PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Feliow Citizens of the Senate and of the House of Representatives.

Being suddenly called. in the midst of the last session of Congress, by a painful dispensation of Divine Providence, to the responsible station which I now hold, I contented myself with such communications to the Legislature as the exigency of the moment seemed to require. The country was shrouded in mourning for the loss of its venerated Chief Magistrate, and all hearts were penetrated with grief. Neither the time nor the occasion appeared to require or to justify, on my part, any general expression of political opinions, or any announcement of the principles which would govern me in the discharge of the duties to the performance of which I had been so unexpectedly called. I trust, therefore, that it may not be deemed inappropriate, if I avail myself of this opportunity of the re-assembling of Congress to make known my sentiments, in a general manner, in regard to the policy which ought to be pursued by the Government, both in its intercourse with foreign nations, and in its management and administration of internal affairs.

Nations, like individuals in a state of nature, are equal and independent, possessing certain rights, and owing certain duties to each other, arising from their necessary and unavoidable relations; which rights and duties there is no common human authority to protect and enforce. Still, they are rights and duties, binding in morals, in conscience, and in honor, although there is no tribunal to which an injured party can appeal but the disinterested judgment of mankind, and ultimately the arbitrament of the sword.

Among the acknowledged rights of nations is that, which each possesses of establishing that form of government which it may deem most conducive to the happiness and prosperity of its own citizens, of changing that form, as circumstances may require; and of managing its internal affairs according to its own will. The people of the United States claim this right for themselves, and they readily concede it to others. Hence it becomes an imperative duty not to interfere in the government or internal poliey of other nations; and although we may sympathize with the unfortunate or the oppressed, every where, in their struggles for freedom, our principles forbid as from taking any part in such foreign contests. We make no wars to promote or to prevent successions to thrones; to maintain any theory of a balance of power, or to suppress the actual government which any country chooses to establish for itself. We instigate no revolutious, nor suffer any hostile military expeditions to be fitted out in the United States to invade the territory or provinces of a friendly nation. The great law of morality ought to have a national, as well as a personal and individual application. We should act towards other nations as we wish them to act towards us; and justice and conscience should form the rule of conduct between governments, instead of mere power, self-interest, or the power of aggrandizement. To maintain a strict peutrality in foreign wars, to cultivate friendly relations, to reciprocate every noble and generous act, and to perform punctually and scrupulously every treaty obligation-these are the duties which we owe to other States, and by the performance of which we best entitle ourselves to like treatment from them; or if that, in any case, be refused, we can enforce our own rights with justice and a clear conscience.

In our domestic policy, the Constitution will be my guide; and in questions of doubt, I shall be my guide; and in questions of doubt, I shall look for its interpretation to the judicial decisions of that tribunal, which was established to expound it, and to the usage of the Government.

that State, have made progress in their preliminary arrangements. The treaty between the United States and Great Britain, of the 19th expound it, and to the usage of the Government, sanctioned by the acquiescence of his country. I regard all its provisions as equally binding .-In all its parts it is the will of the people, expressed in the most solemn form, and the coustituted authorities, are but agents to carry that will into effect. Every power which it has granted is to be exercised for the public good; but no pretence of utility, no honest conviction, even, of what might be expedient, can justify the assumption of any power not granted. The powers conferred upon, the Government and their distribution to the several departments, are as clearly expressed in that sacred instrument as the imperfection of human language will allow: and I deem it my first duty, not to question its wisdom, add to its provisions, evade its requirements, or nullify its commands.

Upon you, fellow-citizens, as representatives of the States and the people, is wisely devolved the legislative power. I shall comply with my duty in laying before you, from time to time, any information calculated to enable you to discharge your high and responsible trust, for the benefit of our common constituents.

