

ance of these constitutional obligations, both my respect for the legislature, and my sense of propriety, will refrain me from any attempt to control or influence your proceedings; with you is the power, the honor, and the responsibility of the legislation of the country. The government of the United States is a limited government; it is confined to the exercise of powers expressly granted and such others as may be necessary for carrying those powers into effect, and it is at all times an especial duty to guard against any infringement on the just rights of the States. Over the objects and subjects which belong to Congress, its legislative authority is supreme, but here that authority ceases, and every citizen who truly loves the Constitution and desires the continuance of its existence and its blessings will resolutely and firmly resist any interference with those domestic affairs which the Constitution clearly and unequivocally left to the exclusive authority of the States, and every such citizen will also cease to exercise irritation among the several members of the Union and all reproach and crimination leading to alienate one section of the country from another. The beauty of our system of government consists, and its safety and durability must consist, in avoiding mutual collisions and encroachments in the regular, separate action of all, while each is revolving on its own distinct orbit. The Constitution has made it the duty of the President to see that the laws be faithfully executed. In a government like ours, where all laws are passed by a majority of the Representatives of the people, all these Representatives are chosen for very short periods that any injurious or obnoxious law can be very soon repealed, it is not likely that any great numbers should be found ready to resist the execution of the laws; but it must be borne in mind that the country is extensive, that there may be local interests or prejudices rendering a law odious in one part which is not so in another, and that the thoughtless and inconsiderate, misled by their passions or their imaginations may be induced madly to resist any law that they disapprove. Such persons should bear in mind that without law there can be no real practical liberty; that when law is trampled under foot tyranny rules, and whether it appears in the form of a military despotism, or of popular violence, the law is the only sure protection of the weak and the only efficient restraint upon the strong, when impartially and faithfully administered. None are beneath its protection and none above its control. You gentlemen, and the country may be assured that, to the best of my ability and to the best of the power vested in me, I shall at all times and in all places, take care that the laws be faithfully executed. In the discharge of this duty solemnly imposed upon me by the Constitution and my oath of office, I shall shrink from no responsibility and shall endeavor to meet even as they may arise, with firmness as well as prudence and discretion.

The appointing power is one of the most delicate with which the Executive is invested; I regard it as a sacred trust to be exercised with the sole view of advancing the prosperity and happiness of the people. It shall be my effort to elevate the standard of official employment, by selecting, for places of importance, individuals fitted for the post to which they are assigned, by their known integrity, talents and virtue. In so extensive a country, with so great a population, and where few persons appointed to offices can be known to the appointing power, mistakes will, sometimes, unavoidably happen, and unfortunate appointments be made, notwithstanding the utmost care. In such cases the power of removal may be properly exercised, and neglect of duty or malfeasance in office will no more be tolerated in individuals appointed by myself, than in those appointed by others.

I am happy in being able to say that no unfavorable change in our foreign relations has taken place since the message at the opening of the last session of Congress. We are at peace with all nations, and we enjoy, in an eminent degree, the blessings of that peace, in a prosperous and growing commerce, and in all forms of radical, national intercourse. The unexampled growth of the country, the present amount of its population, and its ample means for self-protection assure for it the respect of all nations; while it is trusted that its character for justice, and a regard for the rights of other States will cause that respect to be readily and cheerfully paid.

A convention was negotiated between the U. States and Great Britain in April last, for facilitating and protecting the construction of a ship canal between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, and for other purposes. This instrument has since been ratified by the contracting parties. The exchange of ratifications has been effected, and proclamation thereof has been duly made. In addition to the stipulations contained in this convention, two other objects remain to be accomplished between the contracting powers. First—the designation and establishment of a free port at each end of the canal.—Second—an agreement fixing the distance from the shore within which belligerent maritime operations shall not be carried on. On these points there is little doubt that the two powers will come to an understanding. The company of citizens of the United States which has accepted from the State of Nicaragua the privilege of constructing a ship canal between the two oceans, through the territory of that State, have made some progress in their preliminary arrangements. The treaty between the United States and Great Britain, of the 10th of April last, above referred to, being now in operation, it is to be hoped that the guarantee which it offers will be sufficient to secure the completion of the work, with all practicable expedition. It is obvious that this result would be indefinitely postponed if any other than peaceful measures for the purpose of harmonizing conflicting claims to territory in that quarter, should be adopted. It will, consequently, be my endeavor to cause any further negotiations, on the part of this Government for this purpose, to be so conducted as to bring them to a speedy and suc-

cessful close. Some unavoidable delay has occurred, arising from the distance and the difficulty of intercourse between this government and that of Nicaragua, but as intelligence has been received of the appointment of an Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the Government to reside at Washington, whose arrival may soon be expected, it is hoped that no further difficulties will be experienced in the prompt transaction of business between the governments.

