

AMERICAN CITIZEN.

"Let us have Faith that Right makes Might; and in that Faith let us, to the end, dare to do our duty as we understand it"—A. LINCOLN.

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The President's Message. Fellow Citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives:

Again the blessings of health and abundant harvests claim our profound gratitude to Almighty God.

The condition of our foreign affairs is remarkably satisfactory. Mexico continues to be a theatre of civil war. While our political relations with that country have undergone no change, we have at the same time strictly maintained neutrality between the belligerents.

At the request of the States of Costa Rica and Nicaragua a competent engineer has been authorized to make a survey of the river San Juan and the port of San Juan. It is a source of much satisfaction that the difficulties, which for a moment excited some political apprehensions, and caused a closing of the inter-oceanic transit route have been amicably adjusted, and that there is a good prospect that the routes will soon be re-opened with an increase of capacity and adaptation. We could not exaggerate either the commercial or the political importance of that great improvement.

It would be doing injustice to an important South American State, not to acknowledge the directness, frankness and cordiality with which the United States of Columbia have entered into intimate relations with this Government. A Claims Convention has been constituted, to complete the unfinished work of the one which closed its sessions in 1861.

The new liberal Constitution of Venezuela, having gone into effect with the universal acquiescence of the people, the government under it has been recognized, and diplomatic intercourse with it has been opened in a cordial and friendly spirit.

The long deferred Avis Island claim has been satisfactorily paid and discharged. Mutual payments have been made of the late Joint Commission for the settlement of claims between the United States and Peru. An earnest and cordial friendship continues to exist between the two countries, and such efforts as were in my power have been used to remove misunderstanding and avert threatened war between Peru and Spain.

Our relations are of the most friendly nature with Chili, the Argentine Republic, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Paraguay, San Salvador and Hayti. During the past year, no differences of any kind have arisen with any of these Republics, and on the other hand their sympathies with the United States are constantly expressed.

The claim arising from the seizure of the cargo of the brig *Macedonia*, in 1861, has been paid in full by the government of Chili. The difficulty with the Spanish coast of San Domingo is apparently without any prospect of an early close. Official correspondence has been freely opened with Liberia, and it gives us a pleasing view of the social and political condition of that Republic. It is expected to derive new vigor from American influence, improved by the rapid disappearance of slavery in the United States.

I solicit your authority to furnish the Republic a gunboat at a moderate cost, to be reimbursed to the United States by instalments. Such a vessel is needed for the safety of that State against the African race, and it would be more effective in arresting the African slave trade than a squadron in our own hands.

The possession of the least organized naval force should stimulate a generous ambition in the Republic, and the confidence which we should manifest by furnishing it would win favor and forbearance towards the colony from all civilized nations.

The proposed overland telegraph between America and Europe, by way of Behring's Straits and Asiatic Russia, which was sanctioned by Congress at the last session, has been undertaken under very favorable circumstances by an association of American citizens, with the cordial good will and support as well of this government as of those of Great Britain and Russia. Assurances have been received from most of the South American States of their high appreciation of the enterprise and their readiness to cooperate in constructing lines tributary to this world-encircling communication.

I learn with much satisfaction that the noble design of a telegraphic communication between the eastern coast of America and Great Britain, has been renewed with full expectation of its early accomplishment. Thus it is hoped that with the return of domestic peace, the country will be able to resume with energy and advantage her former high career of commerce and civilization.

Our very popular and estimable representative in Egypt, died in April last. An unpleasant altercation which arose between the temporary incumbent of the office and the government of the Pacha,

resulted in a suspension of intercourse. The difficulty was promptly settled on the arrival of his successor in the consulate, and our relations with Egypt, as well as the relations with the Barbary powers, are entirely satisfactory.

The rebellion which has so long been flagrant in China, has at last been suppressed with the co-operating good offices of this government, and of the other commercial States.

The Judicial Consular establishment has become very difficult and onerous, and it will need legislative action to adapt it to the extension of our commerce and to the more intimate intercourse which has been instituted with the government and people of that vast empire. China seems to be accepting with hearty good will the conventional laws which regulate commerce and social intercourse among the Western nations.

