PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

A year of peace and general prosperity to this nation has passed since the last assembling of Congress. We have, through a kind Providence, been blessed with abundant crops, and have been spared from complications and war with foreign nations. In our midst, comparative harmony has been restored.

It is to be regretted, however, that a free exercise of the elective franchise has, by violence and intimidation, been denied to citizens, in exceptional cases, in several of the States lately in rebellion, and the verdict of the people has thereby been reversed.

The States of Virginia, Mississippi and Texas, have been restored to representation in our national councils. Georgia, the only State now without representation, may confidently be expected to take her place there also at the beginning of the new year; and then, let us hope, will be completed the work of reconstruction, with acquiescence, on the part of the whole people, in the national obligation to pay the public debt created as the price of our Union; the pensions to our disabled soldiers and sailors, and their widows and orphans, and in the changes to the Constitution which have been made necessary by a great rebellion. There is no reason why we should not advance in national prosperity and happiness, as no other nation ever did after so protracted and devastating a war.

Soon after the existing war broke out in Europe, the protection of the United States Minister in Paris was invoked in favor of the North Germans domiciled on French territory. Instructions were issued to grant the protection. This has been followed by an extension of American protection to citizens of Saxony, Hesse, and Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, Colombia, Portugal, Uruguay, the Dominican Republic, Equador, Chili, Paraguay, and Venezuela, in Paris. The charge was an onerous one, requiring constant, severe labor, as well as the exercise of patience to produce a good judgment. It has been performed to the entire satisfaction of this government, and, as I am officially informed, equally so to the satisfaction of the government of North Germany. As soon as I learned that a republic had been proclaimed at Paris, and that the people of France had acquiesced in the change of government, the Minister of the United States was directed by telegraph to recognize and to tender to them my congratulations and those of the people of the United States. The re-establishment in France of a system of government disconnected with the dynasty traditions of Europe appeared to be a proper subject for the felicitations of Americans.

Should the present struggle result in attaching the hearts of the French to our simpler forms of representative government, it will be a subject of still further satisfaction to our people. While we make it a rule to refrain from all efforts to impose our institutions upon the inhabitants of other countries, and while we adhere to our traditional neutrality in civil contests elsewhere, we cannot but believe that the spread of American political ideas in a great and highly civilized country like France. We were asked by the new government to use our good offices jointly with those of European powers in the interests of peace. Our answer was made that the established policy of the United States forbade them to interfere in European questions jointly with the European powers.

I negotiated informally and unofficially, that the government of North Germany was then indisposed to listen to such representations from any powers, and though urgently solicited to use my good offices to induce the French to accept peace restored to the belligerents, with all of whom the United States are on terms of friendship, I declined, on the part of the government, to take a step which could only result in injury to our friend France, without advancing the object for which our intervention was invoked. Should the time come when the action of the United States can hasten the return of peace by a single hour, that action will be promptly taken. I deemed it prudent, in view of the number of persons of German and French birth living in the United States, to issue a public notice of a state of war had been received from both belligerents, a proclamation defining the duties of the United States as a neutral, and the obligations of persons residing within their territory, to observe their laws and the laws of nations.

This proclamation was followed by others as circumstances seemed to call for them. The people thus acquainted in advance of their duties and obligations, have assisted in preventing any violation of the neutrality of the United States.

It is understood that the condition of the Island of Cuba, which has occasionally engaged our attention since the close of the last session of Congress. In an early stage of the contest, the authorities of Spain inaugurated a system of arbitrary arrests, of close confinement, and of military trial and execution of prisoners suspected of complicity with the insurgents, and of summary embargo of them and their properties, and the sequestration of their resources by executive warrant. Such proceedings far as they affected the persons or property of citizens of the United States, were in violation of the provisions of the treaty of 1795, between the United States and Spain. Representations of injuries resulting to several persons claiming to be citizens of the United States, by reason of such violations, were made to the Spanish government from April, 1869, to the close of the last session of Congress. The Spanish Minister at Washington had been clothed with a limited power to aid in redressing such wrongs.—That power was found to be withdrawn, in view, as it was said, of the favorable situation in which Cuba then was, which, however, did not lead to a revocation or suspension of the extraordinary and arbitrary functions exercised by the Executive power in Cuba, and we were obliged to make our complaints at Madrid.

