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JOHN G. HALL,
EDITOR & PROPRIETOR.

MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT.

A WORD OF CAUTION.

The report of the Secretary of the Treasury affords much information respecting the revenue and commerce of the country. His views upon the currency and with reference to the proper adjustment of our revenue system, are well as they are, are commended to the careful consideration of Congress. In my last annual message I expressed my general views upon these subjects. I need not only call attention to the necessity of carrying into every department of the Government a system of strict economy, through retrenchment and with economy. With no exception of unusual expenditures, the operations of the Treasury can be carried on with a moderation of our revenue which will be consistent with the public faith and the legitimate and necessary wants of the Government.

THE NATIONAL DEBT.

The report presents a much more satisfactory condition of our finances than one year ago. During the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1865, the last year of the war, the public debt was increased \$941,932,537, and on the 30th of June, 1865, it amounted to \$2,748,551,750. On the 31st day of October, 1865, it had been reduced to \$2,551,739,994; the diminution, during a period of fourteen months, commencing September 1st, 1865, and ending October 31st, 1865, having been \$206,811,756. In the last annual report on the state of the finances, it was estimated that during the three quarters of the fiscal year ending the 30th of June last, the debt would be increased \$112,121,417. During that period, however, it was reduced \$31,196,387, the receipts of the year having been \$89,935,945 more, and the expenditures \$200,529,295 less than the estimates. Nothing could more clearly indicate that the Government had the means and ability to pay its debts, and to carry on its operations with safety and economy, than the fact that the Government, great military and naval establishments can be disbanded and expenses reduced from a war to a peace footing.

REVENUE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR.

During the fiscal year ending the 30th of June, 1865, the receipts were \$563,622,000, and the expenditures \$529,750,000, leaving an available surplus of \$33,872,000. It is estimated that the receipts for the fiscal year ending the 30th of June, 1866, will be \$474,961,189, and that the expenditures will reach the sum of \$316,423,978, leaving in the Treasury a surplus of \$158,537,211 for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1866. It is estimated that the receipts will amount to \$436,000,000, and that the expenditures will be \$355,000,000, showing an excess of \$81,000,000 in favor of the Government. These estimated receipts may be diminished by a reduction of excise and tariff duties; but after all necessary reductions shall have been made, the revenue of the present and of the following years will doubtless be sufficient to cover all legitimate charges upon the Treasury and leave a large surplus to be applied to the payment of the principal of the debt. There is no reason to be a good reason why the Government should be hampered as the country grows in population and wealth, and yet the debt be extinguished within the next five years of a century.

SECRETARY STANTON'S REPORT.

The report of the Secretary of War furnishes valuable and important information respecting the operations of his Department during the last year. Few soldiers were remaining in the service, and the number being discharged as rapidly as they could be replaced by regular troops. The army has been promptly and completely reorganized with medical treatment, well clothed and subsisted, and is to be furnished with breech loading small arms. The military strength of the nation has been unimpaired by the discharge of volunteers, the disposition of unserviceable or perishable stores, and the re-employment of expenditures. A considerable war material to meet any emergency has been retained, and from the disbanded volunteers standing ready to respond to the national call, large armies can be rapidly organized, equipped and concentrated. Fortifications on the coast and frontier have received orders being prepared for more powerful armaments; lake surveys and harbor and river improvements are in course of energetic prosecution. Preparations have been made for the payment of the national bonds authorized during the recent session of Congress, under such regulations as will protect the Government from fraud, and secure to the bondholder discharged soldier the well-earned reward of his faithfulness and loyalty. More than six thousand military hospitals have received artificial limbs or other surgical apparatus; and

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forty-one national cemeteries, containing the remains of 104,526 Union soldiers, have already been established. The total estimates of military appropriations is \$25,265,039.

SECRETARY WELLES ON THE NAVY.

