

26th of March, 1794, Congress passed an act imposing severe penalties and punishments upon citizens and residents of the United States who should engage in the trade between foreign nations. The provisions of this act were extended and enforced by the act of 10th May, 1800.

After the States themselves had a clear right to their own constitutional privilege intended for their benefit, and to prohibit, by their own laws, the trade at any time they thought proper previous to 1808. Several of them exercised this right before the number and among them some containing the greatest power of slaves. This gave rise to the greatest power to be exercised by any State, because they themselves had removed the constitutional barrier. Congress accordingly passed an act on the 28th February, 1803, "to prevent the importation of certain persons into certain States where, by the law thereof, their admission is prohibited."

In this manner, and in the exercise of their power, of African slaves into the United States was prohibited, and the prohibition was extended in advance of 1808.

Not after the year 1808 approached, Congress determined to suffer the trade to exist even for a single day after they had the power to take it off. On the 22d of March, 1807, they passed an act to take effect "from and after the day of January, 1808," prohibiting the importation of African slaves into the United States. This was followed by subsequent acts of a similar character, to which I need not specially refer. Such were the principles and the practice of our ancestors more than fifty years ago in regard to the African slave-trade.

In the names of the revered patriots who had been delegates to the Convention, and afterward became Members of Congress, that in passing these laws they had violated the Constitution which they had framed with so much care and deliberation. They supposed that to prohibit the importation of African slaves was to exercise a power beyond an appointed limit. They were not aware that they were exercising the right to exercise this power after that day had arrived.

If this were not the case, the framers of the Constitution had expended much labor in vain. Had they imagined that Congress would possess no power to prohibit the importation of African slaves, they would not have taken so much care to protect the States against the exercise of this power before that period. Nay more, they would not have attached such importance to this provision as to have excluded it from the possibility of future repeal or amendment, to which other portions of the Constitution were subjected. It would have been wholly unnecessary to engrave on the fifth article of the Constitution, prescribing the mode of its own future amendment, the provision that no amendment which may be made prior to the year one thousand eight hundred and eight shall in any manner affect the provisions of the Constitution which relate to the right to admit the importation of African slaves into that period.

According to the adverse construction, the clause itself on which so much care and discussion had been employed by the members of the Convention, was an absolute nullity from the beginning, and all that has since been done in relation to it is a mere pretence. It is well known that the Convention, in its efficient exercise would have been impossible. In that event any one State could have effectively continued the trade not only for itself but for all the other slave States, though never so long as the Convention had been in session. It is well known that the Convention had the power to prohibit the importation of African slaves, when once brought within the limits of any one State, in accordance with the laws, cannot practically be excluded from any other State where slavery exists. And if all the States had separately passed laws prohibiting the importation of African slaves, these laws would have been equally binding on all the States, and would have been equally effective to guard the coast. Such a force no State can employ in time of peace without the consent of Congress.

There acts of Congress, it is believed, have, with very rare and insignificant exceptions, accomplished their purpose. In the period of more than half a century there has been no perceptible addition to the number of our domestic slaves. During this period their advancement in civilization has far surpassed that of any other portion of the African race. The light and the blessing of Christianity have been extended to them, and both the mental and physical condition has been greatly improved.

Recapitulate the trade, and it would be difficult to determine whether the effect would be more deleterious on the interests of the master or of the native-born American. Of the evils to be feared, the extension of the trade, and the introduction of wild, heathen, and ignorant barbarians among the sober, orderly, and quiet slaves, whose ancestors have been on the soil for several generations. This might tend to barbarize, demoralize, and expatriate the whole race, and produce more deplorable consequences.

It is well known that the world, if possible, will still more deplorable. At present it is treated with kindness and humanity. He is well fed, well clothed, and not overworked. His condition is incomparably better than that of the coolies which modern nations of high civilization have employed as a substitute for African slaves. He is treated with kindness and humanity. He is well fed, well clothed, and not overworked. His condition is incomparably better than that of the coolies which modern nations of high civilization have employed as a substitute for African slaves.

spirit toward the United States. It is true this has been done after their own peculiar fashion; but we ought to regard with a lenient eye the ancient customs of an empire which has made the most of its resources, and whose policy has been consistent with our own national honor. The conduct of our minister on the occasion has received my entire approbation.

