The Potter Journal

Devoted to the Principles of True Democracy, and the Dissemination of Morality, Literature and News.

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*** Devoted to the cause of Republicanism, the interests of Agriculture, the advancement of Education, and the best good of Potter county. Owning no guide except that of Principle, it will endeavor to aid in the work of more fully Freedomizing our Country.

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A Livery Stable is also kept in connection with this Hotel.

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The Rochester Straw-Cutter.
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Fellow Citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives:

Another year of health and of sufficiently abundant harvest has passed. For these, and for the improved condition of our National affairs, our renewed and profound gratitude to God is due.

We remain in peace and friendship with foreign powers. The efforts of disloyal citizens of the United States to involve us in foreign wars to aid inexcusable insurrection, have been unavailing. Her Brittanic Majesty's G vernment, as was justly expected, have exercised their authority to prevent the departure of new hostile expeditions from British ports. The Emperor of France has by a like proceeding promptly vindicated the neutrality which he proclaimed at the beginning of the contest. Questions of great intricacy and importance have arisen out of the blockade and other belligerant operations between the Government and several of the maratime powers, but they have been discussed, and, so far as was possible, accommodated in a spirit of frankness, justice and mutual good will It is especially gratifying that our Prize Courts, by the impartiality of their adjudication, have commanded the respect and confidence of maritime powers.

The Supplemental treaty between the United States and Great Britain for the suppression of the African Slave trade, made on the 17th of February last, has been duly ratified and carried into execution. It is believed that so far as American ports and American citizens are concerned, that inhuman and barbarous traffic has been brought to an end.

I shall submit for the consideration of the Senate a convention for the adjustment of Possessory Claims in Washington Territory, arising out of the treaty of the 15th of June, 1854, between the United States and Great Britain, and which have been the source of some disquiet among the citizens of that now rapidly improving part of the country.

A novel and important question, involving the extent of the maritime jurisdiction of Spain in the waters which surround the Island of Cuba, has been debated without reaching any agreement, and it is proposed in an amicable spirit, to refer it to the arbitrament of a friendly power. A convention for that purpose will be submitted to the Senate.

I have thought it proper, subject to the approval of the Senate, to concur with the interested Commercial Powers in an arrangement for the liquidation of the Scheldt dues upon the principles which have been heretofore adopted in regard to the impost upon navigation in the waters of Denmark The long pending controversy between this Government and that of Chili touching the seizure at Gitana, in Peru, by Chilian officers, of a large amount in treasure, belonging to citizens of the United States, has been brought to a close by the award of his majesty the King of the Belgians, to whose arbitration the quesiton was referred by the parties. The subject was thoroughly and patiently examined by that justly respected magnate, and altho' the sum awarded to the claimants may not have been as large as they expected, there is no reason to distrust the wisdom of his majesty's decision. That decision was promptly complied with by Chili, when intelligence in regard to it reached that country.

Incidents occurring in the progress of our civil war have forced upon my attention the uncertain state of international questions touching the rights of foreigners in this country, and of the United States citizens abroad. In regard to some governments these rights are at least partially defined by treaties. In no instance however, is it expressly stipulated, that in the instance of civil war a foreigner residing in this country, within the lines of the insurgents, is to be exempted from the rule which classes him as a belligerant, in whose behalf the Government of his country cannot express any privileges or immunities distinct from that character. I regret to say, however, that such claims have been put forward and in some instances in behalf of foreigners who have lived in the United States the greater part of their lives.

There is reason to believe that many persons born in foreign countries who have declared their intention to become citizens or who have been fully naturalized, have evaded the military duty required of them in denying the fact, and thereby throwing upon the Government the burden of proof. It has been found difficult or impracticable to obtain the proof from the want of guides to the proper sources of information. These might be supplied by requiring the Clerks of Courts where declarations of intention may be made or naturalization effected, to send periodically lists of the names of the persons naturalized or declaring their intention to become citizens, to the Secretary of the Interior, in whose Department these names might be arranged and printed for general information. There is also reason to believe that foreigners frequently become citizens of the United States for the sole purpose of evading the duties imposed by the laws of their native country, to which, on becoming naturalized here, they at once repair, and though never returning to the United States, they still claim the interposition of this government as citizens.

Many altercations and great prejudices have heretofore arison out of this abuse. It is, therefore, submitted to your serious consideration. It might be advisable to fix a limit beyond which no citizen of the United States, residing abroad, may claim the interposition of his Government. The right of suffrage has often been assumed and exercised by aliens, under pretenses of naturalization which they had disavowed when drafted into the military service. I submit the expediency of such an amendment of the laws as will make the fact of voting an estoppel against any plea of exemption from military service or other civil obligations on the ground of alienage.

