

WARLIKE PREPARATIONS.

The following Message was received by the Senate on Tuesday, laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

To the Senate of the United States:

In answer to the inquiry of the Senate, contained in their resolution of the 17th instant, whether, in my judgment, any circumstances connected with, or growing out of, the foreign relations of this country, require at this time an increase of our naval or military force, and if so, "what those circumstances are," I have to express the opinion, that a wise precaution demands such an increase.

In my annual message of the 2d of December last, I recommended to the favorable consideration of Congress an increase of our naval force, especially of our steam navy, and the raising of an adequate military force to guard and protect such of our citizens as might think proper to emigrate to Oregon. Since that period, I have seen no cause to recall or modify these recommendations. On the contrary, reasons exist which, in my judgment, render it proper not only that they should be promptly carried into effect, but that additional provision should be made for the public defence.

The consideration of such additional provision was brought before appropriate committees of the two houses of Congress, in answer to calls made by them, in reports prepared, with my sanction, by the Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Navy, on the 29th of December and the 8th of January last; a mode of communication with Congress not unusual, and under existing circumstances, believed to be most eligible. Subsequent events have confirmed me in my opinion that these recommendations were proper as precautionary measures.

It was a wise maxim of the Father of his country, that "to be prepared for war, is one of the most efficient means of preserving peace;" and that, "avoiding occasions of expense by cultivating peace," we should "remember, also, that timely disbursements to prepare for danger frequently prevent much greater disbursements to repel it." The general obligation to perform this duty is greatly strengthened by facts known to the whole world. A controversy respecting the Oregon territory now exists between the United States and Great Britain; and while, as far as we know, the relations of the latter with all European nations are of the most pacific character, she is making unusual and extraordinary armaments and warlike preparations, naval and military, both at home and in her North American possessions.

It cannot be disguised that, however sincere may be the desire of peace, in the event of a rupture these armaments and preparations would be used against our country. Whatever may have been the original purpose of these preparations, the fact is undoubted that they are now proceeding, in part; at least, with a view to the contingent possibility of a war with the United States. The general policy of making additional warlike preparations were distinctly announced, in the speech from the throne, as late as January last, and has since been reiterated by the ministers of the crown in both houses of Parliament. Under this aspect of our relations with Great Britain, I cannot doubt the propriety of increasing our means of defence, both by land and sea. This can give Great Britain no cause of offence, nor increase the danger of a rupture. If on the contrary, we should fold our arms in security, and at last be suddenly involved in hostilities for the maintenance of our just rights, without any adequate preparation, our responsibility to the country would be of the gravest character. Should collision between the two countries be avoided, as I sincerely hope it may be, the additional charge upon the treasury, in making the necessary preparations, will not be lost; while, in the event of such collision, they would be indispensable for the maintenance of our national rights and national honor.

I have seen no reason to change or modify the recommendations of my annual message in regard to the Oregon question. The notice to abrogate the treaty of the 6th of August, 1827, is authorized by the treaty itself, and cannot be regarded as a warlike measure; and I cannot withhold my strong conviction that it should be promptly given. The other recommendations are in conformity with the existing treaty, and would afford to American citizens in Oregon no more than the same measure of protection which has long since been extended to British subjects in that territory.

our relations with Mexico unsettled condition. Congress another

by which the Government has passed into the hands of new rulers. This event has procrastinated, and may possibly defeat, the settlement of the differences between the United States and that country. The Minister of the United States to Mexico, at the date of the last advices, had not been received by the existing authorities. Demonstrations of a character hostile to the United States, continue to be made in Mexico, which has rendered it proper, in my judgment, to keep nearly two-thirds of our army on our southwestern frontier. In doing this many of the regular military posts have been reduced to a small force, inadequate to their defence should an emergency arise.

In view of these "circumstances," it is my "judgment" that "an increase of our naval and military force is at this time required," to place the country in a suitable state of defence. At the same time, it is my settled purpose to pursue such a course of policy as may be best calculated to preserve, both with Great Britain and Mexico, an honorable peace which nothing will so effectually promote as unanimity in our councils, and a firm maintenance of all our just rights.