In the negotiations thus opened, and still pending, the United States only claimed that for the future the Spanish Government should treat its citizens by treaty should be respected in Cuba, and that as to the past, a joint tribunal should be established in the United States, with full jurisdiction over all such claims. Before such an impartial tribunal, each claimant would be required to prove his case, or, on the other hand, Spain would be liberty to traverse every national fact, and the whole equity would be done. A case, which at one time threatened seriously to affect the relations between the United States and Spain, has already been disposed of in this way. The claims of the owners of the Aspinwall, for the illegal seizure and detention of that vessel, was referred to arbitration by mutual consent, and has resulted in an award to the United States for the owners of the value of $10,792.50 in gold. Another, and long pending claim, of light nature, that of the whale ship Canada, has been disposed of by friendly arbitration, during the present session of Congress, by the joint consent of Brazil and the United States, to the decision of Mr. Edward Thornton, her Britanic Majesty's Minister at Washington, who kindly undertook the laborious task of examining the voluminous mass of correspondence and evidence submitted by the two governments, and awarded to the United States the sum of $90,740.00 in gold, which has since been paid by the imperial government.

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The time is probably not far distant, when in the natural course of events, the European political connection with this continent will cease. Our policy should be shaped in view of this probability, so as to ally the commercial interests of the Spanish American States more closely to our own, and thus give the United States the preeminence, and all the advantages which Mr. Monroe, Mr. Adams and Mr. Clay, contemplated when they proposed to join in the Congress of Panama.

During the last session of Congress a treaty for the annexation of the Republic of San Domingo to the United States failed to receive the requisite two thirds vote of the Senate. I was thoroughly convinced then that the best interests of this country, commercially and materially demanded its ratification. Time has only confirmed me in this view. I few firmly believe that the moment it is known that the United States have entirely abandoned the project of San Domingo, a free port will be negotiated for European nations. In the bay of Samana, a large commercial city will spring up, to which we will be tributary, without receiving corresponding benefits, and then will be seen the folly of our rejecting so great a prize. The government of San Domingo has voluntarily sought this annexation. It is a weak power, numbering probably less than 120,000 souls, and yet possessing one of the richest territories under the sun, capable of supporting a population of 10,000,000 of people in luxury. The people of San Domingo are not capable of maintaining themselves in their present condition, and must look for outside support. They love the protection of our free institutions, and our laws, our progress, and our civilization. Shall we refuse them? The acquisition of San Domingo is desirable because of its geographical position. It commands the entrance of the Caribean sea, and the Isthmus transit of commerce. It possesses the richest soil, best and most capacious harbor, most salubrious climate, and most valuable products of the forest, mine and soil of any of the West India islands. Its posession by us will, in a few years, build up a coastwise commerce of immense magnitude, which will go far towards restoring to us our lost merchant marine. It will give to us those articles which we consume so largely and do not produce, thus equalizing our exports and imports. In case of a foreign war, it will give us command of all the islands referred to, and thus prevent an enemy from ever again possessing himself of a rendezvous upon our very coast. At present, our coast trade between the States bordering on the Atlantic and those bordering on the Gulf of Mexico, is cut in two by the Bahamas and Antilles twice. We must, as it were, pass through foreign countries to get by sea from Georgia to the west coast of Florida.—San Domingo, with a stable government, under which her immense resources can be developed, will give remunerative wages to tens of thousands of laborers not now upon the islands. This labor will take advantage of every available means of transportation to abandon the adjacent islands, and seek the blessings of freedom and its sequence, each inhabitant receiving the reward of his own labor. Porto Rico and Cuba will have to abolish slavery as a measure of self-preservation, to retain their laborers. San Domingo will become a large consumer of the products of northern farms and manufactories. The cheap rate at which her citizens can be furnished with food, tools, and machinery, will make it necessary that contiguous islands should have the same advantages, in order to compete in the production of sugar, coffee, tobacco, tropical fruits, &c.