In common with other Western Powers, our relations with Japan have been brought into serious jeopardy through the perverse opposition of the hereditary aristocracy of the Empire, to the enlightened and liberal policy of the Tycon, designed to bring the country into the society of nations. It is to be hoped, although not with entire confidence, that these difficulties may be peacefully overcome.

Satisfactory arrangements have been made with the Emperor of Russia, which it is believed will result in effecting a continuous line of telegraph through that empire from our Pacific Coast. I recommend to your favorable consideration the subject of an international telegraph across the Atlantic Ocean and also of a telegraph between this Capitol and the National forts along the Atlantic Sea board and the Gulf of Mexico. Such connections established with any reasonable outlay would be economical as well as effective aids to the diplomatic, military and naval service

The consular system of the United States under the enactment of the last Congress begins to be self-sustaining, and there is reason to hope that it may become entirely so with the increase of trade which will ensue whenever peace is restored.

Our ministers abroad have been faithful in defending American rights. In protecting our commercial interests, our consuls have necessarily had to encounter increased labors and responsibilities growing out of the war. These they have for the most part, met and discharged with zeal and efficiency This acknowledgment justly includes those consuls who, residing in Morocco, Egypt, Turkey, Japan, China and other oriental countries, are charged with complex functions and extraordinary powers.

The condition of the several organized territories is generally satisfactory, altho' the Indian disturbances in New Mexico have not been entirely suppressed. The mineral resources of Colorado, Nevada, Idaho, New Mexico and Arizona are proving far richer than heretofore understood. I lay before you a communication on this subject from the Governor of New Mexico. I again submit to your consideration the expediency of establishing a system for the encouragement of immigration. Although this source of national wealth and strength is again flowing with greater freedom than for several years before the insurrection occurred, there is still a great deficiency of laborers in every field of industry, especially in agriculture and in our mines, as well of iron and coal, as of the precious metals. While the demand for labor is thus increased here, tnes of thousands of persons, destitute of remunerative occupation, are thronging our foreign consulates and offering to emigrate to the United States, if essential, but very cheap, assistance can be afforded them It is easy to see that under the sharp discipline of civil war, the nation is beginning a new life. This noble effort demands the aid and ought to receive the attention and support of the Government.

Injuries unforeseen by the Government, and unintentional, may in some cases have been inflicted upon the subjects or citizens of foreign countries, both at sea and on land, by persons in the service of the United States As this Government expects redress from other powers when similar injuries are inflicted by persons in their service upon citizens of the United States, we must be prepared to do justice to foreigners.

If the existing judicial tribunals are inadequate for this purpose a special court may have arisen under treaties and the public law. Conventions for adjusting the claims by joint commission have been proposed to governments, but no definite answer to the proposition has yet been received from any.

In the course of the session I shall probably have occasion to request you to provide indemnification to claimants where decrees of restitution have been rendered and damages awarded by the Admiralty Courts. And in other cases where this Government may be acknowledged to be liable in principle and where the amount of that liability has been ascertained by an informal arbitration the proper officers of the Treasury have deemed themselves required by the law of the United States upon the subject, to demand a tax upon the incomes of Foreign Consuls in this country. While such a demand may not, in strictness, be in derogation of public law, or perhaps of any existing treaties between the United States and a foreign country, the expediency of so far modifying the act as to exempt from tax the income of such consuls as are not citizens of the United States, derived from the emoluments of their office or from property not situated in the United States, is submitted to your serious consideration.

I make this suggestion upon the ground that a comity which ought to be reciprocated exempts our consuls in all other countries from taxation. To the extent thus indicated, the United States, I think, ought not to be exceptionally illiberal to to international trade and commerce.

The operations of the treasury during the last year have been successfully conducted. The enactment by Congress of a National Banking Law has proved a valuable support of the public credit, and the general legislation in relation to loans has fully answered the expectations of its favorites. Some amendments may be required to perfect existing laws, but no change in their principles or general scope is believed to be needed. Since these measures have been in operation all demands on the treasury, including the pay of the army and navy, have been promptly met and fully satisfied. No considerable body of troops, it is believed, were ever more amply provided and more liberally and punctually paid, and it may be added, that by no peeple were the burdens incident to a great war ever more cheerfully borne.

The receipts during the year from all sources, including loans and the balance in the Treasury at its commencement, were $901,125,674 86—the aggregate disbursements $895,796,630 65, leaving a balance on the 1st of July, 1863, of $5,329,044 21.