In order to carry out the spirit of this treaty, and to give it full effect, it became necessary to conclude two supplemental conventions, the one in relation to the claims of our citizens, and the other to fix the tariff on imports and exports, and to regulate the transit duties and trade of our merchants with China. This duty was satisfactorily performed by our late minister. These conventions bear date at Shanghai on the 8th November, 1858. Having been considered in the light of the preceding arrangements, and the principles which have been laid down, they were signed and ratified by the Chinese Government, and they were ratified by the United States on the 24th of February, 1859.

The ratification of these conventions, and the exchange of the ratifications, was accomplished at Shanghai on the 24th of February, 1859. The ratifications, however, did not reach Shanghai until after the departure of our minister to Peking, and these conventions could not, therefore, be exchanged at the same time with the principal ratifications, and they were not exchanged until the 24th of February, 1859. The ratifications, however, did not reach Shanghai until after the departure of our minister to Peking, and these conventions could not, therefore, be exchanged at the same time with the principal ratifications, and they were not exchanged until the 24th of February, 1859.

In the view that the employment of other peaceful means might become necessary to obtain "just satisfaction" from Paraguay, a strong naval force was concentrated in the waters of the Plata River. The President, in his annual message, has stated that he has ordered the fleet to be sent to the Plata River, and that he has ordered the fleet to be sent to the Plata River, and that he has ordered the fleet to be sent to the Plata River.

Our relations with the great Empires of France and Russia, as well as with all other Governments on the continent of Europe, excepting those of the most friendly character, are in a highly satisfactory condition. In my last annual message I presented a statement of the unsatisfactory condition of our relations with Spain; and I regret to say that this has not materially improved. The only point of difference between the two Governments is the "Cuban question," the payment of which has been ably urged by our Minister, and in which more than a hundred of our citizens are directly interested, remain unsatisfied, notwithstanding both their justice and their amount (\$1,250,000) had been recognized and retained by the Spanish Government.

I again recommend to the Spanish Government for the purpose of distribution among the claimants in the "Amistad case." In common with two of my predecessors, I entertain no doubt that this is required by our treaty with Spain of the 27th October, 1825. The failure to discharge this obligation has been urged by the Cabinet of Madrid as a reason against the settlement of our claims.

I need not repeat the arguments which I urged in my last annual message in favor of the acquisition of Cuba by fair purchase. My opinions on that measure remain unchanged. I therefore, again invite the attention of Congress to this subject, and to the fact that the acquisition of Cuba by fair purchase would be a benefit to our country, and that it would be a benefit to our country, and that it would be a benefit to our country.

While indulging the hope that no other subject remained which could disturb the good understanding between the two countries, the question arising out of the adverse claims of the parties to the Island of San Juan, under the Oregon treaty of the 15th of June, 1846, suddenly assumed a threatening aspect. Our late minister, Mr. Clayton, in his annual message, has stated that he has ordered the fleet to be sent to the Plata River, and that he has ordered the fleet to be sent to the Plata River, and that he has ordered the fleet to be sent to the Plata River.

But we are obliged, as a Christian and moral nation, to consider what would be the effect upon unhappy Africa itself if we should reopen the slave-trade. This would give the trade an impulse and extension which has never been given to it, and which would be a benefit to our country, and that it would be a benefit to our country, and that it would be a benefit to our country.

On the other hand, when a market for African slaves shall no longer be furnished in Cuba, and thus all the world be closed against this trade, we may then indulge a reasonable hope for the gradual improvement of Africa. The chief motive of war among the tribes of Africa is the desire to acquire slaves for the slave-trade. The resources of that fertile but miserable country might then be developed by the hand of industry and labor, and the people might be able to support themselves by legitimate foreign and domestic commerce. In this manner Christianity and civilization may gradually penetrate the existing gloom.

land of San Juan, as well as to protect them against the incursions of the Indians. Much excitement prevailed for some time throughout the country, and the danger of a collision between the two parties was apprehended. The British had a large naval force in the vicinity, and it was an act of special justice and of friendly forbearance to state that they were determined to refer the whole affair to his Government, and to await its instructions.