This will open to us a still wider market for our products. The production of our own supply of the articles will cut off more than 100,000,000 of our annual imports, besides largely increasing our exports. With such a picture, it is easy to see how our large debt abroad is ultimately to be extinguished.

With a balance of trade against us, including interest on bonds held by foreigners, and money spent by our citizens traveling in foreign lands, equal to the entire yield of the precious metals in this country, it is not so easy to see how this result is to be otherwise accomplished.

The acquisition of San Domingo is an adherence to the Monroe doctrine. It is a measure of national protection. It is asserting our just claim to a controlling influence over the great commercial tariff-soon to flow from west to east by way of the Isthmus of Darien.

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In view of the importance of this question, I earnestly urge upon Congress early action expressive of its views as to the best means of acquiring San Domingo. My suggestion is, that by joint resolution of the two houses of Congress, the Executive be authorized to appoint a commission, to negotiate a treaty with the authorities of San Domingo, for the acquisition of that island, and that an appropriation be made to defray the expenses of such a commission.—The question may then be determined either by the action of the two houses of Congress, upon a treaty submitted to them as in the case of the acquisition of Texas.

So convinced am I of the advantages to flow from the acquisition of San Domingo, and the great disadvantages, I might almost say calamities, to flow from non-acquisition, that I believe the subject has only to be investigated to be approved.

It is to be regretted that our representations to Spain in regard to injurious effects, especially upon the revenue of the United States, of the policy of the Mexican Government in exempting from import duties a large tract of its territory on our border, have not only been fruitless, but that it is even proposed in that country to extend the limits within which the privilege adverted to has hitherto been enjoyed. The expediency of taking into your serious consideration the propriety of enacting countervailing of the policy referred to, will, it is presumed, engage your earnest attention. It is the obvious interest, especially of neighboring nations, to put down all attempts to place those who may have committed high crimes within their borders, and who may have sought refuge abroad. For this purpose extradition treaties have been concluded with several of the Central American Republics, and others are in progress.

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fishermen of the United States, with a view to political effect upon this government. The statutes of the Dominion of Canada assume a still broader and more untenable jurisdiction over the vessels of the United States.

They authorize officers or persons to bring vessels hovering within three miles of any of the coasts, bays, creeks or harbors of Canada, into port, to search the cargo, to examine the master, on oath, touching the cargo and voyage, and to inflict upon him a heavy pecuniary penalty if true answers are not given, and if such a vessel is found preparing to fish within three marine miles of any such coasts, bays, creeks or harbors without a license, or after the expiration of the period named in the last license granted to it, they provide that the vessel, with her tackle, &c., &c., shall be forfeited.

It is not known that any condemnations have been made under this statute. Should the authorities of Canada attempt to enforce it, it will become necessary to protect the rights of the citizens of the United States.

It has been claimed by Her Majesty's officers, that the fishing vessels of the United States, have no right to enter the open ports of the British possessions in North America, except for the purpose of shelter and repairing damages of purchasing food and obtaining water. That they have no right to enter at the British Custom House, or to trade there, except in the purchase of wood and water, and that they must depart within 24 hours after notice to leave.