It is stated in the report of the Secretary of the Navy that the naval force at this time consists of two hundred and seventy-eight vessels, armed with two thousand three hundred and fifty-eight guns. Of these, one hundred and thirteen vessels, carrying one thousand and twenty-nine guns, are in commission, distributed chiefly among seven squadrons. The number of men in the service is thirteen thousand six hundred. Great activity and vigilance have been displayed by all the squadrons, and their movements have been judiciously and efficiently arranged in such manner as would best promote American commerce, and protect the rights and interests of our countrymen abroad. The vessels employed are undergoing repairs, or are laid up until their services may be required.

THE LEAGUE ISLAND IRON CLAD NAVY YARD.

Most of the iron clad fleet is at League Island, in the vicinity of Philadelphia, a place which, until decisive action should be taken by Congress, was selected by the Secretary of the Navy, as the most eligible location for that class of vessels. It is important that a suitable public station should be provided for the iron clad fleet. It is intended that these vessels shall be in proper condition for any emergency, and it is desirable that the bill accepting League Island for naval purposes, which passed the House of Representatives at its last session, should receive final action at an early period, in order that there may be a suitable public station for this class of vessels, as well as a navy yard of area sufficient for the wants of the service, on the Delaware river. The naval pension fund amounts to \$11,700,000 having been increased \$1,760,000 during the year. The expenditures of the Department for the fiscal year ending 30th June last were \$43,324,523 and the estimates for the coming year amount to \$23,593,165. Attention is invited to the condition of our seamen, and the importance of legislative measures for their relief and improvement. The suggestions in behalf of this deserving class of our fellow citizens are earnestly recommended to the favorable attention of Congress.

POSTMASTER GENERAL RANDALL'S REPORT.

The report of the Post Master General presents a most satisfactory condition of the postal service, and submits recommendations which deserve the consideration of Congress. The revenues of the Department for the year ending June 30, 1865, were \$14,388,986, and the expenditures \$15,352,673, showing an excess of the latter of \$965,693. In anticipation of this deficiency, however, a special appropriation was made by Congress in the act approved July 28, 1865, including the standing appropriation of \$7,000,000 for free mail matter, as a legitimate portion of the revenues yet remaining unexpended, the actual deficiency for the past year is only \$255,993, a sum within \$51,141 of the amount estimated in the annual report of 1864. The decrease of revenue compared with the previous year was one and one-fifth per cent, and the increase of expenditures, owing principally to the enlargement of the mail service of the South, was twelve per cent. On the 30th of June last there were in operation six thousand nine hundred and thirty mail routes, with an aggregate length of one hundred and eighty thousand nine hundred and twenty-one miles, an aggregate annual transportation of seventy-one million eight hundred and fourteen miles, and an aggregate annual cost, including all expenditures, of \$7,110,481. The length of railroad routes is thirty-two thousand and ninety-two miles, and the annual transportation thirty million six hundred and thirty thousand four hundred and sixty-seven miles. The length of steamboat routes is fourteen thousand three hundred and forty-six miles, and the annual transportation three million four hundred and eleven thousand nine hundred and sixty-two miles. The mail service is rapidly increasing throughout the whole country, and its steady extension in the Southern States indicates their constantly improving condition. The growing importance of the foreign service also merits attention. The Post Office Department of Great Britain and our own have agreed upon a preliminary basis for a new Postal Convention, which it is believed will prove eminently beneficial to the commercial interests of the United States, inasmuch as it contemplates a reduction of the international letter postage to one-half the existing rate; a reduction of postage with all other countries to and from which correspondence is transmitted in the British mail, or in closed mails throughout the United Kingdom; the establishment of uniform and reasonable charges for the sea and territorial transit of correspon-

dence in closed mails; and an allowance to each Post Office Department of the right to use the mail communications established under the authority of the other for the dispatch of correspondence, either in open or closed mails, on the same terms as those applicable to the inhabitants of the country providing the means of transmission.

SECRETARY BROWNING'S EXHIBIT FOR THE INTERIOR.

