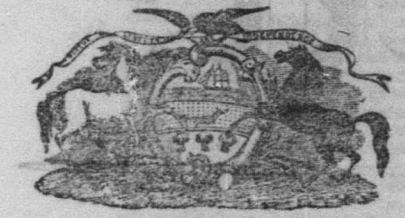


BEDFORD INQUIRER.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.



BEDFORD, Pa. Friday Morning, July 12, 1861.

"FEARLESS AND FREE."

D. OVER—Editor and Proprietor.

THE MESSAGE.

The message of President Lincoln will be found in our columns to-day. We presume it will be read more generally than any other message of any President since the foundation of our Government.

The Gazette says that we take "great pains to prove that Democrats are Union men," and that "to this end we publish the letters and speeches of eminent Democrats."

On the 5th of March, the present incumbent's first full day in office, a letter of Major Anderson, commanding Fort Sumter, was received at the War Department.

From the Secretary of War's Report we learn that under the call of the fifteenth of April last, 75,000 men from the militia for three months, there are now in the service of the United States 80,000 men.

THE WAR CONGRESS.—The extraordinary session of Congress assembled on Thursday, thirty-nine Senators were present, including Messrs. Pearce and Kennedy of Maryland, Johnson of Tennessee, Breckinridge of Kentucky, and Polk of Missouri.

Col. Charles J. Biddle, in command of one of the Regiments recently in this place, but now in Cumberland, has been elected to Congress in Philadelphia, in place of E. J. Morris, resigned.

The map of our county has finally made its appearance and we think in good style, and perhaps in good time, as a thorough knowledge of the border counties of our State is indispensable in the prosecution of the present war.

4TH JULY.—Our citizens along with the Bedford Riflemen, met in the Union School House on the morning of the 4th, to celebrate the natal day of the nation.

FELLOW CITIZENS OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—Having been convened on an extraordinary occasion as authorized by the Constitution, your attention is not called to any ordinary subject of legislation.

Some of the forts were found to be in a state of decay, and were found to be in a state of decay, and were found to be in a state of decay, and were found to be in a state of decay.

On the 5th of March, the present incumbent's first full day in office, a letter of Major Anderson, commanding Fort Sumter, was received at the War Department.

The whole was immediately laid before Lieut. General Scott, who at once conferred with Major Anderson in this opinion.

In precaution against such a conjuncture the Government had a few days before commenced preparing an expedition, as well adapted as might be, to relieve Fort Sumter, which expedition was intended to be immediately used on the first opportunity.

At this point, the insurrectionists announced their purpose to enter upon the practice of privateering. Other calls were made for volunteers to serve three years, unless sooner discharged, and also for large additions to the regular army and navy.

Soon after the first call for militia, it was considered a duty to authorize the Commanding General in proper cases, according to his discretion, to suspend the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus, or, in other words, to arrest or detain, without resort to the ordinary processes and forms of law, such individuals as he might deem dangerous to the public safety.

tion whether a Constitutional Republic or Democracy—a government of the people by the same people—can or cannot maintain its territorial integrity against its own domestic foes.

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To state the question more directly, are all the laws but one to go unexecuted, and the Government itself go to pieces, lest that one be violated? Even in such a case, would not the official oath be broken if the Government should be overthrown, when it was believed that disregarding the single law would tend to preserve it?

Now it is insisted that Congress, and not the Executive, is vested with this power. But the Constitution itself is silent as to which or who is to exercise the power, and as the provision was plainly made for a dangerous emergency, it cannot be believed that the framers of the instrument intended that in every case the danger should run its course until Congress could be called together, and the very assembling of which might be prevented, as was intended in this case by the rebellion.

The forbearance of this Government had been so extraordinary and so long continued as to lead some foreign nations to shape their action as if they supposed the early destruction of our National Union was probable.

The reports of the Secretaries of the Treasury, War, and the Navy, will give the information in detail deemed necessary and convenient for your deliberation and action, while the Executive and all the departments will stand ready to supply omissions, or to communicate new facts considered important for you to know.

It is now recommended that you give the legal means for making this contest a short and a decisive one; that you place at the control of the Government, for the work, at least 400,000 men, and \$400,000,000.

