THOSE WHO

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The Easton Gazette.

THE OLDEST PAPER IN TALBOT COUNTY.

The Purest in Politics, the Subscription Lists containing the most Bona-fide subscribers.

VOL. LXXX. NO. 1. EASTON, MD., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1895. $1.50 PER YEAR.

THE MESSAGE.

Foreign Affairs and Finances the Only Subjects Discussed.

MONROE DOCTRINE UPHELD.

No Forcible Increase of Territory Here by Any Foreign Power.

Solution of the Finance Problem---Cancellation of Greenbacks Urged and the Issue of Long Term Low Rate Bonds ---Free Silver Coinage Opposed by the President---Concerning Cuba, He Says This Country Should Remain Neutral.

To the Congress of the United States:

The present assemblage of the legislative branch of our Government occurs at a time when the interests of our people and the needs of the country give especial prominence to the condition of our foreign relations and the exigencies of our National finances. The reports of the heads of the several administrative departments of the Government fully and plainly exhibit what has been accomplished within the scope of their respective duties, and present such recommendations for the betterment of our country's condition as a patriotic and intelligent labor and observation suggest.

I therefore deem my executive duty adequately performed at this time by presenting to the Congress the important phases of our situation as related to our intercourse with foreign Nations, and a statement of the financial problems which confront us, omitting, except as they are related to these topics, any preference to departmental operations.

By amendatory tariff legislation in January last, the Argentine Republic, recognizing the value of the large market opened to the free importation of its wools under our last tariff act, has admitted certain products of the United States to entry at reduced duties. It is pleasing to note that the efforts we have made to enlarge the exchanges of trade on a sound basis of mutual benefits in this instance appreciated by the country from which our woolen factories draw their needful supply of raw material.

THE CHINESE MASSACRE.

The close of the momentous struggle between China and Japan, while relieving the diplomatic agents of this Government from the delicate duty they undertook at the request of both countries, of rendering such service to the subjects of either belligerent within the territorial limits of the other as our neutral position permitted, developed a deplorable condition in the Chinese Empire which has caused much anxiety and called for prompt and careful action. Either as a result of a weak control by the central Government over the provincial administrations, following a distribution of traditional governmental authority under the stress of an overwhelming National disaster, or as a manifestation upon good opportunity of the aversion of the Chinese population to all foreign ways and undertakings, there have occurred in widely separated provinces of the Empire serious outbreaks of the old fanatical spirit against foreigners, which, unchecked by the local authorities, if not actually connived at by them, have culminated in mob attacks on foreign missionary stations, causing much destruction of property, and attended with personal injuries as well as loss of life.

Although but one American citizen was reported to have been actually wounded, and although the destruction of property may have fallen more heavily upon the missionaries of other Nationalities than our own, it plainly behooved this Government to put the most prompt and decided action to guard against a similar or perhaps more dreadful calamity to befall the hundreds of American citizens [illegible] mission stations which have grown up throughout the interior of China under the temporary rule of toleration, custom and imperial edict. The demands of the United States and of others for the degradation and punishment of the responsible officials of the respective cities and provinces who, by neglect or otherwise, had permitted [illegible] ings, and for the adoption of stern measures by the Emperor's Government for the protection of life and property of foreigners, be were followed by the disgrace and dismissal of certain provincial officials found derelict in duty, and the punishment by death of a [illegible] number of those adjudged guilty of actual participation in the outrages.

The Government also insisted that a special American commission should visit [illegible] provinces where the first disturbances occurred, for the purpose of investigation. This [illegible] preacher Commission, formed after much opposition, has gone overland from Tientsin, [illegible] companied by a suitable Chinese escort, [illegible] ly its declaration of the readiness [illegible] ability of our Government to protect its [illegible] ens will set, it is believed, as a most [illegible] cable central deterrent of any similar outbreaks [illegible]

THE WALLER CASE.