Citizens of the United States have undertaken the connection of the two oceans by means of a railroad across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, under grants of the Government to a citizen of that Republic. It is understood that a survey of the route of the communication is in preparation, and were it every reason to expect that it will be prosecuted with characteristic energy, especially when that government shall have consented to such stipulations with the government of the U. States as may be necessary to impart a feeling of security to those who may embark their property in the enterprise. Negotiations are pending for the accomplishment of this object, and the hope is confidently entertained that when the government of Mexico shall become duly sensible of the advantages which that country cannot fail to derive from the work, and learn that the U. States desires that the right of sovereignty of Mexico in the Isthmus shall remain unimpaired, the stipulations referred to will be agreed to with alacrity.

By the last advices from Mexico, it would appear that the government entertains strong objections to some of the stipulations which the parties concerned in the project of a railroad deem necessary for their protection and security. Further consideration, it is to be hoped, or some modification of terms, may yet reconcile the differences respecting the two governments in this respect. Fresh instructions have recently been given to the Minister of the United States in Mexico, who is prosecuting the subject with promptitude and alacrity.

Although the negotiations with Portugal for the payment of the claims of citizens of the U. States against that government, have not yet resulted in a formal treaty, yet a proposition made by the Government of Portugal for a final adjustment and payment of those claims, has recently been accepted on the part of the United States. It gives me pleasure to say that Mr. Clay, to whom negotiations on the part of the U. States have been entrusted, discharged the duties of his appointment with ability and discretion, acting always with the instructions of the government.

It is expected that a regular convention will be immediately negotiated for carrying the agreement between the two governments into effect. The commissioner appointed under an act of Congress for carrying into effect the Convention with Brazil, of the 27th January, 1849, has entered on the duties imposed upon him by that act. It is hoped, that these duties may be completed within the time which it prescribed. The documents, however, which the Imperial Government, by the third Article of the Convention, stipulates to furnish to the Government of the United States, have not yet been received. As it is supposed that those documents will be essential to the correct disposition of the claims, it may be necessary for the Government to extend the period limited to the duration of the commission. The sum stipulated by the fourth Article of the Convention to be paid to this Government has been received.

The collection, in the ports of the United States, of discriminating duties upon the vessels of Chili and their cargoes, has been suspended pursuant to the provisions of the act of Congress of the 24th of May 1828. It is to be hoped, that this measure will impart a fresh impulse to commerce between the two Governments, which of late, and especially since our acquisition of California, has, to the mutual advantage of the parties, been much augmented.

Peruvian guano has become so desirable an article to the agricultural interest of the United States, that it is the duty of the Government to employ all the means properly in its power for the purpose of causing that article to be imported into the country, at a reasonable price.—Nothing will be omitted on my part towards accomplishing this desirable end. I am persuaded that, in removing any restraints on this traffic, the Peruvian Government will promote its own best interests, while it will afford a proof of a friendly disposition towards this country, which will be duly appreciated. The treaty between the United States and his Majesty the King of the Hawaiian Islands, which has recently been made public, will, it is believed, have a beneficial effect upon the relations of the two countries.

The relations between those parts of the Islands of St. Domingo, which were formerly colonies of Spain and France, respectively, are still in an unsettled condition. The proximity of this Island to the United States, and the delicate questions involved in the existing controversy there, render it desirable that it should be speedily and permanently adjusted. The interest of humanity and of general commerce also demands this, and as intimations of the same sentiments, have been received from other Governments, it is hoped that some plan may soon be devised to effect the object in a manner likely to give satisfaction. The Government of the United States will not fail, by the exercise of all friendly offices, to do all in its power to put an end to the destructive war which has raged between the different parts of the Island, and to secure to them both the benefits of peace and commerce.

