

THE DAILY DISPATCH

JAS. A. COWARDIN, Proprietor. HUGH R. PLEASANTS, Editor.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Citizens of the Senate and of the House of Representatives. The brief space which has elapsed since the close of your last session has been marked by no extraordinary political event. The annual election of Chief Magistrate has passed off with less than the usual excitement.

Our grateful thanks are due to an All-American President, who, by his personal presence in different parts of the country, has done more for our Union than any other man could do. He has crowned the labor of his husband with an abundant harvest, and the nation generally with the blessings of peace and prosperity.

Within a few weeks the public mind has been deeply affected by the death of Daniel Webster, filling at the office of the Secretary of State. His associates in the Executive government have sincerely sympathized with his family and the public generally on this mournful occasion.

The settlement of the question respecting the port of San Juan de Nicaragua, and of the controversy between the republics of Costa Rica and Nicaragua in regard to their boundary, was considered indispensable to the completion of the ship canal between the two oceans, which was the subject of the Convention between the United States and Great Britain of the 19th of April, 1850.

The revenue law of 1848, in reference to the true and just value of the fisheries, has been discovered that such was not the design of Great Britain, and satisfactory explanations of the real objects of the measure have been given both here and in London.

The circumstances, and the incidents above alluded to, have led me to think the moment favorable for a reconsideration of the entire subject of the fisheries on the coasts of the British provinces, with a view to place them on a more liberal footing of reciprocal privilege with the new organized Confederation of the States composing it.

The efforts of Cuba formed a prominent topic in my last annual message. They remain an uneasy condition, and the feeling of alarm which pervades the Cuban authorities appears to exist. This feeling has interfered with the regular commercial intercourse between the United States and the island, and led to some acts of which we have a right to complain.

Our settlements on the shores of the Pacific have already gained a great extension, and in some respects, a new direction to our commerce in that ocean. A direct and rapidly increasing intercourse has sprung up with eastern Asia. The waters of the northern Pacific have been frequented by our whalers. The application of steam to the general purposes of navigation is becoming daily more common, and makes it desirable to obtain fuel and other necessary supplies at convenient points on our route between Asia and our Pacific shores.

It is but justice to the Captain General to add, that his conduct toward the steamers employed to carry the mails of the United States to Havana, with the exceptions above mentioned, has been marked with kindness and liberality, and indicates no general purpose of interfering with the commercial correspondence and intercourse between the island and this country.

reasons which it would occupy too much space to state in detail, but which led me to think that the proposed measure would be of doubtful constitutional, impolitic and unavailing. I have, however, in common with several of my predecessors, directed the Ministers of France and England to be assured that the United States entertain no designs against Cuba; but that, on the contrary, I should regard its incorporation into the Union at the present time as fraught with serious peril.

Were this island comparatively destitute of inhabitants, or occupied by a kindred race, I should regard it, if voluntarily ceded by Spain, as a most desirable acquisition. But, under existing circumstances, I should look upon its incorporation into our Union as a very hazardous measure. It would bring into the Confederacy a population of a different national stock, speaking a different language, and not likely to harmonize with the other members. It would probably affect in a prejudicial manner the industrial interests of the South; and it might revive those conflicts of opinion between the different sections of the country, which have been so happily compromised.

The rejection by the Mexican Congress of the Convention which had been concluded between that Republic and the United States, for the protection of a transit way across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, and of the interests of those citizens of the United States who had been proprietors of the rights which Mexico had conferred on one of her own citizens in regard to that transit, has thrown a serious obstacle in the way of the attainment of a very desirable national object. I am still willing to hope that the differences on the subject which exist, or may hereafter arise, between the governments, will be amicably adjusted.

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wrecked mariners have often been subjected, and to insist that they shall be treated with humanity. He is instructed, however, at the same time, to give that government the amplest assurances that the objects of the United States are such and such as are indicated, and that the expedition is friendly and peaceful. Notwithstanding the jealousy with which the government of Eastern Asia regard all overtures from foreigners, I am not without hopes of a beneficial result of the expedition. Should it be crowned with success, the advantages to be derived to the United States, but, as in the case of China, will be equally enjoyed by all the other maritime powers. I have much satisfaction in stating that in all the steps preparatory to this expedition the government of the United States has been materially aided by the good offices of the King of the Netherlands, the only European power having any commercial relations with Japan.

