THE THIRTY-FIRST CONGRES

Fellow-Citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives: Sixty years have empsed since the establishment of this Government, and the Congress of the United States again islate for an empire of fall of our institutions, are now remembers America, at this moment, present to the world the most stable and permanent Govern-

Such is the result of the labors of those who have gone before us. Upon Congress will eminently depend the future maintenance of our system of free government, and

the transmission of it unimpaired to posterity.
We are at peace with all the world, and seek to maintain our cherished relations of amity with the rest of mankind. During the past year, we have been blessed, by a kind Providence, with an abundance of the fruits of the earth; and, although the destroying angel for a time visited extensive portions of our territory with the ravages of a dreadful our territory with the ravages of a dreading pestilence, yet the Almighty has at length deigned to stay his hand, and to restore the inestimable blessing of general health to a people who have acknowledged his power, deprecated his wrath, and implored his merciful protection.

While enjoying the benefits of amicable

intercourse with foreign nations, we have not been insensible to the distractions and wars which have prevailed in other quarters of the world. It is a proper theme of thanksgiving to Him who rules the destinies of nations, that we have been able to maintain, amidst all these contests, an independent and nen-

ral position towards all beligerent powers.
Our relations with Great Britain are of the
most friendly character. In consequence of
the recent alteration of the British navigation acts, British vessels, from British and other foreign ports, will, (under our existing laws)
after the first day of January next, be admitted to entry in our ports, with the cargoes of the growth, manufacture, or production of any part of the world, on the same terms, as to duties, imposts, and charges, as vessels of the United States with their cargoes; and our vessels will be admitted to the same advantages in British ports, entering therein on the same terms as British vessels. Should no order in council disturb this legislative arrangement, the late act of the British Parliament, by which Great Britain is brought within the terms proposed by the act of Con-gress of the 1st of March, 1817, it is hoped, will be productive of benefit to both coun-

tries.
A slight interruption of diplomatic intercourse, which occurred between this Govern-ment and France, I am happy to say, has been terminated, and our Minister there has been received. It is therefore unnecessary to refer, now, to the circumstances which led to that interruption. I need not express to you the sincere satisfaction with which we shall welcome the arrival of another Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from a sister republic, to which we have so long been, and still remain, bound by the Shortly after I had entered upon the dis-

charge of the Executive duties, I was apprised that a war steamer, belonging to the Ger-man Empire, was being fitted out in the har-bor of New York, with the aid of some of our naval officers, rendered under the permission of the late Secretary of the Navy. This permission was granted during an armistice beviewed as 2 violation of our neutral conga-tions, incurred by the treaty with Deamark, and of the provisions of the act of Cougress of the 20th of April, 1818. I directed that no further aid should be rendered by any agent or officer of the Navy; and I instructed the or officer of the Navy; and I instructed the Secretary of State to apprise the Minister of the German Empire accredited to this Government, of my determination to execute the law of the United States, and to maintain the faith of treaties with all nations. The correspondence, which ensued between the Department of State and the Minister of the German Empire, is herewith laid before you. The execution of the law and the observance of the trenty were deemed by me to be due to the honor of the country, as well as to the sacred obligations of the Constitution. I shall not fail to pursue the same course, should a similar case arise with any other nation Having avowed the opinion, on ta-king the oath of office, that, in disputes between conflicting foreign governments, it is our interest, not less than our duty, to remain strictly neutral, I shall not aba You will perceive, from the correspondence submitted to you, in connexion with this subject, that the course adopted in this case has been properly regarded by the belligerent powers interested in the matter.

Although a minister of the United States to the German Empire was appointed by my predecessor in August, 1848, and has, for a long time, been in attendance at Frankforton-the-Maine; and although a Minister, appointed to represent that Empire, was re-ceived and accredited here, yet no such Government as that of the German Empire has been definitively constituted Mr. Donelson, our representative at Frankfort, remained there several months, in the expectation that a union of the German States, under one Constitution or form of Government, might, at length, be organized. It is believed, by those well acquainted with the existing relations between Prussia and the States of Germany, that no such union can be permanently established without her co-operation. In the event of the formation of such a union, and the organization of a central power in Germany, of which she should form a part, it would become necessary to withdraw our Minister at Berlin; but while Prassia exists as an independent kingdom, and diplomatic relations are maintained with her, there can be no necessity for the continuance of the mission to Frankfort. I have, therefore, tecalled Mr. Donelson, and directed the ar-chives of the legation at Frankfort, to be transferred to the American legation at Ber-

Having been apprised that a considerable number of adventurers were engaged in fitting out a military expedition, within the United States, against a foreign country; and believing, from the best information I could obtain, that it was destined to invade the island of Cuba, I deemed it due to the friendly relations existing between the United States and Spain; to the treaty between States; and, above all, to the American hou-or, to exert the lawful authority of this Government in suppressing the expedition and preventing the lovasion.