My opinions will be frankly expressed upon the leading subjects of legislation; and if, which I do not anticipate, any act should pass the two Houses of Congress which should appear to me unconstitutional, or an encroachment on the just power of other departments, or with provisions hastily adopted, and likely to produce consequences injurious and unforeseen, I should not shrink from the duty of returning it to you, with my reasons, for your further consideration. Beyond the due performance of these constitu- the United States as may be necessary to imtional obligations, both my respect for the legislature and my sense of propriety will restrain me from any attempt to control or influence your proceedings. With you is the power, the honor, and the responsibility of the legislation of the country.

ercise of powers expressly granted, and such others as may be necessary for carrying those pecial duty to guard against any infringement greed to with alacrity. on the just rights of the States. Over the objects and subjects intrusted to Congress, its legislative authority is supreme. But here that loves the Constitution, and desires the continuance of its existence and its blessings, will resoclearly and unequivocally left to the exclusive Governments in this respect. authority of the States. And every such citi-

portion of the country from another. The beauty of our system of Government consists, and is safety and durability must consist, in avoiding mutual collisions, and encroachments, and n the regular separate action of all, while each s revolving in its own distinct orbit.

The Constitution has made it the duty of the President to take care that the laws be faithfuly executed. In a Government like ours, in which all laws are passed by a majority of the representatives of the people, and these representatives are chosen for such short periods, that any injurious or obnoxious law can very soon be repealed, it would appear unlikely that any great numbers should be found ready to resist the execution of the laws. But it must be borne in mind that the country is extensive, that there may be local interests or prejudices rendering a law odious in one part, which is not so in another, and that the thoughtless and inconsiderate, misled by their passions, or their imaginations, may be induced madly to resist such laws as they disapprove. Such persons should recollect that, without law, there can be no real practical liberty; that, when law is trampled under foot, tyranny rules, whether it appears in the form of a military despotism or of popular violence. The law is the only sure protection of the weak, and the only efficient estraint upon the strong. When impartially and faithfully administered, none is beneath its protection, and none above its control. You, gentlemen, and the country may be assured, that to the utmost of my ability, and to the extent of the power vested in me, I shall, at all times, and in all places, take care that the laws be faithfully executed. In the discharge of this duty, solemnly imposed upon me by the Constitution, and by my oath of office, I shall shrink from no responsibility, and shall endeavor to meet events as they may arise, with firmness, as well as with prudence and discretion. * *

I am happy in being able to say that no unfavorable change in our foreign relations has taken place since the message at the opening of the last session of Congress. We are at peace with all nations, and we enjoy in an eminent degree the blessings of that peace, in a prosperous and growing commerce, and in all the forms of amicable national intercourse. The unexampled growth of the country, the present amount of its population, and its ample means of self-protection, assure for it the respect of all nations; while it is trusted that its character for justice, and a regard to the rights of other States, will cause that respect to be readily and cheerfully paid.

A convention was negotiated between the United States and Great Britain in April last, for facilitating and protecting the construction of a ship canal between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, and for other purposes. This instrument has been ratified by the contracting laid upon an article which may be produced here parties, the exchange of ratifications has been effected, and proclamation thereof has been du-

In addition to the stipulations contained in convention, two other objects remain to be accomplished between the contracting powers. First, the designation and establishment of a

free port at each end of the canal. Second, an agreement fixing the distance from the shore within which the belligerent

maritime operations shall not be carried on. On these points there is little doubt that the two governments will come to an understand-

The company of citizens of the United States who have acquired from the State of Nicaragua the privilege of constructing a ship canal between the two oceans, through the territory of of April last, above referred to, being now in It excludes competition, and thereby invites the operation, it is to be hoped that the guaranties which it offers will be sufficient to secure the completion of the work with all practicable expedition. It is obvious that this result would be indefinitely postponed; if any other than peaceful measures, for the purpose of harmonizing conflicting claims to territory in that quarter, should be adopted. It will consequently be my endeavor to cuase any further negotiations on the part of this Government, which may be requisite for this purpose, to be so conducted as to bring them to a speedy and successful close.

Some unavoidable delay has occurred, arising from distance and the difficulty of intercourse between this Government and that of Nicaragua, but, as intelligence has just been received of the appointment of an Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of that Government to reside at Washington, whose arrival may soon be expected, it is hoped that no further impediments will be experienced in the prompt transaction of business between the two Governments.

