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LEVI L. TATE, EDITOR.

"TO HOLD AND TRIM THE TORCH OF TRUTH AND WAVE IT O'er THE DARKENED EARTH."

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VOLUME 27.

Souls not Dresses.

Who shall judge a man from manner? Who shall know him by his dress? Paupers may be fit for princes, Process fit for something less.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

FELLOW CITIZENS OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

Another year of health and of sufficiently abundant harvests has passed. For thee, and especially for the improved condition of our national affairs, our renewed and profound gratitude to God is due.

The efforts of disloyal citizens of the United States to involve us in foreign wars to aid an ingenuous insurrection, have been unavailing. Her Britannic Majesty's Government, as was justly expected, have exercised their authority to prevent the departure of new hostile expeditions from British ports.

Questions of great intricacy and importance have arisen out of the blockade, and other belligerent operations between the Government and several of the maritime powers; but they have been discussed, and, as far as was possible, accommodated in a spirit of frankness, justice and mutual good will.

It is especially gratifying that our prize courts, by the impartiality of their adjudications, have commanded the respect and confidence of maritime powers. The supplemental treaty between the United States and Great Britain, for the suppression of the African Slave Trade, made on the 17th day of February last, has been duly ratified and carried into execution.

I shall submit, for the consideration of the Senate, a convention for the adjustment of possessory claims in Washington Territory, arising out of the treaty of the 15th of June, 1846, between the United States and Great Britain, and which have been the source of some disquiet among the citizens of that now rapidly improving part of the country.

A novel and important question, involving the extent of the maritime jurisdiction of Spain in the waters which surround the Island of Cuba, has been debated without reaching an agreement, and it is proposed in an amicable spirit to refer it to the arbitration of a friendly power.

I have thought it proper, subject to the approval of the Senate, to confer with the interested commercial powers in an arrangement for the liquidation of the Scheldt dues upon the principles which have been heretofore adopted in regard to the imposts upon navigation in the waters of Denmark.

The long pending controversy between this Government and that of Chili, touching the seizure at Sitima, in Peru, by Chilean officers, of a large amount in treasure belonging to citizens of the United States, has been brought to a close by the award of his Majesty, the King of the Belgians, to whose arbitration the question was referred by the parties.

The condition of the several organized Territories is generally satisfactory, although Indian disturbances in New Mexico have not been entirely suppressed.

I again submit to your consideration the expediency of establishing a system for the encouragement of immigration. Although this source of national wealth and strength is again flowing with greater freedom than for several years before the insurrection occurred, there is still a great deficiency of labor in every field of industry, especially in agriculture and in our mines, as well of iron and coal as of the precious metals.

In conformity with principles set forth in my last annual message, I have received a representative from the United States of Columbia, and have accredited a minister to that Republic.

Incidents occurring in the progress of our civil war have forced upon my attention the uncertain state of international questions touching the rights of foreigners in this country, and of United States citizens abroad.

Injuries, unforeseen by the Government and unintended, may in some cases have been inflicted on the subjects or citizens of foreign countries, both at sea and on land, by persons in the service of the United States.

who have declared their intention to become citizens, or who have been fully naturalized, have evaded the military duty required of them by denying the fact, and thereby throwing upon the government the burden of proof.

It has been found difficult, or impracticable, to obtain this proof from the want of guides to the proper sources of information. These might be supplied by requiring clerks of courts where declarations of intention may be made, or naturalizations effected, to send periodically lists of the names of the persons naturalized, or declaring their intention to become citizens, to the Secretary of the Interior, in whose department those names might be arranged and printed for general information.

The right of suffrage has often been assumed and exercised by aliens, under pretenses of naturalization, which they have disavowed when drafted into the military service.

Satisfactory arrangements have been made with the Emperor of Russia, which, it is believed, will result in effecting a continuous line of telegraph through that Empire from our Pacific coast.

The consular system of the United States, under the enactment of the last Congress, begins to be self-sustaining; & there is reason to hope that it may become entirely so, with an increase of trade, which will ensue whenever peace is restored.

