

THE DEAR, DEAR WOMAN UP STAIRS.
Past midnight I heard a sound of night,
From the silent house but the wind at his
I sat by the dying fire and thought,
Of the dear dead, woman up stairs.

DESERTED.
The river flowed with the light on its breast,
And the water was eddying by,
And the red, sun went down in the West,
When my love's loving lips to my lips were
pressed.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S MESSAGE.
Fellow-citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives:
After a brief interval the Congress of the United States resumes its annual legislative labors. An all-wise and merciful Providence has abated the pestilence which visited our shores, leaving its calamitous traces upon some portions of our country. Peace, order, tranquillity, and civil authority have been fully declared to exist throughout the whole of the United States. In all of the States civil authority has superseded the coercion of arms, and the people, by their voluntary action, are maintaining their government in its full and complete operation. The enforcement of the laws is no longer obstructed in any State by combinations too powerful to be suppressed by the ordinary course of judicial proceedings; and the animosities engendered by the war are rapidly yielding to the beneficent influence of our free institutions, and to the kindly effects of unrestricted social and commercial intercourse. An entire restoration of fraternal feeling must be the earnest wish of every patriotic heart; and we will have accomplished our greatest national achievement when, forgetting the sad events of the past, and remembering only their instructive lessons, we resume our onward career as a free, prosperous, and united people.

In my message of the 4th of December, 1865, Congress was informed of the measures which had been instituted by the Executive with a view to the gradual restoration of the States in which the insurrection occurred to their relations with the General Government. Provisional Governors had been appointed, Conventions called, Governors elected, Legislatures assembled, and Senators and Representatives chosen to the Congress of the United States. Courts had been opened for the enforcement of laws long in abeyance. The blockade had been removed, custom-houses re-established, and the internal revenue laws put in force, in order that the people might contribute to the national income. Postal operations had been resumed, and efforts were being made to restore them to their former condition of efficiency. The States themselves had been asked to take part in the high function of amending the Constitution, and of thus sanctioning the extinction of African slavery as one of the legitimate results of our internecine struggle.

The Democratic Watchman.

"STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION."
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or any public subject to their jurisdiction was raised by the requisite number of States; and on the 16th day of December, 1865, it was officially declared to have become valid as a part of the Constitution of the United States. All of the States in which the insurrection had existed promptly amended their Constitutions, so as to make them conform to the great change thus effected in the organic law of the land; and declared null and void all antislavery laws of secession; repudiated all pretended debts and obligations created for the revolutionary purposes of the insurrection; and proceeded, in good faith the enactment of measures for the protection and amelioration of the condition of the colored race. Congress, however, hesitated to admit any of these States to representation; and it was not until towards the close of the eighth month of the session that an exception was made in favor of Tennessee, by the admission of her Senators and Representatives.

It is true, it has been assumed that the existence of the States was terminated by the rebellious acts of their inhabitants; and that the insurrection having been suppressed, they were to be considered as conquered territories. The Legislative, Executive and Judicial Departments of the Government have, however, with great distinctness and uniform consistency, refused to sanction an assumption so incompatible with the nature of our republican system, and with the professed objects of the war. Throughout the recent legislation of Congress, the undeniable fact makes itself apparent, that these ten political communities are nothing less than States of this Union. At the very commencement of the rebellion, each House declared, with a unanimity as remarkable as it was significant, that the war was not waged upon our part, in any spirit of oppression, nor for any purpose of conquest or subjugation, nor of overthrowing or interfering with the rights or established institutions of those States, but to defend and maintain the supremacy of the Constitution and all laws made in pursuance thereof, and to preserve the Union with all the dignity, equality, and rights of the several States unimpaired; and that as soon as these objects were accomplished the war would cease.

