

# THE SUSQUEHANNA REGISTER

THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE IS THE SUPREMACY SOURCE AND THE FOUNDATION OF THE PEOPLE'S TRUST AND OF GOVERNMENT.

VOLUME 26--NUMBER 50. MONTROSE, PA., THURSDAY MORNING, DEC. 11, 1851. WHOLE NUMBER, 1402.

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

*From the House of Representatives.*

I congratulate you and our common country upon the favorable auspices under which you meet for your first session. Our country is at peace with all the world. The agitation which, for a time, threatened to disturb the fraternal relations which make us one people, is fast subsiding, and a year of general prosperity and health has crowned the nation with unusual blessings. None can look back to the dangers which are passed, or forward to the bright prospect before us, without feeling a thrill of gratification. The same feelings must be impressed upon a grateful sense of our profound obligations to a beneficent Providence, whose paternal care is so manifest in the happiness of this highly favored land.

Since the close of the last Congress, certain Cuba and other foreigners resident in the United States, who were more or less concerned in the previous invasion of Cuba, instead of being discouraged by its failure, have again abused the hospitality of this country, by making it the scene of the equipment of another military expedition against that possession of her Catholic majesty, in which they were countenanced, aided and joined by citizens of the United States. On receiving intelligence that such designs were entertained, I lost no time in issuing such instructions to the proper officers of the United States as seemed to be called for by the occasion. By the proclamation of Congress, which is herewith submitted, I also warned those who might be in danger of being inveiled into this scheme of its unlawful character, and of the penalties which they would incur. For some time there was reason to hope that these measures had sufficed to prevent any such attempt. The hope, however, proved to be deceptive. Very early in the morning of the third of August, a steamer called the *Pampero* departed from New Orleans for Cuba having on board upwards of four hundred armed men with evident intentions to make war upon the authorities of the island. This expedition was set on foot in palpable violation of the laws of the United States. Its leader was a Spaniard, and several of the chief officers and some others engaged in it, were foreigners. The persons composing it, however, were mostly citizens of the United States.

Before the expedition set out, and probably before it was organized, a slight insurrectionary movement, which appears to have been soon suppressed, had taken place in the eastern quarter of Cuba. The importance of this movement was unfortunately so much exaggerated in the accounts of it published in this country, that these adventures seem to have been led to believe that the Creole population of the island not only desired to throw off the authority of the mother country, but had resolved upon the step, and had begun a well concerted enterprise for effecting it. The persons engaged in the expedition were generally young and ill-informed. The steamer in which they embarked left New Orleans stealthily, and without a clearance. After touching at Key West, she proceeded to the coast of Cuba, and on the night between the 11th and 12th of August, landed the persons on board at Playatas, within about twenty leagues of Havana. The main body of them proceeded to, and took possession of, an inland village, six leagues distant, leaving others to follow in charge of the baggage, as soon as the means of transportation could be obtained. The latter having taken up their line of march to encounter themselves with the main body, and having proceeded about four leagues into the country, were attacked on the morning of the 15th by a body of Spanish troops, and a bloody conflict ensued; after which they retreated to the place of disembarkation, where about fifty of them obtained boats and embarked there. They were, however, intercepted among the keys near the shore by a Spanish steamer *Chasing*, on the coast, captured and carried to Havana, and, after being examined before a military court, were sentenced to be publicly executed, and the sentence was carried into effect on the 16th of August.

From some of these unlawful expeditions may suddenly set forth, without the knowledge of our Government, against the possession of our own States.

Friendly relations with all, but extending alliances with some, has long been a maxim with us. Our true mission is not to propagate our opinions, or impose upon other countries our form of government, by artifice or force; but to teach by our example, and show by our success, moderation and justice, the blessings of self government, and the advantages of free institutions. Let every people choose for itself, and make and alter its political institutions to suit its own conditions and conveniences. But, while we avow and maintain this neutral policy ourselves, we are anxious to see the same forbearance on the part of other nations, whose form of government is different from our own. The deep interest which we feel in the spread of liberal principles and the establishment of free governments, and the sympathy with which we witness every struggle against oppression, forbid that we should be indifferent to a case in which the strong arm of a foreign power is invoked to stifle public sentiment and redress the spirit of freedom in any country.

