



S. B. ROW, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

CLEARFIELD, PA., DEC. 10, 1856.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

We occupy a large portion of our paper to-day with the last annual message of President Pierce. A fair share of the document is devoted to a defence of the Administration in relation to Kansas, in which he lays the origin of the disturbances to the efforts of the eastern emigrant aid societies; but he fails to say aught against the efforts at colonization made by the pro-slavery men. He has by some means discovered that the Missouri Compromise was "obscured" and "null for unconstitutionality," before its repeal. He indulges in a lengthy and bitter attack upon the Republicans, who, he says, slaver "pretending only to prevent the spread of slavery into new States," were "really influenced with a desire to change the domestic institutions of existing States." This assertion of the President is simply false, and is a fair sample of others that he makes. It is really humiliating to witness the Chief Magistrate of the Nation use his high official station to not only denounce and abuse the opponents of his measures and policy as enemies of the Constitution, the Union, and the peace of the country, but to grossly misrepresent them. Nothing more, however, could be expected from such a source.

So much of the message as relates to the finances, as refers to the reports of the heads of Departments, to our foreign relations, &c., is clearly and pungently written.

H. BECHER SPOONER.—This notorious individual has issued over his own name an "Address," paradoxical as it may seem, "to the Americans of Clearfield," which address was printed in the *Lucifer* office in this town. Jehoshaphat! what an awfully terrible fellow Bucher is just at this time! He is "More peevish, cross and sullen, Than dog, distract, or monkey sick," and pitches into everybody, except straight Fillmore men, in the most magnificent style, not forgetting to give the *Raftsmen's Journal* a pop-gun salute as he passes along. He can beat Gulliver and Baron Munchausen at telling big stories, and we know of no one who could compete with him in this respect, unless it would be ~~somebody~~, who it is said was kicked out of the infernal regions for lying. If anybody will believe what he says, they can do so, if they choose. For our own part, we do not think it worth while to refute, as we readily can, his falsehoods; for whilst we would be disposing of one, he could have at least a half dozen equally plausible ones manufactured to put in its place. So you see, numerically considered, it would be a losing game for us. Besides, we have a similar reason for refusing to particularly notice him that the lion had for declining to meet the skunk in single combat. "How," said the skunk, "do you refuse?" "Yes," said the lion, "for although I should do ever so well in the combat, yet every one who came near me for a month would know that I had been in company with a skunk."

WASHINGTON, Dec. 2, 1856. A Washington letter writer says:—As soon as the principal Southern members are all in, a caucus will be held in regard to national politics. I believe I have good ground for saying that the object of this caucus is neither to influence Mr. Buchanan nor attempt to influence Mr. Fremont, but simply to lay the foundation for a distinct Southern party, to accept the final issue on the slavery question, presented as it will be in 1860. It is a desperate step, but perhaps the best and only way of deciding this question. In the late canvass there were so many side issues, indirect influences and false pretences used that the Southern people are not satisfied. They do not believe it was an entirely anti-Southern vote. They therefore desire some positive issue, so made as to preclude all doubt, and thus have the direct vote of the American people upon the only question which can endanger the Union or create domestic discord. This issue is simply whether the South shall extend their system of slave labor side by side and equally with the North. The Democratic party hacks will have to clear the track, for the locomotive is coming.

Holloway's Pills, the best Remedy in the Union for Female Complaints.—These Pills are particularly recommended to the citizens of the Union for their extraordinary efficacy in female complaints; and their value is valuable either to the daughter verging into womanhood, or the mother at the turn of life. It has been proved beyond all contradiction, that those celebrated Pills will cure all disorders to which females are peculiarly subject, and enable them to pass their critical periods of life without exposing themselves to those dangers they too often incur by other treatment.

RESIGNATION OF MARSHAL DONALDSON.—The resignation of Donaldson, United States Marshal of Kansas, reached Washington city last week, and has been accepted. A great effort is making to have him re-appointed in spite of Gov. Geary, but the President insists that Geary shall be sustained. The vacancy has not been filled. Mr. Fain, Deputy under Donaldson, is acting Marshal of the Territory.

