

Message of the President.

FRENCH SPOILIATIONS.

To the Senate of the United States:
I return to the Senate, in which it originated, the Bill entitled "an act to provide for the ascertainment and satisfaction of claims of American citizens for spoiliations committed by the French prior to the 31st of July, 1861," which was presented to me on the 6th instant, with my objections to its becoming a law.

In attempting to give the bill the careful examination it requires, difficulties presented themselves in the outset, from the remoteness of the period to which the claims belong, the complicated nature of the transactions in which they originated, and the protracted negotiations to which they led between France and the United States.—The short time intervening between the passage of the bill by Congress and the approaching close of their session, as well as the pressure of other official duties, have not permitted me to extend my examination of the subject into its minute details. But in the consideration that I have been able to give to it, I find objections of a grave character to its provisions.

For the satisfaction of the claims provided for it, is proposed to appropriate five millions of dollars. I can perceive no legal or equitable ground upon which this large appropriation can rest. A portion of the claims have been more than half a century before the government, in its Executive or legislative departments, and all of them had their origin in events which occurred prior to 1800. Since 1800, they have been from time to time before Congress. No greater necessity or propriety exists for providing for these claims at this time than has existed for near half a century; during all which period this questionable measure has never until the present time received the favorable consideration of Congress. It is scarcely probable, if the claim had been regarded as obligatory upon the Government, or constituting an equitable demand upon the Treasury, that those who were contemporaneous with events which gave rise to it, should not long since have done justice to the claimants. The Treasury had often been in a condition to enable the Government to do so without inconvenience, if the claims had been considered just. Mr. Jefferson, who was fully cognizant of the early disquisitions between the Government of the United States and France, out of which the claims arose, in his annual message in 1808 adverted to the large surplus then in the Treasury, and its probable accumulation, and inquired whether it should be "unproductive in the public vaults," and yet these claims though then before Congress were not recognized or paid. Since that time the public debt of the revolution and of the war of 1812 has been extinguished, and at several periods since, the Treasury has been in possession of large surpluses over the demands upon it. In 1836, the surplus amounted to many millions of dollars, and for want of proper objects to which to apply it, it was directed by Congress to be deposited with the States.

During this extended course of time, embracing periods eminently favorable for satisfying all just demands upon the government, the claims embraced in this bill met with no favor in Congress, beyond the reports of committees, in one or the other branch. These circumstances alone are calculated to raise strong doubts in respect to these claims; and especially, as all information necessary to a correct judgment concerning them, has been long before the public. These doubts are strengthened in my mind by the examination I have been able to give to the transaction in which they originated.

The bill assumes that the United States have become liable in those ancient transactions to make reparation to the claimants for injuries committed by France. Nothing was obtained for claimants by negotiation; and the bill assumes that the government has become many ways responsible for these claims. The limited time allowed me, before your adjournment, make it impossible to reiterate the facts and arguments by which, in preceding Congresses, these claims have been successfully resisted. The present is a period particularly unfavorable for the satisfaction of claims of so large an amount, and, to say the least of them, of so doubtful a character. There is no surplus in the Treasury. A public debt of several millions has been created within the last few years. We are engaged in a foreign war, uncertain as to its duration, and involving heavy expenditures; to prosecute which war, Congress has, at its present session, authorized a further loan. So that in effect the government, should this bill become a law, would have to borrow money and increase the public debt to pay these claims. It is true, that by the provisions of the bill, payment is directed to be made in land script instead of money, but the effect upon the Treasury will be the same. The public lands constitute one of the sources of public revenue, and if these claims be paid in land script, it will, from the date of the issue, to a great extent, cut off from the Treasury the annual income from the sale of public lands; because payments for the lands sold by the government may be expected to be made in scrip until it is all redeemed. If those claims be just they ought to be paid in money, and nothing less valuable. The bill provides that they shall be paid in land scrip, whereby they are in effect to be mortgaged upon the public lands in the new States; a mortgage, too, held in part, if not wholly, by non-residents of the States in which the lands lie, who may secure these lands to the amount of several millions of acres, and then demand for them

exorbitant prices from the citizens of other States who may desire to purchase them for settlement, or they may keep them out of the market, and thus retard the prosperity and growth of the States in which they are situated. Why this unusual mode of satisfying claims upon the Treasury has been resorted to does not appear. It is not consistent with a sound public policy. If it be done in this case it may be done in all others. It will form a precedent for the satisfaction of all other state and questionable claims, & would undoubtedly be resorted to by all claimants, who, after successive trials, shall fail to have their claims recognized and paid in money by Congress.

