

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Fellow Citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives:

I congratulate you and our common country upon the favorable auspices under which you meet for your first session. Our country is at peace with all the world. The agitation which, for a time, threatened to disturb the fraternal relations which make us one people, is fast subsiding; and a year of general prosperity and health has crowned the nation with unusual blessings. None can look back to the dangers which are passed, or forward to the bright prospect before us, without feeling a thrill of gratification, at the same time that he must be impressed with a grateful sense of our profound obligations to a beneficent Providence, whose paternal care is so manifest in the happiness of this highly favored land.

Since the close of the last Congress, certain Cubans and other foreigners resident in the United States, who were more or less concerned in the previous invasion of Cuba, instead of being discouraged by its failure, have again abused the hospitality of this country, by making it the scene of the equipment of another military expedition against that possession of her Catholic Majesty, in which they were contumacious, aided and abetted by citizens of the United States. On receiving intelligence that such designs were entertained, I lost no time in issuing my instructions to the proper officers of the United States as seemed to be called for by the occasion. By the proclamation, a copy of which is herewith submitted, I also warned those who might be in danger of being inveigled into this scheme of its unlawful character, and of the penalties which would incur. For some time there was reason to hope that these measures had sufficed to prevent any such attempt. This hope, however, proved to be delusive. Very early in the morning of the 25th of August, a steamer called the Panpero departed from New Orleans for Cuba, having on board over four hundred armed men, with evident intention to make war upon the authorities of the island. This expedition was set on foot in palpable violation of the laws of the United States. Its leader was a Cardinal, and several of the chief officers, and some others engaged in it, were foreigners. The persons composing it, however, were mostly citizens of the United States.

Here follows a history of the Cuban expedition with the details, of which our readers are already familiar.

In proclaiming and adhering to the doctrine of neutrality and non-intervention, the United States have not followed the lead of other civilized nations; they have taken the lead themselves, and have been followed by others. This was admitted by the most eminent of modern British statesmen, who said in Parliament, while a minister of the crown, "that if he wished for a guide in the system of neutrality, he should take that laid down by America in the days of Washington and the secretaryship of Jefferson." and we need not, in fact, the act of Congress of 1818, was followed, the succeeding year by an act of the Parliament of England, substantially the same in its general provisions. Up to that time there had been no similar law in England, except certain highly penal laws passed in the reign of George III. prohibiting English subjects from enlisting in foreign service, the avowed object of which statute was, that foreign armies raised for the purpose of restoring the house of Stuart to the throne, should not be strengthened by recruits from England herself.

All must see that difficulties may arise in carrying the laws referred to into execution in a country now having three or four thousand miles of sea coast, with an infinite number of ports and harbors and small islets, from none of which unlawful expeditions may suddenly set forth, without the knowledge of Government against the possessions of foreign States.

Friendly relations with all, but entangling alliances with none, has long been a maxim with us. Our true mission is not to propagate our opinions to any other country, nor our form of government, by artifice or force; but to teach by example, and show by our success, moderation and justice, the blessings of self-government, and the advantages of free institutions. Let every people choose for itself, and make and alter its political institutions, in its own way, and in its own convenience. But, while we avow and maintain this neutral policy ourselves, we are anxious to see the same forbearance on the part of other nations, whose forms of government are different from our own. The deep interest we have in the respect of liberal principles, and the establishment of free governments, and the sympathy with which we witness every struggle against oppression, forbid that we should be indifferent to a case in which the strong arm of a foreign power is invoked to stifle public sentiment, and repress the voice of freedom in any country.

The governments of Great Britain and France have issued orders to their naval commanders on the West India station to prevent by force, if necessary, the landing of adventurers from any nation on the island of Cuba with hostile intent. The copy of memorandum of a conversation on this subject, between the Charge d'Affaires of her Britannic Majesty and the Acting Secretary of State, and of a subsequent note of the former to the Department of State, are herewith submitted, together with a copy of a note of the Acting Secretary of State to the Minister of the French Republic, and of the reply of the latter, on the same subject. These papers will acquaint you with the grounds of this interposition of the two leading commercial powers of Europe, and with the apprehensions, which this Government could not but entertain, if carried into effect, might lead to abuses in derogation of the maritime rights of the United States. The maritime rights of the United States are founded on a firm, secure, and well-tenured basis; they stand upon the ground of National Justice, and are public law, which will be maintained in all full and just extent.

The principle which this Government has heretofore solemnly announced it still adheres to, and will maintain under all circumstances and in all hazards. The principle is, that in every regularly documented merchant vessel, the crew will be maintained in all full and just extent.