In passing from this survey of our foreign relations, I invite the attention of Congress to the condition of that department of the government to which this branch of the public business is entrusted. Our intercourse with foreign powers, has of late years greatly increased. The consequence of our own growth and the introduction of new States into the family of nations. In this Department of State has been overburdened. It has, by the recent establishment of the Department of the Interior, been relieved of some portion of the domestic business. If the result of the business of that kind, such as the distribution of lands, the execution of the laws of the United States, the protection of the copyright law, the subject of revivings and pardons, and some other subjects relating to interior administration, should be transferred from the Department of State, it would be unquestionably for the benefit of the public service.

The condition of the Treasury is exhibited in the annual report from that Department. The cash received into the Treasury for the fiscal year ending the 30th of September, 1852, exclusive of trust funds, were forty-nine million seven hundred and eighty-eight thousand three hundred and eighty-six dollars and eighty-nine cents (\$49,786,385 89).

The removal of the remnant of the tribe of Seminoles from Florida has long been a cherished object of the Government, and it is one to which my attention has been directed. Admitted by past experience of the difficulty of the attempt to remove them by military force, resort has been had to conciliatory measures. By the invitation of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, the Seminoles have been invited to Washington, and whilst here acknowledged in writing the obligation of their tribe to remove with the least possible delay.

The subject certainly deserves full and careful consideration by Congress, and it is believed that the arrangements which have been made for the removal of the Seminoles, and the provisions for their support, are such as to be the most judicious and economical that could be made under the circumstances.

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made on this subject, show conclusively that these frauds have been practiced to a great extent. The tendency is to destroy that high moral character for which our merchants have long been distinguished. It is to be regretted that the Government has not taken more effectual measures to break down the fraudulent imposture by its own competition; and, finally, to transfer the business of importation to foreign and irresponsible agents, for a most extensive and unprofitable trade of home values, to prevent these frauds.

For full and detailed information in regard to the general condition of our Indian affairs, I respectfully refer you to the report of the Secretary of the Interior and the accompanying documents. The Senate not having thought proper to ratify the treaties which had been negotiated with the tribes of Indians in California and Oregon, our relations with those tribes have been left in a very unsatisfactory condition.

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of the survey on the river, with information that the funds subject to his control were exhausted, and that the officers and others employed in the service were destitute of the means of prosecuting the work and of returning to their homes. The object of the proviso was doubtless to arrest the progress of the survey, and to prevent the expenditure of any part of the money so appropriated for the survey, until the necessary arrangements had been made for the prosecution of the work, or even for the payment of the officers and agents of the arrangement of pay which was to be made.

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This exploration will be communicated to you as soon as it is completed. A most interesting offer to your notice by the Secretary of the Navy, I select for special commendation in view of its connection with the interests of the Navy, the plan submitted by him for the establishment of a permanent corps of seamen, and the suggestions for the reorganization of the Naval Academy.

In reference to the first of these, I take occasion to say that I think it will be necessary to prove the efficiency of the service, and that I regard it as still more entitled to favor for the discipline, now greatly disturbed by the introduction of new regulations, resulting from the organization of the same for the purpose of substituting for the law of September, 1850, abolishing corporal punishment, and substituting in its place the policy of that act, under conditions well adapted to maintain the efficiency of our ships. It is believed that a system which proposes permanently to discontinue this mode of punishment, should be preceded by a system of enlistment which shall supply the navy with seamen of the most meritorious character, whose good conduct and pride of character may preclude all occasion for resort to penalties of a harsh or degrading nature. The safety of a ship and her crew is often dependent upon immediate obedience to the orders of the commanding officer, and the discipline of the crew is a most important element of the efficiency of the service.

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