STAR,

General Advertiser.

EASTON:—*TUESDAY MORNING*, DECEMBER 11, 1810.

We are unable this morning to commence with the proceedings of Congress as usual, owing to Washington papers later than the first inst. not being received—the President's Message we issued on Sunday morning on an extra, and now introduce it with such of the Documents as have come to hand, the importance of which, we hope, will be sufficient inducement for subscribers to take care of their papers, as others will appear, when in detail before them a correct view may be obtained.

WASHINGTON CITY, Dec. 5.

The President of the United States this day communicated by Mr. Edward Coles, his private Secretary, the following Message to Congress :

Fellow citizens of the Senate, and
of the House of Representatives,

THE embarrasments which have prevailed in our foreign relations, and so much employed the deliberations of Congress, make it a primary duty, in meeting you to communicate whatever might have occurred, in that branch of the national affairs.

The act of the last session of congress, "concerning the commercial intercourse between the United States and Great Britain and France and their dependencies" having invited, in a new form, a termination of their edicts against our neutral commerce, copies of the act were immediately forwarded to our ministers at London and Paris; with a view that its object might be within the early attention of the British & French governments.

By the communication received through our minister at Paris, it appeared that a knowledge of the act by the French government, was followed by a declaration that the Berlin and Milan decrees were revoked, and would cease to have effect on the first day of November ensuing. These being the only known edicts of France, within the description of the act, and the revocation of them, being such that they ceased, at that date to violate our neutral commerce; the fact as prescribed by law, was announced by a proclamation bearing date the second of November.

It would have well accorded with the conciliatory views, indicated by this proceeding on the part of France, to have extended them to all the grounds of just complaint, which now remain unadjusted with the United States. It was particularly anticipated that, as a further evidence of just dispositions towards them, restoration would have been immediately made of the property of our citizens seized under a misapplication of the principle of reprisals, combined with a misconstruction of a law of the U. States This expectation has not been fulfilled.

From the British government no communication on the subject of the act has been received. To a communication from our minister at London of the revocation, by the French government, of its Berlin and Milan decrees, it was answered that the British system would be relinquished as soon as the repeal of the French decrees should have actually taken effect, and the commerce of neutral nations have been restored to the condition in which it stood previously to the promulgation of these decrees. This pledge although it does not necessarily import, does not include the intention of relinquishing, along with the orders in council, the practice of those novel blockades which have a like effect of interrupting our neutral commerce. And this further justice to the United States is the rather to be looked for, inasmuch as the blockades in question, being not more contrary to the established law of nations, than inconsistent with the rules of blockade formally recognized by Great Britain herself, could have no alleged basis, other than the plea of retaliation, alleged as the basis of the orders in council. Under the modification of the original orders, of November, 1807, into the orders of April 1809, there is indeed scarcely a nominal distinction between the orders and the blockades. One of those illigitimate blockades, bearing date in May 1806, having been expressly avowed to be still unrescinded, and to be in effect, comprehended in the orders in council was too distinctly bro't within the purview of the act of Congress, not to be comprehended in the explanation of the requisites to a compliance with it. The British government was accordingly apprised by our minister near it, that such was the light in which the subject was to be regarded.

On the other important subjects depending between the United States & that government, no progress has been made, from which an early and satisfactory result can be relied on.

In this new posture of our relations with those powers, the consideration of congress will be properly turned to a removal of doubts which may occur in the exposition, and of difficulties in the execution, of the act above cited.

The commerce of the United States, with the North of Europe, heretofore much vexed by licentious cruisers, particularly under the Danish Flag, has latterly been visited with fresh and extensive depredations. The measures pursued in behalf of our injured citizens not having obtained justice for them, a further and more formal interposition with the Danish government is contemplated. The principles which have been maintained by that government in relation to neutral commerce, and the friendly professions of his Danish Majesty towards the United States, are valuable pledges, in favor of a successful issue.

Among the events growing out of the state of the Spanish Monarchy, our attention was imperiously attracted to that change, developing itself in that portion of West Florida; which, tho' of right appertaining to the United States, had remained in the possession of Spain; awaiting the result of negociations for its actual delivery to them. The Spanish authority was subverted: and a situation produced, exposing the country to ulterior events, which might essentially affect the rights and welfare of the Union. In such a conjuncture, I did not delay the interposition acquired for the occupancy of the territory West of the river Perdido; to which the title of the United States extends, and to which the laws, provided for the territory of Orleans, are applicable. With this view, the proclamation, of which a copy is laid before you, was confided to the governor of that territory, to be carried into effect. The legality and necessity of the course pursued, assure me of the favorable light in which it will present itself to the Legislature; and of the promptitude, with which they will supply whatever provisions may be due to the essential rights and equitable interests of the people thus bro't into the bosom of the American family.

