

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow-citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives:

Another year of health and of happiness, abundant harvests, prosperity for the country, and especially for the welfare of our National affairs, our renewed and profound gratitude to God is due.

We remain in peace and friendship with foreign powers.

The efforts of disloyal officers of the United States to leave us in foreign waters to aid in the insurrection, have been unavailing. Her Britannic Majesty's Government, having justly and firmly favored the cause of freedom, is now preventing the departure of new hostile expeditions from British ports. The Emperor of France has by a like proceeding promptly vindicated the neutrality which he promised at the beginning of the contest. Questions of great intricacy and importance have arisen out of the blockade and other military operations between the United States and the Southern Confederacy. We have, however, to prevent the departure of new hostile expeditions from British ports. The Emperor of France has by a like proceeding promptly vindicated the neutrality which he promised at the beginning of the contest.

The supplemental treaty between the United States and Great Britain for the suppression of African Slave-trade, made on the 17th day of February last, has been duly ratified and carried into execution. It is believed that so far as American ports and American citizens and commerce are concerned, the Slave-trade has been brought to an end.

I shall submit for the consideration of the Senate a convention for the adjustment of Possessory Claims, in Washington Territory, arising out of the treaty of the 16th of June, 1860, between the United States and Great Britain, and which have been the source of some dispute among the citizens of that now rapidly increasing territory.

A novel and important question, involving the extent of the maritime jurisdiction of Spain in the waters which surround the island of Cuba, has been debated without reaching an agreement, and it is proposed, in an amicable spirit, to refer it to the arbitrament of a friendly power. A convention for this purpose will be submitted to the Senate.

I have thought it proper, subject to the approval of the Senate, to concur with the Inter-

ested Commercial Powers in an arrangement for the liquidation of the Schedl due upon the principles which have been adopted in the case of the United States.

The long-pending controversy between this government and that of Chile touching the seizure at Callao, in Peru, by Chileans, of a large amount of treasure belonging to citizens of the United States, has been brought to a close by the award of His Majesty in King of Spain, to whom I have referred the question, was referred by the parties.

The subject was thoroughly and patiently examined by persons in their service upon citizens of the United States, we must be prepared to do justice to foreigners.

Injuries unforseen by the Government, and unintended, may in some cases have been inflicted upon the subjects or citizens of foreign countries, both at sea and on land, by our naval and military forces.

This Government expects redress.

Other powers when similar injuries are inflicted by persons in their service upon citizens of the United States, we must be prepared to do justice to foreigners.

The existing judicial tribunals are inadequate for this purpose; and to hear and decide such claims of the character referred to, may have arisen under treaties and the public law.

Conventions for adjusting the claim by joint commission have been proposed to some governments, but no definite answer to the proposition has yet been received from any.

In the course of this session I shall propose, to the extent of my power, to provide indemnification to claimants where damage of restitution have been rendered by the Admiralty Court, and in other cases where this Government may be acknowledged to be liable in principle, and where the amount of liability is not so great as to require any expense of the public treasury.

In conformity with the principles set forth in my last annual message, I have received a representative from the United States of Columbia, and have credited a minister to that country.

Incidents occurring in the progress of our civil war have forced upon my attention the uncertain state of international questions touching the rights of foreigners in this country, and of United States citizens abroad. In regard to some governments these rights are at least partially defined by treaties. In most cases, however, it is expressly stipulated that in the event of a civil war, the foreigner residing in this country, within the lines of the insurgents, is to be exempted from the rule which classes him as a belligerant, to whose behalf the Government of his country cannot express any privilege or immunity distinct from that享受.

It is to be observed that the foreigner has put forward, and in some instances in behalf of foreigners who have lived in the United States the greater part of their lives.