Owing to the peculiar situation of Japan and the anomalous form of its government, the action of that Empire in performing treaty stipulations, is inconsistent and capricious; nevertheless good progress has been effected by the western powers moving with enlightened concert. Our own peculiar claims have been allowed or put in course of settlement, and the inland sea has been reopened to commerce. There is reason also to believe that these proceedings have increased rather than diminished the friendship of Japan towards the United States.

The ports of Norfolk, Fernandina and Pensacola have been opened by proclamation. It is hoped that foreign merchants will now consider whether it is not safer and more profitable to themselves, as well as just to the United States, to resort to these and other open ports, than it is to pursue, through many hazards, and at vast cost, a contraband trade with other ports which are closed—if not by actual military operation, at least by a lawful and effective blockade. For myself, I have no doubt of the power and duty of the Executive, under the law of nations, to exclude enemies of the human race from an asylum in the United States. If Congress should think that the proceedings in such cases lack the authority of law, or ought to be further repudiated by it, I recommend that provision be made for effectually preventing foreign slave traders from acquiring domicil facilities for their criminal occupation in our country.

It is possible that if it were a new and open question, the maritime powers, with the light they now enjoy, would not concede the privileges of a naval helligerent to the insurgents of the United States, destitute as they are, and always have been, equally of ships and of ports and harbors.

Disloyal emissaries have been neither less assiduous nor more successful during the last year than they were before that time in their efforts, under favor of that privilege, to embroil our country in foreign wars. The desire and determination of the maritime States to defeat that design are believed to be as sincere, and cannot be more earnest than Europe; nevertheless, unforeseen political difficulties have arisen, especially in Brazilian and British ports, and on the north-western boundary of the United States, which have required, and are likely to continue to require, the practice of constant vigilance and a just and conciliatory spirit on the part of the United States, as well as of the nations concerned and their governments.

Commissioners have been appointed under the treaty with Great Britain on the adjustment of the claims of the Hudson Bay and Puget's Sound agricultural companies in Oregon, and are now proceeding in the execution of the trust assigned them.

In view of the insecurity of life in the region adjacent to the Canadian border, by the recent assaults and depredations committed by inimical and desperate persons who are harbored there, it has been thought proper to give notice, that after the expiration of six months, the period constitutionally stipulated in the existing arrangements with Great Britain, the United States, must hold themselves at liberty to increase their naval armament upon the lakes, if they shall find that proceeding necessary.

The condition of the border will necessarily come into consideration, in connection with the question of continuing or modifying the right of transit from Canada through the United States, as well as the regulation of imports, which were temporarily established by the reciprocity treaty of the fifth of June, 1854. I desire, however, to be understood while making this statement, that the colonial authorities are not deemed to be intentionally unjust or unfriendly toward the United States; but on the contrary, there is every reason to expect that with the ap-

proval of the Imperial Government, they will take the necessary measures to prevent new incursions across the border.

The act passed at the last session for the encouragement of immigration has, as far as was possible, been put into operation. It seems to need an amendment which will enable the officers of the government to prevent the practice of frauds against the immigrants while on their way, and on their arrival in the ports, so as to secure them here a free choice of avocations and places of settlement. A liberal disposition towards this great national policy is manifested by most of the European States, and it ought to be reciprocated, on our part, by giving the immigrants effective national protection. I regard our immigrants as one of the principal replenishing streams which are appointed by Providence to repair the ravages of internal war and its wastes of national strength and health.

All that is necessary is to secure the flow of that stream in its present fullness, and to that end the government, must in every way, make it manifest that it neither needs or designs to impose involuntary military service upon those who come from other lands to cast their lot in our country.

The financial affairs of the government have been successfully administered during the last year. The legislation of the last session of Congress has beneficially affected the revenue, although sufficient time has not yet elapsed to experience the full effect of several of the provisions of the acts of Congress imposing increased taxation.

