PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Fellow Citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives:

Sixty years have elapsed since the establishment of this Government, and the United States again assembles, to legislate for an empire of freemen. The predictions of evil prophets, who formerly pretended to foretell the downfall of our institutions, are now remembered only to be derided, and the United States of America, at this moment, present to the world the most stable and permanent Government on earth.

Such is the result of the labors of those who have gone before us. Upon Congress will eminently depend the future maintenance of our system of free government, and the transmission of it unimpaired, to posterity.

We are at peace with all the world, and seek to maintain our cherished relations of amity with the rest of mankind. During the past year, we have been blessed, by a kind Providence, with an abundance of the fruits of the earth; and, although the destroying angel, for a time visited extensive portions of our territory with the ravages of a dreadful pestilence, yet, the Almighty has at length deigned to stay his hand, and to restore the inestimable blessing of general health to a people who have acknowledged his power, deprecated his wrath, and implored his merciful protection.

While enjoying the benefits of amicable intercourse with foreign nations, we have not been insensible to the distractions and wars which have prevailed in other quarters of the world. It is a proper theme of thanksgiving to Him who rules the destinies of nations, that we have been able to maintain, amid all these contests, an independent and neutral position toward all belligerent powers.

Our relations with Great Britain are of the most friendly character. In consequence of the recent alteration of the British navigation acts, British vessels, from British and other foreign ports, will (under our existing laws,) after the first day of January next, be admitted to entry in our ports with cargoes of the growth, manufacture or production of any part of the world, on the same terms, as to duties, imposts, and charges, as vessels of the United States with their cargoes; and our vessels will be admitted to the same advantage in British ports, entering therein on the same terms as British vessels. Should no order in council disturb this legislative arrangement, the late act of the British Parliament, by which Great Britain is brought within the terms proposed by the act of Congress of the first of March 1817 it is hoped, will be productive of benefit to both countries.

A slight interruption of diplomatic intercourse, which occurred between this Government and France, I am happy to say, has been terminated, and our Minister there has been received. It is therefore unnecessary to refer, now, to the circumstances which led to that interruption. I need not express to you the sincere satisfaction with which we shall welcome the arrival of another Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from a sister republic, to which we have so long been, and still remain, bound by the strongest ties of amity.

Shortly after I had entered upon the discharge of the Executive duties, I was apprized that a war steamer, belonging to the German Empire, was being fitted out in the harbor of New-York, with the aid of some of our naval officers, rendered under the permission of the late Secretary of the Navy. [illegible] an ar[illegible] between that Empire and the Kingdom of Denmark, which had been engaged in the Schleswig Holstein war. Apprehensive that this act of intervention, on our part, might be viewed as a violation of our neutral obligations, incurred by the Treaty with Denmark, and of the provisions of the act of Congress of April 20, 1818 I directed that no further aid should be rendered by any agent or officer of the Navy; and I instructed the Secretary of State to apprize the Minister of the German Empire accredited to this Government, of my determination to execute the law of the United States, and to maintain the faith of treaties with all nations. The correspondence which ensued between the Department of State and the Minister of the German Empire is here laid before you. The execution of the law and the observance of the treaty were deemed by me to be due to the honor of the country, as well as to the sacred obligations of the Constitution. I shall not fail to pursue the same course, should a similar case arise with any other nation. Having avowed the opinion, on taking the oath of office, that in disputes with conflicting foreign Governments, it is our interest, not less than our duty, to remain strictly neutral, I shall not abandon it. You will perceive, from the correspondence submitted to you, in connection with this subject, that the course adopted in this case has been properly regarded by the belligerent powers interested in the matter.

Although a Minister of the United States to the German Empire was appointed by my predecessor, in August, 1848, and has, for a long time, been in attendance, at Frankfort-on-the-Maine; and although a Minister, appointed to represent that Empire was received and accredited here, yet no such Government as that of the German Empire has been definitely constituted.— Mr. Donelson our Representative at Frankfort, remained there several months, in the expectation that a union of the German States, under one Constitution or form of Government, might, at length, be organized. It is believed, by those well acquainted with the existing relation between Prussia and the States of Germany, that no such union can be permanently established without her co-operation. In the event of the formation of such a union and the organization of a central power in Germany, of which she should form a part, it would become necessary to withdraw our Minister at Berlin; but while Prussia exists as an independent Kingdom, and diplomatic relations are maintained with her, there can be no necessity for the continuance of the mission at Frankfort. I have, therefore recalled Mr. Donelson, and directed the archives of the legation, at Frankfort, to be transferred to the American legation at Berlin.

