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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Message from the President regarding the slave trade and international relations.

Our deep and heartfelt gratitude is due to that Almighty Power which has bestowed upon us such varied and numerous blessings throughout the past year.

While it is the duty of the President from time to time to give to Congress information of the state of the Union, I shall not refer to the recent and bloody occurrence at Harper's Ferry.

When in the progress of events the number required to form a State, it will then proceed, to a regular manner and in the exercise of the rights of popular sovereignty, to form a Constitution preparatory to admission into the Union.

All lawful means at my command have been employed, and shall continue to be employed to execute the laws against the African slave trade.

Our history proves that the Fathers of the Republic were not ignorant of the fact that the African slave trade, as it is now, is a trade which is not only a source of national weakness, but a source of national dishonor.

It will be seen that this restriction on the power of Congress was confined to such States only as might think proper to admit the importation of slaves.

As it is a year 1808 approached, Congress determined not to suffer this trade to exist even for a single day.

I cordially congratulate you upon the final settlement of the question of slavery in the Territory, which had presented an aspect so truly formidable at the commencement of my administration.

laws prohibiting the importation of slaves, these laws would have failed of effect for want of a naval force to capture the slave ships and to guard the coasts.

These acts of Congress, it is believed, have, with very rare and insignificant exceptions, accomplished their purpose.

Reopen the trade, and it would be difficult to determine whether the effect would be more deleterious to the interests of the master or to those of the native-born slave.

The effect upon the existing slave world, if possible, be more deplorable. At present it is treated with kindness and humanity.

It is in the view that the employment of other than peaceful means might become necessary to obtain "just satisfaction" for Paraguay, a strong naval force is required.

On the other hand, had a market for African slaves shall no longer be furnished in Cuba, and that the trade will be against it, we may then indulge a reasonable hope for the gradual improvement of Africa.

On the 15th December, 1859, John E. Ward, a distinguished citizen of Georgia, was duly commissioned as envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to the Emperor of the United States.

It did not occur to the reverend patriots who had delegates to the Convention, and afterwards became members of Congress, that in passing these laws they had violated the Constitution.

According to the adverse construction of the clause itself, which so much has been discussed had been employed by the amendment had been employed by the amendment.

as this may be consistent with our own national honor. The conduct of our minister on the occasion has received my entire approbation.

In order to carry out the spirit of this treaty, and to give it full effect, it became necessary to give it full effect, it became necessary to give it full effect.

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quite clear his object was to prevent the British authorities from exercising jurisdiction over the island of St. Juan, and to prevent them from exercising jurisdiction over the island of St. Juan.

Each excitement prevailed for some time throughout that region, and serious danger of collision between the British and American authorities pending the negotiation between the two governments.

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I believe this is the first instance since the origin of the Federal Government, now more than seventy years ago, when they were first called upon to exercise without having passed any general appropriation bills necessary to carry on the government until the regular period for the meeting of the new Congress.