To this end, I issued a proclamation, en-

joining it upon the officers of the United States, civil and military, to use all lawful means within their power. A copy of that proclamation is herewith submitted. The means within their proclamation is herewith submitted. The proclamation is herewith submitted. The special proclamation is herewith submitted to the venezuelan government an opposition to the special proclamation is the submitted to the venezuelan government an opposition to the special proclamation is herewith submitted to the venezuelan government an opposition to the special proclamation is the submitted. The special proclamation is the submitted to the venezuelan government an opposition to the submitted to the venezuelan government an opposition to the submitted to the venezuelan government an opposition to the submitted to the venezuelan government an opposition to the submitted to the venezuelan government an opposition to the submitted to the venezuelan government an opposition to the submitted to the venezuelan government and opposition to the submitted to the venezuelan government and opposition to the submitted to the venezuelan government and opposition to the submitted to the venezuelan government and opposition to the submitted to the venezuelan government and opposition to t

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to obey its injunctions.

While this expedition was While this expedition was in progress, I was informed that a foreigner, who claimed our protection, had been clandestinely, and, as was supposed, forcibly, carried off in a record from New Orleans to the island of the State of Staryland, plustid Congress to

section of Columbias

a judicial tribunal. I suggest, that although the have been committed in vestigation before a ju-would respectfully sugges sovereignty and personal freedom, there is no prohibition of it, or punishment for it, provided in any act of Congress. The expediency of supplying this defect is our criminal code s, therefore, recommended to your considera-

I have scrupulously avoided any interfer-ence in the wars and contentions which have

ence in the wars and contentions which have recently distracted Europe.

During the late conflict between Austria and Hongary, there seemed to be a prospect that the latter might become an independent nation. However faint that prospect at the time appeared, I thought it my duty, in accordance with the general sentiment of the American people, who deeply sympathized with the Magyar patriots, to stand prepared, upon the contingency of the establishment by her of a permanent government, to be the first to welcome independent Hungary into the family of nations. For this purpose I invested an agent, then in Europe, with power to declare our willingness promptly to reer to declare our willingness promptly to re-cognise her independence in the event of her ability to sustain it. The powerful interven-tion of Russia, in the contest, extinguished the hopes of the struggling Magyars. The United States did not, at any time, interfere in the contest; but the feelings of the nation were strongly enlisted in the cause, and by the sufferings of a brave people, who had made a gallant though unsuccessful effort to be free.
Our claims upon Portugal have been,

ring the past year, prosecuted with renewed vigor, and it has been my object to employ every effort of honorabte diplomacy to pro-cure their adjustment. Our late Charge d'-Affaires at Lisbon, the Hon. George W. Hop-kins, made able and energetic, but unsuc-cessful efforts to settle these unpleasant mat-ters of controversy, and to obtain indemnity for the wrongs which were the subjects of complaint. Our present Charge d'Affaire at complaint. Our present Charge d'Affaires at that court will, also, bring to the presention of these claims ability and zeal. The revo-lutionary and distracted condition of Portugal, in past time, has been represented as one of the leading causes of her delay in indem-nifying our suffering citizens. But I must now say it is a matter of profound regret that these claims have not yet been settled. American claimants has now assumed a shortly make it the subject of a special mes-sage to Congress, with a view to such ulti-mate action as its wisdom and patriotism may

With Russia, Austria, Prussia, Sweden, Denmark, Belgium, the Netherlands, and the Italian States, we still maintain our accustomed amicable relations.

During the recent revolutions in the Papal States, our Charge d'Affaires at Rome has been unable to present his letter of credence, which, indeed, he was directed by my predecessor to withhold until he should receive further orders. Such was the unsettled condition of things in those States, that it was not deemed expedient to give him any innot deemed expedient to give him any instructions on the subject of presenting his credential letter different from those with which he had been furnished by the late adjusted on the subject of presenting his ritory of that State, to connect the Atlantic and Pacific occans, I have directed the negotiation of a treaty with Nicaragua, pledgministration, paril the 25th of June last; when, in consequence of the want of accurate information of the exact state of things, other nations are invited by the State of Nimark, which had been engaged in the Schleswig-Holstein war. Apprehensive that this
act of intervention, on our part, might be
himself to the then existing government, if,
viewed as 2 violation of our neutral obligain his judgment, sufficiently stable; or if not, mark, which had been engaged in the Schles- at that distance from us, he was instructed

> With the Republic of Mexico it is our true policy to cultivate the most friendly relations. the ratification of the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, nothing has occurred of a serious character to disturb them. A faithful observance of the treaty, and a sincere respect for her rights, cannot fail to secure the lasting confidence and friendship of that republic. The message of my predecessor to the House of Representatives, of the 8th of Febroary last, communicating, in compliance with a resolution of that body, a copy of a paper called a protocol, signed at Queretara, on the 30th of May, 1848, by the commissioners of the United States and the minister of for-eign affairs of the Mexican government, having been a subject of correspondence be-tween the Department of State and the En-voy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipoten-tiary of that republic accredited to this Government, a transcript of that correspondence is herewith submitted.

