ΓΗΕ LANCASTER INTELLIGENCER. reasonable outlay, would be an economical as well as effective aids to the diplomatic, mili-SLISHED FURN TURSDAY, AT NO. 8 NORTH DUER STREET, BY GEO. SANDERSON.

TERMS.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Fellow-citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives: Another year of health and of sufficiently abundant harvests has passed. For these, and especially for the improved condition of our national affairs, our renewed and profound gratitude to God is due.

OUR FOREIGN RELATIONS We remain in peace and friendship with foreign power. The efforts of disloyal citizens of the United States to involve us in foreign wars, to aid an inexcusable insurrec tion, have been unavailing. Her Britannic Majesty's Government, as was justly expected, have exercised their authority to prevent the departure of new hostile expeditions from British ports. The Emperor of France has, by a like proceeding, promptly vindicated the neutrality which he proclaimed at the beginning of the contest. Questions of great intricacy and importance have arisen out of the blockade and other belligerent operations between the Governmen several of the maritime Powers, but they have been discussed and, as far as was pos sible, accommodated in a spirit of frankness, justice, and mutual good will. It is especially gratifying that our prize courts, by the impariality of their adjudications, have manded the respect and confidence of

maritime Powers. The suplemental treaty between the United States and Great Britain, for the suppression of the African slave trade, made on the 17th day of February last, has been duly ratified and carried into execution. It is believed that, so far as American ports and American citizens are concerned, that inhuman and odicus traffic has been brought to an end.

I shall submit for the consideration of the

Senate a convention for the adjustment of possession claims in Washington Territory, arising out of the treaty of the 15th of June, 1846, between the United States and Great Britain, and which have been the source of me disquiet among the citizens of that now

rapidly improving part of the country.

A novel and important question, involving the extent of the maritime jurisdiction of Spain on the waters which surround the island of Cuba, has been debated without reaching an agreement, and it is proposed, in an amicable spirit, to refer it to the arbitrament of a friendly Power. A convention for that purpose will be submitted to the

I have thought it proper, subject to the approval of the Senate, to concur with the interested commercial powers, in an arrange-ment for the liquidation of the Scheldt dues, upon the principles which have been hereto-fore adopted in regard to the imposts upon navigation in the waters of Denmark. long-pending controversy between this Government and that of Chili, touching the seizure at Siltena, in Peru, by Chilian officers, of a large amount in treasure belonging to citiof the United States, has been brough to a close by the award of his Majesty the King of the Belgians, to whose arbitration the question was referred by the parties. ubject was thoroughly and patiently examined by that justly respected magistrate, and, although the sum awarded to the claimants may not have been so large as they expected, ere is no reason to distrust the wisdom of his Majesty's decision. That decision was promptly complied with by Chili when intelce in regard to it reached that country. The joint commission under the act of the last session for carrying into effect the con-

vention with Peru, on the subject of claims. has been organized at Lima, and is engaged in the business entrusted to it. Difficulties concerning inter-oceanic transit through Nicaragua are in course of amicable adjustment. In conformity with the principles set forth in my last annual mes-I have received a representative from the United States of Columbia, and have accredited a minister to that republic.

RIGHTS OF FOREIGNERS. Incidents occurring in the progress of our civil war have forced upon my attention the uncertain state of international questions touching the rights of foreigners in this and of the United States citizens abroad. In regard to some Governments, these rights are, at least partially, defined by treaties. In no instance, however, is i expressly stipulated that, in the event of a foreigner residing in this country, within the lines of the insurgents, is to be exempted from the rule which classes him igerent, in whose behalf the Govern ment of his country cannot expect any privileges or immunities distinct from that character. I regret to say, however, that such claims have been put forward, and, in some instances, in behalf of foreigners who

have lived in the United States the greater part of their lives. part of their lives.

