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DUCE AMOR PATRIE PRODESSE CIVIBUS.—"THE LOVE OF MY COUNTRY LEADS ME TO BE OF ADVANTAGE TO MY FELLOW-CITIZENS."

BY ROBERT W. MIDDLETON,
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The President's Message.

MESSAGE

From the President of the United States to both
Houses of Congress, at the First Session of the
22d Congress, delivered on Tuesday last:

Fellow-Citizens of the Senate
and House of Representatives:

The representation of the people has been re-
newed for the twenty-second time since the
constitution they formed has been in force. For
half a century, the chief magistrates, who have
been successively chosen have made their annual
communications of the state of the nation to its
representatives. Generally, these communica-
tions have been of the most gratifying nature,
testifying an advance in all the improvements of
social, and all the securities of political life. But
frequently, and justly, as you have been called on
to be grateful for the bounties of Providence, at
few periods have they been more abundantly or
extensively bestowed than at the present; rarely,
if ever, have we had greater reason to congratulate
each other on the continued and increasing
prosperity of our beloved country.

Agriculture, the first and most important occu-
pation of man, has compensated the labors of the
husbandman with plentiful crops of all the varied
products of our extensive country. Manufactures
have been established, in which the funds of the
capitalist find a profitable investment, and which
give employment and subsistence to a numerous
and increasing body of industrious and dexterous
mechanics. The laborer is rewarded by high
wages, in the construction of works of internal
improvement, which are extending with unprece-
dented rapidity. Science is steadily penetrating
the recesses of nature and disclosing her secrets,
while the ingenuity of free minds is subjecting
the elements to the power of man, and making
each new conquest auxiliary to his comfort. By
our mails, whose speed is regularly increased, and
whose routes are every year extended, the
communication of public intelligence and private
business is rendered frequent and safe—the inter-
course between distant cities, which it formerly
required weeks to accomplish, is now effected in
a few days; and in the construction of rail-roads
and the application of steam power, we have a
reasonable prospect that the extreme parts of our
country will be so much approximated, and those
most isolated by the obstacles of nature, rendered
so accessible as to remove an apprehension some-
times entertained, that the great extent of the U-
nion would endanger its permanent existence.

If, from the satisfactory view of our agriculture,
manufactures and internal improvements, we turn
to the state of our navigation and trade with
foreign nations and between the States, we shall
scarcely find less cause for gratulation. A ben-
eficent Providence has provided, for their exercise
and encouragement, an extensive coast indented
by capacious bays, noble rivers, inland seas, with
a country productive of every material for ship
building, and every commodity for gainful com-
merce, and filled with a population, active, intel-
ligent, well informed, and fearless of danger.—
These advantages are not neglected; and an im-
pulse has lately been given to commercial enter-
prise, which fills our ship yards with new con-
structions, encourages all the arts and branches
of industry connected with them, crowds the
wharves of our cities with vessels, and covers the
most distant seas with our canvass.

Let us be grateful for these blessings to the ben-
eficent Being who has conferred them, and who
offers us to indulge a reasonable hope of their con-
tinuance and extension, while we neglect not the
means by which they may be preserved. If we
may dare to judge of His future designs by the
manner in which His past favors have been be-
stowed, he has made our national prosperity to
depend on the preservation of our liberties—our
national force on our federal union—and our in-
dividual happiness on the maintenance of our
State rights and wise institutions. If we are pros-
perous at home, and respected abroad, it is be-
cause we are free, united, industrious and obedi-
ent to the laws. While we continue so, we shall,
by the blessing of Heaven, go on in the happy
career we have begun, and which His blessing
in the short period of our political existence, from
a population of three to thirteen millions—from
thirteen separate Colonies to twenty-four United
States—four weaknesses to strength—from a rank
scarcely marked in the scale of Nations to a high
place in their respect.

The last advantage is one that has resulted, in
a great degree, from the principles which have
guided our intercourse with Foreign Powers,
since we have assumed an equal station among
them, and hence, the annual account which the
Executive renders to the country, of the manner
in which that branch of his duties have been ful-
filled, proves instructive and salutary.