The bill proposes to pay five millions of dollars, to be paid in land scrip, and provides that no claim or memorial shall be received by the commissioners authorized by the act, unless accompanied by a release or discharge of the U. S. from all other and further compensation that the claimant may be entitled to receive under the provisions of the act. These claims are estimated to amount to a much larger sum than five millions of dollars, and yet the claimant is required to release to the Government all other compensation, and to accept his share of a fund known to be inadequate.

If these claims be well founded, it would be unjust to the claimants to repudiate any portion of them, and the remaining sum could hereafter be resisted. The bill proposes to pay these claims not in the currency known to the Constitution, and not to their full amount.

Passed, as this bill has been, near the close of the session, and when many measures of importance necessarily demand the attention of Congress, and possibly without that full and deliberate consideration which the large sum it appropriates and the existing state of the treasury and of the country demand, I deem it my duty to withhold my approval, that it may hereafter undergo the revision of Congress. I have come to this conclusion with regret. In interposing my objections to its becoming a law, I am truly sensible that it should be an extreme case which would make it the duty of the Executive to withhold his approval of any bill passed by Congress upon the ground of its expediency alone. Such a case I consider this to be.

JAMES K. POLK.
Washington, Aug. 8, 1846.

THE WINGS OF GEORGIA AND THE TARIFF

The *Milledgeville Journal*, the leading Whig paper in the State of Georgia, pronounces the following opinions in regard to the Tariffs of 1842 and 1846:

"In a late number of our paper we stated, by way of calling the attention of our readers to the fact, that the Whig members from Georgia voted against the passage of the Tariff act of 1842. This was because its features, or many of them, were too protective. Mr. Clay, however, advocated this Tariff, and because he was the Whig candidate for the Presidency, and because Georgia Whigs advocated his election, our opponents attempted to saddle upon us as a party, an advocacy of the principles embraced in that bill. In other words, whatever Mr. Clay was in favor of, or opposed to, we were in favor of, or opposed to. No such thing! The principles avowed by Mr. Clay on the Tariff were every one of them, almost in the same language, advanced by Mr. Polk. Between the two candidates, there was not a particle of difference in their avowed principles. To the Tariff, then, of 1842, while we supported Mr. Clay, who advocated it, we were opposed—so were the Whig members from Georgia, for they voted against it, as did our Senator, the Hon. J. M. Berrien.

We again come to the Tariff of 1846.—As far as we have had an opportunity of investigating its items, we pronounce it but little or no better than the Tariff of 1842. As a member of Congress, we should have voted against it on that ground, if on no other; but from motives of policy—for the better regulation hereafter of the popular will—we wish it may pass and become a law.

The judgment which an indignant people will pass upon them, (the Democrats,) will amply repay the Whigs of Georgia, who, as a party, have been so often and so falsely charged with favoring a high protective Tariff!

It further thus characterizes the new law: "With features in it somewhat preferable to the act of 1842, it is yet as obnoxious a bill, in our opinion, to the South, on account of its protective features generally, as the Northern Democrats could pass without outraging the country and the constitution.

The Whig party of Georgia is an anti-Tariff party—opposed as much to a protective Tariff as any other party. Those who write otherwise, in our opinion, misrepresent them. They are worse than misrepresented, too, when it is said they are opposed to the late Tariff bill, because it does not sufficiently protect certain articles, or that it is not sufficiently protective in its character. Why, protection sticks out in almost every feature of it.—Upon this ground we shall oppose it; and we believe upon this ground it will be condemned by the Georgia Whigs.

It is clear enough from this that the Whigs of Georgia voted for Mr. Clay, believing him to entertain the same opinions upon the Tariff as were entertained and avowed by Mr. Polk. Our Whig opponents in this State, who have grown hoarse in denouncing 'the fraud' upon Pennsylvania in regard to this same question, will find material to vary the entertainment in the extracts above quoted.—Penna.

Democratic Banner.

CLEARFIELD, PA. Aug. 22, 1846.

FOR CANAL COMMISSIONER,
WILLIAM B. FOSTER, jr.
of Bradford county.

