

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

The great length of this document prevents us from spreading it entire, before our readers...

The governments of Great Britain and France have issued orders to their naval commanders on the West India station to prevent by force...

The principle which this Government has heretofore solemnly announced it still adheres to, and will maintain under all circumstances...

In addition to the correspondence on this subject, herewith submitted, official information has been received at the Department of State...

Ministers and consuls of foreign nations are the means and agents of communication between us and those nations, and it is of the utmost importance that, while residing in the country...

By reference to the Report of the Secretary of the Treasury, it will be seen that the aggregate receipts for the last fiscal year amounted to \$52,312,979 87...

Table with 2 columns: Category and Amount. Total imports for the year ending 30th of June, 1851, were \$215,725,995.

Since the 1st of December last, the payments in cash on account of the public debt, exclusive of interest, have amounted to \$7,501,456 56...

The public debt on the 20th ultimo, exclusive of the stock authorized to be issued to Texas by the act of 9th September, 1850, was \$62,560,395 26.

The receipts for the next fiscal year are estimated at \$51,800,000, which, with the probable unappropriated balance in the Treasury...

It has been deemed proper, in view of the large expenditures consequent upon the acquisition of territory from Mexico, that the estimates for the next fiscal year should be laid before Congress in such manner as to distinguish the expenditures so required from the otherwise ordinary demands upon the Treasury.

The total expenditures for the next fiscal year are estimated at \$42,892,209 19, of which there is required for the ordinary purposes of the Government, other than those consequent upon the acquisition of our new Territories...

If the views of the Secretary of the Treasury in reference to the expenditures required for these Territories shall be met by corresponding action on the part of Congress, and appropriations made in accordance therewith, there will be an estimated unappropriated balance in the Treasury on the 30th June, 1853, of \$20,366,443 90...

The values of our domestic exports for the last fiscal year, as compared with those of the previous year, exhibit an increase of \$43,646,322. At first view this condition of our trade with foreign nations would seem to present the most flattering hopes of its future prosperity.

The value of our exports of breadstuffs and provisions, which it was supposed the incentive of a low tariff and large importations from abroad would have greatly augmented, has fallen from \$68,701,921, in 1847, to \$26,051,373 in 1850...

The aggregate value of Rice exported during the last fiscal year, as compared with the previous year, also exhibits a decrease amounting to \$160,917, which, with a decline in the value of the exports of tobacco for the same period, make an aggregate decrease in these two articles of \$1,156,751.

The policy which dictated a low rate of duties on foreign merchandise, it was thought by those who promoted and established it, would tend to benefit the farming population of this country, by increasing the demand and raising the price of agricultural products in foreign markets.

The foregoing facts, however, seem to show incontrovertibly that no such result has followed the adoption of this policy. On the contrary, notwithstanding the repeal of the restrictive corn laws in England, the foreign demand for the products of the American farmer has steadily declined...

It will be seen, by recurring to the commercial statistics for the past year, that the value of our domestic exports has been increased in the single item of raw cotton by \$10,000,000 over the value of that export for the year preceding. This is not due to any increased general demand for that article, but to the short crop of the preceding year, which created an increased demand and an augmented price for the crop of last year.

The exports of specie to liquidate our foreign debt during the past fiscal year have been \$21,263,979 over the amount of specie imported. The exports of specie during the first quarter of the present fiscal year have been \$14,651,827. Should specie continue to be exported at this rate for the remaining three quarters of this year, it will drain from our metallic currency during the year ending 30th June, 1851, the enormous amount of \$58,607,308.

In the present prosperous condition of the national finances, it will become the duty of Congress to consider the best mode of paying off the public debt. If the present and anticipated surplus in the Treasury should not be absorbed by appropriations of an extraordinary character, this surplus should be employed in such way, and under such restrictions, as Congress may enact, in extinguishing the outstanding debt of the nation.

In my last annual message, to which I respectfully refer, I stated briefly the reasons which induced me to recommend a modification of the present tariff, by converting the ad valorem into a specific duty, whenever the article imported was of such a character as to permit, and that such a discrimination should be made, in favor of the industria pursuits of our own country...

The numerous frauds which continue to be practised upon the revenue, by false invoices and under valuations, constitute an unanswerable reason for adopting specific instead of ad valorem duties in all cases where the nature of the commodity does not forbid it.

The report of the secretary of the interior, which accompanies this communication, will present a condensed statement of the operations of this important department of the Government.

It will be seen that the sales of the public lands exceed those of the preceding year, and that there is no reason to anticipate a still further increase, notwithstanding the large donations which have been made to many of the States, and the liberal grants to individuals as a reward for military services.