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the claims by joint commission, have been proposed to some governments, but no definite answer to the proposition has yet been received from any.

In the course of the session I shall probably have occasion to request you to provide indemnification to claimants whose decrees of restitution have been rendered and damages awarded by Admiralty Courts, and in other cases where this government may be acknowledged to be liable in principle, and where the amount of that liability has been ascertained by an informal arbitration.

The proper officers of the Treasury have deemed themselves required by the law of the United States upon the subject to demand a tax upon the incomes of foreign consuls in this country. While such a demand may not, in strictness, be in derogation of public law, or perhaps of any existing treaty between the United States and a foreign country, the expediency of so far modifying the act as to exempt from tax the incomes of such consuls as are not citizens of the United States derived from the emoluments of their office, or from property not situated in the United States, is submitted to your serious consideration.

The operations of the Treasury during the last year have been successfully conducted. The enactment by Congress of a National Banking Law, has proved a valuable support of the public credit, and the general legislation in relation to loans has fully answered the expectation of its favorers.

Since these measures have been in operation, all demands on the Treasury, including the pay of the army and navy, have been promptly met and fully satisfied. No considerable body of troops it is believed, were ever more amply provided and more liberally and punctually paid, and it may be added that by no people were the burdens incident to a great war ever more cheerfully borne.

The actual receipts and disbursements for the first quarter, and the estimated receipts and disbursements for the remaining three quarters of the current fiscal year, 1864, will be shown in detail by the report of the Secretary of the Treasury, to which I invite your attention.

It is sufficient to say here that it is not believed that actual results will exhibit a state of the finances less favorable to the country than the estimates of that officer heretofore submitted, while it is confidently expected that at the close of the year both disbursements and debt will be found pretty considerably less than has been anticipated.

The report of the Secretary of War is a document of great interest. It consists of: First, The military operations of the year detailed in the report of the General-in-Chief.

Second, The organization of colored persons into the war service.

Third, The exchange of prisoners, fully set forth in the letter of Gen. Hitchcock.

Fourth, The operations under the Act for Enrolling and Calling out the National Forces, detailing in the report of the Provost Marshal General.

Fifth, The organization of the Invalid Corps; and Sixth, The operation of the several Departments of the Quartermaster General, Commissary General, Paymaster General, Chief of Engineers, Chief of Ordnance, and Surgeon General.

line, it has so far been impossible to entirely suppress illicit trade. From returns received at the Navy Department, it appears that more than 1,000 vessels have been captured since the blockade was instituted, and that the value of prizes already sent in for adjudication amounts to over \$13,000,000.

The naval forces of the United States consists, at this time, of 588 vessels, completed and in the course of completion, and of these 75 are iron clad or armored steamers. The events of the war give an increased interest and importance to the navy which will probably extend beyond the war itself.

The armored vessels in our Navy, completed and in service, or which are under contract and approaching completion, are believed to exceed in number those of any other power.

The change that has taken place in naval vessels and naval warfare since the introduction of steam as a motive power for ships of war, demands either a corresponding change in some of our existing Navy Yards, or the establishment of new ones for the construction and necessary repair of modern naval vessels.

A naval force has been created on these interior waters, and under many disadvantages within little more than two years, exceeding in numbers the whole naval force of the country at the commencement of the present administration.

The increase of the number of seamen in the public service, from 7,500 men in the spring of 1861 to about 34,000 at the present time, has been accomplished without special legislation, or extraordinary bounties to procure that increase.

I commend to your consideration the suggestions of the Secretary of the Navy in regard to the policy of fostering and training seamen, and also the education of officers and engineers for the naval service.

During the past fiscal year the financial condition of the Post Office Department has been one of increasing prosperity, and I am gratified in being able to state that the actual postal revenue has nearly equalled the entire expenditures, the latter amounting to \$11,314,206 84, and the former to \$11,163,789 59, leaving a deficiency of but \$150,417 25.

In 1860, the year immediately preceding the rebellion, the deficiency amounted to \$6,656,705 49, the postal receipts of that year being \$2,645,722 19, less than those of 1863.

