

ment established for the territory northwest of the Ohio by the ordinance of 1787. If, however, it is deemed best to continue the existing form of local government, I recommend that the right to vote, hold office, and sit on juries in the Territory of Utah be confined to those who neither practice nor uphold polygamy. If thorough measures are adopted it is believed within a few years the evils which now afflict Utah will be eradicated, and this Territory will in good time be one of the most prosperous and attractive of the new States of the Union.

#### RELATIONS WITH GREAT BRITAIN.

Our relations with all foreign countries have been those of undisturbed peace, and have presented no occasion for concern as to their continued maintenance. My anticipation of an early reply from the British government to the demand for indemnity to our fishermen for injuries suffered by that industry at Fortune Bay in January, 1878, which I expressed in my last annual message, was disappointed. This answer was received only in the latter part of April in the present year, and when received exhibited a failure of accord between the two governments as to measures of in-shore fishing privileges, secured to our fishermen by the treaty of Washington, and of such a character that I made it the subject of communication to Congress, in which I recommended the adoption of measures which seemed to me proper to be taken by this government in the maintenance of the rights accorded our fishermen under the treaty, and towards the securing of indemnity for injury these interests had suffered. A bill to carry out these recommendations was under consideration by the House of Representatives at the time of the adjournment of Congress in June last. Within a few weeks I have received a communication from Her Majesty's government renewing the consideration of the subject both of indemnity for the injuries at Fortune Bay and of the interpretation of the treaty, in which the previous correspondence had shown the two governments to be at variance. Upon both these topics a disposition towards a friendly agreement is manifested by the recognition of our right to indemnity for the transaction at Fortune Bay, leaving the measure of such an indemnity to a further conference, and by an assent to the views of this government presented in the previous correspondence, that the regulation of the conflicting interests of the shore fishery of the provincial sea coasts and the vessel fishery of our fishermen, should be made the subject of conference and concurrent arrangement between the two governments. I sincerely hope a basis may be found for a speedy adjustment of the various views on the interpretation of the fishery clauses of the treaty of Washington, which, as the correspondence between the two governments stood at the close of the last session of Congress, seemed irreconcilable.

#### AUSTRIAN EXPOSITIONS.

In the important exhibition of arts and industries which was held last year at Sydney, New South Wales, as well as in that now in progress at Melbourne, the United States have been efficiently and honorably represented. Exhibitors from this country at the former place received a large number of awards in some of the most considerable departments and the participation of the United States was recognized by special mark of distinction. In the exhibition at Melbourne the share taken by our country is no less notable and an equal degree of success is confidently expected.

#### RELATIONS WITH FRANCE, SPAIN, ETC.

The state of peace and tranquility now enjoyed by all the nations of the continent of Europe has its favorable influence upon our diplomatic and commercial relations with them. We have concluded and ratified a convention with the French republic for the settlement of claims of the citizens of one country against the other. Under this convention a commission, presided over by a distinguished publicist, appointed in pursuance of the request of both nations, by his Majesty, the Emperor of Brazil, has been organized and has begun its session in this city. A congress to consider means for the protection of industrial property has recently been in session in Paris, to which I have appointed the ministers of the United States in France and Belgium as

