UNITED STATES,

Extracts from the MESSAGE of the PRESIDENT of the United States to Congress.

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 upon 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.

In calling the attention of Congress to our relations with foreign Powers, I am gratified to be able to state, that, though 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, to be prepared to resist aggression, and to maintain all our just rights.

In pursuance of the joint resolution of Congress, "for annexing Texas to the United States," my predecessor, on the third day of March, 1845, elected to submit the first and second sections of that resolution 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 chargé d'affaires of the U. States in 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 the people of Texas in convention, have successively complied with all the terms and conditions of the joint resolution. A constitution for the government of the people 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. * * * * *

The jurisdiction of the U. States, which at the formation of the federal constitution was bounded by the St. Mary's, on the Atlantic, has [by the annexation of Texas,] passed the Capes of Florida, and been peaceably extended to the DelNorte. 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 interference, 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 your last session, have not been of the amicable character which it is our desire to cultivate with all foreign nations. [Here the President recapitulates the difficulties with Mexico, arising out of the annexation of Texas, which are familiar to the public.]

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 and coasts of Mexico for many weeks, without any hostile movement 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 ninth 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 republics, 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 powers 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 the 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.

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My attention was early directed to the negotiation, which, on the fourth 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.

These negotiations took place at London, in the years 1818, 1824, and 1826; the two first under the administration of Mr. Munroe, and the last under that of Mr. Adams. The negotiation of 1818 having failed to accomplish its object, resulted in the convention of the twentieth of October of that year. By the third article of that convention, it was "agreed that any country that may be claimed by either party on the northwest coast of America, westward of the Stony mountains, shall, together with its harbors, bays, and creeks, and the navigation of all the rivers within the same, be free and open for the term of ten years from the date of the signature to the present convention, to the vessels, citizens, and subjects of the two powers; it being well understood that this agreement is not 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; 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 1818 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 twentieth of October, 1818; 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 twentieth of October, 1828, on giving due 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 forty-ninth degree of north latitude had been offered by the United States to Great Britain, and in those of 1818 and 1826, with a further concession of the free navigation of the Columbia river south of that latitude. The parallel of the forty-ninth degree from the Rocky Mountains to its intersection with the northeasternmost 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, 1843, the Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States in London, was authorized to make a similar offer to those made in 1818 and 1826. Thus stood the question, when the negotiation was shortly 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 the avowed purpose of the parties was, "to treat of the respective claims of the two countries to the Oregon territory, with a view to establish a permanent boundary between them westward of the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Ocean." Accordingly, on the twenty-sixth 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 northeasternmost 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 a detached territory, north of the Columbia, extending along the Pacific and the Straits of Fuca, from Bulfinch'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, and rejected by 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 or compromise offered by the British plenipotentiary. The proposition on the part of Great Britain having been rejected, the British plenipotentiary requested that a proposal 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 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 thrice made by two preceding administrations, to adjust the question on the parallel of 49 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 my duty not abruptly to break it off. In consideration, too, that under the conventions of 1819 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 this 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 call "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 north latitude, which had been made by two preceding administrations, but without proposing the 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 cap of Quadra and Vancouver's island, south of this 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 our title to the whole Oregon territory asserted, and, as 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 a responsibility which may follow the failure to settle the controversy.

All attempts at compromise having failed, it becomes 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 the 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 faith 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, in my judgment, be proper to give; and I recommend that provisions be made by law for giving it accordingly, and terminating, in this manner, the convention of the sixth of 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 had 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 extent to which the British Parliament have proceeded in regard to British subjects in that territory, by their act of July the second, 1821, "for regulating the fur trade, and establishing a 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 issuing 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 pounds."

Subsequent to the date of this act of Parliament, a grant was made from the "British crown" to the Hudson 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 States, who, under or by force of any convention for the time being, between us and such foreign States respectively, may be entitled to, and shall be engaged in, the same 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 American breast, and must prevail. It is due to them that they should be embraced and protected by our laws.

It is deemed important that our laws regulating trade and intercourse with the Indian tribes east of the Rocky mountains, should extend to such tribes as dwell beyond them.