WINTER.—On last Wednesday afternoon there was a sudden change in the atmosphere in this region, and towards evening snow commenced falling rapidly. On Thursday morning the ground was frozen and continued so ever since. We are now experiencing all the rigors of winter.

restored without one drop of blood having been shed in its accomplishment by the forces of the United States.

The restoration of comparative tranquillity in that Territory furnishes the means of observing calmly, and appreciating at their just value, the events which have occurred there, and the discussions of which the government of the Territory has been the subject.

We perceive that controversy concerning its future domestic institutions was inevitable; that no human prudence, no form of legislation, no wisdom on the part of Congress, could have prevented this.

It is idle to suppose that the particular provisions of their organic law were the cause of agitation. Those provisions were but the occasion, or the pretext of an agitation, which was inherent in the nature of things. Congress legislated upon the subject in such terms as were most consonant with the principle of popular sovereignty which underlies our government. It could not hence legislate otherwise without doing violence to another great principle of our institutions, the inalienable right of equality of the several States.

We perceive, also, that sectional interests and party passions have been the great impediment to the salutary operation of the organic principles adopted, and the chief cause of the successive disturbances in Kansas. The assumption that, because in the organization of the Territories of Nebraska and Kansas, Congress abstained from imposing restraints upon them to which certain other Territories had been subject, therefore disorders occurred in the latter Territory, is emphatically contradicted by the fact that none have occurred in the former.

Those disorders were not the consequence, in Kansas, of the freedom of self-government conceded to that Territory by Congress, but of unjust interference on the part of persons not inhabitants of the Territory. Such interference, wherever it has exhibited itself, by acts of insurrectionary character, or of obstruction to processes of law, has been repelled or suppressed, by all the means which the constitution and the laws place in the hands of the Executive.

In those parts of the United States where, by reason of the inflated state of the public mind, false rumors and misrepresentations have the greatest currency, it has been assumed that it was the duty of the Executive not only to suppress insurrectionary movements in Kansas, but also to see to the regularity of local elections. It needs little argument to show that the President has no such power.—All government in the United States rests substantially upon popular election. The freedom of election is liable to be impaired by the intrusion of influences, or the exclusion of lawful ones, by improper influences, by violence, or by fraud.

But the people of the United States are themselves all sufficient guardians of their own rights, and to suppose that they will not remedy, in due season, any such incidents of civil freedom, is to suppose them to have ceased to be capable of self-government. The President of the United States has no power to interfere, to canvass their votes, or to pass upon their legality in the Territories any more than in the States.

If he had such power the government might be republican in form, but it would be a monarchy in fact; and if he had undertaken to exercise it in the case of Kansas, he would have been justly subject to the charge of usurpation, and of violation of the dearest rights of the people of the United States.

Unwise laws, equally with irregularities at elections, are, in periods of great excitement, the occasional incidents of even the freest and best political institutions. But all experience demonstrates that in a country like ours, where the right of self constitution exists in the complete form, the attempt to remedy unwise legislation by resort to the dearest rights of the people, is unwise as existing legal institutions afford more prompt and efficacious means for the redress of wrong.

I confidently trust that now, when the peaceful condition of Kansas affords opportunity for calm reflection and wise legislation, either the legislative assembly of the Territory, or Congress, will see that no act shall remain on its statute-book violative of the provisions of the Constitution, or obstructive of the great objects for which that was ordained and established, and will take all necessary steps to assure to its inhabitants the enjoyment of all the constitutional rights, privileges, and immunities of the citizens of the United States, contemplated by the organic law of the Territory.

Full information of recent events in this Territory will be found in the documents communicated herewith from the Departments of State and War.

contemplated by the original convention will have been fully attained.

The treaty between the United States and Great Britain, of the 5th of June, 1854, which went into effective operation in 1855, put an end to the existing arrangement between the two countries, by securing to the United States the right of fishery on the coast of the British North American provinces with advantages equal to those enjoyed by British subjects. Besides the signal benefits of this treaty, it connected extensively with our national prosperity and strength, it has had a favorable effect upon other interests in the provision it made for reciprocal freedom of trade between the United States and the British provinces in America.

The exports of domestic articles to those provinces during the last year amounted to more than twenty-two millions of dollars, exceeding those of any other foreign market, and the imports, during the same period, amounted to more than twenty-one millions.—an increase of six millions upon those of the previous year.