JAMES K. POLK.

Washington, March 24, 1846.

MR. CALHOUN.

The following sketch of Mr. Calhoun, is from the ready pen of a correspondent of the Boston Journal—a whig paper:—

To those who have not seen Mr. Calhoun, a short sketch may not be unacceptable. He is a man of about 62 years of age—about six feet in height, though the extreme slenderness of his person gives him an appearance of greater height. His hair is a dark grey, very thick; and very strong; and he wears it brushed up and standing erect from his forehead, which is rather low and narrow. His features are, I think, the most expressive I ever saw—and his eye is a living wonder—no man that I know, possesses so penetrative a glance. I remarked him a short time ago, when Allen was making his violent attack upon him, and although he replied calmly, and in a few sentences demolished the arguments of the noisy Ohioan, yet the unconscious curl of the lip, the contemptuous glance of his eye, and the uneasy shuffling in his chair, plainly demonstrated that he is a man of naturally quick and sensitive feelings, and felt annoyed—just as an elephant can be vexed by a musquito.

His head is rather small—hardly, I believe, what a phrenologist would call a fine head—nor, I understand, is he very remarkable for phrenological assistance in his acquired greatness—but he is sufficiently great without it. His dress is always a plain black, without ornament of any kind—he makes no display of jewelry, except a watch chain and bunch of seals, which he wears after the old fashioned manner. He wears a plain black military stock, with an upright collar, and has, as you perceive at a glance, an utter contempt for show or affectation—on the contrary, he is careless almost to slovenliness in the matter of dress, and the veteran old blue cloak in which he daily walks to the Senate, looks as if it had done sufficient service to entitle it to be pensioned off for life in the family wardrobe or the National Institute.

Mr. Calhoun's style of speaking is plain and unassuming;—he is as terse as Webster, and depends for effect more on logical argument, than on tropes and flowers of rhetoric. He makes no display of action, or the usual accompaniments of oratory. He seldom moves a foot, but clasp his hands before him, and proceeds in a loud, manly tone, to grapple with his argument. With him every sentence is a blow. He has no dodging—no winding—no appealing to the passions—no American eagle's "patriotism," and all that kind of thing—but he is clear and precise in his reasoning, and powerful in his attack on the errors of his opponents—who, in the present instance, are his "friends." He does not descend to personality—but his look expresses indignation better than words, and his hints of scorn is sharper than any two-edged invective. Thus, while referring to the scoffing manner in which his recommendation of a "wise and masterly inactivity" had been spoken of, and assuming that many senators and others understood by this "mere inaction," the sneering manner in which he assured those who thus construed his meaning, that "they were but in the horn-book of political science," expressed more, as he turned round and spoke it at Hannegan, than an elaborate half-hour's vindication of advice, which all understood, however they might have represented it.

He only deals with facts, and is essentially a practical man. He discards all theories, and is reported to have a supreme contempt for modern meta-

physics, deeming them visionary. If the speech he delivered yesterday in an hour and a half, had been diluted on the Hannegan system, it would have occupied at least three days.

However we may differ from Mr. Calhoun in some of his political views, yet all must confess that he is one of the greatest men of the age, and his great intellectual precedence is rendered more admirable by the uniform morality of his life. I believe that the whispers of calumny have never dared to breathe against the purity of his manners. He has neither gambled nor dissipated; but when exempt for a time from public duties, his days are spent on his plantation, which is one of the best in the South, and exhibits throughout marks of the excellent taste and the love of agriculture of its proprietor. C. C.

THE BANNER.

"LIBERTY AND MY NATIVE SOIL."

CHARLES H. ALLEN, Editor.



Abbeville C. H., S. C.:

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 1846.