The report of the Secretary of the Interior exhibits the condition of these branches of the public service which are committed to his supervision. During the last fiscal year four million six hundred and twenty-two acres of public land were disposed of, one million eight hundred and ninety-two thousand five hundred and sixteen acres of which were entered under the homestead act. The policy originally adopted relative to the public lands has undergone essential modifications. Immediate revenue, and not their rapid settlement, was the cardinal feature of our land system. Long experience and earnest discussion have resulted in the conviction that the early development of our agricultural resources, and the diffusion of an energetic population over our vast territory, are objects of far greater importance to the national growth and prosperity than the proceeds of the sale of the land to the highest bidder in open market. The prohibition laws confer upon the pioneer who complies with the terms they impose, the privilege of purchasing a limited portion of "unoffered land" at the minimum price. The homestead emigrants relieve the settler from the payment of purchase money, and secure him a permanent home upon the condition of residence for a term of years. This liberty policy invites emigration from the old, and from the more crowded portions of the new world. Its prolific results are undoubted, and will be more signally manifested when time shall have given to it a wider development.

Congress has made liberal grants of public lands to corporations, in aid of the construction of railroads and other internal improvements. Should this policy hereafter prevail, more stringent provisions will be required to secure a faithful application of the land. The title to the lands should not pass, by patent or otherwise, but remain in the Government and subject to its control until some portion of the road has been actually built. Portions of them might then, from time to time, be conveyed to the corporation, but never in greater ratio to the whole quantity embraced by the grant than the completed parts bear to the entire length of the projected improvement. The restriction would not operate to the prejudice of and undertaken conceived in good faith and executed with reasonable energy, as is the settled practice to withdraw from market the lands falling within the operation of such grants, and thus to exclude the inception of a subsequent adverse right. A breach of the conditions which Congress may deem proper to impose should work a forfeiture of claim to the lands so withdrawn but unexecuted, and of title to the lands conveyed, which remains unaided.

THE PACIFIC RAILROAD.

Operations on the several lines of the Pacific Railroad have been prosecuted with unexampled vigor and success. Should no unforeseen causes of delay occur, it is confidently anticipated that this great thoroughfare will be completed before the expiration of the period designated by Congress.

PAYMENT OF PENSIONS.

During the last fiscal year the amount paid to pensioners, including two ox-pens of disbursement, was thirteen million four hundred and fifty-six thousand nine hundred and ninety-six dollars, and fifty thousand one hundred and seventy-seven names were added to the pension rolls. The entire number of pensioners on June 30, 1865, was one hundred and twenty-six thousand seven hundred and twenty-two. This fact furnishes melancholy and striking proof of the sacrifices made to vindicate the constitutional authority of the Federal Government, and to maintain inviolate the integrity of the Union. They impose upon us corresponding obligations. It is estimated that thirty-three million dollars will be required to meet the exigencies of this branch of the service during the next fiscal year.

NAPOLÉON "GOES BACK" ON HIS WORD.

Such was the condition of affairs in regard to Mexico, when, on the 22d of November last, official information was received from Paris that the Emperor of France has some time before decided not to withdraw a detachment of his forces in the month of November past, according to engagement, but that this decision was made with the purpose of withdrawing the whole force in the ensuing spring. Of this determination, however, the United States had not received any notice or intimation; and, as soon as the information was received

by the Government, care was taken to make known its dissent to the Emperor of France.

I cannot forego the hope that France will reconsider the subject, and adopt some resolution in regard to the evacuation of Mexico which will conform as nearly as practicable with the existing engagements, and thus meet the just expectations of the United States. The papers relating to the subject will be laid before you. It is believed that with the evacuation of Mexico by the expeditionary forces on the subject for various differences between France and the United States would remain. The expressions of the Emperor and the people of France warrant a hope that the traditional friendship between the two countries might in that case be renewed and permanently restored.

THE UNITED STATES AND GREAT BRITAIN.

It is a matter of regret that no considerable advance has been made towards an adjustment of the differences between the United States and Great Britain, arising out of the depredations on our national commerce and other trespasses committed during our civil war by British subjects, in violation of international law and treaty obligations. The delay, however, may be believed to have resulted in no small degree from the domestic situation of Great Britain. An entire change of ministry occurred in that country during the last session of Parliament. The attention of the new ministry was called to the subject at an early day, and there is some reason to expect that it will now be considered in a becoming and friendly spirit. The importance of an early disposition of the question cannot be exaggerated. What ever might be the wishes of the two Governments, it is manifest that goodwill and friendship between the two countries cannot be established until a reciprocity, in the practice of good faith and neutrality, shall be restored between the respective nations.

