

THE MONTROSE DEMOCRAT.

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President's Message.

[Concluded.]

THE WAR DEPARTMENT.

The report of the Secretary of War exhibits the operations of the army and of the several bureaus of the War Department. The aggregate strength of our military force on the 30th of September last was 56 315. The total estimate for military appropriations is \$77 124 707, including a deficiency in last year's appropriation of \$13 600 000. The payments at the Treasury on account of the service of the War Department from January 1st to October 26th, 1867, a period of ten months, amounted to \$109 807 000. The expenses of the military establishment, as well as the members of the army are now three times as great as they have ever been in time of peace, while the discretionary power is vested in the Executive to add millions to this expenditure by an increase of the army to the maximum strength allowed by the law.

INDIAN AFFAIRS.

The comprehensive Report of the Secretary of the Interior furnishes his interesting information in reference to the important branches of the public service connected with his department. The menacing attitude of some of the warlike bands of Indians inhabiting the district of country between the Arkansas and Platte rivers and portions of Dakota Territory, required the presence of a large military force in that region. Investigated by real or imaginary grievances, the Indians occasionally committed acts of barbarous violence on emigrants and our frontier settlements.

But a general Indian war has been providentially avoided. The Commissioners under the act of 20th of July, '67, were invested with power to adjust existing difficulties, negotiate treaties with the disaffected bands, and select for them reservations remote from the traveled routes between the Mississippi and the Pacific. They entered without delay on the execution of their trust, but have not yet made any official report of their proceedings. It is of vital importance that our distant Territories should be exempt from Indian outbreaks, and that the construction of the Pacific Railroad—an object of national importance—should not be interrupted by hostile tribes.

These objects, as well as the material interests and the moral and intellectual improvement of the Indians, can be most effectually secured by concentrating them upon portions of country set apart for their exclusive use, and located at points remote from our highways and encroaching white settlements.

PACIFIC RAILROAD.

Since the commencement of the second session of the Thirty-ninth Congress five hundred and ten miles of road have been constructed on the main line and branches of the Pacific Railway. The line from Omaha is rapidly approaching the eastern base of the Rocky Mountains, whilst the terminus of the last section of constructed road in California, accepted by the Government on the 24th day of October last, was but eleven miles distant from the summit of the Sierra Nevada.

The remarkable energy evinced by the companies, offers the strongest assurance that the completion of the road, from Sacramento to Omaha, will not be long deferred. During the last fiscal year, seven million forty-one thousand one hundred and fourteen acres of public land were disposed of, and the cash receipts from sales and fees exceeded by one half million dollars, the sum realized from those sources during the preceding year.

PENSIONERS.

The amt paid pensioners, including expenses of disbursements, was \$18 619 950, and thirty-six thousand four hundred and eighty-two names were added to the rolls. The entire number of pensioners on the 30th of June last, was one hundred and fifty-one thousand four hundred and seventy-four.

PATENTS.

Eleven thousand six hundred and fifty-five patents and designs were issued during the year ending September 30th, 1867, and at that date the balance in the Treasury to the credit of the Patent Fund was \$286 607.

THE NAVY.

The report of the Secretary of the Navy states that we have seven squadrons actively and judiciously employed, under efficient and able commanders, in protecting the persons and property of American citizens, and maintaining the dignity and power of the Government, and promoting the commerce and business interests of our countrymen in every part of the world.

Of the two hundred and thirty-eight vessels composing the present navy of the United States, fifty-six, carrying five hundred and seven guns, are in squadron service. During the year the number of vessels in commission has been reduced twelve, and there are thirteen less on squadron duty than there were at the date of the last report. A large number of vessels were commenced, and in the course of construction when the war terminated, and although Congress had made the necessary appropriations for their completion, the department has either

suspended work upon them, or limited the slow completion of the steam vessels, so as to meet the contracts for machinery made with private establishments.

The total expenditures of the Navy Department for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1867, were \$31 034 011. No appropriations have been made or required since the close of the war for the construction and repair of vessels; for steam machinery, ordnance, provisions and clothing, fuel, hemp, &c., the balances under these several heads having been more than sufficient for current expenditures. It should also be stated to the credit of the department, that, besides asking no appropriations for the above objects for the last two years, the Secretary of the Navy on the 30th of September last, in accordance with the act of May 1st, 1820, requested the Secretary of the Treasury to carry to the surplus fund the sum of \$65 000 000, being the amount received from the sales of vessels and other war property, and the remnants of former appropriations.

