PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

☞ On Tuesday at 12 o'clock, the President of the U. States transmitted to both Houses of Congress his Annual Message. In view of its extraordinary length we have determined to furnish our readers with an abstract of its contents, giving the President's views in full on the more important topics.

The Message opens, as usual, by congratulating Congress on the prosperity which pervades the country, the vast extension of our territorial limits, and the rapid increase of our population, unparalleled in the history of nations, and ascribes our indebtedness to the Giver of all good for the numberless blessings which the country enjoys.

The relations of the U. States with all other nations, with a single exception, are of the most amicable nature. It has been the sincere desire of the President to all his foreign policy to cultivate and and cherish friendship with every power, as congenial to his own feelings and the nature of our institutions. Yet the protection of our national interests from encroachment or sacrifice, and our national honor from stain, are affirmed to be objects of paramount importance, to which all other considerations must bend. The President then goes into a very lengthy detail of our national intercourse with Mexico for the purpose of proving that the existing War with that Republic could not have been avoided, so far as our own agency is concerned, without an abandonment of all regard for the honor and interests of the country. The war was neither desired nor provoked by the U. States, whose Government had made every effort possible to secure a redress of its many wrongs without a resort to the last alternative. The President complains of the opposition to the policy by which the war was superinduced, manifested in many prominent quarters of the country, as having a tendency to embarrass the Government in its prosecution of the War and encourage resistance on the part of the enemy, and deems it his duty to defend his Administration from the charges preferred against it by the opponents of the war.

Reference is then made to the long series of wrongs suffered by the commerce and citizens of the U. States at the hands of Mexico, commencing with the first organization of the latter as an independent republic. The imprisonment of citizens engaged in lawful commerce, the seizure and confiscation of their vessels, and the insults to our flag, had become so frequent and systematic prior to 1831 as to call for the energetic interference of the Government of the U. States: "After repeated demands for a redress of grievances, Mexico was induced to conclude a treaty of amity on the 5th of April, 1831, by which it was hoped that these outrages would be ended. The hope, however, proved vain; the outrages were repeated again and again, until in February 1837, President Jackson drew the attention of Congress to the subject, and Houses sustained the views of the President in regard to the aggravated character of the wrongs sustained, but recommended another demand for redress before resorting to hostilities. A special messenger was accordingly despatched to Mexico, but with no better success—the Government of that country simply re-iterating its desire for peace and its willingness to satisfy all reasonable claims against it. A Convention was finally entered into by Commissioners from both Governments with the view of adjusting all difficulties which, after sitting a long time, adjourned in February, 1842. Awards in favor of American citizens to the amount of $2,026,139 were agreed upon to be paid in instalments by Mexico—leaving claims to the amount of $4,000,000 undecided.—Failing to comply with the terms of the Convention, Mexico asked for an extension of the time in which the instalments were to be paid, and received it at the hands of the U. States. Notwithstanding all this moderation on our part, Mexico has as yet failed to comply with her obligations—but three of the twenty instalments having been paid. Besides this, a new Convention was entered into in 1843, for the adjustment of the remaining claims, which, although ratified by the U. S. Senate in 1844, remains as yet unacted upon by Mexico.

Such are the causes of complaint on the part of the U. States against Mexico—causes which President Polk affirms to have existed long before the annexation of Texas; and yet, animated by the love of peace and a magnanimous moderation, our Government did not adopt those measures of redress, which, under such circumstances, are the justified resort of injured nations.

The President goes into a history of the events that led to the Texan Revolution and her Independence, and her subsequent annexation to the U. States, with the view of showing that no cause of offence to Mexico could have arisen out of any agency on the part of our Government.

Texas constituted a portion of the ancient province of Louisiana, ceded to the U. States by France in 1803. In 1819, by the Florida treaty, the U. States ceded to Spain all that part of Louisiana within the present limits of Texas. In 1824 Mexico threw off the control of the mother country, and established a Government somewhat similar to our own. Under the Government then formed, matters continued until 1835, when a military revolution in the City of Mexico subverted the federal and State Constitutions, and placed a military dictator at the head of the Government. The people of the State of Texas refused submission to the new order of things, and flew to arms. In March 1836 a Convention of her people declared Texas an independent Republic and absolved from all allegiance to the Central Government. Santa Anna soon after invaded Texas with a numerous army, but was met and defeated in the battle of San Jacinto. Having been made a prisoner himself, Santa Anna, in May 1836, acknowledged "the full, entire, and perfect independence of the Republic of Texas," as a condition of his liberation. Although this act was never recognised by the Central Government, yet from that time to the present Mexico has failed to recouper her revolted territory, whose independence has, for the most time, been recognised by the U. States and the leading European Powers. Texas, then, at the time that she sued for admission into the Union, was an independent nation, as much so as Mexico herself, and her annexation could furnish no reasonable ground of complaint to her sister.