But how can they discharge their respective duties and are guilty of no violation of our laws. This is the admitted law of nations, and no country has a deeper interest in maintaining it than the United States. Our commerce spreads over every sea and visits every clime, and our ministers and consuls are appointed to protect the interests of that commerce, as well as to guard the peace of the country and maintain the honor of our flag. But how can they discharge their respective duties and are guilty of no violation of our laws. This is the admitted law of nations, and no country has a deeper interest in maintaining it than the United States. Our commerce spreads over every sea and visits every clime, and our ministers and consuls are appointed to protect the interests of that commerce, as well as to guard the peace of the country and maintain the honor of our flag.

Some unexpected difficulties and delays have arisen in the ratification of that convention by Mexico, but it is to be presumed that our decision will be governed by just and enlightened views, as well as of the general importance of the subject as of her own interests and obligations.

In negotiating upon this important subject, this Government has had in view one and only one object. That object has been, and is, the construction or attainment of a passage from ocean to ocean, the shortest and the best for travellers and merchandise, and equally open to all the world. It has sought to obtain no territorial acquisition, nor any advantage peculiar to itself; and it would be with the greatest regret, that Mexico should appear as an obstacle to the accomplishment of an enterprise which promises so much convenience to the whole commercial world, and such eminent advantages to Mexico herself.

For some months past the republic of Nicaragua has been the theatre of one of those civil convulsions, from which the cause of free institutions, and the general prosperity and social progress of the States of Central America, have so often and so severely suffered. Until quiet shall have been restored, and a government apparently stable shall have been organized, no advance can prudently be made in disposing of the questions pending between the two countries.

I am happy to announce that an intercourse communication from the mouth of the St. John to the Pacific has been so far accomplished, that passengers have actually traversed it, and merchandise has been transported over it; and when the canal shall have been completed, according to the original plan, the means of communication will be further improved.

It is understood that a considerable part of the railroad across the Isthmus of Panama has been completed, and that the mail and passengers will in future be conveyed thereon.

Whichever of the several routes between the two oceans may ultimately prove most eligible for travellers and so from the different States on the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico and our coast on the Pacific, there is little reason to doubt that all them will be useful to the public, and will liberally reward that individual enterprise, by which alone they have been or are expected to be carried into effect.

Peace has been concluded between the contending parties in the Island of St. Domingo, and it is hoped upon a durable basis. Such is the extent of our commercial relations with that island, that the United States cannot fail to feel a strong interest in tranquility.

On being officially informed of the acceptance by Texas of the propositions contained in the act referred to, I caused the stock to be prepared, and the five millions which are to be issued unconditionally, bearing an interest of five per cent from the 1st day of January, 1851, have been for some time ready to be delivered to the State of Texas. The authorities of Texas, up to the present time, have not authorized any one to receive this stock, and it remains in the Treasury Department, subject to the order by law to be deposited in the Treasury, not having been filed there, the remaining five millions have not been issued. This last amount of the stock will be withheld from Texas until the conditions upon which it is to be delivered shall be complied with by the creditors of that State, unless Congress shall otherwise direct by a modification of the law.

In my last annual message, to which I respectfully refer, I stated briefly the reasons which induced me to recommend a modification of the present tariff, by converting the ad valorem into a specific duty, wherever the article imported was of such a character as to permit it, and that such a discrimination should be made, in favor of the industrial pursuits of our own country, as to encourage home production without excluding foreign competition.

The numerous frauds which continue to be practised upon the revenue, by false invoices and undervaluations, constitute an unanswerable reason for adopting specific instead of ad valorem duties in all cases where the nature of the commodity does not forbid it. A striking illustration of these frauds will be exhibited in the Report of the Secretary of the Treasury, showing the custom house valuation of agricultural duties, under a former law subject to specific duties, when there was no inducement to under valuation, and the custom-house valuations of the same articles, under the present system of ad valorem duties, so greatly reduced as to leave no doubt of the existence of the most flagrant abuses under the existing laws.

The aggregate value of rice exported during the last fiscal year, as compared with the previous year, also exhibit a decrease amounting to \$160,917, which, with a decline in the values of the exports of tobacco and cotton, has produced a total decrease in these two articles of \$1,156,751.

The policy which dictated a low rate of duties on foreign merchandise, was thought by those who promoted and established it, would tend to benefit the farming population of a country, by increasing the demand and raising the price of agricultural products in foreign markets.

The foregoing facts, however, seem to show inconceivably that no such result has followed the adoption of this policy. On the contrary, notwithstanding the repeal of the contract law, the large annual increase demanded for the products of the American farmer has steadily declined, since the short crops and subsequent famine in a portion of Europe have been happily replaced by full crops and comparative abundance of food.