The decrease since 1860 in the annual amount of transportation has been only about 25 per cent, but the annual expenditure on account of the same has been reduced 35 per cent. It is manifest, therefore, that the Post Office Department may become self-sustaining in a few years, even with the restoration of the whole service.

cluded its deliberations on the 5th of June. The principles established by the conference as best adapted to facilitate postal intercourse between nations, and as the basis of future postal conventions, inaugurate a general system of uniform international charges at reduced rates of postage, and cannot fail to produce beneficial results.

The quantity of land disposed of during the last and the first quarters of the present fiscal year was three million eight hundred and forty-one thousand five hundred and forty-nine acres, of which one hundred and sixty-one thousand nine hundred and eleven acres were sold for cash, one million four hundred and fifty-six thousand five hundred and fourteen acres were taken up under the homestead law, and the residue disposed of under laws granting lands for military bounties, for railroad and other purposes.

It has long been a cherished opinion of some of our wisest statesmen that the people of the United States had a higher and more enduring interest in the early settlement and substantial cultivation of the public lands than in the amount of direct revenue to be derived from the sale of them.

Without the advantage of public works, the resources of the nation have been developed, and its power displayed in the construction of a navy of such magnitude, which has at the very period of its creation, rendered signal service to the Union.

I invite your attention to the views of the Secretary as to the propriety of raising, by appropriate legislation, a revenue from the mineral lands of the United States.

The measures provided at your last session for the removal of certain Indian tribes have been carried into effect. Sundry treaties have been negotiated which will, in due time, be submitted for the consideration of the Senate.

I suggest to you the expediency of the Secretary as to the propriety of raising, by appropriate legislation, a revenue from the mineral lands of the United States.

The attention of Congress, during the last session, was engaged to some extent with a proposition for enlarging the water communication between the Mississippi river and the northeastern seaboard, which proposition, however, failed for the time.

The international conference of Postal Delegates from the principal countries of Europe and America, which was called at the suggestion of the Postmaster General, met at Paris on the 11th of May last, and

navigation becomes a palpable need to the great road.

It transmits the second annual report of the Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture, asking your attention to the developments in that vital interest of the nation.

When Congress assembled a year ago the war had already lasted nearly twenty months, and there had been many conflicts on both land and sea, with varying results. The rebellion had been pressed back into reduced limits; yet the tone of public feeling and opinion, home and abroad, was not satisfactory.

It is hoped that the effect of these treaties will result in the establishment of permanent friendly relations with such of these tribes as have been brought into frequent and bloody collision with our outlying settlements and emigrants.

I commend to your consideration the suggestions of the Secretary of the Navy in regard to the policy of fostering and training seamen, and also the education of officers and engineers for the naval service.

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An attempt to guaranty and protect a revived State government, constructed in whole, or in preponderant part, from the very element against whose hostility and violence it is to be protected, is simply absurd.

But if it be proper to require, as a test of admission to the political body, an oath of allegiance to the Constitution of the United States, and to the Union under it, why also to the laws and proclamations where enacted and put forth for the purpose of aiding in the suppression of the rebellion.

The proposed acquiescence of the national Executive in any reasonable temporary State arrangement for the freed people is made with the view of possibly modifying the confusion and destitution which must, at best, attend all classes by a total revolution of labor throughout whole States.

The suggestion in the proclamation as to maintaining the political framework of the States on what is called reconstruction is made in the hope that it may do good without danger of harm.

But why any proclamation now upon this subject? This question is beset with conflicting views that the step might be delayed too long or taken too soon.

The objections to a premature presentation of a plan by the national Executive consists in the danger of commitments to points which could be more safely left to further developments.

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ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

DECEMBER 8, 1863.

The following Proclamation is Appended to the Message. Whereas, in and by the Constitution of the United States, it is provided that the President shall have power to grant reprieves and pardons for offences against the United States, except in cases of impeachment; and

[CONCLUDED ON FOURTH PAGE.]

Levi L. Tate