

THE SIGNAL OF LIBERTY.

THE INVOLABILITY OF INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS IS THE ONLY SECURITY TO PUBLIC LIBERTY.

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THE SIGNAL OF LIBERTY

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POETRY.

THE MIND.

BY WILLIAM LEGGIST.

Let others praise the hue
That mantles on thy face,
Thine eyes of heavenly blue,
And meek of faultless grace;
These charms I freely own,
But still a higher find;
'T will last when beauty's frown—
Thy matchless charm of mind.
The damp of years may quench
The brightness of thine eye;
Time's icy hand may blanch
The cheek's vermilion dye;
Thy form may lose its grace;
Thy voice its sweet control;
But ought can ever cease
The beauties of the soul.

What's a beauty but a flower
That blooms in summer's ray;
When pours the wintry snow
Its charms will fade away:
The mind's a rich perfume
The water cannot chill;
The flower may lose its bloom,
But fragrance lingers still.
Stars gem the vault of heaven
When day's last hues decline;
As darker grows the even,
With brighter rays they shine:
Thus, in the night of years,
When youth's gay light is o'er,
More bright the soul appears,
Than ere it shone before.

The leaves, when autumn blusters,
Forsake the tree and die,
But falling, show rich clusters
Of fruitage to the eye:
Thus time, in flying, snatches
Thy beauty, but displays
A charm that all o'er-matches—
A soul that ne'er decays.

MISCELLANY.

HAFED'S DREAM. OR THE "CHANCE WORLD."

BY REV. JOHN TODD.

At the foot of one of those gigantic mountains in Asia, which lift up their heads so far above the clouds, that the eye of man never saw their summits, stood a beautiful cottage facing the east. The mountain stream limped and murmured on the north; the verdant plain, where the bright-eyed gazelle sported, lay spread out in front; the garden and the olive-wood, filled with every flower and fruit which an Oriental sun could pencil and ripen, lay on the south; while back on the west, rose the everlasting mountain. Here were walks and shades, and fruits, such as were found nowhere else. The sun shone upon no spot more luxuriant; the moonbeams struggled to enter no place more delightful; the soft winds of the breezes of evening fanned no such abode in all the east. The howl of the wolf was never heard here; the sly fox never came here to destroy; and here the serpent's hiss was never heard. This cottage was the home of HAFED, the aged and the prosperous. He reared this cottage; he adorned this spot; and here for more than fourscore years he had lived and studied. During all this time, the sun had never failed to visit him daily; the harvest had never failed; the pestilence had never destroyed; and the mountain stream had never dried up. The wife of his youth still lived to cheer and bless him; and his son and daughter were such as were not to be found in all that province. No youth could rein the horse, hurl the javelin, chase the lion, or delight the social circle, like this son. No daughter of kings could be found so beautiful and perfect, as was this daughter, with an eye so bright and joyous, and a form so symmetrical as hers. But who can ensure earthly happiness? In one short week, Hafed was stripped of all his joys. His wife went to see a new white peacock, which it was said a neighbor, who lived a mile off in the ravine, had just brought home. She took cold, and a

quick fever followed; and on her return Hafed saw that she must die. Before two days were gone the old man was standing at her open grave. He gazed long, and said impatiently—"cover her, cover the only woman that I ever loved." The son and daughter both returned from the burial of their mother, fatigued and sick. The nurse gave them, as she thought, a simple medicine. In a few hours it was found to be poison. Hated saw that they must die; for the laws of nature are fixed, and poison kills. He buried them in one wide, deep grave, and it seemed as if that grave he buried his reason and his religion. He tore his grey hair, he cursed the light of day, and wished the moon turned into blood; and above all, he blasphemed his God, declaring that the laws which he had established were all wrong, and useless, and worse than none. He wished the world were governed by chance; but as this was a hopeless wish, he wished that at his death he might go to a world where there was no God to fix unalterable laws. He arraigned the wisdom of God in his Government over the world, declaring that his plans were weak, and worse than none, and that it would be far better to have no God in the universe!

In the centre of Hafed's garden stood a large palm tree. Under it was Hafed sitting, the second evening after closing the grave of his children. The seat on which he sat had been reared by his son. On the leaf of the tree which lay before him, were some exquisite verses, written by the pencil of his daughter. Before him lay the beautiful country, covered with green, sprinkled here and there, as far as the eye could see, with the habitations of men, and upon this great landscape the shadows of the mighty mountains were setting. In the east, the moon was just pushing up her modest face, and the gold of day was softening into the silver of night. While Hafed looked on all this, grief began to swell in his throat; his tongue murmured; his heart was full of hard thoughts of God, which nearly amounted to blasphemy.

As the night deepened, Hafed, as he then thought, fell asleep with a heavy heart. When he supposed he awoke, it was in a new spot. The mountains, the landscape, the home were all gone. All was new.

As he stood wondering where he was, he saw a creature approaching him, which, at first, he mistook for a baboon; but on its coming near, he discovered that it was a creature somewhat resembling a man, but every way mal-formed, ill-shaped, and monstrous.

He came up and walked around Hafed as he would a superior being, exclaiming "beautiful, beautiful creature!" "Shame, shame on thee!" said Hafed; "dost thou treat a stranger, thus with insults? Leave off thy jests, and tell me where I am, and how I came here?"

"I do not know how you came here, but here you are in our world, which we call chance-world, because everything happens here by chance."

"Ah! is it so? This must be delightful! This is just the world for me.—Oh! had I always lived here, my beautiful children would not have died under a foolish and inexorable law! Come, show me this world—for I long to see it. But have you really no God, nor any one to make laws and govern you just as he sees fit?"

"I don't know what you mean by God; we have nothing of that kind here—nothing but chance; but go with me and you will understand all about it."

As they proceeded, Hafed began to notice that everything looked queer and odd. Some of the grass was green, some red, some white, some new, and some dying; some grew with the top downwards; and on the whole the sight was very painful. He stopped to examine an orchard; here chance had been at work. On a fine looking apple-tree, he saw no fruit but large, coarse cucumbers. A small peach tree was breaking down under its load of gourds. Some of the trees were growing with their tops downwards, and the roots branching out into the air.—Here and there were great holes dug, by which somebody had tried to get down twenty or thirty feet, in order to get the fruit. The guide told Hafed there was no certainty about these trees; and you could never tell what fruit a tree would happen to bear. The tree which this year bears cucumbers, may bear potatoes next year, and perhaps you would have to dig twenty feet for every potato you obtained.

They soon met another of the "chance men." His legs were very unequal in length, one had no knee, and the other no ankle. His ears were set upon his shoulders, and around his head was a thick, black bandage. He came groping his way, and Hafed at once asked how long since he had lost his sight?

"I have not lost it," he said; "but when I was born, my eye-balls happened to be turned in instead of out, and the back parts being outward, and very painful in the light, and so I put on a covering." "Well, but can't thou see any thing? Methinks thou mayest see strange things within."

"True, but the difficulty is to get any light in there. I have contrived various ways to do so; have had it poured into my ears and nose; but all will not do. Yet I am as well off as others. My brother has had one good eye in the top of his head; but he only looks directly up with it to the clouds; and the sun almost puts it out. He shuts it up most of the time during the day; but it happens to be one that will not stay shut, and so when he sleeps the fire troubles him badly. I have a sister who has nineteen eyes in her head. She sees eighteen things to many. Even now she can't realize that she not nineteen fathers, and as many mothers. She goes to bed, and falls on the floor nineteen times at least before she gets in. She goes to drink, and she sees nineteen cups, and knows not which is the real cup. But so it happened; and she is as well off as most in this 'chance world.'—But, after all, it is a glorious world, I do assure you."

"Wonderful!" said Hafed. As they proceeded a little further, they met a young lady.

"That young lady," said the guide, "is the greatest beauty in all these parts.—All our young men are bewitched by her; and there have been no less than twenty duels on her account already. You will be amazed at seeing a being so perfect."

As they met, Hafed stared more fully than is usually considered polite among the Orientals. The beauty had a face not altogether unlike the human face, excepting that the mouth was under the chin—the eyes looked separate ways, and the color of the hair was a mixture of red, light blue, white and yellow. One foot had the heel forward, and one arm was altogether wanting.

"Wonderful, wonderful, truly!" cried Hafed. "Twenty duels! but I hope they were not all killed, were they?"

Here the beauty began to ogle and to mince in her steps most enchantingly.

"Killed!" said the guide; "you seem to know nothing about us. They all met and fought together; but as every thing goes here by chance, it is not often that we can get our powder to burn. In this case only one got his gun off at all, and that did not happen to go off till night, when he was going to bed, when it wounded his hand, which has been bleeding ever since."

"Ever since! How long ago was this? She did not look as if it could have been done to-day?"

"Oh, it was two years ago." "Two years ago! and why don't you seek the leech, and have the poor boy saved from bleeding to death—even tho' she was a fool—for more reasons than one?"

"Ah! you don't understand it. Every thing goes by chance here; and there is only a chance that a man who is wounded will ever be healed."

"I don't understand it, truly," said Hafed.

They stopped to look at some 'chance-cattle' in a yard. Some had three legs; some had the head on the wrong part of the body; some were covered with wool under which they were sweeter in a climate always tropical. Some were half horse, half ox. Young elephants were there, with flocks of sheep; horses with claws like lions, and geese clamping round the yard with hoofs like horses.—It was all the work of chance.