Message of the President.—In another column will be found this document, which is in answer to the call of the Senate upon the President, to know if the present aspect of affairs in this country, according to his judgment, demanded an enlargement of the army and navy. It will be seen that the President has recommended such an increase, which has produced some considerable excitement and alarmed the fears of many. It would seem that in recommending such precautionary measures the President had departed from his former opinions with regard to the probabilities of war, for he has expressed himself as not fearing such a result.

The position of this Government upon the Oregon question is a critical one, and becoming more and more so, and the present signs of the times are anything else but favorable to an amicable settlement. Dark clouds are beginning again to gather in the political sky, and the storm may yet burst upon our heads with all its pent up furies. This endless question still remains open, and every mail bring the very gratifying tidings of some Senator having spoken eloquently for or against the notice, and of some other having the floor for the next chance. Attempts have been made formerly by Mr. CALHOUN, and recently by Mr. ALLEN to close the question by taking the vote upon it; but so far, such efforts have been a failure. Oregon, Oregon, is still the sweet exhaustless theme. Why the necessity of every member speaking upon this thread-bare question? The yea or nay of many of them would be infinitely more eloquent and more satisfactory to their constituents and pleasing to the country in general.

Foreign News.—By the steamer *Hibernia*, we have news from England, twenty-two days later, which is interesting and important. There is no doubt of the final success of Sir ROBERT PEEL'S free trade measures, as a large majority in the House of Commons will support him in it. There has already been quite a lengthy debate in the lower House upon the measure; and so great was the excitement to know the result, that business out of doors was almost entirely suspended.

The refusal by our Government to arbitrate upon the Oregon question produced considerable excitement among politicians; but the speedy departure of the steamer, leaves us in the dark as to the effect it may have upon Parliament.

The British forces in India have had a severe engagement with the Sikhs, in which they have sustained a loss of killed over 3,000 men, many of them officers of rank and distinction. The loss upon the side of the Sikhs estimated at

from 25 to 35,000. It is said they fought with great bravery, and were well prepared with arms—their canon of the largest calibre, amounting to 150 pieces. If such be the case, the British loss must be greater than represented. This war may have a very material influence upon the Oregon question, for England would indeed have her hands full if this matter should result in a rupture between her and the United States whilst she has such formidable foes to contend with in the Sikhs.

(FOR THE BANNER.)

"OWE NO MAN ANYTHING."

Mr. Editor:—The maxim above, was given in the spirit of inspiration by one, who was no stranger to the true source of human happiness. The felicity springing from a conscious freedom from indebtedness, is perhaps unknown to many of your readers. The contraction of debt is the folly and madness of our age and country. The facility of obtaining credit is the procuring cause of the ruin of thousands for time, and for eternity. It first tempts persons to live in advance, and beyond their means, which ruins them for this life, and when they become involved, then they are tempted to use unrighteous ways to be relieved of their liabilities, and this ruins them for eternity. The ethical philosophy of the world, and the moral code of heaven's Book, alike teach the fact that there is but one way of discharging a debt—and that is by paying the demand. To take a legal advantage of a creditor can never be justly construed into obedience to the admonition of religion, "Owe no man anything."

Both the policy and morality of several of our laws which gives the debtor the advantage of the creditor, may be called in question. The statute of limitation of time, is of this class, in which a mere lapse of time discharges liability, and a difference is made between one kind of indebtedness and another. Now this very law bears heavily upon those who are in defenceless circumstances and need the protection of the strong arm of law. All that law ought to say in this case is, that lapse of time shall render proof more difficult, and never make it a proof of the non-existence of fact. This statute in its operations has often shielded fraud and oppressed the orphan. It has operated as a legal discharge from the payment of millions of money: but this is no obedience to the injunction, "Owe no man anything."

The statute respecting usury belongs to the same class. This has not the first redeeming feature—it is nothing more nor less than a bribe to villany. It is said you must hold out inducements to detect violations of law;—if the violations of law cannot be detected without corrupting the citizen, the law ought to be repealed. The one who promises excessive interest, is more guilty than the other, if he made the promise with the secret intention to avail himself of this act afterwards, and besides he may in this disposition make the offer, and if either should be punished, the penalty should fall on the more guilty. If a man promises, he is bound to fulfil in the very sense he knew his promise to be understood, otherwise he remains under the full condemnation of the command, "Owe no man anything."

