PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Fellow Citizens of the Senate

and of the House of Representatives : The Constitution requires that the President shall, from time to time, not only recommend to the consideration of Congress such measures as he may judge necessary and expedient, but also that he shall give information to them of the state of the Union. To do this fully involves exposition of all matters in the actual condition of the country, domestic or foreign which essentially concern the general welfare. While performing his constitutional duty in this respect, the President does not speak merely to express personal convictions, but as the executive minister of the Government, enabled by his position, and called upon by his official obligations, to scan with an impartial eye the interests of the whole, and of every

part, of the United States,
Of the condition of the domestic interests of the Union, its agriculture, mines, manufactures, navigation, and commerce, it is necessary only to say that the internal prosperity of the country, its continuous and steady advancement in wealth and population, and in private as well as public well-being, attests the wisdom of our institutions, and the predominant spirit of intelligence and patriotism, which, notwithatanding occasional irregularity of opinion or action resulting from popular freedom, has distinguished and characterized the people of

In the briefinterval between the termination of the last and the commencement of the present session of Congress, the public mind has been occupied with the care of selecting, for another constitutional term, the President and Vice President of the United States.

The determination of the persons, who are of right, contingently, to preside over the administration of the government, is, under our system, committed to the States of the people. We appeal to them, by their voice pronounced in the form of law, to call whomsoever they will to the high post of Chief Magistrate,

And thus it is that as the senators represent the respective States of the Union, and the members of the House of Representatives the several constituencies of each State, so the President represents the aggregate population of the United States. Their election of him is the explicit and solemn act of the sole sovereign authority of the Union.

It is impossible to misapprehend the great principles which, by their recent political action, the people of the United States have sauctiened and announced.

They have asserted the constitutional equality of each and all the States of the Union as States; they have affirmed the constitutional equality of each and all of the citizens of the United States as citizens, whatever their religion, wherever there birth, or their residence; they have mantained the inviolability of the constitutional rights of the different sections of the Union; and they have proclaimed their devoted and unalterable attachment to the Union and to the constitution, as objects or interest superior to all objects of local or sectional controversy, as the safeguard of the rights of all, as the spirit and essence of the liberty, peace, and greatness of the Re-

In doing this, they have, at the same time, emphatically condemned the idea of organizing in these United States mere geograpical parties; of marshalling in hostile array towards each other the different parts of the country, North or South, East or West.

Schemes of this nature, fraught with incalculable mischief, and which the considerate sense of the people has rejected, could have countenance in no part of the country, had they not been disguised by suggestions plausable in appearance, acting upon an excited state of the public mind, induced by causes temporary in their character, and it is hoped transient in their influence. Perfect liberty of association for political

objects, and the widest scope of discussion, are the received and ordinary conditions of government in our country. Our institutions framed in the spirit of confidence in the intelligence and the integrity of the people, do not forbid citizens either individually or associated together, to attack by writting, speech, or any methods short of physical force, the Constitution and the very existence of the Union .--Under the shelter of this great liberty, and protected by the laws and usages of the govsument they assail, associations have been formed, in some of the States, of individuals, who, pretending to seek only to prevent the spread of the institution of slavery into the present or inture inchonte States of the Union, are really inflamed with desire to change the domestic institutions of the existing States .-To accomplish their objects, they dedicate themselves to the odious task of depreciating the government organization which stands in their way, and of calumniating, with indiscriminate invective, not only citizens of particular States, with whose laws they find fault, but all others of their fellew citizens throughout the country, who do not participate with them in their assaults upon the Constitution, framed and adopted by our fathers, and claiming for the privileges it has secured, and the blessings it has conferred, the stendy support and grateful reverence of their children. They seek an object which they will know to be a revolutionary one. They are perfectly aware that the change in the relative condition of the white and black races in the slaveholding: States, which they would promote, is beyond their lawful authority; that to them is a foreign object; that it cannot be effected by any peaceful instrumentality of theirs; that for them, and the States of which they are citizens the only path to its accomplishment is through burning cities, and ravaged fields, and slaughtered populations, and all there is most terrible in foreign, complicated with civil and servile war; and that the first step in the attempt is the forcible disruption of a country embracing in its broad bosom a degree of liberty, and an amount of individual and public prosperity, to which there is no parallel in history, and substituting in its place hostile governments driven at once and inevitably into mutual devastation and fratricidal carnage, transforming the now peaceful and felicitous brotherhood into a vast permanent camp of armed men like the rival monarchies of Europe and