"This," said the guide, "is a choice collection of cattle; you never saw the like before."

"That is true,—truth itself," cried Hafed. "Ah! but the owner has been at almost infinite pains and expense to collect them. I don't believe there is another such a collection anywhere in all this 'chance-world.'"

"I hope not," said Hafed.

Just as they were leaving the premises the owner came out to admire and show and talk over his fine treasures. He wanted to gaze at Hafed—but his head happened to be near the ground between his feet, so that he had to mount upon a stone wall before he could get a fair clue to the stranger.

"Don't you think I am a happy man," said he to Hafed, "in having so many and such perfect animals. Alas! even in this happy and perfect world, there are always drawbacks. That fine looking cow yonder happens to give nothing but warm water for milk. Some of them have good looking eyes; but from some defect are stone blind. Some cannot live in the light, and few of them hear. No two eat of the same food, and it is a great labor to take care of them. I sometimes feel

as if I had almost as lief be a poor man."

"I think I should rather," said Hafed. While they were talking, in an instant they were in mid-air darkness. The sun was gone and Hafed could not for some time see his guide.

"What has happened?" said he. "Oh, nothing uncommon sir," said the guide. "The sun happened to go down now. There is no regular time for him to shine—but he goes and comes just as it happens, and leaves us as suddenly as you see."

"As I don't see," said Hafed; "but I hope he will come back at the appointed time, at any rate."

"That sir, will be just as it happens.—Sometimes he is gone for months, and sometimes for weeks, and sometimes only for a few minutes. Just as it happens. We may not see him again for months, but perhaps he will come soon."

"But how do you talk about months and days when you have no such things?" "I will soon tell you about that. We measure time by the yard—"

"By the yard?" "Yes—we call that time which the most perfect men among us take in walking a yard, to be the sixtieth part of an hour. These hours we reckon into days, and these days into years. To be sure we are not very exact, because some men walk so much faster than others—but this is just as their legs happen to be long or short."

As the guide was proceeding, to the inexpressible joy of all, the sun at once broke out. The light was so sudden, that Hafed at first thought he must be struck with lightning, and actually put his hands to his eyes to see if they were safe. He then clasped his hands over his eyes, till he could gradually bear the light.—There was a splendor about the sun which he had never before seen, and it was intolerably hot. The air seemed like a furnace.

"Ah!" said the owner of the cattle, "we must now search for it. My poor wool ox must die at once. Bad luck, bad luck to us! The sun has come back much nearer than he was before. But we hope he will happen to go away again soon, and then happen to come back further off next time."

The sun was now pouring down his heat so intensely that they were glad to go into the house for shelter—a miserable looking place indeed. Hafed could not but compare it with his own beautiful cottage. Some timbers were rotten—for the tree was not, as it happened, the same thing in all its parts. Some of the boards happened to be like paper, and the nails tore out, and these were loose, and coming off. They had to do their cooking out under the burning sun—for when the smoke once got into the house, there was no getting it out, unless it happened to go, which was not very often.

They invited Hafed to eat. On sitting down at the table, he noticed that each one had a different kind of food, and that no two could eat out of the same dish.—He was told that it so happened, that the food which one could eat, was poison to the other, and what was agreeable to one was nauseating to another. Selecting the food which looked most inviting, Hafed attempted to eat. What was his surprise, when he found that his hands did not happen to be under the control of his will, and instead of carrying the food to his mouth, these active servants put it into his right ear! On examining he found that it was so with all the rest, and by imitating the company, and twisting his hand round over his right shoulder, and placing his mouth where his ear was, he managed to eat. In amazement he asked how this happened.

"Ah!" said they laughing at his ignorance of the world, "we have no fixed laws here. All is chance. Sometimes we have one or more limbs for a long time which are not under the control of our will. It is just as it happens."

"I suppose that to be coffee," said Hafed, "and I will thank you for a cup."

It was handed him. He had been troubled with a tooth-ache for some hours, and how did he quail, when on filling his mouth, he found it was ice, in little pieces about as large as pigeon-shot.

"Do you call this ice water, coffee, here?" said Hafed, pressing his hand upon the cheek where the tooth was now dancing with pain.

"That is just as it happens. We put water over the fire, and sometimes it heats it, and sometimes it freezes it. How can it be otherwise, when we have here no fixed laws of any kind. It is all chance work."

Hafed rose from the table in anguish of spirit. He remembered the world where he had lived, and all that was past. He had desired to live in a world where there was no God—where all was governed by chance, so far as there was any thing that looked like government. Here

he was, here he must live. He threw himself on a bed and recalled the past—the beautiful world in which he had once lived—his ingratitude—his murmurings, and his blasphemy against the wisdom and the goodness of God. He wept like infancy. He would have prayed, and even begun a prayer; but then he recollected that there was no God here—nothing to direct events; nothing but chance—he shed many and bitter tears of repentance. At last he wept himself to sleep.

When Hafed again awoke, he was sitting under his own palm tree, in his own beautiful garden. It was morning.—At the appointed moment, the glorious sun rose up in the east—the fields were all green and fresh—the trees were all right end upwards, and covered with blossoms—the beautiful deer were bounding in their gladness over the lawn, and the songsters in the trees, which in plumage and sweetness, might have vied with those that sung in Eden, were uttering their morning song.

Hafed arose, recalled that ugly dream, and then wept for joy. Was he again in a world where chance does not reign. He looked up, and then turned to the God of heaven and earth, the God of laws and of order. He gave glory to him, and confessed that his ways, to us unsearchable, are full of wisdom; he was a new man.—Tears indeed fell at the graves of his family; but now he lived to do good to men, and to make others happy. He called a young and worthy couple, distant relatives, to fill his house; his home again smiled, and peace and contentment came back, and were his abiding guests.

Hafed would never venture to affirm whether this was a dream, or a reality.—On the whole he was inclined to think it real, and that there is somewhere a chance world—but he always shook his head, and declared that so far from wishing to live there, nothing gave him greater cause of gratitude as he knelt in daily prayer, than the fact that he lived in a world where God ruled—and ruled by laws fixed, wise and merciful.

SELECTIONS.

PRO SLAVERY MINISTERS.

The Boston Chronicle has an article showing how great has been the antislavery progress of the Christian Church in this country during the last ten years, and bestowing some very plain advice upon those who have always been opposed to the antislavery cause. The following is an extract:

"And now we call upon you to look at your work, and see what you have gained, and what are your prospects for the future."

In the first place, you have been silenced by your defenses of slavery. None of you would dare now to make the assertions or use the arguments which were current among you eight or ten years ago in defence of slaveholding. Is that creditable to the character and standing of those who ought to be masters in Israel?

Then you have been driven from all your positions of neutrality and do-nothing and say-nothingness against slavery. The advice of professor Stuart, that ministers should not pray for the emancipation of the slaves, the injunction of the Methodist bishops that their ministers should 'wholly refrain from agitating the subject, the pledge of Dr. Swayne that the Baptist Board was entirely neutral—where are they? And what a story do they tell for your wisdom in the great matters of human duty!

Again, you see that all your attempts to preserve your cherished union with slaveholders have proved illusory. The slaveholders themselves despise the trickery, and flow it, and withdraw from you. The Baptists are divided, the Methodists are divided, the Presbyterians are divided—irrevocably. Not one of the things you undertook to do against abolition, has prospered. Abolition doctrine and abolition feeling have gone on with steady advance, fastening you aside, or rolling over you, or drawing you into its current.

Now we should think all these things might make you think of the advice once give by a very discreet man—LET THESE MEN ALONE, FOR IF THEIR ENTRENCHMENTS BE OF GOD, YE CANNOT OVERTHROW IT."

Railroad Travelling in England is travelling, or rather flying, now-a-days.—Express trains have been established which "put it through" at a rate actually startling to think of. The entertaining correspondent of the Boston Atlas, "Cosmopolitan," now in England says, he travelled from Liverpool to London in one of those space-annihilating trains.—The fare, he says, was high: for a seat in the first class carriage he paid two pounds seven shillings, upwards of \$10! distance 210 miles. That's paying a few! He left Liverpool at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, took ten minutes to tea at Birmingham, and was snugly ensconced at his hotel in London, at half past ten: thus making the whole trip of 210 miles in six hours and a quarter! On the Great Western line of Railway, which is constructed on the broad gauge principle, the average rate of travelling is now sixty-two miles an hour!

MESSAGE

OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE U. STATES.

Fellow Citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives:

It is to me a source of unaffected satisfaction to meet the Representatives of the States and the people in Congress assembled, as it will be to receive the aid of their combined wisdom in the administration of public affairs. In performing for the first time, the duty imposed on me by the Constitution, of giving to you information of the state of the Union, and recommending to your consideration such measures as in my judgment are necessary and expedient, I am happy that I can congratulate you on the continued prosperity of our country. Under the blessings of Divine Providence and the benign influence of our free institutions, it stands before the world a spectacle of national happiness.

With our unexampled advancement in all the elements of national greatness, the affection of the people is confirmed for the Union of the States, and for the doctrines of popular liberty, which lie at the foundation of our government.

It becomes us, in humility, to make our devout acknowledgments to the Supreme Ruler of the Universe, for the inestimable civil and religious blessings with which we are favored.

