

recent date, a Minister Plenipotentiary from the Hanseatic Republics of Hamburg, Lubbeck, and Bremen, has been received, charged with a special mission for the negotiation of a Treaty of Amity and Commerce between that ancient and renowned League and the United States. This negotiation has accordingly been commenced, and is now in progress, the result of which will, if successful, be also submitted to the Senate for their considerations.

Since the accession of the Emperor Nicholas to the Imperial throne of all the Russias, the friendly dispositions towards the United States, so constantly manifested by his predecessor, have continued unabated, and have been recently testified by the appointment of a Minister Plenipotentiary to reside at this place. From the interest taken by this Sovereign in behalf of the suffering Greeks, and from the spirit with which others of the great European Powers are co-operating with him, the friends of freedom and of humanity may indulge the hope, that they will obtain relief from that most unequal of conflicts, which they have so long and so gallantly sustained. That they will enjoy the blessing of self-government, which, by their sufferings in the cause of liberty, they have richly earned; and that their independence will be secured by those liberal institutions, of which their country furnished the earliest examples in the history of mankind, and which have consecrated to immortal remembrance the very soil for which they are now again profusely pouring forth their blood. The sympathies which the People and Government of the United States have so warmly indulged with their cause, have been acknowledged by their Government, in a letter of thanks, which I have received from their illustrious President, a translation of which is now communicated to Congress, the Representatives of that nation to whom this tribute of gratitude was intended to be paid, and to whom it was justly due.

In the American hemisphere, the cause of freedom and Independence has continued to prevail; and if signalized by none of those splendid triumphs which had crowned with glory some of the preceding years, it has only been from the banishment of all external force against which the struggle had been maintained. The shout of victory has been superseded by the expulsion of the enemy over whom it could have been achieved. Our friendly wishes and cordial good will, which have constantly followed the Southern nations of America in all the vicissitudes of their war of Independence, are succeeded by a solicitude, equally ardent and cordial, that, by the wisdom and purity of their institutions, they may secure to themselves the choicest blessings of social order, and the best rewards of virtuous liberty. Disclaiming alike all right and all intention of interfering in those concerns which it is the prerogative of their Independence to regulate as to them shall seem fit, we hail with joy every indication of their prosperity, of their harmony, of their persevering and inflexible homage to those principles of freedom and of equal rights, which are alone suited to the genius and temper of the American nations. It has been therefore with some concern that we have observed indications of intestine divisions in some of the Republics of the South, and appearances of less union with one another, than we believe to be the interests of all. Among the results of this state of things has been that the Treaties concluded at Panama do not appear to have been ratified by the contracting parties, and that the meeting of the Congress at Tacubaya has been indefinitely postponed. In accepting the invitations to be represented at this Congress, while a manifestation was intended on the part of the United States, of the most disposition friendly towards the Southern Republics by whom it had been proposed, it was hoped that it would furnish an opportunity for bringing all the nations of this hemisphere to the common acknowledgment and adoption of the principles, in the regulation of their international relations, which would have secured a lasting peace & harmony between them, and have promoted the cause of mutual benevolence throughout the globe. But as obstacles appear to have arisen to the re-assembling of the Congress, one of the two Ministers commissioned on the part of the United States has returned to the bosom of his country, while the Minister charged with the ordinary mission to Mexico remains authorized to attend at the conferences of the Congress whenever they may be resumed.

A hope was for a short time entertained, that a Treaty of Peace, actually signed between the Governments of Buenos Ayres and Brazil, would supersede all further occasion for those collisions between belligerent pretensions and neutral rights, which are so commonly the result of maritime war, and which have unfortunately disturbed the harmony of the relations between the United States and the Brazilian Governments. At their last session, Congress were informed that some of the Naval officers of that Empire had advanced and practised up-

on principles in relation to blockades and to neutral navigation, which we could not sanction, and which our commanders found it necessary to resist. It appears that they have not been sustained by the Government of Brazil itself. Some of the vessels, captured under the assumed authority of these erroneous principles, have been restored; and we trust that our just expectations will be realized, that adequate indemnity will be made to all the citizens of the U. States who have suffered by the unwarranted captures which the Brazilian tribunals themselves have pronounced unlawful.

