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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Followers of the Senate.

Since your last annual assembling another year of health and bountiful harvests has passed, and while it has not pleased the Almighty to bless us with the return of peace, we can but press on, guided by the best light He gives us, trusting in His own good time and way, it will be well.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

The correspondence touching foreign affairs, which has taken place during the past year, is herewith submitted in virtual compliance with a request to that effect, made by the House of Representatives, near the close of the last session of Congress. If the condition of our relations with other nations is less gratifying than it has usually been at former periods, it is certainly more satisfactory than a nation so unhappily distracted as we might reasonably have expected. In the month of June last there were some grounds to expect that the maritime powers which at the beginning of our domestic difficulties, so unwisely and unnecessarily, as we think, recognized the insurgents as a belligerent, would soon recede from that position, which has proved only less injurious to themselves than to our own country. But the temporary reverses which afterward befell the National arms, and which were exaggerated by our disloyal citizens abroad have hitherto delayed that act of simple justice.

The Civil War, which has so radically changed for a moment the occupations and habits of the American people, has necessarily disturbed the social conditions and affected very deeply the nations with which we have carried on a commerce that has been steadily increasing throughout a period of half a century. It has at the same time excited political ambitions and apprehensions which have produced a profound agitation throughout the civilized world. In unusual agitation, we have forborne from taking part in any controversy between foreign States, and between parties or factions in such States. We have attempted no propaganda, and acknowledged no revolution. But we have left to every nation the exclusive conduct and management of its own affairs. Our struggle has been, of course, contemplated by foreign nations with reference less to its own merits than to its supposed and often exaggerated effects on the consequences resulting to those nations themselves. Nevertheless, complaint on the part of this government, even if it were just, would certainly be unwise.

THE SLAVE TRADE.

In treaty with Great Britain for the suppression of African slave trade, has been in operation with a good prospect of complete success. It is an occasion of special pleasure to acknowledge that the execution of it on the part of Her Majesty's Government has been marked with a jealous respect for the authority of the United States, and the right of their moral and loyal citizens.

STADIUMS.

The Convention with Haverford for the station of the Stadii does not have been carried into full effect under the Act of Congress for that purpose.

THE BLOCKADE.

A blockade of three thousand miles of sea coast could not be established and vigorously enforced in a season of great commercial activity like the present, without committing occasional mistakes and inflicting unintentional injuries upon foreign nations and their subjects. A civil war in a country where foreigners reside and carry on trade under treaty stipulations, is necessarily fruitful of complaints of the violation of neutral rights; all such collisions tend to excite misapprehensions, and possible to produce mutual recriminations between nations which have common interests in preserving peace and friendship. In clear cases of these kind, I have, so far as possible, heard and redressed complaints which have been presented by friendly powers. There is, however, a large and augmenting number of doubtful cases upon which the Government is unable to agree with the arguments whose protection is demanded by the claimants. There are, moreover, many cases in which the United States or their citizens suffer wrongs from the naval or military authorities of foreign nations, which the government of these States are not at once prepared to redress. Any State, however, to some of the foreign States that have not entered into treaties with us, has not been formally accepted. I deem it my duty to recommend an appropriation in aid of the owners of the Norwegian bark Admiral P. Tordens Bivik, which vessel was, in May, 1862, blockaded by the commander of the United States frigate, the Commodore, from leaving that port with her cargo, notwithstanding a similar privilege had shortly before been granted to an English vessel. I have directed the Secretary of State to cause the papers in the case to be communicated to the proper authorities.

THE COLONIZATION SCHEME.

Applications have been made to me by free Americans of African descent, to be in their own country, and a view to their colonization as was contemplated in recent acts of Congress. Other parties, at home and abroad, some from interested motives, others upon patriotic considerations, and still others influenced by philanthropic sentiments, have suggested similar measures, while on the other hand several of the Spanish American Republics have protested against the sending of such colonies to their respective territories.

Under these circumstances I have declined to move any such colony to any State without first obtaining the consent of its government, with an agreement, as a condition, to receive and protect such emigrants in all their rights of freemen, and I have at the same time refused to the several States situated in the tropics, or having colonies there, to negotiate with them, subject to the advice and consent of the Senate, to favor the voluntary emigration of persons of African descent to any of the States of Africa.

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RELATIONS WITH GREAT BRITAIN, FRANCE, SPAIN, PORTUGAL, RUSSIA, DENMARK, SWEDEN, AUSTRIA, NETHERLANDS, ITALY, ROMANIA, AND THE OTHER EUROPEAN STATES REMAIN UNCHANGED.

