

President's Message.

ABSTRACT OF THE MESSAGE.

This long delayed document was sent into Congress yesterday, notwithstanding the disorganization of the lower House. It was immediately afterwards communicated to the public in the leading cities of the country, and we present our readers with it this morning. It commences with the remark that it has been customary for the President to make to Congress a communication of a public character until after the complete organization of both branches, but having deferred to this usage until the close of the first month of the session, he can no longer postpone the discharge of his constitutional duty.

After an unusually brief reference to the tranquility, prosperity and peace enjoyed by the republic, the message proceeds to treat our foreign relations, beginning with Central America. Some foreign projects which we have given questions, which may require the consideration of Congress, and of these the most important is that arising out of the negotiations with Great Britain in reference to Central America. It was the understanding of the United States in making the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty, that it bound both parties to relinquish all territorial claims or pretensions in Central America, except the Belize. But, since then, Great Britain has advanced its claims, and revived her pretensions in the Mosquito Coast, and annexed a large part of Honduras to the Belize. The U. S. Minister in London has been holding a correspondence with the British Government on this subject, copies of which are sent to Congress with the message. By this, it appears that the two governments differ widely and irreconcilably in the construction of the treaty, and its effect on Central America. Great Britain has refused to withdraw from Central America, affirming that the treaty has prospective only, and did not require her to give up her possessions held by her at the date of its conclusion. The United States deny that at the date of the treaty, Great Britain had any actual possessions there, but maintains that if she had, they were surrendered by it. In its last communication to the British Government, it declares that it sees no reason why a conciliatory spirit may not enable the two governments to overcome all obstacles to a satisfactory adjustment, and the President does not consider an amicable solution hopeless; but he adds that there is no prospect that this intention will be carried out, not long remain undetermined without involving in serious danger the friendly relations of the two countries.

The complications arising out of the recruiting in the United States for the British army are dwelt upon with some detail. Our citizens have, as our laws permit, continued to sell and carry for France and England, arms, munitions of war etc., and our ships are engaged in acting as French and British transports for the war. All the fears of interfering from our ports have proved futile. But while thus enjoying the benefit of our laws and policy, Great Britain has not scrupled to infringe them, by enlisting men for her armies here in our own territory, contrary to our neutrality statute. While the legal trial of some of the parties was going on, with a view to their punishment, the British Government continued on the subject with the British Government, which latter admitted its approval and previous sanction of the act, but urged that its agents were instructed not to violate our laws. The President does not understand that such a thing would have been possible, as to enlist the men without violating our law. Meantime, the recruiting was still continued upon a regular systematic plan devised by official authority. The complexity of British functions, civil and military, in these doings was fully proved in the case of the agents, but some of them are of high official position, and some of them beyond our jurisdiction, so that legal proceedings could not reach the source of the mischief. As this design was a deliberate one, entered upon by responsible public functionaries, the case has been presented to the British Government to procure reparation for the injury, as well as the cessation of the wrong. The subject is still under discussion.

The President again recommends that provision be made for the adjustment, by survey, of our disputed territory with Great Britain, the territory of Oregon and the British Possession, as there has been imminent danger of a collision there on the subject. He also recommends the extinguishment, by purchase, of the rights of the British Hudson's Bay Company, and Pagan's Sound, Agricultural Company, in Oregon and Washington Territories.

The fishery commission has been organized and has commenced its labors.

On the 14th of April last, the U. S. States gave notice to Denmark of its intention to terminate the treaty of commerce and navigation with that country, on account of the great maritime wrongs which Denmark has indicated a readiness to make some new arrangement on the subject, and has invited the governments interested to a convention to consider her proposal for the capitalization of the Sound Dues, and the distribution of the same among the nations of the various nations in proportion to their Baltic commerce. This invitation the President declined accepting, because Denmark did not offer to submit to the Convention the question of her right to levy the Sound Dues, which she refused to do. The Convention would not be convened to deal with the great international principle of commercial freedom involved. Above all, the Convention proposes to complicate this topic with the European balance of power. But while rejecting the proposition, the President has expressed a desire to treat with Denmark on the part of the United States to share with other powers in compensating her for her expenditures to improve the navigation of the Sound Belt. Should no satisfactory arrangement be soon concluded, the President will regard it as his duty to refer the subject, with a view to measures for the security of our rights.