Citizens of the United States have undertaken the connexion of the two oceans by means of a Railroad across the Isthmus of Tehuantepee, under grants of that Republic. It is understood that a thorough survey of the course of the communication is in preparation and there is every reason to expect that it will be prosecuted with characteristic energy, especially when that Government shall have consented to such stipulations with the Government of part a feeling of security to those, who may imbark their property in the enterprise. Negotiations are pending for the accomplishment of that object, and a hope is confidently entertained that, when the Government of Mexico shall become duly sensible of the advantages The Government of the United States is a which that country cannot fail to derive from limited Government It is confined to the ex- the work, and learn that the Government of the United States desires that the right of sovereignty of Mexico in the isthmus shall remain unimpowers into effect, and it is at all times an es. paired, the stipulations referred to will be a-

By the last advices from Mexico it would appear, however, that that Government entertains strong objections to some of her stipulations authority ceases, and every citizen who truly which the parties concerned in the project of ers which are now paid in brokerage to convert the railroad deem necessary for their protection and security. Further consideration, it is lately and firmly resist any interference in those hoped, or some modification of terms, may, yet tax, and every effort should be made by the domestic affairs, which the Constitution has reconcile the differences existing between two Government to relieve them from so great a

Fresh instructions have recently been given zen will also deprecate useless irritation among to the Minister of the United States in Mexico, the several members of the Union, and all re- who is prosecuting the subject with promptiproach and crimination tending to alienate one tude and ability.

Although the negotiations with Portugal, for the payment of claims of citizens of the United States against that Government, have not yet resulted in a formal treaty, yet a proposition made by the Government of Portugal for the final adjustment and payment of those claims, has recently been accepted on the part of the United States. It gives me pleasure to say that Mr. Clay, to whom the negotiation on the part of the United States had been entrusted, discharged the duties of his appointment with ability and discretion, acting always within the instructions of his Government.

It is expected that a regular convention will be immediately negotiated for carrying the a-greement between the two Governments into rection of the head of the bureau, to collect

I refer you to the report of the Secretary of the Treasury for a detailed statement of the fi-

The total receipts into the Treesury, for the ear ending 30th of June last, were fortyseven million four hundred and twenty-one thousand seven hundred and forty-eight dollars and ninety cents, (\$47,421,748 90.)

The total expenditures during the same period were forty-three million two thousand one hundred and sixty-eight dollars and ninety cents, (\$13,002,168 90.)

By the 19th section of the act of 28th Januay, 1847, the proceeds of the sales of the public lands were pledged for the interest and principal of the public debt. The great amount of these lands subsequently granted by Congress for military bounties will, it is believed, very nearly supply the public demand for several years to come and but little reliance can, thereore be placed on that hitherto fruitful source

Aside from the permanent annual expenditures, which have necessarily largely increased, a portion of the public debt, amounting to eight million seventy-five thousand nine hundred and eighty-six dollars and fifty-nine cents (\$8,075,-986 59) must be provided for within the next two fiscal years. It is most desirable that these accruing demands should be met without resorting to new loans.

All experience has demonstrated the wisdom and policy of raising a large portion of revenue for the support of Government from duties on goods imported. The power to lay these duties is unquestionable, and its chief object, of course, is to replenish the treasury. But if, in doing this, an incidental advantage may be gained by encouraging the industry of our own quate to our own protection and the fulfilment citizens, it is our duty to avail ourselves of that of our treaty stipulations with Mexico. The advantage.

A duty laid upon an article which cannot be produced in this country—such as tea or coffee -adds to the cost of the article, and is chiefly or wholly paid by the consumer. But a duty stimulates the skill and industry of our own country to produce the same article, which is brought into the market in competition with the foreign article, and the importer is thus compelled to reduce his price to that at which the domestic article can be sold, thereby throwing a part of the duty upon the producer of the foreign article. The continuance of this process creates the skill, and invites the capital, which finally enable us to produce the article much cheaper than it could have been procured from abroad, thereby benefiting both producer and consumer at home. The consequence of this is, that the artisan, and the agriculturist, are brought together, each affords a ready market for the produce of the other, the whole country becomes prosperous; and the ability to produce every necessary of life renders us independent

in war as well as in peace.