POSTAL AFFAIRS.

The report of the Postmaster General shows the business of the Post Office Department, and the condition of the postal service in a very favorable light, and the attention of Congress is called to its practical recommendations. The receipts of the department for the year ending June 30th, 1867, including all special appropriations for sea and land service, and for free mail matter, were \$19 978 693. The expenditures for all purposes were \$19 235 483; leaving an unexpended balance in favor of the department of \$743 210, which can be applied towards the expenses of the department for the current year.

The increase of postal revenue, independent of specific appropriations for the year 1867 over that of 1866 was \$850 040. The increase of revenue from the sale of stamps and stamped envelopes was \$783 404. The increase of expenditures for 1867, over those of the previous year, was owing chiefly to the extension of the land and ocean mail service.

During the past year new postal conventions have been ratified and exchanged with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Belgium, the Netherlands, Switzerland, the North German Union, Italy, and the Colonial government at Hong Kong, reducing very largely to and from and within those countries.

AGRICULTURE.

The report of the acting Commissioner of Agriculture concisely presents the condition, wants, and progress of an interest eminently worthy the fostering care of Congress, and exhibits a large measure of useful results achieved during the year to which it refers.

FOREIGN RELATIONS.

The re-establishment of peace at home, and the resumption of extended trade, travel and commerce abroad, have served to increase the number and variety of questions in the Department of Foreign Affairs. None of these questions, however, have seriously disturbed our relations with other States.

The Republic of Mexico, having been relieved from foreign intervention, is earnestly engaged in efforts to re-establish her constitutional form of government. A good understanding continues to exist between our government and the republics of Hayti and San Domingo, and our cordial relations with the Central and South American States remains unchanged.

The tender made, in conformity with a resolution of Congress, of the good offices of the government with a view to an amicable adjustment of peace between Brazil and her allies on one side, and Paraguay on the other, and between Chili and her allies on the one side, and Spain on the other, though kindly received, has in neither case been fully accepted by the belligerents.

The war in the valley of the Parana is still vigorously maintained. On the other hand, actual hostilities between the Pacific States and Spain have been more than a year suspended. I shall on any proper occasion that may occur, renew the conciliatory recommendations which have been already made. Brazil, with enlightened sagacity and comprehensive statesmanship, has opened the great channels of the Amazon and its tributaries to universal commerce. One thing more seems needful to acquire rapid and cheering progress in South America. I refer to those peaceful habits, without which States and Nations cannot in this age, well expect material prosperity or social advancement.

The Exposition of Universal Industry at Paris has passed, and seems to have fully realized the high expectations of the French Government. If due allowance be made for the recent political derangement here, the part which the United States has borne in this exhibition of invention and art may be regarded with very high satisfaction. During the Exposition a conference was held of delegates from several nations, the United States being one, in which the inconveniences of commerce and social intercourse resulting from the diverse standards of money value were discussed, and plans were developed for establishing, by universal consent, a common principle for the coinage of gold.

These conferences are expected to be renewed with the attendance of many foreign States not hitherto represented. A report of these interesting proceedings will be submitted to Congress, which will, no doubt, justly appreciate the great object, and be ready to adopt any measure which may tend to facilitate its ultimate accomplishment. On the 25th of February, 1862, Congress declared by law, that Treasury notes without interest authorized by that act, should be legal tender in payment of all debts public and private within the United States.—An annual remittance of \$30 000, less stipulated expenses, accrues to claimants under the convention made with Spain in 1834. These remittances, since the passage of that act, have been paid in such notes. The claimants insist that the government ought to require payment in coin. The subject may be deemed worthy of your attention.

No arrangement has yet been reached for the settlement of our claims for British depredations upon the commerce of the United States. I have felt it my duty to decline the proposition of arbitration made by Her Majesty's Government, because it has hitherto been accompanied by reservations and limitations incompatible with the rights, interest, and honor of our country. It is not to be apprehended that Great Britain will persist in her refusal to satisfy these just and reasonable claims, which involve the sacred principle of non-intervention—a principle henceforth more important to the United States than to all other commercial nations.

THE WEST INDIA ISLANDS.

Were settled and colonized by European States, simultaneously with the settlement and colonization of the American continent. Most of the colonies planted here became independent nations in the close of the last and beginning of the present century. Our own country embraces communities which at one period were colonies of Great Britain, France, Spain, Holland, Sweden and Russia. The people in the West Indies, with the exceptions of the Island of Hayti, have neither attained nor aspired to independence, nor have they become prepared for self-defence.