There is reason to belive that many persons born in foreign countries who have declared their intention to become citizens, or who have been fully naturalized, have evided the military duty required of them by denying the fact, and thereby throwing upon the vernment the burden of proof. It has been found difficult or impracticable to obtain this proof from the want of guides to the proper sources of information. These might be supplied by requiring clerks of courts where declarations of intention may be made or naturalization effected, to send periodically a list of the names of the persons naturalized, r declaring their intention to become citizens, to the Secretary of the Interior, in whose department these names might be arranged and printed for general information. There is also reason to believe that foreigners requently become citizens of the United States for the sole purpose of evadin dates imposed by the laws of their native countries, to which, on becoming naturalized here, they at once repair, and, though never returning to the United States, they still claim the interposition of this Government, as citizens. Many altercations, and great prejudice, have heretofore arisen out of this abuse. It is therefore submitted to your serious consideration. It might be advisable to fix a limit beyond which no citizen of the Juited States, residing abroad, may claim the interposition of his Government. The ight of suffrage has often been assumed and exercised by aliens, under pretences of naturilization, which they have disavowed when drafted into the military service. I submit the expediency of such an amendment of the law as will make the fact of voting an estop-pel against any plea of exemption from mil-itary service, or other civil obligation, on the

ground of alienage. OUR INTERCOURSE WITH EUROPE. In common with other Western Powers, our relations with Japan have been brought into serious jeopardy through the perverse opposition of the hereditary aristocracy of the empire to the enlightened and liberal policy of the Tycoon, designed to bring the country into the society of nations. It is hoped, although not with entire confidence, that these difficulties may be peacefully overcome. I ask your storyies come. I ask your attention to the claim of the minister residing there for the damages sustained in the destruction by fire of the

residence of the legation at Yeddo. Satisfactory arrangements have been made with the Emperor of Russia, which it is bewith the Emperor of Russia, which it is be-lieved will result in effecting a continuous line of telegraph through that Empire from our Pacific coast. I recommend to your favorable consideration the subject of ternational telegraph across the Atlantic Ocean, and also of a telegraph between the capital and the national forts along the At-lantic seaboard and the Gulf of Mexico. Such communication, established with any

tary, and naval service. The consular system of the United States, under the enactments of the last Congress, begings to be self sustaining, and there is reason to hope that it may become entirely so, with an increase of trade which will ensue whenever peace is restored.

Our ministers abroad have been faithfully defending American rights. In protecting commercial interests, our consuls have necessarily had to encounter increased labors and responsibilities, growing out of the war. These they have, for the most part, met and discharged with zeal and part, met and discharged with 2001 the efficiency. This acknowledgment justly includes those consuls who, residing in Morocco, Egypt, Turkey, Japan, China, and other Oriental countries, are charged with complex functions and extraordinary pow-

CONDITION OF THE TERRITORIES. The condition of the several organized Territories is generally satisfactory, although Indian disturbances in New Mexico have not been entirely suppressed. The mineral resources of Colorado, Nevada, Idaho, New Mexico, and Arizona, are proving far richer than has been heretofore understood. I lay before you a communication on this subject from the Governor of New Mexico. I again submit to your consideration the expediency of establishing a system for the encouragement of immigration. Although this source of national wealth and strength is again flowing with greater freedom than for several years before the insurrection occurred, there is still a great deficiency of laborers in every field of industry, especially in agriculture, and in our mires, as well of iron and coal as of the precious metals. While the demand for labor is thus increased here, tens of thousands of persons, destitute of remunerative occupation, are thronging our foreign consulates and offering to emigrate to the United States if essential but very cheap assistance can be afforded them. It is easy to see that, under the sharp discipline of civil war, the nation is beginning a new life. This noble efforts demands the aid and ought to receive the attention and support of the Government.

INJURIES TO FOREIGN SUBJECTS. Injuries unforseen by the Government, and unintended, may, in some cases, have been inflicted upon the subjects or citizens of foreign countries, both at sea and on land, by persons in the service of the United States. persons in the service of the office States. As this Government expects redress from other Powers when similar injuries are inflicted by persons in their service upon citizens of the United States, we must be pre-pared to do justice to foreigners. If the exsting judical tribunals are inadequate to this purpose, a special court may be authorized, with power to hear and decide such claims of the character referred to as may have arisen under treaties and the public law. Conventions for adjusting the claims by joint commissions have been proposed to some Governments, but no definitive answer to the proposition has not been proposition.