In calling the attention of Congress to our relations with foreign Powers, I am gratified to be able to state, that with some of them there have existed since your last session serious causes of irritation and misunderstanding, yet no actual hostilities have taken place. Adopting the maxim in the conduct of our foreign affairs, to "ask nothing that is not right, and submit to nothing that is wrong," it has been my anxious desire to preserve peace with all nations; but, at the same time, be prepared to resist aggression, and maintain all our just rights.

In pursuance of the joint resolution of Congress, "for annexing Texas to the U. States," my predecessor, on the 3d day of March, 1845, elected to submit the first and second resolutions to the Republic of Texas, as an overture on the part of the United States, for her admission as a state into our Union. This election I approved, and accordingly the charge d' affairs of the United States to Texas, under instructions of the 10th of March, 1845, presented these sections of the resolution for the acceptance of that republic. The executive government, the congress and people of Texas in convention, have successively complied with the terms and conditions of the joint resolution. A constitution for the government of the State of Texas, formed by a convention of deputies, is herewith laid before Congress. It is well known also that the people of Texas, at the polls have accepted the terms of annexation, and ratified the constitution.

I communicate to Congress the correspondence between the secretary of state and our charge d' affairs in Texas, and also the correspondence of the latter with the authorities of Texas, together with the official documents transmitted by him to his own government. The terms of annexation which were offered by the United States having been accepted by Texas, the public faith of both parties is solemnly pledged to the compact of their union. Nothing remains to consummate the event, but the passage of an act by Congress to admit the state of Texas into the Union upon an equal footing with the original states. Strong reasons exist why this should be done at an early period of the session. It will be observed, that by the constitution of Texas, the existing government is only continued temporarily, till Congress can act, and that the third Monday of the present month is the day appointed for holding the first general election. On that day, a governor, a lieutenant governor, and both branches of the legislature will be chosen by the people. The President of Texas is required immediately after the receipt of the official information that the new state has been admitted into our Union by Congress, to convene the legislature, and upon its meeting, the existing government will be superseded, and the state government organized.—Questions deeply interesting to Texas, in common with the other states, the extension of our revenue laws and judicial system over her people and territory, as well as measures of local character, will claim the early attention of Congress; and therefore upon every principle of republican government, she ought to be represented in that body without unnecessary delay. I cannot too earnestly recommend prompt action on this important subject.

As soon as the act to admit Texas as a state shall be passed, the union of the two republics will be consummated by their own voluntary consent.

This accession to our territory has

been a bloodless achievement. No arm of force has been raised to produce the result. The sword has had no part in the victory. We have not sought to extend our territorial possession by conquest, or our republican institutions over a reluctant people. It was the deliberate homage of each people to the great principle of our federative union.

If we consider the extent of the territory involved in the annexation—its prospective influence on America—the means by which it has been accomplished, springing purely from the choice of the people themselves to share the blessings of our union, the history of the world may be challenged to furnish a parallel.

The jurisdiction of the United States, which at the formation of the Federal Constitution was bounded by the St. Marys on the Atlantic, has passed the Capes of Florida, and been peacefully extended to the Del Norte. In contemplating the grandeur of this event, it is not to be forgotten that the result was achieved in despite of the diplomatic interference of European monarchies. Even France—the country which had been our ancient ally—the country which has a common interest with us in maintaining the freedom of the seas—the country which, by the cession of Louisiana, first opened to us access to the Gulf of Mexico—the country with which we have every year been drawing more and more closely the bonds of successful commerce—most unexpectedly, and to our unfeigned regret, took part in an effort to prevent annexation, and to impose on Texas, as a condition of the recognition of her independence by Mexico, that she would never join herself to the United States. We may rejoice that the tranquil and pervading influence of the American principle of self-government was sufficient to defeat the purposes of British and French interferences, and that the almost unanimous voice of the people of Texas has given to that interference a peaceful and effective rebuke. From this example, European governments may learn how vain diplomatic arts and intrigues must ever prove upon this continent, against that system of self-government which seems natural to our soil and which will ever resist foreign interference.

Towards Texas, I do not doubt that a liberal and generous spirit will actuate Congress in all that concerns her interests and prosperity, and that she will never have cause to regret that she has united her "lone star" to our glorious constellation.

I regret to inform you that our relations with Mexico, since last year's sessions, have not been of the amicable nature which it is our desire to cultivate with all foreign nations. On the sixth day of March, last, the Mexican envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to the United States made a formal protest, in the name of his government, against the joint resolution passed by congress, "for the annexation of Texas to the United States," which he chose to regard as a violation of the rights of Mexico, and in consequence of it he demanded his passports. He was informed that the government of the United States did not consider this joint resolution as a violation of any of the rights of Mexico, or that it afforded any just cause of offence to his government; that the republic of Texas was an independent Power, owing no allegiance to Mexico, and constituting no part of her territory or rightful sovereignty and jurisdiction.

He was also assured that it was the sincere desire of this government to maintain with that of Mexico relations of peace and good understanding. That functioning, however, notwithstanding these representations and assurances, abruptly terminated his mission, and shortly afterwards left the country. Our envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to Mexico was refused all official intercourse with that government, and after remaining several months, by the permission of his own government, he returned to the United States. Thus, by the acts of Mexico, all diplomatic intercourse between the two countries was suspended.

Since that time Mexico has, until recently, occupied an attitude of hostility towards the United States—has been marshalling and organizing armies, issuing proclamations, and avowing the intention to make war on the United States, either by open declaration or by invading Texas. Both the Congress and Convention of the people of Texas invited this government to send an army into that territory to protect and defend them against the menacing attack. The moment the terms of annexation, offered by the United States, were accepted by Texas, the latter became so far a part of our own country, as to make it our duty to afford such protection and defence.

I therefore deemed it proper as a precautionary measure, to order a strong

quadron to the coast of Mexico, and to concentrate an efficient military force on the western frontier of Texas. Our army was ordered to take position in the country between the Nueces and the Del Norte, and to repel any invasion of the Texas territory which might be attempted by the Mexican forces. Our squadron in the gulf was ordered to co-operate with the army. But though our army and navy were placed in a position to defend our own, and the rights of Texas, they were ordered to commit no act of hostility against Mexico, unless she declared war, or was herself the aggressor by striking the first blow. The result has been, that Mexico has made no aggressive movement, and our military and naval commanders have executed their orders with such discretion, that the peace of the two republics has not been disturbed.

Texas had declared her independence, and maintained it by her arms for more than nine years. She has had an organized government in successful operation during that period. Her separate existence, as an independent State, has been recognized by the United States and the principal powers of Europe. Treaties of commerce and navigation had been concluded with her by different nations, and it had become manifest to the whole world that any further attempt on the part of Mexico to conquer her, or overthrow her government, would be vain. Even Mexico herself had become satisfied of this fact; and whilst the question of annexation was pending before the people of Texas, during the past summer, the government of Mexico by a formal act, agreed to recognize the independence of Texas on condition that she would not annex herself to any other Power. The agreement to acknowledge the independence of Texas, whether with or without this condition, is conclusive against Mexico herself, and she had no right or authority to prescribe restrictions as to the form of government which Texas might afterwards choose to assume.

But though Mexico cannot complain of the United States on account of the annexation of Texas, it is to be regretted that serious causes of misunderstanding between the two countries continue to exist, growing out of unredressed injuries inflicted by the Mexican authorities and people on the persons and property of citizens of the United States, through a long series of years. Mexico has admitted these injuries, but has neglected and refused to repair them. Such insult repeatedly offered to American citizens and the American flag by Mexico, in palpable violation of the laws of nations, and the treaty between the two countries of the fifth of April, 1821, that they have repeatedly been brought to the notice of Congress by my predecessors. As early as the 8th of February, 1837, the President of the United States declared, in a message to Congress, that "the length of time since some of the injuries have been committed, the repeated and unavailing applications for redress, the wanton character of some of the outrages upon the persons and property of our citizens, upon the officers and flag of the United States, independent of recent insults to this government and people by the late Extraordinary Mexican minister, would justify, in the eyes of all nations immediate war." He did not, however, recommend an immediate resort to this extreme measure, which he declared "should not be used by just and generous nations, confiding in their strength, for injuries committed, if it can be honorably avoided; but, in a spirit of forbearance, proposed that another demand be made on Mexico for that redress which had been so long and so unjustly withheld. In these views, committees of the two houses of Congress, in reports made to their respective bodies, concurred. Since these proceedings, more than eight years have elapsed, during which, in addition to the wrongs then complained of, others of an aggravated character have been committed on the persons and property of our citizens. A special agent was sent to Mexico in the summer of 1838, with full authority to make another and final demand for redress. The demand was made; the Mexican government promised to repair the wrongs of which we complained; and, after much delay, a treaty of indemnity with that view was concluded between the two powers on the 11th of April 1839, and was duly ratified by both governments. By this treaty, a joint commission was created to adjudicate and decide on the claims of American citizens on the government of Mexico.