> The Commissioner on the part of the United States for marking the boundary between the two republics, though delayed in reaching San Diego by unforseen obstacles, arrived at that place within a short period after the time required by the treaty, and was there joined by the Commissioners on the part of Mexico. They entered upon their duties; and, at the date of the latest intelligence from that quarter, some progress had been made in the survey. The expenses incident to the organization of the commission, and to the point where its operations were to begin, have so much reduced the fund appropriated by Congress, that a further sum, to cover the charges which must be incurred during the present fiscal year, will be necessary. great length of frontier along which the boundary extends, the nature of the adjacent ter-ritory, and the difficulty of obtaining supplies, except at or near the extremes of the ine, render it also indispensable that a liberal provision should be made to meet the necessary charges during the fiscal year ending on the 30th of June. 1851. I accordingly re-

> commend this subject to your attention.
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> In the adjustment of the claims of American citizens on Mexico, provided for by the late treaty, the employment of counsel, on the part of the Government, may become important for the purpose of assisting the commissioners in protecting the interests of the United States. I recommend this subject to the early and favorable consideration of Congrees.

> Complaints have been made in regard to the inefficiency of the means provided by the government of New Grenada for trans-porting the United States mail across the Isthmus of Panama, pursuant to our Postal convention with that republic, of the 6th of March, 1844. Our Charge d'Affaires at Bo-gota has been directed to make such representations to the government of New Grenn-da as will, it is hoped, lead to a prompt re-

> moval of this cause of complaint.
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> The sanguinary civil war with which the Republic of Venezuela has for some time past been ravaged, has been brought to a close. In its progress, the rights of some of our citizens resident or trading there have been violated. The resteration of order will

The extension of the coast of the United States on the Pacific, and the unexampled rapidity with which the inhabitants of California, especially, are increasing in numbers, have imparted new consequence to our relations with the other countries whose territo-

Cubs. I immediately caused such steps to rics border upon that ocean. It is probable taken as I thought necessary, in case the that the intercourse between those could that the intercourse between those countries and one possessions in that quarter, particularly with the Republic of Chili, will become stendie and murally advantageous, in proporties as California and Oregon shall increase in population and wealth. It is desirable, therefore, that this Government should do everything in its power to foster and strengthen its relations with those States, and that the spirit of amity between us should be mutual and cordial.

The United States stand as the great American power to which, as their natural ally and friend, they will always be disposed, first, to took for mediation and assistance, in the event of any collision between them and any Eutopean nation. As such, we may often kindly mediate in their behalf, without entangling ourselves in foreign wars or unnecessary con-troversies. Whenever the faith of our trea-ties with any of them shall require our inter-ference, we must necessarily interpose.

A convention has been negotiated with Brazil, providing for the satisfaction of Amer-

ican claims on that government, and it will be submitted to the Senate. Since the last session of Congress, we have received an Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from that empire, and our relations with it are founded upon the most amicable

Tour attention is carnestly invited to an amendment of our existing laws relating to the African slave trade, with a view to the effectual suppression of that barbarous traffic. It is not to be denied that this trade is still, in part, carried on by means of vessels. in the United States, and owned or navigated by some of our citizens. The correspondence between the Department of State and the Minister and Consul of the United States at Rio de Janeiro, which has from time to time been laid before Congress, represents that it is a customary device to evade the penalties of our laws by means of sea-letters. Vessels sold in Brazil, when provided with such pa-pers by the Consul, instead of returning to the United States for a new register, pro-ceed at once to the coast of Africa, for the

purpose of obtaining cargoes of slaves.

Much additional information, of the same character, has recently been transmitted to considered the policy of our laws to subject an American citizen, who, in a foreign coun-try, purchases a vessel built in the United States to the inconvenience of sending her home for a new register, before permitting her to proceed on a voyage. Any alteration of the laws, which might have a tendency to impede the free transfer of property in ves-sels between our citizens, or the free navigation of those vessels between different parts to find the parts to omission of Portugal to do justice to the of the world, when employed in lawful commerce, should be well and cautiously concharacter so grave and serious, that I shall sidered; but I trust that your wisdom will shortly make it the subject of a special mesin this respect, may be preserved, and at the same time the abuse of our flag, by means of sea-letters, in the manner indicated, may be

Having ascertained that there is no pect of the re-union of the five States of Cen-tral America, which formerly composed the republic of that name, we have separately negotiated with some of them treaties of amity and commerce, which will be laid before the Senate