THE PENIAN AFFAIR OF LAST JUNE.

On the 6th of June last, in violation of our neutrality laws, a military expedition and enterprise against the British North American Colonies was projected and attempted to be carried on within the territory and jurisdiction of the United States. In obedience to the obligation imposed upon the Executive by the Constitution to see that the laws are faithfully executed, all citizens were warned, by proclamation, against taking part in or aiding such unlawful proceedings, and the proper civil, military and naval officers were directed to take all necessary measures for the enforcement of the laws. The expedition failed, but it has not been without its painful consequences. Some of our citizens, who, it was alleged, were engaged in the expedition, were captured and have been brought to trial, as for a capital offense, in the Province of Canada. Judgment and sentence of death have been pronounced against some, while others have been acquitted. Fully believing in the maxim of government, that severity of civil punishment for misguided persons who have engaged in revolutionary attempts which disastrously failed, is unseemly and unwise, such representations have been made to the British Government, in behalf of the convicted persons, as being sustained by an enlightened and humane judgment, and it is hoped, induce in their cases an exercise of clemency, and a judicious amnesty to all who were engaged in the movement. Counsel has been employed by the Government to defend citizens of the United States on trial for capital offenses in Canada; and a discontinuance of the prosecutions which were instituted in the course of the United States against those who took part in the expedition, has been directed.

A TRYING ORDEAL.

In the performance of a duty imposed upon me by the Constitution, I have just submitted to the Representatives of the States and of the people, such information of our domestic and foreign affairs as the public interests seem to require. Our Government is now undergoing its most trying ordeal, and my earnest prayer is that the peril may be successfully and finally passed, without impairing its original strength and symmetry. The interests of the nation are best to be promoted by the revival of fraternal relations, the complete obliteration of our past differences, and the re-inauguration of all the pursuits of peace. Directing our efforts to the early accomplishment of these great ends, let us endeavor to preserve harmony between the co-ordinate Departments of the Government, that each in its proper sphere may cordially co-operate with the other in securing the maintenance of the Constitution, the preservation of the Union, and the perpetuity of our free institutions.

ANDREW JOHNSON.
Washington, Dec. 8, 1866.

The colored people in Lynchburg are giving theatrical representations.

Correspondence of the Advocate.

LETTERS TO MARY.

My dear Sir:—In my last letter I quoted from your first letter, where you give as a reason for addressing prayers to the Virgin Mary rather than to God Himself, that "Mary is peculiarly the Queen of Mercy," &c. You say "to her does not belong the attribute of justice," and so the sinner, "laden down with crimes and transgression," will stand a better chance of obtaining forgiveness. But this, instead of being an argument in favor of your doctrine, seems to me a very strong argument against it. For, first, it dishonors the character of Mary. She is presented to us in the Scripture as a very excellent person; fit to be addressed as "highly favored" and "blessed among women." But you take from her one of the most essential elements of a righteous character, and make her very unlike God; so much so that she could not rejoice in the exercise of divine justice—could not join in those Alleluias that we read of in the Apocalypse (chaps. 19 and 20) "Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given their blood to drink: for they are worthy." "Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honor, and power, unto the Lord our God: for true and righteous are his judgments: for He hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornications, and hath avenged the blood of his servants. And again they said Alleluia. And her smoke rose up forever and ever." If Mary is all mercy and no justice, we may be very sure that a just God will never resign the judgment seat to her. And with your notion of the saints' intercession, we might, (without irreverence) imagine some such colloquy as this:

Mary. Father Almighty, I beseech thee have mercy upon this poor sinner, who, burdened with his sins, has cried to me for help.

The Father. And why did he come to thee? Have I not said, Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else. Why then does he look to a creature, instead of God?

Mary. Alas, he fears thy justice: lest not daring to appear before Thee, shed the thunderbolts of Thy just wrath should be hurled upon him, he has cast himself at my feet, begging me to intercede for him.