In the diplomatic discussions at Rio de Janeiro, of these wrongs, sustained by citizens of the United States, and of others which seemed as if emanating immediately from that Government itself, the Charge d'Affaires of the United States, under an impression that his representations in behalf of the rights and interests of his countrymen were totally disregarded and useless, deemed it his duty, without waiting for instructions, to terminate his official functions, to demand his passports, and return to the United States. This movement, dictated by an honest zeal for the honor and interests of his country; motives which operated exclusively upon the mind of the officer who resorted to it, has not been disapproved by me. The Brazilian Government, however, complained of it as a measure for which no adequate intentional cause had been given by them; and upon an explicit assurance, through their Charge d'Affaires, residing here, that a successor to the late Representative of the United States near that Government, the appointment of whom they desired, should be received and treated with the respect due to his character, and that indemnity should be promptly made for all injuries inflicted on citizens of the United States or their property, contrary to the laws of nations, a temporary commission as Charge d'Affaires to that country has been issued, which it is hoped will entirely restore the ordinary diplomatic intercourse between the two Governments, and the friendly relations between their respective nations.

Turning from the momentous concerns of our Union, in its intercourse with foreign nations, to those of the deepest interest in the administration of our internal affairs, we find the revenues of the present year corresponding as nearly as might be expected to the anticipations of the last, and presenting an aspect still more favorable in the promise of the next. The balance in the Treasury, on the first of January last, was six millions three hundred and fifty-eight thousand six hundred and eighty-six dollars and eighteen cents. The receipts from that day to the 30th of September last, as near as the returns of them yet received can show, amount to sixteen millions eight hundred and eighty-six thousand five hundred and eighty-one dollars and thirty-two cents. The receipts of the present quarter estimated at four millions five hundred and fifteen thousand, added to the above, form an aggregate of twenty-one millions four hundred thousand dollars of receipts. The expenditures of the year may perhaps amount to twenty-two millions three hundred thousand dollars, presenting a small excess over the receipts. But, of these twenty-two millions, upwards of six have been applied to the discharge of the principal of the public debt; the whole amount of which, approaching seventy four millions on the first of January last, will, on the first day of next year, fall short of sixty-seven millions and a half. The balance in the Treasury, on the first of January next, it is expected will exceed five millions four hundred and fifty thousand dollars; a sum exceeding that of the first of January, 1825, though falling short of that exhibited on the first of January last.

It was foreseen that the revenue of the present year would not equal that of the last, which had itself been less than that of the next preceding year. But the hope has been realized which was entertained, that these deficiencies would in no wise interrupt the steady operation of the discharge of the public debt, by the annual ten millions devoted to that object by the Act of 3d March, 1817.

The amount of duties secured on merchandise imported from the commencement of the year until the 30th of September last, is twenty-one millions two hundred and twenty-six thousand, and the probable amount of that which will be secured during the remainder of the year, is five millions seven hundred and seventy-four thousand dollars; forming a sum total of twenty-seven millions. With the allowances for drawbacks, and contingent deficiencies which may occur, though not specifically foreseen, we may safely estimate the receipts of the ensuing year at twenty-two millions three hundred thousand dollars; a revenue for the next, equal to the expenditure of the present year.