The increasing emigration to Oregon, and the care and protection which is due from the government to its citizens in that distant region, 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 blockhouse forts 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.

An overland mail with Oregon 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 after 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 the 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 vast wilderness intervening between our frontier settlements and Oregon, and who cultivate and are ever ready to defend the soil, I am fully satisfied. To 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 forty-nine 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 herewith the correspondence which took place between the two governments during the 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 standing 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 at 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 interposition, 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 European powers to interfere with the independent action of the nations on this continent. The American system of government is entirely different from that of Europe. Jealousy among the different sovereigns of Europe, lest any one of them might become too powerful for the rest, has caused them to anxiously 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 a 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 interposition. 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 maintain upon the continent. Near a quarter of a century ago, the principle was distinctly announced to the world in the annual message of one of my predecessors, that "the American continents, by the free and independent condition which they have assumed and maintain, are henceforth not to be considered 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 re-affirm the principle avowed by Mr. Munroe, and to state my cordial concurrence in its wisdom and sound policy. The re-assertion of this principle, especially in reference to North America, is at this day but the promulgation of a policy which no European nation 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 the whole territorial limits, and that it should be distinctly announced to the world as our settled policy, that no future European colony or dominion shall, with our consent, be planted or established on any part of the North American continent. * * * *

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 for their welfare; that we should desire that all controversies between them should be amicably adjusted, and their governments 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 in their controversies, whether external or internal.

I have 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 the Powers of the earth. While we are just to all, we require that all should be just to us. Excepting 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.

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The attention of Congress is invited to the importance of making suitable modifications and reductions of the rates of duty imposed by our present 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 discriminations should be within the revenue standard, and be made with the view to raise money for the support of government.

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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. On others they may impose low duties. In these classes should be embraced such articles as are in general use, and especially such as are consumed by the laborer and the poor, as well as by the wealthy citizen. Care should be taken that all the great interests of the country, including manufactures, agriculture, commerce, navigation, and the mechanic arts, should, as far as may be practicable, derive equal advantages, from the incidental protection which a just system of revenue duties may afford.—Taxation, direct or indirect, is a burden, and it should be so imposed as to operate as equally as may be, on all classes in the proportion of their ability to bear it. To make the taxing power an actual benefit to one class, necessarily increases the burden of the others beyond their proportion, and would be manifestly unjust. The terms "protection to domestic industry," are of popular import; but they should apply under a just system to all the various branches of industry in our country. The farmer or planter who toils yearly in his fields, is engaged in "domestic industry," and is as much entitled to have his labor "protected," as the manufacturer, the man of commerce, the navigator, or the mechanic, who are engaged also in "domestic industry" in their different pursuits. The joint labors of all these classes constitute the aggregate of the "domestic industry" of the nation, and they are equally entitled to the nation's "protection." No one of them can justly claim to be the exclusive recipients of "protection," which can only be afforded by increasing burdens on the "domestic industry" of the others.

If these views be correct, it remains to inquire how far 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. The rates of duty imposed by it on some articles are prohibitory, and on others so high as greatly to diminish importations, and to produce a less amount of revenue than would be derived from lower rates. They operate as "protection merely," to one branch of "domestic industry," by taxing other branches.

By the introduction of minimums, or assumed and false values, and by the imposition of specific duties, the injustice and inequality of the act of 1842, in its practical operations on different classes and pursuits, are seen and felt. Many of the oppressive duties imposed by it under the operation of these principles, range from one per cent to more than 200 per cent. 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 is so framed that much the greatest burden which it imposes is thrown on labor and the poorer classes who are least able to bear it, while it protects capital and exempts the rich from paying their just proportion of the taxation required for the support of government. While it protects the capital of the wealthy manufacturer, and increases his profits, it does not benefit the operatives or laborers in his employment, whose wages have not been increased by it. Articles of prime necessity or of coarse quality and low price, used by the masses of the people, are, in many instances, subjected by it to heavy taxes, while articles of finer quality and higher prices, or of luxury, which can be used only by the opulent, are lightly taxed. 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 investments in manufactures. All the great interests of the country are not, as nearly as may be practicable, equally protected by it.

