PRESIDENT'S ESSA G

Fellow citizens of the Senate and of the House of Representatives:

ures of peace, but was the bearer of dispatchhe annual meeting of congress is always s from the Secretary of State of the United an interesting event. The Representatives States to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of of the states and of the people fresh from their constituents to take counsel together, for the Mexico, in reply to one received from the latcommon good. After an existence of near three-fourths of a century as a free and indeter of the twenty-second of February, 1847, in which the Mexican Government was informed of his appointment, and his presence at pendent republic, the problem no longer remains to be rolve , whether man is incapable the head guarters of our army, that he was inof self-government. The success of our advested with full power to conclude a treaty of peace, whenever the Mexican government mirable system is a conclusive refutation of might signify a desire to do so. While I was yet resolved that the evils of the war should the theories of those in other countries who maintain that "a favored few" are born to not be protracted a day longer than might be rule, and that the mas of mankind must be governed by force. Subject to no arbitrary rendered absolutely necessary by the Mexican hereditary authority, the people are the only government.

sovereigns recognised by our constitution .-Care was taken to give no instructions to the com-missioner which could in any way inter-Numerous emigrants of every lineage and fere with our mititary operations in the proselanguage, attracted by the civil and religious freedom we enjoy, and by our happy condition cution of the war. He possessed no authority annually crowd to our shore, and transfer in any manner to control these operations. He their heart, not less than their allegience, to was authorized to exhibit his instructions to the country whose dominion belongs alone to the General in command of the army: and in the event of the treaty being concluded and the people. ratified on the paat of Mexico, he was directed

No country " has been so much favored, or should acknowledge with deeper reverence the to give him notice of that fact. On the hapmanifestations of the Divine protection. An all-wise Creator directed and guarded us in was instructed by the Secretary of War to. our infant struggle for freedom, and has constantly watched over our surprising progress suspend further active military operations dntil further orders. These instructions were until we have become one of the great nations given with a view to intermit hostilities, unof the earth.

til the treaty thus ratified by Mexico could be It is in a country thus favored, and unler a transmitted to Washington, and receive the government in which the executive and legislative branches held their authority for himited periods, alike from the people, and where reaching the army, to deliver to the General all are responsible to their respective constituencies, that is again my duty to commu nicate with congress upon the) state of the Union, and the present condition of public affairs.

During the past year the most gratifying proofs are presented that our country has been blessed with a wide-spread and universal prosperity. There has been no period government. since the government was founded, when all the industrial pursuits of our people have been more successful, or when taken in all branches of business has received a fairer or The despatch which he bore from the Secrebetter reward. From our abundance we have tary of war to the general in command of the been enabled to perform the pleasing duty of furnishing food for the millions of less favored countries.

In the enjoyment of the bounties of Providence at home, such as has rarely fallen to the lot of any people, it is cause of congratulation, and our intercourse with all the Powers of the earth, excent Mexco,, continues to be of amicable character.

It has ever been our cherished policy to cultivate peace and good will with all nations; and this policy has been steadily pursued by

No change has taken place in our relations with Mexico since the adjournment of the last Convress. The war in which the United States were forced to engage with the g vernmentof thatcountry continues I deem it unne cessary after the full expotition of them contained inmy message of the 11th of may, 1846 and in my annual message at the commencement of the session of Congress in December last, to reiterate the serious causes of complaint which we had against Mexico before she commenced hostilities. It is sufficient upon the present occasion, to say that the wanton violations of the rights of persons and property of our citizens, committed by Mexico, her repeated acts of bad faith through a long series of years, and her disregard of insincere, and that in agreeing to go through solemn treaty stipulations for indemnity to the forms of negatiation, the object was to our injured citizens, not only constituted am- gain time to strengthen the defences of their ple cause of war on our part, but were of such an aggravated character as would justify us before the whole world in resorting to this extreme remedy.

With an anxious desire to avoid a rupture between the two countries, we forbore for missioners were appointed on the part of Mex years to assert our clear rights by force, and ico to meet the commissioners on the part of continued to seek redress for the wrongs we had sufferred, by amicable negotiations, in hopes that Mexico might yield to pacific coun- tionaries of the two governments was a failsets, and the demands of justice. In this hope we were disappointed. nister of peace

portunity to enter into negotiations for peace, Commissioner was appointed to proceed to he head quarters of our army, with full power to enter upon negotiations, and to conclude a just and honorable treaty of peace.

pening of such a contingency, and on receiv-

ing notice thereof, the general in command

action of the Government of the U. States.

The commissioner was also directed, on

red to, were intended to be applied in part considtration for the cession of Louisiana and the Flor idas. In like manner it was anticipated that, in settling the terms of a treaty of "limits and boun He was not directed to make any new overdaries" with Mexico, a cession of icritory esti-mated to be of greater value than the amount of

ur demands against her might be obtained; and that the prompt payment of this sum-in part consideration for the verticity ceded on the con-clusion of a treaty, and its ratification on her part might be an inducement with her to make such a | end, hostilities were renewed. An ascession of territory as would be satisfae ory to the shult was made by our gallant army upon the United States. And although the failure to conclude such a treaty has rendered it unnecessary to use any part of the three millions of dollars appropriated by that act, and the entire sum remains n the treasury, it is still applicable to that object, should the contingency occur making such application proper. The doctrine of no territory is the doctrine of

to incemnity; and it sanctioned, would be a pubic acknowledgement that our country was wrong and that the war declared by Congress, with exmainary unanimity, was unjust and should be abandoned; an admission unfounded in fact, and legrading to the national character.

jus ifiable and unprovoked commencement of hostilines by her, the expenses of the war to which overtures of peace, but shall be at all times we have been subjected, and the success which had attended our arms, were deemod to be of a nost liberal character.