Well knowing that such, and such only, are the means and the consequences of their plans. and purposes, they endeavor to prepare the people of the United States for civil war by doing every thing in their power to deprive the Constitution and the laws of moral authcrity, and to undermine the fabric of the Union by appeals to passion and sectional prejucice, by indoctrinating its people with reciprocal hatred, and by educating them to stand face to face as enemies, rather than shoulder to shoulder as friends.

It is by the agency of such unwarrantable interference, foreign and domestic, that the minds of many otherwise good citizens, have been so inflamed into the pussionate condemnaton of the domestic institutions of the southern States, as at length to pass insensibly to almost equally passionate hostility towards their fellow-citizens of those States, and thus finally to fall into temporary followship with the snowed and active encuion of the Constitution. Ardently attached to liberty in the abstract, they do not stop in consider practically how the objects they would attain can be accomplished, nor to reflect that, even if the evil were as great as they deem it, they have no remedy to apply, and that it can be only aggravated by their violence and uncon- occasion mitutional action.

with unreasoning intemperatee of thought and faith. hungrage. Extremes begoing tremes. Violent. An act of Congress, while it remains unrestuck from the North finds its inevitable couse-pealed, more especially if it be constitutionally quence in the growth of a spirit of angry defiof the United States.

the Union. They would, upon deliberation, on the subject. shrink with unaffected horror from any conscious act of disunion or civil war. But they mre entered into a path which lends nowhere, unless it he to civil war and disunion, and which has no other possible outlet. They have proceeded thus far in that direction in consequence of the successive stages of their progress having consisted of a series of seconfary issues, each of which profess to be congressively against the constitutional rights of nearly one-half of the thirty-one States.

sion, the first was the atrenous agitation, by and of reciprocal obligation. citizens of the northern States, in Congress and out of it, of the question of negro emancipation in the southern States,

and in several instances of their governments, nimed to facilitate the escape of persons held vent their extradition when reclaimed according to law and in virtue of express provisions of the Constitution. To promote this object, legislative enactments and other means were adopted to take away or defeat rights, which the Constitution solemnly guarantied. In order to nullify the then existing act of Congress concerning the extradition of fugitives from service, laws were onacted in many States, forbidding their officers under the severest penalties, to participate in the execution of any act of Congress whatever,

In this way that system of harmonious co-operation between the authorities of the United States and of the several States, for the maintenance of their common institutions, which existed in the early years of the Republic, was assumed, that Congress has no moral right to destroyed; conflicts of jurisdiction came to be enact such repeal, was strange enough, and frequent; and Congress found itself compelled, singularly so in view of the fact that the argufor the support of the Constitution, and the viu- ment came from those who openly refused dication of its power, to authorize the appointment of new officers charged with the execution of its acts, as if they and the officers of the States were the ministers, respectively of foreign governments in a state of mutual hosility, rather than fellow magistrates of a common country, peacefully subsiding under the protection of one well-constituted Union .-Thus here, also, aggression was followed by reaction; and the attacks upon the Constitution tal compact of our Union. at this point did but serve to raise up new barriers for its defence and security.

The third stage of this unhappy sectional it was proposed to admit the State of Maine, the limits of slave labor beyond those previous objected to the admission of the latter, unless tional right. with conditions suited to particular views of | The repeal in terms of a statute, which was tion was, for the time, disposed of by the adoption of a geographical line of limitation.

In this connexion it should not be forgotten that France, of her own accord, resolved, for considerations of the most far-sighted sagacity, to cede Louisiana to the United States, and that accession was accepted by the United States, the latter expressly engaged that "the inhabitants of the ceded territory shall be incorporated in the Union of the United States. and admitted as soon as possible, according to the principles of the Federal Constitution, to and immunities of citizens of the United which they profess"—that is to say, while it right then to pass into the condition of States States. on a footing of perfect equality with the original States.

