PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

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

Being constitutionally called in the ordinary course of events upon to present my annual report of the affairs of the Union, I have gone, I presume, beyond all precedent, in the length of time I have occupied the attention of the Legislature with my annual communications. I shall not depart from the usage now so long established, but will endeavor to condense what I have to say into as small compass as the importance of the subjects to which it will be necessary to call your attention will admit.

The reports of the several Departments, which are herewith submitted, will show the condition of the public business in all its details, and the operations of the last year in the various branches of the public service. The receipts, expenditures, and revenues, including those for the Post-Office Department, and the public lands, with the estimates of appropriations required for the ensuing year, will be found in the reports of the Secretary of the Treasury, the Postmaster General, and the Commissioner of the General Land Office, to which I invite your attention. The reports of the Secretary of War, of the Attorney-General, and of the Navy, with the accompanying documents, will show the condition of those branches of the public service under the supervision of those Departments respectively, and the expenditures made therefrom during the last year, and will also show what further legislation is required in each Department to render the administration of the public business as efficient as I believe it is already under the laws and regulations established by my predecessors and myself. The report of the Secretary of the Interior will show the condition of the various branches of business pertaining to that Department, which are of a character so important and so intimately connected with the prosperity and happiness of our people, that I feel it my duty to call your attention to them more in detail than those of any other Department. I shall, therefore, confine myself to a few leading subjects, which I deem of sufficient importance to require your consideration before the adjournment of Congress.

The report of the Secretary of the Treasury shows the finances of the country to be in a healthy condition. The receipts of the last fiscal year, including those from all sources, have been sufficient to meet the expenditures of the Government, including the interest on the public debt, and to leave a surplus of more than two millions of dollars in the Treasury on the first day of January, 1859. This surplus, however, is not available for the purchase of stocks, or for any other investment, as it will be required to meet the ordinary demands upon the Treasury during the first quarter of the present year, before the revenue can be collected from the various sources of income. It is, however, fully provided for by the existing tariff, and will not, therefore, require any additional taxation to meet it. The receipts for the last six months have been sufficient to pay all the current expenses of the Government, and to maintain the public credit without the necessity of borrowing money or increasing the public debt. This is a result which, I think, should be satisfactory to the country, when it is remembered that it has been accomplished under a tariff which, in its operation, has been comparatively light on the articles of general consumption, and which, in fact, was framed more with a view to the protection of the manufacturing interest than that of the revenue. It is also important that no interruption should occur in the payment of the interest on the public debt, which has been promptly met, as it has become due, since the commencement of the present fiscal year, and that the faith of the Government should be preserved inviolate, as it has been in all the past, with the public creditor.

The report accompanying the report of the Secretary of the Treasury will show the condition of the various branches of business under the supervision of that Department, such as the collection of the revenue from imports and tonnage, the operations of the various mints and assay offices, the disbursement of the public money by the various officers and agents of the Government, the expenditures for the various branches of the public service, the condition of the various banks in which the public money is deposited, the amount of the public debt, the various stocks held by the Department, the operations of the various bureaus under the control of the Secretary, and the condition of the various branches of business pertaining to the Department, such as the building of light-houses, the improvement of rivers and harbors, the survey of the coast, the various expeditions to explore the coasts and islands of the Pacific Ocean, and the various scientific expeditions which have been fitted out by the Department for the benefit of commerce and navigation, and for the advancement of the various sciences connected therewith. The commerce and navigation of the country have been in a healthy condition during the past year, and the revenue from imports has been sufficient for all the purposes of a wise and economical administration of the public business. The report of the Secretary of the Interior shows the public lands to be still a fertile source of revenue, although the quantity of public land offered for sale during the last fiscal year has been much less than in former years, owing to the withdrawal from market, by the orders of the Department, of large bodies of land in the various States and Territories, to satisfy the various grants of land by Congress to railroad companies and for other purposes, which withdrawals have been made in anticipation of the action of Congress upon the various applications for legislation asking for grants of land for railroad purposes. The receipts from the various land offices, however, have been much greater than the expenditures in the various land districts during the last fiscal year, and the surplus of revenue from this source, after paying the expenses of the Land Department, including the surveying and extinguishment of the Indian titles, and the various expenditures for the benefit of the Indians, has been more than sufficient to meet the appropriations made by Congress for the benefit of the Indians, including the various annuities and trust funds, which are in the nature of a permanent annuity to the Indians, and which, from the character of the property from which they are derived, should be considered as much a part of the public debt as any other stocks held by the Government. The report of the Secretary of the Interior also shows the condition of the various Indian tribes, their progress in civilization, the amount of their property, the condition of the various Indian trust funds, and the manner in which the various Indian nations have fulfilled their obligations with the United States, and how they have met the expectations of the philanthropic portion of the community, who, when the Indian title to their lands within the various States and Territories was extinguished, predicted that they would perish in a few years if they were not allowed to remain in their ancient hunting-grounds and continue their barbarous customs. The report also shows the condition of the various Territories of the United States, the progress they have made during the past year in population and wealth, the extent to which they have availed themselves of the benefits of the various grants of public lands made by Congress for the benefit of schools, universities, and public works, and the manner in which the various Territorial governments have discharged the duties devolved upon them by the various organic acts of Congress.

The report of the Secretary of War shows the condition of the military forces of the United States, their distribution, the character of the service they have performed during the past year, and the expenditures made at the various military posts and stations within the United States, and in the various Territories, for the support of the army during the last fiscal year, and the estimates of appropriations required for the various military bureaus for the next fiscal year. The report also shows the condition of the various works of fortification and internal improvement under the control of the War Department, the progress made in their construction during the past year, and the sums expended upon each during the last fiscal year, and the estimates of appropriations required for the completion of the works under the control of the Department, with the reasons for the faith of the Government being thus kept with the various contractors who have made their contracts with the Government in good faith, based upon the appropriations made by Congress, and the various expeditions fitted out by the Department for the benefit of commerce and navigation, and for the benefit of the various scientific bureaus connected with the Department, and the results of the various scientific expeditions and explorations made by officers of the army under the direction of the Department, and the various expeditions to the Territories of Utah and New Mexico, and the various Indian tribes in those Territories, and the various military posts established in those Territories for the protection of the various settlements in those Territories against the incursions of the various Indian tribes inhabiting the adjacent country, and the various expeditions against the Indians within the Territory of Washington, and the various military posts established in that Territory for the protection of the various settlements in that Territory against the incursions of the various Indian tribes inhabiting the adjacent country, and the various expeditions against the Indians within the Territory of Oregon, and the various military posts established in that Territory for the protection of the various settlements in that Territory against the incursions of the various Indian tribes inhabiting the adjacent country, and the various expeditions against the Indians within the Territory of California, and the various military posts established in that Territory for the protection of the various settlements in that Territory against the incursions of the various Indian tribes inhabiting the adjacent country, and the various expeditions against the Indians within the Territory of Oregon, and the various military posts established in that Territory for the protection of the various settlements in that Territory against the incursions of the various Indian tribes inhabiting the adjacent country, and the various expeditions against the Indians within the Territory of Washington