'I he commissioner of the United States was authorized to agree to the establishment of the Rio Grande as the boundary, from its entrance into the Gult to its intersection with the sou hern boundary of New Mexico, in north lati. ude about thirty two dogrees, and to obtain a cession to the United States of the provinces of New Mexico and the Calitofnias, and the privilege of the right of way acro she is hmus of l'chuantepec. 'The boundary of the Rio Grande, and the cession to er to accept. the nited States of New Mexico and Upper Cal-

in command the despatch which he bore from ifornia, constitu ed an ultimatum which the Secretary of State to the Minister of Formissioner was under no circumstances to yield. eign Affairs of Mexico, and, on receiving it That it might be manifest not only to Mexico but to all other nations, that the Uni ed States the General was instructed by the Sectetary were not dispessed to take advantage of a feeble of War to cause it to be transmitted to the power, by insisting upon wresting from her all the other provinces, including many of her prin-cipal towns and citics, which we had conquered, commander of the Mexican forces, with a request that it might be communicated to his and held in our military occupation, but

The Commissioner did not reach the head withing to conclude a treaty in a spirit of liberali quarters of the army until another brilliant ty, our commissioner was authorized to scipulate victory had crowned our arms at Cerro Gordo. r the restoration to Mexico of all our o.he. conquerts As the territory to be acquired by the bounda

ry proposed might be estimated to be of greater value than a fair equivalent for our just femands, army was received by that officer, then at Jalaps, on the seventh day of May 1847, togethour commissioner wts authorized to stipulate fo er with the despatch from the Secretary of the payment of such additional pecuniary consid State to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of eration as was deemed reasonable

Mexico, having been transmitted to him from Vern Cruz. The commissioner arrived at the The terms of a treaty proposed by the Mexican commissioners were wholly inadmissable headquarters of the army a few days after-They negotiated as if Mexico were the vicwards. His presence with the army, and his trrious, and not the vanquished party. They liplomatic character were made known to the must have known that their ultimatum could Mexican government on the twelfth of June. never be accepted. It required the United 1847, by the transmission of the despatch from States to dismember Texas by surrendering the Secretary of State to the Minister of Forto Mexico that part of the territory of that igh Affairs of Mexico. Weeks elapsed after State lying between the Nucces and the Rio Grande, included within her limits by her laws ts receipt, butno overtures were made, nor was there any desire expiested by the Mexican when she was an independent | republic, and government to enter into negotiations for when she was annexed to the United States,

and admitted by Congress as one of the States, Our army pursued its march upon the "cap of our Union. It contained no provision for tol, and as it approached it, was met by for the payment by Mexico of the just claims of midable 10 istance. Our forces first encounour citizens. It required indemnity to Mextered the enemy, and achieved signal victories ican citizens for injuries they may have susin the severely contested battles of Contreras tdined by our troops in the prosecution of the and Churubusco. It was not until after these war. It demanded the right for Mexico to actions had resulted in decisive victories, and levy and collect the Mexican tariff of duties, the capital of the enemy was within our powon goods imported into her ports while in our er, that the Mexican government manifested military occupation during the war, the own-ers of which had paid to officers of the United any disposition to enter into negotiations for peace: and even then as events have proved. States the military contributions which had there is too much reason to believe they were been levied upon them; and it offered to cede. to the United States, for a pecuniary consideration, that part of Upper California lying noth of latitude thirty-seven degrees. Such capital, and to prepare for fresh resistance. were the unreasonable terms proposed by the The General in command of the army deem-Mexican commissioners. ed it expedient to suspend hostilities tempo

The cession to the United States by Mexrarily, by entering into an armistice with a ico of the provinces of New Mexico and the Californias as proposed by the Comview to the opening of negotiations. Commissioner of the United States, it was proved, ico to meet the commissioners on the part of the United States. The result of the conferwould be more in accordance with the convenience and interest of both nations than ences which took place between these funcany other cession of territory which Mexico could be induced to make. It is manifest to and I recommend that such territorial govern ure to conclude a treaty of peace. The Commissioner of, the United States all who have obtained a knowledge of the ac-

ges, and couped them to release these captives, wit depredations on the, and then retreat to and restore them to their maintee and friends. the interior before a sufficient force can be I communicated to Congress. Similar appropri ations made in 1803 and 1806, which were refer In proposing to acquire New Mexico and the Californias, it was known that but an inconsiderable portion of the Mexican people

acter of a more defensive war on our part. If would be transferred with them-the country our forces, when attacked, for threatened with embraced in those provinces, being chiefly unattack, be permitted to cross the line, drive inhabited. These were the leading considerback the enemy, and conquer him, this would ations, which induced me to authorize the be again to invade the enemy's country, after terms of peace which were proposed. They were rejected, and, negotiations being at an having lost all the advantages of the conquests abandoned them. To hold such a line suc-dessfully and in security, it is far from being strongly-fortified places near' the gates of the certain that it would not require as large an city of Mexico, and upon the city itself; and army as would be necessary to hold all the after several days of sever conflict, the Mexconquests we have already made, and contincan forces, vastly superior in numbers to our country. It is also far from being certain own, were driven from the city, and it was occupied by our troops. that the expenses of war would be diminished

