## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

The great length of this document prevents us from spreading it entire, before our readers. and we have to content ourselves with extracting such portions of it as are of general interest. After a few congratulatary remarks on the present peaceful and prosperous state of our affairs, the President gives a detailed account of the projection and ending of the late Caban expedition, and the action of the Government in relation to it, states that exertions are now being made for the release of the prisoners, and proceeds as follows:

The governments of Great Britain and France have issued orders to their naval commanders on the West India station to prevent by force, if necessary, the landing of adventurers from any nation on the Island of Cuba with hostile intent. The copy of a metaorandum of a conversation on this subject between the Charge d'Affaires of her Britannic majesty, and the note of the former to the Department of State, are herewith submitted, together with a copy of a note of the Acting Secretary of State to the Minister of the French republic, and of the reply of the latter, on the same subject. These papers will acquaint you with the grounds of this interposition of the two leading commercial powers of Europe, and with the apprehensions, which this Government could not fail to entertain, that such interposition, if carried into effect, might lead to abuses in derogation of the maritime rights of the United States are founded on a firm, secure, and welldefinded basis; they stand upon the ground of National Independence and public law, and will be maintained in all their full and just ex-

The principle which this Government has heretofore solemnly announced it still adheres to, and will maintain under all circumstances and at all hazards. That principle is, that in every regularly documented merchant vessel, the crew who navigate it, and those on board of it, will find their protection in the flag which is over ithem. No American ship can be allowed to be visited or searched for the purpose of ascertaining the character of individuals on board, nor can there be allowed any watch by the vessels of any! foreign nation over A. merican vessels on the coasts of the United States or the seas adjacent thereto. It will be seen by the last communication from the Brifish Charg d'Affairs to the Department of State, that he is authorised to assure the Secretary of State that every care will be taken that, in executing the preventive measures against au expedition which this Government itself has denounced as not being entitled to the protection of any government, no interference shall take place with the lawful commerce of any nation.

In addition to the correspondence on this subject, herewith submitted, official informa-tion has been received at the Department of State, of assurances by the French Govern-: ment that, in the orders given to the French naval forces, they were expressly instructed, in any operations they might engage in, to respect the flag of the United States where ever it might appear, and to commit no act of hostility upon any vessel or armament under its

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, they shold feel a perfect security so long as they faithfully discharge their respective duties and are guilty of no violation of our laws. This is the admitted law of nations, and no country has a deeper interest in maintaining it than the United States. Our commerce spreads over every sea and visits every clime, and our ministers and consuls are appointed to protect the interests of that commerce, as well as to guard the peace of the country and maintain the honor of its flag But how can they discharge these duties unless they be themselves protected; and, if protected, it must be by the laws of the country in which they reside And what is due to our own public functionaries residing in foreign nations is exactly the measure of what is due to the functionaries of othgovernments residing here. As in war, the bearers of flags of truce are sacred, or else wars would be interminable, so in peace, embassadors, public ministers, and consuls, charged with friendly national intercourse, are objects of especial respect and protection, each according to the rights belonging to his rank and station. In view of these important principles, it is with deep mortification and regret I announce to you that, during the excitement growing out of the executions at Havana, the office of her Catholic majesty's consul at new Orleans was assailed by a mob, his property destroyed, the Spanish flag found in the office carried off and torn into pieces, and he himself induced to flee for his personal safety, which he supposed to be in danger. On receiving intelligence of these events, I forthwith directed the attorney of the United States residing at New Orleans to inquire into the facts and the extent of the pecuniary loss sustained by the consul, with the intention of laying them before you, that you might make provision for such indemnity to him as a just regard for the honor of the nation and the respect which is due to a friendly power might in your judgement, seem

herewith transmitted. 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; which, with the balance in the Treasury on the 1st July, 1850, gave, as the available means for the year, the sum of **\$58,917,524** 36.

to require. The cerrespondence upon this sub-

ject between the Secretary of State and her

Catholic majesty's minister plenipotentiary is

The total expenditures for the same period were \$48,005,878 68.

Total imports for the year ending 30th of June, \$215,725,995

1851, were
Of which there were in specie 4,967,901 The exports for the same period \$217,517,130

of which there were of domestic products \$178,546,555

Foreign goods re-expor-9,738,695 Specie

Since the 1st of December last, the payments in cash on account of the public debt, exclusive of interest, have amounted to \$7,of the treaty with Mexico, and the further sum o American citizens under the late treaty with Mexico, for which the issue of stock was authorised, but which was paid in cash from the

The public debt on the 20th ultimo, exclusive by the act of 9th September, 1850, was 862,-

The receipts for the next fiscal year are esti-

mated at \$51,800,000, which, with the probable unappropriated balance in the Treasury, on the 30th June next, will give, as the probable available means for that year, the sum of \$53,-258,734 09.