Having been apprized that a considerable number of adventurers were engaged in fitting out a military expedition, within the United States, against a foreign country; and believing, from the best information I could obtain, that it was destined to invade the Island of Cuba, I deemed it due to the friendly relations existing between the United States and Spain; to the treaty between the two nations; the laws of the United States, and above all, to the American honor, to exert the lawful authority of this Government in suppressing the expedition and preventing the invasion. To this end I issued a proclamation, enjoining it upon the officers of the United States civil and military, to use all lawful means within their power. A copy of that proclamation is herewith submitted. The expedition was suppressed. So long as the act of Congress of the 20th of April, 1818 which owes its existence to the law of nations, and to the policy of Washington himself, shall remain on our statute-book, I hold it to be the duty of the Executive faithfully to obey its injunctions.

While this expedition was in progress, I was informed that a foreigner who claimed our protection had been clandestinely, and, as was supposed, forcibly carried off in a vessel from New-Orleans to the island of Cuba. I immediately caused such steps to be taken as I thought necessary, in case the information I had received should prove correct, to vindicate the honor of the country, and the right of every person seeking an asylum on our soil to the protection of our laws. The person alleged to have been abducted was promptly restored, and the circumstances of the case are now about to undergo investigation before a judicial tribunal. I would respectfully suggest that, although the crime charged to have been committed in this case is held odious, as being in conflict with our opinions on the subject of national sovereignty and personal freedom, there is no prohibition of it or punishment for it provided in any act of Congress. The expediency of supplying this defect in our criminal code is therefore recommended to your consideration.

I have scrupulously avoided any interference in the wars and contentions which have recently distracted Europe.

During the late conflict between Austria and Hungary, there seemed to be a prospect that the latter might become an independent nation. However faint that prospect at the time appeared, I thought it my duty, in accordance with the general sentiment of the American people, who deeply sympathized with the Magyar patriots, to stand prepared upon the contingency of the establishment by her of a permanent Government, to be the first to welcome independent Hungary into the family of nations. For this purpose I invested an agent, then in Europe, with power to declare our willingness promptly to recognize her independence, in the event of her ability to sustain it. The powerful intervention of Russia, in the contest, extinguished the hopes of the Magyars. The United States did not, at any time, interfere in the contest, but the feelings of the nation were strongly enlisted in the cause, and by the sufferings of a brave people, who had made a gallant though unsuccessful effort to be free.

Our claims upon Portugal have been, during the past year, prosecuted with renewed vigor, and it has been my object to employ every effort of honorable diplomacy to procure their adjustment. Our late Charge d'Affaires at Lisbon, Hon. George W Hopkins, made able and energetic, but unsuccessful, efforts to settle these unpleasant matters of controversy, and to obtain indemnity for the wrongs which were the subjects of complaint. Our present Charge d'Affaires at that Court will, also, bring to the prosecution of these claims ability and zeal. [illegible] has been represented as one of the leading causes of her delay in indemnifying our suffering citizens. But I must now say it is a matter of profound regret that these claims have not yet been settled. The omission of Portugal to do justice to the American claimants has now assumed a character so grave and serious, that I shall shortly make it the subject of a special message to Congress, with a view to such ultimate action as its wisdom and patriotism may suggest.

With Russia, Austria, Prussia, Sweden, Denmark, Belgium, the Netherlands, and the Italian States, we will maintain our accustomed amicable relations.

During the recent revolutions in the Papal States, our Charge d'Affaires at Rome has been unable to present his letter of credence, which, indeed, he was directed by my predecessor to withhold until he should receive further orders. Such was the unsettled condition of things in those States, that it was not deemed expedient to give him any instructions on the subject of presenting his credential letter different from those with which he had been furnished by the late Administration, until the 25th of June last; when, in consequence of the want of accurate information of the exact state of things, at that distance from us, he was instructed to exercise his own discretion in presenting himself to the then existing Government, if, in his judgment sufficiently stable; or if not, to await further events. Since that period Rome has undergone another revolution, and he abides the establishment of a Government sufficiently permanent to justify him in opening diplomatic intercourse with it.

With the republic of Mexico it is our true policy to cultivate the most friendly relations. Since the ratification of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, nothing has occurred of a serious character to disturb them. A faithful observance of the treaty, and a sincere respect for her rights, cannot fail to secure the lasting confidence and friendship of that Republic. The Message of my predecessor to the House of Representatives, of the 8th of February last, communicating, in compliance with a resolution of that body, a copy of a paper called a Protocol, signed at Queretaro on the 30th of May, 1848, by the commissioners of the United States and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Mexican Government, having been a subject of correspondence between the Department of State and the Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of that Republic accredited to this Government, a transcript of that correspondence is herewith submitted.

