

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4th, 1871.

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

### Introductory.

In addressing my third annual message to the law-making branch of the government, it is gratifying to be able to state that during the past year success has generally attended the effort to execute all the laws found upon the statute books. The policy has been not to enquire into the wisdom of laws already enacted, but to learn their spirit and intent and enforce them accordingly.

### National Calamities and Generosity.

The past year has, under a wise providence, been one of general prosperity to the nation. It has, however, been attended with more than the usual chastisements in the loss of life and property by storm and fire. These disasters have served to call forth the best elements of human nature in our country, and to develop a friendship for us on the part of foreign nations which goes far towards alleviating the distress occasioned by the calamities. The benevolent who have so generously shared their means with the victims of these misfortunes, will reap their reward in the consciousness of having performed a noble act and in receiving the grateful thanks of men, women and children whose sufferings they have relieved.

### Foreign Relations.

The relations of the United States with foreign powers conduce to continued friendship. The year has been an eventful one in witnessing two great nations, speaking one language, and having one lineage, settling by peaceful arbitration disputes of long standing, and liable at any time to bring these nations into hostile conflict. An example has been set, which if successful in its final issue, may be followed by other civilized nations and be the final means of returning to productive industry millions of men maintained to settle the disputes of nations by the bayonet and broad sword.

### The Treaty of Washington.

I transmit herewith a copy of the treaty alluded to, which has been concluded since the adjournment of congress, with her Britannic majesty; and a copy of the protocol of the conferences of the commissioners by whom it was negotiated. This treaty provides methods for adjusting the questions pending between the two nations. Various questions are to be adjusted by arbitration; and I recommend congress, at an early day, to make the necessary provisions for the tribunal at Geneva, and for the several commissioners on the part of the United States called for by the treaty. His majesty the king of Italy, the president of the Swiss confederation, and his majesty the emperor of Brazil, have each consented, on the joint request of the two powers, to name an arbitrator for the tribunal at Geneva. I have caused my thanks to be suitably expressed for the readiness with which the joint request has been complied with, by the appointment of gentlemen of eminence and learning to the important positions. His majesty the emperor of Germany, has been pleased to comply with the joint wish of the two governments, and has consented to act as the arbitrator of the disputed water line between the United States and Great Britain. The contracting parties in the treaty have undertaken to regard as between themselves certain principles of public law for which the United States have contended from the commencement of their history. They have also agreed to bring these principles to the knowledge of the other marine powers, and to invite them to accede to them. Negotiations are going on as to the form of the note by which the invitation is to be extended to the powers.

### The North American Fisheries.

I recommend the legislation necessary on the part of the United States to bring into operation the articles of the treaty relating to the fisheries and to the other matters touching the relations of the United States towards the British North American possessions, to become operative as soon as the proper legislation shall be had on the part of Great Britain and its possessions. It is much to be desired that this legislation may become operative

before the fishermen of the United States begin to make their arrangements for the coming season.

### Canal Navigation.—Boundary Question.

I have addressed a communication, of which a copy is transmitted herewith, to the governors of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois and Wisconsin, urging upon the governments of those States respectively the necessary action on their part to carry into effect the object of the article of the treaty which contemplates the use of the canals on either side, connected with the navigation of the lakes and rivers forming the boundary interest of equity by the inhabitants of both countries. It is hoped that the importance of the object and the benefits to grow therefrom will secure the speedy approval and legislative sanction of the States concerned.

I renew the recommendation for an appropriation for determining the true position of the 49th parallel of latitude where it forms the boundary between the United States and the British North American possessions, between the Lake of the Woods and the summit of the Rocky Mountains. The early action of congress in the recommendation named would put it in the power of the war department to place a force in the field during the next summer.

### France, Germany, Austria, Rome.

The resumption of diplomatic relations between France and Germany has enabled me to give directions for the withdrawal of the protection extended to Germans in France by the diplomatic and consular representatives of the United States in that country. It is just to add that the delicate duty of this protection has been performed by the Minister of the consulate at Paris and the various consuls in France under the supervision of the latter, with great kindness as well as with prudence and tact. Their course has received the commendation of the German government, and has wounded no susceptibility of the French. The government of the Emperor of Germany continues to manifest a friendly feeling towards the United States and a desire to harmonize with the moderate and just policy which this government maintains in its relations with the Asiatic powers as well as with the South American republics. I have given assurance that the friendly feelings of that government are fully shared by the United States.

The ratifications of the consular and naturalization conventions, with the Austrian and Hungarian empire have been exchanged. I have been officially informed of the annexation of the states of the church to the kingdom of Italy and the removal of the capital of the kingdom to Rome. In conformity with the established policy of the United States I have recognized this change. The ratifications of the new treaty of commerce between the United States and Italy have been exchanged. The two powers have agreed in their treaty that property at sea shall be exempt from capture in case of war between the two powers. The United States have spared no opportunity of incorporating this rule into the obligations of nations.

### Cuban Claims.—Spanish and South American Affairs.

The forty-first congress at its third session made an appropriation for the organization of a mixed commission for adjudicating upon the claims of citizens of the United States against Spain, growing out of the insurrection in Cuba. That commission has since been organized. I transmit herewith the correspondence relating to its formation and its jurisdiction. It is to be hoped that the commission will afford the claimants a complete remedy for their injuries.

It has been made the agreeable duty of the United States to preside over a conference at Washington between the plenipotentiaries of Spain and the allied South American republics, which has resulted in an armistice, with the reasonable assurance of a permanent peace.