It has beend cemed 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 vear are estimated at \$42,892,299 19, of which there is required for the ordinary purposes of the Government, other than those consequent upon the nequisition of our new Territaries, and deducting the payments on account of the public debt, the sum of \$33,313,-198 08; and for the purposes connected directly or indirectly with those Territories, and in the fulfilment of the obligations of the Government, contracted in consequence of their acquisition, the sum of \$9,549,101 11.

If the views of the Secretary of the Treasury in reference to the expenditures required for these Terri ories 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, wherewith to meet that portion of the public debt due on the first July following, amounting to \$6,237,931 35, as well as any appropriations which may be made beyond the

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. An examination of the details of our exports, however, will show that the increased value of our exports for the last fiscal year is to be found in the high price of cotton which prevailed during the first half of that year, which price has since declined about one-half.

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, and to \$21,948,653 in 1851, with a strong probability, amounting almost to a certainty, of a still further reduction in the cur-

The aggregate value of Rice exported during the last fiscal year, as compared with the previous year, also exhibits a decrease amounting to \$460,917, which, with a decline in the values 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 'oreign merchandise, it was thought by those who promoted and established it, would markets.

The foregoing facts, however, seem to show incontestibly 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, since the short crops and consequent famine in a portion of Europe have been appily replaced by full crops and comparative abundance of food.

It will be seen, by recurring to the commercial statistics for the past year, that the value of our dome-tic exports has been increased in the single item of raw cotton by \$40,000,000 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 iacreased demand and an augmented price for the crop of last year. Should the cotton crop now going forward to market be only equal in quantity to that of the year preceding, and be sold at the present prices, then there would be a falling off in the value of our exports for the present fiscal year of at least \$10,000,000, compared with the amount exported for the year ending 30th June, 1851.

The exports of specie to liquidate our toreign debt during the past filscal year have been \$21, 263,979 over the amount of specie imported. The exports of specie during the first quater of the present fiscal year have been \$14,651, Should specie continue to be exported at this rate for the remaining three quarters of this year, it will drain from our metallic cur rency 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 aurplus should be employed in such way, and under such restrictions, as Congress may enact, in extinguishing the outstanding debt of the nation.

peetfully 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, as to encourage home production person is a fugitize, and the means to be used -\$217,517,130 without excluding foreign competition.

The numerous frauds which continue to be practised upon the revenue, by false invoices and under valuations, constitute an unanswer-501,456 56; which, however, includes the sum of \$3,242,460 paid under the 12th article vulorem duties in all cases where the nature of the commodity does not forbid it. A striking of \$2,591,213 45; being the amount of awards illustration of those freuds will be exhibited in the Report of the Secretary of the treasury, showing the custom house valuation of articles imported under a former law subject to specific duties, when there was no inducement to undervaluation, and the custom valuations of the same of the stock authorised to be issued to Texas articles; under the present system of ad valorem duties, so greatly reduced as to leave no doubt of the existence of the most flagrant abuses under the existing laws. This practical evasion of the present law, combined with the languishing condition of some of the great interests of the country, caused by over importations and consequent depressed prices, and with the failure in obtaining a foreign market for our increasing surplus of breadstuffs and provisions, turn of fugitives from labor; but it is worthy of has induced me again to recommend a modification of the of the existing tariff.

The report of the secretary of the interior, which accompanies this communication, will present a condensed statement of the sperations of this important department of the Gov-

ernment.

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. This fact furnishes very gratifying evidence of the growing wealth and prosperity of our country.

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. But further legislation and additional appropriations will be necessary before the proper subdivision can be made, and the general land system extended over those remote parts of our territory.

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

Agriculture may justly be regarded as the great interest our people. Four-fifrhs of our active population are employed in the cultiva-vation 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. Justice and sound policy, therefore alike require that the Government should use all the means authorized by the Constitution to promote the interests and welfare of that important class of our fellow-etizeus. And yet it is a singular fact that, whilst the manufacturing and commercial interests have engaged the attention of Congress during a large portion of every session, and our statutes abound in provisions for their protection and encouragement, little has yet been done directly for the advancement of agriculture. It is time that this re-proach to our legislation should be removed; and I sincerely hope that the present Congress will not close their labors without adopting efficient means to supply the omission of those who have preceded them.