The pacific and wise policy of our Government
kept us in a state of neutrality during the wars
that have, at different periods since our political
existence, been carried on by other powers: but
this policy while it gave activity and extent to our
commerce, exposed it in the same proportion to
injuries from belligerent nations. Hence have a-
risen claims of indemnity for those injuries. Eng-
land, France, Spain, Holland, Sweden, Denmark,
Naples, and lately Portugal, had all in a greater
or less degree infringed our neutral rights. De-
mands for reparation were made upon all. They
have had in all, and continue to have in some
cases, a leading influence on the nature of our re-
lations with the powers on whom they are made.

Of the claims upon England it is unnecessary
to speak, further than to say, that the state of
things to which their prosecution and denial gave
rise, has been succeeded by arrangements pro-
ductive of mutual good feeling and amicable re-
lations between the two countries, which it is hoped
will not be interrupted. One of these arrange-
ments is that relating to the colonial trade, which
was communicated to Congress at the last session;
and although the short period during which it has
been in force will not enable me to form an accu-
rate judgment of its operation, there is every
reason to believe that it will prove highly beneficial.
The trade thereby authorized has employed, to the
30th September last, upwards of 30,000 tons of A-
merican, and 15,000 tons of Foreign shipping in
the outward voyages; and, in the inward, nearly
an equal amount of American, and 20,000 only
of Foreign tonnage. Advantages, too, have resulted
to our agricultural interests from the state of the
trade between Canada and our Territories and
States bordering on the St. Lawrence and the
Lakes, which may prove more than equivalent to
the loss sustained by the discrimination made in
favor of the trade of the Northern colonies with the
West Indies.

After our transition from the state of col-
onies to that of an independent nation, many
points were found necessary to be settled
between us and G. Britain. Among them,
were the demarcation of boundaries, not de-
scribed with sufficient precision in the Tre-

ty of Peace. Some of the lines that divide
the States and Territories of the U. S. from
the British Provinces, have been definitively
fixed. That, however, which separates
us from the Provinces of Canada and New
Brunswick to the North & the East, was still
in dispute when I came into office. But I
found arrangements made for its settlement,
over which I had no control. The commis-
sioners who had been appointed under the
provisions of the Treaty of Ghent, hav-
ing been unable to agree, a convention was
made with Great Britain by my immediate
predecessor in office, with the advice and
consent of the Senate, by which it was a-
greed "that the points of difference which
have arisen in the settlement of the bound-
ary line between the American and British
dominions, as described in the 5th Article
of the Treaty of Ghent, shall be referred as
therein provided, to some friendly sovereign
or state, who shall be invited to investigate
and make a decision upon such points of dif-
ference;" and the King of the Netherlands
having, by the late President and his Brit-
annic Majesty, been designated as such
friendly sovereign, it became my duty to
carry, with good faith, the agreement so
made into full effect. To this end I caused
all the measures to be taken which were ne-
cessary to a full exposition of our case to
the Sovereign Arbitrator; and nominated a Min-
ister Plenipotentiary to his court, a distin-
guished citizen of the State most interested
in the question, and who had been one of
the agents previously employed for settling
the controversy. On the 10th day of Janu-
ary last, His Majesty the King of the Ne-
therlands, delivered to the Plenipotentiaries
of the U. States, and of G. Britain, his writ-
ten opinion on the case referred to him.—
The papers in relation to the subject, will
be communicated, by a special messenger,
to the proper branch of the Government,
with the perfect confidence that its wisdom
will adopt such measures as will secure an
amicable settlement of the controversy,
without infringing any constitution right of
the States immediately interested.