It will be seen, by recurring to the comparative value of our domestic exports, that the value of our domestic exports has been increased in the single item of raw cotton by \$40,000,000 over the value of that export for the year preceding. This is not due to any increased general demand for that article, but to a short crop of the preceding year, which created an extraordinary demand, and augmented price for the crop of last year. Should the cotton crop now going forward to market be only equal in quantity to that of the year preceding, and be sold at the present prices, there would be a falling off of \$10,000,000 in the value of our exports for the fiscal year of 1851, compared with the amount exported for the year ending 30th June, 1851.

The production of gold in California for the past year seems to promise a large supply of that metal from that quarter for some time to come. The large amount of gold of the currency of the world must be attended to with usual results. These have been already partially disclosed in the enhancement of prices and a rising spirit of speculation and adventure, tending to overvaluing and speculative purposes. Unless some salutary check shall be given to these tendencies, it is to be feared that imputations of foreign goods beyond a healthy demand in this country will lead to a sudden drain of the precious metals from us, bringing with it, as it has done in former times, the most disastrous consequences to our business and capital of the American people.

The exports of specie to liquidate our foreign debt during the past fiscal year have been \$24,263,979 over the amount of specie imported. The exports of specie during the year ending 30th June, 1851, have been \$14,651,827, which, with the amount exported at this rate for the remaining three quarters of this year, it will draw from our metallic currency during the year ending 30th June, 1852, the enormous amount of \$58,607,308.

In the same section of the law it is further provided, that no stock shall be issued until the credits of the State holding bonds and other certificates of stock of Texas, for which duties on imports were specially pledged, shall first file at the Treasury of the United States releases of all claims against the United States, for no account of said duties on imports, in such form as shall be prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury, and approved by the President of the United States.

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The numerous frauds which continue to be practised upon the revenue, by false invoices and undervaluations, constitute an unanswerable reason for adopting specific instead of ad valorem duties in all cases where the nature of the commodity does not forbid it. A striking illustration of these frauds will be exhibited in the Report of the Secretary of the Treasury, showing the custom house valuation of agricultural duties, under a former law subject to specific duties, when there was no inducement to under valuation, and the custom-house valuations of the same articles, under the present system of ad valorem duties, so greatly reduced as to leave no doubt of the existence of the most flagrant abuses under the existing laws.

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The form of release thus provided for has been prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury, and approved. It has been published in the leading newspapers in the commercial cities of the United States, and all persons holding claims of the kind specified in the foregoing proviso, were required to file their releases (in the form thus prescribed) in the Treasury of the United States, on or before the 1st day of October, 1851.

The authorities of the State of Texas, at the request of the Secretary of the Treasury, have furnished a schedule of the public debt of that State created prior to her admission into the Union, with a copy of the laws under which each class was contracted.

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THE AMERICAN. SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1851.

D. B. MANAGER, Editor and Proprietor.

Y. B. PALMER is our authorized agent to receive advertisements and subscriptions at his office, in Philadelphia, New York, Boston and Baltimore.

To Advertisers.—The circulation of the Sunbury American is estimated to be 10,000 copies per week, and is the largest circulation of any paper published in North America.

California News. The steamship Cherokee from Chagres has arrived, bringing San Francisco dates up to Nov. 1st.

Accounts from the mines are very satisfactory, and constant new discoveries of rich veins are being made.

A Convention met at Santa Barbara, on Oct. 20th, to consider the policy of dividing the State. There were but thirty-one delegates present, representing only four counties.

The Isthmus Railroad is completed, and in running order from Navy Bay, on the Atlantic, to a point three miles west of Gatun.

Mr. Barbour the Indian agent, has concluded treaties with about forty tribes of California Indians, most of whom have been at open war with the whites.

We are requested to say that Mr. Eckert has opened his dancing class in this place. Ladies will meet at the Court House on Wednesday afternoon next, at 4 o'clock, P. M., gentlemen in the evening.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR, DATED PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 1, 1851.

At this season of the year the city is generally dull and but little business doing among the merchants. In regard to amusements there is generally something on hand.

Not having much to do, a few evenings since, I stepped into the Musical Fund Hall, to listen and to look at Professor Anderson, who calls himself the Wizard of the North and whose tricks and slight of hand entitle him to the shade the performances of Signor Biriz.

On Tuesday last, by the Rev. R. A. Fisher, Mr. GEORGE ADAMS, by Miss SARAH Usher, all of Shamokin.

DIED. In Northumberland, on the 26th ult., M. ELIZABETH WILSON, aged about 40 years. In this place, on Thursday last, M. WALL, aged about 68 years.

