

TEXT OF PRESIDENT GRANT'S MESSAGE ON THE DOMINICAN TREATY.

The following is the text of the message of the President, in transmitting to the Senate an additional article to the treaty between the United States and the Dominican Republic of the 28th of November, 1869, for the annexation of that republic to the United States: I transmit to the Senate for consideration, with a view to its ratification, an additional article to the treaty of the 28th of November last for the annexation of the Dominican Republic to the United States, stipulating for an extension of time for exchanging the ratifications thereof, signed in this city on the 14th inst., by the plenipotentiaries of the parties. It was my intention to have also negotiated with the plenipotentiary of San Domingo amendments to the treaty of annexation to obviate objections which may be urged against the treaty as it is now worded; but on reflection, I deem it better to submit to the Senate the propriety of their amending the treaty as follows: First, to specify that the obligations of this government shall not exceed the \$1,500,000 stipulated in the treaty; secondly, to determine the manner of appointing the agents to receive and disburse the same; thirdly, to determine the class of creditors who shall have precedence in the settlement of their claims; and finally to insert such amendments as may suggest themselves to the minds of the Senators to carry out in good faith the conditions of the treaty submitted to the Senate of the United States in January last, according to the spirit and intent of that treaty. From the most reliable information I can obtain, the sum specified in the treaty will pay every just claim against the Republic of St. Domingo, and leave a balance sufficient to carry on a territorial government until such time as new laws for providing a territorial revenue can be enacted and put in force.

I feel an unusual anxiety for the ratification of the treaty, because I believe it will redound greatly to the glory of the two countries interested, to civilization, and to the extirpation of the institution of slavery. The doctrine promulgated by President Monroe has been adhered to by all political parties, and I now deem it proper to assert the equally important principle that hereafter no Territory on this continent shall be regarded as subject to transfer to a European power. The government of San Domingo has voluntarily sought this annexation. It is a weak power, numbering probably less than 120,000 souls, and yet possessing one of the richest Territories under the sun, capable of supporting a population of 10,000,000 of people in luxury. The population of San Domingo are not capable of maintaining themselves in their present condition, and must look for outside support. They yearn for the protection of our free institutions and laws, our progress and civilization. Shall we refuse them? I have information, which I believe reliable, that a European power stands ready now to offer \$2,000,000 for the possession of San Domingo Bay alone, if refused by us. With what grace can we prevent a foreign power from attempting to secure the prize?

The acquisition of St. Domingo is desirable because of its geographical position. It commands the entrance to the Caribbean Sea and the Isthmus transit of commerce. It possesses the richest soil, best and most capacious harbors, most salubrious climate, and the most valuable products of the forest, mine, and soil of the islands. Its possession by us will, in a few years, build up a coastwise commerce of immense magnitude, which will far forward restoring to us our lost merchant marine. It will give to us those articles which we consume so largely and do not produce, thus equalizing our exports and imports. In case of foreign war, it will give us command of all the islands referred to, and thus prevent an enemy from ever again possessing himself of a rendezvous upon our very coast. At present, our coast trade between the States bordering on the Atlantic and those bordering on the Gulf of Mexico is cut in two by the Bahamas and the Antilles. Since we must, as it were, pass through foreign countries to get by sea from Georgia to the west coast of Florida, St. Domingo, with a stable government under which her immense resources can be developed, will give remunerative wages to tens of thousands of laborers not now upon the island. This labor will take advantage of every available means of transportation to abandon the adjacent islands and seek the blessings of freedom and its sequence, each inhabitant receiving the reward of his own labor. Porto Rico and Cuba will have to abolish slavery as a measure of self preservation to retain their laborers. St. Domingo will become a large consumer of the products of Northern farms and manufactures. The cheap rate at which her citizens can be furnished with food, tools and machinery will make it necessary that the contiguous islands should have the same advantages in order to compete in the production of sugar, coffee, tobacco, tropical fruits, etc. This will open to us a still wider market for our products. The production of our own supply of these articles will cut off more than \$100,000,000 of our annual imports, besides largely increasing our exports. With such a picture it is easy to see how our large debt abroad is ultimately to be extinguished. With a balance of trade against us, including interest on the bonds held by foreigners and money spent by our citizens traveling in foreign lands, equal to the entire yield of the precious metals in this country, it is not so easy to see how this result is to be otherwise accomplished.

The acquisition of St. Domingo is an adherence to the Monroe doctrine. It is a measure of national protection; it is asserting our claim to a controlling influence over the great commercial traffic soon to flow from East to West by way of the isthmus of Darien; it is to build up our merchant marine; it is to furnish new markets for the products of our farms, shops and manufactures; it is to make slavery insupportable in Cuba and Porto Rico at once, and ultimately in Brazil; it is to settle the unhappy condition of Cuba, and end an exciting and costly conflict; it is to provide honest means of paying our debts with-

out overtaxing the people; it is to furnish our citizens with the necessities of every day life at cheaper rates than ever before, and it is, in fine, a rapid stride towards that greatness which the intelligence, industry and enterprise of the citizens of the United States entitle this country to assume among nations. U. S. GRANT. Executive Mansion, May 31, 1870.

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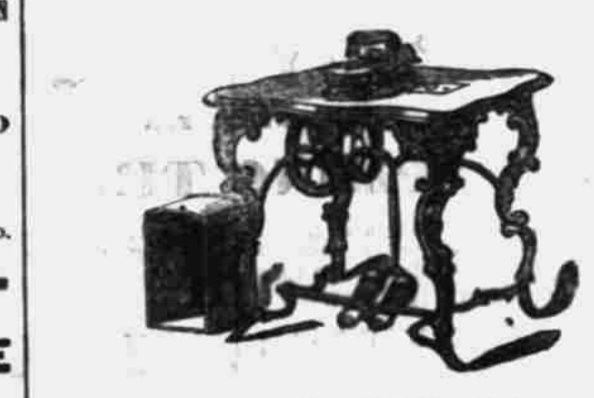
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