within a few months past, occurred both in California and Oregon. There is reason to believe that, in some instances, the Indians have been goaded on to these acts of hostility by the conduct of our own people. Treaties have recently been made with some of these tribes, which, if they are faithfully observed on our part, and if the white inhabitants are compelled to respect the boundaries of the territory assigned to them, will go far toward reconciling this unfortunate race to their fate, and preventing future outbreaks. I recommend, therefore, that the laws restricting intercourse with the Indians and encroachments on their lands, be rigidly enforced, and that, if necessary, more stringent enactments be passed for that purpose.

It would not be safe, however, to rely on any pacific policy, however wise and just, for the protection of our fellow-citizens in that remote region. Since the withdrawal of the regiment of mounted riflemen, the military force on the Pacific is exceedingly small. By the returns of the Adjutant-General, appended to the Report of the General-in-Chief, it appears that the entire force stationed on the Pacific amounted, at the last return, to only seven hundred and thirty-six men. This force is deemed entirely inadequate for the protection of the inhabitants, particularly of Oregon. The Governor of that Territory has represented this fact, and has urged an increase of the force stationed within it. The means now at the disposal of the Department do not enable it to comply with this demand.

In my last annual report I recommended the creation of a new regiment of mounted men. The withdrawal of the regiment of mounted riflemen from the Pacific, has, to some extent, diminished the necessity of creating an additional regiment of that description of force, as that country will be supplied by infantry. Nevertheless, by the report of the Commander-in-Chief, it will be seen that he considers not only this additional regiment of cavalry, but also an increase in the rank and file of the infantry and artillery, as indispensably necessary. While I feel some hesitation in urging upon Congress any addition to the force on the frontier, where the support of troops is attended with such enormous expense, I cannot but acknowledge the force of his remarks and the weight that is due to his recommendation. I hope, therefore, that the matter will be submitted to Congress.

The entire number of men borne on the rolls amounts to 10,538, which, according to the usual estimate, will furnish an effective force of not more than 8,500 men. When it is considered that this small force is scattered over a frontier of several thousands of miles in extent, its insufficiency will be apparent.

In my last annual report I adverted to the enormous increase in the expense of supporting the army, and to the causes that produced it. These causes are, principally:

First. That, as has been already stated, more than one-half of the whole army is stationed on our remote frontier, and, so far as expenses are concerned, may be considered as in active service in time of war.

Second. That the military posts on the frontier were formerly on or near navigable rivers, but now, on the contrary, are either far in the interior of the country, or on the Pacific, and, consequently, can only be reached by an overland journey of hundreds of miles, or by a sea voyage of several thousands.

The following is a list of what were our most remote posts in 1845, and their respective distances from navigation:

Fort Snelling, accessible by steamboats.		
Fort Leavenworth,	do.	do.
Fort Wilkins,	do.	do.
Fort Gibson,	do.	do.
Fort Smith,	do.	do.
Fort Jesup, 24 miles from steamboat navigation, by wagons.		
Fort Atkinson, 24 miles from steamboat navigation, by wagons.		
Fort Towson, 6 miles from steamboat navigation, by wagons.		
Fort Washita, 86 miles from steamboat navigation, by wagons.		
Fort Scott, 90 miles from steamboat navigation, by wagons.		

Compare this list with that of some of the most remote posts at the present time.

Indianola, now the depot for the greater part of the posts in Texas, and some of those in New-Mexico, is five hundred and forty miles by water from New-Orleans. From this depôt it is by wagons:

To Forth Worth	420 miles.
To El Paso	803 "
To Doña Aña	849 "
To the post at the Copper Mines	979 "

Fort Townson and Fort Smith, both depending on New-Orleans, are the frontier depôts for the posts on the north line of Texas. The transportation by wagons is:

From Fort Towson to Fort Belknap	302 miles.
From Fort Smith to Fort Arbuckle	167 "

Fort Leavenworth, four hundred and twenty miles from St. Louis by water, is the frontier depôt for the posts on the Santa Fe and Oregon routes. Thence it is by wagons:

To Fort Laramie	637 miles.
To Fort Union	728 miles.
To Santa Fe	821 miles.
To Socorro	981 miles.
To San Juan	1,048 miles.

From St. Louis to Fort Snelling, by water, is 725 miles, and thence to Fort Ripley, by wagons, 135 miles.

From St. Louis to Keokuk, by water, is 179 miles, and thence to Fort Dodge, by wagons, 280 miles.

A large portion of the supplies for the posts on the Pacific, are drawn from the Atlantic States.