The President next proceeds to meet the objection that the marching of our troops to the banks of the Rio Grande was an invasion of Mexican or disputed territory; and as the President devotes a laborious ed argument to this point, we give his reasoning in full and in his own words:—

But there are those who, conceding all this to be true, assume the ground that the true western boundary of Texas is the Nueces instead of the Rio Grande; and that, therefore, in marching our army to the east bank of the latter river, we passed the Texan line, and invaded the territory of Mexico. A simple statement of facts, known to exist, will conclusively refute such an assumption. Texas as ceded to the United States by France in 1803, has been always claimed as extending west to the Rio Grande, or Rio Bravo. The fact is established by the authority of our most eminent statesmen at a period when the question was as well if not better understood than it is at present. During Mr. Jefferson's administration, Messrs. Monroe and Pinckney, who had been sent on a special mission to Madrid, charged, among other things, with the adjustment of boundary between the two countries, in a note addressed to the Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs, under date of the twenty-eighth of January, 1805, assert that the boundaries of Louisiana, as ceded to the U. States by France, "are the river Perdido on the east, and the river Bravo on the west;" and they add that "the facts and principles which justify this conclusion are so satisfactory to our Government as to convince it that the United States have not a better right to the Island of New Orleans, under the cession referred to, than they have to the whole district of territory which is above described."

Down to the conclusion of the Florida treaty, in February 1819, by which this territory was ceded to Spain, the United States asserted and maintained their territorial rights to this extent. In the month of June, 1818, during Mr. Monroe's administration, information having been received that a number of foreign adventurers claiming to be citizens of the U. States, and for the purpose of forming a settlement in that vicinity, a special messenger was despatched by the government of the United States, with instructions from the Secretary of State to warn them to desist, should they be found there "or any other place north of the Rio Bravo, and within the territory claimed by the United States." He was also instructed should they be found in the country north of that river, to make known to them the surprise with which the President has seen possession thus taken, without authority from the United States, of a place within their territorial limits, and upon which no lawful settlement can be made without their sanction." He was instructed to call upon them to "avow under what national authority they profess to act," and to give them due warning that no such authority will be recognised, and that those who will suffer no permanent settlement to be made there, under any authority other than their own."

Late in the eighth of July 1842, the Secretary of State of the United States, in a note addressed to our minister in Mexico, maintains that, by the Florida treaty of 1819, the territory as far west as the Rio Bravo was ceded to Spain, and, after a note he states that "by the treaty of the twenty-second of February, 1819, between the United States and Spain, the Sabine was adopted as the line between the two Powers. Up to that period, no considerable colonization had been effected in Texas; but the territory between the Sabine and the Rio Grande being confirmed to Spain by the treaty, applications were made to that Power for grants of land, and liberal grants, or permissions of settlement, were in fact made by the Spanish authorities in favor of the citizens of the United States proposing to emigrate to Texas in numerous instances, before the declaration of independence by Mexico."

The Texas which was ceded to Spain by the Florida treaty of 1819, embraced all the country now claimed by the State of Texas, between the Nueces and the Rio Grande. The republic of Texas always claimed this river as her western boundary, and in her treaty made with Santa Anna in May 1836, he recognised it as such.—By the constitution which Texas adopted in March, 1836, senatorial and representative districts were organized, extending west of the Nueces. The Congress of Texas, on the nineteenth of December, 1836, passed "An act to define the boundaries of the republic of Texas: in which they declare the Rio Grande from its mouth to its source to be their boundary,—and by the said act they extended "their civil and political jurisdiction" over the country up to that boundary. During a period of more than nine years, which intervened between the adoption of her constitution and her annexation as one of the States of the Union, Texas asserted and exercised many acts of sovereignty and jurisdiction over the territory and inhabitants west of the "Nueces."