Of the receipts there were derived from Customs, $69,059,642 40. From Internal Revenue, $37,640,787 94 From direct Taxes, $1,485,103 61. From Lands, $167,617 17. From miscellaneous sources, $3,046,615 35, and from Loans $776,582,361,52, making the aggregate $901,175,674 86.

Of the disbursements there were $232,539 22; for pensions, &c. $4,216,520 59; for interest on public debt, $24,729,846 51; for the War Department, $599,298,600 83; for the Navy Department $63,211,105 27, for payment of funded and temporary debt, $181,086,635 07, making the aggregate $895,796,630 65, and leaving the balance of $5,329,044,21.

But the payments of the funded and temporary debt having been made from monies borrowed during the year, must be regarded as merely nominal receipts, and their amount $181,086,635 07, should therefore, be deducted both from the receipts and disbursements. This being done, there remains as actual receipts $714,709,895 58, leaving the balance as already stated.

The actual receipts and disbursements for the first quarter, and the estimated receipts and disbursements for the remaining three quarters of the current fiscal year, of 1864 will be shown in detail by the report of the Secretary of the Treasury, to which I invite your attention.

It is sufficient to say here that it is not believed that the actual results will exhibit a state of the finances less favorable to the country than the estimates of that officer heretofore submitted, while it is confidently expected that at the close of the year both disbursements and debts will be found very considerably less than has been anticipated.

The duties devolving on the naval branch of the service during the year and throughout the whole of this unhappy contest have been discharged with fidelity and eminent success.

The extensive blockade has been constantly increasing in efficiency, as the Navy has expanded; yet on so long a line it has so far been impossible to entirely suppress illicit trade.

From the returns received at the Navy Department, it appears that more than one thousand vessels have been captured since the Blockade was instituted, and that the value of prizes already sent home for adjudication amounts to over $13,000,000. The naval force of the United States consists at this time of 588 vessels completed, and in the course of completion, and of these, 75 are iron-clad or armored steamers. The events of the war give an increased interest and importance to the navy, which will probably extend beyond the war itself.

The armored vessels in our Navy completed and in service, or which are under contract and approaching completion, are believed to exceed in number those of any other power; but while these may be relied upon for harbor defence and coast service; others of great strength and capacity will be necessary for cruising purposes, and to maintain our rightful position on the ocean. The change that has taken place in naval vessels and naval warfare since the introduction of steam as a motive power for ships of war, demands either a corresponding change in some of our existing Navy Yards or the establishment of new ones for the construction and necessary repairs of modern war vessels. No inconsiderable embarrassment, delay or public injury have been experienced from the want of such Government establishments.

The necessity of such a Navy Yard so furnished at some suitable place upon the Atlantic sea board has, on repeated occasions, been brought to the attention of Congress by the Navy Department, and is again presented in the report of the Secretary, which accompanies this communication.

I think it my duty to invite your special attention to this subject; and also to that of establishing a yard and depot for naval purposes upon one of the Western rivers. A naval force has been created on those interior waters, and under means disadvantageous, within little more than two years, exceeding in numbers the whole naval force of the country at the commencement of the present Administration. Satisfactory and important as have been the performances of the heroic men of the Navy at this interesting period they are scarcely more wonderful than the services of our mechanics and artisans in the production of war vessels, which has created a new form of naval power.

Our country has advantages superior to any other nation in our resources of iron and timber, with inexhaustible quantities of fuel in the immediate vicinity of both, and all available and in close proximity to navigable waters. Without the advantage of public works, the resources of the nation have been developed and its power displayed in the construction of a navy of such magnitude, which has at the very period of its creation rendered signal service to the Union.

The increase of the number of seamen in the public service from 7,500 men in the spring of 1861, to about 34,000 at the present time, has been accomplished wit out special legislation or extraordinary bounties.

During the past fiscal year the financial condition of the Post Office Department has been one of increasing prosperity and I am gratified in being able to state that the actual Postal Revenue has nearly equalled the entire expenditures, the latter amounting to eleven million three hundred and fourteen thousand dollars and eighty-four cents, and the former to eleven million one hundred and sixty-three thousand seven hundred and eighty-nine dollars and fifty-nine cents, leaving a deficiency of but $150,417 25. In 1860, the year immediately preceeding the rebellion, the deficiency amounted to $5,656,705 40, the postal receipts of that year being $2,645,722 19 less than those of 1863 The decrease since 1860, in the annual amount of transportation has been only about 25 per cent., but the annual expenditure on account of the same has been reduced 35 per cent. It is manifest, therefore, that the Post Office Department may become self-sustaining in a few years, even with the restoration of the whole service.