The receipts during the year, from all sources, upon the basis of warrants signed by the Secretary of the Treasury, including loans, and the balance in the treasury on the first day of July, 1863, were \$1,394,796,907 62; and the aggregate disbursements upon the same basis, were \$1,298,956,101 89—leaving a balance in the treasury, as shown by warrants, of \$95,739,905 73. Deduct from these amounts the amount of the principal of the public debt redeemed, and the amount of issues in substitution thereof, and the actual operations of the treasury were: receipts \$884,076,616 87; disbursements, \$854,284,087 85—which leaves a cash balance in the treasury of \$18,842,558 71.

Of receipts, there were derived from customs, \$102,316,152 99; from land, \$58,333 29; from direct taxes, \$475,648 95; from internal revenue, \$109,741,131 10; from miscellaneous sources, \$17,511, 443 19; and from loans applied to actual expenditures, including the former balance, \$623,443,029 13.

There were disbursed for the civil service \$27,905,599 46; for pensions and Indians, \$5,417,930 97; for the War Department, \$6,791,812 97; for the Navy Department, \$85,733,292 79; for interest of the public debt, \$53,680,421 69—making an aggregate of \$865,234,987 86; and leaving a balance in the treasury of \$18,842,558 71, as before stated, for the actual receipts and disbursements for the first quarter, and the estimated receipts and disbursements for the three remaining quarters of the current fiscal year.

For the general operations of the treasury in detail, I refer you to the report of the Secretary of the Treasury. I concur with him in the opinion that the proportion of the moneys required to meet the expenses consequent upon the war, derived from taxation, should be still further increased, and I earnestly invite your attention to this subject, to the end that there may be such additional legislation as shall be required to meet the just expectations of the Secretary. The public debt on the first day of July last, as appears by the books of the Treasury, amounted to one billion seven hundred and forty millions six hundred and ninety thousand four hundred and eighty-nine dollars and forty-nine cents. Probably, should the war continue for another year, that amount may be increased by not far from five hundred millions. Held as it is for the most part by our own people, it has become a substantial branch of national, though private property.

For obvious reasons, the more nearly this property can be distributed among all the people, the better. To favor such general distribution, greater inducements to become owners might, perhaps, with good effect and without injury, be presented to persons of limited means. With this view I suggest whether it might not be both expedient and competent for Congress to provide that a limited amount of some future issue of public securities might be held by any bona fide purchaser except from taxation, and from seizure for debt, under such instructions and limitation as might be necessary to guard against the abuse of so important a privilege. This would enable prudent persons to lay aside a small annuity present

a possible day of want. Privileges like these would render the possession of such securities to the amount limited, most desirable to every person of small means who might be able to save enough for the purpose. The great advantage of citizens being creditors as well as debtors with relation to the public debt, is obvious. Men readily perceive that they cannot be much oppressed by a debt which they owe to themselves.

The public debt on the first day of July last, although somewhat exceeding the estimate of the Secretary of the Treasury, made to Congress, at the commencement of last session, falls short of the estimate of that officer made in the preceding December, as to its probable amount at the beginning of this year, by the sum of \$3,895,079,333. This fact exhibits a satisfactory condition and conduct of the operations of the Treasury.

The National Banking system is proving to be acceptable to capitalists and to people. On the 25th of November, five hundred and eighty-four national banks had been organized, a considerable number of which were conversions from State banks. Changes from the State system to the national system are rapidly taking place, and it is hoped that very soon there will be in the United States no bank of issue not authorized by Congress, and no bank note circulation not secured by the Government. That the Government and the people will derive general benefit from the change in the banking systems of the country, can hardly be questioned. The national system will create a reliable and permanent influence in support of the national credit, and protect the people against losses in the use of paper money.

Whether or not any further legislation is advisable for the suppression of State bank issues it will be for Congress to determine. It seems quite clear that the Treasury cannot be satisfactorily conducted unless the government can exercise a restraining power over the bank note circulation of the country.

The report of the Secretary of War, and the accompanying documents, will detail the campaigns of the armies in the field, since the date of the last annual message, and also the operations of the several administration bureaus of the War Department during the last year. It will also specify the measures deemed essential for the national defense, and to keep up and supply the requisite military force.