A higher tariff can never be permanent. It however important, are not essentially naval. investment of capital in manufactures to such excess, that when changed it brings distress, bankruptcy and ruin upon all who have been misled by its faithless protection. What the manufacturer wants, is uniformity and permanency that he is not to be ruined by sudden changes. But to make a tariff uniform and permanent, it is not only necessary that the law should not be altered, but that the duties should not fluctuate. To effect this, all duties should should be specific, wherever the nature of the article is such as to admit of it. Advalorem duties fluctuate with the price, and offer strong temptations to fraud and perjury. Specific duties, on the contrary, are equal and uniform in all ports, and at all times, and offer a strong inducement to the importer to bring the best article, as he pays nomore duty upon that than upon one of inferior quality. I therefore strongly recommend a modification of the psesent tariff, which has prostrated some of our most important and necessary manufactures, and that specific duties be imposed sufficient to raise the requisite revenue, making such discrimination in favor of the industrial pursuits of our own country as to encourage home production, without excluding foreign competition. It is he present tariff which imposes a much higher duty upon the raw material that enters into our manufactures than upon the manufactured arti-

cle, should be remedied. There being no mint in California, I am informed that the laborers in the mines are compelled to dispose of their gold dust at a large discount. This appears to be a heavy and unjust tax upon the labors of those employed in extracting this precious metal; and I doubt not you will be disposed, at the earliest period possible, to relieve them from it by the establishment of a mint. In the mean time, as an assayer's office is established there, I would respectfully submit for your consideration the propriety of authorizing gold bullion, which has been assayed and stamped, to be received in payment of Government dues. I cannot conceive that the treasury would suffer any loss by such a proviso, which will at once raise bullion to its par value, and thereby save (if I am rightly informed) many millions of dollars to the laborthis precious metal into avalilable funds. This discount upon their heard earning is a heavy

More than three-fourths of our population are engaged in the cultivation of the soil. The provement. This authority I suppose to be decommercial, manufacturing, and navigating interests are all to a great extent, dependent on merce with foreign nations, and among the

the agricultural. It is, therefore, the most im- | States, and the power of laying and colportant interest of the nation, and has a just claim to the fostering care and protection of the Government, so far as they can be extended consistently with the provisins of the Constitution. As this cannot be done by the ordinary modes of legislation, I respectfully recommended the establishment of an Agricultural Bureau, to be charged with the duty of giving to this leading branch of American industry the encouragement which it so well deserves. In view of the immeuse mineral resources of our country, provision should also be made for the employment of a competent mineralogist and specimens of the various minerals of our country, and to ascertain, by careful analysis, their respective elements and properties, and their adaptation to useful purposes. He should also be required to examine and report upon the qualities of different soils, and the manures best calculated to improve their productiveness. By publishing the results of such experiments, with suitable explanations, and by the collection and distribution of rare seeds and plants, with instructions as to the best system of cultivation, much may be done to promote this

great national interest. The annexation of Texas and the acquisition of California and New Mexico have given increased importance to our Indian relations. The various tribes brought under our jurisdiction by these enlargements of our boundaries are estimated to embrace a population of one hundred and twenty-four thousand.

Texas and New Mexico are surrounded by powerful tribes of Indians, who are a source of constant terror and annoyance to the inhabitants. Separating into small predatory bands, and always mounted, they overrun the country, devastating farms, destroying crops, driving off whole herds of cattle, and occasionally murdering the inhabitants or carrying them into captivity. The great roads leading into the country are infested with them, whereby travcling is rendered extremely dangerous, and immigration is almost entirely arrested. The Mexican frontier, which, by the 11th article of the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, we are bound to protect against the Indians within our border is exposed to these incursions equally with our own. The military force stationed in that country (although forming a large proportion of the armmy) is represented as entirely inadeprincipal deficiency is in cavalry, and I recommend that Congress should, at as early a period as practicable, provide for the raising of one

or more regiments of mounted men. For further suggestions on this subject and others connected with our domestic interests, and the defence of our frontier, I refer you to the raport of the Secretary of the Interior and of the Secretary of War.