Our amity with the Powers of Barbary, with the exception of a recent occurrence at Tunis, of which an explanation is just received, appears to have been uninterrupted, and to have become more firmly established.

With the Indian tribes, also, the peace and friendship of the United States are found to be so eligible, that the general disposition to preserve both continues to gain strength.

I feel particular satisfaction in remarking that an interior view of our country presents us with grateful proofs of its substantial and increasing prosperity.—To a thriving agriculture, and the improvements related to it, is added a highly interesting extension of useful manufactures; the combined product of professional occupations, and of household industry. Such, indeed, is the experience of economy, as well as of policy, in these substitutes for supplies heretofore obtained by foreign commerce, that, in a national view, the change is justly regarded as of itself more than a recompence for those privations and losses resulting from foreign injustice, which furnished the general impulse required for its accomplishments. How far it may be expedient to guard the infancy of this improvement in the distribution of labour by regulations of the commercial tariff, is a subject which cannot fail to suggest itself to your patriotic reflections.

It will rest with the consideration of Congress, also, whether a provident, as well as fair encouragement, would not be given to our navigation, by such regulations as will place it on a level of competition with foreign vessels, particularly in transporting the important and bulky productions of our own soil. The failure of equality and reciprocity in the existing regulations on this subject operates, in our ports, as a premium to foreign competitors; and the inconvenience must increase, as these may be multiplied, under more favourable circumstances, by the more than countervailing encouragements now given them, by the laws of their respective countries.

Whilst it is universally admitted that a well instructed people alone can be permanently a free people; and whilst it is evident that the means of diffusing and improving useful knowledge form so small a proportion of the expenditures for national purposes. I cannot presume it to be unseasonable, to invite your attention to the advantages of superadding, to the means of education provided by the several states, a seminary of learning, instituted by the national legislature, within the limits of their exclusive jurisdiction; the expence of which might be defrayed, or reimbursed out of the vacant grounds which have accrued to the nation within those limits.

Such an institution, though local in its legal character, would be universal in its beneficial effects. By enlightening the opinions; by extending the patriotism; and by assimilating the principles, the sentiments and the manners of those who might resort to this temple of science, to be re-distributed, in due time, through every part of the community; sources of jealousy and prejudice would be diminished, the features of national character would be multiplied, and greater extent given to social harmony. But above all, a well constituted seminary, in the centre of the nation, is recommended by the consideration, that the additional instruction emanating from it would contribute, not less to strengthen the foundations, than to adorn the structure, of our free and happy system of government.

Among the commercial abuses still committed under the American flag, and leaving in force my former reference to that subject, it appears that American citizens are instrumental in carrying on a traffic in enslaven Africans, equally in violation of the laws of humanity, and in defiance of those of their own country. The same just and benevolent motives which produced the interdiction in force against this criminal conduct, will doubtless be felt by Congress, in devising further means of suppressing the evil.

In the midst of uncertainties, necessarily connected with the great interests of the United States, prudence requires a continuance of our defensive and precautionary arrangements. The Secretary of War and Secretary of the Navy will submit the statements and estimates which may aid Congress in their ensuing provisions for the land and naval forces. The statements of the latter will include a view of the transfers of appropriations in the Naval expenditures, and the grounds on which they were made.

The fortifications for the defence of our maritime frontier have been prosecuted according to the plan laid down in 1808. The works, with some exceptions, are compleated, and furnished with ordnance. Those for the security of the City of N. York, though far advanced to the completion, will require a further time and appropriation. This is the case with a few others, either not compleated, or in need of repairs.

The improvements, in quality and quantity, made in the manufactory of cannon; and of small arms, both at the public armories, and private factories, warrant additional confidence in the competency of these resources, for supplying the public exigencies.

These preparations for arming the militia having thus far provided for one of the objects contemplated by the power vested in Congress, with respect to that great bulwark of the public safety; it is for their consideration, whether further provisions are not requisite, for the other contemplated objects, of organization and discipline. To give to this great mass of physical and moral force, the efficiency which it merits, and is capable of receiving—it is indispensable that they should be instructed and practised in the rules by which they are to be governed. Towards an accomplishment of this important work, I recommend for the consideration of congress the expediency of instituting a system, which shall, in the first instance, call into the field, at the public expence, and for a given time, certain portions of the commissioned and non-commissioned officers.