Immediately after the information was reby such a policy. ceived of the unfavorable result of the nego-ciations, believing that his confinued pres-I am persuaded that the best means of vindicating the national honor and interest, and bringing the war to an honorable close, will ence with the army could be productive of no' good, I determined to recall dur commissionbe to prosecute it with increased energy and er. A despatch to this effect was transmitpower in the vital parts of the enemy's coun-The terms of treaty proposed by the U. S. ats were not only just to Mexico, but, considering the character and amount of our claims, the unted to him on the sixth of October last. The trv. In my annual message to Congress of December last, I declared that, "the war has not I shall not deem it proper to make any further been waged with a view to conquest; but having been commenced by Mexico, it has been ready to receive and consider any proposals carried into the enemy's country, and will be which may be made by Mexico.

vigorously prosecuted there, with a view to Since the liberal proposition of the United tobtain an honorable peace, and thereby secure ican people gen rilly became howile to the Unit ample indennity for the expenses of the war, ite I States, and availed themselves of every op States was authorized to be made in April last, large expenditures have been incurred, as well as to our much injured, citizens, who and the precious blood of many of our patrihold large pecuniary deman is against Mexiotic fellow citizens has been shed in the prosco." Such, in my judgment. continues to be our true policy -indeed, the only policy which ecution of the war. This consideration and the obstinate perseverance of Mexico in prowill probably secure a permanent peace. tracting the war, must influence the terms of It has never been contemplated by me, as

peace which it may be deemed proper hereafan object of the war, to make a permanent conquest of the Republic of Mexico, or to annihilate her senarate existence as an indepen-

the interior before a sufficient force can be

Such would probably be the harrassing char-

we have already made, by having voluntarily

1817.

concentrated to pursue him.

Our arms having been every where victo ious, having subjected to our military occudent nation. On the contrary, it has ever pation a large portion of the enemy's country been my desire that she should maintain her including his capital, and negotiations for nationality, and, under a good government a-peace having failed, the important questions dapted to her condition, be a free, independent war, by making them feel its pressure accor-arise. In what maner the war ought to be pros-ecuted? and what should be our future native and prosperous republic. The United States ding to the usages observed under similar ecuted? and what should be our future policy. | were the first among the nations to recognize | circumstances by all other civilized nations. I cannot doubt that we should secure and ren- her independence and have always desired her der available the conquests which we have to be on terms of amity and good neighboralready made; and that with this view, we bood with her. This she would not suffer. should hold and occupy, by our naval and By her own conduct we have been compelled military forces, all the ports, towns, cities, to engage in the present war. In its prose-and provinces now in our occupation, or which cuition, we seek not her overthrow as a namay hereafter fall into our possession: that tion; but, in vindicating our national honor, may hereafter fall into our possession: that tion; but, in vindicating our national honor, way he was satisfied he could "get abundant we should press forward our military copra-wee seek to obtain redress for the wrongs she supplies for his forces." In directing the tions, and levy, such military contributions has done us, and indemnity for our just demands against her. We demand an honoraon the enemy as may, as far as practicable, ble peace; and that peace must bring with it delay the expenses of the war.

Had he government of Mexico acceded to the equitable and liberal terms proposed, that mode indemnity for the past and security for the fu-ture. Hithert, Mexico has refused all accom-rounded, the wants of the army and the priceof adjustment would have been preferred. Mexi modation by which such a peace could be obco having declined to do this, and failed to offer ta i neil. any other terms which could be accepted by the Whilst our drmies have advanced from vic-United States, the national honor, no less than the public interests, requires that the war should tory to victory, from the commencement of would have been impossible hitherto, and is he war, it has always been with the olive- so now, to sustain the army to any extent by be prosecuted with increased energy and power ed. In the meantime, as Mexico refuses all power ed. In the meantime, as Mexico refuses all in demnity, we should adopt measures to indemnify branch of peace in their hands; and it has been in the power of Mexico, at every step, to ar- For the reasons assigned by him, he did not rest hostilities by accepting it. ourselves, by ap. opriating permanently a portion One great obstacle to the a tainment of peace has, indoubledly, arisen from the fact, that Mex-ico has been so long held in subjection by one faction of military neuror after an inter; and such has been the condition of insecurity in which

of her territory. Early after the commencement of the war, New Mexico and the Californians wer taken possession of by our forces. Ou. mi itary and naval commanders were ordered to con nor and hold them; subject to be disposed of by trea y of peace.

their successive governments have been placed, that each has then deterred from making peace lest from this case; a rival faction might expel it These provinces are now in our undisputed of from power. Such was the fate of President He reca's administration in 1815, for being disposed upation, and have been so for many months; all istance on the part of Mexico having ceased even to listen if the overarros of the United States to prevent the war, as is fully confirmed by an otwithin their limits. I, am satisfied that they should never be surrendered to Mexico. Shou ficial to: respondence which took place in the month of August last, between him and his gov-Congress concur with me in this opinion, and that they should be retained by the United States as indemnity. I canperceive no good reason why the crain at, a copy of which is herewith communi-cated. 'For this cause alone, the revolution at once be extended over them. To wais for a which displayed him from power was set on toot by General Paredes. Such may be the con-dition of the inscentity of the present governtreaty of peace, such as we are willing to mike, by which our relations towards them would not be changed, cannot be good policy; whilst our own interest, and that of the people inhabiting There can the no doubt that the peaceable , and

