EASTON GAZETTE.

WHERE THE PRESS IS FREE—"Literature well or ill-conducted, is the Great Engine by which all Popular States must ultimately be supported or overthrown RELIGION purifies the Heart and teaches us our Duty—Morality refines the Manners—Agriculture makes us Rich, and Politics provides for the enjoyment of all.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Fellow Citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives:

In performing my duty at the opening of your present session, it gives me pleasure to congratulate you again upon the prosperous condition of our beloved country. Divine Providence has favored us with general health, with rich rewards in the field of Agriculture and in every branch of labor, and with peace to cultivate and extend the various resources which employ the virtue and enterprise of our citizens. Let us trust that, in surveying a scene so flattering to our free institutions, our joint deliberations to preserve them may be crowned with success.

Our Foreign Relations continue, with but few exceptions, to maintain the favorable aspect which they bore in my last annual message, and promised to extend those advantages which the principles that regulate our intercourse with other nations are so well calculated to secure.

The question of the Northeastern Boundary is still pending with Great Britain, and the proposition made in accordance with the resolution of the Senate for the establishment of a line according to the treaty of 1783, has not been accepted by that government. Believing that every disposition is felt on both sides to adjust this perplexing question to the satisfaction of all the parties interested in it, the hope is yet indulged that it may be effected on the basis of that proposition.

With the governments of Austria, Russia, Prussia, Holland, Sweeden and Denmark, the best understanding exists. Commerce, with all, is fostered and protected by reciprocal good will, under the sanction of liberal conventional or legal provisions.

In the midst of her internal difficulties, the Queen of Spain has ratified the Convention for the payment of the claims of our citizens arising since 1819. It is in the course of execution on her part, and a copy of it is now laid before you for such legislation as may be found necessary to enable those interested to derive the benefits of it.

Yielding to the force of circumstances, and to the wise councils of time and experience, that power has finally resolved no longer to occupy the unnatural position in which she stood with the new governments established in this hemisphere. I have the great satisfaction of stating to you that in preparing the way for the restoration of harmony between those who have sprung from the same ancestors, who are allied by common interests, profess the same religion, and speak the same language, the U. States have been actively instrumental. Our efforts to effect this good work, will be persevered in while they are deemed useful to the parties, and our entire disinterestedness continues to be felt and understood. The act of Congress to countervail the discriminating duties levied to the prejudice of our navigation, in Cuba and Porto Rico, has been transmitted to the Minister of the U. States at Madrid, to be communicated to the government of the Queen. No intelligence of its receipt has yet reached the Department of State.

If the present condition of the country permits the government to make a careful and enlarged examination of the true interests of these important portions of its dominions no doubt is entertained that their future intercourse with the U. States will be placed upon a more just, and liberal basis.

The Florida Archives have not yet been selected and delivered. Recent orders have been sent to the agent of the U. States at Havana, to return with all that he can obtain, so that they may be in Washington before the session of the Supreme Court, to be used in the legal questions there pending, to which the government is a party.

Internal tranquility is happily restored to Portugal. The distracted state of the country rendered unavoidable the postponement of a final payment of the just claims of our citizens. Our diplomatic relations will be soon resumed, and the long subsisting friendship with that power affords the strongest guarantee that the balance due will receive prompt attention.

The first instalment due under the Convention of Indemnity with the King of the Two Sicilies, has been duly received, and an offer has been made to extinguish the whole by a prompt payment—an offer I did not consider myself authorized to accept, as the indemnification provided is the exclusive property of individual citizens of the U. States. The original adjustment of our claims, and the anxiety displayed to fulfil at once the stipulations made for the payment of them, are highly honorable to the government of the Two Sicilies. When it is recollected that they were the result of the injustice of an intrusive power, temporarily dominant in its territory, a repugnance to acknowledge and pay which would have been neither unnatural nor unexpected, the circumstances cannot fail to exalt its character for justice and good faith in the eyes of all nations.