The difficulty with Greece out of the French Consul at San Francisco, has been satisfactorily adjusted, as also the difficulty with Greece about the sequestration of property belonging to the present Consul at Athens. Spain has discovered the seizure of the steamer Black Warrior, and has paid the indemnity. The other matters in dispute with Spain are the subject of negotiation, and the President hopes to conclude with that government some general arrangement to avoid future difficulties in Cuba. Denmark has refused to accede to the United States to share with other powers in compensating her for her expenditures to improve the navigation of the Sound Belt. Should no satisfactory arrangement be soon concluded, the President will regard it as his duty to refer the subject, with a view to measures for the security of our rights.

During the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1855, the receipts into the national treasury from all sources were \$65,995,930, and the public expenditures, exclusive of payments on account of the public debt, \$58,265,333. The payments in redemption of the public debt, including interest and premium, amounted during the year to \$28,452,528. The balance in the treasury, July 1st, 1855, was \$18,922,976. For the present year, the estimated receipts are given at \$67,918,734, making the available resources of the year \$66,866,710. The estimated expenditures of the present

year are stated at \$71,226,846, thereby leaving an estimated balance in the treasury, on July 1st, 1856, of \$18,523,867 40. At the commencement of the present fiscal year, the amount of the public debt was \$40,583,631, and as payments have been made since, the debt is now less than forty millions.

The President recommends that a law be passed which shall follow on the part of public officers to make false entries in their books of record, or make false returns. In view of the fact that the national revenue exceeds the wants of the government, the President proposes a reduction of the tariff on the part of the principal articles of the present tariff, however, is not anticipated.

As regards the army, the regiments have been recruited, organized and sent to the field, where the great hostile Indians are being exterminated. A partial reorganization of the army is again recommended.

The six new steam frigates will be ready for service early in the spring, and the President has ordered an appropriation to build six new steam sloops of war.

As the Post Office expenditures for the year have exceeded the receipts \$2,626,206, and much of this is attributable to the enormous quantities of printed matter transmitted by mail free, the President recommends action to provide a remedy.

During the year, the quantity of public land sold was 15,729,524 acres, yielding the sum of \$11,495,380.

The message, says that in the Territory of Kansas, there has been a strong prejudice to good order, but as yet none have occurred under circumstances to justify the interposition of the Federal Executive, which, it says, could only be in case of obstruction to Federal law, assuming the character of insurrection. The remainder of the message is a long discussion on the subject of the constitutional relations of slavery, which goes over the whole field of argument relative to the constitutional theory of the government, the constitution of fugitive slaves, sectional agitation, the extension of slavery, the Jefferson ordinance, the Missouri compromise, the Kansas act, and all these topics the President assumes boldly and clearly upon Southern ground. He makes the Northern States the aggressors on every point; asserts that the Jefferson ordinance relative to non-interference with slavery, suspended by the provision of the Constitution, and ceased to be operative. There is little that is new in all this essay, and those who would appreciate it properly must read it for themselves, as an abstract could not do justice to it.—N. Am. & U. S. Gazette.

It is impossible to present this subject as truth and the occasion require, without noticing the reiterated, but grossly, allegation, that the South has persistently asserted the right of self-government, and the right of self-administration of the several governments, to the prejudice of the North, and in which the latter has acquiesced. That it, States, which either promote or tolerate attacks on the rights of persons and of property, and which, in their own hands, justify, pretend or impute, and constantly assert that they, whose constitutional rights are thus systematically assailed, are themselves the aggressors. At the present time, this imputed aggression, resting as it does, only in the vague and arbitrary charge of political agitators, resolves itself into a misapprehension or misinterpretation of the principles and facts of the political organization of the new Territories of the United States.

What is the voice of history? When the ordinance which provided for the government of the territories, and the division of the States for its eventual subdivision into new States, was adopted in the Congress of the confederation, it is not to be supposed that the question of future relative power, as between the States which retained and those which were to be organized, would not have been population escaped notice, or failed to be considered. And yet the concession of that vast territory to the interests and opinions of the northern States, a territory now the seat of five among the largest members of the confederation, and the great nucleus of the State of Virginia and the South.