It affords me satisfaction to inform you
that suggestions, made by my direction, to
the Charge d'Affaires of His Britannic Ma-
jesty, to this Government, have had their
desired effect in producing the release of
certain American citizens, who were impris-
oned for setting up the authority of the
State of Maine, at a place in the disputed
Territory under the actual jurisdiction of
His Britannic Majesty. From this, and the
assurances I have received, of the desire of
the local authorities to avoid any cause of
collision, I have the best hopes that a good
understanding will be kept up until it is con-
firmed by the final disposition of the subject.

The amicable relations which now subsist
between the United States and Great
Britain, the increasing intercourse between
their citizens, and the rapid obliteration of
unfriendly prejudices to which former events
naturally gave rise—concur to present
this as a fit period for renewing our endeav-
ors to provide against the recurrence of
causes of irritation, which, in the event of
war between Great Britain and any other
power, would inevitably endanger our peace.
Animated by the sincerest desire to avoid
such a state of things, and peacefully secure
under all possible circumstances, the rights
and honor of the country, I have given such
instructions to the Minister lately sent to the
Court of London, as will evince that desire;
and if met by a correspondent disposition,
which we cannot doubt, will put an end to
causes of collision, which, without advan-
tage to either, tend to estrange from each
other, two nations who have every motive
to preserve, not only peace, but an inter-
course of the most amicable nature.

In my Message at the opening of the last
Session of Congress, I expressed a confident
hope that the justice of our claims upon
France, urged as they were with persever-
ance and signal ability by our Minister there
would finally be acknowledged. This hope
has been realized. A Treaty has been signed
which will immediately be laid before
the Senate for its approbation; and which
containing stipulations that require Legisla-
tive acts, must have the concurrence of both
houses before it can be carried into effect.
By it, the French Government engage to
pay a sum which, if not quite equal to that
which may be found due to our citizens, will
yet, it is believed, under all circumstances,
be deemed satisfactory by those interested.
The offer of a gross sum, instead of the sat-
isfaction of each individual claim, was ac-
cepted, because the only alternatives were a
rigorous exaction of the whole amount stat-
ed to be due on each claim, which might,
in some instances, be exaggerated by design
in others overrated through error, and
which therefore it would have been both un-
gracious and unjust to have insisted on, or a
settlement by a mixed commission, to which
the French negotiators were very averse,
and which experience in other cases had
shown to be dilatory, and often wholly in-
adequate to the end. A comparatively small
sum is stipulated on our part, to go to the
extinction of all claims by French citizens
on our Government; and a reduction of du-
ties on our Cotton and their Wines has been
agreed on, as a consideration for the renun-
ciation of an important claim for commer-
cial privileges, under the construction they
gave to the Treaty for the cession of Lou-
isiana.

Should this Treaty receive the proper
sanction, a source of irritation will be stop-
ped, that has for so many years, in some
degree alienated from each other two nations
who from interest, as well as the remem-
brance of early associations, ought to cherish
the most friendly relations,—an encourage-
ment will be given for perseverance in the
demands of justice, by this new proof, that,
if steadily pursued, they will be listened to
—and admittance will be offered to those
Powers, if any, which may be inclined to
evade them, that they will never be aban-
doned. Above all, a just confidence will be
inspired in our fellow citizens, that their
Government will exert all the powers with
which they have invested it, in support of
their just claims upon Foreign nations; at
the same time that the frank acknowl-
edgment and provision for the payment of those
which were addressed to our equity, altho'
unsupported by legal proof, affords a practi-
cal illustration of our submission to the di-
vine rule of doing to others what we desire
they should do unto us.

Sweden and Denmark having made com-
pensation for the irregularities committed
by their vessels, or in their ports, to the per-
fect satisfaction of the parties concerned;
and having renewed the Treaties of com-
merce entered into with them, our political
and commercial relations with those Powers
continue on the most friendly footing.