The treaty of Amity and Commerce between the U. States and Belgium, brought to your notice in my last annual message, as sanctioned by the Senate, but the ratifications of which had not been exchanged, owing to a delay in its reception at Brussels, and a subsequent absence of the Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs, has been, after mature deliberation, finally disavowed by that government, as inconsistent with the powers and instructions given to their minister who negotiated it. This disavowal was entirely unexpected, as the liberal principles embodied in the convention, and which from the ground-work of the objections to it, were perfectly satisfactory to the Belgian representative, and were supposed to be not only within the powers granted, but expressly conformable to the instructions given to him. An offer, not yet accepted, has been made by Belgium to renew negotiations for a treaty less liberal in its provisions, on questions of general maratime law.

Our newly established relations with the Sublime Porte promise to be useful to our commerce, and satisfactory in every respect to this government. Our intercourse with the Barbary Powers continues without important change, except that the present political state of Algiers has induced me to terminate the residence there of a salaried consul, and to substitute an ordinary consulate, to remain so long as the place continues in the possession of France. Our first treaty with one of these powers—the Emperor of Morocco—was formed in 1786, and was limited to fifty years. That period has almost expired. I shall take measures to renew it with the greater satisfaction as its stipulations are just and liberal, and have been, with mutual fidelity and reciprocal advantage, scrupulously fulfilled.

Intestine dissensions have too frequently occurred to mar the prosperity, interrupt the commerce and distract the governments of most of the nations of this hemisphere, which have separated themselves from Spain. When a firm and permanent understanding with the parent country, shall have produced a formal acknowledgement of their independence, & the idea of danger from that quarter can be no longer entertained, the friends of freedom expect that those countries, so favored by nature, will be distinguished for their love of justice and their devotion to these peaceful arts, the assiduous cultivation of which confers honor upon nations and give value to human life.—In the mean time I confidently hope, that the apprehensions entertained that some of the people of these luxuriant regions may be tempted, in a moment of unworthy distrust of their own capacity for the enjoyment of liberty to commit the too common error of purchasing present repose by bestowing on some favorite leaders the fatal gift of irresponsible power,—will not be realized. With all these governments, and with that of Brazil, no unexpected changes in our relations have occurred during the present year. Frequent causes of just complaint have arisen upon the part of the citizens of the U. States,—sometimes from the irregular action of the constituted subordinate authorities of the maratime regions and sometimes from the leaders of partisans of those in arms against the established governments. In all cases, representations have been, or will be made, and as soon as their political affairs are in a settled position, it is expected that our friendly remonstrances will be followed by adequate redress.

The government of Mexico made known in December last the appointment of Commissioners and a surveyor, on its part to run, in conjunction with ours, the boundary line between its territories and the U. S., and excused the delay for the reasons anticipated—the prevalence of civil war. The Commissioners and Surveyors not having met within the time stipulated by the treaty, a new arrangement became necessary, and our Charge d'Affairs was instructed, in January last, to negotiate, in Mexico, an article additional to the pre existing treaty. This instruction was acknowledged, and no difficulty was apprehended in the accomplishment of that object. By information just received that additional article to the treaty will be obtained, and transmitted to this country, as soon as it can receive the ratification of the Mexican Congress.

The reunion of the three States of New Granada, Venezuela and Equador, forming the Republic of Colombia, seems every day to become more improbable. The Commissioners of the two first are understood to be now negotiating a just division of the obligations contracted by them when united under one government. The civil war, in Equador it is believed, has prevented even the appointment of a Commissioner on its part.

I propose, at an early day, to submit in the proper form, the appointment of a diplomatic agent to Venezuela. The importance of the commerce of that country to the U. States, and the large claims of our citizens upon the government, arising before and since the division of Colombia, render it, in my judgement improper longer to delay this step.

Our representatives to Central America, Peru and Brazil, are either at, or on their way to, their respective posts.

From the Argentine Republic, from which a Minister was expected to this government, nothing further has been heard. Occasion has been taken, on the departure of a new Consul to Buenos Ayres, to remind that government, that its long delayed Minister, whose appointment had been made known to us had not arrived.