Suitable measures have been adopted for commencing the survey of the public lands in California and Oregon. Surveying parties have been organized, and some progress has been made in establishing the principal base and meridian lines.

In my last annual communication to Congress I recommended the establishment of an Agricultural Bureau, and I take this occasion again to invoke your favorable consideration of the subject.

Agriculture may justly be regarded as the great interest of our people. Four-fifths of our active population are employed in the cultivation of the soil, and the rapid expansion of our settlements over new territory is daily adding to the number of those engaged in that vocation.

An Agricultural Bureau, charged with the duty of collecting and disseminating correct information as to the best modes of cultivation, and of the most effectual means of preserving and restoring the fertility of the soil, and of procuring and distributing seeds and plants and other vegetable productions, with instructions in regard to the soil, climate, and treatment best adapted to their growth, could not fail to be, in the language of Washington, in his last annual message to Congress, a "very cheap instrument of immense national benefit."

Regarding the act of Congress approved 28th September, 1850, granting bounty lands to persons who had been engaged in the military service of the country, as a great measure of national justice and munificence, an anxious desire has been felt, by the officers entrusted with its immediate execution, to give prompt effect to provisions. All the means within their control were, therefore, brought into requisition to expedite the adjudication of claims, and I am gratified to be able to state that near one hundred thousand applications have been considered, and about seventy thousand warrants issued within the short space of nine months.

It is deeply to be regretted that in several instances officers of the Government, in attempting to execute the law for the return of fugitives from labor, have been openly resisted, and their efforts frustrated and defeated by lawless and violent mobs; that in one case such resistance resulted in the death of an estimable citizen, and in others serious injury ensued to those officers and to individuals who were using their endeavors to sustain the laws.

The act of Congress for the return of fugitives from labor is one required and demanded by the express words of the Constitution.

The Constitution declares, "That no person held to service or labor in one State, under the laws thereof, escaping to another, shall, in consequence of any law or regulation therein, be discharged from such service or labor, but shall be delivered up on claim of the party to whom such service may be due."

Congress, however, must, from necessity, first act upon the subject, by prescribing the proceedings necessary to ascertain that the person is a fugitive, and the means to be used for his restoration to the claimant. This was

done by an act passed during the first term of President Washington, which was amended by that enacted by the last Congress, and it now remains for the Executive and Judicial Departments to take care that these laws be faithfully executed.

Cases have heretofore arisen in which individuals have denied the binding authority of acts of Congress, and even States have proposed to nullify such acts, upon the ground that the Constitution was the supreme law of the land, and that those acts of Congress were repugnant to that instrument; but nullification is now aimed, not so much against particular laws as being inconsistent with the Constitution, as against the Constitution itself; and it is not to be disguised that a spirit exists and has been actively at work to rend asunder this Union, which is our cherished inheritance from our revolutionary fathers.

In my last annual message I stated that I considered the series of measures which had been adopted at the previous session; in reference to the agitation growing out of the territorial and slavery questions, as a final settlement in principle and substance of the dangerous and exciting subjects which they embraced; and I recommended adherence to the Adjustment established by those measures, until time and experience should demonstrate the necessity of further legislation to guard against evasion or abuse.

MILLARD FILLMORE.

WASHINGTON, December 2, 1851.

Legislative Proceedings.

In the Senate, the report of the committee on the Governor's message—covering the communication of the British Consul on the subject of colored seamen, was unanimously adopted and ordered to the House for concurrence.

The special order, being a bill to fix the time of the meeting of the State Convention was then taken up in committee of the whole, Mr. Buchanan in the chair. The bill being read, the committee rose and reported it to the Senate without amendment, and recommended that it do pass.

The Senate proceeded to the general orders. A bill to abolish Brigade Encampments was read a second time, and ordered to the House for concurrence.

Sundry other matters were before the Senate, which will be published in the Journal to-morrow.

In the House, memorials, petitions, and reports occupied the morning hour.

On motion of Mr. Dargan, leave of absence was granted to his colleague, Mr. Evans, on account of sickness in his family.

Mr. Abram Jones offered a resolution to terminate the present session of the General Assembly on the 18th inst.; ordered for consideration to-morrow.

Mr. Haskell offered a series of resolutions, (those now known as the "platform" of the co-operation party;) which were made the special order of the day for Thursday next at one o'clock.

Mr. L. M. Keitt offered the following preamble and resolutions; which were made the special order of the day for Thursday next at one o'clock:

Whereas in the recent elections held for deputies to the Southern Congress, those opposed to the separate secession of South Carolina from the Union, in many districts of the State, not only declared before the people that they are opposed to the submission of South Carolina to the past wrongs inflicted on them by the General Government, but actually proposed projects of resistance short of secession:

Resolved, therefore, That by the recent election for members to a Southern Congress, the

people of South Carolina did not determine that they are in favor of the submission of the State to the past wrongs inflicted on them by the General Government.