A debt of \$600,000,000 now is a less sum per head than was the debt of our own Revolution, when we came out of that struggle; and the money value in the country now bears even a greater proportion to what it was then than does the population.

The sophism itself is that any State of the Union may, consistently with the National Constitution, and therefore lawfully and peacefully, withdraw from the Union, without the consent of the Union or of any other State.

With rebellion thus sugar coated, they have been dragging the public mind of their section for more than thirty years, and until at length they have brought many good men to willingness to take up arms against the Government.

But even then the object plainly was not to declare their independence of one another, or of the Union, but directly the contrary, as their mutual pledge and their mutual action,

before, at the time, and afterwards, abundantly show. The express plighting of faith, by each and all the original thirteen, in the Articles of Confederation, two years later, that "the Union shall be perpetual," is most conclusive.

Unquestionably, the States have the powers and rights reserved to them in and by the National Constitution, but among these surely, are not included all conceivable powers, however mischievous or destructive, but, at most, such only as are known in the world, at the time as governments' powers, and certainly a power to destroy the Government itself had never been known as governmental a merely administrative power.

Whatever concerns the whole should be confined to the whole, to the General Government while whatever concerns only the State should be left exclusively to the State.

The nation purchased with money the countries out of which several of these States were formed. Is it just that they shall go off without leave and without refunding?

Again, if one State may secede, so may another, and when all shall have seceded, none is left to pay the debts. Is this quite just to creditors? Did we not give them this security of ours when we borrowed their money?

The seceders insist that our Constitution admits of secession. They have assumed to make a national constitution of their own, which of necessity they have either discarded or retained the right of secession as they insist it exists in ours.

If all the States save one should assert the power to drive that one out of the Union, it is presumed the whole class of seceder politicians would at once deny the power, and denounce the act as the greatest outrage upon State rights.

It may be affirmed, without extravagance, that the free institutions we enjoy have developed the power and improved the condition of our whole people, beyond any example in the world.

And having thus chosen our course, without guile and with pure purpose, let us remain our trust in God, and go forward without fear, and with manly hearts.

fore known, without a soldier in it but who had taken his place there of his own free choice. But, more than this, there are many single regiments whose members, one and another, possess full practical knowledge of all the arts, sciences, professions, and whatever else, whether useful or elegant, is known in the world; and there is scarcely one from which there could not be selected a President, a Cabinet, a Congress, and perhaps a court abundantly competent to administer the Government itself.

This is essentially a people's contest. On the side of the Union it is a struggle for maintaining in the world that form and substance of government whose leading object it is to elevate the condition of man; to lift artificial weights from all shoulders, to clear the paths of laudable pursuit for all; to afford all an unfettered start, and a fair chance in the race of life.

Yielding to partial and temporary departures from necessity, this is the leading object of the Government for whose existence we content.

I am most happy to believe that the plain people understand and appreciate this. It is worthy of note that, which in this, the Government's hour of trial, large numbers of those in the army and navy who have been favored with the offices have resigned, and proved false to the band which had purpled them, not one common soldier or common sailor is known to have deserted his flag.

Let there be some uneasiness in the minds of candid men as to what is to be the course of the Government towards the Southern States after the rebellion shall have been suppressed, the Executive deems it proper to say it will be his purpose, as ever, to be guided by the Constitution and the laws, and that he probably will have no different understanding of the powers and the duties of the Federal Government relatively to the rights of the States and the people, under the Constitution, than expressed in the Inaugural Address.

The Constitution provides, and all the States have accepted the provision, that the United States shall guaranty to every State in this Union a republican form of Government.

It was with the deepest regret that the Executive found the duty of employing the war power, in defence of the Government forced upon him. He could but perform this duty or surrender the existence of the Government.

He felt that he had no moral right to shrink, nor even to count the chances of his own life in what might follow. In full view of his great responsibility, he has, so far, done what he has deemed his duty.

And having thus chosen our course, without guile and with pure purpose, let us remain our trust in God, and go forward without fear, and with manly hearts.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN. July 4, 1861.