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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Fellow Citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives:

To express gratitude to God, in the name foreign nations have rendered justice to his the confirmation of States. memory. His removal cast upon me a upon any one of his predecessors.

To fulfill my trust I need the support and

more perfect Union," by an ordinance of preservation of the other. est event in American history; and indeed

The members of the convention which prepared it brought to their work the ex- tion. perience of the confederation, of their several States, and of other republican governments, old and new; but they needed and chtained a wisdom superior to experience. And when for its validity it required the apmany destinct conventions, what is more

of usurpation of the government of a State the vanquished; and would have envenby one man, or an oligarchy, it becomes a omed hatred, rather than restored affection, duty of the United States to make good the Once established, no precise limit to their guarantee to that State of a republican form | continuance was conceivable. They would mogeneousness of all. Does the lapse of hausting expense. Peaceful emigration to time reveal delects? A simple mode of and from that portion of the country is one amendment is provided in the Constitution of the best means that can be thought of itraif, so that its conditions can always be for the restoration of harmony and that em- States where the rebellion has existed; and made to conform to the requirements of ad- igration would have been prevented; for it was ascertained by inquiry, that the Cir-

No room is allowed even for the thought of a possibility of its coming to an end. willingly under military rule? And these powers of self-preservation have The chief persons who would have fol- gress should have "an opportunity to conalways been asserted in their complete in- lowed in the train of the army would have be sacredly maintained," and the inaugural der extreme necessity, I should be willing words of President Jefferson held up "the to entrust to any one man; they are such preservation of the General Government, in as, for myself, I could never, unless on oc- civil tribunals of the country, in order that of our peace at home and safety abroad." ercise. The willful use of such powers,

indestructible as the people. It is not strange that the framers of the Constitution, which had no model in the past, should not have fully comprehended c

tions that lie beyond it.

here is a greater temptation to exercise their furon their rightful sphere. "The absolute ac-

ments in all their tights;" but it is not one ergors have been appointed for the States, sentatives of the United States, the electors

made under the authority of the United States, shall be the supreme law of the land, business. Office on Main St., 3rd Square below Market. and the judges in every State shall be bound And is it not happy for us all, that the re-

standing." spreads through every form of administra- a beneficence?
tion, General State and municipal, and rests I know very well that this policy is attend on the great distinguishing principle of the the interest of the Union, as to the individual citizen in the interest of freedom.

States, with proper limitations of power of the people, for the preservation of the are essential to the existence of the Consti-United States, is my first duty in addressing tution of the United States. At the very ment of the United States. In exercising you. Our thoughts next revert to the death commencement, when we assumed a place of the President by an act of parricidal treat among the powers of the earth, the Declason. The grief of the nation is still fresh; ration of Independence was adopted by it finds some solace in the consideration that | States ; so also were the Articles of Con- | States, and an unqualified acknowledgment he lived to enjoy the highest proof of its federation; and when "the people of the of the great social change of condition in reconfidence by entering on the renewed term United States? ordained and established the gard to slavery which has grown out of the Chief Magistracy to which he had Constitution, it was the assent of the States, been elected; that he brought the civil war one by one, which gave it vitality. In the deplored in all parts of the Union, and that stitution the proposition of Congress needs

Without States, one great branch of the heavier weight of cares than ever devolved legislative government would be wanting. And if we look beyond the letter of the Constitution to the character of our country, confidence of all who are associated with its capacity for comprehending within its me in the various departments of Govern- inrisdiction a vast continental empire is due ment, and the support and confidence of the to the system of States. The best security people. There is but one way in which I for the perpetual existence of the States is can hope to gain their necessary aid; the "supreme authority" of the Constitution of the United States. The perpetuity which guide my conduct, and their application of the Constitution brings with it the pertion to the present state of affairs, well petuity of the States; their mutual relation hat the efficiency of my labors will, makes us what we are, and in our political other, the evidence of sincerity in the future in a great measure, depend on your and system their connection is indissoluble. The The Union of the United States of Amer- the parts without the whole So long as proposed amendment to the Constitution, whole cannot exist without the parts, nor | youd any doubt by the ratification of the es was intended by its authors to last as the Constitution of the United States en- | which provides for the abolition of slavery tong as the States themselves shall last. dures, the States will endure; the destruc- forever within the limits of our country. So "The Union shall be perpenual" are the tion of the one is the destruction of the adoption of this amendment is voluntary migration and expatration is not. The lames 'To form a other; the preservation of the one is the delayed, so long will doubt, and jealousy,