delegates. The international commission upon weights and measures also continues the work in Paris. I invite your attention to the necessity for an appropriation to be made to enable this government to comply with the obligations under the metrical convention. Our friendly relations with the German Empire continue without interruption. At a recent international exhibition of fish and fisheries at Berlin, the participation of the United States, notwithstanding the haste with which the commission was forced to make its preparations, was extremely successful and meritorious, winning for private exhibitors numerous awards of high class, and for the country at large the principal prize of honor offered by His Majesty the Emperor. The result of this great success cannot but be advantageous to this important and growing industry. There have been some questions raised between the two governments as to the proper effect and interpretation of our treaties of naturalization, but recent dispatches from our Minister at Berlin show that favorable progress is making toward an understanding in accordance with the views of this government, which makes and admits no distinction whatever between the rights of native and naturalized citizens of the United States. Complaints of molestation suffered by naturalized citizens abroad have never been fewer than at present. There is nothing of importance to note in our unbroken friendly relations with the governments of Austria, Hungary, Russia, Portugal, Sweden, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey and Greece. During last summer several vessels belonging to the merchant marine of this country, sailing in neutral waters were fired at, boarded and searched by an armed cruiser of the Spanish government. The circumstances as reported involve not only private injury to the persons concerned, but also show too little observance of the friendly relations existing for a century between this country and Spain. The wrong was brought to the attention of the Spanish government in a serious protest and remonstrance, and the matter is undergoing investigation by the royal authorities, with a view to such explanation or reparation as may be called for by the facts. The commission sitting in this city for the adjudication of claims of our citizens against the government of Spain, is, I hope, approaching the termination of its labors. Claims against the United States under the Florida treaty with Spain were submitted to Congress for its action and I again invite your attention to this long standing question with a view to the final disposition of the matter. At the invitation of the Spanish government a conference has recently been held at the city of Madrid to consider the subject of protection by foreign powers of the native Moors in the empire of Morocco. The minister of the United States in Spain was directed to take part in the deliberations of this conference, the result of which is a convention signed on behalf of all the powers represented. The instrument will be laid before the Senate for its consideration. The government of the United States has also lost no opportunity to urge upon the Emperor of Morocco the necessity, in accordance with the humane and enlightened spirit of the age, of putting an end to the persecutions which have been so prevalent in that country of persons of a faith other than Moslem, and especially of the Hebrew residents of Morocco. The consular treaty concluded with Belgium is not yet officially promulgated, owing to the alteration of a word in the Senate of the United States, which occasioned delay, during which the time allowed for ratification expired. The Senate will be asked to extend the period for ratification. The attempt to negotiate a treaty of extradition with Denmark failed on account of the objection of the Danish government to the usual clause providing that each nation should pay the expense of the arrest of the prisoners whose extradition it asked.

#### RELATIONS WITH CHINA AND JAPAN

The provision was made by Congress at its last session for the expense of a commission which has been appointed to enter upon negotiations with the imperial government of China on subjects of great interest. The relations of the two countries enabled the Commissioners to proceed at once upon their mission. The Imperial Government was prepared to give prompt and respectful atten-

tion to the matters brought under negotiation and the conferences proceeded with such rapidity and progress that on the 17th of November last, two treaties were signed at Peking, one relating to the introduction of Chinese into this country, and one relating to commerce. Mr. Trescott, one of the Commissioners, is now on the way home bringing the treaties, and it is expected they will be received in season to be laid before the Senate early in January.

Our Minister in Japan has negotiated a convention for the reciprocal relief of shipwrecked seamen. I take occasion to urge once more upon Congress the propriety of making provision for the erection of suitable fire-proof buildings at the Japanese capital for the use of the American legation and the court house and jail connected with it. The Japanese government with great generosity and courtesy has offered for this purpose a piece of land.

In my last annual message I called the attention of Congress to the subject of the indemnity funds received some years ago from China and Japan. I renew the recommendation then made that whatever portions of these funds are due to American citizens should be promptly paid and the residue to the nations respectively to which they justly and equitably belong.

#### ROUMANIA.

The extradition treaty with the kingdom of Roumania which has been for some time in course of negotiation, has during the past year, been conceded and duly ratified. Relations of friendship and amity have been established between the government of the United States and that of Roumania. We have sent a diplomatic representative to Bucharest and have received at this capital a special envoy who has been charged by his royal highness prince Charles to announce the independent sovereignty of Roumania, we hope for a speedy development of commercial relations between the two countries.