A contract having been concluded with shall engage in and perfect the work. All

The work, if constructed under these guarantees, will become a bond of peace, instead of a subject of contention and strife, between the nations of the earth. Should the great maritime States of Europe consent to this arrangement, (and we have no reason to suppose that a proposition so fair and honorable will be opposed by any,) the energies of their people and ours will co-operate in promoting the success of the enterprise. I do not recommend any appropriation from the National reasury for this purpose, nor do I believe that such an appropriation is necessary. Private enterprise, if properly protected, will complete the work, should it prove feasible. parties who have procured the charter from Nicaragna, for its construction, desire no assistance from this Government beyond its protection; and they profess that, having examined the proposed line of communication, they will be ready to commence the undertaking whenever that protection shall be extended to them. Should there appear to be reason, on examining the whole dence, to entertain a serious doubt of the practicability of constructing such a canal. that doubt could be speedily solved by an actual exploration of the route.

Should such a work be constructed, under

the common protection of all nations, for the equal benefits of all, it would be neither just or expedient that any great maritime State should command the communication.-The territory through which the esteal may be opened ought to be freed from the claim of any foreign power. No such power should occupy a position that would enable it hereafter to exercise so controlling an influence over the commerce of the world, or to obstruct a highway which ought to be dedicated to the common uses of mankind.

The routes across the Isthmus, at Tehnan fepce and Panama, are also worthy of our serious consideration. They did not fail to ngage the attention of my preducessor.— The negotiator of the treaty of Guadalope Hidalgo was instructed to offer a very large

sum of money for the right of transit across the Isihung of Tehuantepea.

The Mexican government did not accede to the proposition for the purchase of the right of way, probably because it hadalready contracted with private individuals for the construction of a passage from the Guasacu-alco river to Tehnantepec. I shall not renew any proposition to purchase, for money, a right which ought to be equally seemed to all nations, on payment of a reasonable toll to the owners of the improvement, who would, doubtless be well contented will that compensation and the guarantees of the maritime States of the world, in separate treaties negotiated with Mexico, binding her and them to protect those who should construct the work. Such guarantees would do more to secure the completion of the communication through the territory of Mexico, than any other reasonable consideration that could be effected; and as Mexico herself would be the greatest gainer by the opening of this communication between the Gulf and the Pacific ocean, it is presumed that she would not besitate to yield her aid, in the manner

proposed, to accomplish an improvement so important to her own best interests. We have reason to hope that the proposed railroad across the Isthmis of Panama will be successfully constructed, under the pro-tection of the late treaty with New Grenada, ratified and exchanged by my predecessor on the 10th day of June, 1848, which guaranties the perfect neutrality of the Isthmus, and the rights of sover-emity and property of New Grenada over that territory, "with a view that the free transit from ocean to ocean may not be interrupted or embarrassed" day

acrola the lethmos, which connects North and South America, either by realized or came, which the energy and enterprise of our officers may induce them to complete; and I consider it obligatory upon me to adopt that policy, especially in consequence of the absolute necessity of facilitating intercourse with our possessions on the Pausico.

The position of the Sandwich Islands, with

reference to the territory of the United States on the Pacitic; the success of our persevering and benevolen' citizens who have repaired to that remote quarter in christianizing the natives and inducing them to adopt a system of government and laws acited to their enpacity and wants; and the use made by our numerous whale-ships of the harbors of the islands as places of resort for obtaining refreshments and repairs, all combine to ren-ner their destiny peculiaritary interesting to

It is our duty to encourage the authorities of those islands in their efforts to improve the moral and political condition of the inhabitants; and we should make reasonble allowances for the difficulties inseparable from this task. We desire that the islands may maintain their independence, and that other nations should concur with us in this senti-ment. We could in no event be indifferent to their passing under the dominion of any other power. The principal commercial

year, ending on the thirtieth of June last, were, in cash, \$48,820 097 50, and in Treasury notes funded, \$10,833,000, making an aggregate of \$59,663,097 50, and the expendiidres, for the same time were, in cash, \$46,-798,667 82, and in Treasury notes, funded, \$10,833,000, making an aggregate of \$57,631,667 82.

The accounts and estimates which will be submitted to Congress in the report of the Secretary of the Treasury, show that there will probably be a deficit, occasioned by the expense of the Mexican war and freaty, on the first day of July next, of \$5,828,121 66, and on the first day of July, 1851, of \$10,547,-092 73, making in the whole a probable de-ficit, to be provided for, of \$16,375,214 39.