hand of Divine Providence was never more States, because they unfold the principles most certainly call population, and capital, plainly visible to the affairs of men than in on which I have sought to solve the mo- and security to those parts of the Union that the framing and the adopting of that instru- mentous questions and overcome the ap- need them most. ment. It is, beyond comparison, the great | palling difficulties that met me at the very commencement of my administration. It is it not, of all events in modern times, the has been my steadfast object to escape from in the family of the Union, to give this most pregnant with consequences for every the sway of momentary passions and to de- pledge of perpetual loyalty and peace .rive a healing policy from the fundamental Until it is done, the past, however much and unchanging principles of the Constitu- we may desire it, will not be forgotten. The

fects of a civil war. Resistance to the General government appeared to have exhausted itself. The United States had recovered possession of their forts and arsenals; and proval of a people that occupied a large their armies were in the occupation of ev-part of a continent, and acted separately in ery State which had attempted to secede. ever to mutual affection and support. Whether the territory within the limits of wonderful than that, after long contention those States should be held as conquered and earnest discussion, all feelings and all territory under military authority emanatopinions were ultimately drawn in one way | ing from the President as the head of the army, was the first question that presented The Constitution to which life was thus itself for decision. Now, military governimparted contains within itself ample re- ments, established for an indefinite period, sources for its own preservation. It has would have offered no security for the early power to enforce the laws, punish treason, suppression of discontent; would have diand ensure domestic tranquility. In case | vided the people into the vanquishers and of government, and so to maintain the ho have occasioned an incalculable and exwhat emigrant from abroad, what industri ous citizen at home, would place himself

legrity by every patriotic Chief Magistrate been dependent on the General govern--by Jefferson and Jackson, not less than ment, or men who expected profit from the by Washington and Madison. The parting miseries of their erring fellow citizens. The ed States is therefore necessarily referred, advice of the Father of his Country, while powers of patronage and rule which would with the hope that early provision will be yet President, to the people of the United have been exercised under the President made for the resumption of all its functions States, was that "the free Constitution, over a vast and populous, and naturally It is manifest that treason, most flagrant in which was the work of their hands, might | wealthy region, are greater than, unless unconstitutional vigor, as the sheet anchor casions of great emergency, consent to extitution is the work of 5the people if continued through a period of years, of the United States," and it should be as would have endangered the purity of the general administration and the liberties of

the States which remained loyal. Besides, the policy of military rule over a conquered territory would have implied that he excellence of their own work. Fresh the States whose inhabitants may have takfrom a struggle against arbitrary power, en part in the Rebellion had, by the act of many patriots suffered from harrassing fears of an absorbtion of the State governments true theory is, that all pretended acts of by the General government. The subjects that come unquestionably within its juris- and void. The States cannot commit treadiction are so numerous, that it must ever | son, nor screen the individual citizens who paturally reluse to be embarrassed by ques- may have committed treason, any more than they can make valid treaties or engage Were it otherwise, the Executive would in lawful commerce with any foreign Powaink beneath the burden; the channels er. The States attempting to secede placed stice would be choked; legislation themselves in a condition where their vild be obstructed by excess; so that tality was impaired, but not extinguishedtheir functions suspended, but not de-