The governments of Great Britain and France have issued orders to their naval commanders on the West India station to prevent by force, if necessary, the landing of adventurers from any nation on the island of Cuba with hostile intent. The copy of a memorandum of a conversation on this subject between the Charge d'Affaires of her Britannic Majesty, and the Acting Secretary of State, and of a subsequent note of the former to the Department of State, are herewith submitted, together with a copy of a note of the Acting Secretary of State to the Minister of the French Republic, and of the reply of the latter, on the same subject. These papers will acquaint you with the grounds of the interposition of the two leading commercial powers of Europe, and with the apprehensions, which this Government could not fail to entertain, that such interposition, if carried into effect, might lead to abuses in derogation of the maritime rights of the United States. The maritime rights of the United States are founded on a firm, secure, and well-defined basis; they stand upon the ground of National Independence and public law, and will be maintained in all their full and just extent.

The principles which this Government has heretofore solemnly announced it still adheres to, and will maintain under all circumstances and in all hazards. This principle is, that in every regularly documented merchant vessel, the crew who find their protection in the flag which it bears, shall not be visited or searched for the purpose of ascertaining the character of individuals on board, nor can there be allowed any watch by the vessels of any foreign nation over American vessels on the coasts of the United States or the seas adjacent thereto. It will be seen by the last communication from the British Charge d'Affaires to the Department of State, that he is authorized to assure the Secretary of State that every care will be taken, that in executing the preventive measure against the expeditions, which the United States Government itself has denounced as not being entitled to the protection of any government, no interference shall take place with the lawful commerce of any nation.

In addition to the correspondence on this subject, herewith submitted, official information has been received at the Department of State, of assurance by the French government, that in the orders given to the French naval forces, they were expressly instructed, in any operations they might engage in, to respect the flag of the United States wherever it might appear, and to commit no act of hostility upon any vessel or armament under its protection.

Ministers and consuls of foreign nations are the means and agents of communication between us and those nations, and it is of the utmost importance, that while residing in the country, they should feel a perfect security so long as they faithfully discharge their respective duties, and are guilty of no violation of our laws. This is the admitted law of nations, and no country has a deeper interest in maintaining it than the United States. Our commerce spreads over every sea and visits every clime, and our ministers and consuls are appointed to protect the interest of that commerce, as well as to guard the peace of the country and maintain the honor of its flag. But how can they discharge these duties unless they be themselves protected; and, if protected, it must be by the laws of the country in which they reside. And what is due to our own public functionaries residing in foreign nations is exactly the measure of what is due to the functionaries of other governments residing here. As in war, the benefits of flags of truce are sacred, or peace, ambassadors, public ministers, and consuls, are objects of especial respect, and protection, each according to the rights belonging to his rank and station.

In view of these important principles, it is with deep mortification and regret I announce to you that, during the excitement growing out of the executions at Havana, the office of her Catholic Majesty's consul at New Orleans was assailed by a mob, his property destroyed, the Spanish flag found in the office carried off and torn in pieces, and he himself induced to flee for his personal safety, which he supposed to be in danger. On receiving intelligence of these events, I forthwith directed the Attorney of the United States for the District of Louisiana to inquire into the facts, and the extent of the pecuniary loss sustained by the consul, with the intention of laying before you, that you

might make provisions as to him as a just regard for the honor of the nation and the respect which is due to a friendly power might, in your judgment, seem to require. The correspondence upon this subject between the Secretary of State and her Catholic Majesty's minister plenipotentiary is herewith transmitted. The occurrence at New Orleans has led me to give my attention to the state of our laws in regard to foreign ministers, and consuls. I think the legislation of the country should be so providing sufficiently either for the protection or the punishment of consuls. I therefore recommend the subject to the consideration of Congress.

Your attention is again invited to the question of reciprocal trade between the United States and Canada, and other British possessions near our frontier. Overtures for a convention upon this subject have been received from her Britannic Majesty's Minister Plenipotentiary, and it seems to be in many respects preferable that the matter should be regulated by reciprocal legislation. Documents are laid before you showing the terms which the British Government is willing to offer, and the measures which it will adopt, if some arrangement on the subject shall not be made.

