

The Weekly British Colonist AND CHRONICLE.

Tuesday, December 18, 1866.

The President's Message. President Johnson's annual address to the American Congress was laid before that body on the 6th inst. It is a plain, straightforward document—is remarkably well written—terse and decided, and peculiarly Johnsonian in its tone. His Excellency commences by congratulating the country upon the extinction of slavery and its emergence from the cruel and bloody struggle which long desolated its fair lands; expressing satisfaction at the fact that the animosities engendered by the war are rapidly yielding to the beneficent influences of our institutions. A history of the Constitutional difficulty between the Executive and Congress is then rapidly and temperately sketched. The ground is taken that the Government, by making war upon the South, denied its right to secede, and that the Southern States were consequently never out of the Union. On this point the Message says: "Ten States, more than one-fourth of the whole number, remained without representation. The seats of 50 members in the House of Representatives and of 20 members in the Senate are yet vacant—not by their own consent—not by a faction of electors—but by the refusal of Congress to accept their credentials. Their admission, it is believed, would have accomplished much towards the renewing and strengthening of our relations as one people, and removed a serious cause for discontent on the part of the inhabitants of those States; it would have accorded with the great principle enunciated in the declaration of American independence, that no people ought to bear the burden of taxation and yet be denied the right of representation." The fact that the insurrectionary States were included in the direct taxation scheme after the war had broken out, is cited as another argument why they were never out of the Union, and the President adds: "Upon this question, so vitally affecting the restoration of the Union and the permanency of our present form of Government, my convictions heretofore expressed have undergone no change, but on the contrary their correctness has been confirmed by reflection and time. * * * We should be cautious lest, having rescued our nation from the perils of disintegration, we turn to consanguinity, and in the end, finally obtain absolute despotism as a reward for the recurrence of similar troubles. * * *