The Commissioners on the part of the United States for marking the boundary between the two republics, though delayed in reaching San Diego by unforeseen obstacles, arrived at that place within a short period after the time required by the treaty, and was there joined by the commissioner on the part of Mexico. They entered upon their duties; and, at the date of the latest intelligence from that quarter, some progress had been made in the survey. The expenses incident to the organization of the commission, and to its conveyance to the point where its operations were to begin, have so much reduced the fund appropriated by Congress, that a further sum, to cover the charges which must be incurred during the present fiscal year, will be necessary. The great length of frontier along which the boundary extends, the nature of the adjacent territory, and the difficulty of obtaining supplies, except at or near the extremes of the line, render it also indispensable that a liberal provision should be made to meet the necessary charges during the fiscal year ending on the 30th of June, 1851. I accordingly recommend this subject to your attention.

In the adjustment of the claims of American citizens on Mexico, provided for by the late treaty, the employment of counsel on the part of the Government, may become important for the purpose of assisting the Commissioners in protecting the interest of the United States. I recommend this subject to the early and favorable consideration of Congress.

Complaints have been made in regard to the inefficiency of the means provided by the Government of New Grenada for transporting the United States Mail across the Isthmus of Panama, pursuant to our Postal Convention with that Republic, of the 6th of March, 1844. Our Charge d'Affaires at Bogota has been directed to make such representations to the Government of New Grenada as will, it is hoped, lead to a prompt removal of this cause of complaint.

The sanguinary civil war with which the Republic of Venezuela has for some time past been ravaged, has been brought to a close. In its progress the rights of some of our citizens resident or trading there have been violated. The restoration of order will afford the Venezuelian Government opportunity to examine and redress the grievances, and others of longer standing, which our representatives at Caraccas have hitherto ineffectually urged upon the attention of that Government.

The extension of the coast of the United States on the Pacific, and the unexampled rapidity with which the inhabitants of California, especially, are increasing in numbers, have imparted new consequence to our relations with the other countries whose territories border upon that ocean. It is probable that the intercourse between those countries and our possessions in that quarter, particularly with the Republic of Chili, will become extensive and mutually advantageous in proportion as California and Oregon shall increase in population and wealth. It is desirable, therefore, that this Government should do everything in its power to foster and strengthen its relations with those States, and that the spirit of amity between us should be mutual and cordial.

I recommend the observance of the same course toward all other American States. The United States stand as the great American power to which, as their natural ally and friend, they will always be disposed to look for mediation and assistance, in the event of any collision between them and any European nation. As such, we may often kindly mediate in their behalf, without entangling ourselves in foreign wars or unnecessary controversies. Whenever the faith of our treaties with them shall require our interference, we must necessarily interpose.

A Convention has been negotiated with Brazil, providing for the satisfaction of American claims on that Government, and [illegible] the last session of Congress, we have received an Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from that Empire, and our relations with it are founded upon the most amicable understanding.

Your attention is earnestly invited to an amendment of our existing laws relating to the African Slave Trade, with a view to the effectual suppression of the barbarous traffic. It is not to be denied that this trade is still, in part, carried on by means of vessels built in the United States, and owned or navigated by some of our citizens. The correspondence between the Department of State and the Minister and Consul of the United States at Rio de Janeiro, which has from time to time been laid before Congress, represents that it is a customary device to evade the penalties of our laws by means of sea-letters. Vessels sold in Brazil, when provided with such papers by the Consul, instead of returning to the United States for a new register, proceed, at once, to the coast of Africa, for the purpose of obtaining cargoes of slaves. Much additional information, of the same character, has recently been transmitted to the Department of State. It has not been considered the policy of our laws to subject an American citizen who, in a foreign country purchases a vessel built in the United States, to the inconvenience of sending her home for a new register, before permitting her to proceed on a voyage. Any alteration of the laws, which might have a tendency to impede the free transfer of property in vessels between our citizens, or the free navigation of those vessels between different parts of the world, when employed in lawful commerce, should be well and cautiously considered; but I trust that your wisdom will devise a method by which our general policy, in this respect, may be preserved, and at the same time the abuse of our flag, by means of sea-letters, in the manner indicated, may be prevented.

Having ascertained that there is no prospect of the re-union of the five States of Central America, which formerly composed the Republic of that name, we have separately negotiated with some of them Treaties of Amity and Commerce, which will be laid before the Senate.

A contract having been concluded with the State of Nicaragua, by a company composed of American citizens for the purpose of constructing a ship canal through the territory of that State, to connect the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, I have directed the negotiation of a Treaty with Nicaragua, pledging both Governments to protect those who shall engage in and perfect the work. All other nations are invited by the State of Nicaragua to enter into the same Treaty stipulations with her; and the benefit to be derived by each from such an arrangement will be the protection of this great inter-oceanic communication against any power which might seek to obstruct it, or to monopolise its advantages. All States entering into such a Treaty will enjoy the right of passage through the canal on payment of the same tolls.