"[illegible] the customary cordial relations between [illegible]

"No country and France have been [illegible] ded, with the exception that a full ex[illegible] ation of the the treatment of John [illegible] the expeditionary mil[illegible] candly authorities of formerly United [illegible] es Consul at Tamatave, France [illegible] remains to be given. Mr. Waller, [illegible] ained in Madagascar after his term of [illegible] e expired, and was apparently successful [illegible] to be engaged in business concessions from the [illegible] as of great or less value. After the occu[illegible] of Tamatave and the declaration of [illegible] thal law by the French, he was arrested [illegible] on various charges, among them that of [illegible] communicating military information to the [illegible] nies of France, was tried and convicted [illegible] military tribunal, and sentenced to [illegible] ty years imprisonment.

"Following the course justified by abundant [illegible] cedents, this Government requested from [illegible] of France the record of the proceedings [illegible] French tribunal which resulted in Mr. [illegible]'s condemnation. This request has [illegible] complied with to the extent of supply[illegible] a copy of the official record, from which [illegible] ear the constitution and organization of [illegible] ourt, the charges as formulated, and [illegible] general course and result of the trial, [illegible] by which it is shown that the accused [illegible] as tried in open court and was defended by [illegible] counsel. But the evidence adduced in support of the charges—which was not received by the French Minister of Foreign Affairs till the first week in October—has thus far been withheld, the French Government taking the ground that its production in response to our demand would establish a bad precedent. The efforts of our Ambassador to procure it, however, though impeded by recent changes in the French [illegible]inistry, have not been [illegible]ether [illegible] ly rejected—that some satisfactory solution of the matter will shortly be reached, although assured that Mr. Waller's confinement has every alleviation which the [illegible] of his health and all the other circumstances of his case demand or permit.

BLOWS AT OUR TRADE.

Our relation with the States of the German [illegible] pire are, in some aspects, typical of a [illegible] dition of things elsewhere found in countries [illegible] ing productions and trade are similar to our own. The close rivalries of competing industries, the influences of the deluding doctrine that the internal development of a Nation is promoted and its wealth increased by a policy which in undertaking to [illegible] its home markets for the exclusive [illegible] of its own producers necessarily obstructs their sales in foreign markets [illegible] prevents free access to the products of the world, the desire [illegible] obtain trade in time-worn ruts, regardless of the incomparable laws of new needs and changed conditions of demand and supply, and our own halting tardiness in inviting a [illegible] exchange of commodities, and by this means imperilling our footing in the external markets naturally open to us, have created a situation somewhat injurious to American export interests, not only in Germany, where they are perhaps most noticeable, but in adjacent countries.

These considerations should not, however, constrain us to submit to unfair discrimination nor to silently acquiesce in vexatious hindrances to the enjoyment of our share of the legitimate advantages of proper trade relations. If an examination of the situation suggests such measures on our part as would involve restrictions similar to those from which we suffer, the way to such a course is easy. It should, however, by no means be lightly entered upon, since the necessity for the inauguration of such a policy would be regretted by the best sentiment of our people, and because it naturally and logically might lead to consequences of the gravest character.

DESTROYING THE SEALS.

Our relations with Great Britain, always intimate and important, have demanded during the past year even a greater share of consideration than is usual.

Several vexatious questions were left undetermined by the decision of the Bering Sea Arbitration Tribunal. The application of the principles laid down by that august body has not been followed by the results they were intended to accomplish, either because the principles themselves lacked in breadth and definiteness or because their execution has been more or less imperfect. Much correspondence has been exchanged between the two Governments on the subject of preventing the exterminating slaughter of seals. The insufficiency of the British patrol of Bering Sea, under the regulations agreed on by the two Governments, has been pointed out, and yet only two British ships have been on police duty during this season in those waters.

The need of a more effective enforcement of existing regulations, as well as the adoption of such additional regulations as experience has shown to be absolutely necessary to carry out the intent of the award, have been earnestly urged upon the British Government, but thus far without effective results. In the mean time the depletion of the seal herds by means of pelagic hunting has so alarmingly progressed that unless their slaughter is at once effectively checked their extinction within a few years seems to be a matter of absolute certainty.

