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THE PATTER OF LITTLE FEET.

[illegible]
Away to the brook he wanders,
In swift and noiseless flight,
Splashing the sparkling ripples,
[illegible]
No cloud and no storm disturb
The glorious life of a child boy!
No poverty can shield in future
Those his mother nestles here;
Not the coolest stem of coral
That blushes in ocean's lair,
Is proud as the flush that follows
Our darling's entry there.

From a broad window my neighbor
Looks down on our little cot,
And watches the "poor man's blessing"—
I cannot envy his lot;
He has pictures, books and music,
Bright fountains and noble trees,
Flowers that blossom in vases,
Birds from beyond the seas;
But never does childish laughter
His homeward footsteps greet;
His stately halls never echo
To the tread of innocent feet.

This child is our "speaking picture,"
A birdling that chatters and sings,
Sometimes a sleeping cherub,
(Our other one has wings;)
His heart is a charmed casket,
Full of all that's cunning and sweet,
And no harp strings hold such music
As follows his twinkling feet.

When the glory cannot opens
The highways by angels trod,
And seems to amber the city
Whose builder and maker is God,
Cluster the crystal portal,
I see by the gates of pearl
The eyes of our other angel—
A sinless little girl.

And I ask to be taught and directed
To guide his footsteps aright,
So that I be accounted worthy
To walk in the sandals of light;
And hear, amid songs of welcome,
From messengers trusty and fleet,
On the starry floor of Heaven
The patter of little feet.

THIRD ANNUAL MESSAGE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

Fellow-citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives:

Again the blessings of health and an abundant harvest claim our profoundest gratitude to Almighty God.

The condition of our foreign affairs is reasonably satisfactory.

Mexico continues to be a theatre of civil war. While our political relations with that country have undergone no change we have at the same time strictly maintained a neutrality between the belligerents.

At the request of the States of Costa Rica and Nicaragua, a competent engineer has been authorized to make a survey of the river San Juan, and the port of San Juan. It is a source of much satisfaction that the difficulties, which for a moment excited some political apprehensions and caused a closing of the inter-oceanic transit route, have been amicably adjusted, and that there is a good prospect that the route will soon be re-opened with an increase of capacity and adaption. We would not exaggerate either the commercial or the political importance of that great improvement.

It would be doing injustice to an important South American State not to acknowledge the directness, frankness and cordiality with which the United States of Columbia have entered into intimate relations with this Government. A Claims Convention has been constituted to complete the unfinished work of the one which closed its session in 1861.

The new liberal Constitution of Venezuela having gone into effect with the universal acquiescence of the people, the government under it has been recognized and diplomatic intercourse with it has been opened in a cordial spirit. The long-deferred Aresas land claim has been satisfactorily paid and discharged.

Mutual payments have been made of the claims awarded by the late joint commission for the settlement of claims between the United States and Peru. An earnest and cordial friendship continues to exist between the two countries, and such efforts as were in my power have been used to remove misunderstandings and avert a threatened war between Peru and Spain. Our relations are of the most friendly nature with Chili, the Argentine Republic, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Paraguay, San Salvador and Hayti.

During the past year no difference of any kind have arisen with any of these Republics, and on the other hand, their sympathies with the United States are constantly expressed with cordiality and earnestness.

The claim arising from the seizure of the cargo of the brig Macedonia, in 1821, has been paid in full by the Government Chili.

Civil war continues in the Spanish part of San Domingo, apparently without prospect of an early close. Official correspondence has been freely opened with Liberia, and it gives us a pleasing view of social and political progress in that Republic. It may be expected to derive new vigor from American influence, improving by the rapid disappearance of slavery in the United States.

I solicit your authority to furnish to the Republic a gunboat of moderate cost, to be paid for by the United States by instalments. Such a vessel is needed for the safety of that State against the native African races, and in Liberian hands it would be more effective in arresting the African slave trade than a squadron in our own hands.

The possession of the best organized naval force would stimulate a generous ambition of the Republic, and the confidence which we would manifest by furnishing it would win forbearance and love towards the colony from all civilized nations.