ugh the States than to trespass | But if any State neglects or refuses to perform its offices, there is the more need that the General government should maintain all continued to exist a very great diversity in was, at the beginning of the century, entits authority, and as soon as practicable, rethe qualifications of electors in the several lorced by Jefferson "as the vital principle sume the exercise of all its functions. On States; and even within a State a distinction republics, and the events of the last of the last of the state of the last of the state of the last of qualifications prevailed with regard to the state of the last of qualifications prevailed with regard to the states of the last of qualifications prevailed with regard to the states of the last of qualifications prevailed with regard to the states of the last of qualifications prevailed with regard to the states of the last of qualifications prevailed with regard to the states of the last of qualifications prevailed with regard to the states of the last of qualifications prevailed with regard to the states of the last of qualifications prevailed with regard to the states of the last of qualifications prevailed with regard to the states of the states of qualifications prevailed with regard to the states of the states of qualifications prevailed with regard to the states of qualifications prevailed w co of the Union brings energy of the General government and of these diversities when it enjoins that, in the the support of "the State govern- the States. To that end, Provisional Gov. choice of members of the House of Bepra-

the facilities of social intercourse and of

thereby, anything in the Constitution or storation of each one of these functions of laws of any State to the contrary notwith- the General Government brings with it a blessing to the States over which they are Certainly the government of the United extended? Is it not a sure promise of har-States is a limited government; and so is mony and renewed attachment to the Union every State government a limited govern- that, after all that has happened, the return ment. With us, this idea of limitation of the General Government is known only as

ed with some risk : that for its success it recognition of the rights of man. The an- requires at least the acquiescence of the cient republics absorbed the individual in States which it concerns; that it implies an the State, prescribed his religion, and con- invitation to those States, by renewing their trolled his activity. The American system allegiance to the United States, to resume resis on the assertion of the equal right of their functions as States of the Union. But every man to life, liberty and the pursuit it is a risk that must be taken; in the choice of happiness; to freedom of conscience, to of difficulties it is the smallest risk; and to the culture and exercise of all his faculties. Jiminish, and, if possible, to remove all As a consequence, the State government danger, I have felt it incumbent on me to is limited as to the General government in assert one other power of the General Government-the power of pardon.

As no State can throw a defence over the crime of treason, the power of pardon is exment of the United States. In exercising that power, I have taken every precaution to connect it with the clearest recognition of the binding force of the laws of the United

store the constitutional relations of the States has been an invitation to them to participate in the high office of amending the Constitution. Every patriot must wish for a general amnesty at the earliest epoch consistent with public safety. For this great end their is need of a concurrence of all opinions, and the spirit of mutual conciliation. All parties in the late terrible conflict

must work together in harmony.
It is not too much to ask, in the name of the whole people, that, on the one side; the plan of restoration shall proceed in conformity with a willingness to east the disorders of the past into oblivion; and that, on the maintenance of the Union shall be put beand uncertainty prevail. This is the meas-

Indeed it is not too much to ask of the States which are now resuming their places adoption of the amendment reunites us be-I found the States suffering from the ef- youd all power of disruption. It heals the wound that is still imperfectly closed; it removes slavery, the element which has so long perplexed and divided the country; it makes of us once more a united people, re-

The amendment to the Constitution being adopted, it would remain for the States, whose powers have been so long in abeyance, to resume their places in the two branches of the National Legislature, and thereby complete the work of restoration. Here it is for you fellow-citizens of the Senate, and for you, fellow-citizens of the House of Representatives, to judge, each of you for yourselves, of the elections, returns and

qualifications of your own members. The full assertion of the powers of the General Government requires the holding of Circuit Courts of the United States within the districts where their authority has been interrupted. In the present posture of our public affairs, strong objections have been urged to holding those courts in any of the euit Court of the United States would not be held within the District of Virginia during the autumn or early winter, nor until Con-

sider and act on the whole subject." To your deliberations the restoration of this branch of the civil authority of the Unitcharacter, has been committed. Persons who are charged with its commission should have fair and impartial trials in the highest the Constitution and the laws may be fully vindicated; the truth clearly established and affirmed that treason is a crime, that traitors should be punished and the offence made infamous; and, at the same time, that the question may be judicially settled, finally and forever, that no State of its own will has the right to renounce its place in the Union.