It becomes my unpleasant duty to inform you that this gratifying picture of our Foreign Relations, does not include those with France at this time. It is not possible that any Government and People could be more sincerely desirous of conciliating a just and friendly intercourse with another nation, than are those of the United States with their ancient ally and friend. This disposition is founded, as well on the most grateful and honorable recollections associated with our struggles for independence, as upon a well grounded conviction that it is consonant with the true policy of both. The People of the United States could not, therefore, see without the deepest regret, even a temporary interruption of the friendly relations between the two countries—a regret, which would, I am sure, would be greatly aggravated, if there should turn out to be any reasonable ground for attributing such a result to any act of omission or commission on our own part. I derive therefore; the highest satisfaction from being able to assure you, that the whole course of this Government, has been characterised by a spirit so conciliatory and forbearing, as to make it impossible that our justice & moderation should be questioned, whatever may be the consequences of a longer perseverance, on the part of the French Government, in her omission to satisfy the conceded claims of our citizens.

The history of the accumulated and unprovoked aggressions upon our commerce, committed by authority of the existing Government of France between the years 1800 and 1817, has been rendered too painfully familiar to Americans to make its repetition either necessary or desirable. It will be sufficient here to remark, that there has, for many years, been scarcely a single administration of the French Government by whom the justice and legality of the claims of our citizens to indemnify, were not, to a very considerable extent admitted; and yet near a quarter of a century has been wasted in ineffectual negotiations to secure it.

Deeply sensible of the injuries resulting from this state of things upon the interests & character of both nations, I regarded it as among my first duties to cause one more effort to be made to satisfy France that a just and liberal settlement of our claims was as well due to her own honor as to their incontestible validity. The negotiation for this purpose was commenced with the late Government of France, and was prosecuted with such success, as to leave no reasonable ground to doubt that a settlement of a character quite as liberal as that which was subsequently made, would have been effected, had not the revolution, by which the negotiation was cut off, taken place. The discussions were resumed with the present government, and the result showed, that we were not wrong in supposing, that an event, by which the two governments were made to approach each other so much nearer in their political principles, and by which the motives for the most liberal and friendly intercourse were so greatly multiplied, could exercise no other than a salutary influence upon the negociation. After the most deliberate and thorough examination of the whole subject, a treaty between the two governments was concluded and signed at Paris on the 4th July 1831, by which it was stipulated, that "the French Government, in order to liberate itself from all reclamations preferred against it by the citizens of the United States, for unlawful seizures, captures, sequestrians, confiscations, or destruction of their vessels, cargoes, or other property, engages to pay a sum of twenty-five millions of francs to the U. States, who shall dis ribute it among those entitled, in the manner and according to the rules it shall determine; and it was also stipulated on the part of the French Government, that this twenty-five millions of francs should be paid at Paris in six annual instalments of four millions one hundred & sixty six thousand six hundred & sixty-six francs and sixty six centimes each into the hands of such person or persons as shall be authorized by the Government of the U. States, to receive it." The first instalment to be paid "at the expiration of one year next following the exchange of the ratifications of this convention, and the others at successive intervals of a year, one after another, till the whole shall be paid. To the amount of each of the said instalments interest was to be added at four per centum as also upon the other instalments then remaining unpaid; the said interest to be computed from the day of the exchange of the ratifications of the present convention."

It was also stipulated on the part of the United States, for the purpose of being completely liberated from all the reclamations presented by France on behalf of its citizens, that the sum of one million five hundred thousand francs should be paid the Government of France, in six annual instalments, to be deducted out of the annual sums which France had agreed to pay, interest thereupon being in like manner computed from the day of the exchange of the ratifications. In addition to this stipulation, important advantages were secured to France by the following article, viz. "The wines of France, from and after the exchange of the ratifications of the present Convention, shall be admitted to consumption in the States of the Union, at duties which shall not exceed the following rates by the gallon, (such as it is used at present for wines in the U. S.) to wit: six cents for red wines in casks; ten cents for white wines in casks; and twenty two cents for wines of all sorts in bottles. The proportions existing between the duties on French wines thus reduced, and the general rates of the Tariff which went into operation the first of January 1829, shall be maintained, in case the Government of the United States should think proper to diminish those general rates in a new tariff.