The proposed Overland Telegraph between America and Europe, by the way of Behring's Straits and Asiatic Russia, which was sanctioned by Congress at the last session, has been undertaken and very favorable circumstances, by an association of American citizens, with the hardiest spirit will and support, as well of this Government as of the Imperial Government of Russia. Preliminary steps have already been taken by the parties of their approaches [illegible] and their readiness to co-operate in constructing lines tributary to that world encircling communication. I learn, with satisfaction, that the noble design of a telegraphic communication between the eastern coast of America, and Great Britain has been renewed, with full expectation of its accomplishment.

Thus it is hoped that with the return of domestic peace, the country will be able to resume with energy and advantage its former high career of commerce and civilization.

Our very popular and estimable representative in Egypt died in April last. An unpleasant altercation which arose between the temporary incumbent of the office and the government of the Pacha resulted in a suspension of intercourse. The evil was promptly corrected on the arrival of the successor in the consulate, and our relations with Egypt, as well as our relations with the Barbary Powers, are entirely satisfactory.

The rebellion which has so long been prevalent in China has at last been suppressed with the co-operating good offices of this Government, and of the other Western commercial States.

The judicial consular establishment there has become very difficult and onerous, and it will need legislative revision to adopt it to the ultimate intercourse which has been instituted with the government and people of that vast empire.

China seems to be accepting with hearty good will the conventional laws which regulate commercial and social intercourse among the Western nations. Owing to the peculiar situation of Japan, and the anomalous form of its government, the action of that Empire in performing treaty stipulations is inconstant and capricious. Nevertheless good progress has been effected by the Western Powers moving with enlightened concert. Our own pecuniary claims have been allowed, or are in course of settlement and the Inland Sea has been reopened to commerce. There is reason to believe that these proceedings have increased rather than diminished the friendship of Japan towards the United States.

The ports of Norfolk, Fernandina, and Pensacola have been opened by proclamation. It is hoped that foreign merchants will consider whether it is not safer and more profitable to themselves, as well as just to the United States, to resort to these and other open ports than it is to pursue, through many hazards and at vast cost, a contraband trade with other ports, which are closed, if not by actual military occupation, at least by a lawful and effective blockade. For myself, I have no doubt of the power and duty of the Executive under the law of nations to exclude enemies of the human race from an asylum in the United States. If Congress should think that the proceedings in such cases lack the authority of law, or ought to be further regulated by it, I recommend that provisions be made for effectually preventing foreign slave traders from acquiring domicile and facilities for their criminal occupation in our country. It is possible that if it were a new and open question, the maritime powers, with the rights they now enjoy, would not concede the privileges of a naval belligerent to the insurgents of the United States, destitute as they are and always have been, equally of ships of war and of ports and harbors. Disloyal emissaries have been, nevertheless, assiduous; nor more successful during the last year than they were before that time in their efforts, under the favors of that privilege, to embroil our country in foreign war. The desire and determination of the Government of the maritime States to defeat that design are believed to be as sincere, and cannot be more earnest than our own. Nevertheless, unforseen political difficulties have arisen, especially in Brazilian and British ports, and on the northern boundary of the United States, which have required, and are likely to continue to require the practice of constant vigilance, and just and conciliatory spirit on the part of the United States, as well as of the nations concerned and their Governments.

Commissioners have been appointed under the treaty with Great Britain on the adjustment of the claims of the Hudson's Bay and Puget's Sound Agricultural Companies in Oregon, and are now proceeding to the execution of the trust assigned to them.

In view of the insecurity of life and property in the region adjacent to the Canadian border, by reason of recent assaults and depredations committed by inimical and desperate persons who are harbored there, it has been thought proper to give notice that after the expiration of six months the period constitutionally stipulated in the existing arrangement with Great Britain, the United States must hold themselves at liberty to increase their naval armament upon the lakes, if they shall find that proceeding necessary. The condition of the border will necessarily come into consideration, in connection with the question of continuing or modifying the right of transit from Canada through the United States, as well as the regulation of imports which were temporarily established by the Reciprocity Treaty of June 5th, 1854. I desire, however, to be understood while making this statement, that the colonial authorities of Canada are not deemed to be intentionally unjust and unfriendly towards the United States, but on the contrary, there is every reason to expect that, with the approval of the Imperial Government, they will take [illegible] measures to prevent [illegible] encroachments upon the public [illegible] and their