The enactment, which established the rerather than approved by the States of the Un- will spontaneously go everywhere, in preferion, It stood on the statute book, however, ence to free labor? Is it the fact that the for a number of years; and the people of the respective States acquiesced in the re-enactment of the principle as applied to the State wheresoever an avenue is freely open to all the of Texas; and it was proposed to acquiesce in world, they will penetrate to the exclusion of tion, no wisdom on the part of Congress, its further application to the territory acquired those of the northern States. Is it the fact by the United States from Mexico. But this that the tormer enjoy, compared with the latproposition was successfully resisted by the ter, such irresistible superior vitality, indepenplying restriction to the new territory generally. whether lying north or south of it, thereby re- natural obstacles to its accomplishment, and pealing it as a legislative compromise, and, on the more numerous population of the northern the part of the North, persistently violating | States? the compact, if compact there was.

Thereupon this enactment ceased to have binding virtue in any sense, whether as respects | demn the repeal of old ones, in effect avers that Washington.

Territories of Kausas and Nebraska. In the progress of constitutional inquiry and reflection, it had now at length come to be seen clearly that Congress does not possess constitutional power to impose restrictions of this character upon any present or future state of the Union. In a long series of decisions, on the fullest argument, and after the most deliberate consideration, the Supreme Court of the United States had finally determined this point, in every form under which the question could arise, whether as affecting public or private rights-in questions of the public domain, of

religion, of navigation, and of servitude. The several States of the Union are, by force of the Constitution, co equal in domestic legislative power. Congress cannot change a law of domestic relation in the State of Maine; no more can it in the State of Missouri. Any statue which proposes to do this is a mere nullity; it takes away no right; it confers none .-If it remains on the statue-book unrepealed, it remains there only as a monument of error, and a beacon of warning to the legislator and statesman. To repeal it will be only to remove imperfection from the statutes, without affecting, either in the sense of permission or of prohibition, the action of the States, or of their

Still, when the nominal restriction of this nature, already a dead letter in law, was in terms repealed by the last Congress, in a clause of the act organizing the Territories of Kansas and Nebrasks, that repeal was made the occasion of a wide spread and dangerous agi. Thus, when the acts of some of the States to own rights, and to suppose that a satisfic.

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A question, which is one of the most difficult 11 was alleged that the original enactment of all the problems of aocial institution, poli-being a compact of perpetual moral obligatical economy and statesinauship, they treat tion, its repeat constituted an odious breach of

valid in the judgment of those public fuctionance at the South. Thus in the progress of aries whose duty it is to pronounce on that events we had reached that consummation point, is undoubtedly binding on the conwhich the voice of the people has now so point science of each good citizen of the Republic. edly rebuked of the attempt, of a portion of the But in what sense can it be asserted that the States by a sectional organization and move- enactment in question was invested with perment, to usurp the control of the government | petuity and entitled to the respect of a solemn compact? Between whom was the compact? I confidently believe that the great body of No distinct contending powers of the governthose, who inconsiderately took this fatal step, ment, no separate sections of the Union, treatare slucerell attached to the Constitution and ing as such, entered into the treaty stipulations

It was a mere clause of an act of Congress, and like any other controverted matter of legislation, received its final shape and was passed by compromise of the conflicting opinions or sentiments of the members of Congress .-But if it had moral authority over men's consciences, to whom did this authority attach?-Not to those of the North who had repeatedly refused to confirm it by extension, and who fined within constitutional and peaceful limits, had zealously striven to establish other and but which attempted indirectly what few men incompatible regulations upon the subject.were willing to do directly, that is, to act ag- And it, as it thus appears, the supposed compact had no obligatory force as to the North, of course it could not have had any as to the In the long series of acts of indirect aggres. South, for all such compacts must be mutual

It has not unfrequently happened that lawgivers, with undue estimation of the value of the law they give, or in the view of imparting The second step in this path of evil consist to it peculiar strength, make it perpetual in ted of acts of the people of the northern States, terms ;-but they cannot thus bind the conscience, the judgment, and the will of those who may succeed them, invested with similar to service in the southern States, and to pre- responsibilities, and clothed with equal authority. More careful investigation may prove the law to be unsound in principle. Experience may show it imperfect in detail and impracticable in execution. And then both reason and right combine not merely to justify, but

require its repeal.