The government in theory knows no distinction of persons or classes, and should not bestow upon some favours and privileges which all may not enjoy. It was the purpose of its illustrious founders to base the institutions which they reared upon the great and unchanging principles of justice and equity, conscious that if administered in the spirit in which they were conceived, they would be felt only by the benefits which they diffused, and would secure for themselves a defence in the hearts of the people, more powerful than standing armies, and all the means and appliances invented to sustain governments founded in injustice and oppression.

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 on the first opportunity, affords strong and conclusive evidence that it was not intended to be permanent, and of the expediency and necessity of its thorough revision.

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. On the contrary, I desire to see them prosperous, so far as they can be so, without imposing unequal burdens on other interests. The advantage under any system of indirect taxation, even within the revenue standard, must be in favour of the manufacturing interest, and of this no other interest will complain.

I recommend to Congress the abolition of the minimum principle, or assumed, arbitrary, and false values, and of specific duties, and the substitution in their place of AD VALOREM duties, as the fairest and most equitable indirect tax which can be imposed. By the AD VALOREM principle, all articles are taxed according to their cost or value, and those which are of inferior quality, or of small cost, bear only the just proportion of the tax with those which are of superior quality or greater cost. The articles consumed by all are taxed at the same rate. A system of AD VALOREM revenue duties, with proper discriminations and proper guards against frauds in collecting them, it is not doubted will afford ample incidental advantages to the manufacturers, and enable them to derive as great profits as can be derived from any other regular business. It is believed that such a system, strictly within the revenue standard, will place the manufacturing interests on a stable footing, and inure to their permanent advantage; while it will, as nearly as may be practicable, extend to all the great interests of the country the incidental protection which can be afforded by our revenue laws. Such a system, when once firmly established, would be permanent, and not be subject to the constant complaints, agitations, and changes which must ever occur, when duties are not laid for revenue, but for the "protection merely" of a favored interest.

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 labors may be crowned with the happiest consequences.

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JAMES K. POLK.

Washington, Dec. 2, 1845.

ALBANY, Dec. 1.

The new Congress meets at the National Capitol this morning. In many respects, it will be one of the most important sessions ever held. Great, exciting, momentous questions, involving the interests of the People and the Peace of the Nation, will immediately come before it for deliberation, discussion and decision. The responsibilities which rest upon every member of both branches are of the weightiest character. The crisis is one which should demand the undivided, the careful, the intelligent services of true Patriots—of Men above and beyond the influence of mere Party considerations. But, alas! with only here and there a solitary exception, none such are to be found in the Congress that commences its existence this morning. The majority of both branches are known to be warm and selfish partizans, who will be certain to servilely perform all the behests of Party, even at the sacrifice of the best interests of their Constituency. They will do the bidding of the "powers that be," and give strong partizan coloring to all they say and do.

So the COUNTRY has *little* to expect—PARTY *everything*.

The proceedings will be looked for, from day to day, with absorbing interest. Texas and anti-Texas men, Oregon and anti-Oregon men, Peace and War men, Tariff and anti-Tariff men, Polk men, and nondescripts of all classes, will all alike be eager to receive the Congress news as it transpires.

The policy of the Administration will be at once developed in the President's Message. All are feverishly anxious to know what grounds he will take on the important matters which demand his attention.

Let's wait patiently, calmly; expecting to hear nothing pleasing, and fully prepared for the worst. From a Locofoco Administration, a Locofoco Congress, and a Locofoco Cabinet, the *People* have nothing to look for that will benefit them.—*Albany Citizen.*

OREGON TERRITORY.—Advices from Oregon, via the Sandwich Islands, state that the American settlers have full possession of all the country south of Columbia river. They have organized a Territorial Government, similar to that of Iowa, of which they elect all the officers. The *employes* of the Hudson Bay Co., are in favour of a separate government, independent of both England and this country, and many of the most influential Americans concur in opinion with them. It requires but the support of a few more of the American settlers to determine the question, when it is proposed to issue a declaration of independence, taking in the whole territory in dispute, the Hudson Bay Company to cede the forts and trading posts to the new government.—This movement is sustained and justified on the ground of the settlers having occupied and improved a wilderness, in which the Hudson Bay Company of London has been a mere hunter or temporary resident, and over which neither the government of the United States nor that of Great Britain exercises the rights of sovereignty.—*Boston Journal.*