The commission was organized at Washington, on the 25th day of August, 1840. Their time was limited to eighteen months; at the expiration of which they had adjudicated and decided claims amounting to two millions twenty-six thousand one hundred and thirty-nine dollars and sixty-eight cents in favor of the citizens of the United States against the Mexican government, leaving a large amount of claims undecided. Of the latter the American commissioner had decided in favor of our citizens, claims amounting to nine hundred and twenty-eight thousand six hundred and twenty-seven dollars and eighty-eight cents, which were left unacted on by the umpire

authorized in the treaty. Still further claims amounting to between three and four millions of dollars which were submitted to the board too late to be considered, were left undisposed of. The sum of two millions twenty-six thousand one hundred and thirty-nine dollars and sixty-eight cents, decided by the board, was a liquidated and ascertained debt due by Mexico to the claimants, and there was no justifiable reason for delaying its payment according to the terms of the treaty. It was not, however, paid. Mexico applied for further indulgence; and, in that spirit of liberality and forbearance, which has ever marked the policy of the United States towards that republic, the request was granted; and on the 30th of January, 1843, a new treaty was concluded. By this treaty it was provided that the interest due on the awards in favor of the complainants under the convention of the eleventh of April, 1839, should be paid on the thirtieth of April, 1843; and that the "principal of the awards, and the interest arising thereon, shall be paid in five years, in equal instalments every three months; the said term of five years to commence on the 30th day of April, 1843, as aforesaid." The interest due on the thirtieth day of April, 1843, and three first of the twenty instalments, have been paid. Seventeen of these instalments remain unpaid, seven of which are now due.

The claims which were left undecided by the joint commission, amounting to more than three millions of dollars, together with other claims for spoliation of the property of our citizens, were subsequently presented to the Mexican government for payment, and were so far recognized that a treaty, providing for their examination and settlement by a joint commission, was concluded and signed at Mexico on the twentieth day of November, 1843. This treaty was ratified by the United States, with certain amendments, to which no just exceptions could have been taken; but it has not yet received the ratification of the Mexican government. In the meantime our citizens who suffered great losses and some of whom have been reduced from affluence to bankruptcy, are, without remedy, unless their rights be enforced by their government. Such a continued and unprovoked series of wrongs could never have been tolerated by the United States, had they been committed by one of the principal nations of Europe. Mexico was, however, a neighboring sister republic, which following our example, had achieved her independence, and for whose success and prosperity all our sympathies were early enlisted. The United States were the first to recognize her independence and to receive her into the family of nations, and have ever been desirous of cultivating with her a good understanding. We have therefore, borne the repeated wrongs she has committed, with great patience, in the hope that a returning sense of justice would ultimately guide her councils, and that we might, if possible, honorably avoid any hostile collision with her.

Without the previous authority of Congress the Executive possessed no power to adopt or enforce adequate remedies for the injuries we had suffered, or to do more than be prepared to repel the threatened aggression on the part of Mexico. After our army and navy had remained on the frontier & costs of Mexico for many weeks, without any hostile act on her part, though her menaces were continued, I deemed it important to put an end, if possible, to this state of things. With this view I caused steps to be taken, in the month of September last, to ascertain distinctly, and in an authentic form, what the designs of the Mexican government were; whether it was their intention to declare war, or invade Texas, or whether they were disposed to adjust and settle in an amicable manner, the pending differences between the two countries. On the 9th of November an official answer was received that the Mexican government consented to renew the diplomatic relations which had been suspended in March last, and for that purpose were willing to accredit a minister from the United States. With a sincere desire to preserve peace, and restore relations of good understanding between the two countries, I waived all ceremony as to the manner of renewing diplomatic intercourse between them—and assuming the initiative, on the tenth of November a distinguished citizen of Louisiana was appointed Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Mexico, clothed with full power to adjust and definitely settle all pending differences between the two countries, including those of boundary between Mexico and the state of Texas. The minister appointed has set out on his mission, and is probably by this time near the Mexican capital. He has been instructed to bring the negotiation with which he is charged, to a conclusion, at the earliest practicable period, which, it is expected will be in time to enable me to communicate the result to Congress during the present session. Until that result is known, I forbear to recommend to Congress such ulterior measures of redress for the wrongs and injuries we have so long borne, as it would have been proper to make had no such negotiation been instituted.

Congress appropriated at the last session the sum of two hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars for the payment of the April and July instalments of the Mexican indemnities for the year 1844; "Provided it shall be ascertained to the satisfaction of the American government that said instalments had been paid by Mexico to the agent appointed by the United States to receive the same, in such manner as to discharge all claim upon the Mexican government and said agent to be definitive in remitting the money to the United States."

obtained in a letter dated the 17th of October/1844, by him to one of our citizens then in Mexico, with the view of having it communicated to that department. From this it appears that the agent on the 20th of September 1844, gave a receipt to the treasury of Mexico for the amount of the April and July instalments of the indemnity, that he had not received a single dollar in cash; but that he holds such securities as warranted him at the same time in giving the receipt, and in entering no bond, but he will eventually obtain the money. As these instalments appear never to have been actually paid to the government of Mexico to the agent, and as the government has no title to the amount, and as to discharge him from the claim, I do not feel myself warranted in directing payment to be made to the claimants out of the Treasury, without further legislation. Their case is undoubtedly one of much hardship; and it remains for Congress to decide whether any, and what, relief ought to be granted to them. My minister to Mexico has been instructed to ascertain the facts of the case from the Mexican government in an authentic and official form, and report the result with as little delay as possible.

My attention was early directed to the negotiation, which, on the 4th of March last, I found pending at Washington between the United States and Great Britain, on the subject of the Oregon territory. Three several attempts had been previously made to settle the question in dispute between the two countries, by negotiation, upon the principle of compromise; but each had proved unsuccessful. This negotiation took place at London, in the years 1816, 1824, and 1826; the two first under the administration of Mr. Monroe, and the last under that of Mr. Adams. The negotiation of 1816 having failed to accomplish its object, resulted in the convention of the 22nd of October of that year. By the third article of that convention, it was agreed, that the country that may be claimed by either party on the northwest coast of America, was ward of the Stony mountains, shall, together with its harbors, bays and creeks, and the navigable or all rivers within the same, be free and open for the term of ten years from the date of the signature of the present convention, to the vessels, citizens and crews of the two Powers; it being well understood that this agreement was to be construed to the prejudice of any claim which either of the two high contracting parties may have to any part of the said country; nor shall it be taken to affect the claims of any other Power or State to any part of the said country; the only object of the high contracting parties in that respect being to prevent disputes and differences among themselves. The negotiation of 1824 was productive of no result, and the convention of 1826 was left unchanged.

The negotiation of 1826, having also failed to effect an adjustment by compromise, resulted in the convention of August the 6th, 1827, by which it was agreed to continue in force for an indefinite period, the provisions of the third article of the convention of the 20th of October, 1816; and it was further provided, that it shall be competent, however, to either of the contracting parties, in case either should think fit, at any time after the 1st of October, 1828, to give notice of twelve months to the other contracting party, to annul and abrogate this convention; and it shall, in such case, be accordingly entirely annulled and abrogated after the expiration of the said term of notice." In these attempts to adjust the controversy, the parallel of the 49th degree of north latitude had been offered by the United States to Great Britain, and in those of 1816 and 1824, a further concession of the free navigation of the Columbia River, south of that latitude. The parallel of the 49th degree, from the Rocky mountains to its intersection with the northernmost branch of the Columbia, and thence down the channel of that river to the sea, had been offered by Great Britain, with an addition of a small detached territory north of the Columbia. Each of these propositions had been rejected by the parties respectively.

In October, 1818, the Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States in London was authorized to make a similar offer to those made in 1816 and 1826. Thus stood the question, when the negotiation was afterwards transferred to Washington; and, on the twenty-third of August, 1844, was formally opened, under the direction of my immediate predecessor. Like all the previous negotiations, it was based upon principles of compromise; and a further concession of the parties was to "treat of the respective claims of the two countries to the Oregon territory, with the view to establish a permanent boundary between the two parties westward of the Rocky mountains to the Pacific ocean." Accordingly, on the 26th of August, 1844, the British Plenipotentiary offered to divide the Oregon territory by the forty-ninth parallel of north latitude, from the Rocky mountains to the point of its intersection with the Northeastern branch of the Columbia river, and thence down that river to the sea; leaving the free navigation of the river to be enjoyed in common by both parties—the country south of this line to belong to the United States, and that north of it to Great Britain. At the same time, he proposed, in addition to yield to the United States the detached territory, north of the Columbia, extending along the Pacific and the Straits of Fuca, from Balbach's harbor inclusive, to Hood's canal, and to make free to the United States any port or ports south of latitude forty-nine degrees, which they might desire, either on the main land, or on Quadra and Vancouver's Island. With the exception of the free ports, this was the same offer which had been made by the British Plenipotentiary to the American government in the negotiation of 1826. This proposition was properly rejected by the American Plenipotentiary on the day it was submitted. This was the only proposition on the part of Great Britain, and it having been rejected, the British Plenipotentiary requested that a proposition should be made by the United States for an equitable adjustment of the question.