CAMP MEETING.

A Camp Meeting for the Clearfield Circuit will be held on the land of Mr. DAVID ADAMS, near Clearfield Creek Bridge—to commence on the 28th of August. The location is just beyond Mr. Adam's house, in a small woodland to the left of the Furnace. It has the advantage of being accessible from almost every quarter by good roads, and being quite convenient to several Springs of water. Members of the Church, friends of religion, and the public, are generally invited to attend.

F. WELTY,
H. HOFFMAN,
J. LLOYD.

DEMOCRATIC MEETING.

The Democratic Republicans of Clearfield county will take notice that a general county meeting will be held in the court house on Tuesday evening the 1st Sept., for the purpose of more effectually organizing our party preparatory to the approaching election.

By order of the
STANDING COMMITTEE.

Tickets!

We have printed tickets for all the candidates for nomination, and they are now ready for distribution. We hope our country friends will assist us in this work during the coming week.

THE WASHINGTON UNION.

We will comply with the request of the editors of this very ably conducted democratic paper, and publish their prospectus in our next.

The adjourned meeting of the democratic conferees of this Congressional district met at Indiana on Thursday last. We have waited until the last minute allowed us in hopes of hearing the result, but we are compelled to go to press without it.

THE NEXT SHERIFF.

There appears to be a misunderstanding on the part of some as to whether Maj. JAMES BLOOM, of Pike township, is a candidate for nomination or not. All we know about it is this. Mr. Bloom was in town the beginning of this week, and stated publicly as we are informed, that he intended to abide by the decision of the Democratic party at their primary elections. Several of Mr. Bloom's friends have told us that he stands pledged to the nomination. We make this statement in order that none may be deceived.

The Township Elections.

Democrats, don't forget to attend your township elections THIS DAY WEEK, (the 29th instant).—This is a part of the proceedings of the Democratic party, with which the whigs have no right, and we trust, no desire, to interfere. Let the elections in the several townships be fairly conducted, and the right extended to every democrat to make his own choice between the candidates. A selection thus made, will give general satisfaction, as no democrat will refuse to acquiesce in the will of the majority, expressed by his Democratic brethren through the ballot box. Such conduct would be too much after the fashion of Rittner, Stevens, &c. &c., in the Buckshot War. Democrats should all strive to promote the utmost harmony in the party, and whoever the majority of that party choose, should be as satisfactory to the friends of the defeated candidates as to the successful ones.

"ALL THE DECENCY," &c.

The *Kittanning Free Press*, the Whig organ of Armstrong county, of the 11th inst. in an article in support of the claims of the present whig candidate for Congress in this district, says:—

"None but Whigs can properly comprehend the wants, or enter into the feelings, of those who 'earn their bread by the sweat of their brow.'"

Hear that, ye ignorant Democrats! None but Whigs are competent to fill your offices! Democrats are too ignorant—they cannot comprehend the wants of the people! They cannot feel for those who toil for their daily bread! None but the silk stocking gentry—the rich and well-born—can have such tender feelings.

But this is not the first time that the doctrine that "government should take care of the rich, and the rich take care of the poor," has been broached by the federal party. It is seldom, however, that they betray their real feelings and sentiments in this manner, and we suppose this editor has done it without proper reflection, or by mistake, or under excitement,—in either case we hope he may be forgiven by an insulted people.

It's not the Man.

The *Butler Whig Press*, in an article in which the editor evidently manifests great reluctance in being compelled to support the nomination of Mr. Irwin, the federal candidate for Congress, gives the world the following information. It is the last case of "waking up the wrong passenger" on record. In speaking of that gentleman it says:—

"He has never been schooled in the science of demagoguism, but in his plain, FARMER habits, always goes for his country—and we can give our OLD FARMER a hearty support."

Now, really, Mr. Whig, you don't know your man at all. If it is the present whig candidate for Congress you mean, you are as much mistaken in his trade as you are in the school in which he was educated. Why, he never was educated anywhere else!

Information Wanted.

The 'Irish Volunteer' of New York requests us to publish the following:—

"Information wanted of FRANCIS CULLIN, a native of Killyman, county Tyrone, Ireland, who came to this country sixteen years ago; when last heard of he was in the State of Pennsylvania. Any information of him will be thankfully received by his brother James Cullin, who with his son, James Cullin, is now in New York, and in much anxiety to hear from him, if directed to this office."