Although possessed considerable commercial value they have been held by the several European States which colonized, or at some time conquered them, chiefly for purpose of military and naval strategy. Revolutionary war ports and harbors in the West India Islands were used by our enemy to the great injury and embarrassment of the United States. We had the same experience in our second war with Great Britain. The same European policy for a long time excluded us even from trade with the West India Island, while we were at peace with all nations. In our recent civil war the Rebels, and their piratical and blockade-breaking allies, found facilities in the same ports for the work, which they too successfully accomplish, of injuring and devastating the commerce which we are now engaged in rebuilding.

We labored especially under this disadvantage, that European steam vessels employed by our enemies found friendly shelter, protection and supplies in West India ports, while our naval operations were necessarily carried on from our own distant shores. There was then a universal feeling of the want of an advanced naval outpost between the Atlantic coast and Europe. The duty of obtaining such an outpost peacefully and lawfully while neither doing nor menacing injury to other States, earnestly engaged the attention of the Executive Department before the close of the war, and it has not been lost sight of since that time. A not entirely dissimilar naval war revealed itself during the same period on the Pacific coast.

The required foothold there was fortunately secured by our late treaty with the Emperor of Russia, and it now seems imperative that the more obvious necessities of the Atlantic coast should not be less carefully provided for. A good and convenient port and harbor capable of easy defense will supply that want. With the possession of such a station by the United States, neither we nor any other American nation need longer apprehend injury or offence from any trans-Atlantic enemy. I agree with our early statement that the West Indies naturally gravitate, and may be expected ultimately to be absorbed by the Continental States, including our own. I agree with them also, that it is wise to leave the question of such absorption to this process of natural political gravitation. The Islands of St. Thomas and St. John, which constitute a part of the group called Virgin Islands, seemed to offer us advantages unusually desirable, while their acquisition could be secured in harmony with the principles to which I have alluded.

A treaty has therefore been concluded with the King of Denmark for the cession of these Islands, and will be submitted to the Senate for consideration. It will hardly be necessary to call the attention of Congress to the subject of providing for the payment, to Russia, of the sum stipulated in the treaty for the cession of Alaska, possession having been formally delivered to our Commissioners. The territory remains for the present in care of a military force, awaiting such civil organization as shall be directed by Congress.

THE NATURALIZATION QUESTION.

The annexation of many small German States to Prussia, and the reorganization of that country under a new and liberal Constitution, have induced me to renew the effort to obtain a just and prompt settlement of the long vexed question concerning the claims of foreign States for military service from their subjects naturalized in the United States.

AN EMBARRASSING INTERNATIONAL QUESTION.

The attention of Congress is respectfully called to a singular and embarrassing conflict of laws. The Executive Department of this government has hitherto uniformly held, as it now holds, that naturalization, in conformity with the Constitution and laws of the United States, absolves the recipient from his native allegiance. The courts of Great Britain hold that allegiance to the British crown is indefeasible, and is not absolved by our laws of naturalization.—British judges cite courts and law authorities of the United States in support of that theory against the position held by the executive authority of the United States. This conflict perplexes the public mind concerning the rights of naturalized citizens, and impairs the national authority abroad. I called attention to this subject in my last annual message, and again respectfully appeal to Congress, to declare the national will, unmistakably, upon this important question.

THE AFRICAN SLAVE TRADE.

The abuse of our laws by the clandestine prosecution of the African slave trade, from American ports, or by American citizens, has altogether ceased, and under existing circumstances, no apprehensions of its renewal in this part of the world are entertained. Under these circumstances it becomes a question, whether we shall not propose to Her Majesty's government, a suspension or discontinuance of the stipulations for maintaining a naval force for the suppression of that trade.

[Signed.] ANDREW JOHNSON.
WASHINGTON, Dec. 3d, 1867.

The Impeachment Sickness.

From the New-York Mercantile Journal, neutral in politics: "With no political occupant of the White House has done, we must say that a careful perusal of the majority report on his impeachment in Congress, has convinced us that our duty as journalists call for our emphatic denunciation of the testimony therewith presented, as the lamest, weakest, paltriest, if not the vilest trash ever thrust before the eyes of an indignant community.

We seriously think that the honorable gentlemen who are still lending the dignity of their names and office to this affair must be out of their senses, if they imagine that the people of the United States can stomach such loathsome stuff. We have not conversed with one man or woman, of any shade of opinion, since the publication of these reports, who does not scold at the idea of treating them with any other feeling than that of disgust.

