

THE MESSAGE.

Recommendations to Congress by the National Executive.

THE VIRGINUS OUTRAGE

Restoration, Reparation, Indemnity and the Punishment of "the Butchers" Demanded.

A HINT ON SPANISH SLAVERY.

The Navy to Be Restored While the Money Lasts.

Review of the Financial, Commercial, Marine, Postal, Agricultural, Judicial and Legislative Affairs of the Nation.

TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The year that has passed since the submission of my last message to Congress has, especially during the latter part of it, been an eventful one to the country. In the midst of great national prosperity a financial crisis has occurred that has brought low fortunes of gigantic proportions; political partisanship has almost ceased to exist, especially in the agricultural regions, and finally the capture upon the high seas of a vessel bearing our flag has for a time threatened the most serious consequences and has agitated the public mind from one end of the country to the other; but this, happily, now is in the way of a satisfactory adjustment hereafter to both nations concerned.

The relations of the United States, however, with most of the other Powers continue to be friendly and cordial. With France, Germany, Russia, Italy and the minor European Powers, with Brazil and most of the South American republics, and with Japan, nothing has occurred during the year to demand special notice. The correspondence between the Department of State and various diplomatic representatives in or from those countries is transmitted herewith.

In executing the will of Congress as expressed in its joint resolution of the 14th of February last, and in accordance with the provisions of the resolution, a number of "practical artisans," or "scientific men" and of "honorary commissioners" were appointed to attend the Exposition at Vienna as Commissioners on the part of the United States. It is believed we have attained the object which Congress had in view when it passed the joint resolution, in order to enable the people of the United States to participate in the advantages of the International Exhibition of the products of agriculture, manufactures and the fine arts to be held at Vienna. I take pleasure in adding that the American exhibitors have received a gratifying number of diplomas and medals. During the Exposition a conference was held at Vienna for the purpose of consultation on the systems prevailing in different countries for the perfection of inventions. I authorized a representative from the Patent Office to be present at Vienna at the time when this conference was to take place, in order to be able to advise and to secure any possible additional protection to American inventors in Europe. The report of this agent will be laid before Congress.

OUR CHINESE RELATIONS. It is my pleasant duty to announce to Congress that the Emperor of China, on attaining his majority, received the diplomatic representatives of the Western Powers in person. An account of these ceremonies and of the interesting discussions which preceded them, will be found in the documents transmitted herewith. The accompanying papers show that some advance, although slight, has been made during the past year towards the suppression of the infamous Chinese trade. I recommend Congress to inquire whether additional legislation be not needed on this subject.

THE ALABAMA CLAIMS FUND. The money awarded the United States by the Tribunal of Arbitration at Geneva was paid by Her Majesty's government a few days in advance of the time when it would have become payable according to the terms of the treaty. In compliance with the provisions of the act of March 3, 1873, it was at once paid into the Treasury and used to redeem, so far as it might, the public debt of the United States, and the amount so redeemed was invested in a five per cent. registered bond of the United States for \$15,000,000, which is now held by the Secretary of State, subject to the future disposition of Congress. I renew my recommendations that a commission be appointed by Congress to examine into the expediency of the several direct losses growing out of the destruction of vessels and their cargoes by the Alabama, the Florida or the Shenandoah, after leaving Melbourne, from which the sufferers have received no equivalent or compensation, and of ascertaining the names of the persons entitled to receive compensation for the same, making the computations upon the basis indicated by the Tribunal of Arbitration at Geneva, and that payment of such losses be authorized to an extent not to exceed the awards of the Tribunal at Geneva.

ANGLO-AMERICAN BOUNDARIES. By an act approved on the 14th day of February, 1874, Congress made provision for compelling, jointly with an officer or commission to be named by the President, the United States to furnish to the British Majesty, the United States, or to any of the boundary lines between the territories of the United States and the possessions of Great Britain as was left uncompleted by the Commissioners appointed under the act of Congress of August 11, 1856. Under the provisions of this act the northwest water boundary of the United States has been determined and marked in accordance with the award of the Emperor of Germany. A protocol and a copy of the map upon which the line was thus marked are contained in the papers submitted herewith.

Also transmit a copy of the report of the commission for marking the northern boundary between the United States and the British possessions west of the Lake of Woods. The operations of the commission during the past season, surveys have been made to a point 60 miles west of the Lake of Woods, and the said work of which can be completed during the next season.

THE BRITISH CLAIMS. The Mixed Commission, organized under the provisions of the Treaty of Washington for settling and determining the claims of citizens of either Power against the other, arising out of acts committed against their persons or property during the period between April 13, 1861, and April 9, 1865, made its final award on the 22d day of September last. It was awarded that the government of the United States should pay to the government of Her Majesty's Majesty within 12 months from the date of the award the sum of \$1,929,519 in gold. The commission also awarded that the United States should pay to the British Majesty the amount of the claims presented by the British government, but disallowed or dismissed, in the amount of about \$63,000,000. It also disallowed all the claims of citizens of the United States against Great Britain which were referred to it.

I recommend the early passage of an act appropriating the amount necessary to pay this award against the United States.

I have caused to be communicated to the government of the King of Italy the thanks of this government for the eminent services rendered by Count Cavour as the third Commissioner on this commission. With dignity,

learning and impartiality, he discharged duties requiring great labor and constant patience to the satisfaction, I believe, of both governments.