them, require that a stable, responsible, and free government under our authority should, as soon as possible, bo established over them. Y Should Congress, therefore, determine to hold. well disposed inhabitants of Mexico are convinced that it is the true interest of their country to couch do an honorable peace with the United States; but the apprehension of becoming the victims of some military factions of number may these provinces permanently, and that they shall hereafter be considered as constituent parts of our have prevented them from manifesting their feel ings by any public act. The removal of any such country, the carly establishm nt of territorial goverminents over them will be important for the more perfect protection of persons and property; men's he established. If will promote peace and

the period was propitious to afford another op- stated in the several messages on the rubject which prevent these tribes from committing such outra- , which we hold, murder the inhabitants, com- i move from their minds the false impressions which on that act, the correctness of which was the their designing and interested rulers had artibility riously questioned. The solution of the several messages on the rubject which was the several messages on the rubject which are the inhabitants. riously questioned. The volunteer force now in the field, with those which had been their designing and interested rulers had artfully attempted to make, that the war on our part was 'accepted," to "serve for twelve months" me of conquest; that it was a war against their religion and their churches, which were to be des-corared and overthrown, and that their rights of and were discharged at the end of their tern of service, exhaust the fifty thousand man an person and private property would be violated .thorised by that act. Had it been clear the Fo remove these false impressions, our command a proper construction of the act warranted it, ers in the field were directed scrupulously to res the services of an additional number would pect their religion, their churches, and, their church have been called for and accepted, but doubt property, which were in no manner to be viola:ad; they were directed also to respect the rights of exiting upon this point, he power was be persons and property of all who should not tak exercised. up arms against us, 👘 👘

It is deemed important that Congress should Assurances to this effect were given to the at an early period, of their session, souler the Mexican people by Major Generial Taylor, in a proclamation issued in pursuance of instructions from the Secretary of War, in the month of June, authority ro raise an additional requiur force to serve during the war with Mexico, and to be discharged upon the conclusion and ratif. 1846, and again by Major General Scott, who act cation of a treaty of peace. I invite the at. we the prosecution of the war in the enemy's led upon his own convictions of the propriety of tension of Congress to the views presented ssuing it in a proclamation of the 11th of May, by the Secretary of War in his report upon In this spirit of liberality and conciliation, and

this subject. I recommend, also, that authority be give with a view to prevent the body of the Mexican population from taking up arms against us, was by law to call for and accept the servicer of be war conducted on our part. Provisions and other supplies final-and to our army by Mexican citizens were paid for at fair and liberal prices a greed upon by the parties. After the lapse of a an additional number of volunteers, to be et. ercised at such time, and to such extent in the emergenceics of the service may require, tew months, it became apparent that these assu rances, and this mild t'eathent, had failed to pro In prosecuting the war with Mexico, while the utmost care has been taken to avoid every duce the desired efficie upon the Mexicon popula-tion. While the war had been conducted on our part according to the most humane and the ral principles; observed by civilized nations, it was just cause of complaint on the part of neutral nations and none has been given, libers! privileges have been granted to, their , con morce in the ports of the enemy in our mik. waged in a far different spirit on the part of Mex tary occupation. Not appreciating our forflearance, the Me

The difficulty with the Brazilian going ment, which at one time threatened to inter rupt the friendly relations between the in portuni y committue most savage excesses upor countries, will, I trust be speedily adjusted I have received infoundation that an envoyed. our, troops. Large numbers of the population took up arms, and engaging in guerill warfare, robbed and murdered to the most crud minorr, traordinary and minister plenipotentiary individual soldiers, or small parties, whom acdi the United States will shortly be appoints dent or other causes had separated from the m din by his Imperial Majesty, and it is hoped the body of our army; bands of guerrillas and robbers he will come instructed and prepared to the info-ted the roads, harrassed our rains; and, when over it was in their power, cut off our supplies. just all remaining differences between b two governments in a manner acceptable and The Mexicans having shown themselvas to hemorable to both. In the meantime, I han be wholly incapable of appreciating our forevery reason to believe that nothing will a bearance and liberality, it was deemed propcur to interrupt our amicably relations wa Brazil.

It has been my constant effort to maintain ding to the usages observed under similar and cultivate the most intimate relations d friendship with all the independent Powers c-Accordingly, as early as the twenty-second South America; and this policy has been at of September, 1846, instructions were given tended with the happiest results. It is true by the Secretary of war to Maj. Gen. Taylor that the settlement and payment of many just to "draw supples" for our army "from the enemy, without paying for them, and to reclaims of American citizens against these's tions have been long delayed. The pecula quire contributions for its support," if in that position in which they have been placed, at the desire on the part of my predecessors, a well as myself, to grant them the utmost a execution of these instructions, much was dulgence, have littlerto prevented these class necessarily left to the discretion of the comfrom being urged in a manner demanded manding officer. who was best acquainted strict instice. The true has arrived when they ought to be finally adjusted and humb rounded, the wants of the army and the practed, and etherts are now making for that per Gen. Taylor on the twenth-sixth of Octo-