In some instances Senators were permitted to continue their legislative functions, while in other instances Representatives were elected and admitted to seats after the States had formally declared their right to withdraw from the Union, and were endeavoring to maintain that right by force of arms. All of the States whose people were in insurrection, as States, were included in the apportionment of the direct tax of twenty millions of dollars annually laid upon the United States by the act approved 6th of August, 1861. Congress, by the act of March 4th, 1862, and by the appointment of representation thereunder, also recognized their presence as States in the Union; and they have, as such, been divided into districts, as States alone can be divided. The same recognition appears in the recent legislation in reference to Tennessee, which evidently rests upon the fact that the functions of the State were not destroyed by the rebellion, but merely suspended; and that principle is of course applicable to those States which, like Tennessee, attempted to renounce their places in the Union.

The action of the Executive Department of the Government upon this subject has been equally definite and uniform, and of the purpose of the law was specifically stated in the Proclamation issued by my predecessor on the 22d day of September, 1862. It was then solemnly proclaimed and declared that: "hereafter, as heretofore, the war will be prosecuted for the object of practically restoring the constitutional relation between the United States and each of the States and the people thereof, in which States that relation is or may be suspended or disturbed."

and the legitimate and necessary wants of the Government.
The report presents a much more satisfactory condition of our finances than one year ago the most sanguine could have anticipated. During the fiscal year ending the 30th June, 1866, the last year of the war, the public debt was increased \$911,000,687, and on the 31st of October, 1865, it amounted to \$2,740,874,750. On the 31st day of October, 1866, it had been reduced to \$2,561,310,000, the diminution during a period of fourteen months, commencing September 1, 1865, and ending October 31, 1866, having been \$996,370,655. In the last annual report on the state of the finances, it was estimated that during the three quarters of the fiscal year ending the 30th June last, the debt would be \$3,129,124,947. During that period, however, it was reduced \$31,106,387, the receipts of the year having been \$89,905,905, more, and the expenditures \$90,929,235 less than the estimates. Nothing could more clearly indicate than these statements the extent and availability of the national resources, and the rapidity and safety with which, under our form of Government, great military and naval establishments can be disbanded, and expenses reduced from a war to a peace footing.

During the fiscal year ending the 30th June, 1866, the receipts were \$58,052,523, and the expenditures \$59,250,919, leaving an available surplus of \$9,201,604. It is estimated that the receipts for the fiscal year ending the 30th June, 1867, will be \$116,061,896, and that the expenditures will reach the sum of \$116,428,078, leaving in the Treasury a surplus of \$313,818,818. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1868, it is estimated that the receipts will amount to \$130,247,611—showing an excess of \$86,792,359 in favor of the Government. These estimated receipts may be diminished by a reduction of excise and import duties; but after all necessary reductions are made, and of following years will doubtless be sufficient to cover all legitimate charges upon the Treasury, and leave a large annual surplus to be applied to the payment of the principal of the debt. There seems now to be no good reason why taxes may not be reduced as the equality advances in population and wealth, and yet the debt be extinguished within the next quarter of a century.

The report of the Secretary of War furnishes valuable and important information, in reference to the operations of his Department during the past year. Few volunteers now remain in the service, and they are being discharged as rapidly as they can be replaced by regular troops. The army has been promptly paid, carefully provided with medical treatment, well sheltered and subsisted, and is to be furnished with breast-loading small arms. The military strength of the nation has been unimpaired by the discharge of volunteers, the disposition of unserviceable or perishable stores, and the retrenchment of expenditures. Sufficient war material to meet any emergency has been retained, and from the disbanded volunteers standing ready to respond to the national call, large armies can be rapidly organized, equipped, and concentrated. Fortifications on the coast and frontier have been promptly built, carefully provided with military armaments, and the harbors and rivers improved, and in course of energetic prosecution. Preparations have been made for the payment of the additional bounties authorized during the recent session of Congress, under such regulations as will protect the Government from fraud, and secure to the honorably discharged soldier the well-earned reward of his faithful service and gallantry. More than six thousand maimed soldiers have received artificial limbs or other surgical apparatus, and forty-one national cemeteries, containing the remains of 101,525 Union soldiers, have already been established. The total estimates of military appropriations is \$25,205,000.

