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BY W. H. CHANDLER] THE UNION OF THE WHIGS—FOR THE SAKE OF THE UNION. [WATER STREET, FOUR DOORS FROM MAIN

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the U. S.

Many people ever had cause to render up thanks to the Supreme Being for paternal care and protection extended to them in all the trials and difficulties to which they have been from time to time exposed, we certainly are that people. From the first settlement of our forefathers on this continent—through the dangers attendant upon the occupation of a savage wilderness—through a long period of Colonial dependence—through the war of the Revolution—in the wisdom which led to the adoption of the existing Republican form of Government—in the hazards incident to a war subsequently waged with one of the most powerful nations of the earth—in the increase of our population—in the spread of the arts and sciences, and in the strength and durability conferred on political institutions emanating from the people and sustained by their will—the superintendence of an overruling Providence has been plainly visible. As preparatory, therefore, to entering once more upon the high duties of legislation, it becomes us humbly to acknowledge our dependence upon Him as our guide and protector, and to implore a continuance of His paternal watchfulness over our beloved country. We have new causes for the expression of our gratitude in the preservation of the health of our fellow-citizens, with some partial and local exceptions, during the past season—for the abundance with which the earth has yielded up its fruits to the labors of the husbandman—for the renewed activity which has been imparted to commerce—for the revival of trade in all its departments—for the increased rewards attendant on the exercise of the mechanic arts—for the continued growth of our population and the rapidly reviving prosperity of the whole country. I shall be permitted to exchange congratulations with you, gentlemen of the two Houses of Congress, on these auspicious circumstances, and to assure you, in advance, of my ready disposition to concur with you in the adoption of all such measures as shall be calculated to increase the happiness of our constituents and to advance the glory of our common country.

Since the last adjournment of Congress, the Executive has relaxed no effort to render indestructible the relations of amity which so happily exist between the United States and other countries. The treaty lately concluded with Great Britain has tended greatly to increase the good understanding which a community of interest is calculated to encourage, and it is most sincerely to be hoped that nothing may transpire to interrupt the relations of amity which it was otherwise the policy of both nations to cherish.

A question of much importance still remains to be adjusted between them. The territorial limits of the two countries in relation to what is commonly known as the Oregon territory, still remain in dispute. The United States would be at all times and prepared to argument for themselves at the expense of any other nation, but while they would be restrained by principles of honor, which should govern the conduct of nations as well as that of individuals, from setting up a demand for territory which does not belong to them, they would as unwillingly consent to a surrender of their rights. After the most rigid, and as far as practicable, unbiased examination of the subject, the United States have always contended that their rights appertain to the entire region of country lying on the Pacific, and embraced within the forty second and fifty fourth 40 min. of north latitude. This claim being controverted by Great Britain, those who have preceded the present Executive, actuated, no doubt, by an earnest desire to adjust the matter upon terms mutually satisfactory to both countries, have caused to be submitted to the British Government, propositions, for settlement and final adjustment, which, however, have not proved acceptable to it. Our minister at London has, under instructions, again brought the subject to the consideration of that Government; and while nothing will be done to compromit the rights, or honor of the United States, every proper expedient will now in the progress of resumption, be speedily be resorted to in order to bring the negotiation and happy termination. In the meantime it is proper to remark, that many of our citizens are either already established in the territory, or are on their way thither for the purpose of forming permanent settlements, while others are preparing to follow—and in view of these facts, I must repeat the recommendation contained in previous messages, for the establishment of military posts, at such places, on the line of travel, as will furnish security and protection to our hardy adventurers against hostile tribes of Indians inhabiting those extensive regions. Our laws should also follow them, so modified as the circumstances of the case may seem to require. Under the influence of our free system of government, new republics are destined to spring up, at no distant day, on the shores of the Pacific, similar in policy and in feeling to those existing on this side of the Rocky Mountains and giving a wider and more extensive spread to the principles of civil and religious liberty.