For the Banner.

The Tariff and the Farmer.

Messrs. Moore & Thompson:—The Feds are making too many misrepresentations as to the New Tariff, to be passed over silently. One of them is, that the Farmer is protected on the article of Wool, (the raw material of the manufacturer,) as high, or higher, than the manufacturer is on the manufactured article. Let us examine the facts:

I weighed a piece of Broad Cloth that sells in our town for \$6 50 per yard, and found it to weigh not quite one pound to the yard. This cloth must have cost in Europe, \$2 50, on which is charged by the New Tariff, a duty of 30 per cent, making 75 cents per yard for the manufacturer. On the other hand, Wool costs in Europe from 8 to 28 cents per pound, according to quality, making, with a duty of 30 per cent, 2½ and 7½ cents per pound.

Now, the practical effect, and plain facts of the case, are these:—the *Woolen manufacturer* is protected to the amount of 75 cents per pound, while the *Farmer—the Wool-grower*—is protected at the very most, but 8 cents per pound!

And this under the Polk Tariff that is to ruin the country, and protect the Farmer at the expense of the manufacturer!

I have compared the statement of your correspondent in your paper of the 8th, with "Bicknell's Reporter," and find it sustains him in his statement, that the New Tariff affords a higher protection on Foreign Hammered Iron, (the only article that interferes with our Charcoal Iron,) than the Tariff of 42 In New York Bicknell quotes

Russia Ham. Iron at \$102 50 to 105 av'ge	\$103 75
Swed. do do " 90 to 92 50 "	91 25
Eng. Refined do " 87 50 to 90 "	88 75
Average,	3,283 75
Deduct duty under tariff of 1842,	17 00
	77 58

Now, under the Tariff of '42 there was a specific duty of \$17 per ton on this kind of iron; while under the New Tariff the duty will be 30 per cent. on the cost at home, to which is still to be added the cost of freight, commissions, &c., which will afford a protection of 6 or \$7 per ton more than the act of '42, as stated by your correspondent.

Another item on which they make great misrepresentations is our ability to compete with the North of Europe in supplying the British with grain and other Farming produce. They know, if they have as much information as they pretend to, that the average yield in the North of Europe is from 6 to 7 bushels of wheat for every 2 sown, whilst in the United States it is nearer from 25 to 30; and that the same disproportion exists as to pork, beef, butter, tallow, lard, cheese, &c., &c., whilst they cannot grow Indian Corn at all—and that the latter article is likely to become one of the great staples which is to supply the poor of Europe with bread. But they wish to confine the Farmer to a home market—to prevent him taking his produce abroad and getting a fair price for it—and to effect this, they want the tariff so high that our ships will have to return home empty, as hundreds have done under the effect of the tariff of '42—thus compelling the farmer to pay double freight.

Let the Farming, the Mechanical and the Laboring classes carefully and dispassionately examine the question, and weigh the merits of the two Tariffs, and my word for it, they will find that while the Tariff of 1846 affords a fair, just and reasonable protection to the manufacturer, it also gives a much more reasonable share of protection to the great and growing agricultural interests, than that afforded by the Tariff of 1842.

A FRIEND TO THE FARMER.

BANK OF LEWISTOWN.—Some of our Philadelphia exchanges state that the above institution has suspended, and caution the public against receiving its notes. The 'True Democrat' of the 19th inst. published at Lewistown, corrects the above by stating that the Bank was paying specie for all its liabilities.

From Vera Cruz.

By the arrival at this port yesterday of the barque Elizabeth J., Capt. Howland, from Havana, we have advices to the 6th instant, but they are of no great importance. A letter to the Philadelphia Exchange, dated 6th inst. says:—"The British war steamer *Vesuvius* arrived three days since from Vera Cruz, and reports it very sickly, there being three hundred on the sick list of the British and American squadrons together. She brought no news from shore. Commodore Connor had run the Princeton in under the guns of the town, and although they could plainly see that the batteries were manned, she was not fired upon. He afterwards learned that the garrison was in a state of mutiny, and would not obey orders." No mention is made of the movements or probable destination of Santa Anna.

From the Camp.

We copy the following letters from the Washington Union of Saturday last:

Camargo, (Mexico), July 23.