Moreover, all are amazed to think that such creatures could exist and find employment upon American soil, as the pimps and spies whose manoeuvres are here revealed. The bottled monstrosities of the naturalist's cabinet are not more repulsive than the human trichinæ, and it is surely not the official whom they attack outside, but the body politic that has taken them into its intestines that is likely to die of their filthy presence.—For the honor of the Nation, ere

'Men of all lands
Laugh out with a scorn that shall ring to
the poles,'

We hope that this shameful page may at once be obliterated from our contemporaneous record.

Major-Gen. Hancock has assumed command of the Fifth Military District. In his first order he congratulates the citizens of Louisiana and Texas upon peace and assures them that it is his purpose to preserve this condition of things. He regards the maintenance of the civil authority as the great means to accomplish this end. He declares that the right of trial by jury, the habeas corpus, the liberty of the Press, the freedom of speech, and the natural right of persons and the right of property must be preserved. He directs that in all cases where the Courts fail to do their duty, reports be made to him, when he will issue such orders as he may deem necessary. He concludes by giving notice that forcible resistance to the laws will be instantly suppressed by arms.

Judge James Thompson on Tuesday received his commission as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, vice the Hon. George W. Woodward, who retires at the expiration of his term. The court as now constituted is composed as follows: James Thompson, chief justice, and William Strong, John M. Reed, Daniel Agnew, and George Sharwood, associate justices.

—A shocking thing to think of—a galvanic battery.

The Independent Farmer.

Let sailors sing of the windy deep,
Let soldiers praise their armor,
But in my heart this toast will keep—
The Independent Farmer.
When first the rose in robe of green
Unfolds its crimson lining,
And 'round his cottage porch is seen
The honeysuckle twining;
When banks of gloom their sweetness yield
To bees that gather honey,
He drives his team across the field,
Where skies are soft and sunny.

The blackbird clucks behind the plough,
The quail pipes loud and clear,
Yon orchard hides behind its bough
The home he loves so dear;
The gray and old barn doors unfold
His ample store in measure,
More rich than heaps of hoarded gold,
A precious, blessed treasure;
While yonder in the porch there stands
His wife, the lovely charmer,
The sweetest rose on all his lands—
The Independent Farmer.

To him the Spring comes dancingly,
To him the Summer blushes,
The Autumn smiles with mellow ray,
His sleep old Winter hushes;
He cares not how the world may move,
No doubts or fears confound him;
His little flock are linked in love,
And household angels round him;
He trusts to God and loves his wife,
Nor griefs nor ills may harm her;
He's Nature's nobleman in life—
The Independent Farmer.

FOR THE MONTROSE DEMOCRAT.

A HISTORY

Of the Great Struggle between Liberty
and Despotism for the last
Hundred Years.

THE FUGITIVES AND JACOBINS WANT TO IMPEACH PRESIDENT JOHNSON.

The judiciary committee have reported in favor of impeaching the President of the United States. They report that "in accordance with the testimony herewith submitted, and the view of the law herewith presented, the committee is of the opinion that Andrew Johnson, President of the United States, is guilty of high crimes and misdemeanors."

The reading of the resolution, says the reporter, was greeted with an outburst of applause from certain parts of the gallery, clapping of hands on the floor, while counter demonstrations of hisses were made on the floor and in the galleries.

Now, let Andrew Johnson be placed on trial before a professedly civilized and Christian world, and answer to the high charges made against him.

"The charges made, and to which the investigation of the committee have been especially directed, are usurpation of power, and violation of law in the corrupt abuse of appointing, pardoning, and veto powers, &c. It will be observed that the great salient point of accusation, standing out in the foreground, and challenging the attention of the country, is usurpation of power, which involves of course a violation of law; and here it may be remarked that perhaps every abuse, every flagrant departure from the well settled principles of the government, which has been brought home to its present administration. Whether discovering itself in special infractions of the statutes, or in the profligate use of the high powers conferred by the Constitution on the President, or revealing itself more manifestly in the systematic attempt to seize upon its sovereignty, and disparage and supersede the great council to which that sovereignty has been entrusted in reference to the one great purpose of reconstructing the shattered fragments of the rebel States in accordance with his own wishes, in the interest of the great criminals who carried them into the rebellion, and in such a way as to deprive the people of the loyal States of all chances for indemnity for the past and security for the future, by pardoning their officers; and restoring their lands, and bringing them back to their hearts unrepentant, and their hands yet red with the blood of our people, into a condition where they could once more embarrass and defy, if not absolutely rule, the government which they had vainly endeavored to destroy. It is around this point, therefore, as the great master key which unlocks and interprets all of them, that the attention of the House will first be directed."