THE BOUNDARY OF ALASKA.

The completion of the preliminary survey of that Alaskan boundary which follows the contour of the coast from the southernmost point of Prince of Wales Island until it strikes the one hundred and forty-first meridian at or near the summit of Mount St. Elias awaits further necessary appropriation, which is urgently recommended. This survey was undertaken under the provisions of the convention entered into by this country and Great Britain July 22, 1892, and the supplementary convention of February 3, 1894.

As to the remaining section of the Alaska boundary, which follows the 141st meridian northwardly from Mount St. Elias to the Frozen Ocean, the settlement of which involves the physical location of the meridian mentioned, no conventional agreement has yet been made.

THE MONROE DOCTRINE.

It being apparent that the boundary dispute between Great Britain and the Republic of Venezuela concerning the limits of British Guiana was approaching an acute stage, a definite statement of the interest and policy of the United States as regards the controversy seemed to be required both on its own account and in view of domestic questions with the friendly Powers directly concerned. In July last, therefore, a despatch was addressed to our ambassador at London for communication to the British Government, in which the attitude of the United States was fully and distinctly set forth.

The general conclusions therein reached and formulated are in substance that the traditional and established policy of this Government is firmly opposed to a forcible increase by any European Power of its territorial possessions on this Continent; that this policy is as well founded in principle as it is strongly supported by numerous precedents; that as a consequence the United States is bound to protest against the enlargement of the area of British Guiana in derogation of the rights and against the will of Venezuela; that, considering the disparity in strength of Great Britain and Venezuela, the territorial dispute between them can be reasonably settled only by friendly and impartial arbitration, and that the resort to such arbitration should include the whole controversy, and is not satisfied if one of the Powers concerned is permitted to draw an arbitrary line through the territory in debate and to declare that it will submit to arbitration only the portion lying on one side of it. In view of these conclusions the despatch in question called upon the British Government for a definite answer to the question whether it would or would not submit the territorial controversy between itself and Venezuela in its entirety to impartial arbitration. The answer of the British Government has not been received, but is expected shortly, when further communication on the subject will probably be made to the Congress.

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Cuba is again gravely disturbed. An insurrection, in some respects more active than the last preceding revolt, which continued from 1863 to 1878, now exists in a large part of the eastern interior of the island, menacing even some populations on the coast. Besides deranging the commercial exchanges of the island, of which our country takes the predominant share, this flagrant condition of hostilities, by arousing sentimental sympathy and inciting adventurous support among our people, has entailed earnest effort on the part of this Government to enforce obedience to our neutrality laws and to prevent the territory of the United States from being abused as a vantage ground from which to aid those in arms against Spanish sovereignty.

Whatever may be the traditional sympathy of our countrymen as individuals with a people who seem to be struggling for larger autonomy and greater freedom, deepened as such sympathy naturally must be in behalf of our neighbors, yet the plain duty of their Government is to observe in good faith the recognized obligations of international relationship. The performance of this duty should not be made more difficult by a disregard on the part of our citizens of the obligations growing out of their allegiance to their country, which should restrain them from violating as individuals the neutrality which the action of which they are members is bound to observe in its relations to friendly sovereign States. Though neither the wrongs of our people's [illegible] they wrathe Cuban insurgents, nor our loss and material damage consequent upon the devastation of the island has in fact restore peace and order, nor any shock our humane sensibilities may have received from the cruelties which appear to especially characterize this sanguinary and fiercely conducted war, have in the least shaken the determination of the Government to honestly fulfill every international obligation, yet it is to be earnestly hoped, on every ground, that the devastation of armed conflict may speedily be stayed and order and quiet restored to the disturbed island, bringing in their train the activity and thrift of peaceful pursuits.

