☞ The Montreal Courier is published daily during the Parliamentary Session, and during the 1st of May to the 1st of December, and on the other months bi-weekly, on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Subscription, six shillings per annum, payable in advance.

☞ The Weekly Courier (bi-monthly) is published on Monday and Thursday evenings, in time for the Mails, at the low price of Three Dollars per annum, payable in advance.

☞ All Letters must be post-paid, or else the postage will be deducted from the amount sent.

☞ Voluntary Correspondence solicited from all parts of the Continent of America. If made use of, the person transmitting the information will be liberally recompensed.

THE COURIER.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1850.

☞ SEE FIRST PAGE.

Congress—The President's Message.

The Congress of the United States is now in Session, and we yesterday received a Troy paper containing the Message to that body of the President. The document is a long one, though not so long as some of the Messages of previous Presidents have been, and we cannot but admire the calm, sensible, and manly language, in which it is conceived. Though long, it does not, if we perhaps except the opening sentences, contain one word that is not necessary, for in the United States, where there are no Ministers in the Legislature to give explanations as to the policy of the Government, from time to time, when questions are asked by Members, it seems imperative on the Chief Magistrate to enter into a more detailed explanation of the measures of his Government.

We except the first sentences, relating to the general principles on which the Constitution of the United States has been formed, because they seem to be a collection of stereotyped phrases, with which every President seems to think it necessary to commence his Message, and which we should think would be so well understood all over the world by this time, as to render their annual enunciation just the least in the world a bore.

Passing over these paragraphs, we come to one which we cannot help but point out to our Canadian rulers, and we should like to ask James Bruce, Earl of Elgin, whether he can lay his hand on his heart, and say, as President Fillmore does, that he regards "the appointing power as "one of the most delicate with which the Executive is invested; that it is a sacred trust, to be "exercised with the sole view of advancing the "prosperity and happiness of the people; that it "will be his effort to elevate the standard of official employment, by selecting for places of importance, individuals fitted for the posts to which "they are assigned, by their known integrity, "talents, and virtues." A sentiment most truly noble and patriotic, and, most unfortunately, not obtaining in Canada, where office seems for the most part to be conferred on the very meanest and most useless of the Ministerial parasites, and we say this without reference to any particular Ministry.

President Fillmore congratulates his country on the friendly state of its foreign relations, and details the particulars of the Convention negotiated with Great Britain for facilitating and protecting the construction of a Ship Canal to connect the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, also stating that an American Company is now negotiating with the State of Nicaragua the preliminaries [illegible] ments for constructing the Canal.

We also learn that another Company of United States citizens is negociating with the Mexican Government for leave to construct a Railroad across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec; but that there are difficulties in the way, owing to some strong objections which Mexico has to certain stipulations, which the party concerned in the Railroad think necessary for their protection and security.

The dispute with Portugal is understood to be in a fair way of adjustment.

Treaties and commercial arrangements have been made with the Hawaian Government, and with some of the Governments of South America.

Finance.—The total Receipts into the Treasury, for the year ending 30th of June last, were forty-seven million four hundred and twenty-one thousand seven hundred and forty-eight dollars and 90 cts. ($47,421,748.90.) The total Expenditures during the same period were forty-three million two thousand one hundred and sixty-eight dollars and 90 cents, ($43,002,168.90.) The Public Debt has been reduced, since the last Annual Report from the Treasury Department, four hundred and ninety-five thousand two hundred and seventy-six dollars and seventy-nine cents, (£495,276,79.) By the 19th section of the Act of 28th January, 1847, the proceeds of the sales of the public lands were pledged for the interest and principal of the Public Debt. The great amount of those lands subsequently granted by Congress for military bounties, will, it is believed, very nearly supply the public demand for several years to come, and but little reliance can, therefore, be placed on that hitherto fruitful source of revenue. Aside from the permanent Annual Expenditures which have necessarily largely increased, a portion of the Public Debt, amounting to eight million seventy-five thousand nine hundred and eighty-six dollars and fifty-nine cents ($8,075,986.59) must be provided for within the next two fiscal years. It is most desirable that these accruing demands should be met without resorting to new loans.