It is not known that any seizure of a fishing vessel carrying the flag of the United States has been made under this claim. So far as the claim is founded on an alleged construction of the convention of 1818, it cannot be acquiesced in by the United States. It is hoped that it will not be insisted on by Her Majesty's Government.—During the conferences which preceded the negotiations of the convention of 1818, the British commissioners proposed to expressly exclude the fishermen of the United States from the privilege of carrying on trade with any of His Britanic majesty's subjects residing within the limits assigned for their use, and also, that it should not be lawful for the vessels of the United States, engaged in said fishing, to have on board any goods, wares, or merchandise, whatever, except such as may be necessary for the prosecution of their voyages to and from said fishing grounds, and any vessel of the United States which shall contravene this negotiation, may be seized, condemned, and confiscated with her cargo. This proposition, which is indentical with the construction now put upon the language of the convention was emphatically rejected by the American commissioners, and thereupon was already proposed by the British plenipotentiaries, and article 1, as it stands in the convention, was substituted. It, however, it be said that this claim is founded on provincial or colonial statutes and not upon the convention, the government cannot but regard them as unfriendly, and in contravention of the spirit, is not of the letter, of the treaty, for the faithful execution, of which the imperial government is alone responsible. Anticipating that an attempt will possibly be made by the Canadian authorities in the coming season to repeal their unneighborly act toward our fishermen, I recommend you to confer upon the Executive the power to suspend by proclamation, the operation of the laws authorizing the transit of goods, wares and merchandise in bonds across the territory of the United States, to Canada, and further, should such an extreme measure become necessary, to suspend the operation of any laws, whereby the vessels of the Dominion of Canada are permitted to enter the waters of the United States. A friendly disposition has been manifested on the part of Canada, in the maintenance of a claim of right to exclude the citizens of the United States from the St. Lawrence.

This river constitutes a natural outlet to the ocean for eight States, with an aggregate population of about 17,000,000 inhabitants, and with an aggregate tonage of 661,587 tons upon the vessels which annually pass into it. The foreign commerce of our ports on those waters, is open to British competition, and the major part of it is done in British bottoms.

To state such a proposition is to refute its justice. During the administration of Mr. John Quincy Adams, Mr. Clay answerably demonstrated the natural right of the citizens of the United States to the navigation of this river, claiming that the act of the Congress of Vienna in opening the Rhine and other rivers to all nations, showed the judgment of European jurists and states men, that the inhabitants of the country, through which a navigable river passes, have a natural right to enjoy the navigation of that river to and into the sea, even though passing through the territories of another power. This proposition was accepted by those who may have committed high crimes within their borders, and who may have sought refuge abroad. For this purpose extradition treaties have been concluded with several of the Central American Republics, and others are in progress.

The sense of Congress is desired as early as may be convenient, upon the proceedings of the Commissioner of Claims against Venezuela, as mentioned in my Messages of March 16, 1869, March 1, 1870, and March 31, 1870. It has not been deemed advisable to distribute any of the money which has been received from that government, until the claims of citizens shall have acted upon the juries resulting to several persons claiming to be citizens of the United States, by reason of such violations, were made to the Spanish government from April, 1868, to the close of the last session of Congress. The Spanish Minister at Washington had been clothed with a limited power to aid in redressing such wrongs.—That power was found to be withdrawn, in view, as it was said, of the favorable situation in which Cuba then was, which, however, did not lead to a revocation or suspension of the extraordinary and arbitrary functions exercised by the Executive power in Cuba, and we were obliged to make our complaints at Madrid.

In the negotiations thus opened, and still pending, the United States only claimed that for the future the Spanish Government should treat its citizens by treaty should be respected in Cuba, and that as to the past, a joint tribunal should be established in the United States, with full jurisdiction over all such claims. Before such an impartial tribunal, each claimant would be required to prove his case, or, on the other hand, Spain would be liberty to traverse every national fact, and the whole equity would be done. A case, which at one time threatened seriously to affect the relations between the United States and Spain, has already been disposed of in this way. The claims of the owners of the Aspinwall, for the illegal seizure and detention of that vessel, was referred to arbitration by mutual consent, and has resulted in an award to the United States for the owners of the value of $10,792.50 in gold. Another, and long pending claim, of light nature, that of the whale ship Canada, has been disposed of by friendly arbitration, during the present session of Congress, by the joint consent of Brazil and the United States, to the decision of Mr. Edward Thornton, her Britanic Majesty's Minister at Washington, who kindly undertook the laborious task of examining the voluminous mass of correspondence and evidence submitted by the two governments, and awarded to the United States the sum of $90,740.00 in gold, which has since been paid by the imperial government.

These recent examples show that the terms, which they have proposed to Spain, for adjusting the pending claims is just and feasible, and that it may be agreed to by either nation without dishonor. It is to be hoped that this moderate demand, may be acceded to by Spain without further delay. Should the pending negotiations unfortunately and unexpectedly pass by without result, it will then become my duty to communicate that fact to Congress, and invite its action on the subject. The long deferred peace conference between Spain and the allied South American republics has been inaugurated in Washington under the auspices of the United States.

