

STAR OF THE NORTH,

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY BY

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Office on Main St., 31d Square below Market

TERMS:—Two Dollars per annum if paid within 3 months from the time of subscribing; two dollars and fifty cents if not paid within 3 months. No subscription taken for a less period than six months; no discounting permitted until all arrearages are paid, unless at the option of the editor.

The terms of advertising will be as follows: One square, eight lines one time, \$1.00 Every subsequent insertion, 25 One square, three months, 4.50 One year, 10.00

NOW AND THEN.

Air—"The Kingdom Coming"

Time was we had a happy nation,
And a staunch Democracy;
Our fame was wide throughout creation,
And a proud young people, we;
But things have changed—the comers' risen
With a different tale to tell,
And no man now is safe from prison
At a touch of Seward's will!
Alas! for liberty;
Alas! for Uncle Sam;
We've lived to see the kingdom coming,
In the days of Abraham!

Time was we had our free discussion
With the press, the tongue, the pen;
Nor had we learned to ape the Russian
With his spies and dungeons, then.
But now, unless one sings the praises
Of the Lincoln-Stanton crew,
Some basile yawns as quick as blazes,
And the poor soul's lost to view!
There's no more liberty—
Our rights are all a sham—
And this must be the kingdom coming,
In the days of Abraham!

In days gone past—those days more palmy
Than another land'er saw—
Our statesmen needed not an army
In the place of civil law;
Each man his ballot cast in fear,
And had thought it strange to find
A blue-coat conscript guard appearing
With a loaded gun behind!
Is this your liberty?
Poor sacrificia! lamb!
Bow down and bless the kingdom coming,
In the days of Abraham!

We love the War, and all are burning
For the cause we hold so dear,
The conscript wheels are kept a turning
In the country far and near,
Our taxes and our debt are bigger
Than we are likely soon to pay;
But Ab'ram wants to free the nigger
And we let him have his way.
Our chance for a liberty
Is hardly worth a d—
But there's a nigger kingdom coming,
And the king is Abraham!

The President's Message.

Delivered Dec. 6, 1864.

Fellow citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives:

Again the blessings of health and an abundant harvest claim our profoundest gratitude to Almighty God.

FOREIGN RELATIONS.

The condition of our foreign affairs is reasonably satisfactory.

Mexico continues to be a theatre of civil war. While our political relations with that country have undergone no change, we have at the same time strictly maintained a neutrality between the belligerents.

At the request of the States of Costa Rica and Nicaragua, a competent engineer has been authorized to make a survey of the river San Juan, and the port of San Juan.

It is a source of much satisfaction that the difficulties which for a moment excited some political apprehensions, and caused a closing of the inter-oceanic transit routes, have been amicably adjusted, and that there is a good prospect that the route will soon be reopened with an increase of capacity and adaptation. We could not exaggerate either the commercial or the political importance of that great improvement.

It would be doing injustice to an important South American State not to acknowledge the directness, frankness, and cordiality with which the United States of Columbia have entered into intimate relations with this Government. A time Convention has been constituted to complete the unfinished work of the one which closed its session in 1861.

The new liberal constitution of Venezuela having gone into effect, with the universal acquiescence of the people, the government under it has been recognized, and diplomatic intercourse has been opened with it in a cordial and friendly spirit.

The long deferred Aresis land claim has been satisfactorily paid and discharged. Mutual payments have been made of the claims awarded by the late joint commission for the settlement of claims between the United States and Peru.

An earnest and cordial friendship continues to exist between the two countries, and such efforts as were in my power have been used to remove misunderstandings and avert a threatening war between Peru and Spain.

Our relations are of the most friendly nature with Chili, the Argentine Republic, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Paraguay, San Salvador, and Hayti.

During the past year no differences of any kind have arisen with any of these Republics, and on the other hand their sympathies with the United States are constantly expressed with cordiality and earnestness.

The claims arising from the seizure of the cargo of the brig *Macedonia*, in 1821, have been paid in full by the Government of Chili.