When I came into office; I found this to be the state of the negotiation. Though entertaining the settled conviction, that the British pretensions of title could not be maintained to any portion of the Oregon territory, upon any principle of public law recognized by nations, yet, in deference to what had been done by my predecessors, and especially in consideration that propositions of compromise had been heretofore made by two preceding administrations, to adjust the question on the parallel of forty-nine degrees, and in two of them yielding to Great Britain the free navigation of the Columbia, and that the pending negotiation had been commenced on the basis of compromise, I deemed it to be my duty not abruptly to break it off. In consideration, too, that under the conventions of 1816 and 1827, the citizens and subjects of the two Powers held a joint occupancy of the country I was induced to make another effort to settle his long-pending controversy in the spirit of moderation which had given birth to the renewed discussion. A proposition was accordingly made, which was rejected by the British Plenipotentiary, who, without submitting any other proposition, suffered the negotiation on his part to drop, expressing his trust that the United States would offer what he saw fit to do, and some further proposal for the settlement of the Oregon question; more consistent with fairness and equity, and with the reasonable expectations of the British government. The proposition thus offered and rejected repeated the offer of the parallel of forty-nine degrees of north latitude, which had been

made by two preceding administrations, but without proposing to surrender to Great Britain, as they had done, the free navigation of the Columbia River. The right of any foreign power to the free navigation of any of our rivers, through the heart of our country, was one which I was unwilling to concede. It also embraced a provision to make free to Great Britain any port or ports on the cape of Quadra and Vancouver's Island, south of the parallel. Had this been a new question, coming under discussion for the first time, this proposition would not have been made. The extraordinary and wholly inadmissible demands of the British Government, and the rejection of the proposition made in deference alone to what had been done by my predecessors, and the implied obligation which their acts seemed to impose, afford satisfactory evidence that no compromise which the United States ought to accept, can be effected. With this conviction, the proposition of compromise which had been made and rejected, was, by my direction, subsequently withdrawn, and as to the whole Oregon territory asserted, and, as it is believed, maintained by irrefragable facts and arguments.

The civilized world will see in these proceedings, a spirit of liberal concession on the part of the United States, and this government will be relieved from all responsibility which may follow the failure to settle the controversy. All attempts at compromise having failed, it became the duty of Congress to consider what measures it may be proper to adopt for the security and protection of our citizens now inhabiting, or who may hereafter inhabit Oregon, and for the maintenance of our just title to that territory. In adopting measures for this purpose, care should be taken that nothing be done to violate the stipulations of the convention of 1827, which is still in force. The fulfilment of treaties, in their letter and spirit, has ever been, and I trust will ever be, scrupulously observed by the United States. Under that convention, a year's notice is required to be given by either party to the other, before the joint occupancy shall terminate, and before either can rightfully assert or exercise exclusive jurisdiction over any portion of the territory. This notice it would, to my judgment, be proper to give, and I recommend that every effort be made for giving it accordingly, and terminating in that manner, the convention of the sixth August, 1827.

It will become proper for Congress to determine what legislation they can, in the mean time adopt without violating this convention. Beyond all question the protection of our laws and our jurisdiction, civil and criminal, ought to be immediately extended over our citizens in Oregon. They have just cause to complain of our long neglect in this particular, and have, in consequence, been compelled, for their own security, and protection, to establish a provisional government for themselves. Strong in their allegiance and ardent in their attachment to the United States, they have been thus cast upon their own resources. They are anxious that our laws should be extended over them, and I recommend that this be done by Congress with as little delay as possible, in the full spirit of which the British Parliament has proceeded in regard to British subjects in that territory, by their act of July the 2d, 1821, "for regulating the fur trade, and establishing criminal and civil jurisdiction within certain parts of North America." By this act Great Britain extended her laws and jurisdiction civil and criminal, over her subjects engaged in the fur trade in that territory. By it, the courts of the province of Upper Canada were empowered to take cognizance of causes civil and criminal. Justices of the peace and other judicial officers were authorized to be appointed in Oregon, with power to execute all process issued from the courts of that province, and to "sit and hold courts of record for the trial of criminal offences and misdemeanors," not made the subject of capital punishment, and also of civil cases, where the cause of action shall not exceed in value the amount or sum of two hundred dollars.

Subsequent to the date of the act of parliament a grant was made from the "British crown" to the Hudson's Bay Company, of the exclusive trade with the Indian tribes in the Oregon territory, subject to a reservation that it shall not operate to the exclusion of the subjects of any foreign State who, under or by force of any convention for the time being, between us and any foreign State, respectively, may be entitled to, and shall be engaged in, the said trade.

It is much to be regretted, that, while under this act British subjects have enjoyed the protection of British laws and British judicial tribunals throughout the whole of Oregon, American citizens, in the same territory, have enjoyed no such protection from their government. At the same time, the result illustrates the character of our people and their institutions. In spite of this neglect, they have multiplied, and their number is rapidly increasing in that territory. They have made no appeal to arms, but have peacefully fortified themselves in their new homes, by the adoption of republican institutions for themselves; furnishing another example of the truth that self-government is inherent in the human mind, and independent of all aid from them that they should be embraced and protected by our laws.

The increasing emigration to Oregon, and the earnest desire of its citizens that distant regions, make it our duty, as it is our interest, to cultivate amicable relations with the Indian tribes of that territory. For this purpose, I recommend that provision be made for establishing an Indian agency, and such sub agencies as may be deemed necessary, beyond the Rocky mountains. For the protection of emigrants whilst on their way to Oregon, against the attacks of the Indian tribes occupying the country through which they pass, I recommend that a suitable number of stockades and block houses be erected along the usual route between our frontier settlements on the Missouri and the Rocky mountains; and that an adequate force of mounted riflemen be raised to guard and protect them on their journey. The immediate adoption of these recommendations by Congress will not violate the provisions of the existing treaty. It will be doing nothing more for American citizens than British laws have long since done for British subjects in the same territory.

It requires several months to perform the voyage by sea from the Atlantic States to Oregon; and although we have a large number of whale ships in the Pacific, but few of them afford an opportunity of interchanging intelligence without great delay, between our settlements in that distant region and the United States. An overland mail is believed to be entirely practicable, and the importance of establishing such a mail, at least once a month, is submitted to the favorable consideration of Congress. It is submitted to the wisdom of Congress to determine whether, at their present session, and until the expiration of the year's notice, any other measures may be adopted, consistently with the convention of 1827, for the security of our rights, and the government and protection of our citizens in Oregon.—That it will ultimately be wise and proper to make liberal grants of land to the patriotic pioneers, who, amidst privations and dangers,

lead the way through savage tribes inhabiting the wild wilderness intervening between our frontier settlements and Oregon, and who cultivate, and are ever ready to defend the soil, I am fully satisfied. "I doubt whether they will obtain such grants as soon as the convention between the United States and Great Britain shall have ceased to exist, would be to doubt the justice of Congress; but, pending the year's notice, it is worthy of consideration whether a stipulation to this effect may be made, consistently with the spirit of that convention.

The recommendations which I have made, as to the best manner of securing our rights in Oregon, are submitted to Congress with great deference. Should they in their wisdom, devise any other mode better calculated to accomplish the same object, it shall meet with my hearty concurrence. At the end of the year's notice, should Congress think it proper to make provision for giving that notice, we shall have reached a period when the national rights in Oregon must either be abandoned or firmly maintained. That they cannot be abandoned without a sacrifice of both national honor and interest, is too clear to admit of doubt.

Oregon is a part of the North American continent, to which it is confidently affirmed, the title of the United States is the best now in existence. For the grounds on which that title rests, I refer you to the correspondence of the late and present Secretary of State with the British plenipotentiary during the negotiation. The British proposition of compromise, which would make the Columbia the line south of 49 degrees, with a trifling addition of detached territory to the United States, north of that river, and would leave on the British side two thirds of the whole Oregon territory, including the free navigation of the Columbia and all the valuable harbors on the Pacific, can never, for a moment, be entertained by the United States, without an abandonment of their just and clear territorial rights, their own self-respect, and the national honor. For the information of Congress, I communicate between the correspondence which took place between the two governments during the late negotiation.

The rapid extension of our settlements over our territories heretofore unoccupied; the addition of new States to our confederacy; the expansion of free principles, and our rising greatness as a nation, are attracting the attention of the Powers of Europe; and lately the doctrine has been broached in some of them, of a "balance of power" on this continent, to check our advancement. The United States, sincerely desirous of preserving relations of good understanding with all nations, cannot in silence permit any European interference on the North American continent; and should any such interference be attempted, will be ready to resist it any and all hazards.

It is well known to the American people and to all nations, that this government has never interfered with the relations subsisting between other governments. We have never made ourselves parties to their wars or their alliances; we have not sought their territories by conquest; we have not mingled with parties in their domestic struggles; and believing our own form of government to be the best, we have never attempted to propagate it by intrigues, by diplomacy, or by force. We may claim on this continent a like exemption from European interference. The nations of America are equally sovereign and independent with those of Europe. They possess the same rights, independent of all foreign interference, to make war, to conclude peace, and to regulate their internal affairs. The people of the United States cannot, therefore, view with indifference attempts of any European power to interfere with the independent action of the nations on this continent. The American system of government is entirely different from that of Europe. Jealous among the different sovereigns of Europe, lest any one of them might become too powerful for the rest, has caused them anxiously to desire the establishment of what they term the "balance of power." It cannot be permitted to have any application on the North American continent, and especially to the United States. We must ever maintain the principle, that the people of this continent alone have the right to decide their own destiny. Should any portion of them, constituting an independent state, propose to unite themselves with our confederacy, this will be a question for them and us to determine, without any foreign interference. We can never consent that European powers shall interfere to prevent such a union, because it might disturb the "balance of power" which they may desire to obtain on this continent.

Near a quarter of a century ago, the principle was announced to the world in the annual message of one of my predecessors, that "the American continent, by the free independent condition which they have assumed and maintain, are henceforth not to be considered as subjects for future colonization by any European power." This principle will apply with greatly increased force, should any European power attempt to establish any new colony in North America. In the existing circumstances of the world, the present is deemed a proper occasion to reiterate and reaffirm the principle avowed by Mr. Monroe, and to state my cordial concurrence in its wisdom and sound policy. The reassertion of this principle, especially in reference to North America, is at this day but the promulgation of a policy which no European power should cherish the disposition to resist. Existing rights of every European nation should be respected; but it is due alike to our safety and our interests, that the efficient protection of our laws should be extended over our whole territorial limits, and that it should be distinctly announced to the world as our settled policy, that no European colony, or dominion shall, without our consent, be planted or established on any part of the North American continent.

