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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE. [Concluded from last week.]

The naval force has been maintained in the Mediterranean Sea, the Pacific Ocean and along the Atlantic Coast, and has afforded the necessary protection to our commerce in those seas.

In the West Indies and the Gulf of Mexico, our naval force has been strengthened by the act authorizing an additional naval force for the suppression of piracy, passed by Congress at the last session. That armament has been eminently successful in the accomplishment of its object. The pirates, by which our commerce in the neighbourhood of the Island of Cuba had been distressed, have been repressed, and the confidence of our merchants in a great measure restored.

The patients and the enterprise of Commodore Porter, to whom the command of the expedition was confided, has been fully executed by the officers and men under his command. And in relation to the high satisfaction on the part of the people in which they have been, and the reputation of their country, and the sentiment is allowed to be a common one, that in the fulfilment of a dangerous service, the diseases incident to the season and to the climate in which it was discharged, have deprived the nation of many useful lives, and among them of several officers of great worth.

In the month of August a very malignant fever made its appearance at Compostela Island, which threatened the destruction of our station there. The periodical and the commanding officer was severely attacked. Uncertainty as to his fate, and knowing that most of the medical officers had been rendered incapable of discharging their duties, it was thought expedient to send to the post an officer of rank and experience, with skillful servants to ascertain the origin of the fever, and the probability of its recurrence there in future seasons; to furnish every assistance to those who were suffering; and, if practicable, to avoid the necessity of abandoning so important a station. Commodore Rodgers, with a promptitude which did him honor, cheerfully accepted that trust, and has discharged it in the manner anticipated from his skill and patriotism. Before his arrival, Commodore Porter, with the great part of the squadron, had returned from the island, and returned to the U. States, in consequence of the prevailing sickness. Much useful information has, however, been obtained as to the state of the island, and great relief afforded to those who had been necessarily left there.

Although our expedition, co-operating with an invigorated administration of the government of the Island of Cuba, and with the corresponding active exertions of a British naval force in the same sea, have almost entirely destroyed the unlicensed practices from that island, the success of our mission, as not been equally effectual to suppress the same practice, under the other pretences and colors, in the neighbouring island of Porto Rico. They have been committed there under the abusive issue of Spanish commissions. At an early period of the present year, remonstrances were made to the Governor of that island, by an agent who was sent for the purpose, against the outrages on the peaceful commerce of the United States, of which many had occurred. The officer, professing his own want of authority to make satisfaction for our complaints, answered only by a reference of them to the government of Spain. The minister of the United States to that court was specially instructed to urge the necessity of the immediate and efficient intervention of that government, directing restitution and indemnity for wrongs already committed, and interdicting the repetition of them. The minister, as has been seen, was debarred access to the Spanish government, and in the mean time, several new cases of flagrant outrage, have occurred, and citizens of the United States in the island of Porto Rico have suffered, and others have been threatened with, assassination, for asserting their unquestionable rights, even before the judicial tribunals of the country.

The usual orders have been given to all our public ships, to seize American vessels engaged in the slave trade, and bring them in for adjudication, and I have the gratification to state, that not one so employed has been discovered, and there is good reason to believe that our flag is now seldom, if at all, disgraced by that traffic.

It is a source of great satisfaction that we are always enabled to recur to the commendation. As means of national defence, it enjoys the public confidence, and is steadily assuming additional importance. It is supposed that higher grades than now exists by law would be useful. They would afford well merited rewards to those who have long and faithfully served their country; present the best incentives to good conduct, and the best means of insuring a proper discipline, destroy the inequality in that respect between military and naval services, and relieve our officers from many inconveniences and mortifications, which occur when our vessels meet with those of other nations, our being the only service in which such grades do not exist.

A report of the Post Master General, which accompanies this communication, will show the present state of the Post

Office Department, and its general operations for some years past.

