

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

To the Senate and House of Representatives: A year of peace and general prosperity to this nation has passed since the last assembly of Congress. We have, through kind Providence, been blessed with abundant crops, and have been spared from complications and war with foreign nations.

Spain and the South American Republics. The long deferred Peace Conference between Spain and the Allied South American Republics has been inaugurated in Washington under the auspices of the United States.

The French and German Wars. Soon after the existing war broke out in Europe, the protection of the United States Minister in Paris was invoked in favor of the North German Dominion in French territory.

Should the present struggle result in attaching the hearts of the French to a simpler form of representative government, it will be a subject of still further satisfaction to our people.

We were aided by the new Government to use our good offices jointly with those of European Powers in the interest of peace.

I deemed it prudent, in view of the number of persons of German and French birth living in the United States, to issue, soon after official notice of a state of war had been received from both the belligerents, a proclamation, defining the duties of the United States as neutral.

It is not understood that the condition of the insurrection in Cuba has materially changed since the close of the last session of Congress.

In the negotiations thus opened, and still pending there, the United States only claimed that, for the future, the rights secured to their citizens by treaty should be respected in Cuba.

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Another long-pending claim of like nature, that of the whaling Canada, has been disposed of by friendly arbitration during the present year.

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claim to a controlling influence over the great commercial traffic now flowing from the West to the East by way of the Isthmus of Darien.

The course pursued by the Canadian authorities toward the fishermen of the United States during the past season has not been marked by a friendly feeling.

It is to be regretted that our representation in regard to the injurious effects, especially upon the revenue of the United States, of the policy of the Mexican Government, in exempting from import duties a large tract of its territory on our borders.

It is the obvious interest, especially of neighboring nations, to provide against immunities to those who may have committed crimes within their borders.

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only so much is asked as Congress may choose to give.

The average value of gold, as compared with national currency, for the whole of the year 1870 was about 134, and for seven months of 1871 the same relative value was about 115.

The taxes collected from the people has been reduced more than \$50,000,000 per centum. By steadiness in our present course, the national tax-gatherer may not disappear from the door of the citizen almost entirely.

Revenue reform. Revenue reform, if it means this year, may have support. If it implies a collection of all the revenue, to fill all our obligations, a further reduction of expenses, in addition to a reduction of interest account, may be relied on to make this practicable.

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