GREAT SUCCESS.—It will be recollected by some of our readers, that about two years since we noticed that the ship South America, one of the New York and Liverpool line of packets, had been purchased by a house in Providence, together with all her cabin stores, wines, &c., as she came in from sea, and fitted out for a whaling voyage. She sailed from Providence, Nov. 14, 1843, under the command of Captain Soule, whose wife was a passenger on board. By the late advices received from the Sandwich Islands, it appears that the South America arrived at Honolulu, August 24, from a cruise, bound home, with a cargo of 5700 barrels whale, 300 do. sperm oil, and a large quantity of bone, the whole cargo being valued at $95,000, having then been absent only twenty-one months. The wife and child of the captain had been in the ship during the whole cruise, and were then enjoying a visit on shore with a keen relish. The South America was expected to sail for Providence in September.—*Ib.*

The River.—The river during Saturday was filled with floating ice. But few vessels were to be seen at dock at the close of the day. The Jonas C. Heartt went down about four o'clock, having in tow 5 or 6 sloops and schooners, heavily laden.

Everything in the shape of a steamboat has been pressed into the service as a tow boat. The passage boat North America towed to New York on Saturday no less than 25 boats. The Albany, also a passage boat, carried a fleet south. Between 4 and 5, the Trojan cleared out with several lake boats and four or five sloops and schooners. At 6 the Knickerbocker and Columbia left laden with as much flour, &c. as they could conveniently stow.—*Albany Citizen, Dec. 1.*

An estate in Summer street, near Trinity Church, containing about three thousand square feet of land, was sold last week for the large sum of $25,000, being over eight dollars per foot. It is thought that before the lapse of many years this street of elegant residences will be improved for stores.—*Boston paper,*

THE OBSERVER.

ST. JOHN, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1845.

SECOND NOVEMBER MAIL.

The steam-ship *Cambria*, with the second November mail, arrived at Halifax last Tuesday, but the mail for this city was not received here till this morning—one week after its arrival at Halifax!

The Cambria arrived at Boston on Thursday evening, and several of the latest English papers were brought to this city by the steamer Robert Rankin, which arrived at an early hour on Sunday morning. The news was thus carried to Boston, and from thence received in this City, two days in advance of the mail from Halifax!—Is there to be no remedy for these frequent annoyances?

The papers do not furnish much intelligence of importance. A variety of extracts are subjoined.

The Oregon question is beginning to excite some alarm again, as the time approaches for the delivery of the President's Message on the opening of Congress. It is rumoured—the intelligence which came to hand yesterday by the Hibernia gave confirmation to the statement—that Mr. Polk will take high ground on the question, and that he will go even further than in his inaugural address.

The Steam Ship Great Britain had met with another misfortune on her last homeward voyage, the arms of the propeller, from some unexplained or inexplicable cause, having broken off, so that, for the greater part of the passage, she had to depend almost entirely on her sails. She however, arrived at Liverpool in about 20 days.

The lords commissioners of the admiralty have at length determined that Woolwich Dock Yard, the first naval and most ancient port in Europe, shall immediately be placed in a state of fortification.

The Government has at present decided not to throw the ports open to the free importation of grain.

Ireland is suffering great distress from the potatoe plague. The Government has employed Messrs. Kane, Lindley, and Playfair, eminent chemists, to investigate the disease, with the view of devising plans for preserving, as much as possible, of the injured root. In a report to the Lord Lieutenant these gentlemen recommend that the potatoe be immediately dried in corn kilns, as the best means of preparing it for the manufacture of starch.

The annual tribute to Mr. O'Connell was collected, simultaneously, throughout Ireland, on the 16th November, and the amount exceeded all former collections of the same description.

