

more ought to be required? The answer is, that a very large proportion of the people of the United States still contest the correctness of this decision, and never will cease from agitation, and admit its binding force until clearly established by the people of the several States in their own legislation. Such an explanatory amendment would, it is believed, forever terminate the existing dissensions, and restore peace and harmony among the States. It ought not to be doubted that such an appeal to the arbitration established by the Constitution itself would be received with favor by all the States of the Confederacy. In any event, it ought to be tried, in a spirit of conciliation, before any one of these States shall separate themselves from the Union.

**FILLIBUSTERING, &c.**

When I entered upon the duties of the Presidential office, the aspect neither of our foreign nor domestic affairs was at all satisfactory. We were involved in dangerous complications with several nations, and two of our territories were in a state of revolution against the government. A restoration of the African slave trade had numerous and powerful advocates; unlawful military expeditions were countenanced by many of our citizens, and we suffered in defiance of the efforts of the government, to escape from our shores for the purpose of making war upon the unoffending citizens of neighboring republics with whom we were at peace. In addition to these and other difficulties, we experienced a revolution in monetary affairs, soon after my advent to power, of unexampled severity and of ruinous consequences to all the great interests of the country. When we take a retrospect of what was then our condition, and contrast this with its material prosperity at the time of the late presidential election, we have abundant reasons to return our grateful thanks to that merciful Providence who has never forsaken us as a nation in all our past trials.

**OUR FOREIGN RELATIONS.**

*Great Britain.*—Our relations with Great Britain are of the most friendly character. The discordant constructions of the Clayton and Bulwer treaty between the two Governments, have resulted in a final settlement entirely satisfactory to this government.

It is a source of sincere satisfaction to all classes of our fellow citizens, and especially to them engaged in foreign commerce, that the claim on the part of Great Britain, forcibly to visit and search American merchant vessels, on the high seas has been abandoned.

The only question of importance which still remains open to the disputed title between the two governments to the island of San Juan. As this question is still under negotiation, it is not deemed advisable at the present moment to make any allusion to the subject.

*France.*—With France our relations continue to be of the most friendly character. A decision has recently been made by a French judicial tribunal, with the approbation of the Imperial Government, which cannot fail to foster the sentiments of mutual regard that have so long existed between the two countries. Under the French law no person can serve in the armies of France unless he be a French citizen. The law of France recognizes the natural right of expatriation, it follows, as a necessary consequence, that a Frenchman, by the fact of having become a citizen of the United States, has changed his allegiance, and has lost his native character. He cannot therefore, be compelled to serve in the French armies in case he should return to his native country.

In any event our government is bound to protect the rights of our naturalized citizens everywhere to the same extent as though they had drawn their first breath in this country. We can recognize no distinction between our native and naturalized citizens.

*Russia.*—With Russia, Austria and the remaining continental powers of Europe, including that of the Sultan, our relations continue to be of the most friendly character.

*Spain.*—Our relations with Spain are now of a more complicated, though less dangerous character than they have been for many years. Our citizens have long held and continue to hold numerous claims against the Spanish Government. These had been urged for a series of years by our successive diplomatic representatives at Madrid, but without obtaining redress. The Spanish Government finally agreed to institute a joint commission for the adjustment of these claims, and on the 6th day of March, 1850, concluded a convention for that purpose with our present Minister at Madrid. Under this Convention what have been denominated the Cuban Claims, amounting to one hundred and twenty-eight thousand six hundred and thirty-five dollars and fifty-four cents, in which more than one hundred of our fellow citizens are interested, were recognized, and the Spanish Government agreed to pay one hundred thousand dollars of this amount within three months following the exchange of ratification. The payment of the remaining twenty-eight thousand six hundred and thirty-five dollars and fifty-four cents, was to await the decision of the Commissioners for or against the Amistad Claim, but in any event the balance was to be paid to the claimants either by Spain or the United States. These terms, I have every reason to know, are highly satisfactory to the holders of Cuban Claims. Indeed they have made a formal offer, authorizing the State Department to settle these claims, and to deduct the amount of the Amistad Claim from the sums which they are entitled to receive from Spain. This offer, of course, cannot be accepted. All other claims of citizens of the United States against Spain or of subjects of the Queen of Spain against the subjects of the United States, including the Amistad Claim, were by this convention referred to a Board of Commissioners in the usual form. Neither the validity of the Amistad Claim, nor any other claim against either party, with the single exception of the Cuban Claims, was recognized by the convention.