When Louisiana was acquired by the United States, it was an acquisition not less to the North than to the South; for while it was important to the country at the mouth of the river Mississippi, to become the emporium of the country above it, so also, it was even more important to the whole Union to have that emporium; and although the new province, by reason of its imperfect settlement, was mainly regarded as on the Gulf of Mexico, yet, in fact, it extended to the opposite boundary of the United States, and was far greater breadth above and below, and was in territory, as in everything else, equally at least an accession to the Northern States. It is more delusion and prejudice, therefore, to speak of Louisiana as acquisition in the special interest of the South.

The patriotic and just men, who participated in that act, were influenced by motives far above all sectional jealousies. It was in truth the great event, which, by completing for us the possession of the valley of the Mississippi, with commercial access to the Gulf of Mexico, imparted unity and strength to the whole confederation, and attached together by indissoluble ties the East and the West, as well as the North and the South.

As the Missouri Territory was acquired by the United States, it was an acquisition not less to the North than to the South; for while it was important to the country at the mouth of the river Mississippi, to become the emporium of the country above it, so also, it was even more important to the whole Union to have that emporium; and although the new province, by reason of its imperfect settlement, was mainly regarded as on the Gulf of Mexico, yet, in fact, it extended to the opposite boundary of the United States, and was far greater breadth above and below, and was in territory, as in everything else, equally at least an accession to the Northern States. It is more delusion and prejudice, therefore, to speak of Louisiana as acquisition in the special interest of the South.

When, more recently, it became requisite to organize the Territory of Nebraska and to organize the Territory of New Mexico, Kansas, it was the natural and legitimate, if not the inevitable consequence of previous events and legislation, that the same great and sound principle, which had already been applied to them, should be applied to them. The Missouri compromise, which was the natural and legitimate, if not the inevitable consequence of previous events and legislation, that the same great and sound principle, which had already been applied to them, should be applied to them.

These restrictions were, in the estimation of many thoughtful men, null from the beginning. They were, in fact, a violation of the treaty stipulations, and in the opinion of Kansas, and inconsistent with the equality of the States.

They had been stripped of all moral authority by persistent efforts to procure their repeal through contradictory enactments. They had been practically annulled by the legislation attending the organization of Utah, New Mexico and Washington. If any vitality remained in them, it would have been taken away, in effect, by the new territorial acts, in the form originally proposed to

the Senate at the first session of the last Congress. It was mainly and innocently, as well as patriotically and justly, to do this directly and plainly, and thus to place the status of an act, which might be of possible future injury, but of no possible future benefit, and the measure of its repeal was the final consummation and complete recognition of the principle, that no portion of the United States shall undertake through assumption of the powers of the general government, to dictate the social institutions of any other portion.

The scope and effect of the language of repeal were not left in doubt. It was declared, in terms, to be "the true intent and meaning of this act not to legislate slavery into any Territory or State, nor to exclude it therefrom, but to leave the people thereof perfectly free to form and regulate their domestic institutions in their own way, subject only to the constitution of the United States." The measure could not be withheld upon its merits alone. It was attacked with violence, on the false or delusive pretext that it constituted a breach of faith. Never was objection more utterly destitute of substantial basis, and more completely devoid of merit, than that which was urged against it. It was, in fact, a declaration of the true principle of the Constitution, and it was, in fact, a declaration of the true principle of the Constitution, and it was, in fact, a declaration of the true principle of the Constitution.

It is not pretended that this principle, or any other, precludes the possibility of evils in practice, disturbed as political action is liable to be by human passions. No form of government is exempt from inconveniences; but in this case they are the result of the abuse, and not the legitimate exercise of the powers reserved or conferred in the organization of a Territory. They are not to be charged to the great principle of popular sovereignty; on the contrary, they disappear from the view, and patriotism of the people, exerting their influence, and their peaceful and silent but irresistible power.

If the friends of the constitution are to have another struggle, its enemies could not present a more acceptable issue, than that of a state, whose constitution clearly embraces the principle of popular sovereignty, and who, by the abuse of the powers reserved or conferred in the organization of a Territory. They are not to be charged to the great principle of popular sovereignty; on the contrary, they disappear from the view, and patriotism of the people, exerting their influence, and their peaceful and silent but irresistible power.