Resolved, That "No Submission" should still be the watch-word of the State, (as it was in the late election by many of those opposed to secession,) which should call together all the true resistance men of all parties in patriotic co-operation to save the rights, honor, and integrity of the State.

Resolved, That all the wrongs inflicted on the State by the General Government remain as they were when the Legislature ordered the election for a convention of the people of the State, in their high sovereign capacity, to consider and determine for themselves what mode of redress in relation thereto it is expedient for them to pursue; and consistency in the Legislature, as well as that respect which should always be borne towards the people, require that a day should be designated by the Legislature for the assembling of the said Convention.

On motion of Mr. B. F. Perry, the special order, being a bill to provide for the election of Presidential electors by the people, was taken up, and the House resolved itself into committee of the whole—Mr. Williams in the chair.

Mr. Perry addressed the committee at some length in support of the bill.

Mr. John I. Middleton briefly replied to Mr. Perry.

Mr. Hutson next addressed the Chair, not, he said, to discuss the merits of this bill, for he believed it beneath the dignity of the crisis through which the State is passing. He rose to offer a preamble and resolution, to the effect that the committee report to the House that the bill do not pass.

After some further desultory debate, the committee rose and made the following report, being the resolution introduced by Mr. Hutson:

The Committee of the Whole House, to which was referred "a bill to provide for the election of electors of President and Vice President of the United States in South Carolina by the people," beg leave to report.

That they have had said matters under consideration, and are of opinion that it is inexpedient at this time to agitate the State by any attempt to change the present mode of electing electors for President and Vice President of the United States. They therefore recommend that the bill submitted do not pass.

After some remarks by Mr. Tucker and Mr. A. W. Thomson, the question was put, and on motion of Mr. B. F. Perry, the yeas and nays were ordered, and resulted as follows:

YEAS—66. NAYS—48.

DECEMBER 2.

As usual, on Commencement day, but little was done in either branch of the Legislature.

In the Senate, Hon. H. S. King, Senator from St. Paul's Parish, appeared and took his seat.

Senate then recessed from business, and joined the procession to attend the College Commencement.

At half-past one the President resumed the chair, when

Mr. Adams introduced a bill to fix the time for the meeting of the State Convention. The bill received at first reading, and was committed to a committee of the whole Senate to-morrow at 1 o'clock.

Mr. Barnes, from the committee on the military and pensions, reported a bill to abolish brigade encampments; which was read a first time, and ordered to a second reading to-morrow.

Mr. DeTreville introduced a bill to take the evidence of free negroes and slaves in certain cases, and for other purposes.

Among other proceedings, was a motion by Mr. Carn, instructing the committee on the college, education, and religion, to inquire into the expediency of erecting a new Chapel in the College Campus; which was adopted.

Mr. Carey presented a memorial from a large number of citizens, asking aid from the State for the South Carolina Institute.

In the House, Mr. Crookshank presented the petition of J. W. Cladwell, and others, praying for an act of incorporation for the Florida Steam Packet Company.

Mr. Middleton, from the committee on internal improvements, to whom had been referred the subject, reported a bill in favor of selling the Rocky Mount Canal to Daniel McCullough.

Reports from the committee on the judiciary were read by Mr. Haut. We were pleased to observe that the committee reported favorably on the bill to increase the amount of property exempt from levy and sale, introduced by Mr. Tucker. We earnestly hope that it will receive the favorable consideration of both Houses.

DECEMBER 3.

In the Senate, the usual business of the morning hour was transacted.

In the House, the morning hour was occupied by the presentation of petitions, memorials, &c.

Mr. Ashmore, from committee on claims, made a large number of reports.

The report of the committee of investigation on the Branch of the Bank of the State at Camden was presented.

Mr. Harrington, on the part of the minority of same committee, made a report, which recommended the discontinuance of the Branch at Camden, and an agency there be established.

The special order, being a bill to define the principles on which joint stock banks should be hereafter incorporated, and a bill to re-charter the Bank of the State, was called up by Mr. John I. Middleton.

The House resolved itself into committee of the whole, Mr. Chesnut in the chair.

Mr. Middleton addressed the committee at some length in support of the first mentioned bill.

Considerable discussion was elicited in the committee on the provisions of the bill, especially on that which provides a forfeiture of charter on the suspension. An amendment of Mr. Torre, making the bank suspending liable to forfeit its charter, and giving the Governor some discretion in the mode of applying the penalty, was finally adopted.

At this stage of the proceedings Mr. Owens moved that the committee rise and report.