The improved condition of this branch of our commerce is mainly attributable to the above-mentioned treaty.

Provision was made in the first article of that treaty for a commission to designate the mouths of rivers to which the common right of fishery, on the coast of the United States and the British Provinces, was not to extend. This commission has been employed. Part of its organization was not considered as accomplishing the object for which it was instituted, in consequence of a serious difference of opinion between the commissioners, not only as to the precise point where the rivers terminate, but in many instances as to what constitutes a river. These difficulties may be overcome, however, by resort to the umpirage provided for by the treaty.

The efforts perseveringly prosecuted since the commencement of the existing administration, to relieve our trade to the Baltic from the exaction of sound dues by Denmark, have not yet been attended with success. Other governments have also sought to obtain the like relief to their commerce, and Denmark was thus induced to propose an arrangement to all the European Powers interested in the subject; and the manner in which her proposition was received, warranting her to believe that a satisfactory arrangement with them could soon be concluded, she made a strong appeal to this government for temporary suspension of definite action on its part, in consideration of the embarrassment which might result to her European negotiations by an immediate adjustment of the question with the United States. This request has been acceded to, upon the condition that the sums collected after the 16th of June last, and until the 16th of June next, from vessels and cargoes belonging to the United States, should be returned, as paid under protest and subject to future adjustment.—There is reason to believe that an arrangement between Denmark and the maritime powers of Europe on the subject, will be soon concluded, and that the pending negotiation with the United States may then be resumed and terminated in a satisfactory manner.

With Spain no new difficulties have arisen, nor has much progress been made in the adjustment of the claims of the United States. Negotiations entered into for the purpose of relieving our commercial intercourse with the Island of Cuba of some of its burdens, and providing for the more speedy settlement of local disputes growing out of that intercourse have not been attended with any results.

Soon after the commencement of the late war in Europe, this government submitted to the consideration of all maritime nations a declaration, containing the two principles which should govern the conduct of belligerents. One of the parties to the war—Russia—as well as several neutral powers, promptly acceded to these propositions; and the two other principal belligerents, Great Britain and France, having consented to observe them for the present occasion, a favorable opportunity seemed to be presented for obtaining a general recognition of them both in Europe and America.

Last year Great Britain and France, in common with most of the states of Europe, while forbearing to reject, did not affirmatively act upon the overtures of the United States.

While the question was in this position, the representatives of Russia, France, Great Britain, Austria, Prussia, Sardinia and Turkey, assembled at Paris, took into consideration the subject of maritime rights, and put forth a declaration, containing the two principles which this government had submitted, nearly two years before, to the consideration of maritime powers, and adding thereto the following propositions:—"Privateering is and remains abolished,"—"Blockades, in order to be binding, must be effective, that is to say, maintained by a force, sufficient really to prevent access to the coast of the enemy," and to the declaration thus composed of four points, to which our citizens readily assented by their votes. Their proposition was doubtless intended to imply approval of the principle that private property upon the ocean, although it might belong to the citizens of a belligerent state, should be exempt from capture; and had that proposition been so framed as to give full effect to the principle, it would have received my ready assent on behalf of the United States.

But the measure proposed is inadequate to that purpose. It is true that if adopted, private property upon the ocean would be withdrawn from one mode of plunder, but left exposed, meanwhile, to another mode, which could be used with increased effectiveness.—The aggressive capacity of great naval powers would be thereby augmented, while the defensive ability of others would be reduced. Though the surrender of the means of prosecuting hostilities by employing Paris, is maintained in terms, yet, in practical effect, it would be the relinquishment of a right of little value to one class of states, but of essential importance to another and a far larger class. It ought not to have been anticipated that a measure, so inadequate to the accomplishment of the proposed object, and so unequal in its operations, would receive the assent of all maritime powers. Private property would be still left to the depredations of the public armed cruisers.

I have expressed a readiness on the part of this government, to accede to all the principles contained in the declaration of the conference of Paris, provided that relating to the abandonment of privateering can be so amended as to effect the object for which, as is presumed, it was intended, the immunity of private property on the ocean from hostile capture. To effect this object, it is proposed to add to the declaration that "privateering is and remains abolished," the following amendment:—"And that the private property of subjects and citizens of a belligerent on the high seas, shall be exempt from seizure by the armed vessels of the other belligerent, except it be contraband." This amendment has been presented not only to the powers which have asked our assent to the declaration to abolish privateering, but to all other maritime states. Thus far it has not been rejected by any, and is favorably entertained by all which have made any communication in reply.