The Royal Agricultural Society has offered three prizes for the best essays on the following subjects: £50 for the best essay on the remedy of the potato disease, and on its treatment, with a view to its permanent extinction; £20 for the best essay on the disease of the plant: £30 for the best history of the disease at the present time affecting the potato, involving a condensed detail of facts developed by experience.

Lieut. Waghorn predicts that the mail will shortly be brought from Bombay to London in twenty-one days.

It is said that the man is alive, or was three years ago, who remembered the first bale of cotton imported into Liverpool from the United States. Now £15,000,000 is annually embarked in that trade.

The Duke of Wellington has sent out orders to abolish temperance and all other societies in her majesty's regiments.—*Church and State Gazette.*

RUMOURED CHANGE IN THE MINISTRY.—The *Brighton Herald* says—"We learn from a source on which we place great reliance, that important changes are in course of operation in the Ministry; and that there is little doubt that Lord John Russell will join the administration of Sir Robert Peel; that Lord Stanley will retire from the office of Colonial Secretary, and be succeeded by Lord John Russell.

BIRTH OF A FRENCH PRINCE.—The Princess of Joinville was, at one o'clock on Wednesday morning, safely delivered of a prince, who has received the title of Duke de Penthievre.—*Standard.*

On Thursday week, the Bank of England raised the rate of discount to 3 1-2 per cent.; a movement which had a tendency to arrest all further speculation in railway stocks.

The state of England since we last addressed our readers has been very peculiar, and extremely exciting. The feeling then was, that, pressed on all hands by the cries of the country and the urgency of the case, Ministers would have opened the ports by an order in council for the free admission of every description of grain. Everything, in fact, indicated such a result. The Cabinet had protracted, and, it was said, angry sittings; the fears of the public were becoming serious; the accounts of the potatoe crop from all parts of the country—we had almost said, from all parts of the world—especially from Ireland, were really alarming; the price of grain, until checked by the prevailing feeling that the Corn-laws would be suspended, was rising daily. All this, combined with the panic in the Share market, and the utter prostration of the buoyancy and speculation which existed only a short time previously in rampant impetuosity, caused the opening of the ports to be looked to with hope and certainty, as a thing that must be. But the quidnuncs have been doomed to disappointment—*the ports will not be opened!* Secrets, hermetically sealed, sometimes ooze out, no one can tell how; and those who profess to be wise in the workings of Cabinets, declare that the opposition came not from the First Minister of the Crown, but from the Conqueror of Napoleon; that the commercial spirit of the Premier was overruled by the constitutional prejudices of the soldier; that the old motto, 'cedant arma togæ,' was in this case reversed. So runs the gossip of the clubs.

The Corn market continues to rise, and the averages to fall. The latter now stand for the week at 14s.; but the belief is now gaining ground, that before the end of the year, with the advancing market, Corn will be admitted at the lowest duty—1s. per quarter. The inferior descriptions continue to keep down the averages, but only for a temporary period. The quantity of flour coming from the United States to this country has been most absurdly exaggerated in some of the journals, and to establish the exaggeration, the Prices Current and Shipping Gazettes of New York and other Atlantic ports have been examined and analysed with critical minuteness.

Trade, in the manufacturing districts, is comparatively prostrated. There is far less business doing, and the state of affairs in the country, owing to the potatoe crop, and the immense speculation in shares, has a tendency to depress the energies of the manufacturers. The Yorkshire and the Manchester markets exhibit this feeling. Stocks are being reduced, and extreme caution in the present state of the country appears to actuate all parties—the dealers as well as the manufacturers.

LONDON CORN MARKET.—The arrivals of English Wheat from the 10th to the 15th Nov. inclusive, have been moderate and of a medium quality. The demand on the 14th was rather sluggish, and rates were not improved beyond the rates current on the 10th. In Foreign Wheat little was doing, and the rates nominal. Few sales took place in bonded Corn; the article was held at very full rates. The accounts from Mark-lane, on the 17th, show that the trade in Wheat remains very quiet, and that sales proceeded rather slowly at the currency of that day sennight. Oats had receded in value about 2s. per quarter. The business transacted in Bonded Grain articles was limited, but prices remained unchanged.