Very favorable relations also continue to be maintained with Turkey, Morocco, China and Japan. During the past year there has not only been no change of our previous relations with the independent States of our own continent, but more sentiments of cordial good will have been entertained by these neighbors, whose safety and progress are so intimately connected with our own. This statement especially applies to Mexico, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, Peru and Chile. The commission, under the Convention with the Republics of New Grenada, closed its session without having settled and passed upon all the claims which were submitted to it. A proposition is pending to revive the convention, that it may be able to do more complete justice. The commission between the United States and the Republics of Costa Rica, Peru and Chile, and a similar project to extend the telegraph from San Francisco to the Pacific coast with the wire which is being extended across the Russian Empire.

TERRITORIAL AFFAIRS.

The Territories of the United States, with important exceptions, have remained undisturbed by the civil war, and they are exhibiting evidence of prosperity as justifies an expectation that some of them will soon be in a condition to be organized as States and be constitutionally admitted into the Federal Union. The immense material resources of those territories ought to be developed as speedily as possible. Every step in that direction would be a tendency to improve the revenues of the government and diminish the burdens of the people. It is worthy of your serious consideration whether some extraordinary measures to promote the end cannot be adopted. The means which I suggest to myself may be effected by a scientific exploration of the mineral resources of these territories with a view to a publication of its results at home and in foreign countries, results which cannot fail to be auspicious. The condition of the finances will claim your most diligent consideration.

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS.

The vast expenditure incident to the military and naval operations required for the suppression of the rebellion, have hitherto been met with a promptitude, and certainly unusual in similar circumstances, and the public credit has been fully maintained. The increased disbursements made necessary by the augmented forces now in the field demand your best efforts as to the best mode of providing necessary revenue without injury to business, and with the least possible burden upon labor. The suspension of specie payments by the banks after the commencement of this last session made large issues of United States Notes unavoidable. In no other way could the payment of troops and the satisfaction of other just demands be so economically or as well provided for. The judicial legislation of Congress securing the convertibility of these notes or loans and internal debts, and making them a legal tender for other debts, has made them a universal currency, and has satisfied, partially at least, and for the time, the long felt want of a uniform circulating medium, saving the inconvenience to people in possession of disunion and exchange, and a return to specie payments, however, at the earliest period compatible with due regard to all interests, should ever be kept in view.

Fluctuations in the value of currency are always injurious, and to reduce these fluctuations to the least possible point was always a leading purpose in wise legislation.

Convertibility, prompt and certain convertibility into coin, is generally acknowledged to be the best and surest guard against them, and it is extremely doubtful whether a circulation of United States Notes, payable in coin and convertible at the same time for the people, can be permanently, usefully and safely maintained. Is there, then, any other mode in which the necessary provisions for the public wants can be made, and the great advantages of a safe and uniform currency secured. Know of none which promise to be so successful at the same time so unobjectionable, as the organization of Banking Associations under a general act of Congress, well guarded in its provisions. To such associations the Government might furnish circulating notes, on the security of the bonds deposited in the Treasury.

These notes, payable under the supervision of proper officers, being uniform in appearance and security, and convertible into coin, would at once protect labor against the evils of a vicious currency and facilitate commerce by cheap and safe exchanges. A moderate reservation from the interest on bonds to compensate the United States for the preparation and distribution of the notes, and a general supervision of the system, would lighten the burden of the part of the public debt employed as security.

The public credit, moreover, would be greatly improved by the negotiation of loans greatly facilitated by the steady market demand for Government bonds, the measure of considerable weight, in my judgment, that it would reconcile as far as possible all existing interest by the opportunity to the States to participate in the proceeds under the act, substituting only the secured uniform national circulation for the local and various currencies, secured and unsecured, now issued by them.

REVENUE RECEIPTS.

The receipts into the Treasury from all sources, including loans and balance from the preceding year for the fiscal year ending on the 30th of June, 1862, were \$583,885,247.06, of which sum \$49,096,397.62 were derived from customs; \$1,795,331.73 from direct tax; from public lands, \$152,203.77; from miscellaneous sources, \$951,787.04; from loans in all forms, \$229,862,490.50. The remainder, \$2,257,065.80, was the balance from last year.

EXPENDITURES.

