MR. HAYES'S MESSAGE.

To the Senate of the United States and House of Representatives:

The members of the Forty-sixth Congress have assembled in their first regular session under circumstances calling for mutual congratulation and grateful acknowledgment to the Giver of all good for the large and unusual measure of national prosperity which we now enjoy. The most interesting events which have occurred in our public affairs since my last annual Message to Congress are connected with the financial operations of the Government affecting the business interests of the country. I congratulate Congress on the successful execution of the Resumption act, which went into full and in the manner contemplated by law, United States notes began to be redeemed in specie, since the 1st of January last they have been promptly redeemed on presentation, and in all business transactions, public and private, in all parts of the country, they are received and paid out as the equivalent of coin. The demand upon the Treasury for gold and silver in exchange for United States notes has been comparatively small, and the currency deposit of coin and bullion in exchange for notes has been very large. The coinage of the precious metals deposited or exchanged for United States notes, over the amount of United States notes redeemed, is about $40,000,000.

The resumption of specie payments has been followed by a very great revival of business. With a currency equivalent in value to the money of the commercial world, we are enabled to enter upon an equal competition with other nations in trade and production. The increasing foreign demand for our manufactures and agricultural products has caused a large balance of trade in our favor, which has been paid in gold from the 1st of July last to Nov. 15, to the amount of about $59,000,000. Since the resumption of specie payments there has also been a marked and gratifying improvement of the public credit. The bonds of the Government, bearing only 4 per cent. interest, have been sold at or above par, sufficient in amount to pay off all of the national debt which was redeemable under present laws. The amount of interest saved annually by the process of refunding the debt since March 1, 1877, is $14,187,177. The bonds sold were largely in small sums, and the number of our citizens now holding the public securities is much greater than ever before.

The amount of the national debt which matures within less than two years is $792,121,000, of which $500,000,000 bear interest at the rate of 5 per cent., and the balance is in bonds bearing 6 per cent. interest. It is believed that this part of the public debt can be refunded by the issue of 4 per cent. bonds, and by the reduction of interest which will thus be effected, at $11,000,000 can be annually saved to the Treasury. To secure this important reduction of interest to be paid by the United States, further legislation is required, which, it is hoped, will be provided by Congress during its present session.

The coinage of gold by the mints of the United States during the last fiscal year was $10,-[illegible]812. The coinage of silver dollars since the passage of the act for that purpose, up to Nov. 1, 1879, was $45,000,850, of which $12,700,344 have been issued from the Treasury into circulation, and $32,300,506 are still in the Treasury. The policy of the Government in the coinage of the fractional parts of a dollar, and the principal commercial nations of Europe, to effect a permanent system for the equality of gold and silver as the recognized money of the world, leads me to recommend that Congress refrain from new legislation touching the coinage. The current activity of trade, internal and foreign, will supply, during the coming year, its own instructions, which may well be awaited before attempting further experimental measures with the coinage. I would, however, strongly urge upon Congress the importance of authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to suspend the coinage of silver dollars upon the present legal basis. The market value of the silver dollar being materially and largely less than the market value of the gold dollar it is obviously impracticable to maintain them at par with each other as coins of equal benefit. If the cheaper coin is forced into circulation it will, for a time, supplant the more valuable, soon become the sole standard of value, and thus defeat the desired object, which is a currency of both gold and silver, which shall be of equivalent value, dollar for dollar, with the universally recognized money of the world. The present coinage of United States notes with the capacity of legal tender in private contracts, is a step to be taken in our progress toward a safe and stable currency, which should be accepted as the policy and duty of the Government, and the interest and duty of the people. It is my firm conviction that the issue of legal tender paper money, based wholly upon the authority and credit of the Government, except in extreme emergency, is without warrant in the Constitution, and a violation of sound financial principles. The issue of United States notes during the late civil war, was the subject of bitter controversy between private individuals, was authorized except as a means of rescuing the country from imminent peril. The circulation of these notes as paper money for any protracted period at time after the accomplishment of that purpose was not contemplated by the framers of the law under which they were issued. They anticipated the redemption and withdrawal of these notes at the earliest practicable period, consistent with the attainment of the object for which they were provided. The policy of the United States, steadily adhered to from the adoption of the Constitution, has been to avoid, as far as possible, national debt, and when, from necessity, in the time of war, debts have been created, they have been paid off on the return of peace as rapidly as possible. With this view, and for this purpose, it is recommended that the existing law for the accumulation of a sinking fund sufficient to extinguish the public debt within a limited period be substantially adopted. If any of the objects or sources of taxation is deemed necessary by Congress, it is suggested that experience has shown that a duty can be placed on tea and coffee which will not enhance the price of these articles to the consumer, and which will add several millions of dollars annually to the Treasury.

POLYGAMY.