The instruction and discipline thus acquired would gradually diffuse thro' the entire body of the militia that practical knowledge and promptitude for active service, which are the great ends to be pursued. Experience has left no doubt, either of the necessity, or of the efficacy of competent military skill, in those portions of an army, in fitting it for the final duties which it may have to perform.

The corps of Engineers, with the Military Academy, are entitled to the early attention of congress. The buildings at the seat, fixed by law for the present Academy, are so far in decay, as not to afford the necessary accommodation. But a revision of the law is recommended, principally with a view to a more enlarged cultivation and diffusion of the advantages of such institutions, by providing professorships for all the necessary branches of military instruction, and by the establishment of an additional Academy, at the seat of government, or elsewhere.—The means by which war, as well for defence as for offence, are now carried on, render these schools of the more scientific operations an indispensable part of every adequate system.

Even among nations whose large standing armies and frequent wars afford every other opportunity of instruction, these establishments are found to be indispensable, for the due attainment of the branches of military science, which require a regular course of study and experiment. In a government, happily without the other opportunities; seminaries, where the elementary principles of the art of war can be taught without actual war, and without the expence of extensive and standing armies, have the precious advantage of uniting an essential preparation against external danger, with a scrupulous regard to internal safety. In no other way, probably, can a provision, of equal efficacy for the public defence, be made at so little expence, or more consistently with the public liberty.

The receipts into the Treasury during the year ending on the 30th of September last (and amounting to more than eight millions and a half of dollars) have exceeded the current expences of the government, including the interest on the public debt. For the purpose of reimbursing at the end of the year 3,750,000 dollars of the principal, a loan, as authorised by law, had been negociated to that amount; but has since been reduced to 2,750,000 dollars—the reduction being permitted by the state of the Treasury, in which there will be a balance, remaining at the end of the year, estimated at 2,000,000 dollars. For the probable receipt of the next year, and other details, I refer to statements which will be transmitted from the Treasury, and which will enable you to judge what further provisions may be necessary for the ensuing years.

Reserving for future occasions, in the course of the session, whatever other communications may claim your attention, I close the present, by expressing my reliance, under the blessing of Divine Providence, on the judgment and patriotism which will guide your measures, at a period particularly calling for united Councils, and inflexible exertions, for the welfare of our country, and by assuring you of the fidelity and alacrity with which my co-operation will be afforded.

JAMES MADISON

From among the voluminous mass of documents accompanying the Message of the President, we have selected the following, which appear to us particularly interesting.—*Nat. Intel.*

FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO GOV. CLAIBORNE.

Department of State, October 27, 1810.

SIR,

From the enclosed Proclamation of the President of the United States you will perceive his determination to take possession of the territory therein specified, in the name and behalf of the United States; the considerations which have constrained him to resort to this necessary measure, and his direction that you, as Governor of the Orleans Territory, shall execute the same.—Of this Proclamation, upon your arrival at Natchez, you will, without delay, cause to be printed as many copies, in the English, French and Spanish languages, as may be deemed necessary, and you will cause the same to be extensively circulated throughout the said territory.

You will immediately proceed by the nearest and best route to the town of Washington in the Mississippi Territory. From the Secretary at War you will receive an order to the officers commanding the several frontier posts to afford you such assistance in passing the Wilderness and in descending the Western Waters as you may require. And, as dispatch is very desirable, you are authorised, in case your horses should fail, to procure others at the public expence. After having made at Washington the necessary arrangements with Gov. Holmes and with the commanding officer of the regular troops, you will without delay proceed into the said territory, and, in virtue of the President's Proclamation, take possession of the same in the name and in behalf of the United States.

As the district, the possession of which you are directed to take, is to be considered as making part of the Territory of Orleans, you will, after taking possession, lose no time in proceeding to organize the militia, to prescribe the bounds of parishes, to establish parish courts, and finally to do whatever your legal powers applicable to the case will warrant and may be calculated to maintain order, to secure to the inhabitants the peaceable enjoyment of their liberty, property and religion, and to place them, as far as may be, on the same footing with the inhabitants of the other districts under your authority. As far as your powers may be inadequate to these and other requisite objects, the Legislature of Orleans, which it is understood will soon be in session, will have an opportunity of making further provisions for them, more especially for giving by law to the inhabitants of the said Territory a just share in the representation of the General Assembly; it being desirable that the interval of this privation should not be prolonged beyond the unavoidable necessity of the case.