to the proposition has yet been received from In the course of the session I shall probably have occasion to request you to provide indemnification to claiments where decrees of restitution have been rendered and damages awarded by Admiralty courts. And in other cases where this Government may be acknowledged to be liable in principle, and where the amount of that liability has been ascertained by an informal arbitration, the proper officers of the Treasury have deemed elves required of the Uni ted States upon the subject, to demand a tax upon the incomes of foreign consuls in this country. While such a demand may not, in strictness, be in derogation of public law, or perhaps of any existing treaty between the United States and a foreign country, the expediency of so far modifying the act as to exempt from tax the incomes of such consuls as are not citizens of the the United States, derived from the emoluments of their offic from property not situated in the United States, is submitted to your serious consider. ation. I make this suggestion upon the ground that a comity which ought to be reciprotated exempts our consuls in all other countries, from taxation. To the extent thus indicated, the United States, I think, ought not to be exceptionally illiberal to international trade and commerce.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT. The operations of the Treasury during the last year have been successfully conducted. The enactment by Congress of a National Banking law has proved a valuable support of the public credit, and the general legisla-tion in relation to loans has fully answered the expectations of its favores. the expectations of its favorers. Some amendments may be required to perfect existing laws, but no change on their principles or general scope is believed to be needed.

Since these measures have been in operation, all demands on the treasury, including the pay of the army and navy, have been promptly met and fully satisfied. No considerable body of troops, it is believed, were ever more amply provided and more liberally and punctually paid, and, it may be added, that by no people were the burdens incident to a great war ever more cheerfully borne.-The receipts during the year from all sources, including loans and the balance in the treasury at its commencement, were \$901,-125,674 86, and the aggregate disbursements, \$895,796,630,65, leaving a balance on the 1st of July, 1863, of \$5,329.044.21. Of the re ceipts there were derived from customs \$69,059,642.40; from internal revenue, \$37, 640,787.95; from direct taxes, \$1,485,103.61; from lands, \$167,617.17; from miscellaneous sources, \$3,046,615.35, and from loans. \$ 682,361.57, making the aggregate \$901,125,-Of the disbursements there were for the civil service, \$23,253,922.08; for pensions and Indians, \$4,216,520.79; for interest on public debt, \$24,729,846.51; for the War Department, \$599,298,600 83; for the Navy Department, \$63,211,105.27; for payment of funded and temporary debt. \$181,680,635.07

making the aggregate \$895,796,630.65, and leaving the balance of \$5,329,044.21. But the payment of the funded and temporary debt having been made from moneys orrowed during the year, must be regarded as merely nominal payments, and the mon-eys borrowed to make them as merely nomnal receipts, and their amount, \$181,086,-635,07, should therefore be deducted both

from the receipts and disbursement. This being done, there remains as actual receipts \$720,039,093.79, and the actual disoursements \$714,709,995 58, leaving the bal-

once as already stated. The actual receipts and disbursements for the first quarter, and the estimated receipts and disbursements for the remaining threequarters of the current fiscal year of 1864 will be shown in detail by the report of the Secretary of the Treasury, to which I invite your attention. It is sufficient to say here that it is not believed that actual results will exhibit a state of the finances less favorable to the country than the estimates of that officer heretofore submitted, while it is confidently expected that at the close of the year both disbursements and debt will be found very considerably less than has been

THE WAR DEPARTMENT. " The report of the Secretery of War is a document of great interest. It consists of— First. The military operations of the year, etailed in the report of the General-in-Chief.

Second. The organization of colored persons into the war service. Third. The exchange of prisoners, fully set forth in the letter of General Hitchcock. Fourth. The operations under the act for enrolling and calling out the national forces, detailed in the report of the Provost Marshal

Fifth. The organization of the Invalid Corps; and Corps; and
Sixth. The operation of the several departments of the Quartermaster General, Commissary General, Paymaster General, Chief of Engineers, Chief of Ordnance, and Sur-

geon General.

It has appeared impossible to make a valuable summary of this report, except such as would be teo extended for this place, and

hence I content myself by asking your attention to the report itself.

THE NAVY DEPARTMENT. The duties devolving on the naval branch of the service, during the year and throughout the whole of this unhappy contest, have been discharged with fidelity and eminent success. The extensive blockade has been capatable increasing in officiency as the constantly increasing in efficiency as the navy has expanded, yet on so long a line it has so far been impossible to entirely suppress illicit trade. From the returns received at the Navy Description ed at the Navy Department, it appears that more than one thousand vessels have been captured since the blockade was instituted, and that the value of prizes already sent in

for adjudication amounts to over \$13,000,000.