I am happy to inform you that the cases which have arisen, from time to time, of the detention of American vessels by British cruisers on the coast of Africa, under pretence of being engaged in the slave trade, have been placed in a fair train of adjustment. In the case of the William & Francis, full satisfaction will be allowed. In the cases of the Tygris and Seamew, the British Government admits that satisfaction is due. In the case of the Jones, the sum accruing from the sale of that vessel and cargo will be paid to the owners—while I cannot but flatter myself that full indemnification will be allowed for all damages sustained by the detention of the vessel—and in the case of the Douglass, her Majesty's Government has expressed its determination to make ample indemnification. Strong hopes are therefore entertained, that most, if not all of these cases will be speedily adjusted. No new cases have arisen since the ratification of the treaty of Washington; and, it is confidently anticipated, that the slave trade, under the operation of the eighth article of that treaty, will be altogether suppressed.

The occasional interruption experienced by our fellow-citizens engaged in the fisheries on the neighboring coast of Nova Scotia, has not failed to claim the attention of the Executive. Representations upon this subject have been made, but as yet no definitive answer to those representations has been received from the British Government.

Two other subjects of comparatively minor importance, but nevertheless of too much consequence, to be neglected, remain still to be adjusted between the two countries. By the treaty between the United States and Great Britain, of July, 1815, it is provided that no higher duties shall be levied in either country on articles imported from the other, than on the same articles imported from any other place. In 1830, rough rice, by act of Parliament, was admitted from the coast of Africa into Great Britain on the payment of a duty of one penny a quarter, while the same article from all other countries, including the United States, was subjected to the payment of a duty of twenty shillings a quarter. Our minister at London has from time to time brought this subject to the consideration of the British Government, but so far without success. He is instructed to renew his representations upon it.

Some years since, a claim was preferred against the British Government on the part of certain American merchants, for the return of export duties paid by them on shipments of woollen goods to the United States, after the duty on similar articles exposed to other countries had been repealed, and consequently in contravention of the commercial convention between the two nations, according to an equality in such cases. The principle on which the claim rests has long since been virtually abandoned by Great Britain, but obstacles to a settlement, have from time to time been interposed so that a large portion of the amount claimed has not yet been refunded. Our minister is now engaged in the prosecution of the claim, and I cannot but persuade myself that the British Government will no longer delay its adjustment.

I am happy to be able to state that nothing has occurred to interrupt the friendly relations of amity which exist between the United States and France, Austria, and Russia, as well as with the other Powers of Europe, since the adjournment of Congress.—Spain has been agitated with internal convulsions for many years, from the effects of which it is to be hoped she is destined speedily to recover; when, under a more liberal system of commercial policy on her part, our trade with her may again flow as in times past, so far as her continental possessions are concerned, its almost forsaken channels, thereby adding to the mutual prosperity of the two countries.

The Germanic Association of Customs and Commerce, which, since its establishment, in 1833, has been steadily growing in power and importance, and contains at a time of more than twenty German States and embraces a population of 27,000,000 of people, united for all the purposes of commercial intercourse with each other and with foreign States, offers to the latter the most valuable exchanges on principles more liberal than are offered in the fiscal system of any other European Power. From its origin, the importance of the German Union has never been lost sight of by the United States. The industry, morality, and other valuable qualities of the German nations, have always been well known and appreciated.—On this subject I invite the attention of Congress to the report of the Secretary of State, from which it will be seen that while our population is admitted free of duty, and the duty on tice has been very much reduced, which has already led to a greatly increased consumption, a strong disposition has been recently evinced by that great body to induce, upon certain conditions, their present duty upon tobacco. This being the first intimation of a concession on this interesting subject ever made by any European Power, I cannot but regard it as well calculated to remove the only impediment which has so far existed to the most liberal commercial intercourse between us and them. In this view, our minister at Berlin, who has heretofore industriously pursued the subject, has been instructed to enter upon the negotiation of a commercial treaty, which, while it will open new advantages to the agricultural interests of the United States, and a more free and expanded field for commercial operations, will affect injuriously no existing interest of the Union. Should the negotiation be crowned with success, its results will be communicated to both houses of Congress.

