

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

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

At the beginning of the Presidential term, four months ago, the functions of the Federal Government were found to be generally suspended within the several States of South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Florida, excepting only those of the Post Office Department. Within these States all the forts, arsenals, dock-yards, custom houses and the like, had been seized and held in open hostility to this Government, excepting only forts Pickens, Taylor and Jefferson, and near the Florida coast, and Fort Sumpter in Charleston harbor, South Carolina. The forts thus seized had been put in improved condition. New ones had been built, and armed forces had been organized and were organizing, all avowedly with the same hostile purpose. The forts remaining in the possession of the Federal Government were either besieged or menaced by warlike preparations, and especially Fort Sumpter, which was nearly surrounded by well-protected hostile batteries with guns equal in quality to the best of its own, and outnumbering the latter as perhaps ten to one. A disposition to withdraw the Federal muskets and rifles had somehow found their way into these States, and had been seized to be used against the Government. A accumulation of the public revenue, lying within them, had been seized for the same object. The navy was scattered in distant seas, leaving but a very small part of it within the immediate reach of the Government. Officers of the Federal army and navy had resigned in great numbers, and of those resigning a large proportion had taken up arms against the Government. Simultaneously, and in connection with all this, the purpose to secede from the Union was openly avowed. In accordance with this purpose an ordinance had been adopted in each of these States declaring the States respectively to be separated from the National Union. A formula for instituting a combined Government of these States had been promulgated, and this illegal organization in the character of Confederate States was already invoking recognition, aid and intervention from foreign Powers.

Finning this condition of things and believing it to be an imperative duty upon the incoming Executive to prevent, if possible, the consummation of such an attempt to destroy the Federal Union, a choice of means to that end became indispensable. This choice was made, and was declared in the inaugural address. The policy chosen looked to the exhaustion of all peaceful measures before a resort to any stronger ones. It sought only to hold the public places and property not alienated from the Government, and to collect the revenue, relying for the rest on time, discussion, and the ballot-box. It promised a continuance of the mails at the Government's expense, to the very people who were resisting the Government, and it gave repeated pledges against any disturbances to any of the people, or any of their rights. Of all that which a President might constitutionally and justifiably do in such a case everything was foreborne, without which it was believed possible to keep the Government on foot.

Sumpter was impossible, rendered so by the near exhaustion of provisions in the latter named fort. In such a case the Government had a few days before commenced preparing an expedition, as well adapted as might be, to relieve Fort Sumpter, which expedition was intended to be ultimately used or not, according to circumstances. The strongest anticipated case for using it was now presented, and it was resolved to send it forward, as had been intended in this contingency. It was also resolved to notify the Government of South Carolina that if the attempt should not be resisted there would be no effort to throw in men, arms, or ammunition without further notice, or in case of an attack upon the fort. This notice was accordingly given, whereupon the fort was attacked and bombarded to its fall, without even awaiting the arrival of the provisioning expedition. It is in this case that the assault upon the fort could by no possibility commit aggression upon them. They knew—they were expressly notified—that the coming of the expedition in the fort could by no possibility commit aggression upon them. They knew—they were expressly notified—that the coming of the expedition in the fort could by no possibility commit aggression upon them. They knew—they were expressly notified—that the coming of the expedition in the fort could by no possibility commit aggression upon them.

zons have, in due form, claimed its protection. These loyal citizens this Government is bound to recognize and protect, and to vindicate with accuracy. In the Border States so called, in fact the Middle States, there are those who favor a policy which they call armed neutrality; that is, an arming of those States to prevent the Union forces passing one way or the other, or the other, over their soil. This would be a distinction completed, figuratively speaking. It would be the building of an impassable wall along the line of separation, and yet not quite an impassable one, for under the guise of neutrality it would be the hands of the Union men, and freely pass supplies from among them to the insurrectionists, which it could do as an open enemy. At a stroke it would take all the trouble off the hands of secession, except only what proceeds from the external blockade. It would do for the insurrectionists all that all things they most desire—feed them well, and give them disunion without a struggle of their own. It recognizes the right of the insurrectionists to maintain the Union; and, while very many who have favored it are doubtless loyal, it is nevertheless very injurious to the effect of a few brave and hungry men of the government, it may be stated that at first a call was made for seventy-five thousand militia, and rapidly followed by this proclamation was issued for the ports of the insurrectionary districts, by proceedings in the nature of a blockade. So far all this was believed to be strictly legal.