The work if constructed, under these guarantees, will become a bond of peace, instead of a subject of contention and strife, between the nations of the earth. Should the great maritime States of Europe consent to this arrangement, (and we have no reason to suppose that a proposition so fair and honorable will be opposed by any,) the energies of their people and ours will co-operate in promoting the success of the enterprise. I do not recommend any appropriation from the National Treasury for this purpose, nor do I believe that such an appropriation is necessary. Private enterprise, if properly protected, will complete the work, should it prove to be feasible. The parties who have procured the charter from Nicaragua, for its construction, desire no assistance from this Government beyond its protection; and they profess that, having examined the proposed line of communication, they will be ready to commence the undertaking whenever that protection shall be extended to them. Should there appear to be reason, on examining the whole evidence, to entertain a serious doubt of the practicability of constructing such a canal, that doubt could be speedily solved by an actual exploration of the route.

Should such a work be constructed, under the common protection of all nations, for equal benefits to all, it would be neither just nor expedient that any great maritime State should command the communication. The territory through which the canal may be opened ought to be freed from the claims of any foreign power. No such power should occupy a position that would enable it hereafter to exercise so controlling an influence over the commerce of the world, or to obstruct a highway which ought to be dedicated to the common uses of mankind.

The routes across the Isthmus at Tehuantepec and Panama, are also worthy of our serious consideration. They did not fail to engage the attention of my predecessor. The negotiator of the treaty of Gaudalupe Hidalgo was instructed to offer a very large sum of money for the right of transit across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. The Mexican government did not accede to the proposition for the purchase of the right of way, probably because it had already contracted with private individuals for the construction of a passage from the Guasacualco river to Tehuantepec. I shall not renew any proposition to purchase, for money, a right which ought to be equally secured to all nations, on payment of a reasonable toll to the owners of the improvement, who would, doubtless, be well contented with that compensation and the guarantee, of the maritime States of the world, in separate treaties negotiated with Mexico, binding her and them to protect those who should construct the work.— Such guarantees would do more to secure the completion of the communication thro' the territory of Mexico than any other reasonable consideration that could be offered; and as Mexico herself would be the greatest gainer by the opening of this communication between the Gulf and the Pacific Ocean, it is presumed that she would not hesitate to yield her aid, in the manner proposed, to accomplish an improvement so important to her own best interests.

We have reason to hope that the proposed Railroad across the Isthmus at Panama will be successfully constructed, under the protection of the late treaty with New Grenada, ratified and exchanged by my predecessor on the 10th day of June, 1848, which guarantees the perfect neutrality of [illegible] territory, "with a view that the free transit from ocean to ocean may not be interrupted or embarrassed" during the existence of the treaty. It is our policy to encourage every practicable route across the Isthmus, which connects North and South America, either by Railroad or Canal, which the energy and enterprise of our citizens may induce them to complete; and I consider it obligatory upon me to adopt that policy, especially in consequence of the absolute necessity of facilitating intercourse with our possessions on the Pacific.

The position of the Sandwich Islands, with reference to the territory of the United States on the Pacific; the success of our persevering and benevolent citizens who have repaired to that remote quarter in christianizing the natives and inducing them to adopt a system of government and laws suited to their capacity and wants; and the use made by our numerous whale-ships of the harbors of the islands as places of resort for obtaining refreshments and repairs, all combine to render their destiny peculiarly interesting to us. It is our duty to encourage the authorities of those islands in their efforts to improve and elevate the moral and political condition of the inhabitants; and we should make reasonable allowances for the difficulties inseparable from this task. We desire that the islands may maintain their independence, and that other nations should concur with us in this sentiment. We could in no event be indifferent to their passing under the dominion of any other power.— The principal commercial States have in this a common interest, and it is to be hoped that no one of them will attempt to interpose obstacles to the entire independence of the islands.

The receipts into the Treasury for the fiscal year ending on the 30th of June last, were, in cash, forty-eight millions eight hundred and thirty thousand ninety-seven dollars and fifty cents, and in Treasury notes funded, ten millions eight hundred and thirty-three thousand dollars, making an aggregate of fifty-nine millions six hundred and sixty-three thousand ninety-seven dollars and fifty cents, and the expenditures for the same time were, in cash, forty-six millions seven hundred and ninety-eight thousand six hundred and sixty-seven dollars and eighty-two cents, and in Treasury notes funded, ten millions eight hundred and thirty-three thousand dollars, making an aggregate of fifty-seven millions six hundred and thirty-one thousand six hundred and sixty-seven dollars and eighty-two cents.