She organized and defined the limits of counties extending to the Rio Bravo—she established courts of justice and extended her judicial system over the territory. She established a custom-house, and collected duties, and also post offices and post roads, in it. She established a land office, and issued numerous grants for land, within its limits. A Senator and a Representative residing in it were elected to the Congress of the republic, and served as such before the act of annexation took place. In both the Congress and Convention of Texas, which gave their assent to the terms of annexation to the United States, proposed by our Congress, were representatives residing west of the Nueces, who took part in the annexation itself. This was that Texas which, by the act of our Congress of the twenty-ninth of December, 1845, was admitted as one of the States of our Union.

That the Congress of the U. States understood the State of Texas which they admitted into the Union to extend beyond the Nueces is apparent from the fact, that on the thirty-first of December, 1845, only two days after the act of admission, they passed a law "to establish a collection district in the State of Texas," by which they created a port of delivery at Corpus Christi, situated west of the Nueces, and being the same point at which the Texan custom-house, under the laws of that republic, had been located, and directed that a surveyor to collect the revenue should be appointed for that port by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. A surveyor was accordingly nominated, and confirmed by the Senate, and has been ever since in performance of his duties.—All these acts of the republic of Texas, and of our Congress, preceded the orders to the military and naval forces of our army to the east bank of the Rio Grande.

Subsequently, Congress passed an act "establishing certain post routes," extending west of the Nueces. The country west of that river now constitutes a part of one of the Congressional districts of Texas, and is represented in the House of Representatives. The Senators from that State were chosen by a legislature, in which the country west of that river was represented. In view of all these facts, it is difficult to conceive upon what principle it can be maintained that, in occupying the country west of the Nueces with our army, with a view solely to its security and defence, we invaded the territory of Mexico. But it would have been still more difficult to justify the Executive, whose duty it is to see that the laws be faithfully executed, if in the face of all these proceedings, both of the Congress of Texas and of the U. States, he had assumed the responsibility of yielding up the territory west of the Nueces to Mexico, or of refusing to protect or defend this territory and its inhabitants, including Corpus Christi, as well as the remainder of Texas, against the threatened Mexican invasion.

But Mexico herself has never placed the war which she has waged upon the ground that our army occupied the intermediate territory between the Nueces and the Rio Grande. Her refusal to treat for the loss of Texas was not in fact an independent State, but a rebellious province, was obstinately persevered in; and her avowed purpose on commencing a war with the United States was to reconquer Texas, and to restore Mexican authority over the whole territory—not to the Nueces only but to the Sabine. In view of the proclaimed menaces of Mexico to this effect, I deemed it my duty, as a measure of precaution and defence, to order our army to occupy a position on our frontier as a military post, from which our troops could best assist and repel any attempted invasion which Mexico might make.

Our army had occupied a position at Corpus Christi, west of the Nueces, as early as August, 1845, without complaint from any quarter. Had the Nueces been regarded as the true western boundary of Texas, that boundary had been passed by our army many months before it advanced to the eastern bank of the Rio Grande.—In my annual message of December last I informed Congress, that upon the invitation of both the Congress and Convention of Texas, I deemed it proper to order a strong squadron on the waters of Mexico, and to occupy a position near the Rio Grande on the eastern frontier of Texas, to protect and defend the inhabitants against the menaced invasion of Mexico. In that message I informed Congress that the information of the terms of annexation offered by the United States were accepted by Texas, the latter became so far a part of our country that we were bound to afford her our military protection and defence; and that for that purpose our squadron had been ordered to the Gulf, and our army to "take a position between the Nueces and the Del Norte," or Rio Grande, and "to repel any invasion of the Texan territory which might be attempted by the Mexican forces."

It was deemed proper to issue this order, because, soon after the President of Texas, in April, 1845, had issued his proclamation convening the Congress of Texas, between the Nueces and the Rio Grande. The republic of Texas always claimed this river as her western boundary, and in her treaty made with Santa Anna in May 1836, he recognised it as such.—By the constitution which Texas adopted in March, 1836, senatorial and representative districts were organized, extending west of the Nueces. The Congress of Texas, on the nineteenth of December, 1836, passed "An act to define the boundaries of the republic of Texas: in which they declare the Rio Grande from its mouth to its source to be their boundary,—and by the said act they extended "their civil and political jurisdiction" over the country up to that boundary. During a period of more than nine years, which intervened between the adoption of her constitution and her annexation as one of the States of the Union, Texas asserted and exercised many acts of sovereignty and jurisdiction over the territory and inhabitants west of the "Nueces."