"We are furnishing transportation for the army, and securing supplies of forage on the route to Monterey. We have contracted for from 1,000 to 2,000 mules," (another letter fixes it positively at 1500;) "with the packing equipments complete; and these, with the 500 wagons expected here, will be ample for the marching column. A large portion of the 19,000 men of this corps d'armee will be left at the different depots and entrepots, from Brazos Santiago to Chino, about 60 miles from this place on the route to Monterey.

"The troops are now fast arriving here in our steamboats; and the General will, in all probability, move forward from here about the middle of next month, (August.) Now comes the commencement of those operations which will require all the capacity, skill and energy of our General to accomplish. The great difficulties of an army invading Mexico begin here. So far, every thing has favored Gen. Taylor, and he has acquired not only a most enviable reputation, but his good fortune has become a proverb. I hope, of course, for his further success; but in order to secure it, the most careful combinations of every kind, preparatory to the march, are absolutely necessary. Too much haste may prove as great an evil as a faulty tardiness. It takes time for the requisite arrangements for the transportation required for so many men, suddenly collected here. Meantime, the General is impatient of the least delay, and the officers of our department are incessantly occupied in preparations.

Extract of a letter from Colonel Whiting, dated Matamoros, 28th July, 1846.

"The subsistence Gen. Taylor called for—that is, 300,000 rations—is now at or near Camargo. We are now throwing up forage, ammunition, and other supplies—the boats taking moderate loads in order to accommodate troops."

"A company of Texan rangers came into Camargo a few days since, having started from San Antonio de Bexar, crossed the Rio Grande at Laredo, and passed through Miraflores. In this descending the right bank it met with no molestation, saw no rising for defence, but found all things in tranquillity."

Extract of a letter from Colonel Henry Whiting, dated Matamoros, July 31.

"Gen. Taylor has just issued an order directing the remaining troops to move up to Camargo without delay. The trains, it is feared, will be inadequate. To remedy this he will buy and hire all the mules he can. The last report from Camargo is favorable. A contract has been made for fifteen hundred mules and packs complete. Gen. Taylor goes to Camargo in a few days, when I shall immediately follow to complete all arrangements. Horse shoes are now coming in—we were likely to suffer for them and for forage. Forage and subsistence is abundant. The United States steamer *Neva* sunk on her way up to Camargo with cargo on board. No lives lost, but much company baggage and supplies."

Important from the Pacific. CALIFORNIA PROCLAIMED INDEPENDENT OF MEXICO.

In the *Kingston (Jamaica) Journal*, of the 22d ult., the *New Orleans Delta* finds an article copied from the *Despatch* of the same city, which begins "Important from the Pacific," and goes on:

"We learn on good authority that accounts brought by H. M. brig *Daring*, announces the important fact that the inhabitants of Upper California had pronounced themselves independent of the Republic of Mexico, and placed themselves under the protection of the United States. It is said that in consequence of this movement on the part of the Californians, the officer in command of the American squadron, had hoisted the flag of the United States on this portion of the Mexican territory.

"Vice Admiral Seymour had proceeded to the southward for the purpose, it was said, of collecting his squadron, and we should imagine that a collision must be almost inevitable."

The remainder of the article is made up of the speculations of the editor on the event. We are ourselves rather inclined to think that the accounts brought by the brig *Daring* were founded on report rather than on fact. We shall soon know.

Dem. Union.

From the South.

We received last night a full southern mail, bringing New Orleans papers to the 9th inst., late as due. We extract the following items of news:—Dem. Union.

Bearer of Despatches to Com. Connor.—The Pensacola Democrat of the 5th instant, says:—

"We understand that important Government dispatches were received by this morning's mail, by Captain Gregory of the United States frigate *Raritan*, to be forwarded to Com. Connor, off Vera Cruz. The revenue cutter *Wolcott*, Capt. Fatio, will sail to-day for Vera Cruz, to carry thither an officer with said despatches."

From Havana.—The brig *Confidence*, Captain Pleasants, arrived at New Orleans on the 8th inst., from Havana, having sailed on the 1st inst. The latest news they had at Havana of Mexican affairs they received from New Orleans.—Nothing is mentioned in the papers before us about Santa Anna and his affairs.

From Texas.—The steamer *Fashion*, Capt. Fullerton, arrived at New Orleans on the 8th inst., in 25 hours from Port Lauaca, Texas.

No news from the army. No move-