The accounts and estimates which will be submitted to Congress in the Report of the Secretary of the Treasury, show that there will probably be a deficit, occasioned by the expenses of the Mexican War and Treaty, on the 1st day of July next, of $5,828,121 66, and on the 1st day of July, 1851, of $10,547,092 73, making in the whole a probable deficit, to be provided for, of $16,375,214 39. The extraordinary expenses of the War with Mexico, and the purchase of California and New-Mexico, exceed in amount this deficit, together with the loans heretofore made for those objects. I therefore recommend that authority be given to borrow whatever sum may be necessary to cover that deficit. I recommend the observance of strict economy in the appropriation and expenditure of public money.

I recommend a revision of the existing tariff, and its adjustment on a basis which may augment the revenue. I do not doubt the right or duty of Congress to encourage domestic industry, which is the great source of national as well as individual wealth and prosperity. I look to the wisdom and patriotism of Congress for the adoption of a system which may place home labor, at least, on a sure and permanent footing, and, by due encouragement of manufactures, give a new and increased stimulus to agriculture, and promote the developement of our vast resources and the extension of our commerce. Believing that to the attainment of these ends (as well as the necessary augmentation of the revenue and the prevention of frauds) a system of specific duties is best adapted, I strongly recommend to Congress the adoption of that system, fixing the duties at rates high enough to afford substantial and sufficient encouragement to our own industry, and at the same time so adjusted as to insure stability.

The question of the continuance of the Sub-Treasury system is respectfully submitted to the wisdom of Congress. If continued, important modifications of it appear to be indispensable.

For further details and views on the above and other matters connected with commerce, the finances, and revenue, I refer to the Report of the Secretary of the Treasury.

No direct aid has been given by the General Government to the improvement of agriculture, except by the expenditure of small sums for the collection and publication of agricultural statistics, and for some chemical analyses, which have been thus far paid for out of the Patent Fund. This aid is, in my opinion, wholly inadequate. To give to this leading branch of American industry the encouragement which it merits, I respectfully recommend the establishment of an Agricultural Bureau, to be connected with the Department of the Interior. To elevate the social condition of the agriculturist, to increase his prosperity, and to extend his means of usefulness to his country by multiplying his sources of information, should be the study of every statesman, and a primary object with every legislator.

No civil government having been provided by Congress for California, the people of that Territory, impelled by the necessities of their political condition, recently met in convention, for the purpose of forming a Constitution and State government, which, the latest advices give me reason to suppose, has been accomplished; and it is believed they will shortly apply for the admission of California into the Union, as a sovereign State. Should such be the case, and should their constitution be conformable to the requisitions of the constitution of the United States, I recommend their application to the favorable consideration of Congress.

The people of New Mexico will also, it is believed, at no very distant period present themselves for admission into the Union. Preparatory to the admission of California and New Mexico, the people of each will have instituted for themselves a Republican form of Government, "laying its foundation in such principles, and organizing its powers in such form as to them shall seem most likely to affect their safety and happiness."

By awaiting their action, all causes of uneasiness may be avoided, and confidence and kind feeling preserved. With a view of maintaining the harmony and tranquility so dear to all, we should abstain from the introduction of those exciting topics of a sectional character which have hitherto produced painful apprehensions in the public mind; and I repeat the solemn warning of the first and most illustrious of my predecessors against furnishing "any ground for characterizing parties by geographical discriminations."

A Collector has been appointed at San Francisco, under the act of Congress extending the revenue laws over California, and measures have been taken to organize the Custom-House at that and the other ports mentioned in that act, at the ear[illegible] overland, and advices have not yet been received of his arrival at San Francisco. Meanwhile, it is understood that the customs have continued to be collected there by officers acting under the military authority, as they were during the administration of my predecessor. It will, I think, be expedient to conform the collections thus made, and direct the avails, (after such allowances as Congress may think fit to authorize,) to be expended within the Territory, or to be paid into the Treasury, for the purpose of meeting appropriations for the improvement of its rivers and harbors.

A party engaged on the coast survey was despatched to Oregon in January last. According to the latest advices, they had not left California; and directions have been given to them, as soon as they shall have fixed on the sites of the two light-houses, and the buoys authorized to be constructed and placed in Oregon, to proceed without delay to make reconnoissances of the most important points on the coast of California, and especially to examine and determine on sites for light-houses on that coast, the speedy erection of which is urgently demanded by our rapidly increasing commerce.

I have transferred the Indian Agencies from Upper Missouri and Council Bluffs to Santa Fe and Salt Lake; and have caused to be appointed sub-agents in the valleys of the Gila, the Sacramento, and San Joaquin rivers. Still further legal provisions will be necessary for the effective and successful extension of our system of Indian intercourse over the new territories.