Civil war continues in the Spanish part of San Domingo, apparently without prospect of an early close. Official correspondence has been freely opened with Liberia, and it gives us a pleasing view of social and political progress in that Republic.

It may be expected to derive new vigor from American influence, improved by the

rapid disappearance of slavery in the United States. I solicit your authority to furnish to the Republic a gubnot of moderate cost to be reimbursed to the United States by installments. Such a vessel is needed for the safety of that State against the native African races, and in Liberian hands it would be more effective in arresting the African Slave trade than a squadron in our own hands. The possession of the least organized naval force would stimulate a generous ambition in the Republic, and the furnishing of it would win forbearance and favor towards the Colony from all civilized nations.

The proposed telegraphic line between America and Europe, by the way of Behring'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 goodwill and support of this Government as well as that of Great Britain and Russia.

Assurances have been received from most of the South American States of their appreciation of the enterprise and their readiness to co-operate in constructing lines tributary to that world encircling communication. I learn with much satisfaction that the noble design of a telegraphic communication across the eastern coast of America and Great Britain has been renewed, with full expectation of its accomplishment. Thus it is hoped that with the return of domestic peace the country will be able to resume with energy and advantage its former high career of commerce and civilization.

Our very popular and estimable representative in Egypt died in April last. An unpleasant altercation which arose between the temporary incumbent of the office and the Government of the Pacha resulted in the suspension of intercourse. The evil was promptly corrected on the arrival of the successor in the consulate, and our relations with Egypt, as well as our relations with the Barbary powers, are entirely satisfactory.

The rebellion which has been so long raging in China has been suppressed, with the co-operation and offices of this Government, and of the other Western commercial States.

The judicial consular establishments there has become very difficult and onerous, and it will need legislative revision as to the extension of our consular, and to the more intimate intercourse which has been instituted with the Government and people of that vast empire.

China seems to be accepting with hearty good will the conventional laws which regulate commercial and social intercourse among the Western nations.

Owing to the peculiar situation of Japan, and the anomalous form of its government, the action of that Empire in performing treaty stipulations is inconstant and capricious. Nevertheless good progress has been effected by the Western Powers moving with enlightened concert.

Our own maritime claims have been allowed or put in course of settlement, and the inland sea has been reopened to commerce. There is reason to believe that these proceedings have increased, rather than diminished the friendship of Japan towards the United States.

THE CONTRABAND TRADE WITH THE REBELS.

The ports of Noefik, Fernandina, and Pensacola have been opened by proclamation. It is hoped that foreign merchants will now consider whether it is not safer and more profitable to themselves as well as just to the United States, to resort to these and other open ports, than it is to pursue through many hazards and at vast cost a contraband trade with other ports which are closed, if not by actual military occupation, at least by a law and an effective blockade.

For my self, I have no doubt of the power and duty of the Executive, under the law and ratification of the Congress, to exclude enemies of the human race from an asylum in the United States. If Congress shall think that proceedings in such cases lack the authority of law, or ought to be further regulated by it, I will cheerfully concur in any measure for effectually preventing foreign slave traders from acquiring domain and facilities for their criminal occupation in our country.

It is possible that if it were a new and open question, the maritime powers, with the rights they now enjoy, would not consider the privileges of neutral ports to the insurgents of the United States, desirable as they are, and always have been, equally of ships of war and of ports or harbors.

Disloyal emissaries have been neither less assiduous nor more successful during the last year than they were before that time in their efforts under favor of that privilege to enroll our country in foreign wars.

The determination of the Government of the Maritime States to defeat that design are believed to be as sincere as and cannot be more earnest than our own. Nevertheless unforeseen political difficulties have arisen, especially in Brazilian and British ports, and on the northern boundary of the United States, which have required our vigilance and a just and conciliatory spirit on the part of the United States as well as of the nations concerned and their Governments.