The naval force of the United States consists at this time of 588 vessels, completed and in the course of completion, and of these 75 are iron-clad or armored steamers. The events of the war give an increased interest and importance to the navy, which will probably extend beyond the war itself. The armored vessels in our navy, completed and in service, or which are under contract and approaching completion, are believed to exceed in number those of any other Power; but while these may be relied upon for harbor defense and coast service, others of greater strength and capacity will strength and capacity will be necessary for cruising purposes, and to maintain our right-ful position on the ocean. The change that has taken place in naval vessels and naval warfare, since the introduction of steam as a motive power for ships-of war, demands either a corresponding change in some of our existing navy yards, or the establishment of new ones, for the construction and necessary repair of modern naval vessels.-No inconsiderable embarrassment, delay, and public injury have been experience from the want of such Government establish-

The necessity of such a navy yard, so furnished, at some suitable place upon the At-lantic seaboard, has, on repeated occasions, been brought to the attention of Congress by the Navy Department, and is again presented in the report of the Secretary which accomduty to invite your special attention to this subject, and also to that of establishing a yard depot for naval purposes upon one of the Western rivers. A naval force had been created on these interior waters, and under many disadvantages, within little more than two years, exceeding in numbers the whole naval force of the country at the commencement of the present Administration. Satisfactory and important as have been the per-formances of the heroic men of the navy at this interesting period, they are scarcely more wonderful than the success of our mechanics and artisans in the production of war vessels, which has created a new form

Our country has advantages superior to any other nation in our resources of iron and timber, with inexhaustible quantities of fuel in the immediate vicinity of both, and all available and in close proximity to navigable waters. Without the advantage of public works, the resources of the nation have been developed and its power displayed in the construction of a navy of such magnitude which has at the very period of its creation. which has at the very period of its creation, rendered signal service to the Union.

The increase of the number of seamen in The increase of the number of seamen in the public service from 7.500 men in the spring of 1861 to about 34,000 at the present time, has been accomplished without special legislation or extraordinary bounties to promose that increase. It has been found, howthe high bounties paid for army recruits, is beginning, to affect injuriously the naval service, and will, if not corrected, be likely to impair its efficiency, by detaching seamen from their proper calling, and inducing them to enter the army. I therefore respectfully suggest that Congress might aid both the army and naval services by a definite provision on this subject, which would at he same time be equitable to the communities more especially interested. I commend to your consideration the sug-

gestions of the Secretary of the Navy in regard to the policy of fostering and training seamen, and also the education of officers and engineers for the naval service. The Naval Academy is rendering signal service in preparing midshipmen for the highly responsible duties which in after life they will required to perform In order that the country should not be deprived of the proper quota of educated officers, for which legal provision has been made at the Naval School the vacancies caused by the neglect or omis sion to make nominations from the States in nsurrection have been filled by the Secretary of the Navy. The school is now more full and complete than at any former period, and in every respect entitled to the favorable consideration of Congress.

THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT. During the past fiscal year, the financial condition of the Post Office Department has been one of increasing prosperity, and I am gatified in being able to state that the actual postal revenue has nearly equalled the entire expenditures, the latter amounting to \$11,314,206 84, and the former to \$11,163,789. eaving a deficiency of but \$150,417 25. In 1860, the year immediately preceding the rebellion, the deficiency amounted to \$5,656,-705 49, the postal receipts of that year being \$2,645,722 19 less than those of 1863. The decrease, since 1860, in the annual amount of transportation has been only about twentyfive per cent., but the annual expenditure on account of the same has been reduced thirty-five per cent. It is manifest, therefore, that the Post Office Department may become self sustaining in a few years, even with

the restoration of the whole service. The International Conference of postal delegates, from the principal countries of Eurupe and America, which was called at the suggestion of the Postmaster General, met at Paris on the 11th of May last, and concluded its deliberations on the 8th of June. The principles established by the Conference as pest adapted to facilitate postal intercourse between nations, and as the basis of future postal conventions, inaugurate a general system of uniform international charges, at reduced rates of postage, and cannot fail to produce beneficial results.

THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT I refer you to the report of the Secretary of the Interior, which is herewith laid before you, for useful and varied information in relation to the public lands, Indian affairs, patents, pensions, and other matters of public concern pertaining to his department.