From the accompanying copy of a note from the British Legation at Washington, and the reply of the Department of State thereto, it will appear that her Britannic Majesty's Government is desirous that a part of the boundary line between Oregon and the British possessions should be authoritatively marked out, and that an intention was expressed to apply to Congress for an appropriation to defray the expense thereof on the part of the United States. Your attention to this subject is accordingly invited, and a proper appropriation recommended.

A Convention for the adjustment of claims of citizens of the United States against Portugal has been concluded, and the ratifications have been exchanged. The first instalment of the amount to be paid by Portugal fell due on the 30th of September last, and has been paid. The President of the French Republic, according to the provisions of the Convention, has been selected as the arbitrator in the case of General Armstrong, and has signified that he accepts the trust, and the high satisfaction he feels in acting as the common friend of two nations, with which France is united by sentiments and lasting unity.

The Turkish Government has expressed its thanks for the kind reception given to the Sultan's agent, *Amim Bey*, on the occasion of his recent visit to the United States. On the 28th of February last, a despatch was addressed by the Secretary of State to Mr. Marsh, the American Minister at Constantinople, instructing him to ask of the Turkish Government permission within the limits of the Sultan's Porte, to remove to the country. On the 3d of March last, both houses of Congress passed a resolution requesting the President to authorize the employment of a public vessel to convey to this country Louis Kossuth and his associates in Captivity.

The instruction above referred to was complied with, and the Turkish Government having released Governor Kossuth and his companions from prison, on the 10th of September last they embarked on board the United States steam frigate *Mississippi*, which was selected to carry into effect the resolution of Congress. Governor Kossuth left *Mississippi* at Gibraltar for the purpose of making a visit to England, and may shortly be expected in New York. By communication to the Department of State he has expressed his grateful acknowledgments for the interposition of this Government in behalf of himself and his associates. This country has been justly regarded as a safe asylum for those who are political exiles in Europe; and it is recommended to Congress to consider in what manner Governor Kossuth and his companions, brought hither by its authority, shall be received and treated.

It is earnestly to be hoped that the differences which have for some time past been pending between the Government of the French Republic and that of the Sandwich Islands, may be peacefully and durably adjusted, so as to secure the independence of those islands. Long before the crews which have of late impinged so much, impinged to the possessions of the United States on the Pacific, we acknowledge the independence of the Hawaiian government was first in taking that step, and several of the leading powers of Europe immediately followed. We were influenced in this measure by the existing and prospective importance of the islands as a place of refuge and refreshment for our vessels engaged in the whole Pacific, and by the consideration that they lay in the course of the great trade which runs at no distant day to be carried on between the western coast of North America and Eastern Asia.

It should again be seriously disturbed, for since the peace between that Republic and the United States, had enjoyed such comparative repose that the most favorable anticipations for the future might with a degree of confidence, have been indulged. These, however, have been thwarted by the recent outbreak in the state of Tamalupa, on the right bank of the Rio Bravo. Having received information that persons from the United States had taken part in the insurrection, and apprehending that their example might be followed by others, I caused orders to be issued for the purpose of preventing any hostile expedition on the part of Mexico from being set on foot in violation of the laws of the United States. If likewise issued a proclamation upon the subject, a copy of which is herewith laid before you. This appeared to be rendered imperative by the obligations of treaties and the general duties of good neighborhood.

In my last annual message I informed Congress that citizens of the United States had undertaken the connexion of the two oceans by means of a railroad across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, under a grant of the Mexican Government to a citizen of that Republic, and that this enterprise would probably be prosecuted with energy whenever Mexico should consent to such stipulations with the Government of the United States as should impart a feeling of security to those who should invest their property in the enterprise.