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Thus, after all the injuries which we had received at the hands of Mexico, and after she had insultingly rejected a minister sent to her on a mission of peace, and when she had solemnly agreed to receive, she commenced her long course of outrage against our country by commencing an offensive war and shedding the blood of our citizens on our own soil.

The United States never attempted to acquire Texas by conquest. On the contrary, at an early period after the people of Texas had achieved their independence, they sought to be annexed to the U. States. As a general rule, the U. States might, if they decided with great unanimity in favor of "annexation;" and in November following, the Congress of the Republic authorized the appointment of a minister, to bear their request to this government.—This government, however, having remained neutral between Texas and Mexico during the long period that elapsed before it due to the honor of our country, and our fair fame among the nations of the earth, that we should not at this early period of our existence as a nation, and when our honor, should repel it with proper firmness and dignity. The Supreme Government had beforehand declared that it would look upon such act, as a *casus belli*; and, as a consequence of this declaration, negotiation was, by its very nature, at an end, and war was the only recourse of the injured government.

It appears, also, that on the fourth of April, following, Gen. Paredes, through his Minister of war, issued orders to the Mexican General in command on the Texan frontier, "to commence the war in vigorous means which war permits." To this Gen. Paredes had been pledged to the army and people of Mexico during the military revolution which had brought him into power. On the 18th of April, 1846, General Paredes addressed a letter to the commander on that frontier in which he stated to him "at the present date I suppose you at the head of that valiant army, either fighting already, or preparing for the operations of a campaign;" and "supposing you already on the theatre of operations, and with all the forces assembled, it is indispensible that hostilities be commenced, yourself taking the initiative against the enemy."

The movement of our army to the Rio Grande was made by the commanding general under positive orders to attach, from all aggressive acts towards Mexico, if Mexican troops had been passed over the countries as peaceful, unless Mexico should declare war or commit acts of hostility indective of a state of war; and these orders fulfilled exactly, by our army occupying his position on the east bank of the Rio Grande, within the limits of Texas, then recently admitted as one of the States of our Union, and extending beyond the Mexican forces, who, in pursuance of the orders of his government, had collected a large army on the opposite shore of the Rio Grande, prepared to invade our country, and commenced hostilities by attacking our forces.

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[illegible] Texas, and the people of Texas, in a Convention elected for that purpose, accepted with great unanimity the proposed terms of annexation; and thus consummated the act by which a great act of restoring to our federal Union a vast territory which had been ceded to Spain by the Florida treaty more than a quarter of a century before.

After the joint resolution for the annexation of Texas to the United States had been passed by our Congress, the Mexican Minister at Washington, addressed a note to the Secretary of State, bearing date on the 6th of March, 1845, protesting against it as an act of aggression, the most unjust which can be found recorded in the annals of modern history; namely, that of despoiling a friendly nation, like Mexico, of a considerable portion of her territory;" and protesting against the resolution of annexation, as being an act "where by the province of Texas, an integral portion of the Mexican territory, is agreed and annexed into the American Union" and he announced that, as a consequence, his mission to the U. States had terminated, and demanded his passports, which were granted. It was upon the absurd pretext made by Mexico, (herself in debt for her independence to a successful revolution,) that the republic of Texas still continued to be, notwithstanding all that had passed, a province of Mexico, that this step was taken by the Mexican Minister.

Every honorable effort has been used by me to avoid the war which followed, but without sacrificing our rights and honor to preserve peace have been met by insult and resistance on the part of Mexico.—My efforts to this end commenced in the year of the Secretary of State of the 10th of March, 1845, in answer to that of the Mexican Minister. Whilst declining to reopen a discussion which had already been exhausted, and which, although it was known to the whole world, that Texas had long since achieved her independence, the Secretary of State expressed the regret of his government that Mexico should have taken offence at the resolution of annexation passed by Congress, and gave assurance that our utmost streamous efforts shall be devoted to the amicable adjustment of every cause of complaint between the two governments, and to the cultivation of the kindest and most friendly relations between the sister republics."