The quantity of land disposed of during

the quantity of fand disposed of during the last and the fir t quarter of the present fiscal years was three million eight bundred and forty-one thousand five hundred and forty-nine acres, of which 161,911 acres were sold for cash; 1,456,514 acres were taken up under the homestead law, and the residue disposed of under laws granting lands for military bounties, for railroad and other purposes. It also appears that the sale of the is largely on the increase. It has long been a cherished opinion of some of our wisest states men that the people of the United States had a higher and more enduring interest in the early settlement and substantial cultivation o the public lands than in the amount of direct revenue to be derived from the sale of them. This opinion has had a controlling influence in shaping legislation on the subject of our national domain. I may cite, as evidence of this, the liberal measures adopted in reference to actual settlers. The grant to the States of the overflowed lands within their limits, in order to their being reclaimed and rendered fit for cultivation, the grant to railroad companies of alternate sections of land upon the contemplated lines of their roads, which when completed, will so largely multiply the facilities for reaching our distant possessions. This policy has received its most signal and beneficial illustration in the recent enactment granting homesteads to actual settlers. Since the first day of January last, the before mentioned quantity of one million four hun-dred and fifty-six thousand five hundred and ourteen acres of land have been taken up under its provisions. This fact, and the amount of sales, furnish gratifying evidence of increasing settlement upon the public lands.—Notwithstanding the great struggle in which

the energies of the nation have been engaged,

and which has required so large a withdrawal of our citizens from their accustomed pursuits, I cordially concur in the recommendation of the Secretary of the Interior, suggesting a modification of the act in favor of those engaged in the military and naval service of the United States. I doubt not that Congress will cheerfully adopt such measures as will, with cheerruity adopt such measures as will, without essentially changing the general features of the system, secure to the greatest practical extent its benefits to those who have left their homes in the defence of the

country in this arduous crisis. I invite your attention to the views of the Secretary as to the propriety of raising, by appropriate legislation, a revenue from the mineral lands of the United States. The measures provided at your last session for the re-moval of certain Indian tribes have been carneward of certain indian tribes have been carried into effect. Sundry treaties have been negotiated, which will in due time be summitted for the constitutional action of the Senate. They contain stipulations for extinguishing the preserve within of the Indian guishing the possessery rights of the Indians to large and valuable tracts of land. It is hoped that the effects of these treaties will result in the establishment of permanent friendly relations with such of these tribes as have been brought into frequent and bloody collisions with our out-lying settlements and emi-grants. Sound policy and our imperative duty to these wards of the Government demand our anxious and constant attention to their material well-being, to their progress their material well-being, to their progress in the arts of civilization, and above all for that moral training which, under the blessing of Divine Providence, will confer upon them the elevated and sanctifying influences, the hopes and consolations, of the Christian faith.

I suggested in my last annual message the propriety of remodelling our Indian system. Subsequent events have satisfied me of its necessivy. The details set forth in the report of the Secretary will evince the urgent need r immediate legislative action.
I commend the benevolent institutions es-

tablished or patronized by the Government in this District to your generous and fostering

The attention of Congress during the last The attention of Congress during the last session was engaged, to some extent, with a proposition for enlarging the water communication between the Mississippi river and the northeastern senboard, which proposition, however, failed for the time. Since then, upon a call of the greatest respectability, a convention has been held at Chicago upon the same subject, a summary of whose views President and Congress, and which I now have the honor to lay before you. That this interest is one which ere long, will force its own way I do not entertain a doubt, while it is subject to the contract of is submitted entirely to your wisdom as to what can be done now. Augmented interest is given to this subject by the actual com-mencement of work upon the Pacific Railroad. Under suspices so favorable to rapid progress and completion, the enlarged naviga-tion becomes a palpable need to the great

I transmit the second annual report of the Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture, asking your attention to the developments in that vital interest of the nation.

THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION. When Congress assembled a year ago, the war had already lasted nearly twenty months, and there had been many conflicts on both land and sea, with varying results. The rebellion had been pressed back into reduced limits, yet the tone of public feeling and opinion, at home and abroad, was not satisfactory. With other signs, the popular elec-tions, then just passed, indicated uncasiness among ourselves; while amid much that was cold and menacing the kindest words coming from Europe were uttered in accents of pity, that we were too blind to surrender a hope Our commerce was suffering greatly by a few armed vessels, built upon and furnished from foreign shores, and we were threatened with spch additions from the same quarter as would sweep our trade from the seas, and raise our blockade. We had failed to elicit from European Government anything

hopeful'upon this subject. The preliminary emancipation proclama tion, issued in September, was running its assigned period to the beginning of the new A month later the final proclamation came, including the announcement that colored men of suitable condition would be received into the war service.

