

er to Great Britain as they had done, the navigation of the Columbia river. The right of any foreign power to the free navigation of our rivers, through the heart of our country, was one which I was unwilling to concede. It also embraced provisions to make free to Great Britain any port or ports on the coast of Oregon and Vancouver's Island, south of the parallel. Had this been a new question, coming under discussion for the first time, this proposition would not have been made.

The extraordinary and wholly inadmissible demands of the British government, and the rejection of the proposition had made in reference alone to what had been done by my predecessors, and the implied obligation which their acts seemed to impose, afforded satisfactory evidence that an compromise which the United States ought to accept, can be effected. With this conviction, the proposition of compromise which had been made and rejected, was, by my direction, subsequently withdrawn, and our title to the whole Oregon Territory asserted, and, as is believed, maintained by irrefragable facts and arguments.

The civilized world will see in these proceedings a spirit of liberal concession on the part of the United States, and this government will be relieved from all responsibility which may follow the failure to settle the controversy.

All attempts at compromise having failed, it becomes the duty of Congress to consider what measures it may be proper to adopt for the security and protection of our citizens now inhabiting, or who may hereafter inhabit Oregon and for the maintenance of our just title to that territory. In adopting measures for this purpose, care should be taken that nothing be done to violate the stipulations of the convention of 1827, which is still in force.

The faith of treaties, in their letter and spirit has ever been, and I trust will ever be, scrupulously observed by the United States. Under that convention, a year's notice is required to be given by either party to the other, before the joint occupancy shall terminate and before either can rightfully assert or exercise exclusive jurisdiction over any portion of the territory. This notice it would, in my judgment, be proper to give; and I recommend that provision be made by law for giving it accordingly, and terminating, in this manner, the convention of the 6th of August, 1827.

It will become proper for Congress to determine what legislation they can, in the mean time, adopt without violating this convention. Beyond all question the protection of our laws and our jurisdiction, civil and criminal, ought to be immediately extended over our citizens in Oregon. They have had just cause to complain of our long neglect in this particular, and have in consequence, been compelled, for their own security and protection, to establish a provisional government for themselves. Strong in their allegiance and ardent in their attachment to the United States they have been thus cast upon their own resources. They are anxious that our laws should be extended over them, and I recommend that this be done by Congress with as little delay as possible, in the full extent to which the British Parliament have proceeded in regard to British subjects in that territory, by their act of July the 24, 1821, for regulating the fur-trade, and establishing a criminal and civil jurisdiction within certain parts of North America.

By this act Great Britain extended her laws and jurisdiction, civil and criminal, over her subjects, engaged in the fur-trade in that territory. By it, the courts of the province of Upper Canada were empowered to take cognizance of causes civil and criminal. Justices of the peace and other judicial officers were authorized to be appointed in Oregon, with power to execute all process issuing from the courts of that province, and to sit and hold courts of record for the trial of criminal offenses and misdemeanors, not made the subject of capital punishment, and also of civil cases where the cause of action shall not exceed in value the amount or sum of two hundred pounds.

Subsequent to the date of this act of Parliament, a grant was made from the 'British crown' to the Hudson's Bay Company, of the exclusive trade with the Indian tribes in the Oregon territory subject to a reservation that it shall not operate to the exclusion of the subjects of any foreign States who under or by force of any convention for the time being, between us and such foreign States respectively may be entitled to, and shall be engaged in, the said trade.

It is much to be regretted that, under this act British subjects have enjoyed the protection of British laws and British judicial tribunals throughout the whole of Oregon, American citizens, in the same territory, have enjoyed no such protection from their government. At the same time, the result illustrates the character of our people and their institutions. In spite of this neglect, they have multiplied, and their number is rapidly increasing in that territory.

They have made no appeal to arms, but have peacefully fortified themselves in their new homes, by the adoption of republican institutions for themselves, furnishing another example of the truth that self government is inherent in the American breast, and most prevail. It is due to them that they should be embraced and protected by our laws.

It is deemed important that our laws regulating trade and intercourse with the Indian tribes east of the Rocky Mountains, should be extended to such tribes as dwell beyond them.

The increasing emigration to Oregon and the care and protection which is due from the government to its citizens in that distant region, make it our duty, as it is our interest, to cultivate amicable relations with the Indian tribes of that territory. For this purpose, I recommend that provision be made for establishing an Indian agency, and such agencies as may be deemed necessary, beyond the Rocky Mountains.