The report of the Secretary of the Navy presents a comprehensive and satisfactory exhibit of the affairs of that Department and of the naval service. It is a subject of congratulation and laudable pride to our countrymen, that a navy of such vast proportions has been organized in so brief a period and conducted with so much efficiency and success. The general exhibit of the navy, including vessels under construction, on the 1st of December, 1864, shows a total of six hundred and seventy-one vessels, carrying 4,619 guns, and 510,396 tons; being an actual increase during the year, over eighty-three vessels, one hundred and sixty-seven guns, and 42,427 tons.

The total number of men at this time in the naval service, including officers, is about 51,000. There have been captured by the Navy, during the year, 324 vessels; and the whole number of naval captures since hostilities commenced in 1860, of which number 267 are steamers. The gross proceeds arising from the sale of condemned prize property, thus reported, amount to \$14,396,250 51. A large amount of such proceeds is still under adjudication and yet to be reported.

The total expenditure of the Navy Department of every description, including the cost of the immense squadrons that have been called into existence from the 4th of March 1861, to the 1st of November 1864, are \$238,647,262 35. Your favorable consideration is invited to the various recommendations of the Secretary of the Navy, especially in regard to a navy yard and suitable establishment for the construction and repair of iron vessels, and the machinery and armature for our ships, to which reference was made in my last annual message.

Your attention is also invited to the views expressed in the report in relation to the legislation of Congress at its last session, in respect to prizes on our inland waters.

I cordially concur in the recommendation of the Secretary as to the propriety of creating the new rank of Vice Admiral in our naval service.

Your attention is invited to the report of the Postmaster General, for a detailed account of the operations and financial condition of the Post office Department. The Postal revenues, for the year ending June 30th, 1864, amounted to \$12,438,253 78, and the expenditures to \$12,

644,786 20, the excess of expenditures over receipts being \$206,652 42.

The views presented by the Postmaster General on the subject of special grants by the Government in aid of the establishment of new lines of ocean mail steamships, and the policy he recommended for the development of increased commercial intercourse with adjacent and neighboring countries should receive the careful consideration of Congress. It is of noteworthy interest that the steady expansion of population, improvement and governmental institutions over the new and unoccupied portions of our country have scarcely been checked, much less impeded or destroyed, by our great civil war which, at first glance, would seem to have absorbed almost the entire energies of the nation.

The organization and admission of the State of Nevada has been completed in conformity with the law, and thus our excellent system is firmly established in the mountains which once seemed a barren and uninhabitable waste, between the Atlantic States and those which have grown up on the coast of the Pacific Ocean.

The territories of the United States are generally in a condition of prosperity and rapid growth. Idaho and Montana, by reason of their great distance and the interruption of communication with them by Indian hostilities, have been only partially organized; but it is understood that these difficulties are about to disappear which will permit their governments, like those of others, to go into speedy and full operation, as intimately connected with, and promotive of this material growth of the nation.

I ask the attention of Congress to the valuable information and important recommendations relating to the public lands and Indian affairs, the Pacific Railroad, and mineral discoveries contained in the Report of the Secretary of the Interior, which is herewith transmitted, and which report also embraces the subject of patents, pensions and other topics of public interest pertaining to his department.

The quantity of public land disposed of during the five quarters ending on the 30th of September last, was 4,221,342 acres, of which 1,538,814 acres were entered under the Homestead law. The remainder was located with military land warrants and agricultural scrip certified to by the State for railroads and sold for cash.

The cash received from sales and location fees was \$1,019,445. The income from sales during the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1864, was \$67,809,721 against \$13,607,795 received during the preceding year.

The aggregate of acres surveyed during the year has been equal to the quantity disposed of, and there is open to settlement about 135,000,000 acres of surveyed land. The great enterprise of connecting the Atlantic with the Pacific States by railroads and telegraph lines has been entered upon with a vigor that gives assurance of success, notwithstanding the embarrassment arising from the prevailing high prices of material and labor.