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MASSACRES IN ARMENIA.

Occurrences in Turkey have continued to excite concern. The reported massacres of Christians in Armenia and the development there and in other districts of a spirit of fanatic hostility to Christian influences naturally excited apprehension for the safety of the devoted men and women, who, as departments of the foreign missionary societies in the United States, reside in Turkey under the guarantee of law and usage and in the legitimate performance of their educational and religious mission. No efforts have been spared in their behalf, and their protection in person and property has been earnestly and vigorously enforced by every means within our power.

The Ottoman Government has lately issued an Imperial irade exempting forever from taxation an American college for girls at Scutari. Repeated assurances have also been obtained by our Envoy at Constantinople that similar institutions maintained and administered by our countrymen shall be secured in the enjoyment of all rights, and that our citizens throughout the Empire shall be protected.

MORE PAY FOR AMBASSADORS.

I am thoroughly convinced that in addition to their salaries our Ambassadors and Ministers at foreign courts should be provided by the Government with official residences. The salaries of these officers are comparatively small, and in most cases insufficient to pay, with other necessary expenses, the cost of maintaining household establishments in keeping with their important and delicate functions. The usefulness of a Nation's diplomatic representative undeniably depends much upon the appropriateness of his surroundings, and a country like ours, while avoiding unnecessary glitter and show, should be certain that it does not suffer in its relations with foreign Nations through parsimony and shabbiness in its diplomatic outfit. These considerations and the other advantages of having fixed and somewhat permanent locations for our embassies would abundantly justify the moderate expenditure necessary to carry out this suggestion.

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From the discussion of foreign affairs the President turns to the country's financial condition. The message says:

"As we contemplate the state of our foreign relations to the contemplation of our National financial situation we are immediately impressed that we approach the consideration of domestic concern more important than any other that can engage our attention, and one at present fraught with peculiar peril and delicate predicament as to require prompt and wise treatment.

"By command of the people a customs revenue system, designed for the protection and benefit of favored classes, at the expense of the great body of our countrymen, and which, while inefficient for its chief purpose of revenue, curtailed our trade relations and our returns for our entrance to the markets of the world, has been superseded by a tariff policy which in principle is based upon the right of the Government to obstruct the avenues to our people's cheap living or lessen their comfort and contentment, for the sake of according especial advantage to the favorites of fortune; this, considering the disparity in strength of Great Britain and Venezuela, the territorial dispute between them can be reasonably settled only by friendly and impartial arbitration, and that the resort to such arbitration should include the whole controversy, and is not satisfied if one of the Powers concerned is permitted to draw an arbitrary line through the territory in debate and to declare that it will submit to arbitration only the portion lying on one side of it. In view of these conclusions the despatch in question called upon the British Government for a definite answer to the question whether it would or would not submit the territorial controversy between itself and Venezuela in its entirety to impartial arbitration. The answer of the British Government has not been received, but is expected shortly, when further communication on the subject will probably be made to the Congress.

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DIAMONDS

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J. E. SHANNAHAN.

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JOHN MASON & CO'S.

Three story warehouse is full of Furniture from bottom to top, the best and cheapest that was ever brought to town and in price and quality we defy competition. We have bought our goods at the lowest cash price and as times are hard we propose to sell at a very small advance.

COME AND SEE US AND WE GUARANTEE TO SAVE YOU MONEY.

UNDERTAKING and EMBALMING.

This department is complete in all its details, and price the lowest Our fifty years experience enables us to know our business thoroughly. 11-18

Having Bought

The Shops and Tools of William H. Withgott, opposite Wilson's Mill, Easton, Md., also the tools of E. J. Biery, I am now prepared to do all kinds of Blacksmithing and repair all kinds of Machinery, from a sewing machine to the largest and heaviest machinery made. A competent blacksmith and machinist always in charge of shops. I shall also continue to carry on my old line of

Contracting and Building

Plumbing and Gas Fitting, Steam and Hot Water Heating.—Agent for the Aremotor Windmill. All work carefully and promptly done. Give me a call. I think I can please you.

