

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, Dec. 4 1848.

First.—I have the honor to submit to you, as the annual report of the condition and operations of this department of the public service.

Second.—The schooner St. Lawrence, a frigate of the first class, and the Vermont, a ship of the line, have been launched. The former, as well as the latter, has been found, on examination, to be decayed by the long time she has been in the stocks, that her security would have required repairs at a large cost, and it was deemed economical to launch her anew, and to rebuild her on the stocks.

The construction of the four steamships of war authorized by the act of Congress of 3d March, 1847, is in satisfactory progress. The first, the USS Albatross, built at the navy yard at Kittery, has been launched. The second, the USS St. Charles, built at Philadelphia, at the yard of the Messrs. Swanwick, is also launched and ready for sea in the course of the next year.

The political condition of Sicily, Sardinia and other States bordering on the Mediterranean Sea, has given rise to a serious and important question, which has attracted the attention of the Government. The Republic of San Marino, situated in the midst of the Italian States, has been the theatre of a contest between the various powers of the peninsula.

The reports are satisfactory from the coast of Africa, Brazil, and the East Indies. The USS Albatross, under the command of Commodore Perry, continued until the return of peace, to hold the position of the United States in the Pacific, and to furnish means for transportation of invalids or men whose time of enlistment may have expired.

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command of the East India squadron, and the frigate was expected to pursue her voyage home. For reasons satisfactory to the department, Commodore Jones, who had been appointed to command the USS Albatross, was directed to proceed to the coast of Africa, and to remain there until the pending question of peace should be definitely settled between the United States and Great Britain.

The delay consequent on this arrangement rendered it just and proper that the Congress should return to the subject of the USS Albatross, and that the enlistment had generally expired, or would expire before her arrival in the United States, and justice and expediency required that she should be sent to the coast of Africa, and to remain there until the pending question of peace should be definitely settled between the United States and Great Britain.

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By the acts of March 3d, 1847, and August 3d, 1848, \$750,000 were appropriated for these objects, and an amount of \$1,000,000 was authorized to be expended in the construction of such vessels, and especially in the appropriations made were known to be insufficient to meet the whole cost, it was deemed expedient to authorize the Secretary of the Navy to contract with private individuals for the construction of such vessels, and especially in the appropriations made were known to be insufficient to meet the whole cost, it was deemed expedient to authorize the Secretary of the Navy to contract with private individuals for the construction of such vessels.

Another year's experience has confirmed the anticipation of most valuable results from the establishment of the observatory. In a report which I had the honor to make from this department, under date of Nov. 5th, 1844, I expressed the confident opinion that the observatory would be found to be a most valuable acquisition to the navy, and to the commercial marine generally, and to the public mind.

Estimates are submitted, with a view to the publication of charts and a nautical almanac. I recommend to the favorable consideration, and as a means of refunding a part of the expense; and that none need be restrained from applying for them. I recommend to the favorable consideration, and as a means of refunding a part of the expense; and that none need be restrained from applying for them.

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For Floating Dry Docks, Basins and Railways 650,000  
Completing Stone Dock at New York 400,000  
Improvements, &c., at Navy Yards 450,000  
Total \$1,500,000

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Movements of General Taylor. From the New Orleans Crescent, Dec. 1. Yesterday, at 10 o'clock, the Executive Committee of the Central and Ready Club called on General Taylor, and accordingly, at four o'clock, in the afternoon, the members waited upon him at the Charles Hotel. They were accompanied by the General in a private parlor, and although their reception was highly flattering, there was not the slightest ostentation or formality. After their visit, having been understood to be General Taylor's wish that they should, on this occasion, be dispensed with, he thought it might meet the gentlemen of the committee to be invited to dine with him, and to be invited to dine with him, and to be invited to dine with him.

General Taylor and the Veterans of 1814-15. Arguably to previous arrangement, says the New Orleans Bulletin of the 1st inst., a number of the gallant survivors of 1814, the day previous, waited upon him at the Charles Hotel. They were accompanied by the General in a private parlor, and although their reception was highly flattering, there was not the slightest ostentation or formality.

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