Commissioners have been appointed under the treaty of Great Britain on the adjustment of the claims of the Hudson Bay and Puget Sound Agricultural Companies in Oregon, and are now proceeding to the trust assigned to them.

THE RAIDS FROM CANADA.

In view of the insecurity of life and property in the region adjacent to the Canadian border by reason of recent assaults and depredations committed by inimical and desperate persons who are harbored there, it has been thought proper to give notice that after the expiration of six months, the period conditionally stipulated under the arrangements with Great Britain, the United States must hold themselves at liberty to increase their naval armament upon the Lakes if they shall find that proceeding necessary. The condition of the border will necessarily come into consideration in connection with the question of limiting or modifying the rights of transit from Canada to the United States, as well as the regulation of imports, which was temporarily established by the reciprocity treaty of 5th June, 1864. I desire, however, to be understood, while making this statement, that the Colonial authorities of Canada are not deemed to be intentionally unjust or unfriendly towards the United States; but, on the contrary, there is every reason to expect that, with the approval of Her Majesty's Government, they will take the necessary measures to prevent new incursions across the borders.

EMIGRATION.

The act passed at the last session for the encouragement of emigration has, so far as was possible, been put into operation.

It seems to need amendment, which will

enable the officers of the Government to prevent the practice of frauds against the emigrants on their way and on their arrival in the ports, so as to secure them here, a free choice of vocations and places of settlement. A liberal disposition towards this great National policy is manifested by most of the European States, and ought to be, especially on our part, of giving the emigrants effective national protection. I regard our emigrants as one of the principal replenishing streams which are appointed by Providence to repair the ravages of internal war, and its wastes of national strength and health. All that is necessary to secure the flow of that stream in its present fullness, is to end the Government must everywhere make it manifest, that it neither designs to impose involuntary military service upon those who come from other lands to cast their lot in our country.

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS.

The financial affairs of the Government have been successfully administered.

During the last year the legislation of the last session of Congress has beneficially effected the revenue, although sufficient time has not yet elapsed to experience the full effect of several of the provisions of the Acts of Congress imposing increased taxation.

The receipts during the year from all sources, except the sale of warrants signed by the Secretary of the Treasury, including loans, and the balance in the Treasury on the last day of July, 1863, were \$1,394,796,007.62, and the aggregate disbursements upon the same basis were \$1,298,056,101.89, leaving a balance in the Treasury, as shown by warrants, of \$96,740,905.73. Deduct from this amount the amount of the principal of the public debt redeemed, and the amount of issues in substitution therefor, and the actual cash operations of the Treasury were:

Receipts \$884,076,646.57; Disbursements \$875,234,037.86, which leaves as the cash balance in the Treasury \$18,842,608.71. Of this amount \$1,317,939.87, for the War Department, \$399,791,842.97, for the Navy Department, \$75,833,291.77, for interest on the public debt, \$33,885,421.58, making an aggregate of \$865,234,037.86, and leaving a balance in the Treasury of \$16,842,608.71, as before stated.

For the actual receipts and disbursements from the first quarter, and the estimated receipts and disbursements 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 desire to call your attention to the opinion that the proposition of a new tariff, 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 just expectations of the Secretary of the Treasury.

THE NATIONAL DEBT.

The public debt on the first day of July last, as appears by the books of the Secretary of the Treasury, amounted to five hundred and seventy millions six hundred and ninety thousand four hundred and eighty-nine dollars and forty-nine cents. Probably, should the war continue another year, that amount may be increased by not far from five hundred millions. Held as it is for the most part, by our own people, it has not increased in any distant, and the interpretation of communication with them by India facilities have been only partially organized; but it is understood that these difficulties are about to disappear, which will permit their Governments, like those of the others, to go into speedy and full operation.

The territories of the Union are generally on a condition of prosperity and rapid growth. The organization and admission of the State of Nevada has been completed in conformity with law, and thus our excellent system is firmly established in the mountains which once seemed an uninhabitable waste between the Atlantic States and those which have grown up on the Pacific Ocean.

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THE PUBLIC LANDS.