If contrary to expectation, the occupation of this Territory on the part of the United States should be opposed by force; the commanding officer of the regular troops on the Mississippi will have orders from the Secretary at War to afford you upon your application, the requisite aid, and should an additional force be deemed necessary, you will draw from the Orleans Territory, as will Gov. Holmes from the Mississippi Territory, militia in such numbers, and in such proportions from your respective territories as you and Gov. Holmes may deem proper. Should, however, any particular place, however small, remain in possession of a Spanish force, you will not proceed to employ force against it; but you will make immediate report thereof to this department.

You will avail yourself of the first favorable opportunities that may occur to transmit to the several governors of the Spanish provinces in the neighborhood copies of the President's Proclamation with accompanying letters of a conciliatory tendency.

To defray any reasonable expenditures which may necessarily attend the execution of these instructions, the President authorises you, having due regard to economy, to draw for a sum not exceeding in any event 20,000 dollars.

For the confidence which the President justly has in your judgment and discretion he is persuaded that in the execution of this trust, as delicate as it is important, your deportment will be temperate and conciliatory. Such a line of conduct towards the inhabitants is prescribed as well by policy as by justice.

You will, it is expected, be fully sensible of the necessity, not only of communicating every important event that may occur in the progress of this business, but of transmitting a letter, whatever may be its contents, by every mail to this city.

I have the honour to be, &c.
(Sighed) R. SMITH.

By the President of the United States of America.

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS the Territory South of the Mississippi Territory, and Eastward of the river Mississippi, and extending to the river, Perdido, of which possession was not delivered to the United States in pursuance of the treaty concluded at Paris on the 30th of April, 1803, has at all times, as is well known, been considered and claimed by them, as being within the colony of Louisiana conveyed by the said treaty in the same extent that it had in the hands of Spain, and that it had when France originally possessed it.

And whereas the acquiescence of the United States in the temporary continuance of the said territory under the Spanish authority was not the result of any distrust of their title as has been particularly evinced by the general tenor of their laws, and by the distinction made in the application of those laws between that Territory and foreign countries; but was occasioned by their conciliatory views, and by a confidence in the justice of their cause; and in the success of candid discussion and amicable negociation with a just and friendly power.

And whereas a satisfactory adjustment, too long delayed, without the fault of the United States, has for some time been entirely suspended by events over which they had no control; and whereas a crisis has at length arrived subversive of the order of things under the Spanish authorities, whereby a failure of the United States to take the said territory into its possession may lead to events ultimately contravening the views of both parties, whilst in the mean time the tranquillity and security of our adjoining territories are endangered, and new facilities given to violations of our revenue and commercial laws, and of those prohibiting the introduction of slaves:

Considering moreover, that under these peculiar and imperative circumstances a forbearance on the part of the United States to occupy the territory in question, and thereby guard against the confusions and contingencies which threaten it, might be construed into a dereliction of their title, or an insensibility to the importance of the stake; considering that in the hands of the United States it will not cease to be a subject of fair and friendly negociation and adjustment: considering finally that the acts of Congress though contemplating a present possession by a foreign authority, have contemplated also an eventual possession of the said territory by the United States, and are accordingly so framed as in that case to extend in their operation to the same:

Now be it known, that I, James Madison, President of the United States of America, in pursuance of these weighty and urgent considerations, have deemed it right and requisite, that possession should be taken of the said territory in the name and behalf of the United States. William C. C. Claiborne, Governor of the Orleans Territory of which the said territory is to be taken as part, will accordingly proceed to execute the same; and to exercise over the said territory the authorities and functions legally appertaining to his office. And the good people inhabiting the same, are invited and enjoined to pay due respect to him in that character; to be obedient to the laws; to maintain order; to cherish harmony; and in every manner to conduct themselves as peaceable citizens, under full assurance, that they will be protected in the enjoyment of their liberty, property and religion.

In testimony whereof, I have caused the seal of the United States to be hereunto affixed and signed the same with my hand. Done at the
(L. S.) City of Washington the twenty-seventh day of October A. D. 1810, and in the thirty fifth year of the independence of the said U. States.

(Signed) JAMES MADISON.
By the President,
R. SMITH, *Secretary of State.*