The Constitution, supreme as it is over all the departments of the government, legislative, executive, and judicial, is open to amendment by its very terms; and Congress or the States may in their discretion, propose amondments to it, solemn compact though it in truth is hetween the Sovereign States of the Union. In the present instance, a political enactment, which had ceased to have legal power or authority of any kind, was repealed. The position obedience to existing laws of the land, having the same popular designation and quality as compromise acts; nay, more, who unequivecally disregard and condemned the most obligatory injunctions of the Constitution itself, and sought, by every means within their reach, | ized obstruction of law, pertinaciously renewto deprive a portion of their fellow citizens of the equal enjoyment of those rights and privi-occurred, by such means as were available, leges guarantied alike to all by the fundamen | and as the circumstances required; and

This argument against the repeal of the statute line in question was accompanied by of a part of the inhabitants of the Territory another of congenial character, and equally to erect a revolutionary government, though controversy was in connection with the organ- with the former destitute of foundation in reaization of territorial governments, and the ad- son and truth. It was imputed that the measmission of new States into the Union. When are originated in the conception of extending by separation of territory from that of Massa- ly assigned to it, and that such was its natural chusetts, and the State of Missouri, formed of a well as intended effect; and these baseless portion of the territory ceded by France to assumptions were made in the northern States, in acts of rapine, under cover of the existing the United States, representatives in Congress the ground of unceasing assault upon constitut political disturbances, have been arrested or

public policy. The imposition of such a con- already obsolete, and also null for unconstitution peace to the pursuits of prosperous indusdition was successfully resisted. But at the tionality, could have no influence to obstruct try, for the prosecution of which he undertook the same period, the question was presented or to promote the propagation of conflicting to participate in the settlement of the Terriof imposing restrictions upon the residue of views of political or social institutions. When tory, the territory ceded by France. That quest the act recognizing the Territories of Kansas opened to legal settlement was to admit settiors from all the States of the Union alike, each with his convictions of public policy and private interest, there to found in their discretion, subject to such limitations as the Constitution and acts of Congress might prescribe. new States, hereafter to be admitted into the

It was a free field, open alike to all, whether the statute line of assumed restriction were the onjoyment of all the rights, advantages repealed or not. That repeal did not open to free competition of the diverse opinions and isfaction in the attainment of such results by States; and in the meantime they shall be domestic institutions a field which, without maintained and protected in the free enjoy- such repeal, would have been closed against sideration, that, through the wisdom and enment of their liberty, property, and the religion | them; it found that field of competition already opened, in fact and in law, All the repeal did remains in a territorial condition its inhabitants was to relieve the statute-book of an objection- military officers on duty there, tranquility has are maintained and protected in the free en- able engetment, unconstitutional in effect, and been restored without one drop of blood havjoyment of their liberty and property with a injurious in terms to a large portion of the

Is it the fact, that, in all the unsettled regions of the United States, if emigration be left free to act in this respect for itself, without peculiar domestic institutions of the southern States possess relatively so much of vigor that, poved result, in spite of the assumed moral and

The argument of those who advocate the enactment of new laws of restriction, and conthe North or the South; and so in effect it their particular views of government have no was treated on the occasion of the admission self-extending or self-sustaining power of their of the State of California, and the organization own, and will go nowhere unless forced by act of the Territories of New Mexico, Utah and of Congress. And if Congress do but pause pediment to the salutary operation of the or- From recent information, we are permitted for a moment in the policy of stern coercion, Such was the state of this question, when if it venture to try the experiment of leaving he time arrived for the organization of the men to judge for themselves what institution will best suit them : if it be not strained up to perpetual legislative exertion on this point; if | Congress abstained from imposing restraints Congress proceed thus to act in the very spirit of liberty it is at once charged with aiming to extend slave labor into all the new Territories of the United States.