I refer you to the Report of the Secretary of the Treasury, for a detailed statement of the Finances. The total receipts into the Treasury for the year ending the 30th of June last, were \$47,421,748 90.

The total expenditures during the same period were \$43,021,689. The public debt has been reduced since the last annual report from the Treasury Department, \$465,276 89.

By the 19th section of the act of the 29th January, 1847, the proceeds of the sales of the public lands were pledged for the interest and principal of the public debt. The great amount of those lands, subsequently granted by Congress for military bounties, will, it is believed, very nearly supply the public demand for several years to come, and but little reliance can, therefore, be placed upon that hitherto fruitful source of Government revenues.

From the permanent annual expenditures which have necessarily largely increased, a portion of the public debt, amounting to \$8,075,986 59 must be provided for within the next two fiscal years. It is most desirable, that the accruing demands should be met without resorting to new loans.

passed on the 23d of May, 1850, providing, among other things, for taking the seventh census, a superintendent was appointed, and all other measures adopted which were deemed necessary, to insure the prompt and faithful performance of that duty. The appropriation already made, will, it is believed, be sufficient to defray the whole expenses of the work, but further legislation may be necessary in regard to the compensation of some of the Marshals of the Territories.

It will also be proper to make provisions by law, at an early date, for the publication of such abstracts of the returns as the public interest may require.

The unprecedented growth of our Territories on the Pacific, in wealth and population, and the consequent increase of their social and commercial relations with the Atlantic States seem to render it the duty of the Government to use all its constitutional power to improve the means of intercourse with them. The importance of opening a line of communication—the best and most expeditious of which the nature of the country will admit—between the Valley of the Mississippi and Pacific, was brought to your notice by my predecessor in his annual message, and as the reasons which he presented in favor of the measure still exist in full force, I beg leave to call your attention to them, and to repeat the recommendations there made by him.

The uncertainty which exists in regard to the validity of Land Titles in California, is a subject which demands your early consideration. Large bodies of lands in that State are claimed under grants said to have been made by authority of the Spanish and Mexican Governments. Many of these have not been perfect—others have been revoked, and some are believed to be fraudulent; but until they shall have been judicially investigated they will continue to retard the settlement and improvement of the country. I, therefore, respectfully suggest, that provision be made by law for the appointment of Commissioners to examine all such claims, with a view to their final adjustment.

I also beg leave to call your attention to the propriety of extending, at an early day, our system of Land Laws, with such modifications as may be necessary, over the State of California, and the Territories of Utah and New Mexico. The mineral lands of California; will, of course, form an exception to any general system which may be adopted. Various methods of disposing of them have been suggested. I was at first inclined to have the system of leasing, as it seemed to promise the largest revenue to the Government, and to afford the best security against monopolies; but further reflection, and our experience in leasing the lead mines, and selling lands upon credit, have brought my mind to the conclusion that there would be great difficulty in collecting the rents.

The relation of debtor and creditor, between the citizens and Government, would be attended with many mischievous results. I therefore recommend that instead of retaining the mineral lands under the permanent control of the Government, that they be divided into small parcels, and sold at such times as will ensure the best price, and guard most effectually against combinations of capitalists to obtain monopolies.

The annexation of Texas, and the acquisition of California and New Mexico, have given increased importance to our Indian relations. The various tribes brought under our jurisdiction by these enlargements of our boundaries, are estimated to embrace a population of 124,000. Texas and New Mexico are surrounded by powerful tribes of Indians, who are a source of constant terror and annoyance to the inhabitants; separating into small predatory bands, and always mounted, they overrun the country, devastating farms, destroying crops, and murdering the inhabitants or carrying them into captivity. The great roads leading into the country are infested by them; whereby traveling is rendered extremely dangerous, and emigration is almost entirely suspended. The Mexican frontier, which by the eleventh article of the treaty of Gaudalope Hidalgo, we are bound to protect against the Indians within our borders, is exposed to their incursions equally with our own. The military forces stationed in that country, although forming a large portion of the army, is represented as entirely inadequate to our own protection and the fulfillment of our Treaty stipulations with Mexico. The principal deficiency is in cavalry. I recommended that Congress should, at as early a period as possible, provide for the raising of one or more regiments of mounted men.

