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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1864.

ABSTRACT OF THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Delivered December 6, 1864.

LEAD—The following abstract of the Message contains the principal and most important points discussed by the President. The Message is concise, and refers briefly to all matters not connected with the war and its consequences. It is a sound and able document.

The proposed Overland Telegraph between America and Europe, by the way of Hurling's Straits and Asiatic Russia, which was sanctioned by Congress at the last session, has been undertaken under very favorable circumstances, by an association of American citizens, with the cordial good will and support, as well of this Government as of those of Great Britain and Russia. Assurances have been received from most of the South American States of their concurrence of the enterprise, and their inclination to co-operate in the construction of the line, with a view to facilitating communication to that war-suspending communication. We learn, with satisfaction, that the mode of the telegraphic communication between the eastern coast of America and Great Britain has been renewed, with the expectation of its accomplishment.

The receipts during the year from all sources upon the basis of warrants signed by the Secretary of the Treasury, including loans and the balance in the Treasury on the 1st day of July, 1864, were \$1,391,736,067.62, and the aggregate disbursements upon the same basis were \$1,292,056,101.89, leaving a balance in the Treasury, as shown by warrants, of \$96,739,595.73.

Deduct from these amounts the amount of the principal of the public debt redeemed, and the amount of issues in the substitution thereof, and the actual cash operations of the Treasury were: Receipts, \$891,076,616.57; disbursements, \$855,234,087.89, which leaves a cash balance in the Treasury of \$18,842,559.73.

Of the receipts, there were derived from customs \$102,316,152.99; from lands \$588,332.29; from direct taxes \$455,614.96; from internal revenue \$109,741,134.16; from miltiary contracts \$147,514,418.16; and from loans applied to actual expenditures, including former balances, \$892,443,929.13.

There was disbursed for the civil service \$27,509,359.46; for pensions and Indians \$5,717,080.97; for the War Department, \$609,791,842.97; for the navy Department, \$238,753,924.77; for interest on the public debt, \$53,655,421.68; making an aggregate of \$1,292,056,101.89, as before stated.

For the actual recapitulation of disbursements for the first quarter, with the estimated amounts for the three remaining quarters of the current fiscal year, and the general operations of the Treasury in detail, I refer you to the report of the Secretary of the Treasury. I concur with him in the opinion that the proportion of money required to meet the expenses consequent upon the war derived from taxation, should be still further increased, and I earnestly invite your attention to this subject, to the end that there may be such additional legislation as shall be required to meet the exigencies of the present session.

Of course the abstract question is not changed, but an intervening election shows almost certainly that the next Congress will pass the measure if this does not. Hence there is only a question of time as to when the proposed amendment will go to the States for their action, and it is to go at all events, may we not agree that the sooner the better.

Judging by the recent canvass and its results, the purpose of the people within the loyal States, to maintain the integrity of the Union, was never more firm nor more resolute than Maryland. Like another foul spirit being driven out it may seek to tear her, but it will win her no more.

At the last session of Congress a proposed amendment to the Constitution, abolishing slavery throughout the United States, passed the Senate, but failed for what of the two-thirds vote in the House of Representatives. Although the present is the same Congress, nearly the same members, and without questioning the wisdom or patriotism of those who stood in opposition, I venture to recommend the reconsideration and passage of this bill at the next session.

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The public debt on the 1st of July last, as appears by the books of the treasury, amounted to one billion seven hundred and forty thousand, four hundred and eighty dollars and forty cents. Probably, should the war continue for another year, that amount would be increased by not less than \$100,000,000.

The steamer James Watson has been detained at Helena. Her officers are charged with illegal operations in cotton.

Among the papers captured on the rebel officers during Col. Karges raid into Arkansas was an affecting appeal to the rebel General Kirby Smith by ex-General Wirt Adams, who had been conscripted and rejected by the rebels. The communication was dated at the headquarters of the northern district of Arkansas, November 4th, and stated that another copy had been sent by Col. Cross via Shreveport.

CALIF., Dec. 5.—The steamer Clara Johnson, from New Orleans on the 28th ult., has arrived here. She was fired into at the head of Dead Man's Bend, but nobody was hurt. The rebels occupied Godrich's Landing, which the Federal troops recently abandoned, causing great excitement in Vicksburg.

New Orleans papers by the steamer contain no news.

Army of the Potowmack.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY POTOWMACK, Dec. 5.

There is nothing of interest to report on the lines this morning.

The enemy do not keep up quite such an incessant fire as they did a short time ago.

Quite a little fusillade took place last evening in the vicinity of the Jerusalem plank road, but it did not last any considerable time, nor affect any important results.

A number of brevets have been recently conferred upon officers in this department. Among the last are Major General Meade as Major General in the regular army, and Brig. Generals Ingalls and Hunt as Major Generals of volunteers, and Major Buddle, breveted Colonel.

These honors have been well merited by the recipients, and there are others in this army whose names might have been included in this list.