The extraordinary expenses of the war with Mexico, and the purchase of California and New Mexico, exceed in amount this deficit together with the loans heretofore made for those objects. I therefore recommend that authority be given to borrow whatever sum may be necessary to cover that deficit. I recommend the observance of strict economy in the appropriation and expenditure of the

riff, and its adjustment on basis which may augment the revenue. I do not doubt the right or duty of Congress to encourage do-mestic industry, which is the great source of national as well as individual wealth and prosperity. I took to the wisdom and patriotism of Congress for the adoption of a system which may place home labor at least upon a sore and permanent footing, and, by due en-couragement of manufactures, give a new and increased stimulus to agriculture, and promote the development of our vast resources, and the extension of our commerce. Believing that to the attainment of these ends (as well as the neccessary augmentation of the revenue and the prevention of trauds) a system of specific duties is best adapted. I strongly recommend to Congress the adoption of that system, fixing the duties at rates high enough to afford substantial, and sufficient encouragement to our own industry, and at the same time so udjusted as to insu-

The question of the continuance of the Sub-Treasury system is respectfully submit-ted to the wisdom of Congress. It continued, important modifications of it appear to be

fud spensable.

For further details and views of the above, and other matters connected with commerce, port of the Secretary of the Treasury.

No direct aid has been given by the Gene-

ral Government to the improvement of agri-cultural statistics, and for some chemical analyses, which have been, thus far, paid for out of the patented fund. This aid is, in my opinion, wholly inadequate. To give to this ading branch of American industry the encouragement which it merits, I respectfully recommend the establishment of an Agricultural Bureau, to be connected with the De-partment of the Interior. To elevate the social condition of the agriculturist, to increase his prosperity, and to extend his means of uselelness to his country, by multiplying his sources of information, should be the study of every statesman, and a primary object

with every legislator.

No civil government having been provided by Congress for California, the people of the Territory, impelled by the necessities of their political condition, recently met in conven-tion, for the purpose of forming a Constitution and State Government, which, the latest advices give me reason to suppose, has been accomplished; and it is believed they will shortly apply for the admission of California into the Union, as a Sovereign State. Should such be the case, and should their constitu-tion be conformable to the requisitions of the Constitution of the United States, I recommend their application to the favorable con-Sideration of Congress.

The people of New Mexico will also, it is

believed, at no very distant period present themselves for admission into the Union. Preparatory to the admission of California and New Mexico, the people of each will have instituted for themselves a republicant form of government, "laying its foundations in such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely

to effect their safety and happiness."

By awaiting their action, all causes of uneasiness may be avoided, and confidence and kind feeling preserved. With a view of maintaining the harmony and tranquility so dear to all, we should abstain from the introduction of those exciting topics of a sectional character, which have hitherto produced painful apprehensions in the public mind; and I repeat the solemn warning of the first and most illustrious of my predecessurs, against furnishing "any ground for characterizing parties by geographical discrimi-

A collector has been appointed at San Francisco, under the act of Congress extend-ing the revenue laws over California; and ing the revenue laws over California; and measures have been taken to organize the custom-house at that and the other ports mentioned in that act, at the earliest period practicable. The collector proceeded overland, and advices have not yet be been received of his arrival at San Francisco. Meanwhile, it is understood that the customs have continued to be collected there by officers acting under the military authority as these acting under the military authority, as they were during the administration of my pred-

It will I think, be expedient to confirm the collections thus made, and direct the axails (after such allowances as Congress may think tit to unthorize) to be expended within the Territory, or to be paid into the Treasury, for the purpose of meeting appropriations for the improvement of its rivers and harbors.

land titles in California and New Mexico; and that provision be made for the establishment of officers of Surveyor General in New Mexico California and Oregon, and for the surveying and bring into market the Public lands in those Territories. Those lands, remote in position and difficult of access, ought to be disposed of on terms liberal to all, but especially favorable to the early emigrants In order that the situation and character of the principal mineral deposited in California may be ascertained, I recommend that a geo-logical and mineralogical exploration be connected with the linear surveys, and that the mineral lands be divided into small lots suitable for mining, and be disposed of, by sale or lease, so as to give our citizens an opportunity of procuring a permanent right of property in the soil. This would seem to be as important to the success of mining as of agri-

cultoral pursuits.

The great mineral wealth of California, and the advantages when its ports and harbors, and those of Oregon afford to commerce especially with the islands of the Pacific and Indian oceans, and the populous regions of Eestern Asia make it certain that there will arise, in a few years, large and prosperous communities on our western coast. It there-fore, becomes important that a line of communication, the best and most expeditions which the nature of the country will admit, should be opened, within the territory of the United States, from navigable waters of the Atlantic, the Gulf of Mexico to the Pacific.

Opinion, as elicited and expressed by two large and respectable conventions, lately assembled at St. Louis and Memphis, points to a railroad as that which, if practicable, will best meet the wishes and wants of the comtry. But while this, if in successful operation, would be a work of great national im-

portance, and of a value to the country which it would be difficult to estimate, it ought also to be regarded as an undertaking of vast magnitude and expense, and one which must f it be indeed practicable, encounter many

difficulties in its construction and use.