I recommend the establishment of a branch mint in California, as it will, in my opinion, afford important facilities to those engaged in mining, as well as to the government in the disposition of the mineral lands.

I also recommend that commissions be organized by Congress, to examine and decide upon the validity of the present subsisting land titles in California and New Mexico; and that provision be made for the establishment of offices of Surveyor General in New Mexico, California and Oregon, and for the surveying and bringing into market the public lands in those Territories. Those lands remote in position and difficult of access, ought to be disposed of on terms liberal to all, but especially favorable to the early emigrants.

In order that the situation and character of the principal mineral deposits in California may be ascertained, I recommend that a geographical and mineralogical exploration be connected with the linear surveys, and that the mineral lands be divided into small lots suitable for mining, and be disposed of, by sale or lease, so as to give our citizens an opportunity of procuring a permanent right of property in the soil. This would seem to be as important to the success of mining as of agricultural pursuits.

The great mineral wealth of California, and the advantages which its ports and harbors, and those of Oregon, afford to commerce, especially with the islands of the Pacific and Indian Oceans, and the populous regions of Eastern Asia, make it certain that there will arise, in a few years, large and prosperous communities on our Western Coast. It, therefore, becomes important that a line of communication, the best and most expeditious which the nature of the country will admit, should be opened within the territories of the United States, from the navigable waters of the Atlantic or the Gulf of Mexico to the Pacific. Opinion, as elicited and expressed by two large and respectable Conventions, lately assembled at St. Louis and Memphis, points to a railroad as that which, if practicable, will best meet the wishes and wants of the country. But while this, if in successful operation, would be a work of great national importance, and of value to the country which it would be difficult to estimate, it ought also to be regarded as an undertaking of vast magnitude and expense, and one which must, if it be, indeed, practicable, encounter many difficulties in its construction and use. Therefore, to avoid failure and disappointment; to enable Congress to judge whether, in the condition of the country through which it must pass, the work be feasible, and if it be found so, whether it should be undertaken as a national improvement or left to individual enterprise; and in the latter alternative, what aid, if any, ought to be extended to it by the government, I recommend as a preliminary measure a careful reconnoissance of the several proposed routes by a scientific corps, and report as to the practicability of making such a road, with an estimate of the cost of its construction and support.

For further views on these and other matters connected with the duties of the Home Department, I refer you to the Report of the Secretary of the Interior.

I recommend early appropriations for continuing the river and harbor improvements that have been already begun, and also for the construction of those for which estimates have been made, as well as for examinations and estimates preparatory to the commencement of such others as the wants of the country, and especially the advance of our population over new districts, and the extension of commerce, may render necessary. An estimate of the amount which can be advantageously expended within the next fiscal year, under the direction of the Bureau of Topographical Engineers, accompanies the Report of the Secretary of War, to which I respectfully invite the attention of Congress.

The cession of territory made by the last treaty with Mexico has greatly extended our exposed frontier, and rendered its defence more difficult. The treaty has also brought us under obligations to Mexico, to comply with which a military force is requisite. But our military establishment is not materially changed, as to its efficiency, from the condition in which it stood before the commencement of the Mexican war. Some addition to it will therefore be necessary; and I recommend to the favorable consideration of Congress an increase in the several corps of the army at our distant Western posts, as proposed in the accompanying Report of the Secretary of War.

Great embarrassment has resulted from the effect, in the army, heretofore given to brevet and staff commissions. The views of the Secretary of War, on this subject, are deemed important, and if carried into effect will, it is believed, promote the harmony of the service. The plan proposed for retiring disabled officers, and providing an asylum for such of the rank and file as from age, wounds, and other infirmities occasioned by service, have become unfit to perform their respective duties, is recommended as a means of increasing the efficiency of the army, and as an act of justice, due from a grateful country to the faithful soldier.

The accompanying Report of the Secretary of the Navy presents a full and satisfactory account of the condition and operations of the Naval service during the past year. Our citizens engaged in the legitimate pursuits of commerce have enjoyed its benefits. Wherever our national vessels have gone they have been received with respect, our officers have been treated with kindness and courtesy, and they have, on all occasions, pursued a course of strict neutrality, in accordance with the policy of our Government.

The naval force at present in commission is as large as is admissible, with the number of men authorized by Congress to be employed.

I invite your attention to the recommendation of the Secretary of the Navy on the subject of a re-organization of the Navy, in its various grades of officers, and the establishing of a retired list for such of the officers as are disqualified for active and effective service. Should Congress adopt some such measure as is recommended, it will greatly increase the efficiency of the Navy, and reduce its expenditures.

I also ask your attention to the views expressed by him in reference to the employment of war steamers, and in regard to the contracts for the transportation of the United States' mails, and the operation of the system upon the prosperity of the navy.