Indeed the Spanish Government did not insist that the validity of the Amistad claim should be thus recognized, notwithstanding its payment had been recommended to Congress by two of my predecessors as well as by myself, and an appropriation for that purpose had passed the Senate of the United States. They were content that it should be submitted to the Board for examination and discussion like the other claims. Both governments were bound respectively to pay the amounts awarded to the several claimants at such times and places as may be fixed by and according to the tenor of said awards. I transmitted this Convention to the Senate for their constitutional assent on the 23d of May, 1850, and on the 27th of the succeeding June they determined that they would not advise and consent to its ratification. These proceedings place our relations with Spain in an awkward and embarrassing position. It is more than probable that the final adjustment of these claims will devolve upon my successor.

I firmly believe that such an acquisition would contribute essentially to the well being of both countries, in all future times, as well as prove the certain means of immediately abolishing the African slave trade throughout the whole world. I would not repeat this recommendation upon the present occasion if I believed that the transfer of Cuba to the United States upon conditions highly favorable to Spain could justly tarnish the national honor of the proud and ancient Spanish monarchy. Surely no person ever attributed to the first Napoleon a disregard of the national honor of France for transferring Louisiana to the United States for a fair equivalent, both in money and commercial advantages.

*China.*—The treaty of the 18th of June, 1858, has been faithfully observed by the Chinese authorities. Arrangements have been made for the payment of the claims of our citizens in China, by that government.

*Japan.*—The ratification of the treaty with Japan, concluded at Yeddo, on the 29th of July, 1858, were exchanged at Washington on the 22d of May last, and the treaty itself was proclaimed on the succeeding day.

*Brazil.*—With the wise, conservative and liberal government of the Empire of Brazil, our relations continue to be of the most amiable character.

*New Grenada.*—The exchange of the ratifications of the Convention with the Republic of New Grenada, signed at Washington on the 10th of September, 1857, has long been delayed, from accidental causes, for which neither party is responsible. These ratifications were duly exchanged in this city, on the 5th of November last. Thus long a controversy has amicably terminated, which had become so serious at the period of my inauguration, as to require me, on the 17th of April, 1857, to direct our Minister to demand his passports and return to the United States. Under this condition, the Government of New Grenada is especially acknowledged, itself to be responsible to our citizens for damages, which were caused by the riot at Panama, on the 15th of April, 1856. These claims, together with other claims of our citizens, which have been urged in vain, are referred for adjustment to a Board of Commissioners. I submit a copy of the Convention to Congress, and recommend the legislation necessary to carry it into effect.

*Costa Rica and Nicaragua.*—Persuading efforts have been made for the adjustment of the claims of American citizens against the Government of Costa Rica, and I am happy to inform you that these have finally prevailed.

*Mexico.*—Our relations with Mexico remain in a most unsatisfactory condition. In my last two Annual Messages I discussed extensively the subject of these relations, and do not now propose to repeat at length the facts and arguments then presented. They presented conclusively that our citizens residing in Mexico, and our merchants trading thereto, had suffered a series of wrongs and outrages such as we have never patiently borne from any nation. For these our successive Ministers, invoking the faith of treaties, had, in the name of their country, persistently demanded redress and indemnification, but without the slightest effect. Indeed so confident had the Mexican authorities become of our patient endurance, that they universally believed they might commit these outrages upon American citizens with absolute impunity. Thus wrote our Minister in 1856, and expressed the opinion that nothing but a manifestation of the power of the government, and of its purpose to punish these wrongs, will avail. Afterwards, in 1857, came the adoption of a new constitution for Mexico; the election of a President, and Congress under its provisions, and the inauguration of the President. Within one short month, however, this President was expelled from the Capital by a rebellion in the army, and the supreme power of the republic was assigned to General Zuloaga. This usurper gave place to General Miramon. Under the constitution which had thus been adopted, General Juarez, as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, became the lawful President of the Republic, and it was for the maintenance of the Constitution, and his authority, derived from it, that the civil war commenced and still continues to be prosecuted. Throughout the year 1858 the Constitutional Party grew stronger and stronger. In the previous history of Mexico, a successful military revolution at the Capital had almost universally been the signal for submission throughout the Republic, but so on the present. A majority of the citizens persistently sustained the Constitutional Government.