The Tariff.—We learn from this document, that while President Fillmore is decidedly in favor of raising the revenue necessary for the administration of Government from Customs Duties on Imports, and making those Duties incidentally advantageous to the protection of native industry, he is opposed to an excessive Tariff, believing that uniformity and permanency are required by the manufacturers. He advocates specific duties wherever practicable, because of uniform duties fluctuate with the price and offer strong temptations to fraud and perjury.

It is recommended to establish a Branch Mint in California, and in the meantime to receive payment of duties in gold dust, to be assayed by an Officer of the Government.

The President points out how great is the dependence of the United States on its Agriculture, which, in fact, includes all other interests, and advises the formation of an Agricultural Bureau, as a department of the Government, with a competent Mineralogist and Geologist, to collect specimens of the various minerals, examine and report on the quality of soils, and the minerals most likely to improve their productiveness; to publish the results of the experiments, and collect and distribute rare plants and seeds, with instructions as to the best mode of cultivation.

The Census, the communication between the Valley of the Mississippi and the Pacific, Land Titles in California, the system of Land Laws generally, and the troubles caused by Indian depredations on the frontiers of Texas and New Mexico, next claim our consideration. He recommends an increase of the Cavalry of the Army, with a view to repress these depredations; and connected with that branch of the Service, he advises the establishment of an Asylum for disabled and destitute soldiers. The Navy is next spoken of, and we learn that the estimates for that arm for the ensuing year show a reduction of one million of dollars. It is recommended to make provision by pension for Officers, both of the Army and Navy, who retire from the Service, when incompetent for duty, by reason of age or infirmity.

The Post Office.—We learn that at the close of the last fiscal year, the length of the inland mail routes in the United States (not embracing the service in Oregon and California) was one hundred and seventy-eight thousand six hundred and seventy-two miles; the annual transportation thereon, forty-six million five hundred and forty one thousand four hundred and twenty-three miles; and the annual cost of such transportation, two millions seven hundred and twenty-four thousand four hundred and twenty-six dollars. The increase of the annual transportation over that of the preceding year, was three millions nine hundred and ninety-seven thousand three hundred and fifty-four miles; and the increase in cost was three hundred and forty-two thousand four hundred and forty dollars. The number of Post Offices in the United States, on the first day of July last, was eighteen thousand four hundred and seventeen—being an increase of sixteen hundred and seventy during the preceding year. The Gross Revenues of the Department for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1850, amounted to five millions five hundred and fifty-two thousand nine hundred and seventy-one dollars and forty-eight cents, including the annual appropriation of two hundred thousand dollars for the franked matter of the Departments, and excluding the foreign postages collected for, and payable to, the British Government. The Expenditures for the same period, were $5,212,953 43, leaving a balance of Revenue over Expenditures of $340,018 05. "I am happy to find that the fiscal condition of the Department is such as to justify the Postmaster-General in recommending the reduction of our inland letter postage to three cents the single letter when pre-paid, and five cents when not pre-paid." He also recommends that the pre-paid rate shall be reduced to two cents whenever the Revenues of the Department, after the reduction, shall exceed its Expenditures by more than five per cent. for two consecutive years; that the postage upon California and other letters sent by our Ocean Steamers, shall be much reduced; and that the rates of Postage on newspapers, pamphlets, periodicals, and other printed matter, shall be modified, and some reduction thereon made. It cannot be doubted that the proposed reductions will, for the present, diminish the Revenues of the Department. It is believed that the deficiency, after the surplus already accumulated shall be exhausted, may be almost wholly met, either by abolishing the existing privileges of sending free matter through the mails, or by paying out of the Treasury to the Post Office Department, a sum equivalent to the postage of which it is deprived by such privileges. The last is supposed to be the preferable mode, and will, if not entirely, so nearly supply that deficiency, as to make any further appropriation that may be found necessary so inconsiderable as to form no obstacle to the proposed reductions.