The quantity of land disposed of during the last and the first quarter of the present fiscal years was three millions eight hundred and forty-one thousand, five hundred and forty-nine acres, of which 161,711 acres were sold for cash, 1,459,514 acres were taken up under the homestead law, and the residue disposed of under laws granting lands for military bounties, for railroad and other purposes. It also appears that the sale of the public lands is largely on the increase. It has long been a cherished opinion of some of our wisest statesmen that the people of the United States had a higher and more enduring interest in the early settlement and substantial cultivation of the public lands, than in the amount of direct revenue to be derived from the sale of them.

This opinion has had a controlling influence in shaping legislation upon the subject of our national domain. I may cite as evidence of this the liberal measures adopted in reference to actual settlers.—The grant to the States of the overflowed lands within their limits, in order to their being reclaimed and rendered fit for cultivation, the grant to Rail Road Companies of alternate sections of land upon the contemplated lines of their road; when completed, will largely multiply the facilities for reaching our distant possessions.

This policy has received its most signal and beneficent illustration in the recent enactment granting homesteads to actual settlers. Since the first of January last the before mentioned quantity of one million four hundred and fifty-six thousand five hundred and fourteen acres of land have been taken up under its provisions. This fact and the amount of sales furnish gratifying evidence of increasing settlement upon the public lands, notwithstanding the great struggle in which the energies of the Nation have been engaged and which has required so large a withdrawal of our citizens from their accustomed pursuits.

I cordially concur in the recommendation of the Secretary of the Interior, suggesting a modification of the act in favor of those engaged in the military and naval service of the United States. I doubt not that Congress will cheerfully adopt such measures as will, without essentially changing the general features of the system, secure to the greatest practicable extent the benefits to those who have left their homes in the defence of the country in this arduous crisis.

I invite your attention to the views of the Secretary as to the propriety of raising by appropriate legislation a revenue from the mineral lands of the United States.

The measures provided, at your last session, for the removal of certain Indian tribes, have been carried into effect.—Sundry treaties have been negotiated which will, in due time, be submitted for the constitutional action of the Senate, They contain stipulations for extinguishing the possessory rights of the Indians, to large and valuable tracts of land.

It is probable that the effects of these treaties will result in the establishment of a permanent friendly relation with such tribes as have been brought into frequent and bloody collissions with our outlying settlements and emigrants. Sound policy and our imperative duty to these wards of the Government, demand our anxious and constant attention, to their material well being, to their progress in the arts of civilization, and, above all, to that moral training, which, under the blessing of Divine Providence, will confer upon them the elevated and sanctifying influence, the hope and consolation of the Christian faith.

When Congress assembled a year ago the war had already lasted nearly twenty months and there had been many conflicts on both sea and land with varying results. The rebellion had been pressed back into reduced limits, yet the tone of public feeling and opinion at home and abroad, was not satisfactory.

With other signs, the popular elections then just passed, indicated uneasiness among ourselves; while, amid much that was cold and menacing, the kindest words coming from Europe were uttered in accents of pity—that we were too blind to surrender. Our commerce was suffering greatly by a few armed vessels built upon and furnished from foreign shores, and we were threatened with such additions from the same quarter as would sweep our trade from the sea and raise our blockade. We had failed to elicit from the European government anything hopeful upon this subject.

The emancipation proclamation, which was issued in September, was running its assigned period to the beginning of the new year. A month later the final proclamation came, including the announcement that colored men of suitable condition would be received into the war service.

The policy of emancipation and of employing black soldiers gave to the future a new aspect, about which hope and fear and doubt contended in uncertain conflict.

According to our political system, as a matter of civil administration, the general government had no lawful power to effect emancipation in any States, and for a long time it had been hoped that the rebellion could be suppressed without resorting to it as a military measure.

It was all the while deemed possible that the necessity for it might come, and that if it should, the crisis of the contest would then be presented. It came, and as was intended, it was followed by dark and doubtful days.

Eleven months having now passed, we are permitted to take another review. The rebel borders are pressed still further back, and by the complete opening of the Mississippi river, the country dominated over by the rebellion is divided into distant parts, with no practical communication between them. Tennessee and Arkansas have been substantially cleared of insurgent control and influence and the citizens in each, owners of slaves and advocates of slavery at the beginning of the rebellion, now declare openly for emancipation in their respective States. Of those States not included in the Emancipation Proclamation, Maryland and Missouri, neither of which three years ago, would tolerate any restraint upon the extension of slavery, into the new territories, only dispute now as to the best mode of removing it within their own limits.

Of those who were slaves at the beginning of the rebellion, full 100,000 are now in the United States military service, about one half of which number actually