That I have acted in the spirit of this assurance will appear from the events which have since occurred. Notwithstanding Mexico had abruptly terminated her intercourse with the United States, and ought, therefore, to have been the first to ask for its resumption, yet, waiving all ceremony, I embraced the earliest favorable opportunity to open intercourse with the Mexican Government whether they would receive an envoy from the U. States intrusted to adjust all the questions in dispute between the two governments. In September, 1845, I believed the propitious moment for such an overture had arrived. Texas, by the enthusiastic and almost unanimous will of her people, had pronounced in favor of annexation. Mexico herself had agreed to acknowledge the independence of Texas, subject to a condition, it is true, which she had no right to impose and no power to enforce. The last lingering hope of Mexico, if she still could have retained any, that Texas would ever again become one of her provinces, must have been abandoned.

The consul of the United States at the city of Mexico was, therefore, instructed by the Secretary of State on the 15th of September, 1845, to make the first move in the Mexican Government. The inquiry was made, and on the 15th of October, 1845, the Minister of Foreign affairs of the Mexican government, in a note addressed to our consul, gave a favorable response, requesting, at the same time, that our naval force might be withdrawn from Vera Cruz, to prevent any jealousy on the part of the people of Mexico, and to facilitate the negotiation. Upon the receipt of this note our naval force was promptly withdrawn from Vera Cruz. A minister was immediately selected and despatched to Mexico.—Every thing bore a promising aspect for a speedy and peaceful adjustment of all our difficulties. At the date of my annual message, in December last, no doubt was entertained but that he would be received by the Mexican government, and the hope was cherished that all causes of misunderstanding between the two countries would be speedily removed.—the confident hope that such would be the result of his mission. I informed Congress that I forebore at that time to recommend such ulterior measures of redress for the wrongs and injuries we had so long borne, as it would have been proper to make had no such negotiation been instituted."

But the hopes with which our Mexican Minister was at that time President of the Republic, and now is, Gen. Mariano Paredes (a military leader) had manifested his determination to overthrow the government of Herrera, by a military revolution; and one of the principal reasons by which he employed to effect his purpose, and render the Government of Herrera odious to the army and people of Mexico, was by his determination to open negotiations to receive a minister of peace from the U. States, alleging that it was the intention of Herrera, by a treaty with the United States, to dismember the territory of Mexico, by ceding away the department of Texas. The government of Herrera is believed to have been well disposed to a peaceful adjustment of our difficulties, but, probably alarmed for its own security, and, in order to ward off the danger of the revolution led by Paredes, violated its solemn engagement, and refused to receive or accreditour minister; and this, although informed that he had been invested with full power to adjust all questions in dispute between the two governments.

Among the frivolous pretexts for this refusal, the principal one was, that our minister had not gone upon a special mission, confined to the question of Texas alone, but was empowered to settle all other and our citizens unredressed. The Mexican government well knew that both our national honor and the protection due to our citizens required that other questions of boundary and indemnity, should be treated together, as naturally and inseparably blended, and they ought to have seen that this surprise was best calculated to enable the United States to extend to them the most liberal justice. On the 20th of December, 1845, Gen. Herrera, signed the proclamation, and yielded up the government to Gen. Paredes without a struggle. Thus a revolution was accomplished solely by the army commanded by Paredes, and the supreme power in Mexico passed into the hands of a military usurper, who was known to be bitterly hostile to the U. States.

Although the prospect of a pacific adjustment with the new government was promising, from the known hostility of its head to the U. States, yet, determined to leave nothing undone that might tend to restore friendly relations between the two countries, our minister was instructed to present his credentials to the new government, and to be guided in his conduct by it in the diplomatic character in which he had been commissioned. These instructions he executed by his note of the 1st of March, 1846, addressed to the Mexican Minister of Foreign Affairs, but his request was unceremoniously refused by that minister in his answer of the 12th of the same month. No alternative remained for our minister but to demand his passports, and return to the United States.

Thus was the extraordinary spectacle presented to the civilized world, of a government, which, by its own act, was without a government, having twice rejected a minister of peace, invested with full powers to adjust all the existing differences between the two countries in a manner just and honorable to both. I am not aware that modern history presents a parallel case, in which, in time of peace, our nation has refused even to receive ministers bearing another for terminating existing difficulties between them.

