

# THE COLUMBIA DEMOCRAT.

"I have sworn upon the Altar of God, eternal hostility to every form of Tyranny over the Mind of Man!"—Thomas Jefferson

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### TERMS:

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

To the Senate and House of

Representatives of the U. States:

We have continued reasons to express our profound gratitude to the great Creator of all things for numberless benefits conferred upon us as a People. Blessed with genial seasons, the husbandman has his garners filled with abundance, and the necessities of life, not to speak of its luxuries, abound in every direction. While in some other nations steady and industrious labor can hardly find the means of subsistence, the greatest evil which we have to encounter, is a surplus of production beyond the home demand, which seeks, and with difficulty finds, a partial market in other regions. The health of the country, with partial exceptions, has for the past year been well preserved; and under their free and wise institutions, the United States are rapidly advancing towards the consummation of the high destiny which an overruling Providence seems to have marked out for them. Exempt from domestic convulsion, and at peace with the world, we are left free to consult as to the best means of securing and advancing the happiness of the People.—Such are the circumstances under which you now assemble in your respective chambers, and which should lead us to unite in praise and thanksgiving to that great Being who made us, and who preserves us a nation.

I congratulate you, fellow-citizens, on the happy change in the aspect of our foreign affairs since my last annual message. Causes of complaint at that time existed between the United States and Great Britain, which, attended by irritating circumstances, threatened most seriously the public peace. The difficulty of adjusting amicably the questions in issue between the two countries, was in no small degree augmented by the lapse of time since they had their origin.—The opinions entertained by the executive on several of the leading topics in dispute, were frankly set forth in the Message at the opening of your late session. The appointment of a special minister by Great Britain to the United States with power to negotiate upon most of the points of difference, indicated a desire on her part amicably to adjust them, and that minister was met by the Executive in the same spirit which had dictated his mission. The Treaty, consequent thereon, having been duly ratified by the two Governments, a copy, together with the correspondence which accompanied it, is herewith, communicated. I trust that whilst you may see in it nothing objectionable, it may be the means of preserving, for an indefinite period, the amicable relations happily existing between the two governments. This question of peace or war between the United States and Great Britain, is a question of the deepest interest not only to themselves, but to the civilized world, since it is scarcely possible that a war could exist between them without endangering the peace of Christendom. The immediate effect of the Treaty upon ourselves will be felt in the security afforded to mercantile enterprise, which, no longer apprehensive of interruption, adventures its speculations in the most distant seas; and, freighted with the diversified productions of every land, returns to bless our own. There is nothing in the Treaty which, in the slightest degree, compromises the honor or dignity of either nation. Next to the settlement of the boundary line, which must always be a matter of difficulty between States as between individuals, the question which seemed to threaten the greatest embarrassment, was that connected with the African slave trade.

By the 10th article of the Treaty of Ghent it was expressly declared that "whereas the traffic in slaves is irreconcileable with the principles of humanity and justice; and whereas both His Majesty and the United States are desirous of continuing their efforts to promote its entire abolition," it is hereby agreed that both the contracting parties shall use their best endeavors to accomplish so desirable an object. In the enforcement of the laws and treaty stipulations of Great Britain, a practice had threatened to grow up on the part of its cruisers of subjecting to visitation ships sailing under the American flag, which, while it seriously involved our maritime rights, would subject to vexation a branch of our trade which was daily increasing, and which required the fostering care of the Government. And although Lord Aberdeen, in his correspondence with the American Envoy at London, expressly disclaimed all right to detain an American ship on the high seas; even if found with a cargo of slaves on board, and restricted the British pretension to a mere claim to visit and enquire, yet it could not well be discerned by the Executive of the United States how such visit and enquiry could be made without detention on the voyage, and consequent interruption to the trade. It was regarded as the right of search, presented only in a new form, and expressed in different words; and I therefore felt it to be my duty distinctly to declare, in my annual message to Congress, that no such concession could be made, and that the United States had both the will and the ability to enforce their own laws, and to protect their flag from being used for purposes wholly forbidden by those laws, and obnoxious to the moral censure of the world. Taking the Message as his letter of instruction, our then Minister at Paris felt himself required to assume the same ground in a remonstrance which he felt to be his duty to present to M. Guizot, and through him to the King of France, against what has been called the Quicunque treaty; and his conduct, in this respect, met with the approval of this Government. In close conformity with these views, the eighth article of the Treaty was framed, which provides that each nation shall keep afloat in the African seas a force not less than eighty guns, to act separately and apart under instructions from their respective Governments, and for the enforcement of their respective laws and obligations. From this it will be seen that the ground assumed in the Message has been fully maintained, at the same time that the stipulations of the Treaty of Ghent are to be carried out in good faith by the two countries and that all pretense is removed for interference with our commerce for any purpose whatever by a foreign Government. While, therefore, the United States have been standing up for the freedom of the seas, they have not thought proper to make that a pretext for avoiding a fulfilment of their Treaty stipulations, or a ground for giving countenance to a trade reprobated by our laws. A similar arrangement by the other great powers could not fail to sweep from the ocean the slave trade, without the interpolation of any new principle into the maritime code. We may be permitted to hope that the example thus set will be followed by some, if not all of them. We thereby also afford suitable protection to the fair trader in these seas, thus fulfilling at the same time the dictates of a sound policy, and complying with the claims of justice and humanity.