Therefore, to avoid failure and disappointment; to enable congress to judge whether in the condition of the country through which it must pass the work be feasible, and if it be found so, whether it should be undertake as a national improvement or left to individual enterprise; and in the latter alternative what aid, if any, ought to be extended to it by the Government, I recommend as a pre-liminary measure a careful reconnoissance of the several proposed routes by a scientific corps, and a report as to the practicability of making such a road with an estimate of the coast of its construction and support.

For further views on these and on other matters connected with the doties of the Home Department, I refer you to the report

of the Secretary of the interior.

I recommend early appropriations for continuing the river and barbor improvements which have been already begun, and also for be construction of those for which estimates have been made, as well as for examinations and estimates preparatory to the commence-ment of such others as the wants of the comtry, and especially the advance of our population over new districts and the exten commerce, may render necessary. An esti-mate of the amount which can be nivantathe finances and revenues, I refer to the re- geously expended within the next fiscal year

tally invite the attention of Congress.

The cossion of territory made by the late treaty with Mexico, has greatly extended our exposed frontier and rendered its defence more difficult. The treaty has also brought us under obligations to Mexico, to comply with which a military force is requisite, our military establishment is not materially changed, as to its efficiency, from the condi-tion in which it stood before the commencement of the Mexican war. Some addition to it will therefore be necessary; and I recommend to the favorable consideration of Congress an increase of the several corps of the army at our distant Western posts, a pro-posed in the accompanying report of the Secposed in retary of War.

Great embarrasment has resulted from the effect upon rank, in the army, heretofore brevet and staff commissions. The views of the Secretary of War on this subject are deemed important, and if carried into effect will, it is believed, promote the harmony of the service. The plan proposed for reti-ting disabled officers, and providing an asy-lum for such of the rank and file as from age wounds, and other infirmities occasioned by service, have become notit to perform their espective duties, is recommended as a means f increasing the efficiency of the army, and as an act of justice, due from a grateful country to the faithful soldier.

The accompanying report of the Secretary of the Navy presents a full and satisfactory account of the condition and operations of the naval service during the past year. Our citizens engaged in the legitimate pursuits of commerce have enjoyed its benefits. Wherehave been received with respect, our officers have been treated with kindless and courtesy, and they have, on all occasions, pursued a course of strict neutrality, in accordance with the policy of our Government.

The naval force at present in commission as large as is admissible, with the number men authorized by Congress to be employed I invite your attention to the recom ion of the Secretary of the Navy on the subject of a reorganization of the Navy, in its various grades of officers, and the establishing a retired list for such of the officers as are disqualified for active and effective service. Should Congress adopt some such measure as is recommended, it will greatly increase the efficiency of the Navy, and re-

duce its expenditures.

I also usk your attention to the views expressed by him in reference to the employment of war-steamers, and in regard to the contracts for the transportation of the United States' mails, and the operation of the sys-tem upon the prosperity of the Navy.

By an act of Congress passed August 14, 1848, provision was made for extending post-office and mail accommodations to California and Oregon. Exertions have been raide to execute the law; but the limited provisions of the act, the in adaptation of our post-office laws to the situation of that country,—and the laws to the situation of that country,—and the measure of compensation for service allowed by those laws, compared win the prices of labour and rents in Chifornia, render those exertions in a great degree, ineffectual. More particular and efficient provision by law is required on this subject.

The Act of 1845, reducing postage, has now, by its operation during four years, pro-

A party, engaged on the coast survey, was despatched to Oregon in January last. According to the latest advices, they had not left California; and directions have been given to them, as soon as they shall have fixed on the sites of the two light-houses and the busys suthorized to be constructed and placed in Oregon, to proceed without delay to make recompossance of the most important points on the coast of California, and especially to examine and determine on sites

for the light-houses on that coast the speedy erection of which is urgently demanded by our rapidly increasing commerce.

I have transferred the Indian agencies from Upper Missouri and Council liuffs to Santa Fe and Salt Lake; and have caused to be appointed sub-agents in the valleys of the the Gila, the Saciamento and Sal Joaquia rivers. Still further leal provisions will be necessary for the effective and successful extension of our system of Indian intercourse over the new Territories.

I recommend the establishment of a branch mint in California, as it will, in my opinion afford important facilities to those engaged in mining, as well as to the Government in the disposition of the mineral lands.

I also recommend that commissions be organized by Congress, to axamine and decide apon the validity of the present subsisting land titles in California and New Mexico; and that provision be made for the establishment of provision be made for the establishment of the congress prefer to abolish the franking privilege entirely, it seems probable that no demand on the Treasury would result from the reduction of postage. Whether any

ing privilege entirely, it seems probable that no demand on the Treasury would result from the reduction of postage. Whether any from the reduction of postage. Whether any further diminution should now be made, of the result of the reduction to five cents, which I have recommended, should be first tested, is submitted to your decision.