Of course, these imputations on the intentions of Congress in this respect, conceived as | consequence, in Laneas, of the freedom of selfthey were in prejudice, and disseminated in passion, are utterly destitute of any justification in the nature of things, and contrary to all the fundamental doctrines and principles of civil liberty and self-government.

arrogated for the federal government the power to interfere directly with the domestic con- hands of the Executive. on the contrary have disavowed all such in-

sprang in reality from the spirit of revolution- the people of the United States. ary attack on the domestic institutions of the South, and, after a troubled existence of a few months, has been rebuked by the voice of a the occasional incidents of even the freest and patriotic people.

ture was, that it was carried on at the imme- the right of self constitution exists in the comdiate expense of the peace and happiness of pletest form, the attempt to remedy unwise the people of the Territory of Kansis. That was made the battle-field, not so much of op- of place; inasmuch as existing legal instituposing factions or interests within itself, as of tions afford more prompt and efficacious means the conflicting passions of the whole people of for the redress of wrong. the United States. Revolutionary disorder in Kansas had its origin in projects of inter- ful condition of Kansas affords opportunity for vention, deliberately arranged by certain calm reflection and wise legislation, either the further increase of our naval force. members of that Congress, which enacted the legislative Assembly of the Territory, or Conlaw for the organization of the Territory .-And when propagandist colonization of Kan-statute-book violative of the provisions of the sas had thus been undertaken in one section Constitution, or subversive of the great objects of the Union, for the systematic promotion of for which that was ordained and established, portance. its peculiar views of policy, there ensued, as and will take all other necessary steps to asa matter of course, a counter-action with oppo- sure to its inhabitants the enjoyment, without site views, in other sections of the Union,

In consequence of these and other incidents many nets of disorder, it is undeniable, have izens of the U. States, as contemplated by the have been located, with military scrip and been perpetrated in Kansas, to the occasional interruption, rather than the permanent suspension, of regular government. Aggressive will be found in the documents communicated 39,328,108 acres. On the 30th of September and most reprehensible incursions into the Territory were undertaken, both in the North and the South, and entered it on its northern border by the way of Iowa, as well as on the eastern by the way of Missouri; and there and the various branches of the public service | the complication and progressive expansion of has existed within it a state of insurrection | connected with the Treasury Department. against the constituted authorities not without countenance from inconsiderate persons in each of the great sections of the Union. But the difficulties in that have been extravagant ly exaggerated for purposes of political agitation elsewhere. The number and gravity of year to amount to \$92.850,117. The expenthe acts of violence have been magnified partly by statements entirely untrue, and partly the treaty with Mexico, and excluding sums of the Government. Its expenditures for the by reiterated accounts of the same rumors or facts. Thus the Territory has been seemingly filled with extreme violence, where the whole amount of such acts has not been greater than what occasionally passes before us in single cities to the regret of all good citizens, but without being regarded as of general or permanent political consequence.

Imputed irregularities in the elections had in Kansas, like occasional irregularities of the same description in the States, were be yand the sphere of action of the Executive .-But incidents of actual violence or of organed from time to time, have been met as they nothing of this character now remains to affect the general peace of the Union. The attempt sedulously encouraged and supplied with pecuniary aid from active agents of disorder in some or the States, has completely failed .-Bodies of armed men, foreign to the Territory, have been prevented from entering or compelled to leave it. Predatory bands, engaged dispersed. And every well disposed person

It affords me unmingled satisfaction thus and Nebrarka was passed, the inherent effect to announce the penceful condition of things upon that portion of the public domain thus in Kan-as, especially considering the means to which it was necessary to have recourse for the attainment of the end, namely the employment of a part of the military force of the United States. The withdrawal of that force from its proper duty of defending the country against foreign foes or the savages of the frontier, to employ it for the suppression of domestic insurrection, is, when the exigency occurs, a matter of the most earnest solicitude On this occasion of imperative necessity it has been done with the best results, and my satsuch means is greatly enhanced by the conergy of the present Executive of Kansas, and the prudence, firmness and vigilance of the ing been shed in its accomplishment by the forces of the United States,

The restoration of comparative tranquility in that Territory furnishes the means of observing calmly, and appreciating at their penal provisions to all persons who may beand the discussions of which the government of the Territory has been subject.

We perceive that controversy concerning its future domestic institutions was inevitable; that no human prudence, no form of legislacould have prevented this.

It is idle to suppose that the particular provisions of their organic law were the cause of representatives from the northern States, who, dent of climate, soil, and other accidental cir- agitation. Those provisions were but the ocregardless of the statue line, insisted upon ap cumstances, as to be able to produce the sup- casion, or the pretext of an agitation, which was inherent in the nature of things. Congress legislated upon the subject in such terms as were most con-onant with the principle of popular sovereignty which underlies our government. It could not have I gislated otherwise without doing violence to another great principle of our institutions, the imprescriptible right of equality of the several States.