The relations of the General Government lowards the four millions of inhabitants whom the war has called into freedom have engaged my most serious consideration .-On the propriety of attempting to make the freedmen electors by proclamation of the Executive, I took for my counsel the Constitution itself, the interpretations of that instrument by its authors and their cotemporaries, and recent legislation of Congress .-When, at the first movement towards inde pendence the Congress of the United States instructed the several States to institute governments of their own, they left each State to decide for itself the conditions for the enjoyment of the elective franchise.

During the period of the Confederacy there

which shall be made in pursuance thereof, of the ports invites the restoration of indus. | garding it; and in the acts of Congress, | and all treaties made, or which shall be try and commerce; the post office renews | during that period, nothing can be found which, during the continuance of hostilities, much less after their close, would have from a policy which has so uniformly ob-

Moreover, a concession of the elective franchise to the freedmen, by the act of the President of the United States, must have been extended to all colored men, wherever found, and so must have established a change of suffrage in the Northern, Middle and Western States, not less than in the Southern and Southwestern. Such an act would have created a new class of voters, and would have been an assumption of power by the President which nothing in the Constitution or laws of the United States would have warranted.

On the other hand, every danger of conflict is avoided when the settlement of the question is referred to the several States .-They can, each for itself, decide on the measure, and whether it is to be adopted at once, and absolutely, or introduced gradually and with conditions. In my judgment, the freedmen, if they show patience and manly virtnes, will sooner obtain a participation in the elective franchise through the States than through the General Government, even if it had power to intervene. When the tumult of emotions that have been raised by the suddenness of the social change shall have subsided, it may prove that they will receive kindliest usage from some of hose on whom they have hereiolote most closely depended.

But while I have no doubt that now, after the close of the war, it is not competent for the General Government to extend the elective franchise in the several States, it is equally clear that good faith requires the security of the freedmen in their liberty and their property, their right to labor, and their right to claim the just return of their labor. I cannot too strongly orge a dispassionate treatment of this subject, which should be carefully kept aloof from all party strile .-We must equally avoid basty assumptions of any natural impossibility for the two races to live side by side, in a state of murual benefit and good will. The experiment involves us in no inconsistency; let us then, go on and make that experiment in good

faith, and not be too easily disheartened. The country is in need of labor, and the freedmen are in need of employment, culture and protection. While their right of forced removal and colonization. Let us the people of the United States, is the de- I have thus explained my views of the ure which will efface the sad memory of useful industry, where it may be beneficial to themselves and to the country; and, instead of hasty anticipations of the certainty of failure, let there be nothing wanting to the fair trial of the experiment. The change in their condition is the substitution of labor by contract for the status of slavery .-The freedmen cannot fairly be accused of unwillingness to work, so long as a doubt remains about his freedom of choice in his pursuits, and the certainty of his receiving his stipulated wages.

In this the interests of the employer and employed coincide. The employer desires in his workmen spirit and alacrity, and these can be perminently secured in no other way. And if one ought to be able to enforce the contract, so ought the other .-The public interest will be best promoted if the several States will provide adequate protection and remedies for the freedmen. Until this is in some way accomplished, there is no chance for the advantageous use of their labor; and the blame of ill success will not rest on them.

I know that sincers philanthropy is earnest for the immediate realization of its remotest aims; but time is always an element in reform. It is one of the greatest acts on record to have brought four million of people into freedom. The career of free industry must be fairly opened to them; and then their future prosperity and condition must, after all, rest mainly on themselves. If they fail, and so perish away, let us be careful that the failure shall not be attributable to any denial of justice. In all that relates to the destiny of the freedmen, we need not be too anxious to read the fature; many incidents which, from a speculative point of view, might raise alarm, will quietly settle themselves.

Now that slavery is at an end, or near its end, the greatness of its evil, in the point of view of public economy, becomes more and more apparent. Slavery was essentially a monopoly of labor, and as such locked the States where it prevailed against the incoming of free industry. Where labor was the property of the capitalist, the white man was excluded from employment, or had but the second best chance of finding it, and the foreign emigrant turned away from the region where his condition would be so precarious. With the destruction of the monopoly, free labor will basten from all parts of the civilized world to assist in developing various and immeasurable resources which have hitherto lain dormant.