It is at this point in the report of the Secretary of War that the naval force at this time consists of two hundred and seventy-eight vessels, armed with two thousand three hundred and sixty guns. Of these, one hundred and fifty vessels, carrying one thousand and twenty-nine guns, are in commission, distributed chiefly among seven squadrons. The number of men in the service is thirteen thousand six hundred and fifty. The report also contains a detailed account of the operations of the Navy during the past year. The revenue of the Treasury for the fiscal year ending the 30th June last, was \$1,824,620 and the estimate for the coming year amount to \$286,084,485. Attention is invited to the condition of our currency, and the importance of legislative measures for their relief and improvement. The suggestions in behalf of this class of our fellow-citizens are earnestly recommended to the favorable attention of Congress.

Congress in the act approved July 28, 1866, including the standing appropriation of \$700,000 for free mail matter, as a legitimate portion of the revenues yet remaining unexpended, the actual deficiency for the past year is only \$26,903—a sum within \$51,111 of the amount estimated in the annual report of 1864. The decrease of revenue compared with the previous year was one and a fifth per cent, and the increase of expenditures, owing principally to the enlargement of the mail service in the South, was twelve per cent. On the 30th of June last there were in operation six thousand nine hundred and thirty mail routes, with an aggregate length of one hundred and eighty thousand nine hundred and twenty miles, an aggregate annual transportation of seven million eight hundred and thirty seven thousand nine hundred and forty miles, and an aggregate annual cost, including all expenses, of \$5,410,181. The length of rail roads there is thirty two thousand and ninety two miles, and the annual transportation thirty million six hundred and nine thousand four hundred and sixty seven miles. The length of steamboat routes is fourteen thousand three hundred and forty six miles, and the annual transportation three million four hundred and seven thousand nine hundred and sixty two miles. The mail service is applied throughout the whole country, and is steadily extending in the Southern States. The growing importance of the foreign service also merits attention. The Post Office Department of Great Britain and our own have agreed upon a preliminary basis for a new Postal Convention, which it is believed will prove eminently beneficial to the commercial interests of the United States, inasmuch as it contemplates a reduction of the international letter postage to one-half the existing rates; a reduction of postage with other countries to the rate of the British mail; the establishment of an air mail route between the United States and Great Britain, and the establishment of an air mail route between the United States and Europe. The report of the Secretary of the Interior exhibits the condition of those branches of the public service which are committed to his supervision. During the last fiscal year four million six hundred and twenty nine thousand three hundred and twenty two acres of public land were disposed of, one million eight hundred and sixty two thousand five hundred and sixteen acres of which were entered under the homestead act. The policy originally adopted relative to the public lands has undergone essential modifications. Immediate revenue, and not their rapid settlement, was the cardinal feature of our land system. Long experience and earnest discussion have resulted in the conviction that the early development of our agricultural resources, and the diffusion of an emigrant population over our vast territory, are objects of far greater importance to the national growth and prosperity than the proceeds of the sale of the land to the highest bidder in open market. The pre-emption laws confer upon the pioneer who complies with the terms imposed the privilege of purchasing a limited portion of "unentered lands" at the minimum price. The homestead enactments relieve the settler from the payment of purchase money, and secure him a permanent home, upon the condition of residence for a term of years. This liberality has been wisely and judiciously extended to the more crowded portions of the new world. Its propitious results are undoubted, and will be more strongly manifested when time shall have given to it a wider development.

Congress has made liberal grants of public land to corporations, in aid of the construction of railroads and other internal improvements. Should this policy hereafter prevail, more stringent provisions will be required to secure a faithful application of the fund. The title to the land should not pass, by patent or otherwise, but remain in the Government, and subject to its control until some portion of the land has been actually built. Portions of them might, from time to time, be conveyed to the corporation, but never in greater ratio to the whole quantity embraced by the grant than the completed parts bear to the entire length of the projected improvement. This restriction would not operate to the prejudice of any undertaking conceived in good faith and executed with reasonable energy, as it is the settled practice to withdraw from market the lands falling within the operation of such grants, and thus to exclude the inception of a subsequent contract. A breach of the conditions which Congress may deem proper to impose should work a forfeiture of claim to the lands so withdrawn and unoccupied, and of title to the lands conveyed which remain unsold. Operations on the several lines of the Pacific Railroad have been prosecuted with unexampled vigor and success. Should no unforeseen causes of delay occur, it is confidently anticipated that this great thoroughfare will be completed before the expiration of the period designated by Congress.