The fine weather, too, which has ruled in this country during the last fortnight, has enabled the farmer to take the best precautions for arresting the disease to which the potatoes are subject, and much good has been done in the way of saving what was thought to have been irrecoverably lost. Nevertheless, it is clear, from all that has transpired, that the injury to the esculent has been very serious, and as far as the poor of Ireland are concerned, the evil must cause hardship, and its concomitant—disease.

COMMERCIAL.—The business which has been done of late in Shares, either in the metropolis or the country, is prodigiously small. The brokers are in a "fix;" many of them are unable to meet their engagements, or square their accounts either with their fellow brokers or with their clients.—The amount of the business during the height of the mania was so enormous that all precaution was suspended, all the ordinary checks of business were neglected, and now that the revulsion has come, it is attended, as may be imagined, with fearful confusion. On the Liverpool Stock Exchange, the last week, several brokers, who were defaulters, were "read out," excluded, and the same martyrdom is in store for numerous others.

Meetings for the purpose of petitioning Government to open the ports have been held all over the country; and in the following places among others—St Paul's, Covent Garden, Gateshead, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Sunderland, Belfast, Glasgow, Hamilton, Dundee, Hawick, and Leith.

The Cotton market partakes of the depression into which every description of business is for a time plunged. There is little doing, although, as compared with the inactivity of the previous fortnight, the markets wear symptoms of animation. Since Friday, the amount of business transacted has not been large—hardly exceeding 10,000 bags, and, as compared with the closing prices of last week, a better feeling may be said to prevail.

The Produce markets remain in a tolerably healthy state. As the merchants do not force their goods to auction, but sell them privately by contract, they are enabled to get better prices. Sugar for home use has advanced upwards of 3s. per cwt., and holders are firm at this advance.

American Wool continues to command attention in the English market, and is competing with the same article from our possessions in the Pacific.

The London Times has published a document relative to the railway interest of the country, which has excited much interest and a good deal of alarm. The document exhibits the astounding number of 1,263 projected companies, to carry out which would require nearly two-thirds of the national debts of England!

The new suspension bridge over the Thames at Hungerford Market, has been purchased by Mr. Jackson and Sir Joshua Walmsley for £250,000.

The Earl of Lonsdale has resigned the post he has held upwards of four years at the head of the Post-Office. His successor is the Earl of St. Germans.

Lord John Russell has recently been presented with the freedom of the city of Edinburgh, on which occasion he made a long speech, in which the slavery of the United States was touched upon and strongly condemned.

The supply of silk from China, during the present year, has been from 11,000 to 12,000 bales.

The French Government are sending 20,000 men to Algiers.

It is proposed to make a tunnel under the Clyde.—The project has been favourably received.

It is stated that medical gentlemen are much wanted in China, and that those who are already there are reaping a golden harvest, having extensive practice and handsome pay.

The hostility to the new colleges in Ireland has not ceased. It is now finally determined that Galway is to have one, Cork another, and Belfast the third. Some names are before the public as having been appointed to the directorship of the latter establishment, but it is useless to repeat them here, as some uncertainty hangs about the correctness of the various and conflicting statements.

The foreign news is unimportant. In France Marshal Soult's resignation of the Ministry of War has been accepted, and a general Saint Yon appointed his successor.

The remarkable change in the tone of the ministerial newspapers, regarding O'Connell and the Repeal Conspiracy, has excited general attention in Ireland.

Elopement in High Life.—The papers are full of details connected with the elopement of Lady Adela Villiers, daughter of the Earl of Jersey, with Capt. Ibbeston. The lady is eighteen, the gentleman six and twenty. The elopement was planned at Brighton. The lovers made their way to Gretna Green, the usual rendezvous of fugitive lovers, where they were married.

A young lady at Clifton, near Bristol, heiress to a fortune of £15,000, eloped a few days ago with a gallant gay lothario many years her senior.

