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President's Message.

Fellow-citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives.

When we compare the condition of the country at the present day with what it was one year ago, at the meeting of Congress, we have much reason for gratitude to that Almighty Providence, which has never failed to interpose for our relief, at the most critical periods of our history.

This is now a well-established position, and the proceedings of the last session were alone wanting to give it practical effect. The principle has been recognized, in some form or other, by an almost unanimous vote of both houses of Congress, that a Territory has a right to come into the Union either as a free or a slave State, according to the will of a majority of its people.

While such has been the beneficial tendency of your legislative proceedings outside of Congress, their influence has been even more happy as within that Territory itself. Left to manage and control its own affairs in its own way, without the pressure of external influence, the revolutionary Topeka organization and all resistance to the territorial government, which had been finally abandoned.

As a natural consequence, that fine Territory now appears to be tranquil and prosperous, and is attracting increasing thousands of immigrants to make it their happy home. The past errors of the Convention of Kansas have been the lesson so often already taught, that resistance to lawful authority, under our form of government, cannot fail in the end to prove disastrous to its authors.

It was the result of a faithful authority and the persevering attempts to establish a revolutionary government under the Topeka constitution, which caused the people of Kansas to commit the grave error in refusing to vote for delegates to the convention to frame a constitution, under a law not denied to be fair and just in its provisions.

Under these circumstances, I submitted to Congress the constitution thus framed, with all the officers already elected, and the State government in operation, accompanied by a strong recommendation in favor of the admission of Kansas as a State.

Amritration

BY JOHN B. BRATTON. CARLISLE, PA., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1858. NO. 27.

to subject their constituents to the trouble, expense, and delay of a second election. It would have been in opposition to many precedents in our history, commencing in the very best age of our republic, of the admission of Territories as States, and the other provisions of the constitution of the people approving their constitution.

It is to be lamented that a question so insignificant when viewed in its practical effects on the people of Kansas, whether decided one way or the other, should have been such a name of excitement throughout the country. This reflection may prove to be a lesson of wisdom, and of warning for our future guidance.

My recommendation, however, for the immediate admission of Kansas, is not a mere expression of opinion, but a recommendation of a course of action, which I believe to be the best for the Territory, and for the Union.

Under the ordinance which accompanied the Leocompton constitution, the people of Kansas had claimed double the quantity of public lands for the support of common schools, which had been previously granted to any State upon entering the Union; and also the alternate sections of land for twelve miles on each side of the river, proposed to be constructed from the northern to the Southern boundary, and from the eastern to the western boundary of the State.

It is not probable, in the present state of the case, that a third constitution can be lawfully framed and presented to Congress by Kansas, before its population shall have reached the designated number. Nor is it to be presumed that the people of Kansas will attempt to adopt a constitution in express violation of the provisions of an act of Congress.

Of course, it would be unjust to give this rule a retrospective application, and exclude the Territory from the benefits of the act of 1850, upon the question of admitting Kansas under the Topeka constitution. Again, nearly the whole of the last session was devoted to the question of its admission under the Leocompton constitution. Surely it is not unreasonable to expect the people of Kansas to wait, before making a third attempt, until the number of their inhabitants shall amount to ninety-three thousand four hundred and twenty.

thousand, they should prematurely enter the Union, they are oppressed by the burden of State taxation, and the means necessary for the improvement of the Territory and the advancement of their own interests, are thus diverted to very different purposes.

The federal government has ever been a liberal parent to the Territories, and a generous contributor to the useful enterprises of the settlers. It has paid the expenses of their governments and legislative assemblies out of the common treasury, and thus relieved them from a heavy charge.

It is my duty to inform you, that the Governor and other civil officers of the Territory, and the members of the territorial legislature, are now in the city of Salt Lake City, and the remainder have been ordered to Oregon to suppress Indian hostilities.

I have occasion, also, to congratulate you on the result of our negotiations with China. You were informed by my last annual message, that our minister had been instructed to occupy a neutral position in the dispute conducted between the British and French plenipotentiaries, and that he was, however, at the same time, directed to cooperate cordially with the British and French plenipotentiaries, in their efforts to bring about a settlement of the dispute.

It is my earnest desire that every misander should be promptly removed from Great Britain, and that the British plenipotentiaries should be amicably and speedily adjusted. It has been the misfortune of 3th centuries, almost ever since the period of the revolution, to be engaged in a series of wars, and to be exposed to the most dangerous questions, threatening their very existence.

Immediately upon the formation of a new Territory, people from different States and from foreign countries rush into it, for the laudable purpose of improving their condition. Their first duty to themselves is to open and cultivate farms, to construct roads, to establish schools, to erect places of religious worship, and to invite their energies to be directed to the betterment and to lay the foundations of a flourishing and prosperous commonwealth.

necessary to resort to military force. To aid in accomplishing this object, I deemed it advisable in April last, to dispatch two distinguished citizens, the Hon. Messrs. Powell and McCulloch, to Utah. They bore with them a proclamation addressed by myself to the inhabitants of Utah, dated on the 6th day of that month, warning them of their true condition, and how hopeless was on their part to persist in rebellion against the United States, and offering all those who should submit to the laws a full pardon for their past rebellions and treasons.