This objectionable opinion, demanded serious attention. It would have been a great calamity for the British had they been precipitated into acts of hostility on the question of title to the island, but it was merely concerning what should be its condition during the intervening period while the two Governments might be employed in settling the question, which of them belonged. For this reason Lieutenant-General Scott was dispatched on the 17th of September last to Washington Territory to take immediate command of the United States forces on the Pacific coast should he deem this necessary. The main object of his mission was to carry out the spirit of the Convention, and to preserve the peace and to preserve the peace and to preserve the peace.

The case presented, however, is not merely a case of individual wrong, but one which involves the rights of the people of the United States as a neighboring State. The exercise of the power of the United States in that country to redress wrongs is less to be desired, because of the same time to restore peace and order to Mexico itself. In the accomplishment of this result the people of the United States must necessarily feel a deep and earnest interest. Mexico ought to be a rich and prosperous and powerful Republic.

I regret to inform you that there has been no improvement in the affairs of Mexico since my last annual message, and I am again obliged to ask the earnest attention of Congress to the unhappy condition of that Republic. At the same election a new Congress was elected, which first met on the 15th of September, 1857. By the Constitution of 1857 the presidential term was to begin on the 1st of December (1857), and continue for four years. On that day General Comonfort appeared before the assembled Congress in the City of Mexico, took the oath to support the new Constitution, and was sworn in as President. Within a month afterward he had been driven from the capital, and a military rebellion had assigned the supreme power of the Republic to General Zuloaga. The Constitution provided that in the absence of the President his office should devolve upon the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and General Comonfort, who had fled to the United States, was appointed to fill the vacancy.

The wrongs which we have suffered from Mexico are before the world, and must demand the attention of American citizens. The wrongs which we have suffered from Mexico are before the world, and must demand the attention of American citizens. The wrongs which we have suffered from Mexico are before the world, and must demand the attention of American citizens.

It may be said that these measures will, at least indirectly, be inconsistent with the domestic concerns of foreign nations. But does not the present case fairly constitute an exception to the general rule? In an adjoining Republic is a state of anarchy and confusion from which she has proved wholly unable to extricate herself. She is entirely destitute of the power to maintain herself against her borders, or to prevent the free trade in her territory, and to establish and maintain a settled government; and we have a far deeper interest, socially, commercially, and politically than any other nation. She is now a wreck upon the ocean, drifting about as she is impelled by different factions. As a good neighbor, she is not to be left to her fate, and we are bound to extend to her a helping hand. It is our duty to assist her to undertake the task, and thus force us to interfere there, under circumstances of increased difficulty, for the maintenance of our established policy.

I repeat the recommendation contained in my last annual message, that authority be granted to the President to employ a more temporary military force to protect the Mexican line in Sonora and Chihuahua, where those may be necessary to protect the lives and property of American and Mexican citizens against the incursions and depredations of the Indians, as well as of lawless rovers on that remote region. The establishment of one such country now almost entirely depopulated by the hostile inroads of the Indians from our side of the line, would, it is believed, have prevented much injury and many cruelties during the past season. A state of lawlessness and violence prevails on that distant frontier. Life and property are there wholly unprotected. The population of Arizona, numbering more than two hundred souls, are practically destitute of government, of laws, or of any regular administration of justice. Murder, rapine, and other crimes are committed with impunity. I therefore again call the attention of Congress to the necessity of establishing a Territorial Government over Arizona.

The treaty with Nicaragua of the 16th of February, 1857, to which I referred in my last annual message, failed to receive the ratification of the Government of that Republic, for reasons which I need not enumerate. A similar treaty has been signed with the Government of Nicaragua, and has been ratified by the Senate for its ratification. Its provisions cannot, I think, fail to be acceptable to the people of both countries.

