

President's Message.

Fellow-citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives:

In the midst of unprecedented political troubles, we have cause of great gratitude to God for unusual good health and most abundant harvests.

You will not be surprised to learn, that in the peculiar exigencies of the times, our intercourse with foreign nations has been attended with profound solicitude, chiefly turning upon our own domestic affairs.

A nation which endures factious domestic division is exposed to disrespect abroad, and one party, if not both, is sure, sooner or later, to invoke foreign intervention.

The disloyal citizens of the United States who have offered the ruin of our country in return for the aid and comfort which they have invoked abroad, have received less patronage and encouragement than they probably expected.

If we could dare to believe that foreign nations are actuated by no higher principle than this, I am quite sure a sound argument could be made to show them that they can reach their aim more readily and easily by aiding to crush this rebellion than by giving encouragement to it.

The large addition to the regular army in connection with the defection that has so considerably diminished the number of its officers, gives peculiar importance to his recommendation for increasing the corps of Cadets to the greatest capacity of the Military Academy.

By mere omission, I presume, Congress has failed to provide Chaplains for hospitals occupied by volunteers. This subject was brought to my notice, and I was induced to draw up the form of a letter, one copy of which, properly addressed, has been delivered to each of the persons, and at the dates, respectively named, and stated in a schedule containing also the form of the letter (letter marked A) and herewith transmitted.

The gentleman I understood entered upon the duties designated at the times respectively stated in the schedule, and has labored faithfully there ever since.

I also, in the same connection, ask the attention of Congress to our great lakes and rivers. It is believed that some fortifications and depots of arms and munitions, with harbor and navigation improvements, all at well selected points upon these waters, would be of great importance to the national defence and preservation.

I ask attention to the views of the Secretary of War expressed in his report upon the same general subject. I deem it of importance that the loyal regions of East Tennessee and Western North Carolina should be connected with Kentucky and other faithful parts of the Union by railroads.

Some treaties designed chiefly for the interests of commerce, and having no grave political importance, have been negotiated, and will be submitted to the Senate for their consideration.

Although we have failed to induce some of the commercial powers to adopt a considerable melioration of the rigor of a maritime war, we have removed all obstructions from the way of this humane reform, except such as are merely of temporary and accidental occurrence.

I invite your attention to the correspondence between Her Britannic Majesty's Minister, accredited to this Government, and the Secretary of State, relative to the detention of the British ship Perthshire in June last, by the United States steamer Massachusetts, for a supposed breach of the blockade.

I repeat the recommendation of my predecessor, in his annual message to Congress in December last, in regard to the disposition of the surplus which will probably remain after satisfying the claims of American citizens against China, pursuant to the awards of the Commissioners under the act of the 24th of March, 1859.

If, however, it should not be deemed advisable to carry that recommendation into effect, I would suggest that authority be given investing the principal over the surplus, with the view to the satisfaction of such other just claims of our citizens against China as are not unlikely to arise hereafter in the course of our extensive trade with that empire.

By the act of the 6th of August last, Congress authorized the President to instruct the Commanders of suitable vessels to defend ourselves against capture prizes. This authority has been exercised in a single instance only.

If any good reason exists why we should persevere longer in withholding our recognition of the independence and sovereignty of Hayti, I am unable to discover it.

Many of these sets have been drawn in haste and without sufficient caution, so that their provisions are often obscure in themselves, or in conflict with each other; or at least, so doubtful as to render it very difficult for even the best informed person to ascertain precisely the effect of their respective provisions.

That important commercial advantages might be secured by favorable treaties with them. The operations of the Treasury during the period which has elapsed since your adjournment, have been conducted with signal economy. The patriotism of the people has placed at the disposal of the Government, the large means demanded by the public exigencies.

The revenues from all sources, including loans for the financial year, ending on the 30th of June, 1861, was \$96,555,907, and the expenditures for the same period, including payments on account of the public debt, were \$84,578,844, leaving a balance in the Treasury, on the 1st of July, of \$2,257,065 80.

For the first quarter of the financial year, ending on the 20th of September, 1861, the receipts from all sources, including the balance of the 1st of July, were \$10,532,509 27, and the expenditures \$9,738 09, leaving a balance on the 1st of October, 1861, of \$4,202,778 18.

Estimates for the remaining three-quarters of the year, and for the financial year of 1862, together with his views of ways and means for meeting the demands contemplated by them, will be submitted to Congress by the Secretary of the Treasury.

It is gratifying to know that the expenditures made necessary by the rebellion are not beyond the resources of the loyal people, and to believe that the same patriotism which has thus far sustained the Government will continue to sustain it till peace and union shall again be the land.

It is gratifying to know that the patriotism of the people has proved equal to the occasion, and that the number of troops which are raised exceeds the force which Congress authorized me to call into the field.