When this was recommended in April, 1859, by the Government of the United States, its authority extended over a large majority of the Mexican States and people, including Vera Cruz, and all the other important seaports of the Republic. From that period our commerce with Mexico began to revive, and the Constitutional Government has afforded in all protection in their power. Meanwhile the Government of Miramon still held sway at the Capital and over the surrounding country and continued its outrages against the few American citizens who still had the courage to remain within its power. To cap the climax of the civil war, in April, 1859, General Marquez ordered two citizens of the United States, two of them physicians, to be seized in the hospital at that place, taken to the city, without crime and without trial. This was done, notwithstanding our unfortunate countrymen were, at that moment, engaged in the holy cause of offering relief to the soldiers of both parties, who had been wounded in the battle, when making any distinction between them. The time had arrived, in my opinion, when this Government was bound to exert its power to avenge and redress the wrongs of our citizens, and to afford them protection in Mexico. The interposing obstacle was that a portion of the country, under the sway of Miramon, could not be reached without passing over the territory under the jurisdiction of the Constitutional Government. Under these circumstances I deemed it my duty to recommend to Congress, in my last Annual Message, the employment of a sufficient military force to penetrate into the interior, where the Government of Miramon was to be found, with, or if need be, without the consent of the Juarez government, though it was not doubted that this consent could be obtained. Never have I had a clearer conviction on any subject than of the justice, as well as wisdom of such a policy. No other alternative was except the entire abandonment of our fellow citizens, who had gone to Mexico under the faith of our treaties, to the systematic injustice, cruelty and oppression of Miramon's government. Besides, it is almost certain that the simple authority to employ this force would itself have accomplished all our objects without striking a single blow.

The Constitutional Government would then, ere this, have been established at the City of Mexico, and would have been ready and willing, to the extent of its ability, to do justice. In addition, and I deem this a most important consideration, European Governments would have been deprived of all pretext to interfere in the territorial and domestic concerns of Mexico. We should thus have been relieved from the obligation of resisting, even by force,

should this become necessary, any attempts by these overments to deprive our neighboring Republic of portions of her territory, a duty from which we could not shrink without abandoning the traditional and established policy of the American people. I am happy to observe that the governments, there is no present danger, that such a contingency will happen. Having discovered that the recommendations would not be sustained by Congress, the next alternative was to accomplish some degree if possible, the same objects by treaty stipulations with the Constitutional Government. Such treaties were accordingly concluded by our late able and excellent Minister to Mexico, and on the 4th of January last were submitted to the Senate for ratification. As these have not yet received the final action of that body, it would be improper for me to present a detailed statement of their provisions. Still I may be permitted to express the opinion in advance that they are calculated to promote the agricultural, manufacturing, and commercial interests of the country, and to secure our just influence with an adjoining Republic, as to those fortunes and fate we can feel indifferent, whilst at the same time they provide for the payment of a considerable amount toward the satisfaction of the claims of our injured fellow-citizens.

**KANSAS AND UTAH.**

At the period of my inauguration, I was confronted in Kansas by a revolutionary government, existing under what is called the Topeka constitution. Its avowed object was to subvert the Territorial Government by force, and to inaugurate what was called the Topeka Government in its stead. To accomplish this object an extensive military organization was formed, and its command entrusted to the most violent and revolutionary leaders. Under these circumstances it became imperative upon the Executive, to prevent the flames of civil war from again raging in Kansas, which in the excited state of the public mind, both North and South, might have extended into the neighboring States. The hostile parties in Kansas had been inflamed against each other by emissaries both from the North and the South, to a degree of malignity without a parallel in our history. To prevent actual collision, and to assist the civil authorities in enforcing the laws, a strong detachment of the army was stationed in the Territory ready to aid the Marshal and his Deputies when lawfully called upon as a posse comitatus in the execution of civil and criminal process. Still the troubles in Kansas could not have been permanently settled without an election by the people; the ballot box is the surest arbiter of disputes among freemen. Under this conviction, every proper effort was employed to induce the hostile parties to vote at the election of delegates to frame a State Constitution, and afterwards at the election to decide whether Kansas should be a Free or a Slave State. The insurgent party refused to vote at either, but they nevertheless considered a recognition on their part of the Territorial government established by Congress, a better spirit however, seemed soon after to prevail, and the two parties met face to face at the third election held on the first Monday of January, 1859, for members of the Legislature and State officers under the Leocompton Constitution. The result was the triumph of the anti-slavery party at the polls. This decision of the ballot box proved clearly that the party were in the majority, and removed the pretext of civil war. From that time we have heard nothing of the Topeka Government, and all serious dangers of revolutionary troubles in Kansas were then at an end. The Leocompton Constitution, which had been thus recognized at this State election, by the voters of both political parties in Kansas, was transmitted, with the request that I should present it to Congress. This I could not have failed to do without violating my clearest and most sacred obligations of duty. The Constitution, and all the proceedings which preceded and followed its formation, were fair and regular on its face. I then believed, and experience has proved, that the interests of the people of Kansas would have been best secured by its admission as a State into the Union, especially as the majority within a brief period could have amended the Constitution according to their will and pleasure. If fraud existed in all or any of these proceedings, it was not for my duty, but for Congress to investigate and determine the question of fraud, and what ought to be its consequences. If at the first two elections the majority refused to vote, it cannot be pretended that this refusal to exercise the elective franchise could invalidate an election fairly held under lawful authority, even if they had not been submitted to the people, as I always desired, but the precedents are numerous of the admission of States into the Union without such submission.