In consideration of this stipulation, which shall be binding on the U. S. for ten years, the French Government abandons the reclamations which it had formed in relation to the 5th article of the Treaty of cession of Louisiana. It engages, moreover, to establish on the long staple cottons of the U. S. which, after the exchange of the ratifications of the present Convention, shall be brought directly thence to France by the vessels of the U. States, or by French vessels, the same duties as on short staple cottons."

This Treaty was duly ratified in the manner prescribed by the constitutions of both countries, and the ratification was exchanged at the City of Washington on the 2d of February, 1832. On account of its commercial stipulations it was, in five days thereafter, laid before the Congress of the U. S., which proceeded to enact such laws favorable to the commerce of France as were necessary to carry it into full execution, and France has, from that period to the present, been in the unrestricted enjoyment of the valuable privileges that were thus secured to her.

The faith of the French nation having been thus solemnly pledged, through its constitutional organ, for the liquidation and ultimate payment of the long deferred claims of our citizens, as also for the adjustment of other points of great and reciprocal benefits to both countries, and the U. States having with a fidelity and promptitude by which their conduct will, I trust, be always characterized, done every thing that was necessary to carry the treaty into full and fair effect on their part, counted with the most perfect confidence, on equal fidelity and promptitude on the part of the French Government.

In this reasonable expectation we have been I regret to inform you, wholly disappointed.—No legislative provision has been made by France for the execution of the treaty, either as it respects the indemnity to be paid, or the commercial benefits to be secured to the U. S., and the relations between the U. S. and that power, in consequence thereof, are placed in a situation threatening to interrupt the good understanding which has so long and so happily existed between the two nations.

Not only has the French Government been thus wanting in the performance of the stipulations it has so solemnly entered into with the U. S., but its omissions have been marked by circumstances which would seem to leave us without satisfactory evidences, that such performance will certainly take place at a future period. Advice of the exchange of ratifications reached Paris prior to the 6th April 1832. The French Chambers were then sitting and continued in session until the 21st of that month, and although one instalment of the indemnity was payable on the 2d of Feb. 1833, one year after the exchange of ratifications, no application was made to the chambers for the required appropriation and in consequence of no appropriation having then been made, the draft of the U. S. Government for that instalment, was dishonored by the Minister of Finance, and the U. S. thereby involved in much controversy. The next session of the Chambers commenced on the 19th Nov. 1832, and continued until the 25th April, 1833.—Notwithstanding the omission to pay the first instalment, had been made the subject of earnest remonstrance on our part, the treaty with the U. S., and a bill making appropriations to execute it, were not laid before the Chamber of Deputies until the 6th of April, nearly five months after its meeting, and only nineteen days before the close of the session. The bill was read and referred to a committee, but there was no further action upon it. The next session of the Chambers commenced on the 26th of April, 1833, and continued until the 26th of June following. A new bill was introduced on the 11th of June, but nothing important was done in relation to it during the session. In the month of April 1833, nearly three years after the signature of the treaty, the final action of the French Chambers upon the bill to carry the treaty into effect was obtained, and resulted in a refusal of the necessary appropriations. The avowed grounds upon which the bill was rejected, are to be found in the published debates of that body, and no observations of mine can be necessary to satisfy Congress of their utter insufficiency. Although the gross amount of the claims of our citizens is probably greater than will be ultimately allowed by the Commissioners, sufficient is nevertheless shown to render it absolutely certain that the indemnity falls far short of the actual amount of our just claims, independently of the question of damages and interest for the detention. That the settlement involved a sacrifice in this respect was well known at the time—a sacrifice which was cheerfully acquiesced in by the different branches of the Federal Government, whose action upon the treaty was regulated, from a sincere desire to avoid further discussion upon this old and disturbing subject, and in the confident expectation that the general relations between the two countries would be improved thereby.