By an act of Congress, passed August 14, 1848, provision was made for extending post office and mail accommodations to California and Oregon. Exertions have been made to execute that law; but the limited provisions of the act, the inadequacy of the means it authorizes, the ill adaptation of our post office laws to the situation of that country, and the measure of compensation for services allowed by those laws, compared with the prices of labor and rents in California, render those exertions, in a great degree, ineffectual. More particular and efficient provision by law is required on this subject.

The act of 1845, reducing postage, has now, by its operations during four years, produced results fully showing that the income from such reduced postage is sufficient to sustain the whole expense of the service of the Post Office Department, not including the cost of transportation in mail steamers on the line from New York to Chagres and from Panama to Astoria, which have not been considered by Congress as properly belonging to the mail service. [illegible] whether a further reduction of postage should not now be made, more particularly on the letter correspondence. This should be relieved from the unjust burthen of transporting and delivering the franked matter of Congress for which public service provision should be made from the Treasury. I confidently believe that a change may safely be made, reducing all single-letter postage to the uniform rate of five cents, regardless of distance, without thereby imposing any greater tax on the Treasury than would constitute a very moderate compensation for this public service; and I therefore respectfully recommend such a reduction. Should Congress prefer to abolish the franking privilege entirely, it seems probable that no demand on the Treasury would result from the proposed reduction of postage. Whether any further diminution should now be made, or the result of the reduction to five cents, which I have recommended, should be first tested, is submitted to your decision.

Since the commencement of the last session of Congress, a Postal Treaty with Great Britain has been received and ratified, and such regulations have been formed by the Post Office Departments of the two countries, in pursuance of that treaty, as to carry it into full operation. The attempt to extend this same arrangement, through England, to France, has not been equally successful; but the purpose has not been abandoned.

For a particular statement of the condition of the Post Office Department, and other matters connected with that branch of the public service, I refer you to the Report of the Postmaster General.

By the act of the 3d of March, 1849, a Board was constituted to make arrangements for taking the seventh census; composed of the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, and the Postmaster General; and it was made the duty of this Board "to prepare and cause to be printed such forms and schedules as might be necessary for the full enumeration of the inhabitants of the United States; and also proper forms and schedules for collecting in statistical tables, under proper heads, such information as to mines, agriculture, commerce, manufactures, education, and other topics, as would exhibit a full view of the pursuits, industry, education, and resources of the country." The duties enjoined upon the Census Board, thus established, having been performed, it now rests with Congress to enact a law for carrying into effect the provision of the Constitution which requires an actual enumeration of the people of the United States within the ensuing year.

Among the duties assigned by the Constitution to the General Government is one of local and limited application, but not, on that account, the less obligatory: I allude to the trust committed to Congress, as the exclusive legislator and sole guardian of the interests of the District of Columbia. I beg to commend these interests to your kind attention. As the National Metropolis, the City of Washington must be an object of general interest; and, founded as it was under the auspices of him whose immortal name it bears, its claims to the fostering care of Congress present themselves with additional strength. Whatever can contribute to its prosperity must enlist the feelings of its Constitutional guardians, and command their favorable consideration.

Our Government is one of limited powers, and its successful administration eminently depends on the confinement of each of its co-ordinate branches within its own appropriate sphere. The first section of the Constitution ordains that "All legislative powers therein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives." The Executive has authority to recommend (not to dictate) measures to Congress. Having performed that duty, the Executive Department of the Government cannot rightfully control the decision of Congress on any subject of legislation, until that decision shall have been officially submitted to the President for approval. The check provided by the Constitution, in the clause conferring the qualified veto, will never be exercised by me, except in the cases contemplated by the fathers of the Republic. I view it as an extreme measure, to be resorted to only in extraordinary cases—as where it may become necessary to defend the executive against the encroachments of the legislative power, or to prevent hasty and inconsiderate or unconstitutional legislation. By cautiously confining this remedy within the sphere prescribed to it in the contemporaneous expositions of the framers of the Constitution, the will of the people, legitimately expressed on all subjects of legislation, through their constitutional organs, the Senators and Representatives of the United States, will have its full effect. As indispensable to the preservation of our system of self-government, the independence of the Representatives of the States and the people is guaranteed by the Constitution; and they owe no responsibility to any human power but their constituents. By holding the Representative responsible only to the people, and exempting him from all other influences, we elevate the character of the constituent and quicken his sense of responsibility to his country. It is under these circumstances only that the elector can feel that, in the choice of the law maker, he is himself, truly, a component part of the sovereign power of the nation. With equal care we should study to defend the rights of Executive and Judicial Departments. Our Government can only be preserved in its purity by the suppression and entire elimination of every claim or tendency of one co-ordinate branch to encroachment upon another. With the strict observance of this rule and the other injunctions of the Constitution—with a sedulous inculcation of that respect and love for the Union of the States, which our fathers cherished and enjoined upon their children, and with the aid of that overruling Providence which has so long and so kindly guarded our liberties and institutions, we may reasonably expect to transmit them with their innumerable blessings to the remotest posterity.