Since the commencement of the last session of Congress, a Postal treaty with Great Britain has been a Postal treaty with Great

Britain has been received and ratified, and such regulations have been formed by the Post Office Departments of the two countries, in pursuance of that treaty, as to carry its provisions into full operation. The attempt to extend this same arrangement through o extend this same arrangement, through England, to France, has not been equally suc-cessful; but the purpose has not been aban-

For a particular statement of the condition of the Post Office Department, and other matters connected with that branch of the public America. service. I refer you to the report of the Post-

master General.

By the act of the 3d of March, 1849, a Board was constituted to make arrangements for taking the seventh census, composed of the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, and the Postmaster General; and it was made the duty of this Board "to prepare and cause to be printed such forms and schedules as useful for daily reference, and would form, in ormight be necessary for the full enumeration of the inhabitants of the United States; and also proper forms and schedules for collecting in statistical tables, under proper heads, such information as to mines, agriculture, commerce, manufactures, education, and other topics, as would exhibit a full view of the pursuits, industry, education, and resources of the country."

of the country."

The duties enjoined upon the Census Board th. established having been performed, it now rests with Congress to enact a law for carrying into effect the provision of the Constitution which requires an actual enumeration of the people of the United States within the ensuing year.

Among the duties assigned by the Constitu

tion to the General Government is one of lo-cal and limited application, but not, on that account, the less obligatory; I allode to the Br trust committed to Congress, as the exclusive legislature and sole guardian of the interests of the District of Columbia. I beg to commend these interests to your kind attention. As the National metropolis, the city of Wash ington must be an object of general interest and, founded as it was under the apspices of him whose immortal name it bears, its claims to the fostering care of Congress present themselves with additional strength. Whatever can contribute to its prosperity must enlist the feelings of its Constitutional guardians

and commend their favorable consideration.

Our government is one of limited powers, and its successful administration eminently depends on the confinement of each of its coordinate branches within its own appropriate sydnate branches within its own appropriate sphere. The first section of the Constitution ordains that "all legislative powers therein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives." The Exeentive has authority to recommend (not to dictate) measures to Congress.

Having performed that duty, the Executive

department of the Government cannot right-fully control the decision of Congress on any geously experaled within the next fiscal year under the direction of the Bureau of Topo- dent for approval. The check provided by vity. The message occupies only about qualified veto, will never be exercised by me, except in the cases contemptated by the fathers of the republic. I view it as an extreme measure, to be resorted to only in ex-traordinary cases—as where it may become necessary to defend the executive against the encroachments of the legislative power, or to prevent hasty and inconsiderate or un-

constitutional legislation.

By cantiously confining this remedy with n the sphere prescribed to it in the cotempo raveous expositions of the framers of the Con stitution, the will of the people, legitimately expressed on all subjects of legislation, through their constitutional organs, the Senators and Representatives of the United States will have its full effect. As indispensable to the pre-servation of our system of self-government, the independence of the Representatives the States and people is guarantied by the Constitution; and they owe no responsibility

to any human power but their constituents.

By holding the Representative responsible only to the people, and exempting him from all other influences, we elevate the character of the constituent and quicken his sense of responsibility to his country. It is under these circumstances only that the elector can feel that, in the choice of the law-maker, he is himself, truly, a component parts of the sovereign power of the nation. With equal care we should study to defend the rights of the executive and judicial departments. Our Government can only be preserved in its pority by the suppression and entire elimination of every claim or tendency of one co-ordinate branch to encroachment upon another.

With the strict observance of this rule and the other injunctions of the Constitution—with a sedulons inculcation of that respect and love for the Union of the States, which our fathers cherished and errjoined upon their children, and with the aid of that overruling Providence which has so long and so kindly guarded our liberties and institutions, we may reasonably expect to transmit them with their innumerable blessings to the re-But attachment to the Union of the States

But attachment to the Union of the States should be habitually fostered in every American heart. For more than half a century during which singdoms and empires have failen this Union has stood nushaken. The patriots who formed it have long since descended to the grave; yet still it remains the protidest monument to their memory, and the object of affection and attmiration with every one worthy to bear the American

la my judgment ite dissolution would the my programment is dissolution would be the greatest of calamities, and to avert that should be the study of every American. Upon its preservation must depend our own happiness and that of countless generations to come. Whatever dangers may threaten it, I shall stand by it and maintain it in its integrity, to the full extent of the obligation imposed, and the power conferred upon me by the Constitution. Z. TAYLOR. WASHINGTON, December 4th, 1849.

MARRIED.

In this place, on Tuesday last, by the Rev. B. W. Morris, Mr. Duncas C. Camperla, to Miss Nancy Colker, both of Rush township. Dr R. B. Cole, to Miss Everna A. Bonnar-ros, both of Philadelphia.