The policy of emancipation, and of employ ing black soldiers, gave to the future a new aspect, about which hope and fear and doubt contended in uncertain conflict. According to our political system, as a mat-ter of civil administration, the General Government had no lawful power to effect emancipation in any State, and for a long time it had been hoped that the rebellion could be suppressed without resorting to it as a military

measure. It was all the while deemed possi-ble that the necessity for it might come, and it should, the crisis of the contest would then be presented. It came, and, as was anticipated, it was followed by dark and doubtful days. EFFECTS OF THE PROCLAMATION. Eleven months having now passed, we are

permitted to take another review. The rebel borders are pressed still further back, by the complete opening of the Mississippi; the country ominated by the rebellion is divided into distinct parts, with no practical communication between them — Tennessee and Arkansas have been substantially cleared of insurgent control and influ-ence, and influential citizens in each, owners of slaves and advocates of slavery at the beginning of the rebellion, now declare openly for emancipation in their respective States.

Of those States not included in the emancipation proclamation, Maryland and Missouri neither of which, three years ago, would tolerate any restraint upon the extension of slavery into new Territories-only dispute now

the best mode of removing it within their own limits. Of those who were slaves at the beginning of the rebellion, full one hundred thousand are now in the United States military ser--about one-half of which number actually bear arms in the ranks-thus giving the double advantage of taking so much labor from the insurgent cause and supplying the places which must otherwise be filled many white men. So far as tested, it is difficult to say that they are not as good soldiers as any. No servile insurrection or tendency to violence or cruelty has marked the measures of emancipation and arming the blacks. These measures have been much discussed in foreign countries, and contemporary with such discussion the tone of public sentiment there is much improved. At home the same measures have been fully discussed, supported, criticised, and denounced, and the annual elections following are highly encourageing to those whose official duty it is to bear the country through this great trial.

Thus we have the new reckoning. The crisis which threatened to divide the friends METHOD OF RECONSTRUCTING THE UNION.

Looking now to the present and future, and with reference to a resumption of the national authority within the States wherein that authority has been suspended, I have thought to issue a proclamation, a copy of which is here-with transmitted. On examination of this proclamation it will appear, as is believed, that nothing is attempted beyond what is amply justified by the Constitution. True, the of an oath is given, but no man is coerced to take it. A man is only promised a pardon in case he voluntarily takes the oath. The Constitution authorizes the Executive to grant or withhold the pardon at his own absolute discretion, and this includes the power o grant on terms as is fully establish jndicial and other authorities. It is also prof fered that if "in any of the States named, a State Government shall be in the mode prescribed set up, such government shall be re-cognized and guarantied by the United States, and that under it the State shall, on the constitutional conditions, be protected against inasion and domestic violence "

The constitutional obligation of the United States to guarrantee to every State in the Union a republican form of government, and protect the State in the cases stated, is excit and full. But why tender the benefits plicit and full, but way to a State Government of this provision only to a State Government

set up in this particular way! This section of the Constitution contemplates a case where in the element within a State favorable to a republican form of government in the Union may be too feeble for an opposite and hostile element, external to and even within the State, and such are precisely the cases with which we are now dealing. An attempt to guarantee and tee and protect a revived State government. constructed in whole or in a preponderate part from the very element against whose hostility and violence it is to be protected, is simply absurd. There must be a test by which to separate the opposing elements, so which to separate the opposing elements, so as to build only from the sound; and that test is a sufficiently liberal one which accepts

as sound whoever will make a sworn recantation of his former unsoundness. But if it be proper to require as a test of admission to the political body an oath of allegiance to the Constitution of the United States, and to the Union under it, why not also to the laws and proclamations in regard to slavery! Those laws and proclamations were enacted and put forth for the purpose of aiding in the suppression of the rebellion. To give them their fullest effect, there had to be a pledge for their maintenance. In my judg-ment they have sided, and will further aid, the cause for which they were intended. To now abandon them would be not only to relinquish a lever of power, but would also be a cruel and astounding breach of faith.