I refer with pleasure to those portions of his report which make allusion to the creditable degree of discipline already attained by our troops, and to the excellent sanitary condition of the entire army.

The recommendation of the Secretary for an organization of the militia upon a uniform basis, is a subject of vital importance to the future safety of the country, and is commended to the serious attention of Congress.

The report of the Secretary of the Navy presents in detail the operations of that branch of the service, the activity and energy which have characterized its administration, and the results of the measures to increase its efficiency and power.

There are three vacancies on the bench of the Supreme Court; two by the decease of Justice Daniel and McLean, and one by the resignation of Justice Campbell.

During the long and brilliant judicial career of Judge McLean, his circuit grew into an empire altogether too large for any one Judge to give the Courts therein more than a nominal attention.

The present insurrection shows, I think that the extension of this District across the Potomac river at the time of establishing the Capitol here, was eminently wise, and consequently, when the relinquishment of that portion of which it was the State of Virginia, was unwise and dangerous.

The report of the Secretary of the Interior, with the accompanying documents, exhibit the condition of the several branches of the public business pertaining to that Department.

The census of the population of the United States in 1860, was 31,000,000. In 1850, it was 23,000,000. The increase in the population of the country generally has outgrown our present judicial system.

It is not possible to remedy, without a change of the system, because the adding of Judges to the Supreme Court, enough for the accommodation of all parts of the country by Circuit Courts, would create a Court altogether too numerous for a judicial body of any sort.

Three modifications occur to me either of which I think would be an improvement upon our present system. One is to divide the country into a smaller number of circuits, by the addition of new States come into the Union.

Another is to divide the circuits into smaller divisions, and to provide for the relief of the Circuit Judges by Circuit Judges provided for all the Circuits; or, thirdly, to divide the Circuit Courts all together, leaving the judicial functions wholly to the District Court and an independent Supreme Court.

I respectfully recommend to the consideration of Congress the present condition of the Statute Laws, with the hope that Congress will be able to find an easy remedy for many of the inconveniences and evils which constantly embarrass those engaged in the practical administration of them.

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It is believed that the United States will readily cease all hostile demonstrations, and resume their former relations to the Government.

Agriculture, confessedly the largest interest of the nation, has not a department nor a bureau, and a clerk is only assigned to it in the Government.

The extent of the laws for the suppression of the African slave trade has been confined to the Department of the Interior. It is a subject of gratulation that the efforts which have been made for the suppression of this inhuman traffic have been recently attended with unusual success.

Five vessels being fitted out for the slave trade have been seized and condemned. Two persons engaged in equipping a slave for the same purpose have been convicted of the offence under our laws, the punishment of which is death.

The Territories of Colorado, Dakota, and Nebraska, created by the late Congress, have been organized, and civil administration has been inaugurated therein under auspices especially gratifying, when it is considered that the eleven territories were founded in some of the new countries when the Federal officers arrived there.

So far the authority of the United States has been upheld in all the Territories, as it is hoped will be in the future. I commend their interests and defence to the enlightened and generous care of Congress.

I recommend to the favorable consideration of Congress the interests of the District of Columbia. The insurrection has been the cause of much suffering and sacrifice to its inhabitants.

Under and by virtue of the act of Congress, entitled "an act to confiscate property used for insurrectionary purposes," approved August 6th, 1861, the legal claims of certain persons for the labor and services of certain other persons have become forfeited.

I regret to say I have been unable to give permanent attention to this subject, and at once so interesting in itself, and so extensively and intimately connected with the material prosperity of the world.

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It is assumed that the labor is available only in connection with capital; that nobody can labor unless somebody else owning capital, somehow by the use of it, induces him to labor.

It is not needed nor fitting here that a general argument should be made in favor of liberal institutions. But there is one point upon which connections not so hackneyed as most others, to which I ask a brief attention.

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South of the line, noble little Delaware led off right from the first. Maryland was made to seem against the Union. Our soldiers were assailed, bridges were burned and railroads torn up within her limits, and we were many days at one time without the ability to bring a single regiment over her soil to the Capital.

Kentucky, too, for some time in doubt, now decidedly and I think unchangeably ranged on the side of the Union. Missouri is comparatively quiet, and I believe cannot again be overrun by the insurrectionists.

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world, labors for wages awhile, saves a surplus with which to buy tools or land for himself, then labors on his own account another while; and at length hires another new beginner to help him.

This is the just and generous and prosperous system which opens the way to all, gives hope to all, and consequently energy and progress and improvement of the condition of all.

No man living is more worthy to be trusted than those who take up from poverty—none less inclined to toll or touch ought which they have not honestly earned. Let them beware of surrendering a political power which they already possess, and which, if surrendered, will surely be used to close the doors of advancement against such as they, and to fix new disabilities and burdens upon them till all of liberty shall be lost.

