Art. 6. The Vice Presidents and other officers will report to the Board of Managers, at any meeting, such information respecting Agriculture in Adams county or elsewhere, as may promote the interests of the Society.

Art. 7. In case of the death of any officer, resignation or refusal to serve after an election, the Board of Managers are authorized to supply his or their place by appointment, to continue until the next election.

Art. 8. This Constitution may be altered or amended, at any regular meeting, by a vote of two-thirds of the members in attendance, provided notice be given of such amendment at the last previous meeting of the Society.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Fellow Citizens of the Senate and of the House of Representatives:

The interest with which the people of the Republic anticipate the assembling of Congress, and the fulfillment, on that occasion, of the duty imposed upon a new President, is one of the deepest characters of their capacity to realize the hopes of the founders of a political system, so complex and symmetrical. While the different branches of the Government are, to a certain extent, independent of each other, the duties of all, alike, have direct reference to the source of power. Fortunately, under this system, no man is more, and none as humble, in the scale of public station, as to escape from the scrutiny, or to be exempt from the responsibility, which all official functions imply.

Upon the justice and intelligence of the mass, in a government thus constituted, is the only reliance of the confederacy, and the only security for honest and earnest devotion to its interests, against the usurpations and encroachments of power on the one hand, and the assaults of personal ambition, on the other.

The interest, of which I have spoken, is inseparable from an inquiring self-governing community, but stimulated, doubtless, at the present time by the unsettled condition of our relations with several foreign powers; by the new obligations recently from a sudden extension of the field of enterprise; by the spirit with which that field has been entered, and the success attending it; which has excited a feverish anxiety for meeting the dawn of humanity have been developed.

Although disease, assuming a form and the characteristics of a wide-spread and devastating pestilence, has, in its and treaces upon some portions of our country, we have still the most abundant cause for reverence in the fullness of the bounties of a kind Providence. Our relations with the most friendly feeling. The extensive commerce between the United States and the Christianity might, it is conceived, be relieved from some unnecessary restrictions to the mutual advantage of both parties. With a view to this subject, some progress has been made in negotiating a treaty of commerce and navigation.

Independently of our valuable trade with Spain, we have important political ties, arising with her, growing out of our ownership of the island of Cuba and Porto Rico. Of the happy issue of the negotiations the last Congress to attempt have been made by unauthorized expeditions within the United States, against either of the Spanish possessions. Such any movement be manifest within our limits, all the means at my command will be personally entrusted to the national sovereignty. Intercourse has been upon a footing of amicability, and the Spanish authorities, Captain-General of the province of that island, have shown a disposition to do, in the

trust of trade between some of our principal cities—and the hospitable reception with which foreign intercourse, particularly that with the United States, is there accorded, a repetition of such occurrences may well be apprehended. As no diplomatic intercourse is allowed between our consul at Havana and the Captain-General of Cuba, ready explanations cannot be made, or prompt redress afforded where injury has resulted.

All complaint on the part of our citizens, under the present arrangement, must be, in the first place, presented to this government, and then referred to Spain. Spain can refer it to her local authorities, in Cuba for investigation, and report, or answer till she has heard from these authorities. To avoid these irritating and vexatious delays, a proposition has been made to provide for a direct appeal for redress to the Captain-General by our consul, in behalf of our injured fellow-citizens. Hitherto, the government of Spain has declined to enter into any such arrangement. This course on her part is deeply regretted; for without some arrangement of this kind, the good understanding between the two countries may be expected to be of interrupted. Our minister at Madrid is instructed to renew the proposition, and to press it again upon the consideration of her Catholic Majesty's government.

For several years Spain has been calling the attention of this government to a claim for losses, by some of her subjects, in the case of the schooner *Amistad*. This claim is believed to rest on the obligations imposed by our existing treaty with that country. In justice to our character as in our diplomatic correspondence with the Spanish government, as early as March, 1847; and on my predecessor, in his annual message of the last year, recommended that provision should be made for its payment. In January last it was submitted to Congress by the Executive. It has received a favorable consideration by committees of both branches, and if there has been no final action upon it, conceive that good faith requires its prompt adjustment. I present it to your early and favorable consideration.

Martin Koszta, a Hungarian by birth, received, in 1850, while in Smyrna, a red his intention, in due form of law, to become a citizen of the United States. Returning to the place of his nativity, he visited Turkey. While at Smyrna, he was forcibly seized, taken on board an Austrian brig of war, lying in the harbor of that place, and there confined in irons, with the avowed design to take him to the dominions of Austria. The consul at Smyrna, and legation at Constantinople interposed for his release, but their efforts were ineffectual. Upon the arrival of the brig in Turkish waters, Koszta was released by the Turkish authorities, and after inquiring into the circumstances of the case, the minister of Austria, at Constantinople, was entitled to the protection of his government, and the energetic and prompt measures for his release. Upon the arrival of the brig at Smyrna, the agents of the United States and of Austria, he was transferred to the consulate of the French consul-general, at Smyrna, there to remain in place of safe custody, by the mutual agreement of the Consuls of the respective governments, and of Koszta, himself, pending the discussion of his rights.

Pursuant to that agreement he has been released, and is now on his way to the United States. The propriety of this course, on the part of the consul, and of the officers who took part in the transaction, is a subject of some importance. Regarding Koszta as still his subject, and claiming his rights as such within the limits of the Turkish empire, he was demanded of this government its consent to the surrender of the prisoner, a disavowal of the act of his agents, and satisfaction for the alleged outrage. A careful consideration of the question, I cannot so the conclusion that Mosses, in the exercise of lawful authority at Smyrna, that he was wrongfully detained on board of the Austrian brig of war; that, at the time of his seizure, he was clothed with the national character of the United States, and that, in the transaction, he violated no law of nations, or treaty, or of the laws of the United States, to throw around, at Smyrna, the protection which foreign intercourse, particularly that with the United States, is there accorded, a repetition of such occurrences may well be apprehended. As no diplomatic intercourse is allowed between our consul at Havana and the Captain-General of Cuba, ready explanations cannot be made, or prompt redress afforded where injury has resulted.

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