We perceive, also, that sectional interests and party passions, have been the great imganic principles adopted, and the chief cause of to hope that the energetic and successful the British provinces in America. the successive disturbances in Kansas. The assumption that, because in the organization of the Territories of Nebraska and Kansas, upon them to which certain other Territories had been subject, therefore disorders occurred agricultural and mineral resources. in the latter Territory, is emphatically contrathe former. Those disorders were not the existing organization, and to increase the government conceded to that Territory by Congress, but of unjust interference on the part of persons not inhabitants of the Territory. Such interference, wherever it has exhibited itself, by acts of insurrectionary character, or not only proper but necessary. While therefore, in general, the people of of obstruction to processes of law, has been the northern States have never, at any time, repelled or suppressed, by all the means which the Constitution and the laws place in the

dition of persons in the southern States, but In those parts of the U. States, where, by reas n of the inflamed state of the public mind, tentions, and have shrunk from conspicuous false rumors and misrepresentations have the and other subjects relating to the army, I only as to the precise point where the rivers affiliation with those few who pursue their greatest currency, it has been assumed that it refer to the report of the Secretary of War. terminate, but in many instances as to what funatical objects avowedly through the con- was the duty of the Executive not only to suptemplated means of revolutionary change of press insurrectionary movements in Kansas, necessary consequences -a civil and servile tions. It needs little argument to show that war-yet many citizens have suffered thom, the President has no such power. All govsolves to be drawn into one evanescent politi- ernment in the U. States rests substantially cal issue of agitation after another, appertain- upon popular election. The freedom of elecing to the same set of opinions, and which tions is liable to be impaired by the intrusion subsided as rapidly as they arose when it of unlawful votes, o the exclusion of lawful

died almost with its birth. Then followed exercise it in the case of Kansas, he would

Unwise laws, equally with irregularities at hest political institutions. But all experience Of this last agitation, one lamentable fear demonstrates that in a country like ours, where legislation by resort to revolution, is totally out

I confidently trust that now, when the peacegress, will see that no act shall remain on its obstruction or abridgment, of all the constitu-

the Treasury for particular information concern- market.

During the last fiscal year the receipts from million dollars, and from all sources, \$73,918,of July, 1855, made the total resources of the commended to your consideration. Litures, including \$3,000,000 in execution of paid on account of the public debt, amounted to \$60.172.401; and, including the latter, to gross receipts \$7,620,801-making an excess \$72.948.792, the payment on this account hav- of expenditure over receipts of \$2.787,046 .ing amounted to \$12,776,390.

On the 4th of March, 1853, the amount of the public debt was \$69,129,037. There was a subsequent increase of \$2,750,000 for the debt of Texas-making a total of \$71,879,937. Of this the surn of \$45.525,319, including premium, has been discharged, reducing the debt to \$30,737,129; all which might be paid within a year without embarrassing the public service, but being not yet due, and only redeemable at the option of the holder, cannot be pressed to payment by the Government.

On examining the expenditures of the last five years, it will be seen that the average, deducting payments on accourt of the public debt and ten millions paid by treaty to Mexico, has been but about \$48,000,000. It is believed that, under an economical administration of the government, the average expenditure for the ensuing five years will hot exceed that sum, unless extraordinary occasion for its increase should occur. The acts granting bounty lands will soon have been executed, while the extension of our frontier settlements will cause. a continued demand for lands and augmented receipts, probably, from that source. These considerations will justify a reduction of the revenue from customs, swas not to exceed 48 or \$50,000,000. A think the exigency for such reduction is imperative, and again urge it upon the consideration of Congress.

The amount of reduction, as well as the manner of effecting it, are questions of great and general interest; it being essential to industrial enterprise and the public prosperity, as well as the dictate of obvious justice, that the burden of taxation be made to rest as equally as possible upon all classes, and all good understanding between the United St. i.s. and Great Britain. Of the progress and tersections and interests of the country.