It would have furnished additional cause for congratulation, if the Treaty could have embraced all subjects calculated in future to lead to a misunderstanding between the two Governments. The territory of the United States, commonly called the Oregon territory, lying on the Pacific ocean, north of the 42d degree of latitude, to a portion of which Great Britain lays claim, begins to attract the attention of our fellow citizens, and the tide of population which has reclaimed what was so lately an unbroken wilderness, in more contiguous regions, is preparing to flow over those vast districts which stretch from the Rocky mountains to the Pacific ocean. In advance of the acquirement of individual rights to these lands, sound policy dictates that every effort should be resorted to by the two Governments, to settle their respective claims. It became manifest at an early hour of the late negotiations, that any attempt for the time being satisfactorily to determine those rights, would lead to a protracted discussion, which might embrace in its failure other more pressing matters, and the Executive did not regard it as proper to waive all the advantages of an honorable adjustment of other difficulties of great magnitude and importance, because this, not so immediately pressing, stood in the way. Although the difficulty referred to may not for several years to come involve the peace of the two countries, yet I shall not delay to urge on Great Britain the importance of its early settlement. Nor will other matters of commercial importance to the two countries be overlooked; and I have good reason to believe that it will comport with the policy of England, as it does with that of the United States, to seize upon this moment, when most of the causes of irritation have passed away, to cement the peace and unity

of the two countries by wisely removing all grounds of probable future collision.

With the other powers of Europe our relations continue on the most amicable feeling. Treaties now existing with them should be rightly observed, and every opportunity, compatible with the interests of the United States, should be seized upon to enlarge the basis of commercial intercourse. Peace with all the world is the true foundation of our policy, which can only be rendered permanent by the practice of equal and impartial justice to all. Our great desire should be to enter only into that rivalry which looks to the general good, in the cultivation of the sciences, the enlargement of the field for the exercise of the mechanical arts, and the spread of commerce—that great civilizer—to every land and sea.—Carefully abstaining from interference in all questions exclusively referring themselves to the political interests of Europe, we may be permitted to hope an equal exemption from the interference of European Governments, in what relates to the States of the American Continent.

On the 23d of April last, the commissioners on the part of the United States, under the convention with the Mexican Republic, of the 11th of April, 1839, made to the proper department a final report in relation to the proceedings of the commission. From this it appears that the total amount awarded to the claimants by the commissioners and the umpire appointed under that convention, was two millions twenty six thousand and seventy nine dollars and sixty eight cents. The arbiter having considered that his functions were required by the convention to terminate at the same time with those of the commissioners; returned the board, undecided for want of time, claims which had been allowed by the American Commissioners, to the amount of nine hundred and twenty eight thousand six hundred and twenty dollars and eighty eight cents. Other claims, in which the amount sought to be recovered was three millions three hundred and thirty six thousand and eight hundred and thirty seven dollars and five cents, were submitted to the board too late for its consideration. The Minister of the U. States at Mexico, has been duly authorized to make demand for the payment of the awards according to the terms of the convention, and the provisions of the act of Congress of the 12th of June, 1840. He has also been instructed to communicate to that government the expectations of the Government of the U. States in relation to those claims which were not disposed of according to the provisions of the convention and all others of citizens of the U. States against the Mexican Government.

He has also been furnished with other instructions to be followed by him in case the Government of Mexico should not find itself in a condition to make present payment of the amount of the awards, in specie or its equivalent.