Secretary of the governments, regarding with favor the proposition of the United States, have delayed definite action upon it, only for the purpose of consulting with others, parties to the conference at Paris. I have the satisfaction of stating, however, that the Emperor of Russia has entirely and explicitly approved of that modification, and will co-operate in endeavoring to obtain the assent of other powers; and that assent in relation to the disposition of the Emperor of the French.

The present aspect of this important subject allows us to cherish the hope that a principle so humane in its character, so just and equal in its operation, so essential to the prosperity of commercial nations, and so consonant to the sentiments of this enlightened period of the world, will command the approbation of all maritime powers, and thus be incorporated into the code of international law.

My views on the subject are more fully set forth in a communication to the Secretary of the State, a copy of which is here transmitted, to the communications on the subject made to this government, especially to the communication of France.

The government of the United States has at all times regarded with friendly interest the other States of America, formerly like this country, European colonies and now independent members of the great family of nations, but the unsettled condition of some of them, distracted by frequent revolutions, and thus incapable of regular and firm internal administration, hastened to embarrass occasionally our public intercourse, by reason of wrongs which our citizens suffer at their hands and which they are slow to redress.

It is our policy to regard the Republic of Mexico, with which it is our special desire to maintain a good understanding, that such complaints are most numerous; and although earnestly urged upon their attention, they have not yet received a right answer. While reparation for past injuries has been withheld, others have been added. The political condition of that country, however, has been such as to demand our attention, and we shall continue my efforts to procure for the wrongs of our citizens that redress which is indispensable to the continued friendly association of the two Republics.

The peculiar condition of affairs in Nicaragua in the early part of the present year, rendered it important that this government should have diplomatic relations with that State. Through its territory has been opened one of the principal thoroughfares across the isthmus connecting North and South America, on which a vast amount of property is transported, and to which our citizens resort in great numbers in passing between the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of the United States.

The protection of both required that the existing power in that State should be regarded as a responsible government; and its minister was accordingly received. But he remained here only a short time. Soon thereafter the political affairs of Nicaragua underwent unfavorable change, and became involved in much uncertainty and confusion.

Diplomatic representatives from two contending parties have been recently sent to this government; but with the imperfect information possessed, it was not possible to decide which was the government de facto; and awaiting further developments I have refused to receive either.

Questions of the most serious nature are pending between the United States and the Republic of New Granada. The government, and the people, understand that the wealth of the empire of Europe. In our domestic relations, we have to guard against the shock of the discontents, the ambitions, the interests, and the exuberant, and, therefore, sometimes irregular impulses of opinion, or of action, which are the natural product of the present political elevation, the self-reliance, and the restless spirit of enterprise of the people of the United States.

I shall prepare to surrender the Executive trust to my successor, and retire to private life with sentiments of profound gratitude to the good providence which, during the period of my administration, has vouchsafed to carry the country through many difficulties domestic and foreign, and to enable me to contemplate the spectacle of amicable and respectful relations between our and all other governments, and the establishment of constitutional order and tranquility throughout the Union.

FRANKLIN PIERCE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 2, 1856.

The Congress of New Granada had also enacted a law, during the last year, which levied a tax upon the mails. This tax, on every mail matter transported across the Isthmus of Panama, was to be paid on the mails of the United States would be nearly two millions of dollars annually, in addition to the large sum payable by contract to the Panama Railroad Company. If the only objection to this taxation were the exorbitance of its amount, it could not be submitted to by the United States.

The position, however, would obviously contravene our treaty with New Granada, and infringe the contract of that Republic with the Panama Railroad Company. The law providing for this tax was, by its terms, to take effect on the first of September last, but the local authorities on the Isthmus have been induced to suspend its execution, and to wait further instruction on the subject from the government of the United States. I am not yet advised of the declaration of that government, if any, and so extraordinary in its character, and so clearly contrary to treaty stipulations, and the contract rights of the Panama Railroad Company, composed mostly of American citizens, should be persisted in, it will be the duty of the United States to resist its execution.