But attachment to the union of the States should be habitually fostered in every American heart. For more than half a century, during which kingdoms and empires have fallen, this Union has stood unshaken. The patriots who formed it have long since descended to the grave; yet still it remains, the proudest monument to their memory, and the object of affection and admiration with every one worthy to bear the American name. In my judgment, its dissolution would be the greatest of calamities, and to avert that should be the study of every American. Upon its preservation must depend our own happiness and that of countless generations to come. Whatever dangers may threaten it, I shall stand by it and maintain it in its integrity, to the full extent of the obligations imposed, and the power conferred upon me by the Constitution.

Z. TAYLOR.

WASHINGTON, December 4th, 1849.

CALIFORNIA.

(Correspondence of the N Y Evening Post.)

The following letter from a baker, who lately left this city to try his luck in the gold "diggings," contains a homely but interesting account of life at the mines:

SACRAMENTO CITY, Oct. 20, '49.

Are you not surprised to receive a letter from Sacramento City? Now I will tell you how I am circumstanced: You know, in my last letter, I said a man was going into the baking business with me. When we completed our arrangements, we came to hire a lot without a shanty, but we found we must pay $800 per month for it. Now I could not think of working altogether for the land-owners, so I gave it up. I worked for two weeks, till I got $63, and then came to Sacramento City.

I got acquainted with two men while going up the river, and they persuaded me to go to the mines with them. Well, not having seen all the elephant, as we call it, I started with them the same day. I first bought a pick-axe for $10, next a tin pan of six quarts' size, such as is used by miners, for $6, and a round-pointed shovel for $4—altogether $20, which, with $20 for going up the river, made $40; and as I did not start with them on my back, but put them in a wagon, I paid $6 more for carrying them to Sutter's mill, which is 60 miles from Sacramento City. So you see, I had not got much money to go to the mines with, and on the road we had to pay $1 a pound [illegible] same for hard bread, and $2 for cheese.

Well, when we had got to gold digging, which was about four days after starting, I worked two days at it, and I was satisfied with that kind of business; and found out, for the first time, that I was not cut out for a gold digger. I then began to consider what was best to be done. Most of the diggers where I was could not make more than their board, but some lucky ones dug an ounce once in a while. I did not do so well, for I did not dig one dollar's worth in two days, and I had a pain in my bowels all the time. So I concluded, as I had lived on raw pork and pilot bread for six days, that gold could not tempt me to live so any longer, and the best way was for me to make tracks back to Sacramento. So I gave my tools to a Polander to try his luck—poor devil, he had nothing. I threw away my hammock, took my blankets on my back, and then started from the mines with another poor fellow, who had only $2; I had $4; quite lucky to be so well off. I got to Sacramento City in two days, half dead, and quite broke; found two of the passengers of the brig Corbiere encamped there. They did not know that I was broke, but they had been to the mines and got back, and they saw by my looks that I was tired and worn out, for they were the same; so they invited me to make their tent my home.— This I made no bones about doing; and for two days did nothing but sleep. I then looked round for a job. At last I managed to convince a man that he could sell doughnuts if he would hire me to make them. I told him that, to give him a start, I would make them for $40, for two weeks, and my board; but I did not tell him that it was to give me a start. Well, I have now worked a week and a half, and made him $40 to $50 worth a day. He sells three of them for twenty-five cents, and one for twelve cents; and he is very anxious to know what I will work two months for. I told him $10 a day and my board. That frightened him. He asked me how much I would charge a hundred; I told him twelve shillings; so he seemed to like that better; and as I have made five hundred doughnuts a day, it will be about $7 50 a day, and my board.

Railroad Accident.—The train which left Troy yesterday morning at 7 o'clock, for Saratoga, Whitehall, and Montreal, ran off the track at Ballston, breaking the wheels and smashing the bodies of the cars entirely to pieces. Sixty persons were, more or less injured. Wm. Squiers the conductor, had his back broken; but it is hoped he will recover. No person was killed, though many were severely hurt.— When our informant, Mr. Robert Kewin, of the Troy and Greenbush road, left, assistance had been obtained for the sufferers from the down train. Mrs. Whipple of Troy had her collar bone broken. Mrs. Cowan, of Saratoga Springs, is also badly hurt. Mr. Lacy is also dangerously hurt. *Albany Knickerbocker*, 19.

☞ The girl who deceives the eye by wearing false curls, is apt to deceive the heart with false professions of love.