The refusal to vote the appropriation; the news of which was received from our Minister in Paris about the 15th day of May last, might have been considered the final determination of the French Government not to execute the stipulations of the treaty, and would have justified an immediate communication of the facts to Congress, with a recommendation of such ultimate measures as the interest and honor of the U. S. might seem to require.—But with the news of the refusal of the Chambers to make the appropriation, were conveyed the regrets of the King, and a declaration that a national vessel should be forthwith sent out, with instructions to the French Minister to give the most ample explanations of the past, and the strongest assurances for the future. After a long passage, the promised despatch vessel arrived. The pledges given by the French Minister, upon the receipt of his instructions were, that as soon after the election of the new members as the charter would permit, the legislative Chambers of France should be called together, and the proposition for an appropriation laid before them, that all the constitutional powers of the King and his Cabinet should be exerted to accomplish the object and that the result should be made known early enough to be communicated to Congress at the commencement of the present session.—Relying upon these pledges, and not doubting that the acknowledged justice of our claims, the promised exertions of the King and his Cabinet, and above all, that sacred regard for the national faith and honor for which the French character has been so distinguished, would secure an early execution of the treaty in all its parts, I did not deem it necessary to call the attention of Congress to the subject at the last session.

I regret to say that the pledges made thro' the Minister of France have not been redeemed. The new Chambers met on the 31st July last and although the subject of fulfilling treaties was alluded to in the speech from the throne, no attempt was made by the King or his Cabinet to procure an appropriation to carry it into execution. The reasons given for this omission, although they might be considered sufficient in an ordinary case, are not consistent with the expectations founded upon the assurances given here, for there is no constitutional obstacle to entering into legislative business at the first meeting of the Chambers. This point, however, might have been overlooked, had not the Chambers, instead of being called to meet at so early a day that the result of their deliberations might be communicated to me, before the meeting of Congress, been prorogued to the 29th of the present month—a period so late that their decision can scarcely be made known to the present Congress prior to its dissolution. To avoid this delay, our Minister in Paris, in virtue of the assurance given by the French Minister in the United States, strongly urged the convocation of the Chambers at an earlier day, but without success.

It is proper to remark, however that this refusal has been accompanied with the most positive assurances, on the part of the Executive Government of France, of their intention to press the appropriation at the ensuing session of the Chambers.

The Executive branch of this Government has as matters stand exhausted all the authority upon the subject with which it is invested, and which it had any reason to believe could be beneficially employed.

The idea of acquiescing in the refusal to execute the treaty will not, I am confident, be for a moment entertained by any branch of this Government; and further negotiation is equally out of the question.

It it shall be the pleasure of Congress to await the further action of the French Chambers, no further consideration of the subject will at this session, probably be required at your hands. But, if, from the original delay in asking for an appropriation, from the refusal of the Chambers to grant it when asked, from the omission to bring the subject before the chambers at their last session, from the fact that, including that session, there have been five different occasions when the appropriation might have been made, and from the delay in convoking the Chambers until some weeks after the meeting of Congress, when it was well known that a communication of the whole subject to Congress at the last session, was prevented by assurances that it should be disposed of before its present meeting, you should feel yourselves constrained to doubt whether it be the intention of the French Government in all its branches to carry the treaty into effect, and think that such measures as the occasion may be deemed to call for, should be now adopted, the important question arises what those measures should be.

Our institutions are essentially pacific.—Peace and friendly intercourse with all nations are as much the desire of our government as they are the interest of our people. But these objects are not to be permanently secured, by surrendering the rights of our citizens, or permitting solemn treaties for their indemnity in cases of flagrant wrong to be abrogated or set aside.

It is undoubtedly in the power of Congress seriously to affect the agricultural and manufacturing interests of France, by the passage of laws relating to her trade with the United States. Her products, manufactures, and tonnage, may be subject to heavy duties in our ports or all commercial intercourse with her may be suspended. But there are powerful, and, to my mind, conclusive objections to this mode of proceeding. We cannot embarrass or cut off the trade of France, without at the same time in some degree embarrassing or cutting off our own trade. The injury of such a warfare must fall, though unequally, upon our own citizens, and could not but impair the means of the Government, and weaken that united sentiment in support of the rights and honor of the nation which must now pevade every bosom. Nor is it impossible that such a course of legislation would introduce once more into our national councils, those disturbing questions in relation to the tariff of duties which have been so recently put to rest. Besides by every measure adopted by the Government of the United States with the view of injuring France, the clear perception of right which will induce our own people, and the rulers and people of all other nations, even of France herself, to pronounce our quarrel just, will be obscured, and the support rendered to us in a final resort to more decisive measures, will be more limited and equivocal. There is but one point in the controversy, and upon that the whole civilized world must pronounce France to be in the wrong. We insist that she shall pay us a sum of money, which she has acknowledged to be due; and of the justice of this demand, there can be but one opinion among mankind. True policy would seem to dictate that the question at issue should be kept thus disembarrased, and that not the slightest pretence should be given to France to persist in her refusal to make payment, by any act on our part affecting the interest of her people. The question should be left as it is now, in such an attitude that when France fulfils her treaty stipulations, all controversy will be at an end.