A question has recently arisen under the 10th article of the subsisting treaty between the United States and Prussia. By this article, the consuls of the two countries have the right to sit as arbitrators "in such differences as may arise between the captains and crews of the vessels belonging to the nations whose interests are committed to their charge, without the interference of the local authorities, unless the conduct of the crews or of the captain should disturb the tranquillity of the country, or the said consuls should require their assistance to cause their decisions to be carried into effect or supported."

The Prussian Consul at New Bedford, in June, 1844, applied to Mr. Justice Story to carry into effect a decision made by him between the captain and crew of the Prussian ship Borussia; but the request was refused on the ground that, without previous legislation by Congress, the judiciary did not possess the power to give effect to this article of the treaty.

The Prussian government, through their minister here, have complained of this violation of the treaty, and have asked the government of the United States to adopt the necessary measures to prevent similar violations hereafter. Good faith to Prussia, as well as to other nations with whom we have similar treaty stipulations, requires that these should be faithfully observed. I have deemed it proper, therefore, to lay the subject before Congress, and to recommend such legislation as may be necessary to give effect to these treaty obligations.

By virtue of an arrangement made between the Spanish government and that of the United States, in December 1831, American vessels, since the twenty-ninth of April, 1832, have been admitted to entry into the ports of Spain, including those of the Balaric and Canary Islands, on payment of the same tonnage duty, of five cents per ton as though they had been Spanish vessels; and this, whether our vessels arrive in Spain directly from the United States, or indirectly from any other country. When Congress, by the act of the thirteenth of July, 1832, gave effect to this arrangement between the two governments, they confined the reduction of tonnage duty merely to Spanish vessels "coming from a port in Spain," leaving the former, discriminating duty to remain against such vessels coming from a port in any other country. It is manifestly unjust, that whilst American vessels, arriving in the ports of Spain from other countries, pay no more duty than Spanish vessels, Spanish vessels arriving in the ports of the United States from other countries should be subjected to heavy discriminating tonnage duties. This is neither equality nor reciprocity, and is in violation of the arrangement concluded in December, 1831, between the two countries. The Spanish government have made repeated and earnest remonstrances against the inequality, and the favorable attention of Congress has been several times invited to the subject by my predecessors. I recommend, as an act of justice to Spain, that this inequality be removed by Congress, and that the discriminating duties which have been levied under the act of the thirteenth of July, 1832, on Spanish vessels coming to the United States from any other foreign country, be refunded. This recommendation does not embrace Spanish vessels arriving in the United States from Cuba and Porto Rico, which will still remain subject to the provisions of the act of June thirtieth, 1834, concerning tonnage duty on such vessels.

By the act of the fourteenth of July 1842, coffee was exempted from duty altogether. This exemption was universal, without reference to the country where it was produced or the national character of the vessel in which it was imported. By the tariff act of the 15th of August, 1842, this exemption from duty was restricted to coffee imported in American vessels from the place of its production; whilst coffee imported under all other circumstances was subjected to a duty of twenty per cent ad valorem. Under this act, and our new existing treaty with the King of the Netherlands, Java coffee imported from the European ports of that Kingdom into the United States, whether in Dutch or American vessels, now pays this rate of duty. The government of the Netherlands complains that such a discriminating duty should have been imposed on coffee, the production of one of its colonies, and which is chiefly brought from Java to the ports of that Kingdom, and exported from thence to foreign countries. Our trade with the Netherlands is highly beneficial to both countries, and our relations with them have ever been of a friendly character. Under the circumstances, I recommend that the discrimination should be abolished, and that the coffee of Java imported from the Netherlands be placed upon the same footing with that imported directly from Brazil and other countries where it is produced.

Under the 8th section of the tariff act of the 20th of August, 1842, a duty of fifteen cents per gallon was imposed on port wine casks, while, on the red wines of several other countries, when imported in casks, a duty of only six cents per gallon was imposed. This discrimination, so far as regarded the port wine of Portugal, was deemed a violation of our treaty with that power, which provides, that "No higher, or other duties shall be imposed on the importations into the United States of America of any article the growth, produce or manufacture of the Kingdom and possessions of Portugal, than such as are, or shall be payable on the like article being the growth, produce or manufacture of any other foreign country." Accordingly, to give effect to the treaty, as well as to the intention of Congress, expressed in a proviso to the tariff act itself, that nothing therein contained should be so construed as to interfere with subsisting treaties with foreign nations, a treasury circular was issued on the 16th day of July, 1844, which, among other things, declared the duty on the Port wine in Portugal, in casks, under the existing laws and treaty, to be six cents per gallon, and directed that the excess of duties which had been collected on such wine should be refunded. By virtue of another clause in the same section of the act, it is provided that all imitations of Port, or any other wines, "shall be subject to the duty provided for by the genuine article. Imitations of Port wine, the productions of France, are imported to some extent into the U. States, and the government of that country now claim that, under a correct construction of the act, these imitations ought not to pay a

higher duty than that imposed upon the original Port wine of Portugal. It appears to me to be unequal and unjust, that French imitations of Port wine should be subjected to a duty of fifteen cents, while the more valuable article from Portugal should pay a duty of six cents only per gallon. I therefore recommend to Congress such legislation as may be necessary to correct the inequality.

The late President, in his annual message of December last recommended an appropriation to satisfy the Texian government against the United States, which had been previously adjusted, so far as the powers of the Executive extended.—These claims arose out of the act of disarming a body of Texian troops under the command of Major Shirely, being an officer in the service of the United States, acting under the orders of government; and the forcible entry into the custom house at Braryr's landing, on Red River, by certain citizens of the United States, and taking away therefrom the goods seized by the collector of the customs as forfeited under the laws of Texas. This was a liquidated debt, ascertained to be due to Texas when an independent State. Her acceptance of the terms of annexation proposed by the United States does not discharge or invalidate the claim. I recommend that provision be made for its payment.

The Commissioner appointed to China during the special session of the Senate during March last, shortly afterwards set out on his mission in the United States ship Columbus. On arriving at Rio de Janeiro on his passage, the state of his health became so critical, that, by the advice of his medical attendants, he returned to the United States early in the month of October last. Commodore Biddle commanding the East India squadron, proceeded on his voyage in the Columbus, and was charged by the commissioner with the duty of exchanging with the proper authorities the ratifications of the treaty lately concluded with the Emperor of China. Since the return of the Commissioner to the United States, his health has been much improved, and he entertains the confident belief that he will soon be able to proceed on his mission.

Unfortunately differences continue to exist among some of the nations of South America; which following our example, have established their independence, while in others internal dissensions prevail. It is natural that our sympathies should be warmly enlisted in their welfare, that we should desire that all controversies between them should be amicably adjusted, and their government administered in a manner to protect the rights, and promote the prosperity of their people. It is contrary, however to our settled policy, to interfere with their contorty, whether external or internal.

We thus adverted to all the subjects connected with our foreign relations to which I deem it necessary to call your attention. Our policy is not only peace with all, but good will towards all nations of the earth. While we are just to all, we require that all shall be just to us.—Except the differences with Mexico and Great Britain, our relations with all civilized nations are of the most satisfactory character. It is hoped that in this enlightened age, these differences may be amicably adjusted.

The Secretary of the Navy, in his annual report to Congress, will communicate a full statement of the condition of our finances. The imports for the fiscal year ending on the 30th June last, were of the value of one hundred and seven millions two hundred and fifty-four thousand five hundred and sixty-four dollars, of which the amount exported was fifteen millions three hundred and forty-six thousand eight hundred and thirty dollars—leaving a balance of one hundred and one millions nine hundred and seven thousand seven hundred and thirty-four dollars for domestic consumption. The exports for the same year were one hundred and fourteen millions six hundred and forty-six thousand six hundred and six dollars, of which the amount of domestic articles was ninety-nine millions two hundred and ninety-nine thousand seven hundred and seventy-six dollars. The receipts into the treasury during the same year were twenty-nine millions seven hundred and sixty-nine thousand one hundred and thirty-three dollars and fifty-six cents; of which there were derived from customs, twenty-seven millions five hundred and twenty-eight thousand one hundred and twelve dollars and seventy cents; from sale of public lands, two millions seventy-seven thousand and twenty-two dollars and thirty cents; and from incidental and miscellaneous sources, one hundred and sixty-three thousand nine hundred and ninety-eight dollars and fifty-six cents. The expenditures for the same period were twenty-nine millions nine hundred and sixty-eight thousand two hundred and six dollars and ninety-eight cents; of which eight millions five hundred and eighty-eight thousand one hundred and fifty-seven dollars and sixty-two cents were applied to the payment of the public debt. The balance in the treasury on the first of July last, was seven millions six hundred and fifty-eight thousand three hundred and six dollars and twenty-two cents.