The Williamsport on the 22d host JOSEFFE ANTHONY CAMPBELLy sone of John and Elizabeth Compbell, aged 8 years 5 months and 14 days; months and 14 days;



THE AMERICAN

GUNBURY. SATURDAY, DECEMBER 00, 1000

H. B. MASSER, Editor and Pro-EDITOR'S TABLE.

Those of our readers who would like to out for this elegant monthly periodical, can now do so at a very small cost. The Lady's Book is pulsjished at \$3 per annum, but as an inducement, which we are enabled to hold out by means of an arrangement with the publishers, we will furnish the Lady's Book and the Sunbury American, one year for \$3,50 cash in advance, to those who may wish to subscribe.

THE DEATH BED OF THE REV. JOHN WESERY, This large and magnificent Mezzotinto Engraving is offered as a Premium to any person remitting \$3 in advance, for one years subscription to America.

V. B. PALMER'S BUSINESS MAN'S ALMANACE. -We have received a few dozen of these Almanacs for the purpose of supplying our friends with a little work containing a vast amount of matter at a little expense. It contains a large amount dinary type, a book of several hundred pages .-Price 121 cts. per copy.

THE ANENICAN LAW JOURNAL .- The Decem ber number of this Journal, among a mass of useful and instructive matter, contains an elaborate and anistructive matter, contains an elaborate and able vindication of the Supreme Court in the case of Hays vs Heidelberg, in reply to the strictures of a correspondent. The Journal is published by Hamersly & Co. Laucester, and T. B. Peterson, Philadelphia: > flidlymela

THE CARDINAL'S DATGUTER is the title of an interesting novel by McKenzie Daniel, published by Long & Brother, New York. We have not read it, but find it favorably noticed by the London

BUFFALOR ROBES .- It will be seen by an adertisement in our columns that our young friend Charles S. Bogar has returned from the West. with a large assortment of Buffaloe robes, which are offered for sale at the store of John W. Friling. Now is the time for old folks and young gallants, to supply themselves with this needful accompaniment to good sleighing.

ORGANIZATION OF CONGRESS .- On Saturday last the House was organized by the election of Howell Cobb, of Georgia, the democratic nominee, Speaker, by a plurality vote. On the sixty-third ballot the vote stood for Cobb 102; Winthrop 100; Wilmot 8; Scattering 13.4 hon fel l lo sign add to

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Our readers will find in our columns this week the long delayed message of Gen. Taylor. It has one trait characteristic of its author, and one that has no little merit subject of legislation, until that decision shall in the eyes of editors and printers-its breone third the space usually occupied by the messages of our late Presidents. In its tone the message is conciliatory, and its recommendations will meet with general approv-

al. The views of Gen. Taylor on the tariff are decided, plain and unequivocal, and will meet with the approbation of a large majority of all reflecting and intelligent minds-democrats as well as Whigs, in this section of Pennsylvania. He is in favor of specific duties so adjusted as to ensure stability, and says in regard to the tariff:

"I recommend a revision of the existing tariff and its adjustment on a basis which may augment the revenue. I do not doubt the right or duty of Congress, to encourage demestic industry, which is the great source o national as well as individual wealth and prosperity. I look to the wisdom and patriot-ism of Congress for the adoption of a system. which may place home labor at least on a sure and permanent footing, and by due encouragement of manufactures, give a new and increased stimulus to agriculture, and promote the development of our vast resour-ces and the systemics of our commerce?

A mixed system of specific and ad-valo-

rem duties will, in our opinion, alone prevent the frauds and unequal operations of the tariff. The reduction of postage is also properly recommended. The Sub-Treasury he leaves entirely to Congress. His views of the veto power are the same as heretofore expressed in his letters before his election. As a literary performance, it will probably not equal the expectations of those who will contrast it with the pointed and graceful style of his despatches.

The Carrier of the "American" tenders his compliments of the season to its readers, and requests us to say that he will deliver his annual message on New Year's day

We are under many obligations ! the Hon. Joseph Casey for his mu favors from Washington.

THE COAL TRADE from the Sh kin Mines for this season up to December 21, amounts to 19,658 tons. About 1000 tons more will be added for consur and sale at this place. Mr. Reuben Fegels informs us that next year they expect to

ship upwards of 30,000 tons.

We call the attention of our reads to the continuation of an interesting parrative of the discovery and arrest of the author of the Torpedo box, an internal me chine, that came near destroying the family of Mr. Warser of New York. The author is Mr. Wilker of the Police Gazette.

The river at this place was closed on Monday highla. The weather was conhare Keepers, Season and Aud

tear etclade a secreta

e of them will probably be eaught by Sir - range of his practice for four years, and one lecture with the subject of slavery in the dis-John Franklin's party, if it still aureive.

servation. In this case, however, it was at \$20,000 to have her humand elected necessary to get bing into a house, and to but it was "no go."

as much like policemen, as it they had ent of adtaon to gidevolinance on bevers