

W. H. Sherman

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Follows Citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives. AFTER a brief interval the Congress of the United States resumes its annual legislative labors.

new and strengthening of our relations as free people, and removing serious cause for discontent on the part of the inhabitants of those States. It would have accorded with the great principle enunciated in the Declaration of American Independence, that no people ought to bear the burden of taxation, and yet be denied the right of representation.

national, and the political power and moral influence of Congress are thus effectively exerted in the interests of loyalty to his Government and fidelity to the Union. Upon this question, so vitally affecting the restoration of the Union and the permanency of our present form of government, my convictions, heretofore expressed, have undergone no change; but, on the contrary, their correctness has been confirmed by reflection and time.

OUR FINANCES. The report of the Secretary of the Treasury affords much information respecting the revenue and commerce of the country. His views upon the burthen, and with reference to a proper adjustment of our revenue system, internal as well as impost, are commended to the careful consideration of Congress.

OUR ARMY. 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.

OUR NAVY. It is stated in the report of the Secretary of the Navy that the naval force at this time consists of 278 vessels, armed with 2,551 guns. Of these 115 vessels, carrying 1,029 guns, are in commission.

OUR FOREIGN AFFAIRS. It is a subject of congratulation that no foreign combinations against our domestic peace and safety, or 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.