It is proper to inform you that the government ber, 1846, replied, from Monrercy, that "it of Pxx has, in good faith, paid the first two is stalments af the indemnity of \$30,000 each, and the greater portion of the in crest due threen, n execution of the convention between the gavesn-ment and the United States, the ratifications of adopt the policy of his instructions, but de-clared his readiness to do so, "should the ar-mylin its future operations, reach a portion States, early in August Ly, completed the ag dicution of the claims under this convenies, of the country which may be made to supply mafie his report thereon, in pursuance of the of the sthou August, 1846. The sums to when the troops with advantage." He continued to nav for the articles of supply which were be claimants are re-perively enlitled, w. drawn from the enemy's country. Similar instructions were issued to Major

paid on demand at the treasury. I invite the early attention of Coogressia General Scott on the third of April, 1817, who present condition of our cilizens in China. I' replied, from Jalapa, on the twentieth of May our treaty with thit power, American crizent withdrawn from the jurisdiction, whether en criminal, of the Chinese government, and plat under that of our public functionaries in the to support itself by forced contributions levcountry. By these alone can our ci izens betin and punished for the columission of give ma The same direction was given, to him that by those alone can questions be decided between had been to Gen. Taylor in this respect .-had been to Gen. Taylor in this respect. — Gon Scott, for the reasons assigned by him, also continued to pay for the articles of sup-to which they may have intered with the title.

ply for the army which were drawn from the or subjects of foreign powers and enemy. After the army had reached the heart of the ing in the waters of the five ports of China does to foreign commerce are under the exclusive ju most wealthy portion of Mexico, it was sup-posed that, the obstacles which had before Until congress shall establish competed that that time prevented it would not be such as nals to try and punish crisses, and to erercise juto render impracticable the levy of forced have prevented them from manifesting their teel to runger improcession, the levy of three risdiction in civil cases in China, Americancia ings by any public het. The removal of any such contributions for its, support; and on the first izens there are subject to no law whatever, apprehension would probably cause them to speak of September, and again on the sixth of Oct. Crimes may be committed with impunity, at their schuling is treaty and to adopt the measures 1847 the order was repeated in despatches debs may be contracted without any mean of accessary for the restoration of peace. With a addressed by the Secretary of war, to Gener-people distracted and divided by contending facfrom the omission of Coner

sent to Mexico was insultingly rejected. took with him the project of a treaty prepar-The Mexican government returning even to ed, by the terms of which the indemnity rehear the terms of adjustment which he was quired by the United States was a cession of authorized to propose; and finally, under un- territory. It was well known to be the only justifiable pretences, involved the two countries in war, by invading the territory of the co to make, in satisfaction of the just State of Texas, striking the first blow, and and long deferred claims of our citizeus and shedding the blood of our citizens on our against her, and the only means by which her capital, and if attempted to be retained by own soil.

Although the United States wore the aggrieved nation, Mexico commenced the war, and we were compelled, in self detence, to repel the invader. and to vindicate the national honor, and interests, by prosecuting it with vigor until we could obtain a just and honorable peace. On learning that hostilities had been commenced by Mexico, I promptly communicated that fact accompanied with a succinct statement of our other causes of complaint against Mexico to Congress; and that body, by the act of the 13th of May, 1816, declared that "by the act of the republic of Mexico, a state of war exists between that government and the United States"-this act declaring "the war to exist by the act of the republic of Mexico," and making provision for its-prosecution "to'a speedy and successful termination," was passed with great ununimity by Congress, there being but two negative votes in the senate, and but 14 in the House of representatives. The existence of the war having been declared by congress, it became my du ty, under the constitution and the laws, to continue and prosecute it. This duty has been performed, and although at every stage of its progress I have manifested a willingness to minate it by a just peace, Mexico has refused to accede to any terms which would be ac-.cepted by the United States, consistently with the national honor and interests.

The rapid and brilliant successes, of our arias, and the vast extent of the eneinv's territory which had been overrun+ and conquered, before the close of the last session of Congress, were fully known to that Lody. Since that time, the war has been prosecuted with increased energy, and I am gratified to state with a success which commands aniversal admiration. History presents no parallel of so many glorious victorperiod. Our army, regulars and volunteers, have covered themselves with imperishable honors. Whenever and wherever our forces have encountered the enemy, though he was in vastly superior numbers and often entrenched in fortified positions of his own selection, and of great strength, he has been defeated. Too much praise cannot be bestowed upon our officers and men, regulars and volunteers, for their gallantry, discipline, indomitable courage and perseverance, all seeking the post of danger, and vieing with each other in deeds 9 uoble daring.

While every patriots 'heart must exult, and a just national pride animate every bosom, behelding the proofs of courage, consummate military skill, steady discipline, and humanity to the vanquished enemy, exhibited by our gallant army, the nation is called to mourn over the loss of many brave officers and soldiers. who have fallen in defense of their country's honors and interests. The brave dead met their melancholy fate in a foreign land, nobly discharging their duty with their country's flag of the war, and yet it was certain that if no waving triumphantly in the face of their foe. Their patriotic deeds are justly appreciate , and will long be reinembered by their grateful countrymen. The parental care of the gov-ted territorial indemnity, from the fact that, at the territorial indemnity, from the fact that, at the territorial indemnity, from the fact that, at the irritorial indemnity from the fact that, at

indemnity which it is in the power of Mexishe can reinburse the United States, for the expenses of the war, is a cession to the United States of a portion of her territory.---Mexico has no money to pay, and no other means of making the required indomnity If we refuse this we can obtain nothing else.-

has long since directed their attention to the commercial importance importance of that To reject indemnity by refusing to accept a province, and there can be little doubt that cession of territory, would be to abandon all the moment the United States shall relinquish our just demands, and to wage the war, bear their present occupation of it, and their claim ing all its expenses, without a purpose or a to it as indemnity, an effort would be made defined object.