With Spain, our differences up to the 22d
of February, 1819, were settled by the Tre-
aty of Washington of that date; but at a sub-
sequent period, our commerce with the States
formerly Colonies of Spain, on the continent
of America, was annoyed and frequently
interrupted by her public and private armed
ships. They captured many of our vessels
prosecuting a lawful commerce, and sold
them and their cargoes; and at one time, to
our demands for restoration and indemnity,
opposed the allegation, that they were taken
in the violation of a blockade of all the ports
of those States. This blockade was declara-
tory only, and the inadequacy of the force
to maintain it, was so manifest, that this
allegation was varied to a charge of trade
in contraband of war. This, in its turn,
was also found untenable; and the Minister
whom I sent with instructions to press for
the reparation that was due to our injured
fellow citizens, has transmitted an answer
to his demand, by which the captures are
declared to have been legal, and are justified
because the independence of the States of
America never having been acknowledged by
Spain, she had a right to prohibit trade
with them under her old colonial laws. This
ground of defence was contradictory, not
only to those which had formerly alleged,
but to the uniform practice and established
laws of nations; and had been abandoned
by Spain herself in the convention which
granted indemnity to British subjects for cap-
tures made at the same time, under the same
circumstances, and for the same allega-
tions with those of which we complain.

I however indulge the hope that further
reflection will lead to other views, and feel
confident that when His Catholic Majesty
shall be convinced of the justice of the claim
his desire to preserve friendly relations be-
tween the two countries, which it is my
earnest endeavor to maintain, will induce
him to accede to our demand. I have there-
fore despatched a special messenger with
instructions to our Minister to bring the
case once more to his consideration; to the
end that if, which I cannot bring myself to
believe, the same decision; that cannot but
be deemed an unfriendly denial of justice,
should be persisted in, the matter may, be-
fore your adjournment, be laid before you,
the constitutional judges of what is proper
to be done when negotiation for redress of
injury fails.

The conclusion of a Treaty for indemnity
with France seemed to present a favor-
able opportunity to renew our claims of a
similar nature on other powers; and particu-
larly in the case of those upon Naples,
more especially, as in the course of former
negotiations with that power, our failure to
induce France to render us justice, was used
as an argument against us. The desires of
the merchants who were the principal suf-
ferers have therefore been acceded to, and
a mission has been instituted for the special
purpose of obtaining for them a reparation
already long delayed. This measure
having been resolved on, it was put in ex-
ecution waiting for the meeting of Congress,
because the state of Europe created an ap-
prehension of events that might have ren-
dered our application ineffectual.

Our demands upon the Government of
the Two Sicilies are of a peculiar nature;
The injuries on which they are founded are
not denied, nor are the atrocity and perfidy
under which those injuries were perpetrat-
ed attempted to be extenuated. The sole
ground on which indemnity has been refused
is the alleged illegality of the tenure by
which the monarch, who made the seizures
hold his crown. This defence, always un-
founded in any principle of the law of na-
tions—now universally abandoned, even by
those powers upon whom the responsibility
for acts of past rulers bore the most heavily,
will unquestionably be given up by His Sic-
ilian Majesty; whose councils will receive
an impulse from that high sense of honor
and regard of justice which are said to char-
acterize him; and I feel the fullest confi-
dence that the talents of the citizen com-

missioned for that purpose will place before
him the just claims of our injured citizens
in such a light as will enable me, before
your adjournment, to announce that they
have been adjusted and secured. Precise in-
structions, to the effect of bringing the ne-
gotiation to a speedy issue, have been given
and will be obeyed.

In the late blockade of Terceira, some of
the Portuguese fleet captured several of our
vessels and committed other excesses for
which reparation was demanded; and I was
on the point of despatching an armed force,
to prevent any recurrence of a similar vio-
lence and protect our citizens in the prose-
cution of their lawful commerce, when offi-
cial assurances on which I relied, made the
sailing of the ships unnecessary. Since that
period frequent promises have been made
that full indemnity shall be given for the
injuries inflicted and the losses sustained. In
the performance there has been some, per-
haps unavoidable, delay; but I have the full-
est confidence that my earnest desire that
this business may at once be closed, which
our Minister has been instructed strongly to
express, will very soon be gratified. I have
the better ground for this hope, from the
evidence of a friendly disposition which that
Government has shewn by an actual reduc-
tion in the duty on rice, the produce of our
Southern States, authorising the anticipation
that this important article of our export will
soon be admitted on the same footing with
that produced by the most favored nation.