For the protection of emigrants whilst on their way to Oregon, against the attacks of the Indian tribes occupying the country through which they pass, I recommend that a suitable number of stockades and blockhouse forts be erected along the usual route between our frontier settlements on the Missouri and the Rocky mountains; and that an adequate force of mounted riflemen be raised to guard and protect them on their journey. The immediate adoption of these recommendations by Congress will not violate the provisions of the existing treaty. It will be doing nothing more for America's citizens than British laws have long since done for British subjects in the same territory.

It requires several months to perform the voyages by sea from the Atlantic States to Oregon, and although we have a large number of whale ships in the Pacific, but few of them afford an opportunity of interchanging intelligence, without great delay, between our settlements in that distant region and the United States. An overland mail is believed to be entirely practicable, and the importance of establishing such a mail, at least once a month, is submitted to the favorable consideration of Congress.

It is submitted to the wisdom of Congress to determine whether, at their present session, and until after the expiration of the year's notice any other measures may be adopted, consistently with the convention of 1827, for the security of our rights, and the government and protection of our citizens in Oregon. That it will ultimately be wise and proper to make liberal grants of land to the patriotic pioneers, who amidst privations and dangers, lead the way through savage tribes inhabiting the vast wilderness intervening between our frontier settlement and Oregon, and who cultivate, and are ever ready to defend the soil I am fully satisfied. To doubt whether they will obtain such grants as soon as the convention between United States and Great Britain shall have ceased to exist, would be to doubt the justice of the Congress, but, pending the year's notice, it is worthy of consideration whether a stipulation to this effect may be made, consistently with the spirit of that convention.

The recommendations which I have made as to the best manner of securing our rights in Oregon, are submitted to Congress with great deference. Should they in their wisdom devise any other better calculated to accomplish the same object, it shall meet with my hearty concurrence.

At the end of the year's notice, should Congress think it proper to make provision for giving that notice, we shall have reached a period when the nations' rights in Oregon must either be abandoned or firmly maintained. That they cannot be abandoned without a sacrifice of both national honor and interest, is too clear to admit of doubt.

Oregon is a part of the North American continent, to which, it is confidently affirmed, the title of the United States is the best now in existence. For the grounds on which that title rests, I refer you to the correspondence of the late and present Secretary of State, with the British plenipotentiary during the negotiation. The British proposition of compromise, which would make the Columbia the line south of forty nine degrees, with a trifling addition of detached territory to the United States north of that river, and would leave on the British side two thirds of the whole Oregon territory, including the free navigation of the Columbia and all the valuable harbors on the Pacific, can never, for a moment, be entertained by the United States, without an abandonment of their just and clear territorial rights, their own self respect and the national honor. For the information of Congress, I communicate herewith the correspondence which took place between the two governments during the late negotiation.

The rapid extension of our settlements over our territories heretofore unoccupied, the addition of new States to our confederacy; the expansion of free principles, and our rising greatness as a nation, are attracting the attention of the Powers of Europe and lately the doctrine has been broached in some of them, of a 'balance of power' on this continent, to check our advancement. The United States, sincerely desiring of

preserving relations of good understanding with all nations cannot in silence permit any European interference on the North American continent; and should any such interference be attempted, will be ready to resist it at any and all hazards.

It is well known to the American people and to all nations, that this government has never interfered with the relations subsisting between other governments. We have never made ourselves parties to their wars or their alliances; we have not sought their territories by conquest; we have not angled with parties in their domestic struggles; and believing our own form of government to be the best, we have never attempted to propagate it by diplomacy, or by force. We may claim on this continent the exemption from European interference. The nations of America are equally sovereign and independent with those of Europe. They possess the same rights, independent of all foreign interposition, to make war, to conclude peace, and to regulate their internal affairs.

The people of the United States cannot therefore, view with indifference attempts of European powers to interfere with the independent action of the nations on this continent. The American system of government is entirely different from that of Europe. Jealousy among the different sovereigns of Europe, lest any one of them might become too powerful for the rest has caused the anxiously to desire the establishment of what they term the 'balance of power.' It cannot be permitted to have any application to the North American continent, and especially to the United States. We must ever maintain the principle, that the people of this continent alone have the right to decide their own destiny. Should any portion of them constituting an independent state, propose to unite themselves with our confederacy, this will be a question for them and us to determine, without any foreign interposition.