At the commencement of your last session, I had reason to hope that, emancipating themselves from further unavailing discussions, the territorial government would proceed to settle the territorial question in a practical manner, agreeable and satisfactory to both; and in this hope I have not yet abandoned.

Our relations with the great empires of France and Russia, as well as with all other governments on the continent of Europe, except that of Spain, continue to be of the most friendly character. In my message of December last, I informed you that our minister had been instructed to occupy a neutral position in the dispute conducted between the British and French plenipotentiaries, and that he was, however, at the same time, directed to cooperate cordially with the British and French plenipotentiaries, in their efforts to bring about a settlement of the dispute.

Spain, after a careful examination of the nature and extent of our grievances, did not believe they were of such a pressing and aggravated character, as would justify Congress in declaring war against her. I was most desirous to adjust these differences by peaceful negotiation, and to withdraw from the Territory, to protect these civil officers, and to aid, as a posse comitatus, in the execution of the laws.

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claim has been abandoned in a manner reflecting honor on the British government, and evincing a just regard for the law of nations, and cannot be strengthened by any amicable relations between the two countries.

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our citizens are in habits of daily and extended personal intercourse with every part of the island. It is, therefore, a great grievance that, when any difficulty occurs, no matter how unimportant, which might be readily settled at the moment, we should be obliged to resort to Madrid, especially when the very first step to be taken there is to refer it back to Cuba.

The truth is that Cuba, in its existing colonial condition, is a constant source of injury and annoyance to the American people. It is the only spot in the civilized world where the African slave-trade is tolerated; and we are bound by treaty with Great Britain, to maintain a naval force on the coast of Africa, as much expense both of life and treasure, solely for the purpose of arresting slaves bound to that Island. The late serious difficulties between the United States and Great Britain respecting the right of search, now so happily terminated, could never have arisen if Cuba had not afforded a market for slaves.

It has been made known to the world by my predecessors, that the United States have, on several occasions, endeavored to acquire Cuba from Spain by treaty, and that, in each case, it was accomplished, the late relic of the African slave-trade would instantly disappear. We would not, if we could, acquire Cuba in any other manner. This is due to our national character. At the territory, which we have acquired since the origin of the government, has been by fair purchase from France, Spain and Mexico, or by the free and voluntary act of the independent State of Texas, in blending her destinies with our own.

Our relations with Spain, which ought to be of the most friendly character, are now in a deplorable state. In my message of December last, I informed you that our minister had been instructed to occupy a neutral position in the dispute conducted between the British and French plenipotentiaries, and that he was, however, at the same time, directed to cooperate cordially with the British and French plenipotentiaries, in their efforts to bring about a settlement of the dispute.

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Our late minister was furnished with ample powers and instructions for the adjustment of all pending questions with the central government of Mexico, and he performed his duty with zeal and ability. He has been repeatedly and justly commended for his efforts, and for his success in bringing about the adjustment of the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, and others from gross injuries to persons as well as property, have remained unredressed and even unnoticed. Demonstrations of indignation have been manifested, and addressed without effect to that government. Multitudes in various parts of the Republic, instances have been numerous of the murder, imprisonment, and plunder of our citizens, by different parties claiming and exercising a local jurisdiction; but the central government, and addressed without effect to that government. Multitudes in various parts of the Republic, instances have been numerous of the murder, imprisonment, and plunder of our citizens, by different parties claiming and exercising a local jurisdiction; but the central government, and addressed without effect to that government.

This State of affairs was brought to a crisis in May last, by the promulgation of a decree, by which a contribution pro rata upon the property of the Republic, and certain specified amounts, whether held by Mexicans or foreigners. Mr. Forsyth, regarding this decree in the light of a "forced loan," formally protested against its application to his country, and advised them not to pay the contribution, but to suffer it to be forcibly exacted. Acting upon this advice, an American citizen refused to pay the contribution, and his property was seized, and the banishment was enforced. Mr. Forsyth promptly announced to the government the suspension of the political relations of his legislation with them, until the pleasure of his own government should be ascertained.

This government did not regard the contribution imposed by the decree of the 15th of May last to be in strictness a "forced loan," and as such a violation of the principles of justice, and of the treaty of 1823 between Great Britain and Mexico, to the benefit of which American citizens are entitled by treaty; yet the imposition of the contribution upon foreigners was considered, justly and as an oppressive measure. Besides, internal factions in other parts of the Republic were at the same time levying similar exactions upon the property of our citizens, and interrupting their commerce. There had been an order on the part of our minister, to secure redress for the wrongs which our citizens had endured, notwithstanding his persevering efforts. And from the temper manifested by the Mexican government, he had reason to believe that no favorable change could be expected, until the United States should "give striking evidence of their will and power to protect their citizens," and that the Mexican government would only earthily remedy for our grievances.

From this state of facts, it would have been worse than idle, to direct Mr. Forsyth to retract his position, and resume diplomatic relations with the government; and it was therefore deemed proper to sanction his withdrawal of the legation from the city of Mexico. Abundant cause now undoubtedly exists, for a resort to hostilities against the government, still holding possession of the capital. Should they succeed in subduing the constitutional forces, all reasonable hope will then have expired of a peaceful settlement of our difficulties. On the other hand, should the constitutional party prevail, and their authority be established over the Republic, there is reason to hope that they will be animated by a less animosity to our citizens, and that the Mexican government will only earthily remedy for our grievances.

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