ment for the year ending June 30, '66, was \$14,386,986, and the expenditure, \$15,351,079, showing an excess of the latter of \$965,093. The message continues: "The Post Office Department of Great Britain and our own country have agreed upon a preliminary basis for a postal convention, which it is believed will prove eminently beneficial to the commercial interests of the United States, inasmuch as it contemplates a reduction of the internal letter postage to one half the existing rates; a reduction of postage with all other countries to and from which correspondence is transmitted in the British mails; or in mails through the United Kingdom; the establishment of a uniform and reasonable charge for these, and territorial transit of correspondence enclosed, mails, and an allowance to each Post Office Department; the right to use all mail communications established under authority of the other for dispatch of correspondence, either in open or closed mails, on the same terms as those applicable to the inhabitants of the country providing the means of transportation." During the last fiscal year, 4,629,312 acres of the public lands were disposed of; 1,892,516 acres of which were entered under the homestead act. During the last fiscal year, the amount paid to pensioners, including the expense of disbursement, was \$13,459,976, and 50,177 names were added to the pension rolls. The entire number of pensioners on June 30, 1866, was 126,722. During the past year, 8756 patents were issued for useful inventions; Indian treaties have been concluded with all hostile tribes; and the Atlantic Cable has been successfully laid. Assistance to aid the Southern States in working their agricultural lands lately scorched by war is asked, and the President then passes on to the Mexican question, and the failure of the French Government to keep its agreement to withdraw the first detachment of its forces in November, 1866. Acting upon the faith of this agreement, the United States had accredited Mr Campbell to the Juarez Government, and that Minister, accompanied by Lieut. Gen. Sherman, had departed upon his mission. Mr Johnson says the United States Government will hold Napoleon to his first agreement, and the hope is expressed that France will "so act that the traditional friendship between the two countries may be restored." The Alabama claims against Great Britain are thus alluded to: "A change of ministry occurred during the last session of Parliament. The attention of the new Ministry was called to the subject at an early day, and there is some reason to expect that it will now be considered in a becoming and friendly manner. The importance of an early disposition of the question cannot be exaggerated. Whatever might be the wishes of the two governments, it is manifest that good-will and friendship between the two countries cannot be maintained unless reciprocity in the practice of good faith and neutrality shall be restored between the respective nations." The Fenian troubles in Canada having been briefly stated, the President says: "The attempt was understood to be made in sympathy with an insurgent party in Ireland, and by striking at a British province on this continent it was designed to aid in gaining redress for political grievances which it was assumed the people of Ireland had suffered at the hands of the British Government during a period of several centuries. The persons engaged in it were chiefly natives of that country. Some of them had, while others had not, become citizens of the United States under our general laws of naturalization. Complaints of misgovernment in Ireland continually engage the attention of the British nation, and so great an agitation is now prevailing in Ireland that the British Government has deemed it necessary to suspend the writ of habeas corpus in that country. These circumstances must necessarily modify the opinions which might otherwise have been entertained in regard to an expedition expressly prohibited by our neutrality laws. So long as these laws remain upon our statute books they should be faithfully executed. If they operate harshly, unjustly or oppressively, Congress alone can apply the remedy by their modification." Of the naturalization question His Excellency says: "The present seems to be a favorable time for an assertion by Congress of the principles so long maintained by the Executive Department, that naturalization by one State fully exempts the native-born subject of any other State from the performance of military service under any foreign government, so long as he does not voluntarily renounce its rights and benefits." The Message concludes as follows: "Let us endeavor to preserve harmony between the co-ordinate departments of the Government, so that each in its proper sphere, may cordially co-operate with the other in securing the maintenance of the Constitution, the preservation of the Union and the perpetuation of our institutions." As to the reception accorded the document by Congress we are uninformative; but have no reason to suppose that it was unfriendly.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE. Wednesday, Dec 12. ATTEMPTED SUICIDE AT PORTLAND—About one o'clock yesterday it was discovered that Mrs. Stark, wife of the proprietor of the New York Hotel in this city, had attempted to commit suicide by cutting her throat from ear to ear with a razor. The deed was done in her private parlor, and she took every precaution to make her effort successful. She stood in front of the pier glass, and deliberately adjusting the razor to the point of the left ear, drew it quickly across her throat. She fell helpless on the floor and the noise so alarmed her husband that he ran up and found her weltering in her blood. A surgeon was sent for, and in the meantime the poor unfortunate woman was conveyed to her bed in an adjoining room. Doctor Giltner soon arrived, sewed up the wound and did all in his power to relieve her sufferer. The cut commenced about one inch below the angle of the lower maxillary bone on the left side of the neck, passing transversely across and upward to the right side of the neck, severing both thyroid arteries and muscles of the neck, and the thyroid cartilage, causing her to breathe through the openings. The carotid arteries on both sides barely escaped being cut, as the razor penetrated to the fascia surrounding them. The wound bled profusely, but the Doctor finally succeeded in checking it. The glass before which the horrid deed was done was besprinkled with blood, as was also the surrounding walls and furniture. There were causes which drove this poor woman to attempt to take her life, but she has a chance of recovery, we defer speaking of them, as they are matters which pertain only to her and not to the public. As our paper went to press we learn that she was still alive, with some little hope of her recovery.—Oregon Herald.

TRAVELLERS, BEWARE—Dr Tolmie, Dr Tuzo, and Mr Moorhead, who arrived yesterday from Puget Sound, having come overland from Portland, represent that the road is in a most execrable condition, and any person venturing that way at this season of the year runs the risk of being overwhelmed in the mud sloughs. The last named gentleman on his way over from Olympia was six days in getting across. The country was thoroughly inundated, bridges washed away, and, to add to his comfort, the stage capsized and he was precipitated, with others, head first into a "slough of despond."

THE GRAND PROMOTERS OF HEALTH. HOLLOWAY'S PILLS. The grand secret of attaining happiness is to secure good health, without which life is stripped of all its pleasures. The first irregularity of any function should be checked and set right by appropriate doses of these thoroughly cleansing the blood from all impurities. They balance disordered action, remove the cause of disturbance and restore its normal and natural power to every organ, without inconvenience, pain or any other drawback.

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