I regret exceedingly that occasion exists to invite your attention to a subject of still greater import in our relations with the Republic of New Granada. On the 15th day of April last, a riotous assemblage of the inhabitants of Panama committed a violent and outrageous attack on the premises of the Railroad Company, and the passengers and other persons in or near the same, involving the death of several citizens of the United States, the pillage of many others, and the destruction of a large amount of property belonging to the Railroad Company. I caused full investigation of that event to be made, and the result showed satisfactorily that complete responsibility for what occurred attaches to the government of New Granada. I have, therefore, demanded of that government that the perpetrators of the wrongs in question should be punished; that provision should be made for the families of citizens of the United States who were killed, with full indemnity for property pillaged or destroyed.

The present condition of the Isthmus of Panama, in so far as regards the security of persons and property passing over it requires serious consideration. Recent incidents tend to show that local authorities cannot be relied on to maintain the peace of Panama, and there is just ground for apprehension that a portion of inhabitants are meditating further outrages, without adequate measures for the security and protection of persons or property having been taken, either by the State of Pa-

nama, or by the general government of New Granada.

Under the guaranties of treaty, citizens of the United States have, by the outlay of several millions of dollars, constructed a railroad across the Isthmus, and it has become the main route between our Atlantic and Pacific possessions, over which multitudes of our citizens and a vast amount of property are constantly passing—to the security and protection of all which, and the continuance of the public advantages involved, it is impossible for the Government of the United States to be indifferent.

I have deemed the recurrence of scenes of lawless violence in this quarter so imminent, as to make it my duty to station a part of our naval force in the harbors of Panama and Aspinwall, in order to protect the persons and property of the citizens of the United States in those ports, and to insure to them safe passage across the Isthmus. And it would, in my judgment, be unwise to withdraw the naval force now in those ports, until, by the spontaneous action of the Republic of N. Granada, or otherwise, some adequate arrangement shall have been made for the protection and security of a line of intercourse so important as that of the Isthmus, not to the U. States only, but to all other maritime states both of Europe and America.

Meanwhile, negotiations have been instituted by means of a special commission, to obtain from New Granada full indemnity for injuries sustained by our citizens on the Isthmus and satisfactory security for the general interests of the United States.

In addressing to you my last annual message the occasion seems to me an appropriate one to express my congratulations in view of the peace, greatness, and felicity which the United States now possess and enjoy. To point you to the state of the various departments of the government, and of all the great branches of the public service, civil and military, in order to speak of the intelligence and integrity which pervades the whole, would be to indicate but imperfectly the administrative condition of the country, and the beneficial effects of that on the general welfare.

Nor would it suffice to say that the nation is actually at peace at home and abroad; that its industrial interests are prosperous; that the canvass of its mariners whiten every sea; and the plough of its husbandmen is marching steadily onward to the bloodless conquest of the continent, that cities and populous States are springing up, as if by enchantment, from the bosom of western wilds, and that the courageous energy of our people is making of these United States the great republic of the world. These results have not been attained without passing through trials and perils, by experience of which, and thus only nations can harden into manhood.

Our forefathers were trained to the wisdom which conceived and the courage which achieved independence, by the circumstances which surrounded the creation of the Republic. It devolved on the next generation to consolidate the work of the revolution, to deliver the country entirely from the influences of conflicting transatlantic partialities or antipathies, which attached to our colonial and revolutionary history, and to organize the practical operation of the constitutional and legal institutions of the Union.

To us, of this generation, remains the not less noble task, maintaining and extending the power of the United States. We have, at length, reached that stage of the national career, in which the dangers to be encountered, and the exertions to be made, are the incidents, not of weakness, but of strength. In our foreign relations we have to attempt our power to the less happy condition of other republics, and to the more difficult, in the calmness and conscious dignity of right, by the side of the greatest and wealthiest of the empires of Europe. In our domestic relations, we have to guard against the shock of the discontents, the ambitions, the interests, and the exuberant, and, therefore, sometimes irregular impulses of opinion, or of action, which are the natural product of the present political elevation, the self-reliance, and the restless spirit of enterprise of the people of the United States.

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