Has the President usurped any unlawful power in pardoning the people of the Southern States referred to in the above indictment, or has Congress usurped the power belonging to the President?—Let one of the signers of the Constitution answer. Look at that instrument and you will see attached thereto the name of Alexander Hamilton. This great statesman, writing for the "Federalist," says of the "Pardoning Power of the President."

"The President is to be commander in chief of the army and navy of the United States. He is also authorized to grant reprieves and pardons for offenses against the United States, except in cases of impeachment. Humanity and good policy conspire to dictate that the benign power of pardoning should be as little as possible fettered or embarrassed. The criminal code of every country partakes so much of necessary severity, that without an easy access to exceptions in favor of unfortunate guilt, justice would wear a countenance too sanguinary and cruel.—The expediency of vesting the pardoning power in the President has, if I mistake not, been only contested in relation to the crime of treason. This, it has been urged, ought to have depended upon the assent of one or both the branches of the legislative body. I shall not deny that there are strong reasons to be assigned for requiring, in this particular, the concurrence of that body, or a part of it. But it is not to be doubted that a single man of prudence and good sense is better fitted, in delicate conjunctures, to balance the motives which may plead for and against the remission of the punishment, than any numerous body whatever.

It deserves particular attention that treason will often be connected with sedition, which embrace a large proportion of the community, as lately happened in Massachusetts. In every such case, we might expect to see the representation of the people tainted with the same spirit which had given birth to the offence; and when parties were pretty equally poised, the secret sympathy of the friends and favorers of the condemned, availing itself of the good nature and weakness of others, might frequently bestow impunity, when the terror of an example was necessary.

On the other hand, when the sedition had proceeded from causes which had inflamed the resentments of the major party, they might often be found obstinate and inexorable, when policy demanded forbearance and clemency. But the principal argument for reposing the power of pardoning in this case in the chief magistrate, is this: In seasons of insurrection or rebellion, there are often critical moments, when a well timed offer of pardon to the insurgents, or rebels, may restore the tranquility of the commonwealth, and which, if suffered to pass unimproved, it may never be possible afterwards to recall. The dilatory process of convening the Legislature, or one of its branches, for a slip the golden opportunity. The loss of a week, a day, or an hour, may sometimes be fatal. If it should be observed that a discretionary power, with a view to such contingencies, might be occasionally conferred upon the President; it may be answered in the first place that it is questionable whether, in a limited Constitution, that power could be delegated by law; and in the second place that it would generally be impolitic before-hand to take any step which might hold out the prospect of impunity. A proceeding of this kind, out of the usual course, would be likely to be construed into an argument of timidity or of weakness, and would have a tendency to embolden guilt."

Here it is seen that the Constitution confers all the pardoning powers upon the President, and none whatever upon Congress. Congress therefore should be impeached both for usurpation and conspiracy to deprive the President of the powers which the founders of the government conferred upon him. They also gave him the veto power for the very purpose of saving the government from destruction at the hands of just such traitors as are now preparing to impeach him for exercising it in behalf of the principles of our free government.

The impeachment report, in order to excite revenge against the Southern people, speaks of "their hands yet red with the blood of our people." What could the Southern people say in reply? They could send the same message to the party in power as Dr. Franklin sent to England—as follows:

"PHILADELPHIA, July 5th, 1775.
"MR. STRAHAN: You are a member of Parliament, and one of that majority which has doomed my country to destruction. You have begun to burn our towns and murder our people. Look upon your hands! They are stained with the blood of your relations! You and I were long friends. You are now my enemy and I am Yours,
B. FRANKLIN."

"It is impossible," he says again, "that we should think of submission to a government that has, with wanton barbarity and cruelty, burnt our defenceless towns, and excited our slaves to murder their masters."

The Southern people have done what the rebels of 1776 refused to do—submitted to a government that treated them with more barbarity and cruelty than England itself, and because they have submitted, this party have determined to hold them in slavery, and turn the President out of his office, for refusing to assist in forging their chains.

The next number will prove his right to veto the acts of Congress, which is charged as a crime against him.

—Why had a Good Templar ought not to have a wife? Because he cannot support her.