It is necessary to speak thus plainly of projects, the offspring of that sectional agitation, which is the result of the abuse of the powers reserved or conferred in the organization of a Territory. They are not to be charged to the great principle of popular sovereignty; on the contrary, they disappear from the view, and patriotism of the people, exerting their influence, and their peaceful and silent but irresistible power.

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THE AMERICAN.

SUNBURY.

THE AMERICAN.
SATURDAY, JANUARY 5, 1856.

H. B. MASSEY, Editor and Proprietor.
ADVERTISING.—The circulation of the Sunbury American among the different towns on the Susquehanna is not exceeded by any paper published in North or Pennsylvania.

The proceedings of the late Teachers Convention, held in this place, will be found on our first page.

The Literary Society of this place, met at the Court House on Tuesday evening last. An interesting and beautiful address was delivered by Mr. Gowen, of Shamokin, on the subject of "Genius."

Governor's Message.—We are indebted to Gov. Pollock for a copy of his first annual message. It came, however, too late, even for an abstract, as our columns were already crowded with other matter.

The Communication from Mr. Reimensnyder, the County Superintendent, and the proceedings of the Directors' Convention, and other matter have been unavoidably crowded out this week.

The Sunbury Brass Band, and the String Band, gave a concert at Shamokin on Tuesday evening last. Our correspondent from Shamokin speaks in terms of high commendation of their performance.

The Sunbury Brass Band and String Band will give a musical entertainment at the Court House, on Monday evening next. The Brass and String Band will perform alternately. The concert is for the benefit of Professor Rice, the instructor and leader of the String Band. It will be a rich musical treat, and all who can, should be there.

SUNBURY AND ERIE RAILROAD.—The bad state of the weather has delayed the completion of the road to this place, but the track, from Northumberland, over the bridges, is now laid, and the cars, we learn, will pass over to this place on Monday.

THE MAILS.—The conductor of the Philadelphia and Sunbury Railroad informs us that the failure of the mails alluded to in our last paper was owing to negligence in the Post Office at Pottsville. The Sunbury mail had been put into the Shamokin bag. We understand the mail bags are so poorly marked as to make it difficult to distinguish one from the other.

The recent fall of snow has made the sleighing excellent, and our farmers and others are making good use of it, while it lasts. The weather, the past week, has been exceedingly cold. The Susquehanna closed over on this place on Monday night, and was strong enough the second day following for persons, on foot, to cross over.

WM. Platt, of Wyoming, was elected Speaker of the Senate, and R. L. Wright, of Philadelphia, Speaker of the House.—Wm. Jack, Clerk of the House, Capt. Jacob Ziegler, Assistant, Mr. Maguire, Clerk of the Senate.

John Leisenring, of Northumberland, Messenger of the House.

Joseph Casey, Esq., of Harrisburg, has been appointed, by the Governor, "State Reporter," in place of James Hepburn, Esq., deceased. Mr. Casey is well known in this section of the state as an excellent lawyer. The appointment is a judicious one.

The Philadelphia papers notice the death of James Hepburn, Esq., at Philadelphia, suddenly on the 25th of December last. Mr. Hepburn was a lawyer, and for many years a resident of Northumberland. He was the first President of the Bank of Northumberland. Afterwards President of the Tide Water Canal Company, and at the time of his death "State Reporter," an office to which he had been appointed by Gov. Pollock. He was esteemed as a good lawyer, and well qualified for the station.

FRANKLIN PIERCE.
WASHINGTON, December 31, 1855.
St. Louis, Dec. 29.—The Lexington (Mo.) Herald of the 22d says, that on the 15th the citizens of Kansas voted on the Constitution adopted by the Free State Convention held at Topeka. At Leavenworth a collision occurred between the pro and anti-slavery parties. The hall was surrounded by a mob, the voting stopped, and an anti-slavery man's house burned. A man charged with the last outrage, was arrested and lodged in jail. His friends broke open the jail, rescued the prisoner, and burned down the building. Had not for assistance prevailed, and both sides had sent for assistance.

Communicated.