For further suggestions on this subject, and others connected with our domestic interests, in reference to our frontier I refer you to the Reports of the Secretary of the Interior, and of the Secretary of War.

I recommend also, to your favorable consideration, the suggestions contained in the last mentioned Report, and in a letter of the General in Chief, relative to the establishing of an Asylum for the relief of destitute disabled soldiers. This subject appeals so strongly to your sympathy that it would be superfluous in me to say any thing more than barely to express my approbation of the proposed object.

The Navy continues to give protection to our commerce and other National interests, in the different quarters of the globe, and with the exception of a single steamer on the Northern Lakes, the vessels in commission are distributed in six different squadrons.

The Report of the head of that Department will exhibit the services of these squadrons, and of the several vessels employed in each, during the past year. It is a source of gratification that while they have been constantly prepared for any hostile emergency, and have every where met with the respect and courtesy due, as well to the dignity, as to the peaceful disposition and just purposes of the Nation.

The two brigantines accepted by the Government from a generous citizen of New York, and placed under the command of an officer of the Navy, to proceed to the Arctic Seas, in quest of the British Commander, Sir John Franklin, and his companions, in compliance with the act of Congress approved in May last, had when last heard from, penetrated into a high northern latitude, but the success of the noble and humane enterprise is yet uncertain.

I invite your attention to the view of the present naval establishment and its resources, presented in the Report of the Secretary of the Navy, and the suggestions therein made for its improvement, together with the naval policy recommended for the security of our Pacific coasts and the protection and extension of our commerce with Eastern Asia. Our facilities for a larger participation in the trade of the East, by means of our recent settlements on the shores of the Pacific, are too obvious to be overlooked or disregarded.

The question in relation to rank in the Army and Navy, and relative rank between officers of the two relative branches of the service, presented to the Executive by different resolutions of the House of Representatives, at the last session of Congress, have been submitted to a board of officers in each branch of the service, and their report may be expected at an early day.

I also earnestly recommend the enactment of a law authorizing officers of the Army and Navy to be retired from the service, when incompetent for their vigorous and active duties, taking care to make suitable provision for those who have faithfully served their country, and awarding distinctions, by retaining in command those who have been particularly conspicuous for gallantry and good conduct. While we acknowledge the obligation of the country to maintain and honor those who, to the exclusion of other pursuits, have devoted themselves to its arduous service, this obligation should not be permitted to interfere with the efficiency of the service itself.

I am gratified at being able to state, that the estimates for Naval expenditures for the ensuing year, are less by more than one million than those of the present, excepting the appropriations which may become necessary for the construction of the dock upon the coast of the Pacific, propositions for which are now being considered, and on which a special report may be expected early in your present session.

There is an evident justice in the suggestions of the same report, that appropriations for the Naval service proper should be separated from those for fixed and permanent objects, such as those for building docks, yards, and the fixtures attached, and the extraordinary objects under the care of the Department, which however important, are not essentially naval. A revision of the code for the government of the navy seems to require the immediate consideration of Congress. Its system of crimes and punishments had undergone no change for a half century, until the last session; though its defects have been often and ably pointed out; and the abolition of the particular kind of corporal punishment which then took place, without providing any substitute, has left the service in a state of defectiveness which calls for prompt correction. I, therefore, recommend, that the whole subject be revised without delay, and such a system established for the enforcement of discipline as shall be at once humane and effectual.

The accompanying report of the Post Master General presents a satisfactory view of the operations and condition of that Department.

At the close of the last fiscal year, the length of the inland mail routes in the United States, not embracing the service in Oregon, and California, was 178,672 miles, the annual transportation thereof, 46,541,429 miles, and the annual cost of such transportation, \$2,724,426 58.—The increase of the annual transportation over that of the preceding year, was 3,997,354 miles, and the increase of cost was \$352,440, 49. The number of Post Offices on the first day of July last, was 18,447, being an increase of 1670 during the preceding year.