I am happy to be able to say that information, which is esteemed favorable, both to a just satisfaction of the awards, and a reasonable provision for other claims, has been recently received from Mr. Thompson the Minister of the United States, who has promptly and efficiently executed the instructions of his Government, in regard to this important subject.

The citizens of the United States who accompanied the late Texan expedition to Santa Fe, and who were wrongfully taken and held as prisoners of war in Mexico, have all been liberated.

A correspondence has taken place between the Department of State and the Mexican Minister of Foreign Affairs upon the complaint of Mexico that citizens of the United States were permitted to give aid to the inhabitants of Texas in the war existing between her and that Republic. Copies of this correspondence are herewith communicated to Congress, together with copies of letters on the same subject, addressed to the Diplomatic corps at Mexico, by the American Minister and the Mexican Secretary of State.

Mexico has thought proper to reciprocate the mission of the United States to that Government by accrediting to this a Minister of the same rank as that of the representative of the United States in Mexico. From the circumstances connected with his mission, favorable results are anticipated from it. It is so obviously for the interest of both countries as neighbors and friends that all just causes of mutual dissatisfaction should be removed, that it is to be hoped neither will omit or delay the employment of any practicable and honorable means to accomplish that end.

The affairs pending between this Government and several others of the States of this hemisphere formerly under the dominion of Spain, have again, within the past year, been materially obstructed by the military revolutions and conflicts in those countries.

The Ratifications of the Treaty between the United States and the Republic Execu-

dor, of the 12th of June, 1839, have been exchanged, and that instrument has been duly promulgated on the part of this Government. Copies are now communicated to Congress with a view to enable that body to make such changes in the laws applicable to our intercourse with that Republic, as may be deemed requisite.

Provision has been made by the Government of Chile for the payment of the claim on account of the illegal detention of the brig Warrior at Coquimbo, in 1820.—This Government has reason to expect that other claims of our citizens against Chile, will be hastened to a final and satisfactory close.

The Empire of Brazil has not been altogether exempt from those convulsions which so constantly afflict the neighboring republics. Disturbances which recently broke out, are, however, now understood to be quieted. But these occurrences, by threatening the stability of the Governments, or by causing incessant and violent changes in them, or in the persons who administer them, tend greatly to retard provisions for a just indemnity for losses and injuries suffered by individual subjects or citizens of other States. The Government of the U. States will feel it to be its duty, however, to consent to no delay; not unavoidable in making satisfaction for wrongs and injuries sustained by its own citizens. Many years having, in some cases, elapsed, a decisive and effectual course of proceeding will be demanded of the respective governments against whom claims have been preferred.

The vexatious, harassing and expensive war which so long prevailed with the Indian tribes inhabiting the peninsula of Florida, has happily been terminated; whereby our army has been relieved from a service of the most disagreeable character, and the Treasury from a large expenditure. Some casual outbreaks may occur, such as are incident to the close proximity of border settlers and the Indians; but these, as in all other cases, may be left to the care of the local authorities, aided, when occasion may require, by the forces of the United States. A sufficient number of troops will be maintained in Florida, so long as the remotest apprehensions of danger shall exist, yet their duties will be limited rather to the garrisoning of the necessary posts, than to the maintenance of active hostilities. It is to be hoped that a territory, so long retarded in its growth, will now speedily recover from the evils incident to a protracted war, exhibiting, in the increased amount of its productions, true evidences of returning wealth and prosperity. By the practice of rigid justice towards the numerous Indian tribes residing within our territorial limits, and the exercise of a parental vigilance over their interests, protecting them against fraud and intrusion, and at the same time using every proper expedient to introduce among them the arts of civilized life, we may fondly hope not only to wean them from their love for war, but to inspire them with a love for peace and all its avocations. With several of the tribes great progress in civilization has already been made.—The schoolmaster and the missionary are found side by side, and the remnants of what were once numerous and powerful nations may yet be preserved as the builders up of a new name for themselves and their posterity.