The disbursements during the same period were: For Congressional, Executive and Judicial purposes, \$3,539,000.29; for foreign intercourse, \$1,339,710.35; for miscellaneous expenses, including the min. loans, post office deficiencies, collection of revenue, and other like charges, \$14,129,771.50; for expenses under the Interior Department, \$3,102,955.52; under the War Department, \$394,984,407.39; under the Navy Department, \$42,574,550.69; for interest on the public debt, \$13,190,323.45; and for the payment of the public debt, including redemption of temporary loan and redemption of \$70,000,000.00; making an aggregate of \$570,841,700.25, and leaving a balance in the Treasury on the 1st day of July, 1862, of \$15,043,548.81. It should be observed that the sum of \$96,000,000.00, expended for redemption and redemption of the public debt, being included also in the loans made, may be promptly deducted from the receipts and expenditures, leaving the

ACTUAL RECEIPTS FOR THE YEAR \$487,788,324.97, AND THE EXPENDITURES \$474,744,788.16.

Other information on the subject of the finances will be found in the report of the Secretary of the Treasury, to whose statements and views I invite your most candid and considerate attention.

NAVY AND WAR REPORTS.

The reports of the Secretaries of the Navy and War are herewith transmitted. These reports though lengthy, are certainly nothing more than brief abstracts of the very numerous and extensive transactions and operations conducted through these Departments. Nor could I give a summary of them here upon any principle which would admit of its being much shorter than the reports themselves. I therefore content myself with laying reports before you, asking your attention to them.

POSTAL AFFAIRS.

It gives me pleasure to report a decided improvement in the financial condition of the Post Office Department as compared with several preceding years. The receipts for the fiscal year 1861, amounted to \$8,349,290.40, which embraced the revenues from all the States of the Union for three quarters of that year, notwithstanding the cessation of revenue from the so-called second States during the last fiscal year. The increase of the correspondence of the loyal States has been sufficient to produce a revenue during the same year of \$8,259,920.90, being only \$89,000 less than was derived from all the States of the Union during the previous year. The expenditures show a still more favorable result. The amount expended in 1861, was \$13,606,759.11. For the last year the amount has been reduced to \$11,125,564.13, showing a decrease of about \$2,481,000 in the expenditure as compared with the preceding year; about \$3,750,000 as compared with the fiscal year 1861. The deficiency in the Department for the previous year was \$4,551,966.98. For the last fiscal year it was reduced to \$2,112,814.67. These favorable results are in part owing to the effect of the cessation of the extraordinary States, and in part to a casual review of the expenditure in that Department, in the interest of economy. The efficiency of the postal service, it is believed, has also been much improved.

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL ALSO OPENED A CORRESPONDENCE THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE WITH FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS, PROPOSING A CONVENTION OF POSTAL REPRESENTATIVES, FOR THE PURPOSE OF SIMPLIFYING THE RATES OF FOREIGN POSTAGE, AND TO EXPEDITE THE FOREIGN MAILS.

This proposition, equally important to our adopted citizens and to the commerce of this country, has been favorably entertained and agreed to by all the governments from whom replies have been received. I ask the attention of Congress to the suggestions of the Postmaster General, in his report, respecting the further legislation required, in his opinion, for the benefit of the postal service.

PUBLIC LANDS.

The Secretary of the Interior reports as follows in regard to the public lands. The public lands have ceased to be a source of revenue. From the last of July, 1861, to the 30th of September, 1862, the entire cash receipts from the sale of lands were \$137,470.26, a sum much less than the expense of our land system during the same period. The homestead law, which will take effect on the 1st of January next, offers such inducements to settlers that sales for cash cannot be expected to an extent sufficient to meet the expenses of the general land office, and the cost of surveying and bringing the land into market.

The discrepancy between the sum here stated as arising from the sales of the public lands, and the sum derived from the same source as reported from the Treasury Department, arises, as I understand, from the fact that the periods of time, though apparently, were not really so incident at the beginning of the Treasury report, including a considerable sum now, which had previously been reported from the Interior, sufficiently large as to greatly overreach the sum derived from the three months now reported upon by the Interior, and not by the Treasury.

INDIAN TREATIES.