The eight or nine States nearest the Gulf of Mexico have a soi! of exuberant fertility, a climate friendly to long life, and can sustain a denser population than is found as yet in any part of our country. And the future influx of population to them will be sofferings that have attended them during my. our late struggle, let us look away to the forme, which is sure to be laden for them with greater prosperity than has ever before campaigns of 1864 and 1865, ending in the been known. The removal of the monop-suppression of armed resistance to the naoly of slave labor is a please that those re tional authority in the insurgent States. The Treasury that the exdenditures for the fiscal tween the two countries must rest on the gions will be peopled by a sumerous and operations of the general administrative bu- year ending the 30th of June, 1865, will ex- basis of mutual justice. enterprising population, which will vie with reads of the War Department during the last cood the receipt \$112,194,947. It is gratify - From the moment of the establishment of any in the Union in compactness, inventive year are detailed, and an estimate made of ing, however, that it is also estimated that our free Constitution, the civilized world genius, wealth and industry.

made for the people, not the people for the mencing the 30th day of June, 1866. The the sum of \$414,628,818. This amount, or through all those revolutions the United government. To them it owes allegiance; national military force on the 1st of May, so much as may be deemed sufficient for the States have wisely and firmly refused to befrom them it must derive its courage strength 1865, numbered 1,000,516 men. It is pro- purpose, may be applied to the reduction of come propagandists of republicanism. It and wisdom. But, while the government posed to reduce the military establishment to the debt, which, on the 31st day of October, is the only government suited to our condiwhom it derives its existence, it should, troops of all arms, organized so as to admit Every reduction will diminish the total it on others, and we have consistently folstrong in its power of resistance to the es eighty-two thousand six hundred, if the cir- the means of still further reductions, until mend it only by the careful preservation tablishment of inequalities. Monopolies, cumstances of the country should require an the whole shall be liquidated; and this, as and prudent use of the blessing. During room for favored classes or monopolies; the eight hundred thousand troops, and the Deprinciple of our government is that of equal partment is proceeding rapidly in the work | we shall do all this within a reasonable time, of America, in the interest of monarchy.

alive of the people, it must be held superior to monopolies, which in themselves, ought never to be granted, and which, able provision for wounded and disabled of-

maintenance of the Union, that that com- Treasury will lay before you a full and de- great extent of territory and variety of clisanctioned any departure by the Executive merce should be free and unobstructed. No tailed report of the receipts and disburse- mate producing almost everything that is

dise, in their transit, constitutes one of the tence of this people.

the limits of the Constitution. struction of the Pacific Railroad, and fur- it is of the utmost importance to inaugurate continent of Asia, through his dominions. also presents evidence of the successful op- those who come after us for its continuance. | with South America is about to receive eneration of the Homestead Act, under the We must aim at nothing less than couragement by a direct line of mail steam f during that period.

that payments in cash to the extent of from | number of years.

ears, and the sacrifices made by the gallant and the law must be rigidly men of our Army and Navy, have swelled its limits are exceeded. increase of the amount for the next fiscal ies of such as have perished in the service of tion.

efforts to preserve our national existence. the loval States alone exceeded the maximum annual receipts from all the States pre-091; and the annual average increase of reve- Government. nue during the last four years, compared

ed to \$14,556,158, and the expenditures to made in restoring the postal service in the Southern States. The views presented by the Postmaster General against the policy of ship lines upon established routes, and in illustration. favor of continuing the present system, which the careful consideration of Congress.

