

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow Citizens of the Senate and of the House of Representatives

It has been an eventful year, and will be hereafter. It is a year which will be happily remembered for the fact that our domestic prosperity has not been entirely interrupted. The crops in portions of the country have been nearly equal to those of the year before last. The prevalence of disease has been less than usual, and the sacrifice of human life, through epidemics by sea and land, is without a parallel. But the pestilence has swept by, and restored salubrity to the air about our homes, and the return of business to its ordinary channels.

of the contrary, they have been acknowledged to be essential to the security of our commerce, and the only apparent obstacle to their general adoption is the possibility that they may be considered by inadmissible conditions. The King of Spain has expressed to our minister at Madrid his willingness to concur in our proposition relative to neutral rights, and to enter into a convention on that subject.

The King of Prussia has also approved of the project of a treaty to the same effect submitted to him, but proposes an additional article providing for the renunciation of privateering. Such an article, for the most obvious reasons, is much desired by us, not having naval establishments large in proportion to their foreign commerce.

Since this change there has been no proposition to resume and press on negotiations for the adjustment of the serious question of difficulty between the Spanish government and the United States. There is reason to believe that our Ministers will find the present government more favorably inclined than the preceding to comply with our just demands.

The estimate presented to Congress from the different departments at the last session amounted to \$28,646,061, and the appropriations available for the same were \$28,119,924. Of this amount, \$2,626,037 were applied to the ordinary expenses of the government, and \$25,493,887 were applied to the special appropriations.

The report of the Secretary of the Treasury presents a picture of the operation of the revenue system for several consecutive years, and a general picture of the condition of the country. It is a report which will be read with interest and satisfaction by every citizen of the United States.

Washington, Dec. 4. SENATE.—The Senate was called to order at 12 o'clock. Thirty-seven members were present. Prayer by Rev. Mr. Slicer. The Secretary read a letter from General Sherman, dated Plattsburg, Mo., Nov. 11, 1864, in which he stated that he had resigned his position as President of the Senate.