LEWIS WHITEHOUSE, - Prop'r.

E. J. BIERY, Foreman.

☞N. B.—Mr. William J. Biery has also located his wheelwright business in the same shop with me, and is now prepared to do all kinds of Repair work in his line in his usual prompt and careful manner.

BONDS NOT ISSUED FOR REVENUE.

"It is possible that the suggestion of increased revenue as a remedy for the difficulties we are considering may have originated in an inflamation or distinct allegation that the bonds which have been issued ostensibly to replenish our gold reserve were really issued to supply insufficient revenue. Nothing can be further from the truth. Bonds were issued to obtain gold for the maintenance of our National credit. As has been shown, the gold thus obtained has been drawn again from the Treasury upon United States notes and Treasury notes. This operation would have been promptly prevented if possible; but these notes having thus been passed to the Treasury, they became the money of the Government, like any other ordinary Government funds, and there was nothing to do but to use them in paying Government expenses when needed.

A SAFE SURPLUS.

"At no time when bonds have been issued has there been any necessity for the question of paying the expenses of Government with their proceeds. There was no necessity for such provision. At the close of each bond issue we had a safe surplus in the Treasury for ordinary operations, exclusive of the gold in reserve. In February, 1894, when the first issue of bonds was made, such surplus amounted to over $18,000,000; in November, when the second issue was made, it amounted to more than $42,000,000, and in February, 1895, when bonds for the third time were issued, such surplus amounted to more than $100,000,000. Now it amounts to $98,072,420.30.

"It is neither unfair nor unjust to charge a large share of our present financial perplexities and dangers to the operation of the law of 1878 and those compelling the purchase of silver by the Government, which not only furnished a new Treasury obligation upon which its gold could be withdrawn, but so increased the fear of an overvaluation of our currency, and to suggest a way which leads to a safer financial system, I have constantly had in mind the duty of protecting our prosperity, and to suggest a way which leads to a safer financial system, I have constantly had in mind the duty of protecting our countrymen, whose sincerity I do not doubt, insist that the cure for the ills now threatening us may be found in the single and simple remedy of the free coinage of silver. They contend that our entire financial and business troubles are the result of the refusal of our mints to the free, unlimited and independent coinage of both gold and silver dollars of full, legal-tender quality, regardless of the action of any other Government and in full view of the fact that the ratio between the metals which they suggest calls for 100 cents worth of gold in the gold dollar at the present standard, and only fifty cents in intrinsic worth of silver in the silver dollar.

"No Government, by any legislative contrivance or act of legislation, has ever been able to hold the two metals together in free coinage at a ratio approximately different from that which is established in the markets of the world.

"Twice in our earlier history our lawmakers in attempting to establish a bimetallic currency undertook free coinage upon a ratio which accidentally varied from the actual relative values of the two metals not more than 3 per cent. In both cases, notwithstanding greater difficulties and errors in the ratio, gradually and surely disappeared from circulation and went to other countries where their real value was better recognized.

"Acts of Congress were impotent to create equality where natural causes decreed a slight inequality.

"Twice in our recent history we have signally failed to raise by legislation the value of silver. Under an act of Congress passed in 1878 the Government was required for more than twelve years to expend annually at least $2,000,000 in the purchase of silver bullion for coinage. The act of July 14, 1890, is a still bolder effort, increased the amount of silver the Government was compelled to purchase and forced it to become the larger annually of 54,000,000 ounces, or practically the entire product of our mines. For both laws a fairly steady and steadily declined in value. The prophecy and the expressed hope and expectation of those in the Congress who led in the passage of the last-mentioned act, that it would re-establish and maintain the former parity between the two metals, are still fresh in our memory.