MOORE CLARKS COMING. I recommend legislation to create a special court, to consist of three judges, who shall be empowered to hear and determine all claims of aliens upon the United States arising from acts committed against their persons or property during the insurrection. The recent reference under the Treaty of Washington was confined to claims of British subjects arising during the period named in the treaty, but it is desired that there be other British claims of a similar nature arising after the 9th of April, 1865, and it is known that other claims of like nature are advanced by citizens or subjects of other Powers. It is desirable to have these claims also examined and disposed of.

Official information being received from the Dutch government of a state of war between the King of the Netherlands and the Sultan of Acheen, the officers of the United States who were near the seat of the war were instructed to observe an impartial neutrality, which they have done.

MEXICAN AFFAIRS. The Joint Commission under the convention with Great Britain, which has been lawfully prolonged, has resumed its business, which it is hoped may be brought to an early conclusion. The distinguished representatives of the United States at Washington have kindly consented, with the approval of his government, to assume the duties and responsibilities of umpire in this commission, and to lend their names to such decisions as may not require the acquiescence of both the arbitrators appointed by the respective governments.

The Commissioners appointed, pursuant to the authority of Congress, to examine into the nature and extent of the claims of Texas, have made a report which will be submitted for your consideration. The Venezuelan government has been apprised of the sense of Congress in regard to the award of the Joint Commission, under the Convention of the 20th April, 1865, expressed in the act of the 20th of February last. It is apprehended that that government does not realize the character of its obligations under that Convention. As there was no intention to believe, however, that its hesitancy in recognizing them springs, in part at least, from real difficulty in discharging them in connection with its obligations to other countries, the extension of further forbearance on our part is believed to be worthy of your consideration.

THE OTTOMAN GOVERNMENT AND THAT OF EGYPT have lately shown a disposition to relieve foreign nations of the burden of the Turkish debt, which they have exercised in the Turkish dominions by organizing other tribunals. As Congress, however, has a law provided for the discharge of such obligations, consisting of the United States in that charter, under the treaty of 1850, I have not set at liberty the hands of the Ottoman government, but I have suggested to Congress, whose decision upon the subject is as early a period as may be convenient is earnestly requested.

THE SPANISH-AMERICAN REPUBLICS. I transmit herewith for your consideration and determination of Congress an application of the Government of Cuba to be admitted to the protection of a protectorate over that Republic. Since the admission of Congress to the protection of Cuba, a convention with Denmark, a convention with Mexico for the purpose of extending a convention with the United States for the purpose of extending the Orange Free State, and a naturalization convention with Ecuador. I renew a recommendation of the 14th of March, 1873, that Congress authorize the Postmaster General to issue all commissions to officials appointed through the Secretary of State.

EXTRADICTION AND CITIZENSHIP. I invite the earnest attention of Congress to the extradition of the fugitive Duke respecting extradition and the election of nationality by individuals. Many of the citizens of the United States reside permanently abroad, and it is believed that the children of the act approved February 10, 1850, the children of such persons are to be deemed and taken to be citizens of the United States. It is believed that citizenship is not to descend to persons whose fathers never resided in the United States. It is believed that the children of such persons who were born and have been reared in the United States are to be deemed and taken to be citizens of the United States. It is believed that the children of such persons who were born and have been reared in the United States are to be deemed and taken to be citizens of the United States.

THE RECORDS OF THE GOVERNMENT. The records of the government from all sources for the last and this year were \$33,738,284, and expenditures on all accounts, \$30,946,345, thus showing an excess of \$2,791,939. It is not probable that this favorable exhibit will be shown for the present fiscal year. Indeed, the excess of expenditures over receipts is a great evil on the part of Congress in making appropriations, and the same economy in administering various departments of government, the expenses, including interest on public debt, which are incurred by the government, and point to the necessity of a more judicious and economical use of the appropriations for public buildings in the many cities where work is done, and for the improvements in the harbor and harbor improvements in those localities where the improvements are of a little benefit to the commerce of the country, and which is still more fruitful source of expenditure which will point out here in this message. I refer to the many cases of manufacturing claims for losses incurred in the destruction of buildings, and which are not understood here as opposing the erection of good, substantial and even ornamental buildings for the use of the government. It is believed that the government should own its own buildings in all sections of the country, and that the government should set an example to the States which may induce them to erect buildings for their Senators; but I believe that the government should not own more than a few buildings in each section of the country, and that the government should not own more than a few buildings in each section of the country.

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would augment the establishment of clearing houses for your consideration to secure the former. Many of the banks are in a state of liquidation, and which look to me more like inflation on the one hand or compelling the government, on the other, to pay for the notes of the banks, and which would be a serious source of difficulty for the country during the seasons when otherwise employed.

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POSTAL AFFAIRS. A complete exhibit is presented in the accompanying report of the Postmaster General of the operations of the Post Office Department during the year ended June 30, 1874, amounting to \$29,981,346. The increase of revenues over 1873 was \$1,081,315, and the increase of expenditures was \$1,428,775. Independently of the amount derived from special appropriations for mail steamships the amount drawn from the general treasury for the most defensible purposes was \$2,365,475.

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