It would not comport with my present purpose to review the proceedings of Congress upon the Leocompton Constitution. It is sufficient to observe, that their final action has removed the last vestige of serious revolutionary danger, and the desperate band, recently assembled under the notorious outlaw, in the southern portion of the Territory, the execution of the laws, and to plunder peaceful citizens, will, I doubt not, be speedily subdued and brought to justice. Had I treated the Leocompton Constitution as a nullity, and refused to transmit it to Congress, it is not difficult to imagine, whilst recalling the position of the country at that moment, what both in and out of the territory, from such a dereliction of duty on the part of the Executive.

Peace has also been restored within the territory of Utah, which at the commencement of my administration, was in a state of open rebellion. This was the more dangerous, as the people, animated by a fanatical spirit, and entrenched within their distant mountain fastnesses, might have made a long and formidable resistance. Cost what it might, it was necessary to bring them into subjection to the Constitution and the laws. Should policy therefore, as well as humanity, required that this object should, if possible, be accomplished without the effusion of blood. This could only be effected by sending a military force to convince the people that resistance would be hopeless, and at the same time to offer them a pardon for past offences on condition of immediate submission to the government. This policy was pursued with eminent success, and the only cause for regret is a large detachment of the army to that remote region to furnish its subsistence. Utah is now comparatively peaceful and quiet; and the military force has been withdrawn except that portion of it necessary to keep the Indians in check and to protect the emigrant trains on their way to our Pacific possessions.

**FINANCES.**

In my first annual message I promised to employ my best exertions, in co-operation with Congress, to reduce the expenditures of the government, within the limits of a wise and

judicious economy. An overflowing treasury had produced habits of prodigality and extravagance, which could only be gradually corrected. The work required both time and patience. I applied myself diligently to this task from the beginning, and was aided by the able and energetic efforts of the heads of the different executive departments. The result of our labors in this good cause did not appear in the sum total of our expenditures for the first two years, mainly in consequence of the extraordinary expenditures necessarily incurred in the Utah expedition, and a very large amount of the contingent expenses of Congress during this period. These greatly exceeded the pay and mileage of the members, for the year ending 30th of June, 1858; whilst the pay and mileage amounted to \$1,490,214 the contingent expenses to \$1,085,509, 79, and for the year ending 30th of June, 1859, whilst the pay amounted to \$859,093 66, the contingent expenses amounted to \$1,331,655 78. I am happy, however, to be able to inform you that during the last fiscal year, ending on the 30th of June, 1860, the total expenditures of the government in all its branches, legislative, executive and judicial, exclusive of public debt, were reduced to the sum of \$58,402,46 46. This, conclusively appears from the books of the Treasury, for the year ending on the 30th of June, 1858, the total expenditure, exclusive of the public debt amounted to \$71,901,129 77, and that for the year ending 30th of June, 1859, to \$68,346,226 13, while the books of the Treasury show an actual expenditure of \$59,848,474 72 for the year ending the 30th of June, 1860, including \$1,940,667 71 for the contingent expenses of Congress. There must be deducted from this amount the sum of \$4,296,099 26 with the interest upon it of \$160,000, appropriated by the act of 15th of February, 1860, for the purpose of supplying the deficiency in the revenues, and defraying the expenses of the Post Office Department for the year ending on the 30th of June, 1859. This sum, therefore, justly chargeable to the year 1859, must be deducted from the sum of \$59,848,474 72, in order to ascertain the expenditures for the year ending 30th of June, 1860, which leaves a balance for the expenditures of that year of \$55,402,46 46. The interest on the public debt including Treasury Notes for the same fiscal year ending on the 30th of June, 1860, amounted to \$3,177,314 62; which added to the above sum of \$55,402,46 46, makes the aggregate of \$58,579,780 98. It ought in justice to be observed that several of the estimates from the department for the year ending 30th of June, 1860, were reduced by Congress below what was and still is deemed compatible with the public interest. Allowing a liberal margin of \$2,500,000 for this reduction, and for other causes, it may be safely asserted that the sum of \$61,000,000, or at the most \$62,000,000 is amply sufficient to administer the government, and to pay the interest on the public debt, unless extraordinary events should hereafter render extraordinary expenditures necessary. This result has been attained in a considerable degree by the care exercised by the appropriate departments in entering into public contracts.