We can never consent that European Powers shall interfere to prevent such a union because it might disturb the 'balance of power' which they may desire to maintain upon this continent. Near a quarter of a century ago, the principle was distinctly announced to the world in the annual message of one of my predecessors, that 'The American continent, by the free and independent condition which they have assumed and maintain, are henceforth not to be considered as subjects for future colonization by any European Power.' This principle will apply with greatly increased force, should any European Power attempt to establish any new colony in North America. In existing circumstances of the world, the present is deemed a proper occasion to reiterate and reaffirm the principle avowed by Mr. Monroe, and to state my cordial concurrence in its wisdom and sound policy. The reassertion of this principle, especially in reference to North America, is at this day, but the promulgation of a policy which no European Power should cherish the disposition to resist.

Existing rights of every European nation should be respected; but it is due alike to our safety and our interests, that the efficient protection of our own laws should be extended over our whole territorial limits, and that it should be distinctly announced to the world as our settled policy, that no future European colony or dominion shall, with our consent, be planted or established on any part of the North American continent.

A question has recently arisen under the tenth article of the subsisting treaty between the United States and Prussia. By this article, the consuls of the two countries have the right to sit as judges and arbitrators in such differences as may arise between the captains and crews of the vessels are committed to their charge, without interference of the local authorities, unless the conduct of the crews or of the captain should disturb the order or tranquility of the country, or the said consuls should require their assistance to cause their decisions to be carried into effect or supported.

The Prussian consul at New Bedford, in June 1841, applied to Mr. Justice Story, to carry into effect a decision made by him between the captain and crew of the Prussian ship Borussia, but the request was refused on the grounds that, without previous legislation by Congress, the judiciary did not possess the power to give effect to this article of the treaty. The Prussian government, through their minister here, have complained of this violation of the treaty, and have asked the government of the United States to adopt the necessary measure to prevent similar violations hereafter. Good faith to Prussia, as well as to other nations with whom we have similar treaty stipulations, requires that these should be faithfully observed. I have deemed it proper, therefore, to lay the subject before Congress, and to recommend such legislation as may be necessary to give effect to these treaty obligations.

By virtue of an arrangement made between the Spanish government and that of the United States, in December, 1831, American vessels, since the twenty ninth of April, 1832, have been admitted to entry in the ports of Spain, including those of the Balearic and Canary Islands, on payment of the same tonnage duty of five cents per ton, as though they had been Spanish vessels; and this, whether our vessels arrive in Spain directly from the United States, or indirectly from any other country. When Congress, by the act of the 14th July, 1832, gave effect to this arrangement between the two governments they confined the reduction of tonnage duty merely to Spanish vessels coming from a port in Spain, leaving such vessels coming from a port in any other country.

By the act of the 14th of July, 1829, coffee was exempted from duty altogether. This exemption was universal, without ref-

erence to the country where it was produced, or the national character of the vessel in which it was imported. By the tariff act of the 13th of August, 1842, this exemption from duty was restricted to coffee imported in American vessels from the place of its production; whilst coffee imported under all other circumstances was subjected to a duty of 20 per cent. *ad valorem*. Under this act, and our existing treaty with the King of the Netherlands, Java coffee imported from the European ports of that kingdom in the United States, whether in Dutch or American vessels, now pays this rate of duty.

The government of the Netherlands complains that such a discriminating duty should have been imposed on coffee, the production of one of its colonies, and which is chiefly brought from Java to the ports of that kingdom, and exported from thence to foreign countries. Our trade with the Netherlands is highly beneficial to both countries, and our relation with them have ever been of the most friendly character. Under all the circumstances of the case, I recommend that this discrimination should be abolished, and that the coffee of Java imported from the Netherlands be placed upon the same footing with that imported directly from Brazil and other countries where it is produced.

Under the 8th section of the Tariff act of the 13th of August, 1842, a duty of 15 cents per gallon was imposed on Port wine in casks; while on the red wines of several other countries, when imported in casks, a duty only of 6 cents per gallons was imposed. This discrimination, so far as regarded the Port wine of Portugal, was deemed as a violation of our Treaty with that Power, which provides that 'No higher of other duties shall be imposed on importation into the United States of America of any article the growth or manufacture of the kingdom & possession of Portugal, than such as are or may be payable on the like article being the growth, produce or manufacture of any other foreign country.'

