

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Annual Message of the President of the United States as Read in the Senate and House of Representatives, Monday, December 1, 1862.

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

The correspondence touching foreign affairs, which has taken place during the last year, is herewith submitted, in virtual compliance with a request that effect made by the House of Representatives at the close of the last session of Congress. If the condition of our relations with other nations is less gratifying than it usually has been at former periods, it is certainly more satisfactory than a nation so unhappily distressed as we are might reasonably have apprehended.

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 believe, would soon recede from that position, and that they would be less injurious to themselves than to our own country.

But the temporary reverses which afterward befell the National arm, and which were exaggerated by our own disloyal citizens abroad, have hitherto delayed that act of simple justice. The civil war, which has so radically changed, for the moment, the occupations and habits of the American people, has necessarily disturbed the social condition, and affected very deeply the cohesiveness of the nations with which we have carried on a commerce that has been steadily increasing throughout a period of half a century. It has excited political ambitions and apprehensions, which have produced a profound agitation throughout the civilized world. In this unusual agitation we have felt more from taking part in any controversy between foreign States and between parties or factions in such States.

We have attempted no propagandism, and acknowledged no revolution; but we have left to every nation the exclusive conduct and management of its own affairs, and we have not sought to interfere with the internal politics of any nation.

Our struggle has been, of course, contemplated by foreign nations with reference to our own interests, and it is supposed and often exaggerated effects, and consequences resulting to those nations themselves. Nevertheless, our aim has been to secure the peace and stability of our own country, and to secure the rights of our own people.

The treaty with Great Britain for the suppression of the slave trade has been approved by the Senate, and it is an occasion of special pleasure to acknowledge that the execution of it on the part of Great Britain's Government, has been marked with a jealousy and respect for the authority of the United States and the rights of our moral and loyal citizens.

The convention with Hanover for the abolition of the slave trade has been carried into full effect under the act of Congress for that purpose.

A blockade of three thousand miles of coast could not be established and rigorously 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. It is believed, however, that 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, possibly, to produce mutual reclamations on the part of the nations common interest in preserving peace and harmony. In clear cases of these kinds there is, so far as possible, heard and redressed complaints which have been presented by friendly Powers.

There is still, however, a large and unnumbered number of doubtful cases, upon which the Government is unable to agree with the Governments whose protection is demanded by the claimants.

There are moreover, many cases in which the United States, or their citizens, suffer wrong from the naval or military authorities of foreign nations, which the Government of these States are not at present prepared to redress. I have proposed to some of the foreign States thus interested, mutual conventions to examine and adjust such complaints, and to provide for the redress of such cases.

I deem it my duty to recommend and appropriate in behalf of the owners of the Norwegian bark "Central," which vessel was, in May, 1861, presented by the commander of the blockading force off Charleston from leaving that port with a 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 committees.

Applications have been made to me by many free Americans of African descent to favor their emigration, with a view to such 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 more any such colony to any State, without first obtaining the consent of its Government, with an agreement on its part to receive and protect such emigrants in all the rights of freemen; and I have, at the same time, offered to the several States situated within the tropics of having colonies there, to negotiate with them, subject to the advice and consent of the Senate, to favor the voluntary emigration of persons of that class to their respective territories, upon conditions which shall be equal, just, and humane.

Libertarians and Hayti are yet the only countries to which colonies of African descent from here could go with certainty of

being received and adopted as citizens, and I regret to say that such persons as contemplate colonization do not seem as willing to migrate to those countries as to some others, nor so willing as I think, their interests demand. I have, however, the opinion among them in this respect is improving, and that ere long there will be an augmented and considerable emigration to both these countries from the United States.

The new commercial treaty between the United States and the Sultan of Turkey has been carried into execution. A commercial and consular treaty has been negotiated, subject to the Senate's consent, with Liberia, and a similar negotiation is now pending with the republic of Hayti. A considerable improvement of the national commerce is expected to result from these measures.

Our relations with Great Britain, France, Spain, Portugal, Russia, Prussia, Denmark, Sweden, Austria, the Netherlands, Italy, Rome, and the other European States remain undisturbed. Very favorable relations also continue to be maintained with Turkey, Mexico, China, and Japan.

During the last year there has not only been no change of our previous relations with the independent States of our own continent, but our friends and neighbors are entertained by these neighbors, whose safety and progress are so intimately connected with our own. This statement is included also in the loans made, and property deducted, both from receipts and payments during the fiscal year ending July 1, 1862, of \$13,045,946.81.

It should be observed that the sum of \$96,022,000, expended for reimbursements and assumption of the debt, during the year ending July 1, 1862, of \$13,045,946.81, is included also in the loans made, and property deducted, both from receipts and payments during the fiscal year ending July 1, 1862, of \$13,045,946.81.