I communicate herewith, certain despatches received from our minister at Mexico, and also a correspondence which has recently occurred between the envoy from that Republic and the Secretary of State. It must be regarded as not a little extraordinary that the Government of Mexico, in anticipation of a public discussion, which it has been pleased to infer from newspaper publications, as likely to take place in Congress, relating to the annexation of Texas to the United States should have so far anticipated the result of such discussion as to have announced its determination to visit any such anticipated decision by a formal declaration of war against the United States. If designed to prevent Congress from introducing that question, as a fit subject for its calm deliberation and deliberate judgment, the Executive has no reason to doubt that it will entirely fail of its object. The representatives of a brave and patriotic people will suffer no apprehension of future consequences to embarrass them in the course of their proposed deliberations. Nor will the Executive Department of the Government fail, for any such cause, to discharge its whole duty to the country.

The war which has existed for so long a time between Mexico and Texas has, since the battle of San Jacinto, consisted for the most part of predatory incursions, which, while they have been attended with much suffering to individuals, and have kept the borders of the two countries in a state of constant alarm, have failed to approach to any definitive result. Mexico has fitted out no formidable armament by land or by sea for the subjugation of Texas. Eight years have now elapsed since Texas declared her independence of Mexico, and during that time she has been recognized as a sovereign power by several of the principal civilized states. Mexico, nevertheless, persevers in her plans of conquest, and refuses to recognise her independence. The predatory incursions to which I have alluded, have been attended in one instance, with the breaking up of the courts of justice by the seizing upon the persons of the judges, jury and officers of the court, and dragging them along with unarmed, and therefore non-combatant citizens, into a cruel and oppressive bondage, thus leaving crime to go unpunished and innocence to pass unprotected. A border war is evermore to be deprecated, and over such a war as has existed for so many years between these two States, humanity has had great cause to lament. Nor is such condition of things to be deplored only because of the individual suffering attendant upon it.—The effects are far more extensive. The Creator of the Universe has given man the Earth for his resting place, and its fruits for his subsistance. Whatever, therefore, shall make the first or any part of it a scene of desolation, injures injuriously his heritage, and may be regarded as a general calamity. Wars may sometimes be necessary; but all nations have a common interest in bringing them speedily to a close. The United States have an immediate interest in seeing an end put to the state of hostilities existing between Mexico and Texas. They are our neighbors, of the same continent, with whom we are not only desirous of cultivating the relations of amity, but of the most extended commercial intercourse, and to practise all the duties of a neighborly kindness.—Our own interests the people and Government of the United States cannot but feel in the matter, since, however, neutral may be our course of policy, we cannot hope to escape the effects of a spirit of jealousy on the part of both of the powers. Nor can this Government be indifferent to the fact that a warfare, such as is waged between these two nations, is calculated to weaken both powers and finally to render them, and especially the weaker of the two, the subjects of interference on the part of stronger and more powerful nations, which, intent only on advancing their own peculiar views, may soon urge later attempt to bring about a compliance with terms, as the condition of their interposition, alike derogatory to the nation granting them and detrimental to the interests of the United States.