I am gratified in being able to state, that the estimates of expenditure for the navy in the ensuing year are less, by more than one million of dollars, than those of the present, excepting the appropriation which may become necessary for the construction of a dock on the coast of the Pacific, propositions for which are now being considered, and on which a special report

may be expected early in your present session. There is an evident justness in the suggestion of the same report, that appropriations for the naval service proper should be separated from those for fixed and permanent objects, such as building docks and navy yards, and the fixtures attached; and from the extraordinary objects under the care of the Department which,

At the close of the last fiscal year, the length of the inland mail routes in the United States (not embracing the service in Oregon and California) was 178,672 miles; the annual transportation thereon 46,541,423 miles; and the annual cost of such transportation \$2,724,426.

The increase of the annual transportation over that of the preceding year, was 3,997,354 miles, and the increase in cost was \$342,440. The number of post offices in the United

States, on the first day of July last, was 18,417 -being an increase of 1670 during the prece-

The gross revenues of the Department for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1850, amounted to \$5,552,971 48, including the annual appropriation of \$200,000 for the franked matter of the departments, and excluding the foreign postages collected for and payable to the British Government.

The expenditures for the same period were \$5,212,953 43-leaving a balance of revenue

over expenditures of \$340,018 05. I am happy to find that the fiscal condition of the Department is such as to justify the Postmaster General in recommending the reduction of our inland letter postage to three cents the single letter when prepaid, and five cents when also important that an unfortunate provision in | not prepaid. He also recommends that the prepaid rate shall be reduced to two cents whenever the revenues of the Department, after the reduction, shall exceed its expenditures by more than five per cent for two consecutive years; that the postage upon California and other letters sent by our ocean steamers shall be much reduced; and that the rates of postage on newspapers, pamphlets, periodicals, and other printed matter shall be modified, and some reduction

thereon made. It cannot be doubted that the proposed reductions will, for the present, diminish the revenues of the department. It is believed that the deficiency, after the surplus already accumulated shall be exhausted; may be almost wholly met, either by abolishing the existing privileges of sending free matter through the mails, or by paying out of the Treasury to the Post Office Department a sum equivalent to the postage of which it is derived by such privileges. The last is supposed to be the preferable mode, and will, if not entirely, so nearly supply that deficiency as to make any further appropriation that may be found necessary so inconsiderable as to form no obstacle to the proposed reductions.

I entertain no doubt of the authority of Congress to make appropriations for leading objects in that class of public works comprising what are usually called works of internal imrived chiefly from the power of regulating com-

lecting imposts. Where commerce is to be carried on, and imposts collected, there must be ports and harbors, as well as wharves and custom-houses. If ships, laden with val-uable cargoes, approach the shore, or sail along the coast, light-houses are necessary at suitable points for the protection of life and property. Other facilities and securities for commerce and navigation are hardly less important; and those clauses of the Constitution, therefore, to which I have referred, have received from the origin of the Government a liberal and beneficial construction. Not only have light-houses, buoys, and beacons been established, and floating lights maintained, but harbors have been cleared and improved, piers constructed, and even break waters for the safety of shipping; and sea walls to protect harbors from being filled up, and rendered useless, by the action of the ocean, have been erected at very great expense. And this construction of the Constitution appears the more reasonable from the consideration, that if these works, of such evident importance and utility, are not to be accomplished at all. By the adoption of the Constitution the several States: voluntarily parted with the power of collecting: duties of impost in their own ports; and it isnot to be expected that they should raise money, by internal taxation, direct or indirect, for the benefit of that commerce, the revenues derived from which do not, either in whole or in part, go into their own treasuries. Nor do I perceive any difference between the power of Congress to make appropriations for objects of this kind on the ocean and the power to make appropriations for similar objects on lakes and rivers, wherever they are large enough to bear on their waters an extensive traffic.