The attention of Congress is invited to the importance of making suitable modifications and reductions of the rates of duty imposed by our tariff laws. The object of imposing duties on imports should be to raise revenue to pay the necessary expenses of government.—Congress may, undoubtedly, in the exercise of a sound discretion, discriminate in arranging the rates of duty on different articles; but the discrimination should be within the revenue standard, and be made with the view to raise money for the support of the government. It becomes important to understand distinctly what is meant by a revenue standard, the maximum of which should not be exceeded in the rates of duty imposed. It is conceded, and experience proves that duties may be laid so high as to diminish, or prohibit altogether, the importation of any given article, and thereby lessen or destroy the revenue

which, at lower rates, would be derived from its importation. Such duties exceed the revenue rates, and are not imposed to raise money for the support of the government.

If Congress levy a duty, for revenue, of one per cent, on a given article, it will produce a given amount of money to the treasury, and will incidentally and necessarily afford protection or advantage, to the amount of one per cent to the home manufacturer of a similar or like article, over the importer.

It does not follow that Congress should levy the highest duty on all articles of import which they will bear within the revenue standard; for such rates would probably produce a much larger amount than the economical administration of government would require.

In levying a tariff of duties, Congress exercise the taxing power, and for purposes of revenue may select the objects of taxation. They may exempt certain articles altogether, and permit their importation free of duty.

These views are correct, it remains to enquire how long the tariff act of 1842 is consistent with them. That many of the provisions of that act are in violation of the cardinal principles here laid down, all must concede.

They are prohibitory on some articles, and partially so on others, and bear most heavily on articles of common necessity, and but lightly on articles of luxury.

It imposes heavy and unjust burdens on the farmer, the planter, the commercial man, and those of all other pursuits except the capitalist who has made his investment in manufactures.

The government in theory knows no distinction of persons or classes, and should not bestow upon some favors and privileges which all others may not enjoy.

The well known fact that the tariff act of 1842, was passed by a majority of one vote in the Senate, and two in the House of Representatives, and that some of those who felt themselves constrained, under the peculiar circumstances existing at the time, to vote in its favor, proclaimed its defects, and expressed their determination to aid in its modification.

In recommending to Congress a reduction of the present rates of duty, and a revision and modification of the act of 1842, I am far from entertaining opinions unfriendly to the manufacturers.

I recommend to Congress the abolition of the minimum principle, or assumed arbitrary and false values, and of specified duties, and the substitution in their place of ad valorem duties, as the fairest and most equitable indirect tax which can be imposed.

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In the deliberations of Congress on this subject, it is hoped that a spirit of mutual concession and compromise between conflicting interests may prevail, and that the result of their labor may be crowned with the happiest consequences.

By the constitution of the United States it is provided that "no money shall be drawn from the treasury but in consequence of appropriations made by law."

The first Congress under the constitution, by the act of the 21st of September 1789, to establish the Treasury Department, provided for the appointment of a treasurer, and made it his duty to receive and keep the moneys of the United States, and "at all times to submit to the Secretary of the Treasury and the Comptroller, or either of them, the inspections of the moneys in his hands."

Our experience has shown, that when banking corporations have been the keepers of the public money, and been thereby made in effect the treasury, the government can have no guarantee that it can command the use of its own money for public purposes.

public creditors, in the only currency recognized by the constitution. Their failure occurred in a period of peace, and inconvenience and loss were suffered by the public from it.

The public moneys should not be mingled with the private funds of banks or individuals, or be used for private purposes. When it is placed in banks for safe keeping, it is in effect loaned to them without interest, and is loaned by them upon interest to the borrowers from them.

Banks which hold the public money, are often tempted, by a desire of gain, to extend their loans, increase their circulation, and thus stimulate, if not produce a spirit of speculation and extravagance which sooner or later, must result in ruin to thousands.

At present the State Banks are employed as depositories, but without adequate regulation of law, whereby the public money can be secured against the casualties and excesses, revulsions, suspensions and defalcations, to which, from over issues, over trading, and inordinate desire for gain, or other causes, are constantly exposed.

Entertaining the opinion that "the separation of the moneys of the government from banking institutions is indispensable for the safety of the funds of the government and the rights of the people," I recommend to Congress that provision be made by law for such separation, and that a constitutional treasury be created for the safe keeping of the public money.

According to the official records, the amount of rent received by the government for the year 1841, 1842, 1843 and 1844, was six thousand three hundred and fifty-four dollars and seventy-four cents, while the expenses of the system during the same period, including salaries of superintendents agents and clerks and incidental expenses, were twenty-six thousand one hundred and eleven dollars and eleven cents—the income being less than one fourth of the expenses.

In recommending the establishment of a constitutional treasury, in which the public money shall be kept, I desire that adequate provision be made by law for its safety, and that all executive discretion or control over it shall be removed, except such as may be necessary in directing its disbursement in pursuance of appropriations made by law.

Under our present land system, limiting the minimum price at which the public lands can be entered to one dollar and twenty five cents per acre, large quantities of inferior land remain unsold, because they will not command that price.

With the view to the sale and settlement of those inferior lands, I recommend that the price be graduated and reduced below the present minimum rate confining the sales at the reduced prices to settlers and cultivators, in limited quantities. If graduated and reduced in price for a limited term to one dollar per acre, and after the expiration of that period for a second and third term to lower rates, a large portion of these lands would be purchased, and many worthy citizens, who are unable to pay higher rates, could purchase homes for themselves and families.

price, these inferior lands will be sold for their real value, while the States in which they lie will be freed from the inconvenience, if not injustice, to which they are subjected, in consequence of the United States continuing to own large quantities of public lands within their borders, not liable to taxation for the support of their local government.

I recommend the continuance of the policy of granting pre-emptions, in its most liberal extent, to all those who have settled or may hereafter settle upon the public lands, whether surveyed or unsurveyed, to which the Indian title may have been extinguished at the time of settlement. It has been found by experience, that in consequence of combinations, purchasers and other causes, a very small quantity of the public lands, when sold at public auction, commands a better price than the minimum rate established by law.

The settlers on the public lands are, however, rarely able to secure their homes and improvements at the public sales at that rate; because these combinations, by means of the capital they command, and their superior ability to purchase, render it impossible for the settler to compete with them in the market.

Experience has proven that no portion of our population are more patriotic than the hardy and brave men of the frontier, or more ready to obey the call of their country, and to defend her rights and her honor, whenever and by whatever enemy assailed. They should be protected from the grasping speculator, and secured, at the minimum price of the public lands, in the humble homes which they have improved by their labor.

The present system of managing the mineral lands of the United States is believed to be radically defective. More than a million of acres of the public lands, supposed to contain lead and other minerals, have been reserved from sale, and numerous leases upon them have been granted to individuals upon a stipulated rent. The system of granting leases has proved to be not only unprofitable to the government, but unsatisfactory to the citizens who have gone upon the lands, and must, if continued, lay the foundation of much future difficulty between the government and the lessees.

Whatever may have been our policy in the earlier stages of the government, when the nation was in its infancy, our shipping interests and commerce comparatively small, our resources limited, our population sparse and scarcely extending beyond the limits of the original thirteen States, that policy must be essentially different now that we have grown from three to more than twenty millions of people,—that our commerce, carried in our ships, is found in every sea, and that our territorial boundaries and settlements have been so greatly expanded. Neither our commerce, nor our long line of coast on the ocean and on the lakes, can be successfully defended against foreign aggression by means of fortifications alone. These are essential at important commercial and military points, but our chief reliance for this object must be on a well organized, efficient navy. The benefits resulting from such a navy are not confined to the Atlantic States. The productions of the interior which seek a market abroad, are directly dependent on the safety and freedom of our commerce. The occupation of the Balize below New Orleans by a hostile force would embarrass, if not stagnate, the whole export trade of the Mississippi, and effect the value of the agricultural products of the entire valley of that mighty river and its tributaries.

It has never been our policy to maintain large standing armies in time of peace. They are contrary to the genius of our free institutions,—would impose heavy burdens on the people, and be dangerous to public liberty. Our reliance for protection and defence on the land must be mainly on our citizen soldiery, who will ever be ready, as they have ever been ready in times past, to rush with alacrity, at the call of their country, to her defence. This description of force, however, cannot defend our coasts, harbors and inland seas, nor protect our commerce on the ocean or the lakes. These must be protected by our navy.

Considering the increased naval force, and especially of steam vessels, corresponding with our growth and importance as a nation, and proportioned to the increased and increasing naval power of other nations, of vast importance as regards our safety, and the great and growing interests to be protected by it, I recommend the subject to the favorable consideration of Congress.

The report of the Postmaster General herewith communicated, contains the detailed statement of the operations of his department during the past year. It will be seen that the income of the postages for the year, between one and two million of dollars. This deficiency has been caused

by the reduction of the rates of postage, which was made by the act of the third of March last. No principle has been more generally acquiesced in by the people than that this department should sustain itself by limiting its expenditures to its income. Congress has never sought to make it a source of revenue for general purposes, except for a short period during the last war with Great Britain, nor should it ever become a charge to the general treasury. If Congress shall adhere to this principle, as I think they ought, it will be necessary either to curtail the present mail service, so as to reduce the expenditures, or so to modify the act of the third of March last as to improve its revenues. The extension of the mail service, and the additional facilities which will be demanded by the rapid extension and increase of population on western frontier, will not admit of such curtailment as will materially reduce the present expenditures. In the adjustment of the tariff of postages the interests of the people demand that the lowest rates be adopted which will produce the necessary revenue to meet the expenditures of the department. In the adjustment, I invite the attention of Congress to the suggestions of the Postmaster General on this subject, under the belief that such a modification of the late law may be made as will yield sufficient revenue without further calls on the treasury, and with very little change in the present rates of postage.