by some foreign power to possess it, either by A state of war abrogates-treaties previously existing between the belligerents, and n conquest or by purchase. If no foreign gov-treaty of peace puts an end to all claims for crument should acquire it in either of these indemnity: for tortious acts committed, under modes, an independent revolutionary governthe authority of one government against the ment would probably be established by the incitizens or subjects of another, unless they habitants and such foreigners as may remain in or remove to the country, as soon as it shall be known that the United States have are provided for in its stipulations. A treaty of peace which would terminate the existing war without providing for indemnity would abandoned it. Such a government would be too feeble long to mainfain its separate inenable Mexico-the acknowledged debtor, and dependent existance, and would finally beherself the aggressor in the war-to relieve come annexed, to become a dependent colony herself from a just liability. By such a Treaty

of some thore powerful State. Should any toreign governmenifattempt to pos-sess it as a colony, or otherwise to incorporate it with itself, the principle avowed by President Monroe in 1824, and reaffirmed in my first annuour citizens who bold just demands against her would have no remedy, either against Mexico, or their government. Our daty to our citizens, must forever prevent such a peace; and no treaty, which does not provide ample al message, that no foreign power shall, with our consent be permit ed to plant or establish any means of discharging these demands, can receive my sanction. new colony or dominion on any part of the North American continent, but be maintained. In main

A treaty of peace should settle all existing difficulties between the two countries . If an taining this principle, and infresisting its invaadequate cession of territory shuld be made by ston by any foreign Power, we might be involved n other wars more expensive and more difficult such a treaty, the United States should release Mexico from all her liabilities, and assume than that in which we are now engaged. The provinces of New Mexico and the Califor their payment to our own citizens. If, inus are contiguous to the cerritories of the United stoad of this, the United States were to con sent to a treaty by which Mexico should again states, and it brought under the government of our laws, their resources -mineral, agricultural, engage to pay the heavy amount of indebtedmanufacturing, and commercial would soon be ness which a just indemnity to our governdeveloped. ment and our citizens would impose on her, it is notorious that she does not possess the Upper California is bounded on the north by ur our Oregon possessions, and if held by the sents no parallel of so many glorious victor-iea achieved by any nation within so short a sich a treaty no result could be anticipated, enterprising, and intelligent portion of our population of the settled by a hardy, but the same irritating disappointments which lation. The bay of San Francisco, and other har bors along the Californian coast would afford have heretofore attended the violations of sim sheher for our navy, for our numerous whale ships a 11 other, merchant vessels employed in the Pa-cific ocean, and would in a short period become ilar treaty stipulations on the part of Mexico. Such a treaty would be but a temporary cessation of hostilitics, without the restoration the marts of an extensive and profitable commerce of the friendship and good understanding with China and other countries of the East. which should characterize the future inter I'nese advantages, in which the whole comme

course between the two countries. That Congress contemplated the acquirement of territorial indemnitys when that body made provision for the procedution of the war is obvious. Congress could not have meant er nation. -when, in May, 1846, they appropriated ten

New Mexico is a frontier province, and has never been of any considerable value to Mexico. millions of dollars, and authorized the President to employ the militia, naval and military From its locality, it is naturally connected with forces of the United States, and to accept the our western settlements. The territorial limits services of fifty thousand volunteers, to enable | of the State of Texas too, as defined by her laws, before her admission into our Union, embrace all him to prosecute the war: and when at their last session, and after our army had invaded that portion of New Mexico lying east of the Rio. Grande, while Mexico s.ill claims to hold this Mexico, they made additional appropriations territory as part of her dominions. The ad justment of this question of boundary is imporand authorized the raising of additional troops for the same purpose-that no indemnity was to be obtained from Mexico at the conclusion There is another consideration which induced

the belief that the Mexican government might even desire to place this province under the pro Mexican territory was acquired, no indemnity could be obtained.

gence was received of the signal victory of Buena Vista, and of the fall of the city of Vera Cruz, with the strong castle of San Jaan D Ullus, by which it was defended. Belleving that after these and other successes, so honor-able to our arms and so, disastrous to Mexico.

tual condition of the Mexican government tranquility among the for some years past and at present, that all apprehension that they may still entertain o. if these provinces should be retained by her being again subjected to the jurisdiction of Mexshe could not ong continue to tofil and gov- co. I invite the early and favorable consideration ern them. Mexico is too feeple a power to of Congress to this important subject. Besides New Mexico and the Californias, there

govern these provinces, lying as they do at a are other Mexican provinces which have been redistance of more than a thousand miles from duced to our possission by conquest. These other er Mexican provinces are now governed by our her, they would constitute for a short time, military and baval commanders, under the gener-al authority which is conterred upon a conqueror even nominally, a part of her dominions. This would be especially the case with upper Cali-fornia. The sagacity of powerful European nations just terms of peace. Civil as well us military of ficers are requested to conduct such a govern men'.