The quantity of public land disposed of during the five quarters ending on the 30th of September last was 4,221,412, of which 1,338,614 acres were entered under the homestead law. The remainder was located with military land warrants, agricultural scrip, and claims for railroads, and sold for cash. The cash received from sales and location fees was \$1,019,446.

The income from sales during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1864, was \$678,007.21 against \$136,077.65 received during the preceding year. The aggregate number of acres surveyed during the year has been 1,000,000. The quantity of land surveyed is open to settlement about 133,000,000 acres of surveyed land.

THE PACIFIC RAILROAD.

The great enterprise of connecting the Atlantic with the Pacific States by railways and telegraphic lines has been entered upon with a vigor that gives assurance of success, notwithstanding the embarrassments arising from the high prices of materials and labor. The route of the main line of the road has been definitely located for one hundred miles westward from the initial point at Omaha City, Nebraska, and a preliminary contract for the Pacific Railroad of California has been made from Sacramento eastward to the Great Bend of the Truckee River in Nevada. Numerous discoveries of gold, silver, and emerald mines have been added to the many heretofore known in the country occupied by the Sierra Nevada and Rocky Mountains, and the subordinate ranges now teem with exploring labor which is richly remunerative.

It is believed that the product of the mines of precious metals in that region has, during the year, reached, if not exceeded, \$100,000,000.

RELATIONS WITH THE INDIANS.

It was recommended in my last annual message that our Indian system be remodelled. Congress at its last session, acting upon the recommendation, did provide for reorganizing the system in California, and it is believed that under the present organization the management of the Indians there will be attended with reasonable success.

Much yet remains to be done to provide for the proper government of the Indians in other parts of the country to render it safe

and to supply the requisite military force. The report of the Secretary of the Navy presents a comprehensive and satisfactory picture of affairs of that Department and of the naval service. It is a subject of congratulation and laudable pride to our country that a navy of such vast proportions has captured hostile commerce, and conducted with so much efficiency and success.

The general exhibit of the navy, including vessels under construction, on the 1st of December, 1864, shows a total of 671 vessels, carrying 4619 guns, and of 510,396 tons being an actual increase during the year over and over all losses by shipwreck and battle, of 83 vessels, 167 guns, and 42,427 tons. The total number of men at this time in the naval service, including officers, is about 51,000.

There have been captured by the navy during the year 324 vessels, and the whole number of prizes amounting to 1,379, of which 297 are steamers. The gross proceeds arising from the sale of condemned prize property thus reported amount to \$14,395,250.51. A large amount of such proceeds is still under adjudication, and yet to be reported.

The total expenditures of the Navy Department, under the description including the cost of the intemperate squatters that have been allowed into existence from the 4th of March 1861, to the 1st of November, 1864, is \$238,647,262.35. Your favorable consideration is invited to the various recommendations of the Secretary of the Navy, especially in regard to the Navy yard and naval establishments for the construction of iron vessels and the machinery and armature for our ships, to which reference has been made in my last Annual Message.

Your attention is also invited to the view expressed in the report in relation to the legislation of Congress at the last session in respect to prizes in our inland waters, which I refer to in the recommendation of the Secretary as to the propriety of creating the new rank of rear-admiral in our naval service.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

Your attention is invited to the report of the Postmaster-General for a detailed account of the operations and financial condition of the Post Office Department for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1864, amounting to \$12,438,253.78; and the expenditures to \$12,644,982.71, the excess of expenditures over receipts being \$206,728.93.

The views presented by the Postmaster-General on the subject of special grants by the Government in aid of the establishment of new lines of ocean mail steamships, and the policy he recommends for the development of increased commercial intercourse with adjacent and neighboring countries, should receive the careful consideration of Congress.

It is of peculiar interest that the steady expansion of population, improvement, and governmental institutions over the new and unoccupied portions of our country had already been checked, which less impediment or destroyed by great civil wars, which the first glance would seem to have absorbed almost the entire energies of the nation.

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