There is reason to believe that many persons born in foreign countries who have declared their intention to become citizens or who have been fully naturalized have evaded all the obligations imposed by them by the fact, and thereby throwing upon the Government the burden of proof. It has been found difficult or impracticable to obtain the proof from the want of guides to the proper sources of information. These might be supplied by requiring the Clerks of Courts where due, to make return of the names of the persons naturalized or declaring their intention to become citizens, to the Secretary of the Interior in whose Department these names might be arranged and printed for general information. There is also reason to believe that many foreigners have become citizens of the United States, and that the law of their native country, to which, on becoming naturalized here, they at once repair, and though never returning to the United States, they still claim the protection of this government as citizens.

These interests and great prejudices have heretofore arisen out of this abuse. It is, therefore, submitted to your serious consideration. It might be required to fix a limit beyond which no citizen of the United States, residing abroad, may claim the interposition of his Government. The right of suffrage has often been assumed and exercised by persons in foreign countries, and the legislation which they had obtained when drafted into the Military service. I submit the expediency of such an amendment of the laws as will make the fact of being an estoppel against any plea of exemption from military service or other civil obligations on the ground of absence.

In common with other Western Powers, our country with Japan have been brought into serious jeopardy through the perverse opposition of the hereditary aristocracy, of the Empire, to the enlightened and liberal policy of the Tycoon, designed to bring the empire into the society of nations. It is to be hoped, although with some apprehension, that these interests may be peacefully removed.

After giving attention to the claim of the insurgents residing there, for the damage he sustained in the destruction, by fire, of the residence of the legation at Yedo,

Satisfactory arrangements have been made with the Emperor of Russia, which it is be-

lieved will result in effecting a continuous line of telegraph through that Empire from the Pacific coast of America and our frontier communities, which will connect the Atlantic Telegraph and the Atlantic and Indian Oceans, and the one projected between the United States and the Gulf of Mexico. Suitable communications established with any reasonable outlay would be economical as well as effective sides of the diplomatic, military and naval service.

The consular system of the United States under the enactments of the last Congress begins to be well understood, and there is reason to hope that it may become entirely so with the time which will never come.

Our ministers abroad have been faithful in protecting our commercial interests. Our consuls have necessarily had to encounter increased labors and responsibilities growing out of the war. These they have for the most part, met and discharged with zeal and efficiency. This discharge of duty is particularly creditable to those residing in Mexico, Egypt, Turkey, Japan, China, and other oriental countries, are charged with complex functions and extraordinary powers.

The condition of the several organized territories is generally satisfactory, although the Indian disturbances in New Mexico have not been entirely suppressed. The miners of Colorado, Nevada, Idaho, New Mexico and Arizona are proving far richer than heretofore anticipated. I lay before you a communication on this subject from the Governor of New Mexico. I again submit to your consideration the expediency of establishing a system of the employment of Indians.

Although this system of ours is not

fully set forth in the letter of General Hitchcock.

Fourth.—The organization made by the for enrolling and calling out the national forces detailed in the report of the Provost Marshal General.

Fifth.—The organization of the Invalid Corps.

Sixth.—The operation of the several departments of the Quartermaster General, Commissary General, Paymaster General; Chief of Engineers, Chief of Ordnance, and Surgeon General.

It has appeared impossible to make a reliable estimate of the cost of this report, except such as would be too extended for this paper, and hence I content myself by referring your attention to the report itself.

The duties devolving on the naval branch of the service during the year and through the whole of this unhappy contest, have been discharged with fidelity and exhaustiveness.

The extensive blockade has been constantly

increasing in efficiency, as the Navy has expanded; yet on so long a line it has so far been impossible to entirely suppress illicit trade.

From the returns received at the Navy Department, it appears that more than three thousand vessels have been captured since the blockade was instituted, and the value of prizes already sent in for adjudication amounts to over \$13,000,000.

The naval force of the United States consists at this time of 588 vessels completed and in course of completion, and of 76 vessels under construction.

The events of the war give an increased interest and importance to the navy, which will probably extend beyond the war itself.

The armored vessels in our navy completed and in service, or which are under construction and approaching completion, are believed to exceed in number those of any other nation, while they may be rolled upon harbor defense and coasting service.

It is to be hoped that the demand for the armament of our naval service will be met and ought to receive the attention and support of the Government.

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