Our claims against the Government of Nicaragua are not in an earnest manner, and not without hope of success. I deem it to be my duty more earnestly to recommend to Congress the passage of a law authorizing the President to employ the naval force of the United States to protect the lives and property of American citizens passing in transit across the Panama, Nicaragua, and Tehuantepec routes, against sudden and lawless outbreaks and depredations. I shall not repeat the arguments employed in former Messages in support of this measure. Suffice it to say that the lives of many of our people, and the recovery of vast amounts of treasure passing and returning over one or more of these routes between the Atlantic and Pacific, may be deeply involved in the action of Congress on this subject.

I would also recommend that authority be granted to the President to employ the naval force of the United States to protect the lives and property of American citizens passing in transit across the Panama, Nicaragua, and Tehuantepec routes, against sudden and lawless outbreaks and depredations. I shall not repeat the arguments employed in former Messages in support of this measure. Suffice it to say that the lives of many of our people, and the recovery of vast amounts of treasure passing and returning over one or more of these routes between the Atlantic and Pacific, may be deeply involved in the action of Congress on this subject.

and in reference to the only subject which, in their judgment, would meet the exigency, has been his own power, and not that of the Government of the United States. The power of the Government of the United States, in the exercise of its power, is not to be limited by the power of the Government of the United States. The power of the Government of the United States, in the exercise of its power, is not to be limited by the power of the Government of the United States.

I hope the President, in writing our present minister in August last, will feel authorized to ask from the military forces of the United States, under the call of the Constitution, to be ordered to protect the citizens and the power is conferred upon him, neither the one nor the other will be respected in the existing state of anarchy and disorder, and the outrages already perpetrated, and which are daily being repeated, will never be chastised; and, as I assured you on the 23d of February, these evils must increase until the Government of the United States disappears from the country. I have, and I reluctantly feel to the same opinion, and I have, and I reluctantly feel to the same opinion, and I have, and I reluctantly feel to the same opinion.

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clered war, and provided the force necessary to carry it out, the President, as Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy, can also employ the force in making war against the rebels. This is the plain language of the Constitution, and it is the plain language of the framers of the Constitution.

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Under the resolution of June 2, 1858, for the adjustment of the accounts with the Republic of Paraguay, the President is authorized to adopt such measures and use such force as in his judgment may be necessary and advisable in the event of a refusal of just satisfaction by the Government of Paraguay. "Just satisfaction" for what? For the purpose of protecting the lives and property of American citizens in Paraguay, and for the purpose of protecting the lives and property of American citizens in Paraguay, and for the purpose of protecting the lives and property of American citizens in Paraguay.

The XXXVth Congress terminated on the 3d of March, 1859, without having passed the "act making appropriations for the service of the Post-Office Department during the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1860." This act also contained an appropriation to carry out the provisions of the "act making appropriations for the service of the Post-Office Department during the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1859," which was passed on the 3d of March, 1859.

The great difficulty and the great hardship consisted in the failure to pass the act making appropriations for the service of the Post-Office Department during the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1860. This act also contained an appropriation to carry out the provisions of the "act making appropriations for the service of the Post-Office Department during the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1859," which was passed on the 3d of March, 1859.

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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, OFFICE INDIAN AFFAIRS, NOV. 26, 1859. SIR: In compliance with custom and regulation, I have the honor to submit the following Annual Report on Indian Affairs for the present year, accompanied by reports from the Superintendent of the various Reservations, and by particular reports respecting the present condition, progress, and prospects of the different tribes within our jurisdiction. The amount applicable during the last fiscal year for fulfilling the stipulations of our numerous treaties with the various Indian tribes, and for other necessary objects connected with Indian policy, was \$2,427,437.34. The amount drawn from the Treasury, and paid and expended, or remitted thereof, was \$3,462,014.52. The amount of the estimates submitted to Congress for appropriations for the present fiscal year was \$3,575,271.94. The amount appropriated was \$2,481,271.94. The amount applied for the balance during the present year, including the unexpended balance from the previous year, and interest, amounting to \$3,292,829.80, was \$3,292,829.80. The amount estimated as necessary for the next fiscal year, including the fulfillment of the stipulations of new treaties ratified by the Senate at the last session, and for other necessary objects, was \$3,292,829.80. The amount estimated as necessary for the next fiscal year, including the fulfillment of the stipulations of new treaties ratified by the Senate at the last session, and for other necessary objects, was \$3,292,829.80.