At this point, the insurrectionists announced their purpose to enter upon the practical execution of their policy, and made for volunteered to serve three years, unless sooner discharged, and also for large additions to the regular army and navy. These measures, however, were not to be taken until they had secured the complete destruction of the Union. The sophism itself is that any State of the Union may, consistently with the Federal Constitution, and therefore lawfully and properly, withdraw from the Union, without the consent of the Union or of any other State. The little disguise, that the supposed withdrawal is to be effected only for just cause, because they themselves are to be the sole judges of its justice, is too thin to merit any notice. We are told that the sophism is that any State of the Union may, consistently with the Federal Constitution, and therefore lawfully and properly, withdraw from the Union, without the consent of the Union or of any other State. The little disguise, that the supposed withdrawal is to be effected only for just cause, because they themselves are to be the sole judges of its justice, is too thin to merit any notice.

This is all there is of original principle about it. Whether the National Constitution, in defining boundaries between the two, has applied the principle with exact accuracy, is not to be questioned. We are also bound to that defining, without question. What is now contended is the position that secession is consistent with the Constitution, is lawful and peaceful. It is not contended that there is any express law for it, and nothing should ever be implied as law which leads to unjust or absurd consequences. The nation purchased with money the countries of which several of these States were formed. It is just that they shall go off without leave and without refunding. The nation paid very large sums—in the aggregate, I believe, of a hundred millions—for the Florida of the aboriginal tribes. It is just that she shall now go off without consent without making any return. The nation is now in debt for money applied for the benefit of those so-called seceded States in common with the rest. It is just that the seceding States shall go unpaid, or the remaining States pay the whole? If part of the present national debt was contracted to pay the old debts of Texas. It is just that she shall leave and pay no part of this herself! The nation purchased with money the countries of which several of these States were formed. It is just that they shall go off without leave and without refunding. The nation paid very large sums—in the aggregate, I believe, of a hundred millions—for the Florida of the aboriginal tribes. It is just that she shall now go off without consent without making any return. The nation is now in debt for money applied for the benefit of those so-called seceded States in common with the rest. It is just that the seceding States shall go unpaid, or the remaining States pay the whole? If part of the present national debt was contracted to pay the old debts of Texas. It is just that she shall leave and pay no part of this herself!

firmness of the common soldiers and common sailors. To the last man, so far as known, they have successfully resisted the traitorous efforts of those whose commands but an hour before they obeyed as absolute law. This is the patriotic instinct of plain people. They understand, without an argument that the destroying of the Government means no good to them. Our popular Government has often been called an experiment. Two points in our people have already settled—the successful establishing and the administering of it. One still remains—its successful maintenance imagined a formidable intruder attempt to overthrow it. It is for them to demonstrate to the world that those who can fairly carry an election can also suppress a rebellion—that ballots are the rightful and peaceful successors of bullets, and that when ballots have fairly and constitutionally decided there can be no successful appeal back to bullets, that there can be no successful appeal except to ballots themselves at succeeding elections. Such will be a gross and a disgraceful, teaching men what they take by war; teaching all the folly of being the beginners of war.

Let there be some uneasiness in the minds of the Government towards the Southern States after the rebellion shall have been suppressed, the Executive deems it proper to say it is his purpose then, as ever, to be guided by the Constitution and the laws, and that he will probably 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. He desires to preserve the government, that it may be administered to all as it was administered by the men who made it. He desires to preserve the government, that it may be administered to all as it was administered by the men who made it. He desires to preserve the government, that it may be administered to all as it was administered by the men who made it.

ILLINOIS FOR THE INDUSTRIOUS

GARDEN STATE OF THE WEST. The Illinois Central Railroad Company have for Sale 1,200,000 ACRES

OF Rich Preamble Land in the following States and Territories, on Long Credit and at Low Prices.

MICHIGAN, ILLINOIS, AND WISCONSIN. The attention of the enterprising and industrious portion of the community is directed to the following statement and liberal inducements offered them by the Illinois Central Railroad Company.

MECHANICAL, FARMERS, AND VILLAGERS. Which, as they will perceive, will enable them, by proper energy, perseverance, and industry, to provide comfortable and permanent homes for themselves and families, comparatively speaking, very little capital.

LANDS OF ILLINOIS. No State in the value of the Mississippi offers so great an inducement to the settler than the State of Illinois. There is no portion of the world where all the conditions of climate and soil are so admirably combined to produce two great staples, corn and wheat, as the prairie of Illinois.

THE DEEP FERTILE LANDS. The deep rich lands of the prairie of the Western and Middle States are moving to the great advantage of the settler, that it will support millions of people.

RAILROADS AND BUSINESS MARKETS. These lands are contiguous to a railroad even hundred miles in length, and to the great manufacturing and mercantile cities and rivers, thus affording an unrivalled facility of communication with the Eastern and Southern markets.

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THE STATE OF ILLINOIS. The State of Illinois is one of the most fertile and productive in the Union, and is well adapted to the raising of all the various agricultural and stock raising employments.

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