For the American.
Sunbury, January 2, 1856.
H. B. MASSEY, Esq., Dear Sir.—A few days since a suit was commenced by the heirs of the former Proprietaries of Pennsylvania, against a citizen of our Borough, for the purpose, as I have since learned, of enforcing payment of the quit rent, reserved by them on the lots in this Borough. Since that time a rumour has been spread that I am interested in the proceedings, and that I am, as a result of my political enemies for the purpose of creating a prejudice against me which is unwarranted in point of fact. Mr. Casey the attorney in the case requested of me, as a favor to hand it to the Prothonotary the proceeds for the writ, which is signed by himself. I did as requested, but do not know at the time, what the object of the suit was; nor could I see any impropriety in handing over the paper at the request of a friend. My name was marked to the suit at the time, but on learning the object, I at once had it erased from the record. I was not employed as attorney in the case, nor am I interested either directly or indirectly, in the prosecution of these claims, the assertions of some persons who own no property and are not interested, to the contrary notwithstanding. I feel personally much interested in the progress and improvement of our Borough, and as a citizen, and would be sorry to be concerned in a matter, the effect of which would, necessarily, prove detrimental thereto. I am not afraid to act as counsel for or against any man or set of men, but I cannot be employed against myself, nor against the interests of the community in which I reside.

A certificate from Mr. Casey as to the truth of the above statement can be seen at my office.
Very Respectfully Yours, &c.,
WM. M. ROCKEFELLER.

SHAMOKIN, Dec. 25, 1855.
Old Christmas here again with its grateful cheer, its smiles, its gifts and all its friendly greetings. How many advanced in years live over again the rosy and smiling Christmas holidays of youth; and how many children receive their first lessons in the art of being good, and how many young men and women, who are just entering the world, are made to feel the value of the good things which are theirs. What a contrast this morning in the hospitable mansion of Dr. Atwater, with the snow-clad trees and mountains without; and with the streets of Shamokin covered with snow and rain, as the children of the village, in the midst of a storm, were making their way to the usual celebration of Christmas, provided for them at the Doctor's residence through the ever considerate and thoughtful kindness of Judge Holmfest.

What a happy visit was anticipated by these little ones, but their happiness was cut short from their homes through the storm, and they were made to feel the value of the good things which are theirs. What a contrast this morning in the hospitable mansion of Dr. Atwater, with the snow-clad trees and mountains without; and with the streets of Shamokin covered with snow and rain, as the children of the village, in the midst of a storm, were making their way to the usual celebration of Christmas, provided for them at the Doctor's residence through the ever considerate and thoughtful kindness of Judge Holmfest.

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The time was fully chosen for the mind was busy with solemn thoughts, and well prepared to join the song of praise to Him who guides the revolving season, and controls the destinies of men.

The morning of New Years day was enlivened by the parade of the Shamokin Greys—Capt. Kase. This is a fine looking company and elicited universal admiration for their neat appearance and soldier-like behavior.

At night a concert was given by the Sunbury Brass Band under the direction of Jno. W. Becker. They were assisted by Professor String Band, under the direction of Professor Rice. The Lyceum Hall was kindly granted for the occasion by Wm. Fagely, Esq. The novelty of the thing to many of our citizens, and the wide spread reputation of this newly organized band, early obtained a large attendance. Our citizens were not slow in responding to this call upon them by the native talent of our sister town. The house was crowded, and the concert proved to be an unequivocal triumph. The programme was well arranged, and the performance in excellent style. Mr. Rice won golden opinions, and a friend agreed that the band received "valuable opinions," that to them were quite good, if not more practical than those of their leader. I was surprised to learn that this band has been in existence only a little better than a year. The selections from Strauss and Tulliani were admirably given; and the "Schottische" composed by Rice entitled that gentleman to rank among the eminent composers of the day. Altogether the concert was a brilliant affair, and passed off very satisfactorily—we hope—to all concerned. From what I hear, our citizens will extend a cordial welcome to these gentlemen whenever they conclude to honor us with another visit.

The Band returned home Wednesday morning much gratified with their visit, and leaving behind them the most favorable impressions, and an earnest desire for their speedy return.

HARRISBURG, Dec. 21.—The Democratic members of the House of Representatives, to the number of sixty-six, met in caucus to-night and nominated Richard L. Wright, of Philadelphia, as Speaker, by acclamation. The following nominations were made: The Americans of the House—Speaker, John B. McCombs, of Luzerne; Clerk, A. W. Benedict; Sergeant at Arms, Isaiah Whitlock; Doorkeeper, John J. Horn.