The liberal provisions to invalid soldiers and sailors of the Republic, and to the widows and orphans and dependent mothers of those who have fallen in battle or died of diseases contracted, or of wounds received in the service of their country, have been diligently administered.

The route of the road has been definitely located for one hundred miles Westward from the initial point Omaha city, Nebraska, and a preliminary location of the Pacific Railroad of California has been made from Sacramento Eastward to the Great Bend of Mucker River in Nevada. Numerous discoveries of gold, silver and cinnabar mines, have been added to the many heretofore known, and the country occupied by the Sierra Nevada and Rocky Mountains, and the subordinate ranges, now teems with enterprising labor which is richly remunerated. It is believed that the products of the mines of precious metals in that region, has during the year reached, if not exceeding \$100,000,000 in value.

It was recommended in my last annual message, that our Indian system be re-modeled. Congress at its last session, acting upon the recommendation, did provide for reorganizing the system in California, and it is believed that under the present organization the management of the Indians there will be attended with reasonable success. Much yet remains to be done to provide for the proper government of the Indians in other parts of the country, to render it secure for the advancing settler, and to provide for the welfare of the Indians. The Secretary reiterates his recommendations, and to them the attention of Congress is invited.

There have been added to the pension rolls during the year ending the 30th day of June last, the names of 16,770 invalid soldiers, and 271 disabled seamen, making the present number of army invalid pensions 22,767; and of the navy invalid pensions 712. Of widows, orphans and mothers, 22,198 have been placed on the army pension rolls, and 248 on the navy rolls. The number of army pensioners of this class is 25,433, and of the navy pensioners 793.

At the beginning of the year the number of revolutionary pensioners was 1,430. Only twelve of them were soldiers, of whom seven have since died. The remainder are those who under the law receive pensions because of relationship to revolutionary soldiers. During the year ending the 30th of June, 1864, \$450,491,692 have been paid to pensioners of all classes.

I cheerfully commend to your continued patronage, the benevolent institutions of the District of Columbia, which have hitherto been established or fostered by Congress, and respectfully refer, for information concerning them, and in relation to the Washington aqueduct, the Capitol and other matters of local interest, to the report of the Secretary.

The Agricultural Departments under the supervision of its present energetic and faithful head, is rapidly commencing itself to the great and vital interest it was created to advance. It is peculiarly the people's Department, in which they feel more directly concerned than in any other. I commend it to the continued attention and fostering care of Congress.

The war continues. Since the last annual message, all the important lines and positions then occupied by our forces have been maintained, and our armies have steadily advanced, thus liberating the regions left in their rear, so that Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee and parts of other States, have again produced reasonably fair crops.

The most remarkable feature in the military operations of the year is General Sherman's attempted march of three hundred miles directly through the insurgent region. It tends to show a great increase of our relative strength, that our General-in-Chief should feel able to confront and hold in check every active force of the enemy, and yet to detach a well-appointed large army to move on such an expedition. The result not yet being known, conjecture in regard to it is not here indulged. Important movements have also occurred during the year, to the effect of moulding society for durability in the Union. Although short of complete success, it is much in the right direction, that twelve thousand citizens in each one of the States of Arkansas and Louisiana have organized local State Governments with free constitutions, and are earnestly struggling to maintain and administer them. The movement in the same direction is more extensive, though less definite, in Missouri, Kentucky and Tennessee should not be overlooked; but Maryland presents the example of complete success; and Maryland is secure to liberty and the Union for all the future.—The genius of rebellion will no more claim Maryland. Like another foul spirit, being driven out, it may seek to tear her, but it will woo her no more.