With the other powers of Europe, we
have fortunately had no cause of discussions
for the redress of injuries. With the Em-
pire of the Russias, our political connexion
is of the most friendly, and our commercial
of the most liberal kind. We enjoy the ad-
vantages of navigation and trade, given to
the most favored nation: but it has not yet
suited their policy, or perhaps has not been
found convenient from other considerations,
to give stability and reciprocity to those
privileges, by a commercial Treaty. The
ill-health of the Minister last year charged
with making a proposition for that arrange-
ment, did not permit him to remain at St.
Petersburgh; and the attention of that Gov-
ernment, during the whole of the period
since his departure, having been occupied
by the war in which it was engaged, we
have been assured that nothing could have
been effected by his presence. A Minister
will soon be nominated, as well to effect
this important object, as to keep up the re-
lations of amity and good understanding of
which we have received so many assurances
and proofs from His Imperial Majesty and
the Emperor his predecessor.

The Treaty with Austria is opening to
us an important trade with the hereditary
dominions of the Emperor, the value of
which has been hitherto little known, and
of course not sufficiently appreciated.—
While our commerce finds an entrance in-
to the South of Germany by means of this
Treaty, those we have formed with the
Hanseatic Towns and Prussia, and others,
now in negotiation, will open that vast coun-
try to the enterprising of our merchants on
the North; a country abounding in all the
materials for a mutually beneficial com-
merce, filled with enlightened and industri-
ous inhabitants, holding an important place
in the politics of Europe, and to which we
owe so many valuable citizens. The rati-
fication of the Treaty with the Porte was
sent to be exchanged by the gentleman ap-
pointed our Charge d'Affaires to that Court.
Some difficulties occurred on his arrival,
but the date of his last official despatch, he
supposed they had been obviated, and that
there was every prospect of the exchange
being speedily effected.

This finishes the connected view I have
thought it proper to give of our political
and commercial relations in Europe. Ev-
ery effort in my power will be continued to
strengthen and extend them by Treaties
founded on principle of the most perfect re-
ciprocity of interest, neither asking nor con-
ceding any exclusive advantage, but libera-
ting as far as it lies in my power the activ-
ity and industry of our fellow citizens from
the shackles which foreign restrictions may
impose.

To China and the East Indies, our com-
merce continues in its usual extent and with
increased facilities, which the credit and
capital of our merchants afford, by substitu-
ing bills for payments in specie. A daring
outrage having been committed in those
seas by the plunder of one of our merchant-
men engaged in the pepper trade at a port
in Sumatra, and the piratical perpetrators
belonging to tribes in such a state of society,
that the usual course of proceedings between
civilized nations could not be pursued, I
forthwith despatched a Frigate with orders
to require immediate satisfaction for the in-
jury, and indemnity to the sufferers.

Few changes have taken place in our con-
nections with the independent States of A-
merica since my last communication to Con-
gress. The ratification of a Commercial
Treaty with the United Republics of Mexico
has been for some time under deliberation
in their Congress, but was still undecided at
the date of our last despatches. The un-
happy civil commotions that have prevailed
there, were undoubtedly the cause of the de-
lay; but as the Government is now said to
be tranquilized, we hope soon to receive the
ratification of the Treaty, and an arrange-
ment for the demarcation of the boundaries

In the mean time an impor-
tant trade has been opened, with mutual
benefit, from St. Louis in the State of Mis-
souri, by caravans, to the interior provinces
of Mexico. This commerce is protected in
its progress through the Indian countries by
the troops of the United States, which have
been permitted to escort the caravans, be-
yond our boundaries to the settled part of
the Mexican territory.