I may add, at this point, that while I remain in my present position I shall not attempt to retreat, or modify the emancipation proclamation. Nor shall I return to slavery any person who is free by the terms of that proclama-

son who is tree by the terms of that proclama-tion by any of the acts Congress.

For these and other reasons it is thought best that support of these measures shall be included in this oath, and it is believed the Executive may lawfully claim it in return for pardon and restoration of forfeited rights which he has a clear constitutional power to withhold altogether, or grant upon the terms which he shall deem wisest for the public in-

It should be observed, also, that this part of the oath is subject to the modifying and abrogating power of legislative and supreme and

The proposed acquiescence of the National Executive in any reasonable temporary State arrangement for the freed people is made with the view of possibly modifying the confusion and destitution which must, at best, attend all classes by a total revolution of labor throughout the whole States. It is hoped that the already deeply afflicted people in those States may be somewhat more ready to give up the cause of their affliction, if, to this exent, this vital matter be left to themselves, while no power of the National Executive to prevent an abuse is abridged by the proposi-The suggestion in the proclamation, as to

naintaining the political framework of the State or what is called reconstruction, is made in the hope that may do good, without langer or harm. It will save labor and avoid great confusion. But why any proclamation now upon this subject? This question is best with the conflicting views that the step night be delayed too long or be taken too soon. In some States the elements for resumption seem ready for action, but remain inactive, apparently, for the want of a rallying point—a plan of action. Why shall A adopt the plan of B rather than B that of A? and if A and B chaptle. pian of B rather than B that the same but and B should agree, how can they know but that the General Government here will reject their plan? By the proclamation a plan is presented which may be accepted by them as a rallying point, and which, they are assured in advance, will not be rejected here. This may bring them to act sooner than any other-

The objection to a premature presentation plan by the National Executive consists in the danger of committals on points which could be more safely left to further developments. Care has been taken to so shape the document as to avoid embarrassments from this document as to avoid embarrassments from this source. Saying that on certain terms certain classes will be pardoned, with rights restored, it is not said that other classes on other terms will never be included. Saying that reconstruction will be accepted if presented in a specified way, it is not said that it will never be accepted in any other way.

The movements, by State action, for eman

cipation, in several of the States not included in the emancipation proclamation, are matters of profound gratulation; and while I do not repeat in detail what I have heretofore so earnestly urged upon this subject, my general views and feelings remain unchanged, and I trust that Congress will omit no fair opportunity of aiding these important steps to the great consummation. In the midst of other cares, however important, we must not lose sight of the fact that the war power is still main reliance; to that power alone can we look yet for a time to give confidence to the people in the contested regions that the argent power will not again overrun them Until that confidence shall be established lit tle can be done anywhere for what is called reconstruction; hence our chiefest care must still be directed to the army and navy, who have thus far borne their harder part so nobly

and well. And it may be esteemed fortunate that, in giving the greatest efficiency to these indis-pensable arms, we do also honorably recognize the gallant men, from commander t tinel, who compose them, and to whom, more than to others, the world must stand indebted for the home of freedom disenthralled, regenerated, enlarged and perpetuated.
ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

DECEMBER 8, 1863. PROCLAMATION BY THE PRESIDENT.

An Amnesty Proclaimed-Full Pardon, with Certain Exceptions, Offered the Rebels.

The following Proclamation is appended to the Message :--

PROCLAMATION. Whereas, In and by the Constitution of the United States it is provided that the President shall have power to grant reprieves and pardons for offences against the United States, except in cases of impeachment; and whereas, a rebellion now exists whereby the loyal State Governments of several States have for State Governments of several States have, for a long time, been subverted, and many persons have committed and are now guilty of treason against the United States; and wherewith reference to said rebellion and trea son, laws have been enacted by Congress deson, taws have been enacted by Congress de-claring forfeiture and confiscation of property and liberation of slaves, and also declaring that the President was thereby authorized, at any time thereafter, by proclamation extend to persons who may have participated in the existing rebellion in any State or part thereof pardon and amnesty, with such exceptions, and at such times and on such conlitions as he may deem expedient for the public welfare; and

Whereas, The Congressional declaration for limited and conditional pardon accords with well established judicial exposition of the pardoning power; and

Whereas, With reference to said rebellion

the President of the United States has issued several proclamations with provisions in reard to the liberation of slaves; and

Whereas, It is now desired by some pergard to the liberation of slaves ions heretofore engaged in said rebellion to resume their allegiance to the United States, and to reinaugurate loyal State Governments within and for their respective States.