There is established, by law, eighty-eight thousand six hundred miles of post roads, on which the mail is transported eight five thousand seven hundred miles, and contracts have been made for its transportation on all the established routes, with one or two exceptions. There are five thousand two hundred and forty post offices in the United States, and many post masters. The gross amount of postage which accrued from the first of July, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-two, to the first of July, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-three, was one million one hundred and fourteen thousand three hundred and forty five dollars, and twelve cents. During the same period, the expenditures of the Post Office Department amounted to one million one hundred and sixty-nine thousand eight hundred and eighty five dollars and fifty one cents; and consisted of the following items: Compensation to Postmasters, three hundred and fifty three thousand nine hundred and ninety five dollars and seventy eight cents; incidental expenses, thirty thousand eight hundred and sixty six dollars and thirty seven cents; transportation of the mail, seven hundred and eighty four thousand six hundred and eighty eight dollars and eight cents; payments to the Treasury, four hundred and twenty three dollars and eight cents. On the first of July last, there was due to the Department, from Postmasters, one hundred and thirty five thousand two hundred and forty five dollars and twenty eight cents; from late post masters and contractors, two hundred and fifty one thousand seven hundred and forty one dollars and thirty one cents; making a total amount of balances due to the Department, of three hundred and ninety one thousand nine hundred and ninety four dollars and fifty nine cents. These balances embrace all delinquencies of post masters and contractors, which have taken place since the organization of the Department. There was due by the Department, to contractors on the first of July last, twenty six thousand five hundred and forty eight dollars and sixty four cents.

The transportation of the mail, within five years past, has been greatly extended, and the expenditures of the Department proportionably increased. Although the postage which has accrued within the last three years, has fallen short of the expenditures two hundred and twenty one thousand eight hundred and twenty one dollars and forty six cents, it appears that collections have been made from the outstanding balances to meet the principle part of the current demands.

It is estimated that not more than two hundred and fifty thousand dollars of the above balances can be collected, and that a considerable part of this sum can only be realized by a resort to legal process. Some improvement in the receipts for postage is expected. A prompt attention to the collection of monies received by postmasters, it is believed, will enable the Department to continue its operations without aid from the Treasury, unless the expenditure shall be increased by the establishment of new mail routes.

A revision of some parts of the post office law may be necessary, and it is submitted, whether it would not be proper to provide for the appointment of postmasters, where the compensation exceeds a certain amount, by nomination to the Senate, as other officers of the general government are appointed.

Having communicated my views to Congress, at the commencement of the last session, respecting the encouragement which ought to be given to our manufactures, and the principle on which it should be founded, I have only to add that those views remain unchanged, and that the present state of those relations, with which we have the most immediate political relations and greatest commercial intercourse, tends to confirm the views upon this important subject. I recommend a review of the tariff, the purpose of affording such additional protection to those articles which we are more immediately connected with the defence and independence of the country.

The actual state of the public accounts furnishes additional evidence of the efficiency of the present system of accountability, in relation to the public expenditure. Of the monies drawn from the Treasury since the fourth of March, 1817, the sum remaining unaccounted for, on the 30th of September last, is less than one million and a half of dollars less than on the 30th of Sept. preceding, and, during the same period, a reduction of nearly a million of dollars has been made in the amount of the unsettled accounts for monies advanced previously to the 4th of March, 1817. It will be obvious that, in proportion as the mass of accounts of the latter description is diminished, by settlement, the difficulty of settling the remainder is increased, from the consideration that in many instances, it can be obtained only by legal process. For more precise details on this subject, I refer to a report from the First Comptroller of the Treasury.

The sum which was appropriated at the last session, for the repairs of the Cumberland road, has been applied with good effect to that object. A final report has not yet been received from the agent who was appointed to superintend it. As soon as it is received, it shall be communicated to Congress.

Many patriotic and enlightened citizens who have made the subject an object of particular investigation, have suggested an improvement of still greater importance. They are of opinion that the waters of the Chesapeake and Ohio may be connected together by one continued canal, and at an expense far short of the value and importance of the object to be obtained. If this could be accomplished, it is impossible to calculate the beneficial consequences which would result from it. A great portion of the produce of the very fertile country through which it would pass, would find a market through that channel. Troops might be moved with great facility in war, with cannon, and every kind of munition, and in either direction. Connecting the Atlantic with the western country, in a line passing through the seat of the national government, it would contribute essentially to strengthen the bond of Union itself. Believing as I do, that Congress possess the right to do so, I submit to the consideration of the House, (the jurisdiction remaining in the States through which the canal would pass.) I submit it to your consideration whether it may not be advisable to authorize, by an adequate appropriation, the employment of a suitable number of the officers of the corps of engineers, to examine the unexplored ground, during the next season, and to report their opinion thereon. It will likewise be proper to extend their examination to several points through which the waters of the Ohio may be conveyed, by canals, with those of Lake Erie.

As the Cumberland road will require annual repairs, and Congress have not thought it expedient to recommend to the States an amendment to the constitution, for the purpose of vesting in the U. S. a power to adopt and execute a system of internal improvement, it is also submitted to your consideration, whether it may not be expedient to authorize the Executive to enter into an arrangement with the several States through which the road passes, to establish tolls, each within its limits, for the purpose of defraying the expense of future repairs, and of providing, also, by suitable penalties, for its protection against future injuries.