Third, The frontier posts, as may be seen by the foregoing list, were then situated in the midst of a fertile and productive country, where nearly all the supplies for the troops could be procured. Now, on the contrary, they are, for the most part, in one of the most unproductive regions of the world, which furnishes but a small portion of the necessary supplies for an army. Those supplies must, therefore, all be drawn from the older States and transported immense distances. The consequence is, that while in 1845 the cost of transportation (of troops and supplies) was $130,053 52
In 1850-51 it amounted to 2,094,408 51
In the former, cost of forage was 99,794 20
In the latter, it was 1,287,327 91

The great increase in this last item arises not only from the causes just mentioned, but also from the great increase of animals in the Quartermaster's department, which, in 1845, amounted only to 817, and in 1850-51, to upward of 8,000; and also to the fact that the mounted force has been greatly increased.

Fourth, The great distance which troops have to be transported in going to and from the several posts.

This is a very important item. Owing to the smallness of our army, changes of station are very frequent; and, instead of being made, as they formerly were, by water, they are now made by land. When it is recollected what a vast amount of transportation is necessary for an army on a long march, when, not only their baggage but supplies of every kind (including provisions for their daily consumption) must be carried with them, some idea may be formed of the expense attending these changes of station. The above facts will serve in some degree to explain the great increase that has taken place in the expenditures of that department. For fuller explanations on this subject, I refer to the accompanying report of the Quartermaster General.

It is probable, however, that, in some instances, the expenditures, both in the Quartermaster's and the Commissary departments, may have been increased by maladministration. The transactions of both these departments involve such a variety of details, and their agents are so far removed from the supervision of their chiefs, that abuses may exist a long time before they are discovered. Every effort, however, has been used to detect these abuses and to prevent their recurrence. Inspectors have been sent to the frontiers to inquire into the manner in which the affairs of the Departments are administered, and a rigid scrutiny into accounts has been ordered. I regret to say that the Department has some reason to fear that its apprehensions on this subject were not altogether without foundation.

From statements already prepared by the different bureaus of this Department, it appears that the increased expenditures in the army resulting from our newly-acquired territory, (including Texas,) amounted to $4,556,700 75.

Congress having clearly manifested a determination to reduce, as far as possible, the expenditures of the army, I felt it my duty, as far as was practicable, to carry their views into effect. I have accordingly labored to reform abuses, to enforce rigidly all regulations looking to economy, and to retrench every unnecessary expense. I will enumerate some of the measures adopted for this purpose.

The number of enlisted men in the Ordnance department, prior to the late war, amounted to 250 men; but during the year it was increased to 587 men. By an order of the Department they were reduced to their original number.

Prior to the late war there were only four light artillery companies. After the war broke out, four more of the artillery companies were converted into light artillery, making in all eight companies. This description of troops, although extremely effective in a regular way, are utterly useless in the kind of service in which the army is now employed. The Department did not hesitate, therefore, to direct that six of these companies should be dismounted. Of this number, four will continue dismounted, unless Congress should otherwise direct; but, as it is deemed important to preserve a portion of this description of force, the two remaining companies will be remounted as soon as the Department is provided with the means of doing so. This will make in all four companies, or one to each of the regiments of artillery, which seems to have been contemplated by the act of 1821.

A number of persons from civil life are employed in the service in various capacities, such as clerks, &c. An order was issued, whereby their number has been greatly reduced, and their duties required to be performed by officers and soldiers.

An order was issued last Spring that at all the permanent posts on the frontier, where it was practicable farms should be established, to be cultivated by the troops. Sufficient time has not yet elapsed to ascertain the result of the experiment. If it should prove successful it will not only effect a considerable reduction of expense in the Quartermaster's and Commissary's departments, but will greatly promote the health and comfort of the troops.

Congress at their last session omitted to provide for a deficiency which was ascertained to exist in the appropriations for the Quartermaster's department for the year ending 30th June last. Serious embarrassment would have resulted to the service from their omission, had there not existed some unexpended balances of former appropriations, which under the act of August 26, 1842, were transferred to the Quartermaster's department. Congress also redured all the items of appropriations, but one, for the same department, for the current fiscal year (ending 30th June next) fifty per cent. below the estimates, the consequence of which is that the appropriations for that department are entirely inadequate to its wants, and that Congress will be called upon, at an early period, to supply the deficiency.

Besides these measures, various others, which it is needless to enumerate, have been adopted, with a view to promote economy, and to insure fidelity and attention on the part of disbursing officers.