From the first taking of our National Census to the last one seventy years, and we find our population at the end of the period eight times as great as it was at the beginning. The increase of those other things which men deem desirable has been greater.

We thus have at one view what the popular principle applied to government through the Judiciary of the States and the Union has produced in its own country, and which, if firmly maintained, it promises for the future.

There are already among us those who, if the Union be preserved, will live to see it contain two hundred and fifty millions. The struggle of to-day is not altogether for to-day, it is for a vast future also. With a reliance on Providence all the means firm and earnest, let us proceed in the great task which events have developed upon us.

WASHINGTON, DEC. 3, 1861.

SENTENCE OF A SLAVE TRADER.—Nathanilo Gordon, convicted in the United States Court at New York, of piracy in carrying slaves from the coast of Africa, was sentenced on Saturday morning by Judge Shipman to be hung, in sentencing him, the Judge said:

In the verdict of the jury it is my duty to say that the Court fully concurred. The evidence of your guilt was so full and complete as to exclude from the minds of your triers all doubt.

You are soon to be confronted with the terrible consequences of your crime, and it is proper that I should call to your mind the duty of preparing for that event which will soon terminate your mortal existence, and usher you into the presence of the Supreme Judge! Let me implore you to seek the spiritual guidance of the minister of religion, and let your repentance be as thorough and humble as your crime was great.

Do not attempt to hide its enormity from yourself. Think of the cruelty and wickedness of seizing nearly a thousand fellow beings who never did you harm, and trusting them between the decks of a small ship beneath a burning tropical sun—to die of disease or suffocation, or to be transported to distant lands, and consign them to the posterity, to a fate far more cruel than death!

Think of the suffering of the unhappy beings whom you crowded on to the Erie, of the helpless agony and terror as you took them from their native land, and especially think of those who perished under the weight of their miseries on the passage from the place of your capture to Monrovia!

Do not imagine because others shared in the guilt of enterprise, you are therefore excused, but remember the awful admonition of your Bible "though hand join on hand the wicked shall not go unpunished." Turn your thoughts towards Him who alone can pardon and who is not deaf to the supplications of those who seek his mercy.

It remains only to pronounce the sentence which the law affixes to your crime, which is that you be taken back to the city prison from whence you were brought, and remain there until Friday, the 7th day of February next, and then and thence to the place of execution, and there undergo the hours of twelve o'clock at noon and three o'clock in the afternoon you are to be hanged by the neck until you are dead, and may the Lord have mercy on your soul.

The prisoner was not in the least affected, although the Judge and the spectators exhibited considerable emotion.

HE REMANDED, and left the Court with his counsel.

EXCITEMENT IN NEW YORK.—The War Risk on Vessels Advanced.—The burning of the ship Harvey Birch by the Confederate steamer Nashville, as announced in the foreign news, caused the most intense excitement among the shipping merchants in New York on Saturday, and formed the chief topic of conversation in business circles.

Its effects on change were quite apparent, and there was a general disposition among shippers to operate very cautiously in breadstuffs, until further advices were obtained from the other side. The effects upon freights were depressing, as far as American bottoms are concerned, although there were some who were enough done to let what the effect would be. There was in fact a very unsettled and rather gloomy feeling among business men generally.

The Harvey Birch was a splendid clipper ship of 1,482 tons, built at Mystic, Conn., in 1856, and owned by Messrs. J. H. Brewer & Co., of this city. She was valued at \$60,000, and has only the simple marine insurance in her policy of insurance; and therefore is a total loss to her owners.

The board of Underwriters held a long session on Saturday morning upon this matter, and finally concluded to advance the war risk to five per cent. They will insure to a moderate extent at this rate, although many vessels now due in the British Channel will be unable to get insured, unless at a still higher rate.—There is considerable anxiety felt here in regard to the steamer Arago, which was due at Southampton two days after the Nashville arrived there.

MR. HAY, private secretary to the President, has a touching sketch of Col. Baker in Harper's for December, from which we extract the following:

THE DEATH OF THE PRESIDENT'S FRIENDS.—Alas for the dead hours of honest friendship! the goodly fellowship of noble spirits! Where are the good fellows who were friends at Springfield in the happy days of 1848? Where were the ones who went up through the murky canopy whose baleful shadow hung over the battling legions at Buena Vista; Bissell passed from lingering pain to Paradise, honored in the highest by the State that he had honored; Douglas lies under the prairie sod in the dear old Illinois, whose half-strangled heart burned with more than the old love for him before he died; Baker rests glorious in death, a precious offering to the spirit of Freedom, to which through life his worship was paid; and Lincoln stands, lonely in his power, a sadder, sadder, better man than of old, time beginning to sift its early snow upon the blackness of his hair, his hand heavy with the sorrows of a nation, his mind and soul pledged to self-abnegating effort, to keep from detriment in his hands the costly treasure of constitutional government.