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 proering and distributing seeds and plants and other vegetable productions, with instructions tend to benefit the farming population of this in regard to the soil, climate, and treatment best in all parts of the country, has removed doubts country, by increasing the demand and raising adapted to their growth, could not fail to be, and uncertainties in the minds of thousands of the price of agricultural products in foreign 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, 1859, granting bounty lands to persons who had been engaged in the military service of the country, as a great measure of national justice and munificience, 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 thougand applications have been considered, ed, and about seventy thousand warrants issued within the short space of nine months. If adequate provisions be made by law to carry into it is confidently expected that, before the close of the next fiscal year, all who are entitled to the benefits of the act will have received their

warrants. 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. Prosecutions have been commenced against the alledged offenders so far as they could be identified, and are still pending. I have regarded it as my duty, in these cases, to give all aid legally in my power to the enforcement of the laws, and I shall continue to do so wherever and whenever their execution may be resisted.

The act of Congress for the return of fugi tives 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 In my last annual message, to which I res. whom such service may be due." This constitational provision is equally binding upon the ments of the Government, and upon every citizen of the United States.

Congress, however, must, from necessity, proceedings necessary to ascertain that the projects of resistance short of secession: for his restoration to the claimant. This was tion for members to a Southern Congress, the moved that the committee rise and report

done by an act passed during the first term of people of South Carolina did not determine 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. This injunction of the Constitution is as peremptory and as binding as any other; it stands exactly on the same foundation as that clause which provides for the return of fugitives from justice, or that which declares that no bill of attainder or ex post facto law shall be passed, or that which provides for an equality of taxation, according to the census, or the clause declaring that all duties shall be uniform throughout the United States, or the important provision that the trial of all crimes shall be by jury. Inese several articles and clauses of the Constitution, all resting on the same authority, must stand or tall together. Some objections have been urged against the details of the act for the reremark that the main opposition is aimed against the Constitution itself, and proceeds from persons and classes of persons, many of whom declare their wish to see that Constitution overturned. They avow their hostility to any law which shall give full and practical effect to this requirement of the Consti-It will be seen that the sales of the public tution, Fortunately, the number of these persons is comparatively small, and is believed to be daily diminishing, but the issue which they present is one which involves the supremaey and even the existence of the Constitution. Cases have heretofore arisen in which indi-

viduals 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 recomended 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. I was not in uced to make this recommendation because 1 thought these measures perfect, for no human legislation can be perfeet. Wide differences and jarring opinions can only be reconciled by yielding something on all sides, and this result had been reached after an angry conflict of many months, in which one part of the country was arrayed against another, and violent convulsion seemed to be imminent. Looking at the interests of the whole country I felt it to be my duty to seize upon this Compromise as the best that could be obtained amid conflicting interests, and to insist upon it as a final settlement, to be adhered to by all who value the peace and welfare of the country. A year has now clapsed since that recommendation was made. To that recomendation I still adhere, and I congratulate you and the country upon the general acquiescence in these measures of peace, which has been exhibited in all parts of the Republic. And not only is there this general acquiescence in these measures, but the spirit of conciliation which has been manifested in regard to them popular institutions, and given renewed assu rance that our Liberty and our Union may subsist together for the benefit of this and all suc-

ceeding generations. MILLARD FILLMORE. Washington, December 2, 1851.

## Legislative Proceedings.

DECEMBER 2d.

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. effect the recommendations of the Department, 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 time fixed is the fourth Monday of April next.

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-mor-In the House, memorials, petitions, and re-

ports occupied the morning hour.

On motion of Mr. Dargan, leave of absence was granted to his colleague, Mr. Evins, 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 cooperation party;) which were made the special order of the day for Thursday next at one o'clock. Mr. L. M. Keitt offered the following pre-

amble 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 Legislative, the Executive, and Judicial depart- 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 ernor some discretion in the mode of applying first act upon the subject, by prescribing the General Government, but actually proposed

Resolved, therefore, That by the recent elec-

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 Conven-

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

ength in support of the bill. Mr. John I. Middleton briefly replied to Mr.

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 effec. that the committee report to the House that the bill do not pass. At the suggestion of Mr. Torre, the mover withdrew the preamble.

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

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 Caro-

lina by the neople," beg leave to report.

That they have had said matters under consideration, and are of oppinion 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 hat 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 year and nays were ordered, and resulted as follows:

YEAS-66. NAYS-48.

DECEMBER, 2.

As usual, on Commencement day, but little vas done in either branch of the Legistature. In the Senate, Hon. H. S. King, Senator from St. Paul's Parish, appeared and took his

Senate then receded from business, and joined the procession to attend the College Com-

mencement.

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 I o'elock.

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 mor-

Mr. DaTreville 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 expendiency of erecting a new Chapel in the College Campus; which was adopted.

Mr. Carew 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, roported a bill in favor of selling the Rocky Mount Canal to Daniel McCullough. Reports from the committee on the judiciary

were read by Mr Huut. 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,

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

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 the penalty, was finally adopted.

At this stage of the proceedings Mr. Owens