Accordingly to give effect to the treaty, as well as to the intentions of Congress, expressed in a proviso to the tariff act itself, that nothing therein should be so construed as to interfere with subsisting Treaties with foreign nations, a Treasury circular was issued on the 16th of July, 1841, which among other things declared the duty on the Port wines of Portugal in casks, under the existing laws and treaty, to be six cents per gallon, and directed that the excess of duties which had been collected on such wine should be refunded.

By virtue of another clause in the same section of the act, it is provided that all impositions of Port, or any other wines, shall be subject to the duty provided for the genuine article. Imitations of Port Wine, the production of France, are imported to some extent into the United States; and the government of that country now claims that under a correct construction of the act, these imitations ought not to pay a higher duty than that imposed upon the original Port wine of Portugal. It appears to me to be unequal and unjust, that the French imitations of Port wine should be subjected to a duty of fifteen cents, while the more valuable Port wine of Portugal should pay a duty of six cents only per gallon. I therefore recommend to Congress such legislation as may be necessary to correct the inequality.

The late President in his annual message of December last recommended an appropriation to satisfy the claims of the Texas government against the United States which had been previously adjusted, so far as the powers of the Executive extend. These claims arose out of the act of disarming a body of Texas troops under the command of Major Soilely, by an officer in the service of the United States, acting under the orders of our government; and the forcible entry into the custom house at Brvant's Landing on Red River, by certain citizens of the United States, and taking away there from the goods, seized by the collector of the customs as forfeited under the laws of Texas. This was a liquidated debt, ascertained to be due to Texas when an independent State. Her acceptance of the terms of annexation proposed by the United States does not discharge or invalidate the claim. I recommend that provisions be made for its payment.

The Commissioner appointed in China during the special session of the Senate, in March last, shortly afterwards set out on his mission in the United States ship Columbus. On arriving at Rio de Janeiro on his passage, the state of his health had become so critical that by the advice of his medical attendants he returned to the United States early in the month of October last. Commodore Biddle, commanding the East India Squadron proceeded on his voyage in the Columbus, and was charged by the com-

missioner with the duty of exchanging with the proper authorities the ratifications of the treaty lately concluded with the Emperor of China. Since the return of the commissioner to the United States, his health has been much improved, and he entertains the confident belief that he will soon be able to proceed in his mission.

Unfortunately differences continue to exist among the nations of South America which, following our example, have established their independence, while, in others, internal dissensions prevail. It is natural that our sympathies should be warmly enlisted for their welfare; that we should desire that all controversies between them should be amicably adjusted, and their governments administered in a manner to promote the prosperity of their people. It is contrary, however, to our settled policy, to interfere in their controversies whether external or internal.

I have thus adverted to all the subjects connected with our foreign relations, to which I deem it necessary to call your attention. Our policy is not only peace with all, but good will towards all the powers of the earth. While we are just to all, we require that all shall be just to us. Excepting the difference with Mexico and Great Britain, our relations with all civilized nations are the most satisfactory character. It is hoped that in this enlightened age these differences may be amicably adjusted.

The Secretary of the Treasury, in his report to Congress, will communicate a full statement of the condition of our finances. The imports for the fiscal year ending on the thirtieth of June last, were of the value of one hundred and seventeen millions two hundred and fifty four thousand five hundred and sixty four dollars, of which the amount exported was fifteen millions three hundred and forty six thousand eight hundred and thirty dollars—leaving a balance of one hundred and one million nine hundred and thirty four thousand seven hundred and thirty four dollars of domestic consumption.

The exports for the same year were of the value of one hundred and fourteen millions six hundred and forty six thousand six hundred and six dollars; of which, the amount of domestic articles was ninety nine millions two hundred and ninety nine thousand seven hundred and seventy six dollars. The receipts into the treasury during the same year were twenty nine million seven hundred and sixty nine thousand one hundred and thirty three dollars and fifty six cents; of which there were derived from custom, twenty seven million five hundred and twenty eight thousand one hundred and twelve dollars and seventy cents; from sales of public lands, two millions seven hundred and thirty thousand and twenty two dollars and thirty cents; and from incidental and miscellaneous sources, one hundred and sixty three thousand nine hundred and ninety eight dollars and fifty six cents.

The expenditures for the same period were twenty nine million nine hundred and sixty eight thousand two hundred and six dollars and ninety eight cents, of which eight million five hundred and eighty eight thousand one hundred and fifty seven dollars and sixty two cents were applied to the payment of the public debt. The balance in the treasury on the first of July last, was seven million six hundred and fifty eight thousand three hundred and six dollars and twenty two cents.