Adequate compensation to be drawn from conrtibutions levied on the enemy should be fixed by law for such officers as may be thus employed. What further provisions may become necessary and what final disposition it may be proper to make of them, must decution. pend on the future progress of the was, and the course which Mexico may think prper

hereafter to pursue. With the views F entertain, I cannot favor the policy which has been suggested, either to withdraw our army, or to retire to a designated line, and to simply hold and defend it. To withdraw our army altogether f.om the conquests they have made by deeds of nupar-alleled bravery, and at the expense of so much

and one which by the act of the enemy, we degrade the nation in its own-estimation and n that of the world. To retire to a line, and simply hold and de-

fend it, would not end the war. On the contrary, it would encourage Mexico to persevere and tend to protract it indefinitely. It is not to be expected that Mextco, after refusing to establish such a line as a permanent boundary, when our victorious army are in possessession of her capital, and in the heart of her country, would permit us to hold it without rosistance. That she would continue the war and in the most harrassing and annoying form, there can be no doubt. A border warfare of

the field, stationed at posts and garrisons along such a line to protect and defend it. The enemy, relieved from the pressure of our arms on his coast and the populous parts of the interior, would direct his attention to this line, and selecting an issolated place for an attack, would concentrate his force upon it. This cial world would participate, v ould at once be secured to the United States by the cession of this guerilla warfare, would probably prefer to any other.

territory, while it is certain that as long as it re-mains a part of the Mexican domains, they can be Were we to assume a defensive attitude on enjoyed neither by Mexico-herself ner by any such a line, all the advantages of such a state

of war would be on the side of the enemy.-We could levy no contributions upon him or in any other way make him feel the pressure of the war, but must remain inactive and await his approach, being in constant uncertainty at what point on the line, or the time, he might makelan assault. He may assemble and organise an overwhelming force in the interi-or, on his own side of the line, and concealing his purpose, make a sudden assault upon some one of our posts so distant from any other as to prevent the possibility of timely succor or reinforcements; and in this way our gallant army would be exposed to the danger of being tection of the government of the United States. Numerous bands of fierce and warlike savages cut off in detail; or if, by their unequalled wander over it, and uponfic borders. Mexico has bravery and prowes every where exhibited

tended to their surviving families. Snortly after the adjournment of the last session of Congress, tho gratifying intelli-gence was received of the signal victory of Buena Vista, and of the fall of the city of Vera Cruz, with the struce costs of Mexico, to be used by Cruz, with the struce costs of Mexico, to be used by the fact service of the signal victory of the signal victory

by allaying | tions, and a devernment solbj et to constant chan roots, and a determinent singlet to constant chan $\mathfrak{L}(s, \mathfrak{h})$ successive revolutions, the continued suc-cess of our arply may fail to secure a sati-factory peace. In such event, it may become proper for couragement and assocances of protection to the triends of peace in Mexico in the establishment peace which would be just to them, and secure to us the indemnity we demand. This may be come the only mode of obtaining such a peace.-

ision of becoming the

Should such he he result, the war which Mexi-co has forced upon us would thus be convered ed by military usurpers, we should then leave her with a republican government in the enjoyment of real independence, and domestic peace and prosperity, pe forming all her relative duties in the great tamily of nations, and promoting he own happines by wise laws and their faithfules

If, after affording this encouragement and protection, and after all the preserving and ports of Mexico were blockaded by our navy, the treaty. This might disturb, if not de

incere efforts we have made, from the mopeace, and must continue to occupy her country with our troops, taking the full measure of of indemnity into our own hands, and must blood and treasure, in a just war on our part, enforce the terms which our honor demands. To act otherwise in the existing state of could not honorable have avoided, would be to things in Mexico, and to withdraw our army without a peace, would not only leave all the wrongs of which we complain unredressed,

but would be the signal of new revolutionsall alike hostile to peaceful relations with the United States. Besides, there is danger, if our troops were

the Mexican people, wearied with successive revolutions, and deprived of protection for their person and property, might at length be pean monarch for protection from the anarchy and suffering which would ensue. This, for the most savage character, extending over a our own safety, and in pursuance of our eslong line, would be unceasing'y waged. It tablished policy, we should be compelled to rewould require an army to be kept constantly in sist. We could never consent that Mexico should be thus converted into a monarchy

governed by a foreign prince. Mexico is our near neighbor; and her boun daries are coterminous with our own, through the whole extent accross the North American continent, from ocean to ocean. Both politically and commercially, we have the deepest would be a condition of affiirs which the interest in her regeneration and prosperity .--Mexicans pursuing their favorite system of Indeed , is it imposible that, with any just regard to our own safety, we can ever become ndifferent to her fate.

It may be that the Mexican government and people have misconstrued or misunderstood our forbearance, and our objects, in desiring to conclude an amicable adjustment of the existing differences between the two countries. They may have supposed that we would submit to terms degrading to the nation; or they may have drawn false inferences from the on the subject of the war, and may have calculated to gain much by protracting it; and, altogether, without insisting on any indemni-ty, territorial or otherwise. Whatever may be the false impressions under which they actthem.