Pursuant to the recommendation contained in the resolution of the House of Representatives, of the 17th of December, 1869, the Executive Department of the Government offered its friendly offices for the promotion of peace and harmony between Spain and the United Republics.—Hesitations and obstacles occurred to the acceptance of the offer. Ultimately, however, a conference was arranged, and was opened in this city on the 29th of October last, at which I authorized the Secretary of State to preside. It was attended by the Ministers of Spain, Peru, Chili and Ecuador. In consequence of the absence of a representative from Bolivia, the conference was adjourned until the attendance of a plenipotentiary for that republic could be secured, or other measures could be adopted, towards compassing its objects. The allied and other republics of Spanish origin on this continent, may see in this fact a new proof of our sincere interest in their welfare, of our desire to see them blessed with good governments, capable of maintaining order and preserving their respective territorial integrity, and of our sincere wish to extend our own commercial and social relations with them.

The time is probably not far distant, when in the natural course of events, the European political connection with this continent will cease. Our policy should be shaped in view of this probability, so as to ally the commercial interests of the Spanish American States more closely to our own, and thus give the United States the preeminence, and all the advantages which Mr. Monroe, Mr. Adams and Mr. Clay, contemplated when they proposed to join in the Congress of Panama.

During the last session of Congress a treaty for the annexation of the Republic of San Domingo to the United States failed to receive the requisite two thirds vote of he Senate. I was thoroughly convinced then that the best interests of this country, commercially and materially demanded its ratification. Time has only confirmed me in this view. I few firmly believe that the moment it is known that the United States have entirely abandoned the project of San Domingo, a free port will be negotiated for European nations. In the bay of Samana, a large commercial city will spring up, to which we will be tributary, without receiving corresponding benefits, and then will be seen the folly of our rejecting so great a prize. The government of San Domingo has voluntarily sought this annexation. It is a weak power, numbering probably less than 120,000 souls, and yet possessing one of the richest territories under the sun, capable of supporting a population of 10,000,000 of people in luxury. The people of San Domingo are not capable of maintaining themselves in their present condition, and must look for outside support. They love the protection of our free institutions, and our laws, our progress, and our civilization. Shall we refuse them? The acquisition of San Domingo is desirable because of its geographical position. It commands the entrance of the Caribean sea, and the

Local Intelligence.

Court of Common Pleas.

A Court of Common Pleas commenced last Monday, and has continued throughout the week. The cases were generally of but little importance except to the parties involved in them, and there was but a small number of others in attendance.

The first case attached was that of Cyrus Joh vs. Isaac Stoner and Abraham Stoner. Claim for damages. The facts are substantially these: Some time during 1866, Levi Joh, the minor son of plaintiff, while in the employ of defendants, entered a well which was being excavated upon their premises, and while there the sides caved in, burying him beneath, whereby he lost his life. Plaintiff alleges that his son was compelled by defendants to enter the well, and that the proper precautionary measures had not been taken to ensure the safety of the employees. On part of defense it is alleged that deceased entered the well voluntarily, preferring to work there instead of in a ditch which was being dug at the same time, and which was partially filled with sluggish water and mud. A number of witnesses were examined on both sides, and a considerable amount of conflicting testimony was elicited. The jury rendered a verdict for defendant.

In the case of the Mayor, Aldermen and Citizens of Lancaster vs. C. R. Frailey, of al, a *non suit* was allowed by the Court on the ground that legal notice had not been given to defendant thirty days before suit was entered.

In the case of John M. Bear vs. John S. Hostetter and Benjamin Buch, the jury after remaining out all night, were discharged by the Court in the morning, being unable to agree, being evenly divided 6 to 6. This was an action on a promissory note under seal, for $1000, dated March 4, 1856. The defence is the payment of the note was that it never was sealed, that it was barred by the statute of limitation and that it was paid. The plaintiff showed that he left the note with Hon. A. J. Ziegler in February, 1862, for collection, and that the interest had been paid on same up to April 1869, that no suit was brought upon the same until 1869, the note in the meantime having been mislaid or lost, and that it had never been paid to him. The defendant attempted to show payment by the production of a check for $365, dated Aug. 4, 1859, and that after his assignment two receipts for balance of said note were found among his papers.