The balance in the Treasury on the 1st of January, 1842 (exclusive of the amount deposited with the State Trust Funds and Indemnities) was \$230,483 68. The receipt into the Treasury during the three first quarters of the present year, from all sources, amount to \$26,616,593 75; of which more than fourteen millions were received from customs, and about one million from the public lands. The receipts for the fourth quarter are estimated at nearly eight millions; of which four millions are expected from Customs, and three millions and a half from Loans and Treasury notes. The expenditures of the first three quarters of the present year exceed twenty-six millions; and those estimated for the fourth quarter amount to about eight millions; and it is anticipated there will be a deficiency of half a million on the 1st of January next—but that the amount of outstanding warrants (estimated at \$800,000) will leave an actual balance of \$224,000 in the Treasury. Among the expenditures of the year, are more than eight millions for the public debt, and \$600,000 on account of the distribution to the State of the proceeds of sales of the public lands.

The present tariff of duties was somewhat hastily and hurriedly passed near the close of the late session of Congress. That it should have defects can, therefore, be surprising to no one. To remedy such defects as may be found to exist in many of its numerous provisions, will not fail to claim your serious attention. It may well merit enquiry, whether the exertion of all duties in cash does not call for the introduction of a system which has proved highly

beneficial where it has been adopted. I refer to the Warehousing System. The first and most prominent effect which it would produce would be to perfect the market alike against redundant or deficient supplies of foreign fabrics—both of which in the long run, are injurious as well to the manufacturers as the importer. The quantity of goods in store being at all times readily known, it would enable the importer, with an approach to accuracy, to ascertain the actual wants of the market, and to regulate himself accordingly. If, however, he should fall into error, by importing an excess above the public wants, he could readily correct its evils by avail himself of the benefits and advantages of the system thus established. In the storehouse the goods, imported would await the demands of the market, and their issues would be governed by the fixed principles of demand and supply. Thus an approximation would be made to a steadiness and uniformity of price, which, it attainable, would conduce to the decided advantage of mercantile and mechanical operations.

The apprehension may be well entertained that without something to ameliorate the rigor of cash payments, the entire import trade may fall into the hands of a few wealthy capitalists in this country, and in Europe. The small importer, who requires all the money he can raise for investments abroad, and who can but ill afford to pay the lowest duty, would have to subdue in advance a portion of his funds in order to pay the duties, and would lose the interest upon the amount thus paid for all the time the goods might remain unsold, which might absorb his profits. The rich capitalist abroad, as well as at home, would thus possess, after a short time, an almost exclusive monopoly of the import trade, and laws designed for the benefit of all, would thus operate for the benefit of the few,—a result wholly uncongenial with the spirit of our institutions, and anti-republican in all its tendencies. The Warehousing System would enable the importer to watch the market, and to select his own time for offering his goods for sale. A profitable portion of the carrying trade in articles entered for the benefit of drawback, must also be most seriously affected, without the adoption of some expedient to relieve the cash system. The Warehousing System would afford that relief, since the carrier would have a safe recourse to the public storehouses, and might, without advancing the duty, reship within some reasonably period to foreign ports. A further effect of the measure would be to supersede the system of drawbacks, thereby effectually protecting the Government against fraud, as the rights of debenture would not attach to goods after their withdrawal from the public stores.

In revising the existing tariff of duties, should you deem it proper to do so at your present session, I can only repeat the suggestions and recommendations which, upon several occasions, I have heretofore felt it to be my duty to offer to Congress. The great, primary and controlling interest of the American People is union—union not only in the mere forms of government, forums which may be broken but union founded in an attachment of States and individuals for each other. This union in sentiment and feeling can only be preserved by the adoption of that course of policy which, neither giving exclusive benefits to some, nor imposing unnecessary burdens upon others, shall consult the interests of all, by pursuing a course of moderation, and thereby seeking to harmonize public opinion, and causing the People every where to feel and to know that the Government is careful of the interests of all alike. Nor is there any subject in regard to which moderation, connected with a wise discrimination, is more necessary than in the imposition of duties on imports. Whether reference be had to revenue, the primary object in the imposition of taxes, or to the incidents which necessarily flow from their imposition, this is entirely true. Extravagant duties defeat their end and object, not only by exciting in the public mind an hostility to the manufacturing interests, but by inducing a system of smuggling on an extensive scale, and the practice of every manner of fraud upon the revenue, which the utmost vigilance of Government cannot effectually suppress. An opposite course of policy would be attended by results essentially different, of which every interest of society, and none more than those of the manufacturer, would be that derived from the general acquiescence of the country in its support, and the consequent permanency and stability which would be given to all the operations of industry. It cannot be too often repeated, that no system of legislation can be wise which is fluctuating and uncertain. No interest can thrive under it.