The insolvent debtors' act, in some of its provisions, and the law respecting persons called in law infants, belong to the immoral category; but our limits will not permit the exposition, and we pass on with the single remark that if an infant fourteen years old may forfeit his life, no good cause can be shown why he may not sign away his claims to his property, and the plea of infancy ought always to brand with infamy.

But the most immoral and wicked of all laws, was the Bankrupt Act, of the Congress of the United States. Its life was short; but its career was fraught with the deepest corruption. Villany was never legalized before to the same extent in any christian land. That law is the foulest stamp upon the pages of our Legislation. It was a violent thrust at the moral sense of the nation, and

was a deliberate fraud perpetrated upon thousands of our citizens. Language is too feeble to portray the moral turpitude of the law. Among its many objectionable features, we now only notice two, by its full and perpetual discharge, and its post facto bearing. The first contains the diabolical feature of Government's laying violent hands upon the justly acquired property of one citizen, and forcibly transferring it to those who were base enough to accept the wicked offer. In this may be discovered the germ of all those hated agrarian schemes of both continents, and was one step towards reducing our citizens to a common level—abrogating all rights of property, and severing every bond of social order. The precedent has been set, and what shall follow may be the enactment of the wildest dreams of FOURIER, of R. DALE, OWEN, or of JOE SMITH. As if the deed was not sufficiently villainous, another dark feature is added—it paid debts contracted years previous to the passage of the act, which blackens the fraud perpetrated upon the creditor, as it permitted the debtor to take advantage of a law, which neither party anticipated when the contract was made. The law being so deeply wicked, and grossly immoral, the fact of any man having taken benefit of it, is a very strong presumption against both his christianity and his morality. The bankrupt, though discharged by man, is not discharged in the Court on High; he is still under an eternal necessity to pay with valuable consideration all his debts, and thus obey the Apostolic command: "Owe no man anything." N. V. R.

ENGLISH NEWS.

We give below some extracts from English papers received by the *Hibernia*—

RIOTS AT INVERNESS.—The following is an extract of a letter from Inverness, dated the 8th of February:—

"We are at present in a state of seige, and our towns under martial law, in consequence of severe potato riots. Several houses have been attacked, and windows broken. Several persons have been wounded from stones, and a few with the bayonet, but no shots have been fired, and, up to now, no lives lost. Although things at present wear a pacific aspect, it is by no means certain that, after the Sacramental week now terminated, the disturbances will not be resumed."

SWITZERLAND.—On the 14th instant, the Grand Council of Berne passed a decree regulating the formation of the Constituent Assembly. The election of Deputies is to be held on the 7th of March. There is to be one Deputy for every 300 citizens, making 139 Deputies for the whole canton. The qualifying age for voting has hitherto been twenty-three years, but on this occasion those who have attained twenty are to be admitted to give their suffrages. The only exceptions are men of unsound mind, bankrupts, those who have received charitable relief, and convicts condemned to infamous punishments. To be eligible to become a Deputy, the candidate must be a citizen of Berne, be qualified to vote, and be of twenty-three years of age and upwards. The Constituent Body is to meet on the 16th of March.

IMMEDIATE REPEAL.—Our readers are already prepared for the announcement which we have now the pleasure of making, that M. Villiers has given notice of his intention to move, in the Committee of the House on the Ministerial Corn Bill, an amendment for making the total repeal of the corn-law immediate. After the very satisfactory and able intimation given by Sir Robert Peel, that he

that... he will... all... unanimous vote... and scrupulous... necessary friends can... apprehension that the... amendment will endan... position to the Govern... will not have the spi... opposition. To... Peel will not be

During the visit of Mount St. P. Leicestershire lers,