the appropriations that will be required for the revenue for the year ending the 30th of has been convulsed by revolutions in the in-Our government springs from and was military purposes in the fiscal year comrom the very consideration of its origin, be of an enlargement by filling up the ranks to amount of interest to be paid, and so enlarge lowed the advice of Washington to recom-

minute in all their tights." Dut it is not one of the rights of any State government to recommend for the States, the electors of the rights of any State government to recommend to the state and the state of the state and the state of the state and the state of the

while the tendency to dangerous monopolies But the paramount importance of the subject feel power and forget right." of this kind is still feeble, to use the power so presses itself on my mind, that I cannot For myself, it has been and will be my of Congress so as to prevent any selfish im- but lay before you my views of the mea- constant aim to promote peace and amily pediment to the free circulation of men and sures which are required for the good char- with all foreign nations and powers; and I merchandise. A tax on travel and merchan- acter, and, I might also say, for the exis- have every reason to believe that they all,

worst forms of monopoly, and the evil is in- The life of a republic lies certainly in the disposition. Our relations with the Empacreased if coupled with a denial of the choice energy, virtue and intelligence of its citi- ror of China, so recent in their origin, are of route. When the vast extent of our coun- zens, but it is equally true that a good rev- most friendly. Our commerce with his dotry is considered, it is plain that every obsta- enue system is the life of an organized Gov- minions is receiving new developments; and cle to the free circulation of commerce be- erument. I meet you at a time when the it is very pleasing to find that the Governtween the States ought to be sternly guarded nation has voluntarily burdened itself with ment of that great Empire manifests eatisagainst by appropriate legislation, within a debt unprecedented in our annals. Vast faction with our policy, and repeses just conas is its amount, it fades away into nothing fidence in the fairness which marks our in-The report of the Secretary of the Interior | when compared with the countless blessings | tercourse. explains the condition of the public lands, that will be conferred upon our country and | The unbroken barmony between the Unithe transactions of the Patent Office and the upon man by the preservation of the nation's ted States and the Emperor of Russia is re-Pension Bureau, the management of our In- life. Now, on the first occasion of the meet- ceiving a new support from an enterprise dedian affairs, the progress made in the con- ing of Congress since the return of peace, signed to carry telegraphic lines across the nishes information in reference to matters of a just policy, which shall at once be put in and so to connect us with all Europe by local interest in the District of Columbia. It motion, and which shall commend itself to new channel of intercourse. Our commerce

provisions of which 1,160,583 acres of the the complete effacement of the financial ships to the rising Empire of Brazil. The public lands were entered during the last fis- evils that necessarily followed a state of distinguished party of men of science who cal year-more than one-fourth of the whole civil war. We must endeavor to apply have recently left our country to make a soinumber of acres sold or otherwise disposed the earliest remedy to the deranged state of entific exploration of the natural history the currency, and not shrink from devising and rivers and mountain ranges of that re-It is estimated that the receipts derived a policy which, without being oppressive to gion, have received from the Emperor that from this source are sufficient to cover the the people, shall immediately begin to effect generous welcome which was to have been expenses incident to the survey and disposal a reduction of the debt, and, if persisted in, expected from his constant friendship for the of the lands entered under this Act, and discharge it fully within a definitely fixed United States, and his well-known zeal in

forty to fifty per cent. will be made by set- It is our first duty to prepare in earnest tlers who may thus at any time acquire title for our recovery from the ever-increasing with the rich and populous countries that before the expiration of the period at which | evils of an irredeemable currency, without | border the Mediterranean Sea may be larget would otherwise vest. The Homestead po- a sudden revulsion, and yet without untime- ly increased. Nothing will be wanting on icy was established only after long and ear- ly procrastination, For that end we must, the part of this Government, to extend the test resistance; experience proves its wis- each in our respective positions, prepare the protection of our fellow-citizens. We receive dom. The lands, in the hands of industri- way. I hold it the duty of the Executive to from the powers in that region assurances of ous settlers, whose labor creates wealth and insist upon frugality in the expenditures; good will; and it is worthy of note that a contributes to the public resources, are and a sparing economy is itself a great us special envoy has brought us messages worth more to the United States than if they | tional resource. Of the banks to which au | condolence on the death of our late Chie had been reserved as a solitude for future thority has been given to issue notes secured Magistrate from the Bey of Tunis, whose by bonds of the Unnited States, we may re | rule includes the old dominions of Carthage The lamentable events of the last four quire the greatest moderation and prudence, on the African coast.