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The Pekin Gazette publishes a report from the Chinese Government on the extinction of the rebellion, which ends with the following words: "It is, therefore, most needful that thanks be offered to the gods for their assistance. Wherefore the Board of Rites is directed to examine into the services rendered by the different gods, and to report to us."

Mrs. Douglas, the widow of Senator Douglas, is still in China, representing her son, Mr. Lincoln, in the trial of the capital building. Her brother, Capt. Cutts, who was wounded in one of the battles in Virginia last summer has not yet recovered, and is receiving every possible care at Fort Monroe. Capt. Cutts is a man of great energy, but his sympathies seem to be strongly enlisted in the Federal cause. Mr. Cutts is a great soldier, and can be found in Washington City, or even in the South, but he is reported to be engaged for political purposes. He will, however, be a stranger to those who remember that he had, at the time of his death, was in the employ of the U.S. Consul at Peking, and had never been a soldier in his life except in a garrison.

FIRE IN WILLIAMSPORT.—The Foundry and Machine Shop of the Messrs. Snyder & Bro. in Williamsport, were destroyed by fire on Saturday night a week. The loss is about \$8,000. Insured in the Locomotiv Mutual for \$1,000, and in the Cumberland Valley for \$2,000.

The Supreme Court of California has decided that the tax may be paid in greenbacks. This decision will materially aid the party to that State who are striving to introduce Government paper there as currency. It has been exclusively epochal.

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gold, silver, and cinnabar mines have been added to the many harbors known, and so the country occupied by the Sierra Nevada and Rocky Mountains, and the suboceanic ranges now seem with enterprise enter which is highly remunerative. It is believed that the product of the mines of precious metals, in that region, has, during the year, reached, if not exceed, one hundred million in value.

There have been added to the pension rolls, during the year ending the 30th day of June last, the names of 15,770 invalid soldiers and 271 disabled seamen, making the present number of army invalid pensioners 22,567, and of naval invalid pensioners 712. Of widows, orphans, and mothers, 22,958 have been placed on the army pension rolls, and 218 on the navy pension rolls. The number of army pensioners of this class is 23,433, and of the navy pensioners 754. At the beginning of the year the number of Revolutionary pensioners was 1,420; only twelve of them were soldiers, of whom seven have since died. The remainder are those who, under the laws, receive pensions because of relationship to Revolutionary soldiers. During the year ending June 30, 1864, \$4,501,616.92 have been paid to pensioners of all classes.

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THE WAR IN TENNESSEE.

NASHVILLE, Dec. 3.

After two days of wet weather, the clouds disappeared this morning, and the day has been magnificent. I have been on our right all day. Our line of battle extends around the saloons of the city, our right and left, respectively, resting on the Cumberland river. The enemy's line of battle is just two miles from the city. Quite heavy skirmishing in front of Generals A. J. Smith and Wood has been going on all the afternoon, by sharpshooters on both sides.

On the right of our centre, near widow Acklin's place, the enemy's skirmishers become troublesome, taking refuge behind houses, on Franklin, Granny White and Hilliard's pikes. Two houses were burned, several others damaged and our artillery captured.

We used considerable artillery, but elicited no reply from the robust rebels.

The position is that they are short of this kind of ammunition. Several of our men were killed to day by their sharpshooters, including two members of the Sixth Ohio Battery.

The enemy's line can be seen quite plainly with the naked eye.

All railroad south of this city has ceased to exist. Murfreesboro Bridgeport and Chattanooga are deemed safe. Events of some moment are anticipated to-morrow.

It may be considered an impossibility for the rebels to cross the river either on our right or left, as Commanding Fitch is here with a fleet of gun boats.

Johnson's has been evacuated. Every thing has been removed from all the railroads in safety. Thirty three regiments are now on the road to the second line. Their horses have been loaded with load cloths on our second line. Their horses have been loaded with load cloths on our second line.

The rebels encouraged by their success in driving Wagner back, advanced with bold cheer on our second line. Their order was very peculiar, a semi-circle, two regiments deep, extending all around our lines, and behind every site regiments were placed others; so that the assaulting columns were six regiments deep.

The rebel General Hood appeared at about 4 o'clock in the afternoon at the head of his command, and pointing toward our lines said, "Break these lines, boys, and you have finished the war in Tennessee. Break them, and there is nothing to oppose your march from Nashville to the Ohio River."

Long cheers answered this appeal of the rebel leader, while the whole space in front of our lines was crowded with the advancing enemy.

Captain Lyman, commanding the artillery of the rebel corps, has his headquarters at the house of Mr. Edmonson, on the Murfreesboro pike, four miles from the city. Captain Lyman that Hood orders to go to Nashville or to —

There is plenty of water in the river for boating purposes.

Vague rumors are abroad about Forrest crossing the river and Breckinridge joining him, and which of which is untrue. The situation of our forces is considered favorable.

Forrest's retreat is to be expected to-day, as he has been driven from the city.

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