The deep solicitude felt by our citizens of all classes throughout the Union for the total discharge of the public debt, will apologize for the earnestness with which I deem it my duty to urge this topic upon the consideration of Congress—of recommending to them again the observance of the strictest economy in

the application of the public funds. The depression upon the receipts of the revenue which had commenced with the year 1824, continued with increased severity during the two first quarters of the present year. The returning tide began to flow with the third quarter, and so far as we can judge from experience, may be expected to continue through the course of the ensuing year. In the meantime, an alleviation from the burden of the public debt will, in three years, have been effected, to the amount of nearly sixteen millions, and the charge of annual interest will have been reduced upwards of one million. But among the maxims of political economy which the Stewards of the public moneys should never suffer without urgent necessity to be transcended, is that of keeping the expenditures of the year within the limits of its receipts. The appropriations of the two last years, including the yearly ten millions of the sinking fund, have each equalled the promised revenue of the ensuing year. While we foresee with confidence that the public coffers will be replenished from the receipts, as fast as they will be drained by the expenditures, equal in amount to those of the current year, it should not be forgotten that they could ill suffer the exhaustion of larger disbursements.

The condition of the Army, and of all the branches of the public service under the superintendence of the Secretary of War, will be seen by the report from that officer, and the documents with which it is accompanied.

During the course of the last summer, a detachment of the Army has been usefully and successfully called to perform their appropriate duties. At the moment when the Commissioners appointed for carrying into execution certain provisions of the Treaty of August 19th, 1825, with various tribes of the North-western Indians, were about to arrive at the appointed place of meeting, the unprovoked murder of several citizens, and other acts of unequivocal hostility, committed by a party of the Winnebago tribe, one of those associated in the Treaty, followed by indications of a menacing character, among other tribes of the same region, rendered necessary an immediate display of the defensive and protective force of the Union in that quarter. It was accordingly exhibited by the immediate and concerted movements of the Governors of the State of Illinois and of the Territory of Michigan, and competent levies of militia under their authority, with a corps of seven hundred men of United States troops, under the command of General Atkinson, who at the call of Governor Cass, immediately repaired to the scene of danger, from their station at St. Louis. Their presence dispelled the alarms of our fellow-citizens on those borders, and overawed the hostile purposes of the Indians. The perpetrators of the murders were surrendered to the authority and operation of our laws, and every appearance of purposed hostility from those Indian tribes has subsided.

Although the present organization of the Army, and the administration of its various branches of service, are upon the whole, satisfactory, they are yet susceptible of much improvement in particulars, some of which have been heretofore submitted to the consideration of Congress, and others are now first presented in the Report of the Secretary of War.

The expediency of providing for additional numbers of officers in the two Corps of Engineers will, in some degree, depend upon the number and extent of the objects of national importance upon which Congress may think it proper that surveys should be made, conformably to the act of the 30th of April, 1824. Of the surveys which, before the last session of Congress, had been made under the authority of that act, reports were made:

1. Of the Board of Internal Improvement, on the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal.
2. On the continuance of the National Road from Cumberland to the tide waters within the District of Columbia.
3. On the continuance of the National Road from Canton to Zanesville.
4. On the location of the National Road from Zanesville to Columbus.
5. On the continuance of the same Road to the Seat of Government in Missouri.
6. On a Post Road from Baltimore to Philadelphia.
7. Of a survey of Kennebec river, (in part.)
8. On a National Road from Washington to Buffalo.
9. On the survey of Saugatuck harbor and river.
10. On a Canal from Lake Pontchartrain to the Mississippi river.
11. On surveys at Edgartown, Newburyport, and Hyannis harbor.
12. On survey of La Plaisance Bay, in the Territory of Michigan.

And reports are now prepared, and will be submitted to Congress:

On surveys of the Peninsula of Florida, to ascertain the practicability of a canal to connect the waters of the Atlantic with the Gulf of Mexico, across that Peninsula; and also, of the country between the Bays of Mobile and of Pen-

sacola, with the view of connecting them together by a canal;

On surveys of a route for a canal to connect the waters of James and Great Kenhawa rivers;

On the survey of the Swash in Pamlico Sound, and that of Cape Fear below the town of Wilmington, in North Carolina;

On the survey of the Muscle Shoals, in the Tennessee river, and for a route for a contemplated communication between the Hiwassee and Coosa rivers, in the State of Alabama.