I have heretofore recommended to your consideration the revision of the revenue laws. prepared under the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury, and also legislation upon some special questions affecting the business of that books or papers from the files of the government, and requiring all such books and papers and all other public property to be officers to deposite all public money in the vaults of the treasury or in other legal depositories, where the same are conveniently accessible; and a law to extend existing or otherwise, and who shall refuse or neglect, on due demand, to pay the same into the treasury. I invite your attention anew

to each of these objects. The army, during the past year, has been so constantly employed against hostile Indians in various quarters, that it can scarce ly be said, with propriety of language, to be a peace establishment. Its duties have been satisfactorily performed, and we have reason to expect, as a result of the year's operations, greater security to the frontier North American provinces, with advantages inhabitants than has been hitherto enjoyed. and Oregon, at one time threatened the suit connected to no inconsiderable degree devastation of the newly formed settlements with our national prosperity and strength, it has had a favorable effect upon other interests of that remote portion of the country .operations conducted there will prevent such combinations in future, and secure to those Territories an opportunity to make steady progress in the development of their

dieted by the fact that none have occurred in on previous occasions to cure defects in the six million upon those of the previous year. efficiency of the army, and further observation has but served to confirm me in the views then expressed, and to enforce on my that treaty for a commission to designate the mind the conviction that such measures are

> I have, in addition, to invite the atten- and the British provinces, was not to extend. tion of Congress to a change of policy in the | This commission has been employed a part of distribution of troops, and to the necessity two seasons, but without much progress in of providing a more rapid increase of the military armament. For details of these

satisfactory, but exhibits the most gratifying ever, may be overcome by resort to the umpirthe government, and with acceptance of the but also to see to the regularity of local elec- evidences of increased vigor. As it is com- age provided for by the treaty. paratively small, it is more important that it came to be seen, as it uniformly did, that they ones, by improper influences, by violence, or the last few years. The execution of the law to their commerce, and Denmark was thus inwere incompatible with the compacts of the by fraud. But the people of the U. States are of Congress, of February 28, 1855, "to pro-duced to propose an arrangement to all the Constitution and the existence of the Union. themselves the all sufficient guardians of their mote the efficiency of the navy," has been at European powers interested in the subject; Thus, when the acts of some of the States to own rights, and to suppose that they will not tended by the most advantageous results .-- and the manuer in which her proposition was

upon Congress the duty of passing a new one, civil freedom, is to suppose them to have cea- men is found convenient and salutary. The the country was invited by agitators to enter sed to be capable of self-government. The system of granting an honorable discharge to into party organization for its repeal; but President of the U. States has not power to faithful seamen on the expiration of the period that agitation speedily cessed by reason of interpose in elections to see to their freedom, of their enlistment, and permitting them to rethe impracticability of its object. So, when to canvass their votes, or to pass upon their le- enlist after a leave of a bsence of a few months, the statute restriction upon the institutions gality in the Territories any more than in the without cassation of pay, is highly beneficial of new States, by a geographical line, had States. If he had such power the government in its influence. The apprentice system rebeen repealed, the country was urged to de- might be republican in form, but it would be a cently adopted is evidently destined to incormand its restoration, and that project also monarchy in fact; and if he had undertaken to porate into the service a large number of our countrymen hitherto so difficult to procure.the cry of alarm from the North against im- have been justly subject to the charge of usur- Several hundred American boys are now on a puted southern encroachments; which cry pation, and of violation of the dearest rights of three years' cruise in our national vessels, and will return well trained seamen. In the ordnance department there is a decided and gratielections, are, in periods of great excitement, fying indication of progress creditable to it the occasional incidents of even the freest and to the country. The suggestions of the Secretary of the Navy, in regard to further improvement in that branch of the service. I commend to your favorable action.

The new frigates ordered by Congress are now affoat, and two of them in active service. They are superior models of naval architecture, and with their formidable battery add largely to public strength and security.