#### MEXICO.

In my last annual message I expressed the hope that the prevalence of quiet on the border between this country and Mexico would soon become so assured as to justify the modification of the orders then in force to our military commanders, in regard to crossing the frontier without encouraging such disturbances as would endanger the peace of the two countries. Events moved in accordance with these expectations and the orders were accordingly withdrawn, to the entire satisfaction of our own citizens and the Mexican government. Subsequently the peace of the border was again destroyed by a savage foray under the command of Chief Victorio, but by the continued and harmonious action of the military forces of both countries his band has been broken up and substantially destroyed. There is reason to believe that the obstacles which have so long prevented rapid and convenient communication between the United States and Mexico by railways are on the point of disappearing, and that several important enterprises of this character will soon be set on foot which cannot fail to contribute largely to the prosperity of this country. New envoys from Guatemala, Colombia, Bolivia, Venezuela and Nicaragua have recently arrived at this capital, whose distinction and enlightenment affords the best guarantee of the continuance of friendly relations between ourselves and these sister republics.

#### COLOMBIA.

The relations between this government and that of the United States of Colombia have engaged public attention during the past year, mainly by reason of the prospect of an inter-oceanic canal across the Isthmus of Panama, to be built by private capital, under concessions from the Colombian government for that purpose. The treaty obligations subsisting between the United States and Colombia, by which we guarantee the nationality of the transit and sovereignty and property of the Colombian Isthmus, make it necessary that the conditions under which so stupendous a change in the region embraced by the guarantees would be effected, transforming as it would, this Isthmus from a barrier between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans into a gateway and thoroughfare between them for the navies and merchant ships of the world, should receive the approval of this government. As consistent with the discharge of these obligations on our part, and consistent with other

interests, the principal commercial power of the western hemisphere, the views which I expressed in a special message to Congress in March last in relation to this project, I deem it my duty to again press upon your attention. Subsequent consideration has but confirmed the opinion that it is the right and duty of the United States to assist and maintain such supervision and authority over any inter-oceanic canal across the isthmus, that connects North and South America, as will protect our national interest.

#### THE PERU-CHILIAN WAR.

The war between the Republic of Chili on the one hand and the allied republics of Peru and Bolivia on the other still continues. The government has not felt called upon to interfere with the belligerent rights of the parties as independent states. We have, however, always held ourselves in readiness to aid in accommodating their differences, and have at different times notified both belligerents of our willingness to render such service. Our good offices in this direction were recently accepted by all belligerents, and it was hoped they would prove efficacious, but I regret to announce that the measures which the ministers of the United States at San Diego and Lima were authorized to take, with the view to bringing about peace, were not successful. In the course of the war some questions have arisen affecting neutral rights. In all cases the ministers of the United States have, under their instructions, acted with promptness and energy in protecting American interests.

#### BRAZIL.

The relations of the United States with the Empire of Brazil continue to be most cordial, and their commercial intercourse steadily increases, to their mutual advantage.

#### ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

The internal disorders with which the Argentine Republic has for some time past been afflicted, and which have more or less influenced its external trade, are understood to have been brought to a close. This happy result may be expected to redound to the benefit of the foreign commerce of that republic, as well as to develop its vast intercourse.

#### SAMOA.

In the Samoan government, King Mailetoa, under the support and recognition of consular representatives of the United States, Great Britain and Germany, seems to have given peace and tranquility to it. While it does not appear desirable to adopt as a whole the whole the scheme of a tripartite government which has been proposed, the common interest of the three great treaty powers require harmony in their relations to the native form of government, and this may be best secured by a simple diplomatic agreement between them. It would be well if the consular jurisdiction of our representative at Apia were increased in extent and importance, so as to guard American interests in the surrounding and outlying lands of Oceania.

#### CLEOPATRA'S NEEDLE.

The obelisk generously presented by the Khedive of Egypt to the City of New York has safely arrived in this country and will be erected in the metropolis.