I have myself never interfered with the awards of any such contracts, except in a single case with the Collieries Society, deeming it my duty to use the whole responsibility, in each case, on the proper head of the Department, with the general instruction that these contracts should always be given to the lowest and best bidder. It has ever been my opinion that the public contracts are not a legitimate source of patronage, to be conferred upon personal or political favorites, but that in all such cases a public officer is bound to act for the government as a prudent individual would act for himself.

**THE AFRICAN SLAVE TRADE.**

It is with great satisfaction that I communicate the fact that, since the date of my last annual message, not a single slave has been imported into any of the States in violation of the laws prohibiting the African Slave Trade. This statement is founded upon a thorough examination and investigation of the subject. Indeed, the spirit which prevailed some time since among a portion of our fellow-citizens in favor of this trade seems to have entirely subsided.

**CENTRAL AMERICAN AFFAIRS.**

I also congratulate you upon the public sentiment which now exists against the crime of sending military expeditions within the limits of the United States, to procure territory, and make war upon the people of an offending State, with whom we are at peace. In this respect a happy change has been effected since the commencement of my Administration. It surely ought to be the prayer of every Christian and patriot that such expeditions may never receive countenance in our country, or depart from our shores. It would be a useless repetition to do more than refer to my former communications to my former recommendations in favor of the Pacific Railroad; of the grant of power to the President to employ the naval force in the vicinity for the protection of the lives and property of our fellow-citizens in transit over the Central American routes against sudden and lawless outbreaks and depredations, and also to protect American merchant vessels, their crews and cargoes, against violent and unlawful seizure and detention in the ports of Mexico and the South American Republics, when these may be in a disordered and revolutionary condition. It is my settled conviction that without such a power we do not afford that protection to those engaged in the commerce of the country which they have the right to command.

**ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.**

I again recommend to Congress the passage of a law in pursuance of the provisions of the Constitution, appointing a certain day, previous to the 4th of March, in each year of an odd number, for the election of Representatives throughout all the States. A similar power has already been exercised with general approbation in the appointment of the same day throughout the Union for holding the election of electors for President and Vice President of the United States. My attention was earnestly directed to this subject from the fact that the Thirty-Fifth Congress terminated on the 3d of March, 1859, without making the necessary appropriation for the service of the post office department. I was then forced to consider the best remedy for this omission, and an immediate call of the present Congress was the natural result. Upon enquiry, however, I ascertained that fifteen out of the thirty-three States comprising the confederacy were without representatives, and that consequently these fifteen States would be disfranchised by such a call. These fifteen States will be in the same case on the 4th of March next. Ten of them have already elected Representatives, according to existing State laws, until the beginning of the next month of October and November. In my last message, I gave warning that in a time of sudden and alarming danger the salvation of our institutions might depend upon the power of the President immediately to assemble a full Congress to meet the emergency.