In the future prosecution of the war the enony must be made to feel its pressure more than they have heretolore, done. At its commencement it omy be repulsed in one attack, he would have was deemed proper to conduct it in a spirit of for-nothing to do but to retreat to his own side of bearance and liberality. With this end in view

Scott and his attention was again called to the importance of making the enemy bear legi-late upon the subject, and still greater the burdens of the war by requiring them to have already and the subject and still greater fornish the means of supporting our army; has not provided to the unishment of ent peace. In such event, it may become proper for forman the means of supporting out arthy, has not provided for the purishment of the our commanding generals in the field to give en-couragement and a subances of protection to the less, by Joing so, there was danger of depriv-triends of prace in Mexico in the establishment ing the army of the necessary supplies. Cop-has established tribunals by which an America and manyte, ance of a free republican government is of these despatches, were forwarded to cruce and recover debie due from British so Gen. Taylor for his government. On the 31st of March last, I caused an or-

ticability of enforcing the measure.

forced contributions of money or supplies

1847 that, if it he expected that "the army is

ied upon the country, we may ruin and exas-

perate the inhabitants, and strave ourself."

der to be issed to our military and naval com- ry justice, they could not be made to comanders to levy and collect a military contribution upon all vessels and merchandize which the United States should escape with may ding her torn and distracted by factions, and rol i military occupation, and to apply such contri- the punshment of a Chinese, who had conbutions towards defraying the expenses of the | mitted any crune against an American citud. war. By virtue of the right of conquest and would be rigorously exacted. Indeed the the laws of war, the conqueror, consulting his consequences might have been fatal to h own safety or convenience, may either ex- merican citizens in China, should a flagrad clude foreign commerce from all such ports, crune be committed by any one of them upa or permit it upon such terms and conditions a Chinese, and should trial and nunishme: as he may prescribe. Before the principal not follow according to the requisitions

the revenue derived from impost duties, under troy, our friendly relations with that course ment Mexico commenced the war, and prior to the laws of Mexico, was paid into the Mexi- and cause an interruption of our valuate that time, to adjust our differences with her, can treasury. After these ports had fallen commerce. that time, to aujust our uncreated with a set, into our military possession, the blockade was our treations with the standard with the sta were opened to the trade of all nations upon

> amount than those which had been previously regard to China. levied by Mexico; and the revenue, which was formerly paid into the Mexican treasury, was estimate to defray the expenses of open directed to be collected-by our military and diplomatic relations with the Papal Statesanval officers, and applied to the use of our That interesting political events now a army and navy. Care was taken that the of-ficers, soldiers and sailors of our army and gard to our commercial interests, have use navy should be exempted from operations of opinion rendered such a measure highly the order: and as the merchandise imported pedient.

exacted were, in effect, the seizure of the pub- republics of Bolivia, and Guatemala, and Er lic revenues of Mexico, and the application of cador. The manifest importance of collut inclined to yield to foreign influences, and to them to our own use. In directing this ting the most friendly relations with all the cast themselves into the arms of some Euro- measure, the object was to compel the enemy independent States upon this continent bat to contribute, as far as practicable, towards induced me to recommend appropriations rethe expenses of the wart. For the amount of contributions which have sions.

been levied in this form, I refer you to the accompanying reports of the Secretary of War to be paid to the Spanish Government." and of the Secretary of the Navy, by which it appears that a sum exceeding half a million ants in "the Amistad case." I entertainly dollars has been collected.

This amount would undoubtedly have been much larger, but for the difficulty of keeping open communications between the coast and the interior, so as to enable owners of the merchandise imported, to transport and vend it to source of irritation and discord between " the inhabitants of the country. It is conti- two countries, which may prove highly ?" dently expected that this difficulty will, to a udicial to the interests of the United Suis great extent, be soon removed by our increas- Good policy, no less than a faithful com I forces which have been sent to the field. anco with our treaty ob'igations, require Measures have recently been adopted by that the inconsiderable appropriation demains ed forces which have been sent to the field,

which the internal as well as external fevo-nues of Mexico, in all places in our military A detailed state occupation, will be seized and appropriated to flop of the finances will be present the use of our army and navy.

The policy of levying upon the enemy contributions in every form, consistently with the cal year ending on the 30th of June. 14 supposed division of opinion in the U. States laws of nations, which it may be practicable were of the value of 146,140 thousand for our military commanders to adopt, should, hundred and thirty-eight dollars; of which " in my judgement, be rigidly enforced, and or- amount exported was eight million ele indeed, that we might ultimately abandon it ders to this effect have accordingly been giv- thousand one hundred and fifty dollars to altogether, without insisting on any indemni. en. By such a policy, at the same time that ing one hundred and thirty-eight multion is our own treasury will be relieved from a heavy hundred and thirty four thousand four be drain, the Mexican people will be made to feel dred and eighty dollars in the country for the ed, the adoption and prosecution of the ener-getic policy proposed, must soon undeceive own interests, may be induced the more read-same period was one hundred and fitty of ily to require their rulers to accode to a just million six hundred and forty-eight theu peace.

six hundred and twenty-two dollars; of " After the adjournment of the last session one hundred and fity eight million six h of Congress, events transpired in the prose- red and thirty-seven thousand four burge cution of the war which, in my judgment, and sixty-four dollars consisted of dome-

forces authorized by the act of the thirteenth period amounted to twenty-six million that

j'ets.

Accustomed as the Chinese are to sum? prehend why criminals who are citizend

them into execution though the necessity? the payment of duties more moderate in their immediate action may not be so urgent a:

The Secretary of State has submitted "

the Maxican people, wearied with successive sumed by Mexican citizens, the contributions outfits and salaries of charge d'affairs to " Estimates have also been submitted for the cossary for the maintenance of these ar

> I recommend that an appropriation beaut the purpose of distribution among the class conviction that this is due to Spain under? treaty of the twentiethkof October, 1795,# moreover, that, from the earnest manner which the claim continues to be urgeds long as it shall remain unsettled, it will be

A detailed statement of the cert in the annual report of the Secretary the Treasury. The imports for the last