#### EGYPTIAN DEBT.

The commission for the liquidation of the Egyptian debt has lately concluded its work and this government, at the earnest solicitude of the Khedive, has acceded to the provisions adopted by it, which will be laid before Congress for its information.

The commission for the revision of the judicial code of the reform tribunal of Egypt is now in session in Iteria. Mr. Farman, consul general, and J. M. Batchelder, Esq., have been appointed as commissioners to participate in this work. The organization of reform tribunals will probably be continued for another period of five years.

#### SANITARY CONFERENCE.

In pursuance of the act passed at the last session of Congress an invitation has been extended to foreign maritime states to join in a sanitary conference in Washington, beginning the first of January. The acceptance of this invitation by many prominent powers gives promise of success in this important measure designed to establish a system of international notification by which the spread of infectious or epidemic diseases may be more effectively checked or prevented.

#### TRADE AND COMMERCE.

The attention of Congress is invited to the necessary appropriations for carrying into effect the statute to enlarge the trade and commerce of the United States through the active agency of consular officers, and through the dissemination of information obtained from them. There has been unrelaxed interest in these efforts, as developed in our commercial communities, and the value of the information secured by this means to the trade and manufactures of the country was recognized by Congress at its last session, and provision was made for the more frequent publication of consular and other reports by the department of state. The first issue of this publication has now been prepared and subsequent issues may regularly be expected. The importance and interest attached to the reports of consular officers are witnessed by the general demand for them by all classes of merchants and manufacturers engaged in our foreign trade. It is believed the system of such publication is deserving of approval by Congress and the necessary appropriation for its continuance and enlargement will commend itself to your consideration. Our foreign commerce invites and even requires active development. Especially important is it that our commercial relations with the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts of South America, with the West India and the Gulf of Mexico should be direct, and not through the circuit of the European system, and should be carried on in our own bottoms. Full appreciation of the opportunities which our front on the Pacific Ocean gives to commerce, with Japan, China and East Indies, with Australia and the island groups which lie along these routes of navigation, should inspire equal efforts to appropriate to our own shipping, and to administer by our own capital, due proportion of this trade. Whatever modifications of our regulations of trade and navigation may be necessary or useful to meet and direct these impulses to the enlargement of our exchange and of our carrying trade, I am sure the wisdom of Congress will be ready to supply. One initial measure, however, seems to me so clearly useful and efficient that I venture to press it upon your earnest attention. It seems to be very evident that the provision of regular steam postal communication by and from government has been the forerunner of the commercial predominance of Great Britain on all these coasts and seas, the greater part of whose trade is now the desire and intent of our people. It is also manifest that the efforts of other European nations to contend with Great Britain for a share of this commerce have been successful in proportion with their adoption of regular steam postal communication with the markets whose trade they sought. Mexico and the states of South America are anxious to receive such postal communications with this country, and aid in their development. Similar coöperation may be looked for in due time from eastern nations and from Australia. It is difficult to see how the lead in this movement can be expected from private interests. In respect to foreign commerce, quite as much as in internal trade, postal communication seems necessarily a matter to command public administration, and thus pertain to government. I respectfully recommend to your prompt attention such just and efficient measures as may conduce to the development of our foreign commercial exchange and the building up of the carrying trade.

#### PACIFIC CABLE.

In this connection I desire also to suggest the very great service which might be expected in enlarging and facilitating our commerce on the Pacific Ocean were a trans-marine cable laid from San Francisco to the Sandwich Islands, and thence to Japan at the north and Australia at the south. The great influence of such means of communication in these routes of navigation, in developing and securing a due share to our Pacific Coast of the commerce of the world, needs no illustration or enforcement. It may be that such enterprise, useful and in the end profitable as it would prove to private investment, needs to be accelerated by prudent legislation, by Congress in its aid, and I submit the matter to your careful consideration.

#### ENLARGEMENT OF THE NAVY.

An additional, and not unimportant. Continued on Page 716.