modifications of the Government will require a necessity of the tariff during your present session, for the purpose of increasing the revenue. In this aspect I desire to reiterate the recommendation contained in my last two Messages in favor of imposing specific instead of ad valorem duties on all imported articles, to which these can be properly applied. From long observation and experience, I am convinced that specific duties are necessary both to protect the revenue, and to secure to our manufacturing interests that amount to incidental encouragement which unavoidably results from a revenue tariff. As an abstract proposition, it may be admitted that ad valorem duties would, in theory, be the most just and equal; but if the experience of this and all other commercial nations has demonstrated that such duties cannot be assessed and collected without great frauds upon the revenue, it is the part of wisdom to resort to specific duties. Indeed, from the very nature of an ad valorem duty this must be the result. Under it the inevitable consequence is that foreign goods will be entered at less than their true value. The Treasury will, therefore, lose the duty on the difference between their real and fictitious value, and to this extent we are defrauded. The temptations which ad valorem duties present to a dishonest importer are irresistible. His object is necessary to goods through the custom house at the very lowest valuation necessary to save them from confiscation. In this he too often succeeds, in spite of the vigilance of the revenue officers; hence the resort to false invoices, one for the purchaser and another for the custom house, and to other expedients to defraud the Government. The honest importer produces his invoice to the Collector, stating the actual price he purchased the goods abroad, not so with the dishonest importer and the American manufacturer. And here it may be observed that a very large proportion of the manufactures imported from abroad are consigned for sale to commission merchants, who are mere agents employed by the manufacturer. In such cases no actual sale has been made to fix their value. The foreign manufacturer, if he be dishonest, prepares an invoice of a low price, not at their actual value, but at the very lowest rate of our country. In this manner, the dishonest importer and the foreign manufacturer enjoy a decided advantage over the honest merchant. They are thus enabled to undersell the fair trader and drive him from the market. In fact, the operation of this system has already driven from the pursuit of honorable commerce many of that class of regular and conscientious merchant whose character, throughout the world, is the pride of our country. The remedy for these evils is to be found in specific duties, so far as this may be practicable. They dispense with any inquiry at the Custom House into the actual cost or value of the article, and it pays the precise amount of duty previously fixed by law. They present no temptation to the appraisers of foreign goods, who receive but small salaries, and are themselves independent. Besides, they conform best to the requisition of the Constitution that no preference shall be given by any regulation of commerce or revenue to the ports of one State over those of another. Under our ad valorem system, such preferences are to some extent inevitable, and complaints have often been made that the spirit of the provision has been violated by a lower appraisement of the same articles at one port than at another.

An impression singularly enough prevails to some extent that specific duties are necessarily protective duties. Nothing can be more fallacious. Great Britain glories in free trade, and yet her whole revenue from imports is at the present moment collected under a system of specific duties. It is a striking fact in this connection, that in the commercial treaty of the 24th of January, 1860, between France and England, one of the articles provides that the ad valorem duties, which it imposes shall be converted to specific duties within six months from its date, and these are to be ascertained by making an average of the prices for six months previous to that time. The reverse of the proposition would be nearer to the truth, because a much larger amount of revenue would be collected by merely converting the ad valorem duties of a tariff into equivalent specific duties. To what extent the revenues would be increased, and in what proportion the specific duty might be discriminated, Specific duties might secure to the American manufacturer the incidental protection to which he is fairly entitled under a revenue tariff, and to this surely no one would object. The framers of the existing tariff have gone further, and in a liberal spirit have discriminated in favor of large and useful branches of our manufactures, not by raising the rate of duties upon the importation of similar articles from abroad, but what is still more in effect, by admitting articles free of duty, which enter into the composition of their fabric. Under the present system it has often been truly remarked, that the incidental protection decreases when the manufacturer needs it most, and increases when he needs it least, and constitutes a sliding scale which always operates against him. The revenues of the country are subject to similar fluctuation. Instead of approaching a steady standard, as would be the case under a system of specific duties, they sink and rise with the sinking and rising prices of articles in foreign countries. It would not be difficult for Congress to arrange a system of specific duties which would afford additional stability, both to our revenue and our manufactures, and without injury or injustice to any interest of the country. This might be accomplished by ascertaining the average value of any given article for a series of years, at the place of exportation, and by simply converting the rate of ad valorem duty upon such articles into the form of specific duty. Such an arrangement could not injure the consumer; if he should pay a greater amount of duty one year, this would be counterbalanced by a less amount the next, and in the end the aggregate would be the same.

**REPORT OF THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT.**

I desire to call your immediate attention to the present condition of the Treasury, so ably and clearly presented by the Secretary in his Report to Congress, and to recommend that measures be promptly adopted to enable it to discharge its pressing obligations. The other recommendations of the report are well worthy of your favorable consideration.