OBITUARY.—In county Roscommon, Ireland, the Hon. and Rev. Lord Hartland, in his 73rd year.

At his seat, High Cliff, on the 6th Oct., Lord Stuart de Rothsay, formerly Ambassador at the Court of France.

The Dowager Lady Holland died in London on Monday. This is the lady that lord Byron introduced in his satire of "English Bards and Scotch Reviewers."

THE NAVY.—Captain Henry Byam Martin, C.B., son of Admiral Byam Martin, has been appointed to the command of that noble 50-gun frigate the Grampus, razeed at Woolwich by Mr. Olive Lang, the master shipwright. She will have a complement of 500 men, and when ready will proceed to the Pacific, to join the squadron under Rear-Admiral Sir George Seymour. Capt. Martin was posted in 1828, for his services at Navarino, in which battle he commanded the Musquito sloop.

The Retribution, steam-frigate, Captain Lushington, will most probably, when ready, proceed to the Pacific to join the squadron under the orders of Rear Admiral Sir G. Seymour.

IRELAND.—The state of the potato crop continues to be an anxious, indeed, an absorbing feeling, not only with the people of Ireland, but with the whole of the three kingdoms. Several meetings of the noblemen and gentlemen have been held in the Irish metropolis, and elsewhere, to carry out measures for meeting the emergency. At one on Friday week, in the Music-hall, Dublin, the Lord Mayor presiding, a committee was appointed to co-operate with the Mansion house Committee, and to wait upon the Lord-Lieutenant. At this meeting Admiral Oliver impressed upon all present the necessity of applying the repeal rent to the purchase of food for the people. This was very unpalatable to Mr. O'Connell, who assured the speaker that *his* portion of the rent should be returned to him; but the chairman interfered, and interdicted politics. Accordingly, a deputation from the combined committees proceeded to the Vice-Regal Lodge, in the Phœnix Park, where the following resolutions were submitted to Lord Heytesbury:—

'1. That sufficient evidence of the imminence of famine exists to render it necessary for the Government to take immediate steps to provide food for the people.

'2. That the best mode of distributing such food will be by the encouragement of public works of national and local utility.

'3. That the Lord-Lieutenant be called upon to open the ports for the reception of all articles suited for human food.

'4. That the Lord-Lieutenant be also called upon to take measures to prevent the exportion of corn from Ireland.

'5. That the Lord-Lieutenant be called upon to take measures for the establishment of public granaries, in convenient situations, into which grain shall be received and receipts given for the same at the current prices; and that in the event of famine being averted from this country, the owners of grain so stored shall be permitted to dispose of it at any higher prices that it may be possible to realize in other markets.

'6. That the propriety of stopping the distillation of spirits from grain be submitted to the consideration of Government.

'7. That the Lord-Lieutenant be requested to take measures for raising at least a million in aid of the purposes recommended; and that the payment of the interests and principal be secured upon the receipts of the Commissioners of Woods and Forests in Ireland.'

The Bank of Ireland has advanced its discounts to four per cent. on English, and five per cent. on Irish bills.

Reports multiply and strengthen, that there is a disease among the sheep and cattle in Ireland; in some parts of Wicklow and Kildare the flocks are said to be dying fast.

The landlords of Kerry have collected £8000 for the relief of the peasantry in that county. Lord Kenmare contributed £3000; Mr. Herbert, of Muckross, £1500; Mr. John O'Connell, of Grena, brother to 'the Liberator,' £500.

Some of the Irish journals publish a clever imitation of O'Connell's style, in a letter in which he states that he will not exact the 'rent' this year; on the contrary, he will give £500 to the suffering peasantry. Many persons regarded the letter as genuine, and hoped that it was so.

The meeting of the Repeal Association on the 3rd inst. was 'stale, flat, and unprofitable.' Mr O'Connell and most of the other speakers touched upon the potato disease, the most practical suggestions respecting which came from Mr. Smith O'Brien, who desired, by letter, that a prize might be offered by the association for the best means of arresting the rot. The rent for the week was £386

ITALY.—It appears that the spirit of insurrection is not dead. There were outbreaks in the Papal States, which have been suppressed. It is said that the Continental Powers have represented to the Pope the necessity of adopting a milder rule over his subjects.