The amount of the public debt remaining unpaid on the first of October last, was seventeen million seven hundred and fifty thousand four hundred and forty five dollars and fifty two cents. Further payment of the public debt would have been made, in anticipation of the period of its reimbursement under the authority conferred upon the Secretary of the Treasury by the act of July twenty first, 1841, and of April fifteenth 1842, and March third, 1843, had not the unsettled state of our relations with Mexico menaced hostile collision with that power. In view of such a contingency, it was deemed prudent to retain in the treasury an amount unusually large for ordinary purpose.

A few years ago, our whole national debt growing out of the Revolution and the war of 1812 with Great Britain was extinguished, and we presented to the world the rare and noble spectacle of a great and growing people who had fully discharged every obligation. Since that time, the existing debt has been contracted and small as it is, in comparison with the similar burdens of most other nations, it should be extinguished at the earliest practicable period. Should the state of the country permit, and especially, if our foreign relations interpose no obstacle, it is contemplated to apply all the moneys in the treasury as they accrue beyond what is required for the appropriations by the Congress, to its liquidation; I cherish the hope of soon being able to con-

trol the country on its recovering one more the happy position which it so recently occupied. Our country, which exhibits to the world the benefits of self government in developing all the sources of national prosperity, owes to mankind the permanent example of a nation free from the blighting influence of public debt.

Concluded next week

DEMOCRAT.
"TRUTH WITHOUT FEAR"
BLOOMSBURG.
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1845.

LOST.
A few days since, a FLAG MILK POCKET HANDKERCHIEF. The finder will confer a favor by leaving it with the PRINTER.

The Bloomsburg R. R. Iron Company was incorporated in winter of 1838-9.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.
We this week commence the publication of the message of President Polk, and shall conclude it in our next. Its extreme length prevents us from fulfilling our intention of publishing it entire to-day, and it is too important a document to be abbreviated.

We are under obligations to the Hon. SIMON CAMERON and the Hon. O. D. LEIB, for early copies of the Presidents Message.

The President's message was conveyed from Baltimore to New York in about seven hours and a half, having left there at forty-five minutes past one o'clock on Tuesday afternoon, and arrived in New York at fifteen minutes past 9.

Wm. Morris has been sentenced to the Auburn penitentiary for thirty years, for enticing slaves away to a free state.

It appears that the distinguished citizen alluded to in the Presidents message, as having been sent to Mexico in the capacity of Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary is the Hon. JOHN SULLIVAN, of Louisiana, a member of the last Congress, and representative elect to the present.

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.
A Washington letter writer says, that John Q. Adams, on the Oregon question, is an out-and-out-going for 54, and, in 10, not abating a minute. His health is very feeble, and is fast failing.

The Rev. Benjamin Bidack died at his residence in Kingston, Luzerne county on Thursday the 27th ult. He was amongst the first settlers of Wyoming, and one of the most respectable of its citizens. He served his country long and faithful in the Pen Fed Field and Church of God. Mr. Bidack lived in the days that 'tried men's souls.'

It appears from the report of the Postmaster General, that the deficiency in the revenue of that department during the last fiscal year, is about a million and a quarter. He recommends the adoption of the old plan of charging by the sheet, instead of by weight. He also recommends the purchase by Congress, of the patent right of Morse's Telegraph.

A Woman Sentenced to Death.—Elizabeth Van Valkenburgh, convicted of murdering her husband, in Fulton county, N. Y., by administering arsenic to him, has been tried and found guilty, and was sentenced by the court of that county to be hung on the 24 of January next.

WAR RUMORS.
We understand from an intelligent passenger in the Cambria, that the greatest activity prevailed in the dock yards and arsenals of England. He anticipates great excitement on the reception of the President's Message in England. It is currently rumored in England that the Duke of Wellington has declared that, if England goes to war with the United States, it shall be a short war and a decisive one.—Boston Traveller Dec. 5.

WHITE VEIL.
Miss England and Miss Hughes, the former a niece of the late Roman Catholic Prelate, novices in the Ursuline Convent of Charleston, S. C., have taken the white veil of that order.

LARGE FAMILY.
A lady in Marion county, Ohio, has given birth to twins four times; in 1842, '43, '44 and '45, six girls and two boys, all living and doing well. Ohio is a great State