The fact is not to be disguised that a great laxity of expense, and a disregard of the regulations looking to economy, had become somewhat prevalent in the army. The Department has exerted itself to remedy this evil, and is gratified to say that in all its efforts for this purpose it has received the aid and zealous cooperation of the superior officers. The effect of the measures it has adopted for this purpose is already discernible in a considerable reduction of the expenditures, and I have the satisfaction to announce that the estimates of the Department for the next fiscal year are considerably below the expenditures of the present and preceding years.

The expenditures for the support of the Army, for the fiscal year ending 30th of June last, were	$9,906,268 58
The estimates for the next year are	7,898,775 83
Showing a reduction of	$1,161,492 75

There are some other measures of economy which the Department would have carried out, had the aid of legislation not been necessary to enable it to do so.

A number of arsenals have from time to time been established at points where they were then needed, but where, in consequence of the extension of our frontier, and the vastly increased facilities of transportation, they are now entirely useless. As it is doubtful whether it be competent for the Executive to abolish these establishments, it is desirable that this authority be vested in it by law.

In my last Report I recommended that the Department should be authorized to enlist men specially as teamsters, and stated at length my reasons for this recommendation. Further experience confirms me in the opinion that this mode of obtaining the aid of this indispensable class of persons (of whom five hundred or six hundred are constantly employed by the Quartermaster's Department) is far preferable to the plan now resorted to of employing them sometimes at enormous wages. It has been suggested, however, that, instead of enlisting men specially as teamsters, it would be better to increase the number of privates in each company on the frontier to one hundred, and to authorize the allowance of a higher rate of pay to such of them as should be detailed as teamsters. This arrangement would enable the officer in command to use them either as teamsters or as soldiers, as circumstances might require.

The removal of the obstructions to the navigation of Red River and of the Rio Grande would greatly reduce the expense of supplying many of the posts in Texas and New-Mexico, by diminishing the amount of land transportation. I have little doubt that the amount that the Government would save by means of this improvement, in two or three years, would defray the cost of the work.

But whatever efforts may be made, either by Congress or by the department, to curtail the expenditure of the army, they must continue to be enormous so long as it is necessary that so large a portion of it should be stationed on the frontier. The history of the world affords no instance of an army being permanently stationed at so great a distance from the main source of its supplies. It is evident, therefore, that Congress should resort to every means to diminish the necessity of regular troops for the defense of the frontiers. Permit me to offer a few suggestions on this point, though they do not immediately relate to the operations of this Department.

In the first place, I would suggest that every facility and encouragement should be afforded to the formation of a local militia, in which our new possessions, like all the Mexican States, are very deficient. As the first step toward the accomplishment of this object, I would recommend that the Executive be authorized to distribute arms among the inhabitants. I am fully persuaded that the advantages that would result from the adoption of this measure, in familiarizing the people with the use of arms, in inspiring them with confidence, and in encouraging the formation of militia companies, would more than compensate for the trifling expense that would attend it. The very fact that the inhabitants were known to be armed would serve to intimidate the Indians. The distribution should, of course, be made with such precautions as would prevent their being sold or converted to an improper use.

In the next place, policy and humanity both require that we should employ some other means of putting a stop to these depredations than the terror of our arms. We should try the effect of conciliatory measures. There is no doubt that the Indians are frequently impelled to commit depredations by despair and hunger. As the white population has advanced upon them, they have been compelled to recede before it. The lands that afford nourishment to cattle and game are also those the best adapted to cultivation, and consequently the first to tempt the settler; so that the Indians are compelled to take refuge in arid plains and mountains that afford little sustenance to animal life; and even there the circle of white population seems rapidly closing around them. This is particularly the case in Texas. The United States, as the owners of the public domain, have always acted on the principle that the aboriginal race had at least a right of *occupancy* in the soil, and when it was needed for settlement this right has been extinguished by voluntary sale. Texas, on the contrary, as the owner of all the vacant lands within her limits, acknowledges, it is said, no such right; and she has from time to time taken possession of the territory occupied by the Indians, laid it off into counties, and proceeded to survey and sell it. Nothing could be more calculated to alarm and exasperate the Indians, and to bring about collisions between them and the white settlers than the adoption of this policy. That such has been and must continue to be its consequence, there can be no doubt. It would seem, therefore, to be for the advantage both of Texas herself and of the United States that these Indians should be left in undisturbed possession of a small portion of her vast territory.

The quantity of arms to which the new States and Territories are respectively entitled under the act of 1808, is so small as to be of no practical advantage, and, as they have not participated in the issues heretofore made, it would seem to be but just that they should now receive more than their respective share. At all events, they might be permitted to receive their qu