We could not be expected quietly to permit any such interference to our disadvantage. Considering that Texas is separated from the United States by a mere geographical line, that her territory, in the opinion of many, formed a portion of the territory of the United States; that it is homogeneous in its population and parentage with the adjoining States, makes contributions to the commerce of the world in the same articles with them, and that most of her inhabitants have been citizens of the United States, speak the same language and live under similar political institutions with ourselves, the Government is bound by every consideration of interest as well as of sympathy, to see that she shall be left free to act, especially in regard to her domestic affairs, unawed by force, and unrestrained by the policy or views of other countries. In full view of all these considerations, the Executive has not hesitated to express to the Government of Mexico how deeply it deprecated a continuance of the war, and how anxiously it desired to witness its termination. I cannot but think that it becomes the United States, as the oldest of the American Republics, to hold a language to Mexico upon this subject of an unambiguous character. It is time that this war had ceased. There must be a limit to all wars; and if the parent State, after an eight years struggle, has failed to reduce to submission a portion of its subjects standing out in revolt against it, and who have not only proclaimed themselves to be independent, but have been recognized as such by other powers, she ought not to expect that other nations will quietly look on, to their obvious injury, upon a protraction of hostilities. These United States threw off their colonial dependence, and established independent Governments; and Great Britain, after having wasted her energies in the attempt to subdue them for a less period than Mexico has attempted to subjugate Texas, had the wisdom and justice to acknowledge their independence, thereby recognizing the obligation which rested on her as one of the family of nations. An example thus set by the proudest as well as most powerful nations of the earth, it could in no way disparage Mexico to imitate. While, therefore, the Executive would deplore any collision with Mexico, or any disturbance of the friendly relations which exist between the two countries, it cannot permit that Government to control its policy, whatever it may be, towards Texas; but will hear her as by the recognition of her independence the U. States have long since declared they would do, as entirely independent of Mexico. The high obligations of public duty may enforce from the constituted authorities of the United States a policy which the course pursued by Mexico will have mainly contributed to produce; and the Executive, in such a contingency, will with confidence throw itself upon the patriotism of the people to sustain the Government in the course of action.

Measures of a most amicable character have recently been adopted by the Mexican Government, calculated in no small degree to affect the state of our relations with Mexico, and to evince friendship to the United States. All foreigners by a decree of the 23d day of September, and the six months from today set to promulgation, are forbidden to carry on the business of selling by retail any goods within the confines of Mexico. Against this decree our minister has not failed to remonstrate.

The trade heretofore carried on by our citizens with Santa Fe, in which much capital was heavily invested, and which was becoming of daily increasing importance, has suddenly been arrested by a decree of virtual prohibition on the part of the Mexican Government. Whatever may be the right of Mexico to prohibit any particular course of trade, to the citizens or subjects of foreign powers, this fact proclaims, to say the least of it, wears a hostile and unfriendly aspect.

The settlement of the claims recently settled by the Convention with Mexico have been punctually paid as they have fallen due, and our minister is engaged in urging the establishment of a new commission in pursuance of the Convention for the settlement of unadjusted claims.

With the other American States our relations continue amicable and good. We have remained unmolested. Our minister at the Republic of New Granada has succeeded in affecting an adjustment of the claim upon that Government for the schooner "Bee Chance," which had been pending for many years. The claim for the brig "Morris," which had its origin during the existence of the Republic of Colombia, and indemnification for which, since the dissolution of that Republic, has devolved on its several members, will be urged with renewed zeal.

I have much pleasure in saying that the Government of Brazil has adjusted the claim upon that Government in the case of the schooner "John S. Bryon," and that sanguine hopes are entertained that the same spirit of justice will influence its councils in arriving at an early decision upon the remaining claims. Our minister at Rio has been instructed to urge the adjustment of these claims, and to bring to the consideration of the Government the fact that the period for the exchange of the ratifications of the treaty between the United States and Brazil, fixed by the 17th article of the treaty, is fast approaching, and that unless the ratifications of the treaty be exchanged within the time prescribed, it will be regarded as a nullity.

Our relations with the Sandwich Islands have been of the most friendly character, since, however, neutral may be our course of policy, we cannot hope to escape the effects of a spirit of jealousy on the part of both of the powers. Nor can this Government be indifferent to the fact that a warfare, such as is waged between these two nations, is calculated to weaken both powers and finally to render them, and especially the weaker of the two, the subjects of interference on the part of stronger and more powerful nations, which, intent only on advancing their own peculiar views, may soon urge later attempt to bring about a compliance with terms, as the condition of their interposition, alike derogatory to the nation granting them and detrimental to the interests of the United States.

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Our own