PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

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

The constitution of the United States provides that Congress shall assemble annually on the first Monday in December, unless they have been sooner called by the President to make an communication of a public character to the Senate and House of Representatives will advised of their readiness to meet them for deliberation in the usage until the close of the first month of the session, but my convictions of duty will not permit me to postpone so grave a subject as the obligation imposed by the constitution upon the President "to give to the Congress information of the state of the Union, and recommend to their consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient."

It is matter of congratulation that the people of tranquility and the prosperity and peace.

FOREIGN RELATIONS—CENTRAL AMERICA.

Whilst relations of amity continue to exist between the United States and all foreign powers, with some of them grave questions are depending which may require the consideration of Congress.

Of such questions, the most important is that which has arisen out of the negotiations with Great Britain in reference to Central America.

By the convention concluded between the two Governments on the 19th of April, 1850, both parties engaged that neither should occupy, or fortify or colonize, or assume or exercise any Dominion over Nicaragua, Costa Rica, the Mosquito coast or any part of Central America.

It was the undoubted understanding of the United States, in making this treaty, that all the power in Central America, other than that of the Central American, and the entire territory of each, would thereafter enjoy complete independence; and that both contracting parties engaged alike, and on the same terms, for the present and for the future; that if either then had any claim of right in Central America, which claim, in consequence of the agreement, under it, were unreservedly relinquished by the stipulations of the convention; and that no dominion was thereafter to be exercised or assumed by either over any part of America, by Great Britain or the United States.

This government consented to restrictions in regard to a region of country in which it had specific and peculiar interests, only upon the conviction that the like restrictions would be in the same manner obligatory on Great Britain. Such the understanding of the force and effect of the convention it would never have been consented by us.

So clear was this understanding on the part of the United States that, in correspondence contemporaneous with the negotiation of the convention, it was distinctly expressed that the mutual guarantees of the contracting powers were to apply to the British establishments at the Balize. This qualification is to be assumed by the United States in exchange for treaties with previous sovereigns of the country, (Great Britain had obtained no grant of the right to cut mahogany, or dye-woods at the Balize, but with positive exclusion of all dominion or sovereignty; and this was known to the national convention and understood import of the language by the parties to the treaty in which the stipulations applied.

It however, became apparent, at an early day after entering upon the discharge of our present functions that Great Britain still occupied in the exercise or assertion of dominion or authority in all that part of Central America commonly called the Mosquito country, extending the entire length of the State of Nicaragua and a part of Costa Rica; that they claimed the Balize as her absolute domain, and was gradually extending its limits at the expense of the State of Honduras; and that she had formally colonized a considerable insular group of islands, which, she claimed, belonged of right to this State.

All these acts or pretensions of Great Britain, being contrary to the rights of the States of Central America, and to the manifest tenor of the understanding with the United States, as understood by this government, have been made the subject of repeated remonstrances by American Minister in London, I transmit herewith copies of the correspondence between Lord and the correspondence between him and the Secretary of State, to which you will perceive that the two governments made differ widely and irreconcilably as to the construction of the convention and its effect upon their respective relations in Central America.

Great Britain so construes the convention as to maintain unalterably all her previous pretensions to jurisdiction in the Mosquito country, and to dispute all parts of Central America. These pretensions, as we the Mosquito country, are founded on the assumption of political relation between Great Britain and the tribes on the Atlantic coast, entered into at a time when the whole country was a colonial possession of Spain. It cannot be successfully controverted that, by the public law of Europe and America, as applicable at that time, the Indian tribes occupied could confer on Great Britain any political rights.

Great Britain does not allege the assent of Spain as the origin of her claims on the Mosquito coast, but she asserts, that by treaties and successive treaties, renounced and relinquished all sovereignty of Spain, and recognized the full and sovereign rights of Spain in the most unequivocal terms. Yet these treaties, we believe, not a single stipulation in the whole, and they respectedly affirmed, were, both in form and in fact, wars of aggression against the Central American States, the legitimate successors of all the rights of Spain in that region. They were first applied only to a defined part of the coast of Nicaragua, afterwards to the whole coast, and finally coast, and lastly to a part of Costa Rica; and they were accompanied by a protest, notwithstanding engagements to the U States.

On the eastern coast of Nicaragua and Costa Rica, the interference of Great Britain, though carried at one time in the form of military occupation of the port of San Juan del Norte, when in the present controversy of the sovereign authorities of the Central American States, is now pretended to be a rightful exercise of a protectorate over the Mosquito tribe of Indians.

But the establishment at the Balize, now reaching far beyond the treaty limits into the claims of Honduras, and the part of the Bay Islands, appertaining of right to the same State, are distinctly colonial governments as those of Jamaica or Canada, and the occupancy of the very letter as well as the spirit of the convention with the United States, as it was at the time of ratification, and now is, understood by this government.

The interpretation which the British government is to assertion and act, persists in assigning to it, and to which it is endeavoring the main principal law and derogatory to our sovereignty, is not the construction which our minister and the United States intended to give and which the Senate and the Senate and the United States understood when they ratified the convention. It is impossible, in my judgment, to reconcile the British construction of the convention with the United States to acquiesce in such construction of the respective relations of the two governments of Central America.

The renewed call by this government upon Great Britain, to abide by, and carry into effect, the spirit and of the convention according to its obvious import, by withdrawing from the possession or colonization of portions of the Central American States of Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica, the British government has at length replied, affirming that the part of the treaty is prospective only, and did not require the British to abandon the colonies they possessed when the treaty was concluded, and that the British government is not bound to interfere in effect, Great Britain may still retain the Mosquito country, and may by merely failure to effect Great Britain may still retain the Mosquito country, and may by merely failure to effect Great Britain may still retain the Mosquito country, and may by merely failure to effect