From Central America I have received
assurances of the most friendly kind, and a
gratifying application for our good offices to
remove a supposed indisposition towards
that Government in a neighboring State;
this application was immediately and suc-
cessfully complied with. They gave us al-
so the pleasing intelligence that differences
which had prevailed in their internal affairs
had been peaceably adjusted. Our Treaty
with this Republic continues to be faithfully
observed and promises a great and benefi-
cial commerce between the two countries; a
commerce of the greatest importance, if the
magnificent project of a ship canal through
the dominions of that State, from the Atlan-
tic to the Pacific Ocean, now in serious con-
templation, shall be executed.

I have great satisfaction in communi-
cating the success which has attended the ex-
ertions of our Minister in Colombia, to pro-
cure a very considerable reduction in the
duties of our flour in that Republic. In-
demnity also, has been stipulated for injuries
received by our merchants from illegal seiz-
ures; and renewed assurances are given that
the Treaty between the two countries shall
be faithfully observed.

Chili and Peru seem to be still threatened
with civil commotions; and until they shall
be settled disorders may naturally be appre-
hended, requiring the constant presence of a
Naval force in the Pacific Ocean, to protect
our fisheries and guard our commerce.

The disturbances that took place in the
Empire of Brazil, previously to, and im-
mediately consequent upon, the abdication of
the late Emperor; necessarily suspended any
effectual application for the redress of some
past injuries suffered by our citizens from
that Government, while they have been the
cause of others, in which all foreigners seem
to have participated. Instructions have
been given to our Minister there, to press
for indemnity due for losses occasioned by
these irregularities; and to take care that
our fellow-citizens shall enjoy all the privi-
leges stipulated in their favor, by the Treaty
lately made between the two powers, all
which, the good intelligence that prevails
between our Minister at Rio Janeiro and the
Regency, gives us the best reason to expect.

I should have placed Buenos Ayres in the
list of South American powers in respect to
which nothing of importance affecting us
was to be communicated, but for occurrences
which have lately taken place at the Falk-
land Islands, in which the name of that re-
public has been used to cover with a show of
authority, acts injurious to our commerce,
and to the property and liberty of our fel-
low-citizens. In the course of the present
year, one of our vessels engaged in the pur-
suit of a trade which we have always en-
joyed, without molestation, has been captured
by a band acting, as they pretend, under the
authority of the Government of Buenos Ay-
res. I have therefore given orders for the
despatch of an armed vessel, to join our
squadron in those seas, and aid in affording
all lawful protection to our trade which shall
be necessary; and shall without delay send a
Minister to inquire into the nature of the cir-
cumstances, and also of the claim, if any,
that is set up by that Government, to those
Islands. In the mean time I submit the
case to the consideration of Congress, to the
end that they may clothe the Executive with
such authority and means as they may deem
necessary for providing a force adequate to
the complete protection of our fellow-citizens
fishing and trading in those seas.

This rapid sketch of our foreign relations
it is hoped, fellow-citizens, may be of some
use in so much of your legislation as may
bear on that important subject; while it af-
fords to the country at large a source of high
gratification in the contemplation of our po-
litical and commercial connexion with the
rest of the world. At peace with all—hav-
ing subjects of future difference with few,
and those susceptible of easy adjustment—
extending our commerce gradually on all
sides, and on none by any but the most lib-
eral and mutually beneficial means; we may,
by the blessing of Providence, hope for all
that national prosperity which can be deriv-
ed from an intercourse with foreign nations,
guided by those eternal principles of justice
and reciprocal good will, which are binding
as well upon States, as the individuals of
whom they are composed.

I have great satisfaction in making this
statement of our affairs, because the course
of our national policy enables me to do it
without any indiscreet exposure of what in
other governments is usually concealed from
the people. Having none but a straight
forward open course to pursue—guided by
a single principle that will bear the strong-
est light—we have happily no political com-
binations to form, no alliances to entangle
us, no complicated interests to conceal; and
in subjecting all we have done to the consid-
eration of our citizens, and to the inspection
of the world, we give no advantage to other
nations, and lay ourselves open to no injury.
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