The gross revenue of the Department for the fiscal year, ending June 30th 1850, amounted to \$5,522,271, 58, including the annual appropriation of the \$200,000 for the franked matter of the Departments, and excluding the foreign postages collected for, and payable to the British Government. The expenditures for the same period were \$5,212,933 83, leaving the balance of Revenue over expenditures, of 340,018 05. I am happy to find, that the fiscal condition of the Department, is such to justify the Post Master General, in recommending a reduction of our inland postage to three cents the single letter, when prepaid, or five cents when not prepaid. He also recommends, that the prepaid rates, shall be reduced, whenever the Revenue of the Department after the reduction, shall exceed its expenditures by more than five per cent. for two consecutive years; that the postage upon the California, and those letters sent by our Ocean steamers, shall be much reduced, and that the rates of postage on newspapers, pamphlets, periodicals and other printed matter, shall be modified, and some reduction thereon, made.

It cannot be doubted, that the proposed reduction will, for the present, diminish the Revenue of the Department. It is believed, that the deficiency, after the already accumulated surplus is exhausted, may be almost fully met, by abolishing the privilege of sending free matter through the mails, or by paying out of the Treasury to the Post Office, a sum equivalent to the postage of which it is deprived by these privileges. The last is supposed to be the preferable mode, and will, if not entirely, so nearly, supply that deficiency, as to make any further appropriation unnecessary. It may be found so inconsiderable as to form no obstacle to the reduction.

I entertain no doubt of the authority of Congress to make appropriations for leading objects in that class of public works, called by the general name of Internal Improvements. This authority I suppose to be derived chiefly from the power of regulating commerce with foreign nations, and among the States, and the power of laying and collecting imposts. When commerce, is to be carried on, and imposts collected, there must be ports and harbors, as well as wharves and custom houses. If ships laden with valuable cargoes approach shore, or sail along the coast, and light houses are necessary at suitable points for the protection of life and property, other facilities and securities for commerce and navigation are not less important, and those clauses of the Constitution, therefore, to which I have referred, have received, from the origin of the Government, a liberal and beneficial construction. Not only have light-houses, buoys, and beacons been established, and floating lights been maintained, bath tubs cleared and seven breakwaters, for the safety of shipping, and sea-walls to protect harbors from being filled up and rendered useless by the action of the ocean, have been created at very great expense. This construction of the Constitution appears the more warrantable from the consideration, that, if those works, of such constant importance and utility, are not to be accomplished by Congress, they cannot be accomplished at all. By the adoption of the Constitution, the several States voluntarily parted with the power of collecting duties on imports within their own ports, and it is not to be expected they should raise money by internal taxation, direct or indirect, for the benefit of that commerce—the revenues from which do not either in whole or in part, go into their own treasury; nor do I perceive any difference between the power of Congress to make appropriations for objects of this kind on the Ocean, and the power to make appropriations for similar objects on Lakes and Rivers, whenever they are large enough to bear on their waters an extensive traffic. The magnificent Mississippi and its tributaries, and the vast Lakes of the North and the North-west, appear to me to fall within the exercise of the power, as justly and as clearly as the Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico. It is a mistake to regard expenditures judicious-

ly made for these objects as expenditures for local purposes.

The position or site of the work is necessarily local, but its utility is general. A ship canal around the Falls of St. Mary, of less than a mile in length, though local in its benefits, as it would remove the only obstruction to the navigation of more than a thousand miles, and affecting several States, as well as our commercial relations with Canada. So, too, the breakwater at the mouth of the Delaware, is erected, not for the exclusive benefit of the States bordering on the bay or the river of that name, but of the whole coastwise navigation of the United States, and to a considerable extent, also of foreign commerce. If a ship be lost on a bar at the entrance of a Southern port, for want of sufficient depth of water, it is very likely to be a Northern ship; and if a steamer be sunk in any part of the Mississippi, on account of its channel not having been properly cleared of obstructions, it may be a boat belonging to either of eight or ten States. I may add, as some what remarkable, that among all the thirty-one States there is none that is not, to a greater or less extent, bound on the ocean or Gulf of Mexico, or one of the great lakes or some navigable stream.

In fulfilling our constitutional duties, fellow-citizens, on this subject, as in carrying into effect all powers conferred by the Constitution, we should consider ourselves as deliberating and acting for one and the same country, and bear constantly in mind that our regard and our duty are due, not to a particular part only, but to the whole.