Coal Trade. Sunbury, Nov. 29, 1851. Amount of coal brought to Sunbury, by the Philadelphia and Sunbury Railroad, for the Shamokin Mines: For last week, \$5. Per last report, \$3. Total, \$8.

and out came a dove that flew around the room. Another trick was performed with six gold watches with chains, which he borrowed for the purpose from some of the audience. He laid down the watches and requested some gentleman to take charge of them. Having some curiosity in the matter, I took the watches, and at his request put them in a small box, and seated myself on a chair. He now requested me to examine the box, which was open, and see if all the watches were in, and he hid the box over my head. He then fired his pistol and in an instant the six watches were seen dangling from the bottom of the chair each one suspended by the chains. He performed a number of other tricks equally astonishing. The whole thing is, of course, a deception, but he could manage to deceive the whole house, before their own eyes, is most surprising.

The trial of Castner Hanway, for treason, in aiding the escape of the fugitive slaves at Christian, in Lancaster county, is now the most exciting topic in the city. The prosecution opened strongly against the prisoner. The testimony of Kline the deputy Marshall, who headed the party in pursuit, makes out a strong case. His testimony, it is said, will be impeached, but it is corroborated in the most important particulars by Mr. Pierce.— Mr. Hanway is yet a young man, a miller by trade, and was, as I have been told by one of his neighbors, a quiet and peaceable man, nor was he known to be an open abolitionist, though within a year past he married into an abolition family. How he could stand by and see a man shot down and murdered by negroes is surprising. The murder of Mr. Gorsuch, and the injuries received by his sons, one of whom was supposed to be mortally wounded, call loudly for severe punishment, though I doubt if Mr. Hanway will be convicted, as his crime would compare him to the galloos.

The New Yorkers are making great preparations for the reception of Kosuth, who is now daily expected. It will be on a magnificent scale and exceed even that of Lafayette. Congress, it is said, will give him a public reception, and he will be addressed by the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House. The speeches delivered by Kosuth in England, prove him to be a man of most extraordinary powers—a philosopher, hero and statesman. His speech at Birmingham exhibits not only great learning and research, but abounds in eloquence of the highest order.

The attack of Bishop Hughes in an address in New York on the character of Kosuth meets with universal condemnation. The motives of this aspiring prelate, are easily divined. His assaults on Kosuth, and his eulogy of the Austrian tyrant, will serve to open the eyes of Americans, as to the real designs of this ambitious and designing priest. The New York Herald cuts up the Bishop most unmercifully—expresses his inconsistency—and shows that the struggles of Hungary were not wholly unlike those of Ireland, for whom alone the Bishop has any sympathy.— With this difference, that the Hungarians fought like heroes, and but for British interference would have conquered their oppressors whilst the Irish merely raised a hand to save themselves from destruction. But Kosuth had, in his speeches, offended his worshipful Cardinal Hughes, by eulogizing the Anglo-Saxons, and making "a fling at the Jesuits and the Pope."

In a large city like this, there are various and many sources of amusements and entertainment. Among these are conversation parties, well known by the name of Wist's parties, called after the late celebrated D. Wistar, who originated them. They are composed exclusively of gentlemen, most of a literary and scientific character, who are subscribers, and are limited to a certain number. These parties are given every Saturday night for twenty four night meetings in rotation at the houses of subscribers as chosen to give them. Each member or subscriber has the privilege of inviting a certain number of strangers, as editors, Generals of the Mexican war, or other distinguished characters. I receive an invitation to be present at one of the social entertainments at the hospitable mansion of Job R. Tyson, Esq., on Saturday evening last. Among the guests present were General Riley, well known as the fight General, and later Governor of California; General Caldwell, General Patterson, C. Davenport, Commodore Cotton, and a number of other military and civil heroes of I note. About 10 o'clock the company proceeded to an adjoining room for refreshments. The table on these occasions abundantly supplied with the good things of the season. Such as oysters in every variety, terrapins, &c., cakes, jellies, ice cream, champagne, and much more that not frozen, brandy and wines of various kinds, including all the necessary refreshments on such an occasion. About 11 o'clock, the guests began to disperse, thus ends the proceedings of another day.

MARRIED. In this place, on Thursday last, by Rev. Wm. Samson, Mr. JOHN LEXXIA Georgetown, to Miss MARY ANN GRANT of this place. [Our boys, while enjoying the gift accompanying the above notice, wished the husband to be as sweet as their present pro to their.] On Tuesday last, by the Rev. R. A. Fisher, Mr. GEORGE ADAMS, by Miss SARAH Usher, all of Shamokin.

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