The act of Congress of 7th of May, 1822, appropriated the sum of twenty two thousand seven hundred dollars for the purpose of erecting two piers as a shelter for vessels from ice, near Cape Henlopen, Delaware Bay. To effect the object of the act, the officers of the Board of Engineers, with Commodore Baird, a large number of persons sufficient to answer the purpose intended by the act, accompanied by their report which accompanied the documents from the War Department, that the appropriation is not adequate to the purpose intended, and that the piers would be of great service, both to the navigation of the Delaware Bay, and the protection of vessels on the adjacent parts of the coast. I submit for the consideration of Congress whether additional and sufficient appropriation should not be made.

The Board of Engineers were also directed to examine and survey the entrance of the harbor of the port of New Orleans in view, in order to make an estimate of the expense of removing the obstructions to the entrance, with a plan of the best mode of effecting the same under the appropriation for that purpose, by the act of Congress passed the 3d of March last. The report of the Board accompanies the papers from the War Department, and is submitted for the consideration of Congress.

A strong hope has been long entertained, founded on the heroic struggle of the Greeks, that they would succeed in the contest, and restore their equal station among the nations of the earth. It is believed that they whole civilization would take a deep interest in their welfare. Although no power has been declared in their favor, yet none according to our information has taken part against them. Their cause and their name have protected them from danger which might otherwise have overwhelmed any other people. The ordinary calculations of interest, and of acquisition, with a view to aggrandizement, which mingle so much in the transactions of nations, seem to have had no effect in regard to them. From the facts which have come to our knowledge, there is good reason to believe that their enemy has not forever all dominion over them; that Greece will become again an independent nation. That she may obtain that rank, is the object of our most ardent wishes.

It was stated at the commencement of the last session that a great effort was then making in Spain and Portugal to improve the condition of the people of those countries, and that it appeared to be conducted with extraordinary moderation. It need scarcely be remarked, that the result has been so far, very different from what was then anticipated. Of events in that quarter of the globe, with which we have so much intercourse, and from which we derive our origin, we have always been anxious and interested spectators. The citizens of the U. S. cherish sentiments the most friendly, in favor of the liberty and happiness of their fellow-men on that side the Atlantic. In the wars of the European powers, in matters relating themselves, we have never taken any part, nor does it comport with our policy so to do. It is in view of our rights are invaded, or anti-social, that we must concern ourselves, and our preparation for our defence. With the feelings in this behalf, we are of necessity, more immediately

connected, and by causes which must be obvious to all enlightened and impartial observers. The political system of the allied powers is essentially different in this respect, from that of America. This difference proceeds from that which exists in their respective governments. And to the defence of our own, which has been achieved by the loss of so much blood and treasure, and matured by the wisdom of their most enlightened citizens, and under which we have enjoyed unexampled felicity, this whole nation is devoted. We are therefore to candour, and the amicable relations existing between the U. S. and those powers to declare, that we should consider any attempt upon their part, to extend their system to any portion of this hemisphere, as dangerous to our peace and safety. With the existing colonies or dependencies of any European power, we have not interfered, and not interfere. But with the governments who have declared their independence, maintained it, and whose independence we have, on great consideration, and on just principles, acknowledged, we could not view any interposition for the purpose of oppressing them, or controlling, in any other manner, their destiny, by any European power, in any other light, than as the manifestation of an unfriendly disposition towards the U. S. In the war between those new governments and Spain, we declared our neutrality at the time of their recognition, and to this we have adhered, and shall continue to adhere, provided no change shall occur, which in the judgment of the competent authorities of this government, shall make a corresponding change on the part of the U. S. indispensable to their security.

The late events of Spain and Portugal show that Europe is still unsettled. Of this important fact no stronger proof can be adduced, than that the allied powers should have thought it proper, on any principles satisfactory to themselves, to have intervened, by force, in the internal concerns of Spain. To what extent such intervention may be carried, on the same principle, is a question in which all independent powers, whose policies differ from theirs, are interested, even those most remote, and surely none more so than the U. S. Our policy in regard to Europe, which was adopted at an early stage of the wars which has so long agitated that quarter of the globe, nevertheless remains the same, which is, not to interfere in the internal concerns of any of its powers, to consider the government of *facto* as the legitimate government for us; to cultivate friendly relations with it, and to preserve those relations by a frank, firm & manly policy, meeting in all instances the just claims of every power, submitting to injuries from none. But in regard to those continents, circumstances are eminently and conspicuously different. It is impossible that the allied powers should extend their political system, to any portion of either continent without endangering our peace and happiness; nor can any one believe that our southern brethren, if left to themselves, would adapt it of their own accord. It is equally impossible, therefore, that we should behold such interposition, in any way, with indifference. If we look to the comparative strength and resources of Spain and those new governments, and their distance from each other, it must be obvious that she can never subvert them. It is still the true policy of the U. S. to leave the parties to themselves, in the hope that other powers will pursue the same course.