It is my conviction, that the U. S. ought to insist on a prompt execution of the treaty, and in case it be refused, or longer delayed, take redress into their own hands. After the delay on the part of France of a quarter of a century, in acknowledging these claims, by treaty, it is not to be tollerated that another quarter of a century is to be wasted in negotiating about the payment. The laws of nations provide a remedy for such occasions. It is a well settled principle of the international code that where one nation owes another a liquidated debt, which it refuses or neglects to pay, the agrieved party may seize on the property belonging to the other, its citizens, or subjects, sufficient to pay the debt, without giving just cause of war. This remedy has been repeatedly resorted to, and recently by France herself, towards Portugal, under circumstances less unquestionable.

The time at which resort should be had to this, or any other mode of redress, is a point to be decided by Congress. If an appropriation shall not be made by the French Chambers at their next session, it may justly be concluded that the Government of France has finally determined to disregard its own solemn undertaking, and refuse to pay an acknowledged debt. In that event, every day's delay on our part will be a stain upon our national honor, as well as a denial of justice to our injured citizens. Prompt measures, when the refusal of France shall be complete, will not only be most honorable and just but will have the best effect upon our national character.

Since France, in violation of the pledges given through her Minister here, has delayed her final action so long that her decision will not probably be known, in time to be communicated to this Congress, I recommend that a law be passed, authorizing reprisals upon French property, in case provision shall not be made for the payment of the debt, at the approaching session of the French Chambers:—Such a measure ought not to be considered by France as a menace. Her pride and power are too well known to expect any thing from her fears, and preclude the necessity of a declaration that nothing partaking of the character of intimidation is intended by us.—She ought to look upon it as the evidence only of an inflexible determination on the part of the United States, to insist on their rights. The Government, by doing only what it has itself acknowledged it to be just, will be able to spare the United States the necessity of taking redress into their own hands, and save the property of French citizens from that seizure and sequestration which American citizens so long endured without retaliation or redress. If she should continue to refuse that act of acknowledged justice, and in violation of the law of nations, make reprisals on our part the occasion of hostilities against the United Sates, she would but add violence to injustice, and could not fail to expose herself to the just censure of civilized nations, and to the retributive judgments of Heaven.

Collision with France is the more to be regretted, on account of the position she occupied in Europe, in relation to liberal institutions. But in maintaining our national rights and honor, all governments are alike to us. If by a collision with France, in a case where she is clearly in the wrong, the march of liberal principles shall be impeded, the responsibility for the result, as well as every other, will rest on her own head.

Having submitted the consideration, it belongs to Congress to decide, whether, after what has taken place, it will still await the further action of the French Chambers, or now adopt such provisional measures as it may deem necessary, and best adapted to protect the rights and maintain the honor of the country. Whatever that decision may be it will be faithfully enforced by the Executive, as far as he is authorised so to do.

According to the estimate of the Treasury department, the Revenue accruing, from all sources, during the present year, will amount to twenty millions six hundred and twenty four thousand seven hundred and seventeen dollars, which, with the balance remaining in the Treasury on the first, of January last, of eleven millions seven hundred and two thousand nine hundred and five dollars, produces an aggregate of thirty-two millions three hundred and twenty-seven thousand six hundred and twenty-three dollars. The total expenditure during the year for all objects, including the Public Debt, is estimated at twenty-five millis five hundred and ninety-one thousand three hundred and ninety dollars, which will leave a balance in the Treasury on the first of January, 1835, of six millions seven hundred and thirty-six thousand two hundred and thirty-two dollars. In this balance, however, will be included about one million one hundred and fifty thousand dollars of what was heretofore reported by the Department as not effective.