I trust it may not be deemed inappropriate the occasion for me to dwell for a moment on the most eminent citizen of our country, who, during the summer, that has gone by, has descended to the tomb. The enjoyment of contemplating at the advanced age of near four score years, the happy condition of his country, cheered the last hours of Andrew Jackson, who departed this life in the tranquil hours of a blessed immortality. His death was happy, as his life had been eminently useful. He had an unflinching confidence in the virtue and capacity of the people, and in the permanence of that free government which he had largely contributed to establish and defend. His great deeds had secured to him the affections of his fellow citizens, and it was his happiness to witness the growth and glory of his country which he loved so well. He departed amidst the benedictions of millions of freemen! The nation paid its tribute to his memory at his tomb. Coming generations will learn from his example the love of country and the rights of man. In his language on a similar occasion to the present, "I now commend you, fellow citizens, to the guidance of Almighty God, with a full reliance on His merciful providence for the maintenance of our free institutions; and with an earnest supplication, that whatever errors it may be my lot to commit in discharging the arduous duties which have devolved on me, will find a remedy in the harmony and wisdom of your counsels."

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1, 1845

SIGNAL OF LIBERTY.

ANN ARBOR, MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1845.

One Dollar a Year in Advance.

We publish one day earlier than usual this week to accommodate our subscribers with the President's Message.

The Proceedings of the Washtenaw B. A. and all other communications, are crowded out by the Message.

John W. Davis, of Indiana, was elected Speaker of the U. S. House of Representatives, at the first ballot.

Commercial.

ANN ARBOR, Dec. 12, 1845. The price of wheat yesterday was 95 cents. Pork has risen a little, it now brings from 41 to 5 cents. Oats 31 1/2 cents.

YOUNG MEN'S LITERARY ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the above Association will be held in the lower brick School House, (lower village) on Wednesday evening, Dec. 17.

Original paper called "The Aurora," will be read.

The following Resolution will then be discussed:—"Resolved, That the infliction of Capital Punishment, for the crime of murder, is expeditious and morally right."—Affirmative, E. R. POWELL and F. E. JONES. Negative, A. K. DAVIS and L. B. SIMMONS.

Ladies and gentlemen are respectfully invited to attend. E. R. POWELL, Sec.

FROM MAINE TO MISSISSIPPI, FROM Oregon to Florida, the wonderful effects of Wistar's Balsam of Wild Cherry in curing all diseases of the lungs, are as familiar as household words. Where there is a constitutional predisposition to consumption, it keeps the insidious destroyer at bay, and we venture to affirm that no one ever died of that complaint, who had recourse to this remedy when the first symptoms of its approach appeared. Thousands who have sought another climate in the hopes of being relieved from Bronchitis and Consumption, and who have laid their bones in a foreign land, wit none but strangers to perform the last offices of respect, might now be living in health, cheered by friends and kindred, had they betaken themselves to this infallible remedy, instead of going into voluntary exile. Coughs, Colds, Asthma, Bronchitis, Pleurisy, Sore Throat, Rheumatism, Gout, and all those diseases of the organs of respiration which invariably lead to death if neglected, can be removed by a few bottles of Wistar's Balsam.

See advertisement of MAYNARD'S.

WHERE IS THE CONSUMPTIVE?—Let him make trial of Dr. Fulger's Olostinon, or All-healing Balsam. It will do him more good than all the remedies he has ever used. It has allayed the troublesome cough, unde the expectation easy, checked the tedious night sweats and restored health in cases where hope had taken its flight, and the sufferer had been given up to perish.

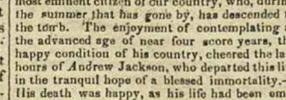
Where is the sufferer from Asthma?—Here is a remedy at hand. Dr. Fulger's Olostinon will not only check the violence of the attack, it will restore you to health if you use it according to the directions.

Where is the sufferer from Cough, Cold, Dyspepsia and various Affections of the Liver?—Let such try this remedy. Be assured they will not be disappointed in its effects. It is composed from an experience of twenty years spent in the practice of his profession, and will do more for you than all the remedies you have ever used.

W. S. & J. W. MAYNARD, Agents for Ann Arbor.

NOTICE. Jacks n. Congregational Association will meet with the Congregational Church of Salem, on the first Tuesday of January next, at one o'clock, P. M. The Conference of Churches in connection with Association will meet on the Wednesday following, at one P. M. at the same place. GEO. BARNUM, Secy. of Ass. Lodi, Dec. 28, 1845.

NEW COOKING STOVE,



And Stoves of all kinds. The subscriber would call the attention of the public to

Woolson's Hot Air Cooking STOVE.

Which he can confidently recommend as being decidedly superior to any Cooking Stove in use. For simplicity in operation—economy in fuel, and for unequalled BAKING and ROASTING quality, it is unrivalled.

The new and important improvement introduced in its construction being such to insure great advantages over all other kinds of Cooking Stoves.

WILLIAM R. NOYES, Jr. 75 Woodward Avenue, Detroit. Dec. 12, 1845.

Disolution of Partnership.

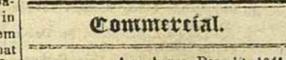
THE Partnership heretofore existing under the name of BOOTH & LA TOUR-ETTE, in this day dissolved by mutual consent. David L. La Tour-ette is fully authorized to collect and settle all dues and demands in favor of and against the said firm.

WILLIAM W. BOOTH, DAVID L. LA TOUR-ETTE. Long Lake, Genesee Co. Dec. 15th, 1845. 242-3w

500 Kegs of Eastern Nails, just received and for sale by WILLIAM R. NOYES, Jr. 75 Woodward Avenue, Detroit. Dec. 12, 1845.

C. BRINCKERHOFF'S

HEALTH RESTORATIVE.



THE Proprietor desires to express the fact that his medicine is ever capable of more than carrying out what he recommends it for. As for instance he has heretofore not recommended it as a perfect cure in all cases of Consumption, and other diseases of the Lungs, Liver and Throat, Coughs and Colic, but persons who use it being the best judges of its merits, decide at once that it is the perfection of an effective medicinal preparation. Testimonies crowd in on the Proprietor, stating such rapid cures of the above diseases even when of the most aggravating character, that there is no withholding the natural inference that it exceeds in power by the effect of its singularly happy vegetable combination, any of the mineral and dangerous narcotics devised by the human mind. This medicine is Nature's grand specific in Lung complaints; it touches the seat of the disease, it proceeds at once to purify and deplete the lungs and chest of those humors and decayed parts which result from the action of disease, and which has performed this part of its office, it commences to repair the ravage made in the vitals, and strengthens and increases the action of the vessels so that the part is renewed sufficiently to perform its wonted duties, and the cure is effected. The Consumptive should know that to them delays are fraught with danger, even a day wasted in worse than an useless tampering with their complaint, if devoted to the use of the Restorative, will bring them to the land of the living. There is no shining sword of comfort while under the mild and soothing, yet efficient action of this remedy, which is a happiness indescribable by the patient; it is a feeling of an assured escape from death by an almost miraculous human intervention.

The following certificate is from Dr. Chilton, the well known New York chemist.

"I have analyzed a bottle of medicine called C. Brinckerhoff's Health Restorative, and find that it does not contain Mercury, or any other metallic preparation; nor opium in any of its forms. It is composed of vegetable matter entirely."

JAMES R. CHILTON, M. D. C. BRINCKERHOFF, Sole Proprietor, 580 Broome Street, N. Y.

For sale by W. S. & J. W. Maynard, Agents, Ann Arbor. 241-4w

COUNTY ORDERS.

THE highest price paid in cash by G. F. Lewis, Exchange Broker, opposite the Insurance Bank, Detroit, for orders on any of the counties in the State of Michigan; also for State securities of all kinds and uncurrent funds. Call and see. Dec. 1, 1845. 241-1f

STATE OF MICHIGAN, The Circuit Court for the County of Washtenaw, of the Decem ber Term, A. D. 1845.

HENRY ROTHS

vs DANIEL A. REXFORD

Survivors of themselves and Lyman Miller, dec'd, lately doing business under the name and style of Pratt, Rexford & Co.

NOTICE is hereby given that on the first day of October A. D. 1845, a writ of attachment was issued out of the Circuit Court for the County of Washtenaw, against the lands and tenements, goods, chattels, rights, credits, moneys and effects of Joshua Pratt and Daniel A. Rexford survivors, &c., at the suit of Henry Roths, Detroit, for the sum of one hundred and fifteen dollars, with the suit of attachment was returned on the first Friday of December A. D. 1845, and has been returned duly served.

HAWKINS & PLATT, Attorneys by Plaintiff. B. KING, Clerk. Ann Arbor, Dec. 3, 1845. 241-6f

WANTED.

TWO young men about 18 or 19 years of age, as apprentices to the Sash and Blind making business. Also, one JOURNEYMAN, at the above business. H. GREGORY, Ann Arbor, Lower-Town, Dec. 4, 1845. 241-1f

WILSON'S NEW HOT-AIR Cooking STOVES, and a general assortment of Parlor, Plate and Office stoves—of wood or coal—for sale by W. S. & J. W. NOYES, Jr. No. 75 Woodward Avenue, Detroit. 240-1f

Quit Claim Deeds

JUST Limited and sold at this office.