Scarcely a hope of adjusting our difficulties remained at this period, or of preserving peace with Mexico, could be cherished while Paredes remained at the head of the government. He had acquired the supreme power by a military revolution, and upon the most solemn pledges to wage war against the United States, and to reconquer Texas which he claimed as a revolted province. He had also denounced as guilty of treason all those Mexicans who considered Texas as no longer constituting a part of the territory of Mexico, or who were favorable to the cause of peace. The duration of the war which he waged against the United States, was indefinite, because the end which he proposed, the reconquest of Texas, was hopeless. Besides, there was good reason to believe, from all his conduct, that it was his intention to convert the republic of Texas into a monarchy, and to call a foreign European prince to the throne.—Preparatory to this end, he had, during his short rule, destroyed the liberty of the press, tolerating that publicly, but in secret he advocated the establishment of a monarchy. The better to secure the success of his ultimate designs, he had, by an arbitrary decree, convoked a Congress to assemble in the City of Mexico on the 6th of December, to which, he was to be elected in a manner, to make them subservient to his will, and to give him absolute control over their deliberations.

Under all these circumstances, it was believed that any revolution in Mexico, founded upon opposition to the ambitious projects of Paredes would tend to promote the true interests of that country. Under the influence of such views, I was willing that the revolutionary movement which he was prosecuting should prove successful, as was highly probable. The partizans of Paredes, as our minister, in the dispatch referred to, states, breathed the fiercest hostility against the U. States, denounced the proposed negotiation as treason, and openly called upon the troops and the people to march out to the encounter of Herrera by force. The reconquest of Texas, and war with the U. States, were openly threatened. These were the circumstances existing, when the step was taken by the Mexican Minister.

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Although the prospect of a pacific adjustment with the new government was promising, from the known hostility of its head to the U. States, yet, determined to leave nothing undone that might tend to restore friendly relations between the two countries, our minister was instructed to present his credentials to the new government, and to be guided in his conduct by it in the diplomatic character in which he had been commissioned. These instructions he executed by his note of the 1st of March, 1846, addressed to the Mexican Minister of Foreign Affairs, but his request was unceremoniously refused by that minister in his answer of the 12th of the same month. No alternative remained for our minister but to demand his passports, and return to the United States.

Thus was the extraordinary spectacle presented to the civilized world, of a government, having twice rejected a minister of peace, invested with full powers to adjust all the existing differences between the two countries in a manner just and honorable to both. I am not aware that modern history presents a parallel case, in which, in time of peace, our nation has refused even to receive ministers bearing another for terminating existing difficulties between them.

Scarcely a hope of adjusting our difficulties remained at this period, or of preserving peace with Mexico, could be cherished while Paredes remained at the head of the government. He had acquired the supreme power by a military revolution, and upon the most solemn pledges to wage war against the United States, and to reconquer Texas which he claimed as a revolted province. He had also denounced as guilty of treason all those Mexicans who considered Texas as no longer constituting a part of the territory of Mexico, or who were favorable to the cause of peace. The duration of the war which he waged against the United States, was indefinite, because the end which he proposed, the reconquest of Texas, was hopeless. Besides, there was good reason to believe, from all his conduct, that it was his intention to convert the republic of Texas into a monarchy, and to call a foreign European prince to the throne.—Preparatory to this end, he had, during his short rule, destroyed the liberty of the press, tolerating that publicly, but in secret he advocated the establishment of a monarchy. The better to secure the success of his ultimate designs, he had, by an arbitrary decree, convoked a Congress to assemble in the City of Mexico on the 6th of December, to which, he was to be elected in a manner, to make them subservient to his will, and to give him absolute control over their deliberations.

Under all these circumstances, it was believed that any revolution in Mexico, founded upon opposition to the ambitious projects of Paredes would tend to promote the true interests of that country. The revolutionary movement which he was prosecuting should prove successful, as was highly probable. The partizans of Paredes, as our minister, in the dispatch referred to, states, breathed the fiercest hostility against the U. States, denounced the proposed negotiation as treason, and openly called upon the troops and the people to march out to the encounter of Herrera by force. The reconquest of Texas, and war with the U. States, were openly threatened. These were the circumstances existing, when the step was taken by the Mexican Minister.