I, therefore, recommend that appropriations be made for completing such work, as have been already begun, and for commencing such others as may seem to the wisdom of Congress to be of public and general importance.

The difficulties and delays incident to the settlement of private claims by Congress, amount, in many cases, to injustice. There is reason to apprehend that many unfortunate creditors of the Government have thereby been unavoidably ruined. Congress has so much business of a public character, that it is impossible it should give much attention to mere private claims, and their accumulation is now so great that many claimants despair of every being able to obtain a hearing. It may well be doubted whether Congress, from the nature of its organization, is properly constituted to decide upon such cases. It is impossible that each member should examine the merits of every claim upon which he is compelled to vote, and it is preposterous to ask a Judge to decide a case which he has never heard. Such decisions may, and frequently must, do injustice, either to the claimant or to the Government; and I perceive no better remedy for this growing evil than the establishment of some tribunal to adjudicate on such claims. I beg leave, therefore, most respectfully to recommend, that provision be made by law for the appointment of a Commission to settle all private claims against the United States; and as an *ex parte* hearing must, in all contested cases, be very unsatisfactory, I also recommend the appointment of a Solicitor, whose duty it shall be to represent the Government before such Commission, and protect it against all illegal, fraudulent or unjust claims, which may be presented for their adjudication.

This District, which has neither voice nor vote in your deliberations, looks to you for protection and aid. I commend all its wants to your favorable consideration, with a full confidence that you will meet them, not only with justice but with liberality. It should be borne in mind, that in this city, laid out by Washington, and consecrated by his name, is located the Capitol of the Nation—the emblem of our Union, and the symbol of our greatness. Here, also, are situated all the public buildings necessary for the use of the Government, and all these are exempt from taxation. It should be the pride of Americans to render this place attractive to the people of the whole Republic, and convenient and safe for the transaction of the public business. The Government should, therefore, bear a liberal portion of the burthen of all necessary and useful improvements, and as nothing can contribute more to the health, comfort and safety of the city, and the security of the public buildings and records, than an abundant supply of pure water, I respectfully recommend that you make such provisions for obtaining the same as, in your wisdom, you may deem proper.

The act passed at your last session, making certain propositions to Texas for settling the disputed boundary between that State and New Mexico, was immediately on its passage, transmitted by express to the Governor of Texas, to be laid by him before the General Assembly, for its agreement thereto. Its receipt was duly acknowledged, but no official information has yet been received of the action of the General Assembly thereon. It may, however, be very soon expected, as, by the terms of the propositions submitted, they were to have been voted upon on or before the first day of the present month.

And now, fellow-citizens, I cannot bring this communication to a close without inviting you to join me in humble and devoted thanks to the Great Ruler of nations for the multiplied blessings which He has graciously bestowed upon us. His hand, so often visible in our preservation, has stayed the pestilence, saved us from foreign wars and domestic disturbances, and scattered plenty through the land.

Our liberties, religious and civil, have been maintained. The fountains of knowledge have all been kept open, and means of happiness widely spread and generally enjoyed, greater than have fallen to the lot of any other nation; and while deeply penetrated with gratitude for the past, let us hope that this All-wise Providence will so guard our councils as that they shall result in giving satisfaction to our constituents—securing peace to the country, and adding new strength to the united Government in which we live.

MILLARD FILLMORE.

WASHINGTON, December 2, 1850.

PIRACY ON THE MISSISSIPPI!!!

Whereas, the steambot *Visitor*, Capt. G. J. KING, destination, Keokuk, and all intermediate ports, left St. Louis on the 11th day of this month, expecting for each through ticket \$8,00, and requiring payment in advance. To this some objected, knowing, as they did, the uncertainty (the river being full of ice), of her being able to reach the above port; they had not proceeded far, however, when all those who had refused to pay on coming on board, were visited by the very gentlemanly Clerk, Mr. J. DEXTER, and invited to call at the office and settle, to which they acceded, upon the officers agreeing to refund in proportion to the

distance they went. The boat proceeded onward, and after repeated stoppages and delays, reached a point about 60 miles above St. Louis, known as Cap Au Gris, putting on shore at the hour of 3 o'clock at night, without ceremony or apology, about 250 passengers, a number of whom were ladies!—On being demanded to refund to those who had paid \$8,00, they refunded \$3,00; and upon some asking more, they refused to refund at all. The passengers for Hannibal paid \$6,00 and received only \$1,00 in return.