If we compare the present condition of our Union, with its actual state at the close of our revolution, the history of the world furnishes no example of a progress in improvement, in all the important circumstances which constitute the greatness of a nation, which bears any resemblance to it. At the first epoch our population did not exceed three millions. By the last census it amounted to about ten millions, and what is more extraordinary, it is almost altogether native, for the emigration from other countries has been inconsiderable. At the first epoch, half the territory within our acknowledged limits was uninhabited and a wilderness. Since then, new territory has been acquired, of vast extent, comprising within it many rivers, particularly the Mississippi, the navigation of which to the ocean was of the highest importance to the original states. Over this territory our population has expanded in every direction, and new states have been established, almost equal in number, to those which formed the first bond of Union. This expansion of our population, and accession of new states to our union, have had the happiest effect on all its highest interests. That is has eminently augmented our resources and added to our strength and respectability, as a power, is admitted by all. But, it is not in these important circumstances only, that this happy result is felt. It is manifest that, by enlarging the number of our system, and extending the number of states, the system itself has been greatly strengthened in both its branches. Consideration and discussion have thereby been rendered equally impracticable. Each government confining in its own strength, has less to apprehend from the others, and in consequence each enjoying a greater freedom of action, is rendered more efficient for all the purposes for which it was instituted. It is unnecessary to treat, here, of the vast improvement made in the system itself, by the adoption of this constitution, and of its happy effect in elevating the character, and in protect-

ing the rights of the nation, as well as individuals. To what then do we owe these blessings? It is known to us we derive them from the excellent institutions. Ought we not to adopt every measure, which may tend to perpetuate them?

JAMES MONROE  
Washington, Dec. 2, 1823.

## The Parterre

On a gentleman who expended his time in Horse Racing.

John run so long, and so fast,  
No wonder, he run out at last,  
He run in debt, and then he pay,  
He stand'd all—and ran away.

### EPICURUM.

Phillips, you little rosy rake,  
That, east of your I long to ride,  
Come give it me, why could you not  
So much ado about a trifle.

The following story is copied from a Nasville paper, and is said to be fictitious, but delivered as the theory of the hero of it himself.

A young Hibernian, who in the service of a man in one of the towns in the State of Tennessee, was directed by his employer to go to the house of a gentleman some ten miles in the country, on business connected with the store. He started, journeyed some miles, inquired the way of a countryman whom he met, who told him to proceed about a mile farther, when he would come to a cut road, to take that and follow the blazes.

In the western country, when a new road is made, it is the custom to chip off the bark on each tree on the margin of the road about the size of your thumb, so as to display the inner bark, which, being of a red color, on the outside of a cut, the scalping presents the appearance of a blaze, and the name is given to these marks. These blazes, serve as a guide to the traveller. Our Hibernian jogged on, came to a new road and took it. In that season of the year, our farmers usually burn woods.

The woods were then on fire, and our traveller soon saw a blaze of fire some distance right. Believing it to be the blazes, he was directed to follow, he made for it and followed; and, when arrived, finding about a mile off in a direction, a second blaze pursued that, believing he was faithfully following the directions of the countryman, he had reached the second blaze, discerned, "as far as the blaze, towards which he was in his course, and in due time reached it. In short, he was all on fire; he saw many beacons and in so many directions, that he was puzzled in selecting which he was directed by. He continued till night, following the fatal, and in the course of the day had boxed every pocket compass. Sometimes he and horse were almost suffocated in smoke that breathed painful. In short—

"He staid not for brake, and not for stone;  
"He cross'd the deep waters, where there were none."

And still the blazes pursued him to the point where he had passed through a barren country, until he passed not a single Night coming on, and he succumbed with fatigue, he slept until the morning, his chamber being interrupted by the flames, which consumed him. Sent on to attend his horse to the journey, a good number of people accompanied him and carried him to the place of his death.

**ISSUE(S) MISSING  
NOT AVAILABLE**

**MARYLAND STATE ARCHIVES**  
Annapolis, MD