allowed since that date will require a large prepared to return to the standard of gold and was a marked difference. The materials of year. The means for the payment of the dent management of their monetary affairs, in a great measure, from the workshops of

he country, will no doubt be cheerfully and Five years ago the bank note circulation Great Britain to make war on American comptly granted. A grateful people will of the country amounted to not much more commerce, under the shelter of a commisnot besitate to sanction any measures having than two hundred millions. The simple sion from the insurgent States. for their object the relief of soldiers muti- statement of the fact reccommends more for their object the relief of soldiers muti-lated and families made fatherless in the strongly than any words of mine could do. British ports, ever afterwards entered then the necessity of our restraining this expan- in every part of the world, to refit, and so to The report of the Postmaster General pre- sion. The gradual reduction of the currency renew their depredations. The consequences ents an encouraging exhibit of the opera- is the only measure that can save the busi- of this conduct was most disastrous to the tions of the Post Office Department during ness of the country from disastrons calami- States then in rebellion, increasing their dethe year. The revenues of the last year from ties; and this can be almost impreceptibly solation and misery by the prolongation of accomplished by gradually funding the na- | our civil contest. It has, moreover, the effect tional circulation in securities that may be to a great extent, to drive the American flag vious to the rebellion, in the sum of \$6.038,- made redeemable at the pleasures of the from the sea, and to transfer much of our

with the revenue of the four years immedi- tual wealth and still greater undeveloped re- such a change. These events took place beately preceding the rebellion, was \$3,533,845. sources of the country; and next in the char- fore I was called to the administration of The revenue of the last fiscal year amount- acter of our institutions. The most intelli- the Government. The eincere desire for gent observers among political economists peace by which I am animated led me to ap-\$13,694,728, leaving a surplus of receipts over have failed to remark, that the public debt prove the proposal, already made, to submit expenditures of \$861,430. Progress has been of a country is safe in proportion as its peo- the questions which had thus arisen between ple are free ; that the debt of a republic is the two countries to arbitration. the safest of all. Our history confirms and These questions are of such moment that establishes the theory, and is, I firmly be- they must have commanded the attention of granting subsidies to ocean and mail steam- lieve, destined to give it a still more signal the great powers, and are so interwoven with

The secret of this superiority springs not limits the compensation for ocean service to merely from the fact that in a republic the regret to inform you that Great Britain dethe postage earnings, are recommended to national obligations are distributed more clined the arbitrament, but, on the other widely through countless numbers in all hand, invited us to the information of a joint It appears, from the report of the Secreta- classes of society; it has its roots in the char- commission to settle mutual claims between ry of the Navy, that while, at the commence- acter of our laws. Here all men contribute the two countries, from which those for the ment of the present year, there were in com- to the public welfare, and bear their fair depredations, before mentioned should be mission 530 vessels of all classes and descrip- share of the public burdens. During the war, excluded. The proposition, in that very tions, armed with 3000 guns and manned by under the impulses of patriotism, the men of 51,000 men, the number of vessels at present | the great body of the people without regard | in commission is 117, with 830 guns and 12,- to their own comparative want of wealth. 128 men. By this prompt reduction of the thronged to our armies and filled our fleats Power which was professing the most friendnaval forces the expenses of the Government of war, and held themselves ready to offer by dispositions, but as involving questions of have been largely diminished, and a number | their lives for the public good. Now, in | public law, of which the settlement is essenof vessels, purchased for naval purposes their turn, the property and income of the tial to the peace of a nation; and although from the merchant marine, have been re- country should bear their just proportion of pecuniary reparation to their injured cititurned to the peaceful pursuits of com- the burden of taxation, while in our impost | zens would have followed incidentally on a system, through means of which increased | decision against Great Britain, such compen-Since the suppression of active hostilities vitality is incidentally imparted to all the sation was not their primary object. They our foreign squadrons have been re-estab- industrial interests of the nation, the duties had a higher motive, and it was in the inished, and consist of vessels much more ef- should be so adjusted as to fall most heavily | terests of peace and justice to establish imficient than those employed on similar ser- on articles of luxury, leaving the necessaries portant principles of international law. The vice previous to the rebellion. The suggest of life as free from taxation as the absolute correspondence will be placed before you. tion for the enlargement of the navy yards, wants of the Government, economically adand especially for the establishment of one ministered, will justify. No favored class ter rests his justification is, substantially. in fresh water for iron-clad vessels, is de- should demand freedom from assessment, that the municipal law of a nation, and the serving of consideration, as is also the re- and the taxes should be so distributed as not domestic interpretations of that law, are the mainly from the Nonh, or from the most commendation for a different location and to fall unduly on the poor, but rather on measure of its duty as a neutral, and I feet cultivated nations in Europe. From the more ample grounds for the Naval Acade- the accumulated wealth of the country. We bound to declare my opinion before you and should look at the national debt just as it is before the world, that that justication can-In the report of the Secretary of War, a -not as a national blessing, but as a heavy not be sustained before the tribunal of ungeneral summary is given of the military burden on the industry of the country, to be tions At the same time I do not advise to