I concur in the views expressed by the Sec-

retary of the Department in favor of a still The report of the Secretary of the Interior presents facts and views in relation to internal

affairs over which the supervision of his department extends, of much interest and im-The aggregate sales of the public lands, du-

ring the last fiscal year, amount to 9,227,878 acres; for which has been received the snm tional rights, privileges, and immunities of cit- of \$8,821,414. During the same period there organic law of the Perritory. Full information land-warrants, and for other purposes; 30,160. in relation to recent events in this Territory 230 acres, thus making a total aggregate of herewith from the Departments of State & War. | last, surveys had been made of 16,873,699 I refer you to the report of the Secretary of acres; a large portion of which is ready for

ing the financial condition of the Government. The suggestions in this report in regard to the business of the different bureaux of the department; to the pension system; to the customs were, for the first time, more than 64 colonization of Indian tribes, and the recommendations in relation to various improvements 131; which the balance on hand up to the 1st in the District of Columbia, are especially

The report of the Postmaster General presents fully the condition of that department last fiscal year. were \$10,407.868; and its The deficiency of this department is thus \$744,000 greater than for the year ending June 30, 1853. Of this deficiency, \$330,000 is to be attributed to the additional compensation allowed postmasters by the net of Congres of June 22, 1854. The mail facilities in every part of the country have been very much increased in that period, and the large addition of railroad service, amounting to 7903 miles, has added largely to the cost of transportation.

The inconsiderable augmentation of the income of the Post Office Department under the reduced rates of postage, and its increasing expenditures, must, for the present, make it dependent to some extent upon the treasury for support. The recommendations of the Postmister General, in relation to the abolition of the franking privilege, and his views on the establishment of mail steamship lines, deserve the consideration of Congress. I also call the special attention of Congress to the statement of the Postmaster General respecting the sums now paid for the transfortation of mails to the Panama Railroad Company, and commend to their early and favorable. consideration the suggestions of that officer in relation to new contracts for mail tr. separation upon that route, and also upon the Tehuantepec and Nicaragua 19019s.

The United States continue in the caloyment of amicable relations with all foreign

When my last annual message was transmitted to Congress/two subjects of controversy, one relating to the enlistment of soldiers in this country for foreign service, and the other to Central America, threatened no disturb mination of the former question you were informed as the time; and the other is now inthe way of satisfactory adjustment

The object of the convention between the United States and Great Britain of the 19th department, more especially the enactment of April, 1850, was to secure, for the benefit of a law to punish the abstraction of official of all nations, the neutrality and the common use of any transit way, or interoceasie communication, across the isthmus of Panama, which might be opened within the limits of Central America. The pretension subsequentturned over by the out going officer to his ly asserted by Great Britain to dominion or successor; of a law requiring disbursing control over territories, in or near two of the routes, those of Nicaragua and Honduras, were deemed by the United States, not merely incompatible with the main object of the treaty, but oppressed even to its express stipulations. Occasion of controversy on this point has been removed by an additional strictive geographical line, was acquiesced in legal prohibitions on either side, slave-labor just value, the events which occurred there. come possessed of public money by deposite treaty, which our minister at London has concluded, and which will be immediately submitted to the Senate for its consideration. Should the proposed supplemental arrangement be concurred in by all the parties to be. affected by it, the objects contemplated by the original convention will have been fully attained.

The treaty between the United States and Great Britain of the 5th of June, 1854, which went into effective operation in 1855, put an end to causes of irritation between the two countries, by securing to the United States the right of fishery on the coast of the British equal to those enjoyed by British subjects. Extensive combinations among the hostile Besides the signal benefits of this treaty to a Indians of the Territories of Washington large class of our citizens engaged in a purin the provision it made for reciprocal freedom of trade between the United States and

The exports of domestic articles to those provinces during the last year amounted to more than twenty-two million dollars, exceeding those of the preceding year by nearly seven million dollars; and the imports therefrom during the same period amounted to Legislation has been recommended by me | more then twenty-one million-an increase of

The improved condition of this branch of our commerce is mainly attributable to the

above-mentioned treaty.

Provision was made in the first article of mouths of rivers to which the common right of fishery, on the coast of the United States accomplishing the object for which it was instituted, in consequence of a serious difference of opinion between the commissioners, not The condition of the navy is not merely constitutes a river. These difficulties, how-

The efforts perseveringly prosecuted since should be efficient in the character of its offi- the commencement of my administration to cers, in the zeal and discipline of its men, in relieve our trade to the Baltic from the exacthe reliability of its ordnance, and in the ca- tion of Sound dues by Denmark have not yet pacity of its ships. In all these various qual- been attended with success. Other governities the navy has made great progress within ments have also sought to obtain a like relief