The magnificent Mississippi and its tributaries, and the vast lakes of the north and the northwest, appear to me to fall wilthin the exercise of the power, as justly and as clearly as the Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico. It is a mistake to regard expenditures judiciously made for these objects as expenditures for local purposes. The position, or site of the work, is necessarily local; but its utility is general. A ship canal around the falls of St. Mary of less than a mile in length, though local in its construction, would be national in its purpose and its benefits, as it would remove the only obstruction to a navigation of more than a thousand miles, affecting several States, as well as our commercial relations with Canada.

So, too, the Breakwater at the mouth of the Delaware is erected, not for the exclusive benefit of the States bordering on the bay and river of that name, but for that of the whole coastwise navigation of the United States, and to a

considerable extent, also, of foreign commerce. If a ship be lost on the bar at the entrance of southern port for want of sufficient depth of water, it is very likely to be a northern ship; and if a steamboat be sunk in any part of the Mississippi, on account of its channel not having been properly cleared of obstructions, it may be a boat belonging to either eight or ten States. I may add as somewhat remarkable, that among all the thirty-one States, there is none that is not, to a greater or less extent, bounded on the ocean, or the Gulf of Mexico, or one of the great lakes, or some navigable ri-

In fulfiling our constitution duries, feilowcitizens, on this subject, as in carrying into effeet all other powers conferred by the Constitation, we should consider ourselves as deliberating and acting for one and the same country, and bear constantly in mind, that our regard and our duty are due, not to a particular part only, but to the whole.

I therefore recommend that appropriations be made for completing such works as have been already begun, and for commencing such others as may seem to the wisdom of Congress to be of public and general importance.

It was hardly to have been expected the series of measures passed at your last session, with view of healing the sectional difference which had sprung from the slavery and territoral question, should once have realized their beneficial pur ose. All mutual concession in the nature of a compromise must necessarily be unwelcome to men cf extreme oninion. And though without such concessions our Constitution could not have been formed and cannot be permanently sustained, yet we have seen them made the subject of bitter controversy in both sections of the the Republic. It required many months of discussion and deliberation to secure the concurrence of a majority of Congress in their favor. It would be strange if they had been received with immediate approbation by people and States, prejudiced and heated by the exciting controversies of their representatves. I believe those measures to have been required by the circum ance and condition of the country. I believe they were necessary to allay asperities and animosities that were rapidly alienating one section of the country from another, and destroying those fraternal sentiments which are the strongest supports of the Constitution. They were adopted in the spirit of conciliation, and for the purpose of conciliation. I believe that a great majority of our fellowcitizens sympathize in that spirit, and that purpose, and in the main appove, and are prepared, in all respects, to sustain these enactments. I cannot doubt that the American people, bound together by kindred blood and common traditions. still cherish a paramount regard for the Union of their fathers; and that they are ready to rebuke any attempt to violate its integrity, to disturb the compromises on which it is based, or to resis the laws which have been enacted under its authority. The series of measures which I have alluded to are regarded by me as a settlement, in principle and substance-a final settlement, of the dangerous and exciting subjects which they embraced. Most of

tion they formed a system of compromise, the most conciliatory, and best for the entire country, that could be obtained from conflicting sectional interests and opinions. For this reason I recommend your adherence to the adjustment established by those measures, until time and experience shall demonstrate the ne-

these subjets, indeed, are beyond your reach, as the

legislation which disposed of them was, in its char-

acter, final and irrevocable. It may be presumed

from the opposition which they all encountered that

none of those measures was free from imperiec-

tions, but in their mutual dependence and connec-

cessity of further legislation to guard against evasion or abuse. By that adjustment we have been rescued from the wide and boundless agitation that surrounded us, and have a firm, distinct and legal ground to rest upon. And the occasion, I trust, will justify me in exhorting my countrymen to rally upon and maintain that ground as the best, if not the only means, of restoring peace and quiet to the country and maintain inviolate the integrity of the Union.