will be seen from the estimates of the Secre- all the intervening period the policy of Eu-

The Constitution confers on Congress the subject of vital interest to its honor and pros- | I have dwelt thus fully on our domestie right to regulate commerce among the sever- perity, and should command the earnest con- offairs because of their transcendant imal States. It is of the first necessity for the sideration of Congress. The Secretary of the portance. Under any circumstances, our State can be justified in any device to tax ments of the last fiscal year, of the first quar- necessary for the wants, and even the comthe transit of travel and commerce between ter of the present fiscal year, of the probable forts of man, make us singularly indepen-States. The position of many States is such receipts and expenditures for the other three | dent of the varying policy of foreign Powers, that, if they were allowed to take advantage of quarters, and the estimate for the year fol- and to protect us against every temptation it for purposes of local revenue, the com- lowing the 30th of June, 1866. I might con- to "entangling alliances," while at the presmerce between States might be injuriously tent myself with a reference to that report, ent the re-establishment of harmony, and burdened, or even virtually prohibited. It in which you will find all the information the strength that comes from harmony, will s best, while the country is still young, and required for your deliberations and decision. be our best security against "nations who

without exception, are animated by the same

promoting the advancement of knowledge.

A hope is entertained that our commerce

has left some traces in our relation with one. the records of the Pension Bureau to an un- We may, each one of us, counsel our active at least, of the great maratime Powers. The precedented extent. On the 30th day of June and enterprising countrymen to be constantly formal accordance of beligerent rights to ast, the total number of pensioners was on their guard, to liquidate debts contracted | the insurgent States was unprecedented, and 85,986, requiring for their anoual pay, ex- in a paper currency, and, by conducting busi- has not been justified by the issue. But in clusive of expenses, the sum of \$18,023,445. pess as nearly as possible on a system of cash | the systems of neutrality pursued by the The number of applications that have been payments, or short credits to hold themselves | Powers which made that concession, there silver. To aid our fellow-citizens in the pru- | war for the insurgent States were furnished stipends due under existing laws, to our dis- the duty devolves on us to diminish, by law, Great Britain, and British ships, manual by abled soldiers and sailers, and to the fami- the amount of paper money now in circula- British subjects and prepared for receiving British armsments, sailed from the ports of

> shipping and commerce to the very Power Our debt is doubly secure-first in the ac- whose subjects had orested the necessity for

> > the peace and interest of every one of them as to have insured an impartial decision. I

> > unsatisfactory form, has been declined. The United States did not present this object as an impeachment of the good faith of a

The ground on which the British Minis-

tion ; but we have never sought to impose ropean powers and of the United States bas. on the whole, bees harmonious. Twice, inhave prevailed ; twice my predecessors have had occasion to aunounce the views of this nation in respect to such interference.

On both occasions the remonstrance of the United States was respected, from a deep conviction on the part of European government that the system of non-interference and mutual abstinence from propagandism