The Father. If he so richly deserves wrath, why not let justice take its course?

Mary. Oh, speak not of justice, but let mercy have place. Remember Calvary—shall that blood be shed in vain?

The Father. Ah, Calvary—I will remember! Make your request to Him who was there lifted up on the tree, for I have committed all judgment to the Son.

Mary. Eternal Son of God, who didst condescend to become the Son of Man, and to call me Mother! wilt thou not have mercy upon such a one—he is a great sinner indeed, but thy blood can cleanse him from all sin. Remember Calvary, and let not that divine sacrifice be in vain?

The Son. A sinner seeking forgiveness: let him come to me, and a thousand times welcome! But where is he?

Mary. Oh, he has fallen at my feet, not having courage to approach Thee—he is laden down with crimes and transgressions, and fears he shall sink into the bottomless pit.

The Son. And why does he fall at thy feet? Have I not said, Come unto Me, all ye that labor, and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest?

Mary. Truth, Lord, you have given him that precious invitation: but he is so unworthy he fears you will not receive him.

The Son. But have I not said, I came not to call the righteous, but sinners; and him that cometh to me, I will in no wise cast out?

Mary. True he knows all this, and yet—

The Son. And yet he doubts my

Rates of Advertising.

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Auditor's Notices, each..... 2 50
Transient advertising, per square of 10 lines or less, 3 times or less..... 2 00
For each subsequent insertion..... 50
Professional cards, 1 year..... 5 00
Special notices, per line..... 15
Obituary and Marriage Notices, each 1 00
Yearly Advertising, one square..... 15 00
Yearly Advertising, two squares..... 25 00
Yearly Advertising three squares..... 35 00
Yearly Advertising, 1 column..... 25 00
Yearly Advertising, 2 columns..... 35 00
Yearly Advertising, 3 columns..... 50 00
Advertisements displayed more than

ordinarily will be charged for at the rate (per column) of..... 30 00

word! There is but one law for such: He that believeth shall be saved, but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Mary. Oh, deal not too harshly with him! he is so terrified at the thought of Thy Justice and his own guilt that he cannot venture into Thy presence.— But indeed he desires to come to Thee, and invokes my intercession that he may find acceptance.

The Son. Does he think all my invitations, all my promises, are but mockery! Does he think me a hypocrite and a liar! But my blood was shed for such an he—bid him come to me and I will receive him even now.

Mary. Holy Spirit, it is thy office to convince of sin: I beseech Thee show this poor sinner his mistake, and lead him to look to Jesus.

The Spirit. I have called, but he has refused, I have said, Behold the Lamb of God, and urged him to flee to Christ for refuge from the wrath to come.— But he resisted my entreaty; he set at naught my counsel, and despised my reproof. And now I will laugh at his calamity, and mock when his fear cometh. He shall eat the fruit of his own way, and be filled with his own devices.

Mary. Oh, let him not yet be given over to destruction! Let me go and try to persuade him to repentance.

The Spirit. It would be in vain. If he hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will he be persuaded though one rose from the dead.

I have drawn this out further than I intended, and must tax your patience (and the printer's) with another letter.

Truly yours,
EVANGELIST.

COUNTING-HOUSE ALMANAC FOR 1867.

Month	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
JANUARY	1	2	3	4	5	6
FEBRUARY	1	2	3	4	5	6
MARCH	1	2	3	4	5	6
APRIL	1	2	3	4	5	6
MAY	1	2	3	4	5	6
JUNE	1	2	3	4	5	6
JULY	1	2	3	4	5	6
AUGUST	1	2	3	4	5	6
SEPTEMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6
OCTOBER	1	2	3	4	5	6
NOVEMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6
DECEMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6

—That 'Tevens' caucus resolved that the Rump Senate should not confirm any of the appointments made by the President during the recess of the immaculate Rump. First crack of the whip.

—Large quantities of flour and other produce are now finding their way from the west down the Mississippi, regardless of the fact that the Rump has not declared the war ended and harmony restored.

Pork is selling in Winchester at 86 per hundred, and the Time says it will be lower.