The continued deliberate violation by a large number of the prominent and influential citizens of the Territory of Utah of the laws of the United States for the prosecution and punishment of polygamy, demands the attention of every department of the Government. This offence has a population sufficient to entitle it to admission as a State, and its growth in the interests of the nation, as well as the welfare of the citizens of the Territory, require its advance from the territorial form of government to the responsibilities and privileges of a State. This important change will not, however, be attempted in the country while the citizens of Utah, in defiance of the law, continue the practice which is recognized as a crime by the civilized communities throughout the world. The law for the suppression of this crime was enacted with great unanimity by Congress no less than seventeen years ago. It has not until recently a dead letter in the Territory. A change of the public sentiment among the citizens of the Territory in favor of the enforcement of the law was in contravention of the teachings of religious freedom, has not yet come. The supreme court of the United States has decided the law to be legitimate in the exercise of legislative power over the Territories. There is no question as to the validity of the law. It is sufficiently stringent as it is, and should be promptly and effectively enforced. I recommend that very severe penalties be imposed for the crime of polygamy, and that the practice be made a misdemeanor, as it is in fact, the equivalent of bigamy. It is necessary to secure obedience to the enactment and execution of the laws of the United States in the Territory of Utah, that the civil officers of the Government in the Territory should be in full sympathy with the laws they are to execute in the suppression of polygamy.

THE ELECTIONS.

The last year, being a year in which occurred elections for members of the House of Representatives, have not failed to excite the passions which attend the struggle for political supremacy. It is to be hoped that the good sense of the people, which has ever been at the foundation of our progress, will, in the future, as in the past, control the conduct of political parties, and that the elections will be conducted in the future, as they should be, without violence or fraud. Many of the States have amended their laws in the interest of purity and freedom of election. The laws of the United States, designed to secure a free election and a fair count of the votes of the citizens of the United States, have been in operation for the first time in a number of the States, and have, in the main, been satisfactory in their results. Some of the provisions of these laws have been misrepresented and misunderstood, and have, therefore, been the occasion of unfounded clamor and prejudice. Under the laws of the United States, the election of Members of Congress, and of State officers, where they are to be voted for at the same election at which Members of Congress are voted for, is to be held by officers of the election appointed by the judges of the United States Courts, who are, in many instances, officers of the opposite political party to the candidates for Congress and State officers voted for at such election. The duties of these officers of election are, by the laws of the United States, made the same as those of the officers of election appointed by the States for the election of State officers. The laws of the United States do not interfere with the State in the appointment of its officers of election, or in the election of State officers. The laws of the United States do not interfere with the right of the citizen to vote, or the freedom of his election, except to provide that he shall have the same right to vote for Members of Congress as he has for the highest officer of the State to be voted for at the same election, and that his vote shall be honestly counted and fairly reported as cast. The laws do not interfere with the right of the States to fix the qualifications of their citizens to vote at such elections, except that no qualification can be imposed upon the exercise of the elective franchise by a citizen of the United States not applicable to the citizens of the State of the highest number of votes ever legally cast at any election for a State officer within the election district in which the citizen offers to vote. The laws do not interfere with the States in the election of their officers, or in the manner in which they shall be held, except that the election of Members of Congress must be held by the election officers appointed by the judges of the United States Courts, and that the election of Members of Congress and State officers shall be held in a single election district. The laws do not interfere with the States in the number of their election districts, or in the place of holding elections in the States, except that the election of Members of Congress must be held in a single election district. The laws do not interfere with the States in the time they may fix for their elections, except that they must be held on the day fixed by the Congress of the United States for the election of Members of Congress. The laws do not interfere with the States in the manner in which they may count the votes cast for State officers, except that the election of Members of Congress must be shown by the same election returns by which the election of State officers is shown. The laws do not interfere with the States in the manner in which they may ascertain the result of their elections, except that they must use the same means to ascertain the result of the election of Members of Congress as they use to ascertain the result of the election of State officers. The laws do not interfere with the States in the manner in which they may fill the places of their officers of election who fail to attend, except that the judges of the United States Courts may fill the places of such officers of election by appointment from the bystanders, if the officers of election appointed by the State do not attend. The laws do not interfere with the States in the manner in which they may fill vacancies in their own election officers, except that the judges of the United States Courts may fill such vacancies by appointment from the bystanders. The laws do not interfere with the States in the compensation they may pay to their election officers, except that the United States will not pay more than a reasonable compensation for the services of United States officers of election. The laws do not interfere with the States in the number of their officers of election, except that there must be at least two officers of election in each election district. The laws do not interfere with the States in the place they may fix for the election officers to count the votes cast at the election, except that the officers of election appointed by the judges of the United States Courts have the same right to be present at the place where the votes are counted as the law gives to the officers of election appointed by the State, and that the election officers appointed by the judges of the United States Courts have the same right to be present at the place where the votes are counted for State officers that the law gives to the officers of election appointed by the State to be present at the place where the votes are counted for Members of Congress. The laws do not interfere with the States in the manner in which they may count the votes for State officers, except that the election officers appointed by the judges of the United States Courts have the same right to be present and to see the votes counted for State officers that the law gives to the election officers appointed by the State to be present and see the votes counted for Members of Congress. The laws do not interfere with the States in the manner in which they may ascertain the result of their elections, except that they must use the same means to ascertain the result of the election of Members of Congress as they use to ascertain the result of the election of State officers. 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