A convention between the two Governments for the accomplishment of that end had been ratified by this Government, and only awaits the decision of the Congress and the Executive of that Republic. Some unexpected difficulties and delays have arisen in the ratification of that convention by Mexico, but it is to be presumed that her decision will be governed by just and enlightened views as well as of the general importance of the object, as of her own interests and obligations. In negotiating upon this important subject, this Government has had in view one, and only one object. That object has been and is, the construction or attainment of a passage from ocean to ocean, the shortest and the best for travelers and merchandise; and equally open to all the world. It has sought to obtain no territorial acquisition, nor any advantages peculiar to itself, and it would avow, with the greatest sincerity, that it would oppose any obstacle to the accomplishment of an enterprise which promises so much convenience to the whole commercial world, and such eminent advantages to Mexico herself. Impressed with these sentiments and these convictions, the Government will continue to exert all proper efforts to bring about the necessary arrangement with the Republic of Mexico for the speedy completion of the work.

Table with financial data: Total imports for the year ending 30th June, 1851, were \$216,726,999. Of which there were in specie 4,567,901. The exports for the same period were 217,517,130. Of which there were of domestic products \$178,546,555. Foreign goods re-exported 9,738,685. Specie 69,231,899.

Since the first of December last the payments in cash on account of the public debt, exclusive of interest, have amounted to \$7,501,456.76; which, however, under the 15th article of the treaty with Mexico, and the further sum of \$8,911,213.45, being the amount of awards to American citizens under the late treaty with Mexico, for which the issue of stock was authorized, but which was paid in cash from the Treasury.

The public debt on the 20th ultimo, exclusive of the stock authorized to be issued to Texas by the act of 9th September, 1850, was \$62,500,395.26. The receipts for the next fiscal year are estimated at \$51,800,000, which, with the probable unappropriated balance in the Treasury on the 30th of June next, will give as the probable available means for that year, the sum of \$63,858,742.30. It has been deemed proper, in view of the large expenditures consequent upon the acquisition of territory from Mexico, that the estimates for the next fiscal year should be laid before Congress in such manner as to distinguish the expenditures so required from the ordinary demands upon the Treasury.

The total expenditures for the next fiscal year are estimated at \$42,892,295.19. Of which there are required for the purposes of the government other than those consequent upon the acquisition of our new territories, and deducting the payments on account of the public debt, the sum of \$33,343,193.08; and for the purposes connected directly or indirectly with these territories, and in the fulfillment of the obligations of the Government, contracted in consequence of their acquisition, the sum of \$9,549,101.11.

If the views of the Secretary of the Treasury in reference to the expenditures required for these territories shall be met by corresponding action on the part of Congress, and appropriations made in accordance therewith, there will be an estimated unappropriated balance in the Treasury on the 30th June, 1852, of \$31,432.30, which will meet that of the public debt due on the first July following, amounting to \$6,237,951.95, as well as any appropriations which may be made beyond the estimates.

In thus referring to the estimated expenditures on account of our newly acquired territories, I may express the hope that Congress will concur with me in the desire that a liberal course of policy may be pursued towards them, and that every obligation, express or implied, entered into in consequence of their acquisition, should be fulfilled by the most liberal appropriations for that purpose.

The values of our domestic exports for the last fiscal year, as compared with those of the previous year, exhibit an increase of \$13,646,322. At first view this condition of our trade with foreign nations would seem to present the most flattering hopes of its future prosperity. An examination of the details of our exports, however, will show that the increased value of our exports for the last fiscal year is to be found in the high price of cotton which prevailed during the first half of that year, which price has since declined about one-half.

The value of our exports of breadstuffs and provisions, which it was supposed would be increased by a low tariff and large importations from abroad, have fallen from \$68,701,901, in 1850, to \$26,051,373 in 1851, and to \$21,948,653, in 1851, with a strong probability, amounting almost to a certainty, of a still further reduction in the current year.

The aggregate values of rice exported during the last fiscal year, as compared with the previous year, also exhibit a decrease amounting to \$469,917, which, with a decline in the values of the exports of tobacco for the same period, make an aggregate decrease in these two articles of \$1,156,751.

The policy which dictates a low rate of duties on foreign merchandise, it was thought by those who promoted and established it, would tend to benefit the farming population of this country, by increasing the demand and raising the price of agricultural products in foreign markets.

The foregoing facts, however, seem to show incontrovertibly that no such result has followed the adoption of this policy. On the contrary, notwithstanding the repeal of the restrictive corn laws in England, and the free importation of the products of the American farmer, has steadily declined, since the onset of crops and comparative abundance of food.

Continued on fourth page.