During the last fiscal year six million five hundred and thirty seven thousand nine hundred and sixty seven dollars, and six hundred and ninety seven thousand nine hundred and sixty seven dollars, and six hundred and ninety seven thousand nine hundred and sixty seven dollars, were added to the pension rolls. The number of pensioners, June 30, 1866, was seven hundred and twenty six thousand seven hundred and twenty two. This fact furnishes melancholy and striking proof of the sacrifices made to vindicate the constitutional authority of the Federal Government, and to maintain the integrity of the Union. They impose upon us the duty of liberality and humanity, it seems an obvious duty on our part to exercise whatever influence we possess for the restoration and permanent establishment in that country of a domestic and republican form of Government.

Such was the condition of affairs in regard to Mexico, when on the 22d of November last, official information was received from Paris that the Emperor of France had

During the year ending September 30, 1866, eight thousand seven hundred and sixty-seven francs, useful in increasing and improving the public debt, and at that date the balance in the Treasury to the credit of the Patent fund was two hundred and twenty-eight thousand two hundred and ninety-seven dollars.

The Emperor of France, under existing laws, is not entitled to that representation in the National Councils which, from our earliest history, has been uniformly accorded to each Territory established from time to time within our limits. It maintains peculiar relations to Congress, to whom the Constitution has granted the power of exercising exclusive legislation over the territory in that District, whose interests are so directly connected with the special guardianship of Congress, exceed in number the population of several of our Territories, and no just choice should not be admitted to a seat in the House of Representatives. No mode seems so appropriate and effectual of enabling them to make known their peculiar conditions and wants, and securing the local legislation adapted to them. I therefore recommend the passage of a law authorizing the electors of the District of Columbia to choose a delegate, to be allowed the same rights and privileges as a delegate's representative in the National Councils of the United States. The increasing enterprise of the District is highly gratifying, and I trust that the efforts of the municipal authorities to promote the prosperity of the national metropolis will preserve the efficient and generous co-operation of Congress.

The report of the Commissioner of Agriculture reviews the operations of his Department during the past year, and asks the aid of Congress in its efforts to encourage those States which, scorched by war, are now earnestly engaged in the reorganization of domestic industry. It is a subject of congratulation that so foreign commerce against our domestic products and safety, of our legitimate influence among the nations, have been formed or attempted. While sentiments of reconciliation, loyalty and patriotism have increased at home, a more just consideration of our national character and rights has been manifested by foreign nations. The entire success of the Atlantic Telegraph between the coast of Ireland and the Province of Newfoundland, is an achievement which has been justly celebrated in both hemispheres as the opening of an era in the progress of civilization. There is reason to expect that equal success will attend our enterprise for connecting the two Continents through the Pacific Ocean by the projected line of telegraph between Kamchatka and the Russian possessions in America. The resolution of Congress protesting against gross violations of our rights by persons convicted of infamous offenses, on condition of emigration to our country, has been communicated to the States with which we maintain intercourse, and the practice, as justly the subject of complaint on our part, has not been renewed.

The congratulations of Congress to the Emperor of Russia, upon his escape from the attempt of assassination, have been presented to her Government, and received by him with expressions of grateful appreciation. The Executive, warned of an attempt by Spanish-American adventurers to induce the emigration of freedmen of the United States to a foreign country, protested against the project as one which, if consummated, would reduce them to a bondage even more oppressive than that from which they have just been relieved. Assurance has been received from the Government of the State in which the plan was matured, that the project would not be carried out. It is a question worthy of your consideration, whether our laws upon this subject are adequate to the prevention or punishment of the crime thus meditated.

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