Other reports of surveys, upon objects pointed out by the several acts of Congress of the last and preceding sessions, are in the progress of preparation, and most of them may be completed before the close of this session. All the officers of both corps of Engineers, with several other persons duly qualified, have been constantly employed upon these services, from the passage of the act of 30th April, 1824, to this time. Were no other advantage to accrue to the country from their labours than the fund of topographical knowledge which they have collected and communicated, that alone would have been a profit to the Union more than adequate to all the expenditures which have been devoted to the object; but the appropriations for the repair and continuance of the Cumberland Road, for the construction of various other roads, for the removal of obstructions from the Rivers and Harbors, for the erection of Light-houses, Beacons, Piers, and Buoys, and for the completion of Canals undertaken by individual associations, but needing the assistance of means and resources more comprehensive than individual enterprise can command, may be considered rather as treasures laid up from the contributions of the present age, for the benefit of posterity, than as unrequited applications of the accruing revenues of the nation. To such objects of permanent improvement to the condition of the country, of real addition to the wealth as well as to the comfort of the People by whose authority and resources they have been effected, from three to four millions of the annual income of the nation have, by laws enacted at the three most recent sessions of Congress, been applied, without trenching upon the necessities of the Treasury; without adding a dollar to the taxes or debts of the community; without suspending even the steady and regular discharge of the debts contracted in former days, which, within the same three years, have been diminished by the amount of nearly sixteen millions of dollars.

The same observations are, in a great degree, applicable to the appropriations made for fortifications upon the coasts and harbors of the United States, for the maintenance of the Military Academy at West Point, and for the various objects under the superintendence of the Department of the Navy. The Report of the Secretary of the Navy, and those from the subordinate branches of both the Military Departments, exhibit to Congress, in minute detail, the present condition of the public establishments dependent upon them, the execution of the acts of Congress relating to them, and the views of the officers engaged in the several branches of the service, concerning the improvements which may tend to their perfection. The fortification of the Coasts, and the gradual increase and improvement of the Navy, are parts of a great system of national defence, which has been upwards of ten years in progress, and which, for a series of years to come, will continue to claim the constant and persevering protection and superintendence of the legislative authority. Among the measures which have emanated from these principles, the Act of the last Session of Congress for the gradual improvement of the Navy, holds a conspicuous place. The collection of timber for the future construction of vessels of war; the preservation and reproduction of the species of timber peculiarly adapted to that purpose; the construction of Dry Docks for the use of the Navy; the erection of a Marine Railway for the repair of the public ships; and the improvement of the Navy Yards for the preservation of the public property deposited in them; have all received from the Executive the attention required by that Act, and will continue to receive it, steadily proceeding towards the execution of all its purposes. The establishment of a Naval Academy, furnishing the means of theoretic instruction to the youths who devote their lives to the service of their country upon the ocean, still solicits the sanction of the Legislature. Practical seamanship and the art of navigation may be acquired upon the cruises of the squadrons which from time to time, are despatched to distant seas; but a competent knowledge, even of the art of ship building, the higher mathematics and astronomy; the literature which can place our officers on a level of polished education with the officers of other maritime nations; the knowledge of the laws, municipal and national, which in their intercourse with foreign States and their Governments, are continually called into operation; and above all, that acquaintance with the princi-

ples of honor and justice, with the higher obligations of morals, and of general laws, human and divine, which constitute the great distinction between the warrior patriot, and the licensed robber and pirate; these can be systematically taught and eminently acquired only in a permanent school, stationed upon the shore, and provided with the teachers, the instruments, and the books, conversant with and adapted to the communication of the principles of these respective sciences to the youthful and inquiring mind.