Every honorable effort has been used by me to avoid the war which followed, but without sacrificing our rights and honor to preserve peace have been met by insult and resistance on the part of Mexico.—My efforts to this end commenced in the year of the Secretary of State of the 10th of March, 1845, in answer to that of the Mexican Minister. Whilst declining to reopen a discussion which had already been exhausted, and which, although it was known to the whole world, that Texas had long since achieved her independence, the Secretary of State expressed the regret of his government that Mexico should have taken offence at the resolution of annexation passed by Congress, and gave assurance that our utmost streuous efforts shall be devoted to the amicable adjustment of every cause of complaint between the two governments, and to the cultivation of the kindest and most friendly relations between the sister republics."

That I have acted in the spirit of this assurance will appear from the events which have since occurred. Notwithstanding Mexico had abruptly terminated her intercourse with the United States, and ought, therefore, to have been the first to ask for its resumption, yet, waiving all ceremony, I embraced the earliest favorable opportunity to open intercourse with the Mexican Government whether they would receive an envoy from the U. States intrusted to adjust all the questions in dispute between the two governments. In September, 1845, I believed the propitious moment for such an overture had arrived. Texas, by the enthusiastic and almost unanimous will of her people, had pronounced in favor of annexation. Mexico herself had agreed to acknowledge the independence of Texas, subject to a condition, it is true, which she had no right to impose and no power to enforce. The last lingering hope of Mexico, if she still could have retained any, that Texas would ever again become one of her provinces, must have been abandoned.

The consul of the United States at the city of Mexico was, therefore, instructed by the Secretary of State on the 15th of September, 1845, to make the first move in the Mexican Government. The inquiry was made, and on the 15th of October, 1845, the Minister of Foreign affairs of the Mexican government, in a note addressed to our consul, gave a favorable response, requesting, at the same time, that our naval force might be withdrawn from Vera Cruz, to prevent any jealousy on the part of the people of Mexico, and to facilitate the negotiation. Upon the receipt of this note our naval force was promptly withdrawn from Vera Cruz. A minister was immediately selected and despatched to Mexico.—Every thing bore a promising aspect for a speedy and peaceful adjustment of all our difficulties. At the date of my annual message, in December last, no doubt was entertained but that he would be received by the Mexican government, and the hope was cherished that all causes of misunderstanding between the two countries would be speedily removed.—the confident hope that such would be the result of his mission. I informed Congress that I forebore at that time to recommend such ulterior measures of redress for the wrongs and injuries we had so long borne, as it would have been proper to make had no such negotiation been instituted."

But the hopes with which our Mexican President of the Republic, and now is, Gen. Mariano Paredes (a military leader) had manifested his determination to overthrow the government of Herrera, by a military revolution; and one of the principal reasons by which he employed to effect his purpose, and render the Government of Herrera odious to the army and people of Mexico, was by his determination to open negotiations to receive a minister of peace from the U. States, alleging that it was the intention of Herrera, by a treaty with the United States, to dismember the territory of Mexico, by ceding away the department of Texas. The government of Herrera is believed to have been well disposed to a peaceful adjustment of our difficulties, but, probably alarmed for its own security, and, in order to ward off the danger of the revolution led by Paredes, violated its solemn engagement, and refused to receive or accreditour minister; and this, although informed that he had been invested with full power to adjust all questions in dispute between the two governments.

Among the frivolous pretexts for this refusal, the principal one was, that our minister had not gone upon a special mission, confined to the question of Texas alone, but was empowered to settle all other and our citizens unredressed. The Mexican government well knew that both our national honor and the protection due to our citizens required that other questions of boundary and indemnity, should be treated together, as naturally and inseparably blended, and they ought to have seen that this surprise was best calculated to enable the United States to extend to them the most liberal justice. On the 20th of December, 1845, Gen. Herrera signed the proclamation, and yielded up the government to Gen. Paredes without a struggle. Thus a revolution was accomplished solely by the army commanded by Paredes, and the supreme power in Mexico passed into the hands of a military usurper, who was known to be bitterly hostile to the U. States.

Although the prospect of a pacific adjustment with the new government was promising, from the known hostility of its head to the U. States, yet, determined to leave nothing undone that might tend to restore friendly relations between the two countries, our minister was instructed to present his credentials to the new government, and to be guided in his conduct by it in the diplomatic character in which he had been commissioned. These instructions he executed by his note of the 1st of March, 1846, addressed to the Mexican Minister of Foreign Affairs, but his request was unceremoniously refused by that minister in his answer of the 12th of the same month. No alternative remained for our minister but to demand his passports, and return to the United States.

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