RUSSIA.—The latest news from the Caucasus is not of a more favourable character than had previously been received. The Emperor is in Italy, with his wife and daughter, and during his absence nothing of importance can be transacted.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.—By the steamer *Robert Rankin*, from Boston, we received files of Boston and New York papers, containing the Message of President Polk to the United States Congress. We have furnished our readers with the most interesting portions of the Message, which was communicated to Congress on Tuesday last. The language of the President, with respect to the Oregon question, will, we apprehend, produce much excitement in Great Britain; he will there find, that his claims to the *whole territory!*—particularly after the repeated *American* offers of compromise—will be met by the British Government and people with a becoming *national* spirit. Mr. Polk will not be allowed to have it quite his own way.—He recommends forthwith giving to England the required year's notice of the termination of the joint occupancy of the territory, prior to exercising exclusive jurisdiction over it.—The President is likewise disposed to be a little crusty with both France and England, on the score of alleged opposition by the Governments of those countries to the annexation of Texas.

The views of the President on the Tariff question, and more particularly such as relate to the "protective" system, which we have also given, appear to comport with those of a large and influential mass of the American people, and are such as were anticipated would be advanced by the President. The reduction recommended, if carried, will be very acceptable to Great Britain and other European nations.

The Hon. John M. Davis, (Locofoco,) of Indiana, was chosen Speaker of the House of Representatives, on the first ballot, by a large majority.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.—Mr. Till delivered a very interesting Lecture on "Poland," last evening, to a large and attentive audience.

The Courier says—"We are much gratified in learning that the Board of Directors of this Institution have, in consideration of the excellence of the Lecture delivered by the Rev. Mr. Wishart, last Monday evening, on "The Peculiarities of Science," requested him to repeat the delivery of the Lecture *next Friday evening*, and that the Rev. gentleman has kindly acceded to the request. Many who were prevented from attending last Monday evening by the unpleasantness of the weather, or by other necessary engagements, will thus have an opportunity of hearing one of the best Lectures ever delivered in the Hall of the Institute."

☞ We refer our readers to Mr. Sharp's advertisement in another column, of a "Philosophical Entertainment and Splendid Exhibition," to be given at the Mechanics' Institute, on Thursday evening next. A rare treat may be anticipated.

☞ We understand that the Anniversary of the New Brunswick Auxiliary BIBLE SOCIETY will be held about the 7th or 8th of January next.

LORD METCALFE, Governor General of Canada, &c. has taken his departure for England, in the steamer Britannia, accompanied by Dr. Crawford, and five military gentlemen. He left Montreal on the 26th ult., the particulars of which are given below.—The New York Albion remarks:

"We cannot view the departure of this great and good man without the strongest feelings of sorrow and regret. His loss to the public service is great, and the loss to the province still more so; it is indeed a misfortune, that the province should be deprived of one who has done so much for it—who has been able to reconcile parties—allay animosities, and bring about a state of tranquillity that has not before existed in a whole generation."

MONTREAL, Nov. 26.

DEPARTURE OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.—The Mayor and Council met, as previously arranged, soon after eight o'clock this morning, at the Exchange News Room, St. Joseph Street, whence they proceeded to the wharf, accompanied by a large body of the citizens, to await the arrival of His Excellency. Notwithstanding the extreme coldness of the morning, as the hour drew nigh, the whole line of route by which His Excellency was expected, from Monklands, commencing at the Hay market, became crowded with people of all classes, who assembled on the wharf and quays, anxious to testify the regard in which His Excellency was held by individuals of all ranks and denominations.

The streets were lined with the military, from the Hay-market to the point of embarkation. The 93rd Highlanders were stationed in open column from the Hay-market, along Great St. James' street to the Place d'Armes, from whence the line was continued by the 52nd Light Infantry, down to the wharf, where a guard of honor, for the reception of His Excellency, selected from the latter Regiment was stationed. Four pieces of Artillery were placed on the wharf opposite the Barracks, from