**REPORTS OF THE SECRETARIES OF WAR AND NAVY, &c.**

I herewith transmit to Congress the Reports of the Secretaries of War, of the Navy, of the Interior, and of the Postmaster General. The recommendations and suggestions which they contain are highly valuable and deserve your careful attention. The Report of the Postmaster General details the circumstances under which Cornelius Vanderbilt, on my request, Ocean mails between our Atlantic and Pacific coasts. Had he not thus acted, this important intercommunication must have been suspended for at least a season. The Postmaster General had no power to make him any other compensation than the postage on the mail matter

which he might carry. It was known at the time that these postages would fall far short of an adequate compensation, as well as of the cost the Government. Mr. Vanderbilt, in a commendable spirit, was willing to rely upon the justice of Congress to make up the deficiency, and I therefore recommend that an appropriation may be granted for this purpose.

**THE CALIFORNIA LAND CLAIM.**

I should do great injustice to the Attorney General, were I to omit the mention of the distinguished services in the measures adopted by government against numerous and unfounded claims to land in California, purporting to have been made by the Mexican Government previous to the treaty of cession. The successful opposition to these claims has saved to the United States public property worth many millions of dollars, and to individuals holding title under them to at least an equal amount.

**THE FAMINE IN KANSAS.**

It has been represented to me, from sources which I deem reliable, that the inhabitants in several portions of Kansas have been reduced nearly to a state of starvation, and that the almost total failure of their crops of the harvest in every other portion of the country have been abundant. The prospect before them for the approaching winter is well calculated to elicit the sympathies of every heart. The destitution appears to be so general that it cannot be relieved by private contributions, and they are in such indigent circumstances as to be unable to purchase the necessaries of life for themselves. Under the subject to Congress. If any constitutional measure for their relief can be devised, I would recommend its adoption. I cordially invite you to your favorable regard the interest of the people of this district. They are especially entitled to your consideration, especially since, unlike the people of the States, they can appeal to no Government except the Union.

**JAMES BUCHANAN.**  
WASHINGTON, December 4, 1860.

**The Alleghenian.**

OUR COUNTRY.

RIGHT OR WRONG.

WHEN RIGHT, TO BE KEPT RIGHT; WHEN WRONG, TO BE SET RIGHT.

**EBRENSBURG.**

THURSDAY DECEMBER 14

**The President's Message.**

To the exclusion of our usual infinite variety, we this week give way to the Message of President Buchanan. We do not do this for the reason that we endorse his peculiar views with regard to the great political topics of the day, neither because that we believe his reasoning and logical conclusions to be just and valid, but because we know that the PEOPLE desire to see what the Old Public Functionary has to say about matters and things in general. Well, you have his final utterance what you can make of it.

The *Pittsburg Dispatch*, in some remarks on this last official document of the renowned J. B., says that one fact is plainly apparent, which is, that the President is and always has been a partisan—he cannot possibly bring himself up to the scope of a fair, magnanimous and comprehensive view of the rights and wrongs of the feelings and sympathies of both sections of the Union. He leans now, as always hitherto, far over to the Southern side—taking a Southern view of the causes of Disunion, and proposing unreasonable concessions from the North, without responding ones from the South. He is still partisan on the Kansas question, and sticks to "Leocompton" in the face of the overwhelming rebuke of his course on the bill, even from his own party. In a word, on all questions in debate between them and the Opposition, he writes more like an advocate of party than a magnanimous Executive of a great Nation.

With the exception of a slight abridging of a portion of the Foreign Relations Message is entire.

**CLEARFIELD COUNTY BANK.**—The *Raftsmen's Journal* says that this institution was to go into operation last week, the notes having been procured from the Auditor General, by whom they are countersigned. The notes, in our opinion, are really beautiful. The vignette of the '59 represents a raft, with the hands "pulling it off" the bank of the stream. A woman and child are also seated on the raft, alongside of the shanty. The vignette on the X's is a forest scene—men cutting down trees, and a saw mill in the distance. This bank is one of the soundest in the State, as State stock has been deposited with the Auditor General for the whole amount of notes that will be issued, less 5 per cent., as provided by law.

Mr. Slidell, Senator from Louisiana, is openly for secession, but conceals that if his State goes out, the free navigation of the Mississippi shall be secured to all the States of the present Union.

Few and short—editorial's this week.