Of former appropriations it is estimated that there will remain unexpended at the close of the year, eight millions two thousand nine hundred and twenty-five dollars, and that of this sum there will not be required more than five millions one hundred and forty-one thousand nine hundred and sixty-four dollars, to accomplish the objects of all the current appropriations. Thus it appears that after satisfying all those appropriations, and after discharging the last item of our Public Debt which will be done on the first of January next there will remain unexpended in the Treasury an effective balance of about four hundred and forty thousand dollars. That such should be the aspect of our finances is highly flattering to the industry and enterprise of our population, and auspicious of the wealth and prosperity which await the future cultivation of their growing resources. It is not deemed prudent, however, to recommend any change for the present in our impost rates, the effect of the gradual reduction now in progress in many of them, not being sufficiently tested, to guide us in determiring the precise amount of revenue which they will produce.

Free from public debt, at peace with all the world, and with no complicated interests to consult in our intercourse with foreign powers, the present may be hailed as that epoch in history the most favorable for the settlement of those principles in our domestic policy, which shall be best calculated to give stability to our Republic, and secure the blessings of freedom to our citizens. Among these principles, from our past experience it cannot be doubted, that simplicity in the character of the Federal Government, and a rigid economy in its administration, should be regarded as fundamental and sacred. All must be sensible that the existence of the public debt, by rendering taxation necessary for its extinguishment, has increased the difficulties which are inseparable from every exercise of the taxing power; and that it was, in this respect, a remote agent in producing those disturbing questions which grew out of the discussion relating to the tariff. If such has been the tendency of a debt incurred in the acquisition and maintainance of our national rights and liberties, the obligations of which all portions of the Union cheerfully acknowledged, it must be obvious, that whatever is calculated to increase the burdens of Government without necessity, must be fatal to all our hopes of preserving its true character. While we are rejoicing ourselves, therefore, upon the extinguishment of the national debt, and the prosperous state of our finances, let us not be tempted to depart from those sound maxims of public policy, which enjoin a just adaptation of the revenue to the expenditures, that are consistant with a rigid economy, and an entire abstinence from all topics of legislation, that are not clearly within the constitutional powers of the government, and suggested by the wants of the country. Properly regarded, under such a policy, every diminution of the public burdens arising from taxation, gives to individual enterprise increased power, and furnishes to all the members of our happy confederacy, new motives for patriotic affection and support. But above all, its most important effect will be found in its influence upon the character of the Government, by confining its action to those objects which will be sure to secure to it the attachment and support of our fellow citizens.

Circumstances make it my duty to call the attention of Congress to the Bank of the United States. Created for the convenience of the Government, that institution has become the scourge of the People. Its interference to postpone the payment of a portion of the national debt, that it might retain the public money appropriated for that purpose, to strengthen it in a political contest—the extraordinary extension and contraction of its accommodations to the community—its corrupt and partisan loans—its exclusion of the public directors from a knowledge of its most important proceedings—the unlimited authority conferred on the President to expend its funds in hiring writers, and procuring the execution of printing, and the use made of that authority—the retention of the pension money and books after the selection of new agents—the groundless claim to heavy damages, in consequence of the protest of a bill drawn on the French Government, have, through various channels, been laid before Congress. Immediately after the close of the last session, the Bank, through its President, announced its ability and readiness to abandon the system of unparalleled curtailment, and the interruption of domestic exchanges, which it had practised upon from the 1st of August, 1833, to the 30th of June, 1834, and to extend its accommodations to the community. The grounds assumed in this annunciation, amounted to an acknowledgment that the curtailment, in the extent to which it had been carried was not necessary to the safety of the Bank, & had been persisted in merely to induce Congress to grant the prayer of the Bank in its memorial relative to the removal of the deposites, and to give it a new charter. They were substantially a confession that all the real distresses which individuals and the country had endured, for the preceding six or eight months, had been needlessly produced by it, with the view of affecting, through the sufferings of the people, the legislative action of Congress. It is a subject of congratulation that Congress and the country had the virtue and the firmness to bear the infliction; that the energies of the people soon found relief from this wanton tyranny, in vast importations of the precious metals from almost every part of the world;

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