The Democratic caucus of the Senate was held on Monday evening, and nominated Wm. M. Casey, of Wyoming, for Speaker, by acclamation. There were 17 Senators present. The American caucus meets to-morrow morning.

MARRIAGES.
On Sunday last, by the Rev. J. G. McKeehan, Mr. ISAAC D. KRINE, to Miss SARAH CUAMBERLIN, both of Shamokin township.

On the 23d inst., by the Rev. H. Hoffman, Mr. S. H. Adams, to Miss CATHERINE FISHER, both of Shamokin township.

SUNBURY PRICE CURRENT.
WHEAT, 200
RICE, 112
CORN, 50
OATS, 35
POTATOES, 45
BEANS, 40
BUCKLE FLAX, 15
BUTTER, 22

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.
J. S. O'FA.
WASHINGTON CAMP, No. 19, S. of A. holds its stated meetings every Saturday evening, in the American Hall, Market Street, Sunbury.

A. J. Rockefeller, R. S. DUNSTON, P.
Sunbury, January 5, 1856.—if.

AUCTION! AUCTION!
THE Auction of the Subscriber will commence next Monday morning at ten o'clock and will continue till the 10th of January, 1856, from 6 till 9 o'clock in the evening. The week following only Monday's, Wednesday's and Saturday's.

Sunbury, January 5, 1856.—if.
AUDITORS' NOTICE.
NOTICE is hereby given, that the undersigned Auditor appointed by the Orphans' Court of Northumberland county to audit the exceptions in the account of Daniel Cameron, dec'd., filed by the said Daniel Cameron, dec'd., which was one of the executors of his said Daniel Cameron, dec'd., will attend to the duties of his appointment at his office in Sunbury, on the 15th of January next, at 10 o'clock, A. M., when all persons interested may attend if they see proper.

WM. M. ROCKEFELLER, Auditor.
Sunbury, Dec. 29, 1855.

NOTICE.
I have placed his book accounts, notes, &c., in the hands of the undersigned for collection, at whose Law Office all persons indebted to said J. W. Peal, whether on note or not, are requested to call and make payment on or before the 15th day of that date 1856, on all accounts &c., unsettled at that date will be sued.

Sunbury, Dec. 22, 1855.— S. R. PEAL.
AUCTION AND PRIVATE SALE.
Worthy the Attention of Every Man.
HAVING positively determined to leave Sunbury on the 1st of February next, I am selling my large Stock of Clothing and other Goods at and below cost at private sale, and next month at Auction. My stock embraces a large variety of the most desirable goods, such as Water coats from \$2.75 upwards; Overcoats from \$3.00 and higher; Pants and Vests in proportion; Hats and Caps; Boots and Shoes; Stuffs, Underclothing, Hosiery, Gloves, Jewelry, Hosiery, and all other kinds of goods, such as a Clothing Establishment. I have also on hand a variety of Summer Coats, vests and pants; also Summer Hats of different styles, all of which I will sell at tremendously low prices.

The Auction will commence on the 7th of January next, and will continue through that week every day and evening, afterwards on Monday Wednesday and Saturday. The public will find it to their advantage to call early and buy at private sale; they have then a good assortment to pick and select, and may get goods at low prices as they will probably be sold by Auction.

My store is in Market Square, is known, and can hardly be missed.
Sunbury Dec. 22, 1855.—
To Merchants and Storekeepers.
The subscriber desirous of leaving as soon as possible, will sell to Merchants and others who may favor him, at wholesale, lower than Philadelphia rates, any or all his goods on hand. His stock comprises a large quantity of goods adapted to the season, is pretty large yet, so that he can give an Assortment of sizes and qualities to buyers. Merchants will find it to their advantage to call early.
ALBERT ELSBERG.
Dissolution of Partnership.
NOTICE is hereby given that the co-partnership heretofore existing under the name of S. W. LEVY & CO., in the County of Northumberland, was dissolved by mutual consent, on Friday, the 15th inst. The books are left in the hands of the subscriber for settlement on whom all persons owing themselves are indebted to, or having claims against said firm will please call and settle immediately.
ELIJAH CHIDESTER.
Shamokin, Dec. 23, 1855.—