The Court ordered the jury to be discharged. R. W. Shenk, Esq., for plaintiff, and Hon. I. E. Hiester and A. M. Frantz, Esq., for defendants.

William Diller vs. John Adam Berger. Action for recovery of $731 on a mechanic's lien. Plaintiff claims in this case that a mechanic's lien claim was duly entered and a judgment held on the property of defendant by John K. Shenk, on the ground that the lien was obtained for the erection of machinery in the brewery of defendant before the judgment was given to Jesse Shenk. Defendant sets forth that he purchased a property from Mr. Shenk, situated on the banks of the Conestoga, near Millersville, this county, upon which there was a mortgage lien of $4,000, $1,400 being for purchase money and the remaining $3,000 for money loaned to him by Mr. Shenk; that in the month of March 1866, he commenced the erection of a brewery on the premises, finished same on the 25th day of March, 1867; that the mechanic's lien was obtained for the erection of machinery in the brewery, and that the judgment held by Mr. Shenk preceded it, and is prior and should be recognized as the first claim.

The jury rendered a verdict in favor of plaintiff.

Henry Forney and Henry Kolbroth vs. Abram Shenk. The plaintiffs in this case are dealers in cattle, and sue for a lien on the property of defendant for a note of $941.79, and interest from 1857 to date, making a total of $2,000. The defendant claimed that the statute of limitation had cut the note out; but the plaintiffs proved an acknowledgment of the debt, and a promise to pay it within 6 years before the suit was instituted, and the jury were out but a few minutes, and returned a verdict for plaintiffs for full amount of claim.

THE CENSUS OF LANCASTER COUNTY.—The following table, taken from the books of Marshal Gregory shows the population of Lancaster county in detail:

1st, 5th, 9th Wards, Lancaster	7,270
2d, 6th	6,630
3d, 7th	4,768
4th, 8th	3,432
Lancaster and East Lampeter twps	3,752
West Lampeter twp	2,264
Paradise twp	1,294
Strasburg township and borough	2,752
Salisbury and Leacock twps	2,626
Bart and Salisbury twps	2,308
Brecknock and Upper Leacock twps	2,263
Drumore twp	1,780
Little Britain and Fulton twps	1,179
Martic twp	1,890
Providence twp	1,886
Penn twp	2,000
Manor twp and Washington borough	2,906
West Hempfield twp	3,000
Mount Joy twp and borough of Columbia	5,247
2d Ward	2,343
Marietta borough and East Donegal twp	1,000
Conoy and West Donegal twps	2,000
Mt Joy twp, Elizabeth and Mt Joy boro	2,291
Manheim borough and Rapho twp	3,000
Warwick and Penn twps	2,000
Elizabeth twp	1,555
East Hempfield twp	3,000
Manheim twp	2,000
Upper Leacock twp	1,981
West Earl twp	2,000
Ephrata twp	2,000
Clay twp	2,000
West Cocalico twp	2,000
East Cocalico twp and Adamstown bor	2,000
Brecknock twp	1,000
Earl twp and New Holland borough	2,000
East Earl and Carnarvon twps	2,000
Total	121,126

The total population of the county in 1860, was 116,314, the increase in the past ten years being 5,112. The City of Lancaster has a population of 32,269, which, with Columbia borough 6,416, both being included in the total of 121,126.

TRIAL OF SPEED.—The fast Lancaster County mare, Lizzie Keller, owned by Messrs. Flory & Keller, was timed on the Lancaster Park Track on Saturday afternoon, to test her speed against time, preparatory to her entering upon a series of trotting matches with almost every foreign country, to rest with such inadequate means of enforcing any foreign policy, either of protection or redress. Separated by the ocean and a continent from the eastern continent, our navy is our only means of direct protection to our citizens abroad, or for the