Therefore, I Abraham Linclon, President of the United States, do proclaim, declare, and make known to all persons who have directly, or by implication, participated in the existing rebellion, except as hereinafter excepted. that a FULL PARDON is hereby granted to them, and each of them, with restoration of all rights of property except as to slaves, and in property cases when the rights of third par-ties shall have intervened; and upon the condition that every such person shall take and subscribe an oath, and thenceforward keep and maintain said oath inviolate; and which oath shall be registered for permanent preservation, and shall be of the tenor and

effect following, to wit: I ____ do solemnly swear, in the presence of Almighty God, that I will henceforth faithfully support, protect, and defend the Constitu-tion of the United States and the Union of the

States thereunder; and that I will in like manner, abide by and faithfully support all acts of Congress passed during the existing rebellion with reference to slaves, so long and so far as not repealed, modified, or held void so far as not repeated, mounted, or new vota by Congress, or by decision of the Supreme Court; and that I will, in like manner, abide by and faithfully support all proclamations of the President made during the existing re-bellion having reference to slaves, so long and so far as not modified or declared void by the decision of the Supreme Court, so help me God."

The persons excepted from the benefits of the foregoing provisions are all who are, or shall have been, civil or diplomatic oficers or-agents of the so called Confederate Governnent; all who have left judicial static der the United States to aid the rebellion; all who are or shall have been military or nava officers of said so-called Confederate Government above the rank of colonel in the army or of lieutenant in the navy; all who left seats in the United States Congress to aid the rebellion; all who resigned commissions in the army or navy of the United States, and after-wards aided the rebellion, and all who have engaged in any way in treating colored peror white persons, in charge of such, otherwise than lawfully as prisoners of war, and which persons may have been found in the United States service as soldiers, seamen, or

in any other capacity.

And I do further proclaim, declare, and make known, that whenever in any of the States of Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, Missispipi, Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, and North Carolina, a number of persons not less than one-tenth in number the votes cast in such State, at the Presidential election of the year of our Lord 1860, each having taken the oath aforesaid, and not having since violated it, and being a qualified voter by the election law of the State existing immediately before the so called act of secession; and excluding all others, shall re-establish a State Government which shall be republican and in no wise contravening said oath, such shall be recognized as the true government of the State, and the State shall receive thereunder the benefits of the constitutional provision which declares that the United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a republican form of government, and shall protect each of them against invasion, and, on application of the Legislature, or the Execu-

tive when the Legislature cannot be convened, against domestic violence. And I do turther proclaim, declare, and make known, that any provision which may be adopted by such State Government, in relation to the freed people of such State, which shall recognize and declare their permanent freedom, provide for their education, and which may yet be consistent, as a temporary arrangement, with their present condition, as a laboring, landless, and homeless class, will

not be objected to by the National Executive. And it is suggested as not improper that, in constructing a loyal State Government in any State, the name of the State, the boundary, the subdivisions, the Constitution, and the general code of laws as before the rebel-lion be maintained, subject only to the modifications made necessary by the conditions hereinbefore stated, and such others, if any, not contravening said conditions, and which may be deemed expedient by those framing

the new State Government. To avoid misunderstanding, it may be proper to say that this proclamation, so far as it relates to State Governments, has no reference to States wherein loyal State Governments have all the while been maintained. And for the same reason it may be proper to further say that, whether members of Con-

gress from any State shall be admitted to seats constitutionally rests exclusively with the respective Houses, and not to any extent with the Executive. And still further, that this proclamation is intended to present to the people of the States wherein the national authority has been suspended, and loyal State Governments have been subverted, a and by which the national authority and loyal State Governments may be re-established within the said States; or in any of them; and while the mode presented is the best, the Executive can suggest with his present impressions, it must be understood that no other posible mode would be acceptable.

Given under my hand at the city of Washington, the eighth day of December, A. D., one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the independence of the United States of America the eighty-eighth.
ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

By the President WM. H. SEWARD, Secretary of State.

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