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It gives me pleasure to record a decided improvement in the financial condition of the United States, as compared with the previous year. The receipts for the fiscal year 1861 amounted to \$8,349,296.40, which embraced the revenue from the sale of public lands, and the proceeds of the various operations of the Government during the last fiscal year, the total amount of which was \$4,511,566.99, derived from all the States of the Union during the previous year. The expenditures show a still more favorable result. The amount of the publication of its results at home and abroad, and the amount of the various operations of the Government during the last fiscal year, the total amount of which was \$4,511,566.99, derived from all the States of the Union during the previous year.

The condition of the finances will claim your most diligent consideration. The vast expenditures incident to the military and naval operations required for the suppression of the rebellion, have hitherto been met with a promptness and economy, and in circumstances; and the public credit has been fully maintained. The continuance of the war, however, and the increased disbursements made necessary by the augmented forces now in the field, demand your best reflections as to the best modes of providing the necessary resources, without injury to business, and with the least possible burdens upon labor.

The suspension of specie payments by the banks, soon after the commencement of the last session, made large issues of United States notes unavoidable. In no other way could the payment of the public debt, and the satisfaction of other just demands, be economically, or so well provided for. The judicious legislation of Congress, securing the receipt of these notes for loans, and the reduction of the interest, and the making them a legal tender for other debts, has made them universal currency, and has satisfied, partially at least, and for the time, the long felt want of a uniform circulating medium, saving thereby to the people, immense sums in discounts and charges.

A return to specie payments, however, at the earliest period compatible with due regard to all interests concerned, should ever be kept in view. Fluctuations in the value of currency are always injurious, and to reduce these fluctuations to the lowest possible point will always be a leading purpose in wise legislation. Congress has, however, and certain convertibility into coin, is generally acknowledged to be the best and surest safeguard against them; and it is extremely doubtful whether a circulation of United States notes, payable in coin, and sufficiently large for the wants of the people, can be permanently, usefully and safely maintained.

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A moderate reservation from the interest on the bonds would compensate the Treasury for the preparation and distribution of the notes, and a general supervision of the system, and would lighten the burden of that part of the public debt employed as securities. The public credit, moreover, would be greatly improved, and the negotiation of new loans greatly facilitated by the steady market demand for government bonds which the adoption of the proposed system would create.

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A moderate reservation from the interest on the bonds would compensate the Treasury for the preparation and distribution of the notes, and a general supervision of the system, and would lighten the burden of that part of the public debt employed as securities. The public credit, moreover, would be greatly improved, and the negotiation of new loans greatly facilitated by the steady market demand for government bonds which the adoption of the proposed system would create.

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for the local and various currencies, secured and unsecured, now issued by them. The receipts into the Treasury from all sources, including loans, and balance from the preceding year, for the fiscal year ending on the 30th June, 1862, were \$83,888,247.66, on which sum \$49,056,397.62 were paid from customs; \$1,706,311.73 from the direct tax; from public lands, \$152,203.77; from miscellaneous sources, \$851,787.64; from loans in all forms, \$239,690,460.50. The remainder, \$2,287,068.60, was the balance from last year.

The disbursements during the same period were for Congressional, executive and judicial purposes, \$5,929,099.39; for military purposes, \$1,329,710.35; for miscellaneous expenses, including the militia, post office deficiencies, collection of revenues, and other like charges, \$14,129,771.50; for expenses under the Interior Department, \$5,102,938.52; under the War Department, \$2,834,438,407.25; under the Navy Department, \$42,574,569.69; for the interest on public debt, \$13,190,329.45; and for the interest on the national debt, \$1,000,000.00. The total disbursements of temporary loans, and redemptions, \$96,022,000; making an aggregate of \$570,844,700.25, and leaving a balance of \$26,043,547.41, on the 30th day of July, 1862, of \$13,045,946.81.

It should be observed that the sum of \$96,022,000, expended for reimbursements and assumption of the debt, during the year ending July 1, 1862, of \$13,045,946.81, is included also in the loans made, and property deducted, both from receipts and payments during the fiscal year ending July 1, 1862, of \$13,045,946.81.

Other information on the subject of finance is given in the Secretary's report, and in the report of the Secretary of War, and in the report of the Secretary of the Navy, are herewith transmitted. These reports, though lengthy, are scarcely more than brief abstracts of the very numerous and extensive transactions conducted through those departments. Nor could I give a summary of the details of the various operations, and of the results of the various measures, which have been conducted through those departments.

It gives me pleasure to record a decided improvement in the financial condition of the United States, as compared with the previous year. The receipts for the fiscal year 1861 amounted to \$8,349,296.40, which embraced the revenue from the sale of public lands, and the proceeds of the various operations of the Government during the last fiscal year, the total amount of which was \$4,511,566.99, derived from all the States of the Union during the previous year. The expenditures show a still more favorable result. The amount of the publication of its results at home and abroad, and the amount of the various operations of the Government during the last fiscal year, the total amount of which was \$4,511,566.99, derived from all the States of the Union during the previous year.

The condition of the finances will claim