The undersigned, passengers on the steambot *Visitor*, would caution all, and especially the travelling public, to avoid this modern mode of swindling, practiced by the officers of the said boat:

CAP AU GRIS, Dec. 13th, 1850.

J. T. Miller, B. Hammel, F. Schneider, Hannibal, C. Schneider, do. H. Schneider, do. M. Boyant, do. T. G. Price, Thos. Stevens, Chas. Allen, A. D. Weyer, Chas. Adams, N. Mitchell, I. Hamilton, T. J. More, Jas. O'Donnell, M. W. Reed, Wm. Abbey, Girard Miller, M. Upton, Isaac Hall, J. F. Gough, H. C. Price, M. Bryant, G. F. Pollard, W. Lagrass, Chas. Black, Jas. Ford, Wm. H. Rumeys, S. Brown, C. A. Hickman, J. Mitchell, C. F. Williams, Robt. Allen, J. Davison, W. N. Sherman, Wm. Cooper, N. Hall, Jas. McFarland, J. B. Hart, B. F. Reed.

WESTERN UNION.

G. ULEMENS, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

HANNIBAL, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1850.

Agents for the Western Union.

Wm. N. Penn and W. B. Twyman, of Paris, Mo. R. H. Buchanan and John A. Quarles, of Florida. Thomas E. Thompson, of Palmyra. Wm. D. Young, of New London. J. L. Canterbury, of Mexico. Mr. Blakey, of Clinton. George Bourne, of Barry, Ill. The above named gentlemen are authorized to give receipts for money due the "Western Union" Office. Postmasters are requested to allow us to add them to the list.

Notice.

The Methodist Episcopal Church in Hannibal, will be dedicated to the worship of Almighty God, on Wednesday, the 25th of December. Rev. Dr. Akers is expected to preach on the occasion. Service to commence at 11 o'clock A. M. Citizens generally are invited to attend.

Course of Lectures.

The second Lecture will be delivered by Rev. Jos. L. Bennet, in the 1st Presbyterian Church, this evening. Subject—the dignity and benefit of practical Industry in our age.

The public generally are invited to attend.

Mr. B. has promised to say something in favor of our Hannibal Rail Road, and of the proposed Plank Roads to terminate in our city.

HOGS.

Since our last we have no particular change to note in the pork market. The market is brisk and active; the prices are \$2,75 to \$3,00, dividing on 175 lbs; and for superior lots, a small premium is occasionally paid. Operations in beef are closed for the present.

Snia Plank Road.

We understand the people of Pike county Illinois, opposite this place, propose to build a plank road over the bottom, and that petitions are in circulation, to obtain a suitable charter from the Illinois Legislature for that purpose.

The road, of the kind intended, will cost a good deal, and the undertaking should be well sustained—embracing the lower part of Adams, and the northern part of Pike, in our neighboring State; we understand there is no better section of country in the West. It is said to be equal in character, quality, &c., to the country around and back of this city. The road would add much to the trade and business of this city, and our citizens should lend their aid, as no doubt they will.

The Mail Route from Hannibal to St. Joseph.

What action has the Post Office Department taken to put this route under contract? We may have overlooked any action had upon it; but do not remember to have heard of any propositions for putting it in motion.

This route was not only intended to supply the people, on the direct route of its calls and locations; but was asked for and granted, as a great line, or artery of supply, north and south of it, by the many shorter routes which will fall into it.

It is one of those great routes, which will be permanently useful throughout the year.

It should be supplied, tri-weekly, by four-horse post coaches. At no time, during the running of the river mail, and general during the winter, also, could a less conveyance transport the mails on this route in advance. To this some objected, knowing, as they did, the uncertainty (the river being full of ice), of her being able to reach the above port; they had not proceeded far, however, when all those who had refused to pay on coming on board, were visited by the very gentlemanly Clerk, Mr. J. DEXTER, and invited to call at the office and settle, to which they acceded, upon the officers agreeing to refund in proportion to the

A thanksgiving sermon was preached last Thursday, by Rev. Mr. Lorange, and another by Rev. Mr. Bennet. We will give an epitome of each, next week.