At the last session of Congress, a proposed amendment of the Constitution, abolishing slavery throughout the United States, passed the Senate, but failed, for lack of the requisite two-thirds vote in the House of Representatives. Although the present is the same Congress, and nearly the same members, without questioning the wisdom or patriotism of those who stood in opposition, I venture to recommend the reconsideration and passage of the measure at the present session.—Of course the abstract question is not changed; but an intervening election shows almost certainly that the next Congress will pass the measure, if this does not. Hence there is only a question of time as to when the proposed amendment will go to the States for their action; and as it is to go at all events, may we not agree that the sooner the better. It is not claimed that the election has imposed a duty on members to change their views or their votes, any further than as an additional element to be considered. Their judgment may be affected by it. It is the voice of the people now for the first time heard upon the question. In a great national crisis like ours, unanimity of action among those seeking a common end is very desirable, and almost indispensable, and yet no approach to such unanimity is attainable unless some deference shall be paid to the will of the majority, simply because it is the will of the majority. In this case the common end is the maintenance of the Union, and among the means to secure that end, such will, through the

election, is most clearly declared in favor of such constitutional amendment. The most reliable indication of public purpose in this country is derived through our popular elections. Judging by the recent canvass and its result, the purpose of the people within the loyal States to maintain the integrity of the Union, was never more nearly unanimous than now. The extraordinary calmness and good order with which the millions of voters met and mingled at the polls, gave strong assurance of this. Not only all those who supported the Union ticket, so called, but a great majority of the opposition party, also, may be fairly claimed to entertain and to be actuated by the same purpose. It is an unanswerable argument to this effect, that no candidate for any office, whatever, high or low, has ventured to seek votes on the avowal that he was for giving up the Union. There have been much impugning of motives, and much heated controversy, as to the proper measures and the best mode of advancing the Union cause; but in the distinct issue of Union, or no Union, the politicians have shown their instinctive knowledge that there is no diversity among the people. In awarding the people a fair opportunity of showing one to another, and to the world, this firmness and unanimity of purpose, the election has been of vast value to the national cause. The election has exhibited another fact not less valuable to be known—the fact that we do not approach exhaustion in the most important branch of the national resources, that of living men. While it is melancholy to reflect that the war has filled so many graves and caused mourning to so many homes, it is some relief to know that, compared with the surviving, the fallen have been few. Whole corps, and divisions, and brigades, and regiments, have formed and fought, and divided and gone out of existence. Still a great majority of the men who composed them, are still living. The same is true of the naval service. The election returns prove this. So many voters could not also be found. The States regularly holding election is both now and four years ago, to wit: California, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wisconsin, cast 3,982,011 votes now against 3,870,222 cast then, showing an aggregate now of 2,398,211, to which is to be added 33,762, cast now in the States of Kansas and Nevada, which States did not vote in 1860, thus swelling the aggregate to 4,075,778, and the net increase during the three years and a half of war to 145,751. A table is appended, showing the particulars. To this again should be added the number of soldiers in the field from Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Delaware, Indiana, Illinois and California, who, by the law of those States, could not vote away from their homes, and which number cannot be less than ninety thousand. Nor yet is this all. The number in organized territories is triple now to what it was four years ago; while thousands, white and black, join us as the national arms press back the insurgent lines. So much is shown affirmatively and negatively by the election. It is not material to enquire how the increase has been produced, or to show that it would have been greater but for the war, which is probably true, the important fact remains demonstrated that we have more men, now than when the war began; that we are not exhausted, nor in the process of exhaustion; that we are gaining strength, and may if need be, maintain the contest indefinitely. This as to men. Our material resources are now more complete and abundant than ever. The national resources, then, are unexhausted, and, as we believe, inexhaustible. The public purpose to re-establish and maintain the national authority is unchanged, and, as we believe, unchangeable. The manner of continuing the effort remains to be chosen. On careful consideration of all the evidence accessible, it seems to me that no attempt at negotiation with the insurgent leader could result in any good. He would accept of nothing short of the severance of the Union. His declarations to that effect are explicit and oft-repeated. He does not attempt to deceive us. He affords us no excuse to deceive ourselves. We cannot voluntarily yield it. Between him and us the issue is distinct, simple and inflexible. It is an issue which can only be tried by war and decided by victory. If we yield we are beaten; if the southern people fail, he is beaten.—Either way it would be the victory and defeat following war. What is true, however, of him who heads the insurgent cause, is not necessarily true of those who follow. Although he cannot reconstruct the Union, they can. Some of them,