The report from the Postmaster General exhibits the condition of that department, as highly satisfactory for the present, and still more promising for the future. Its receipts for the year ending the first of July last, amounted to one million four hundred and seventy-three thousand five hundred and fifty-one dollars, and exceeded its expenditures by upwards of one hundred thousand dollars. It cannot be an over sanguine estimate to predict that, in less than ten years, of which one half have elapsed, the receipts will have been more than doubled. In the mean time, a reduced expenditure upon established routes has kept pace with increased facilities of public accommodation, and additional services have been obtained at reduced rates of compensation. Within the last year the transportation of the mail in stages has been greatly augmented. The number of Post Offices has been increased to seven thousand; and it may be anticipated that, while the facilities of intercourse between fellow citizens, in person or by correspondence, will soon be carried to the door of every village in the Union, a yearly surplus of revenue will accrue which may be applied as the wisdom of Congress, under the exercise of their constitutional powers, may devise for the further establishment and improvement of the public roads, or by adding still further to the facilities in the transportation of the mails. Of the indications of the prosperous condition of our country, none can be more pleasing than those presented by the multiplying relations of personal and intimate intercourse between the citizens of the Union dwelling at the remotest distances from each other.

Among the subjects which have heretofore occupied the earnest solicitude and attention of Congress, is the management and disposal of that portion of the property of the Nation which consists of the public lands. The acquisition of them, made at the expense of the whole Union, not only in treasure but in blood, marks a right of property in them equally extensive. By the report and statements from the General Land Office, now communicated, it appears that, under the present Government of the United States, a sum little short of thirty three millions of dollars has been paid from the common Treasury for that portion of this property which has been purchased from France and Spain, and for the extinction of the aboriginal titles. The amount of lands acquired is near two hundred and sixty millions of acres, of which, on the first of January, 1826, about one hundred and thirty nine millions of acres had been surveyed, and little more than nineteen millions of acres had been sold. The amount paid into the Treasury by the purchasers of the lands sold is not yet equal to the sum paid for the whole, but leaves a small balance to be refunded; the proceeds of the sales of the lands have long been pledged to the creditors of the Nation; a pledge from which we have reason to hope that they will in a very few years be redeemed. The system upon which this great National interest has been managed was the result of long, anxious, and persevering deliberation; matured and modified by the progress of our population, and the lessons of experience, it has been hitherto eminently successful. More than nine-tenths of the lands still remain the common property of the Union, the appropriation and disposal of which are sacred trusts in the hands of Congress. Of the lands sold, a considerable part were conveyed under extended credits, which in the vicissitudes and fluctuations in the value of lands, and of their produce, became oppressively burdensome to the purchasers. It can never be the interest or the policy of the Nation to wring from its own citizens the reasonable profits of their industry and enterprise, by holding them to the rigorous import of disastrous engagements. In March, 1821, a debt of twenty-two millions of dollars, due by purchasers of the public lands, had accumulated, which they were unable to pay. An act of Congress, of the 2d of March, 1821, came to their relief, and has been succeeded by others; the latest being the act of the 4th of May, 1826, the indulgent provisions of which expired on the 4th of July last. The effect of these laws has been to reduce the debt from the purchasers, to a remaining balance of about four millions three hundred thousand dollars due; more than three-fifths of which are for lands within the state of Alabama. I recommend to Congress the revival and continuance, for a further term, of the beneficial accommodation to the public debtors, of that statute, and submit to their consideration, in the same spirit of equity, the remission, under proper discriminations, of the forfeitures of partial payments on account of purchasers of the public lands, so far as to allow of their application to other payments.

There are various other subjects, of deep interest to the whole Union, which have heretofore been recommended to the consideration of Congress, as well by my predecessors, as under the impression of the duties devolving upon me, by myself. Among these are the debt, rather of justice than gratitude, to the surviving warriors of the Revolutionary War, the extension of the Judicial Administration of the Federal Government to those extensive and important members of the Union, which, having risen into existence since the organization of the present Judiciary establishment, now constitute at least one-third of its territory, power, and population the formation of a more effective and uniform system for the government of the Militia; and amelioration, in some form or modification of the diversified and often oppressive codes relating to insolvency. Amidst the multiplicity of topics of great im-