The Indian tribes upon our frontiers have, during the past year, manifested a spirit of insubordination, and at several points have engaged in open hostilities against the white settlements in their vicinity. The tribes occupying the Indian country south of Kansas, renounced the allegiance to the United States and engaged in hostilities with the Indians. These tribes remained loyal to the United States were driven from the country. The chief of the Cherokees has visited this city for the purpose of restoring the former relations of the tribe with the United States. He alleges that they were constrained by superior force to enter into the present treaty. This treaty was wholly unexecuted, and there are no means of defense had been provided. It is estimated that no less than eight hundred persons were killed by the Indians, and a large amount of property was destroyed. How this outbreak was induced is not definitely known, but it is believed that the Indians were not satisfied with the terms of the treaty.

Information was received by the Indian Bureau, from different sources, about the time hostilities were commenced, that a simultaneous attack was to be made upon the white settlements by all the tribes between the Mississippi river and the Rocky Mountains. The State of Minnesota has suffered great injury from this Indian war.

A large portion of her territory has been depopulated, and a severe loss has been sustained by the destruction of property. The people of that State manifest much anxiety for the removal of the tribes beyond the limits of the State, and guarantee against future hostilities. The Commissioner of Indian Affairs will furnish full details. I submit for your especial consideration whether our Indian system shall not be re-modeled. Many wise and good men have been impressed with the belief that this can be profitably done.

MILITARY ROADS.

I submit the statement of the proceedings of the Commissioners, which shows the progress that has been made in the enterprise of constructing the Pacific railroad, and thus suggests the earliest completion of the road, and also the favorable action of Congress upon the projects now pending before them for enlarging the capacities of the great canals in New York and Illinois as being of vital and rapidly increasing importance to the whole nation, and especially to the vast interior region, hereinafter to be noticed as some greater length. I propose having prepared and laid before you at an early day some interesting and valuable statistical information upon this subject. The military and commercial importance of enlarging the Illinois and Michigan Canal and improving the Illinois River is presented in the report of Colonel Webster to the Secretary of War,

AND NOW TRANSMITTED TO CONGRESS. I RESPECTFULLY CALL YOUR ATTENTION TO IT.

AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

To carry out the provisions of the act of Congress of the 16th of May last, I have caused the department of agriculture of the United States to be organized. The Commissioner in charge is that with a few months the department has established an extensive system of correspondence and exchanges, both at home and abroad, which promise to effect highly beneficial results in the development of a correct knowledge of recent improvements in agriculture, in the introduction of new products and in the collection of the agricultural statistics of the different States; also that it will soon be prepared to distribute largely seeds, cereals, plants and cuttings, and has already published and liberally diffused much valuable information, in anticipation of a more elaborate report, which will in due time be furnished, embracing some valuable tests in chemical science, now in progress in the laboratory. The creation of this department was for the more immediate benefit of a large class of our most valuable citizens, and I trust that the liberal basis upon which it has been organized will not only meet your approval, but that it will realize, at no distant day, all the fondest anticipations of its most sanguine friends, and become the fruitful source of advantage to all our people.

On the 23rd day of September last, a proclamation was issued by the Executive, a copy of which is herewith submitted:

COMPENSATED EMANCIPATION.

In accordance with the purpose expressed in the second paragraph of that paper, I now respectfully call your attention to what may be called "Compensated Emancipation." A nation that has said to itself, "I will not permit my people to be sold into slavery," and that it is the only path which is of certain durability. One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh, but the earth abideth. It is of the first importance to duly consider the effect of this proposed part. That portion of the earth's surface which is owned by the people of the United States is well adapted to be the home of one national family, and it is not well adapted for two or more. Its vast extent and its variety of climate and production are of advantage to the people of the United States, and they might have been in former ages. Steam and telegraph, in incalculable ways, have brought these to be an advantageous combination for one united people.

THE FUGITIVE SLAVE LAW.

In the inaugural address I briefly pointed out the total inadequacy of the law as a remedy for the differences between the people of the two sections. I did so in language which I cannot repeat, and which, therefore, I beg to repeat: "One section of our country believes slavery is right, and ought to be extended, while the other believes it is wrong, and ought to be restricted. The law of the United States is, therefore, a law of compromise, and it is not well adapted to be the home of one national family, and it is not well adapted for two or more. Its vast extent and its variety of climate and production are of advantage to the people of the United States, and they might have been in former ages. Steam and telegraph, in incalculable ways, have brought these to be an advantageous combination for one united people."

The fugitive slave law, as it is now, is a law of compromise, and it is not well adapted to be the home of one national family, and it is not well adapted for two or more. Its vast extent and its variety of climate and production are of advantage to the people of the United States, and they might have been in former ages. Steam and telegraph, in incalculable ways, have brought these to be an advantageous combination for one united people."

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