"In the light of these unsuccessful experiences, which accord with the experiences of other Nations, there is certainly no secure ground for the belief that an act of Congress could now oridge an inequality of fifty per cent. between gold and silver at our present ratio, nor is there the least possibility that our country, which has less than one-seventh of the silver money in the world, could by its action alone raise not only our own, but all silver to its old-time parity with gold. Our attempt to accomplish this by the free coinage of silver at a ratio differing widely from the actual relative values would be the signal for the complete departure of gold from our circulation, the immediate and large contraction of our circulating medium, and a shrinkage in the real value and monetary efficiency of all other forms of currency as they settled to the level of silver monometallism. Every one who receives a fixed salary and every worker for wages would find the dollar in his hand ruthlessly scaled down to the point of bitter disappointment if not to pinching privation.

"A change in our standard of silver monometallism would also bring on a collapse of the entire system of credit which, when based on a standard which is recognized and adopted by the world of business, is many times more potent and useful than the entire volume of currency, and is safely capable of almost indefinite expansion with the growth of trade and enterprise. In a self-invited struggle through darkness and uncertainty our humiliation would be increased by the conciousness that we had parted company with all the enlightened and progressive Nations of the world, and were desperately and hopelessly striving to meet the stress of modern commerce and competition with a debased and unsuitable currency and in association with the few weak and lagging Nations which had silver alone as their standard of value.

"All history is against rash experiments which threaten violent changes in our money and standard and the degradation of our currency. The past is full of lessons teaching not only the economic dangers, but the National immorality that follows in the train of such experiments. I will not believe that the American people can be persuaded after sober deliberation to jeopardize their National credit and standing by encouraging financial nostrums, nor that they will yield to the false allurements of cheap money, when their existence as a Nation depends in the weakening of that financial integrity and the debasement which thus far in our history has been so devotedly cherished as one of the traits of true Americanism.

"Our country's steadiness, whether owning by the Government or existing between Nation's creditors, has been conspicuous in evidence to our present standard. To decree by act of Congress that these debts shall be payable in less valuable dollars than those which were in contemplation and intention of the parties when contracted, would operate to impair, by the fiat of law and without compensation, an essential part of property and a portion of rights and interests almost incalculable.

"Those who advocate a blind and headlong plunge to free coinage in the name of bimetallism and professing the belief, contrary to all experience, that the enactment of such a coinage standard and a concurrent circulation of both metals in our coinage, are certainly reckoning from a cloudy standpoint. Our present standard is one in the standard of the civilized world and permits the use of both metals now possible, or at least that is within the independent power of any single Nation, however powerful that Nation may be. While the value of gold as a standard is steadied by almost universal commandment, and while this standard is maintained, there is at its side in free and unquestioned circulation a volume of silver currency sometimes greater and sometimes even exceeding it in amount, both maintained at a parity notwithstanding the fluctuation in the intrinsic value of silver.

"There is a vast difference between a standard of value and a currency for monetary use. The standard must necessarily be fixed and certain. The currency may be in various forms and of various kinds. No silver-standard country has a gold currency in circulation; but an enlightened and wise system of money secures the benefits of both gold and silver as currency and circulating medium by keeping the standard stable and all other currency at par with it. Currency with such a standard also give free scope for the use and expansion of safe and conservative credit, so indispensible to broad and growing commercial transactions and so well substituted for the actual use of money. If a fixed and stable standard is maintained such as the world has now and safety of our commercial transactions and business require, the use of money itself is conveniently minimized.

"Every dollar of fixed and stable value has through the agency of confident credit an astonishing capacity of multiplying itself in financial work. Every unstable and fluctuating dollar fails as a basis of credit, and in its use bereft gambling speculation and undermines the foundations of honest enterprise.

"I have ventured to express myself on this subject with earnestness and plainess of speech because I cannot rid myself of the belief that there lurks in the proposition for the free coinage of silver, so strongly approved and so enthusiastically advocated by a multitude of my countrymen, a serious menace to our prosperity and an insidious temptation of our people to wander from the allegiance they owe to public and private integrity. It is because