Internal Improvements.—The President is clearly of opinion that the [illegible] of all works of public utility come under the duties of Congress. He says, that "Where commerce is to be carried on, and imposts collected, there must be ports and harbors, as well as wharves and custom-houses. If ships, laden with valuable cargoes, approach the shore, or sail along the coast, light-houses are necessary at suitable points for the protection of life and property. Other facilities and securities for commerce and navigation are hardly less important; and those clauses of the Constitution, therefore, to which I have referred, have received from the origin of the Government a liberal and beneficial construction. * * * * It is a mistake to regard such expenditure for local purposes. The position or state of the work is necessarily local; but its utility is general. A Ship Canal around the Falls of St. Mary, of less than a mile in length, though local in its construction, would yet be national in its purpose and its benefits, as it would remove the only obstruction to a navigation of more than a thousand miles, affecting several States, as well as our commercial relations with Canada. So, too, the Breakwater at the mouth of the Delaware is erected, not for the exclusive benefit of the States bordering on the bay and river of that name, but for that of the whole coastwise navigation of the United States, and, to a considerable extent, also, of Foreign commerce. If a ship be lost on the bar at the entrance of a Southern port for want of a sufficient depth of water, it is very likely to be a Northern ship; and if a steamboat be sunk in any part of the Mississippi, on account of its channel not having been properly cleared of obstructions, it may be a boat belonging to either of eight or ten States. I may add, as somewhat remarkable, that, among all the thirty-one States, there is no one that is not, to a greater or less extent, bounded on the Ocean, or on the Gulf of Mexico, or one of the great lakes or some navigable river."

He also recommends the formation of a tribunal competent to decide the settlement of private claims on the Government, as under the present system much injustice has been done, the Congress, from its organization, not being properly constituted to decide such claims.

The Message concludes with a reference to the much-vexed Slave question and the recent law for the reclamation of fugitives, which has created so much sensation in the North. We shall let President Fillmore speak in his own words:—

"It was hardly to have been expected that the series of measures passed at your last Session, with the view of healing the sectional differences which had begun to alienate the affections of our citizens, should at once have realized their benificent purposes. All mutual concession in the nature of a compromise must necessarily be in some degree at variance with opinions. And though at least such concessions are our Constitution could not have been formed, and cannot be permanently sustained, yet we have seen that made the subject of bitter controversy in both sections of the Republic. It required many months of excited zeal and agitation to secure the concurrence of a majority of Congress in their favor. It would be strange if such laws, received with immediate opposition from half the people, and framed, pronounced and hailed by the prevailing controversies of the day, should at once allay the excitement. We cannot expect to have our measures so well weighed and their consequences so fully and dispassionately pondered as they would be in the quiet of succeeding years, when they come to be regarded as the ultimate adjustment of a great question. Nor can we expect that those who have so long and so earnestly contended that Congress has no power over the subject of slavery in the Territories, and that it is their duty to use the utmost extent of their influence to restrict the area of slavery, should at once be willing to admit that they have been in error, and that those who have so long and so earnestly contended that it was the clear right of the citizens of the slaveholding States to take their property into the Territories, and there to hold it under the protection of the laws, should so soon admit that they have been all this time depriving their fellow-citizens of a right to which they were fully entitled. We can not, therefore, hope that all will at once see and acknowledge that these laws are, in all their parts, a true settlement of the matters to which they relate. But I cannot doubt that the American People, based as they are on kindred blood and common traditions, still retain a paramount regard for the Union of their fathers, and that they are ready to rebuke any attempt to violate its integrity, to disturb the compromises on which it is based, or to resist the laws which have been enacted under its authority.

"The series of measures to which I have alluded are regarded by me as a settlement, in principle and substance—a final settlement, of the dangerous and exciting subjects to which they relate. Not to these subjects only, and not, we may reasonably hope, as to a dangerous agitation which disturbed all the country, but as to the spirit in which they were conceived and carried through, these measures have been regarded by many as a final settlement, in all their parts, of the principles involved in them. They were so intended by their authors, and I believe they were so generally understood by those who gave them their support. They were so understood, I believe, by those who gave them their support. They were so understood, I believe, by those who gave them their support. They were so understood, I believe,