### Russia.—The Grand Duke.—Catacazy.

The intimate friendly relations which have so long existed between the United States and Russia continues undisturbed. The visit of the third son of the emperor is a proof that there is no desire on the part of his government to diminish the cordiality of these relations. The hospitable re-

ception which has been given to the grand duke is a proof that on our side we share the wishes of that government. The inexcusable course of the Russian minister at Washington rendered it necessary to ask his recall and to decline to longer receive that functionary as a diplomatic representative. It was impossible with self-respect or with a just regard to the dignity of the country, to permit Mr. Catacazy to continue to hold interviews with this government after his abuse of government officials, and during his present interference through various means with the relations between the United States and other powers. In accordance with my wishes, our government has been relieved of further intercourse with Mr. Catacazy, and the management of the affairs of the imperial nation has passed into the hands of a gentleman entirely unobjectionable.

### Japan and China.—The Korean Insult.

With Japan we continue to maintain intimate relations. The cabinet of the Mikado has, since the close of the last session of congress, selected citizens of the United States to serve in offices of importance in several departments of his government. I have reason to think that this selection is due to an appreciation of the disinterestedness of the policy which the United States have pursued towards Japan. It is our desire to continue to maintain this disinterested and just policy with China as well as Japan. The correspondence transmitted herewith shows that there is no disposition on the part of this government to swerve from its established course.

Prompted by a desire to put an end to the barbarous treatment of our shipwrecked sailors on the Korean coast, I instructed our minister at Peking to endeavor to conclude a convention with Korea for securing the safety and humane treatment of such mariners. Admiral Rogers was instructed to accompany him with a sufficient force to protect him in case of need. A small surveying party, sent out on reaching the coast, was treacherously attacked at a disadvantage. Ample opportunity was given for explanation and apology for the insult, but neither came. A force was landed. After an arduous march over a rugged and difficult country, the force from which the outrages had been committed were gallantly assaulted and were destroyed. Having thus punished the criminals and having vindicated the honor of the flag, the expedition returned, finding it impracticable, under the circumstances, to conclude the desired convention. I respectfully refer to the correspondence relating thereto, herewith submitted, and leave the subject for such action as congress may see fit to take.

### Mexico and South America.

The republic of Mexico has not yet recalled the very objectionable laws establishing what is known as the free zone on the frontier of the United States. It is hoped that this may yet be done, and also that more stringent measures may be taken by that republic, restraining lawless persons on its frontier. I hope that Mexico, by its own action, will soon relieve this government of the difficulties experienced from these causes. Our relations with various republics of Central and South America continue, with one exception, to be cordial and friendly.

I recommend some action by congress regarding the overdue installments under the award of the Venezuela claims commission of 1866. The internal dissensions of that government present no justification for the absence of effort to meet their solemn obligations.

The ratifications of all extradition treaties with Nicaragua have been exchanged.

It is a subject for congratulation that the great empire of Brazil has taken the initiatory steps toward the abolition of slavery. Our relations with that empire, always cordial, will naturally be made more so by this act. It is not too much to hope that the government of Brazil may hereafter find it for its interest, as well as internationally right, to advance toward entire emancipation more rapidly than the present act contemplates. The true prosperity and greatness of a nation is to be found in the elevation and education of its laborers. It is a subject for regret that the reforms in

this direction, which were voluntarily promised by the statement of Spain, have not been carried out in the West India colonies. The laws and regulations for the apparent abolition of slavery in Cuba and Porto Rico leave most of the laborers in bondage, with no hope of release until their lives become a burden to their employers. American slaveholders in Foreign Countries.

I desire to direct your attention to the fact that citizens of the United States are large holders in foreign lands of this species of property, forbidden by the fundamental law of their alleged country. I recommend to congress to provide, by stringent legislation, a suitable remedy against the holding, owning or dealing in slaves, or being interested in slave property in foreign lands, either as owners, hirers or mortgagees, by persons of the United States.

### Cuba.

It is to be regretted that the disturbed condition of the Island of Cuba continues to be a source of annoyance and of anxiety. The existence of a protracted struggle in such close proximity to our own territory, without apparent prospect of an early termination, cannot be other than an object of concern to a people who, while abstaining from interference in the affairs of other powers, naturally desire to see every country in the undisturbed enjoyment of peace, liberty and the blessings of free institutions. Our naval commanders in Cuban waters have been instructed, in case it should become necessary, to spare no efforts to protect the lives and property of bona fide American citizens, and to maintain the dignity of the flag. It is hoped that all pending questions with Spain, growing out of the affairs in Cuba, may be adjusted in the spirit of peace and conciliation which has hitherto guided the two powers in their treatment of such questions.

### Diplomatic Service in China and Japan.

To give importance and add to the efficiency of our diplomatic relations with Japan and China, and to further the retaining the good opinion of those people, and to secure to the United States its share of the commerce destined to flow between those nations and the balance of the commercial world, I earnestly recommend that an appropriation be made to support at least four American youths in each of those countries, to serve as a part of the official family of our ministers there. Our representatives would not even then be placed upon an equality with the representatives of Great Britain and some other powers. As now situated our representatives in Japan and China have to depend for interpreters and translators upon the natives of those countries, who know our language imperfectly, or procure for the occasion the services of employes of foreign business houses, or the interpreters of other foreign ministers.

### Steamship Subsidies.

I would also recommend liberal measures for the purpose of supporting the American line of steamers now plying between San Francisco and Japan and China, and the Australian line, almost our only remaining lines of ocean steamers, and of increasing their service.

### The Public Debt and Taxation.

The national debt has been reduced to the extent of eighty-six millions, fifty-seven thousand, one hundred and twenty-six dollars and eighty cents, during the year; and by the negotiation of national bonds at a lower rate of interest, the interest on the public debt has been so far diminished that now the sum to be raised for interest account is nearly seventeen million dollars less than on the 1st of March, 1869. It was highly desirable that this rapid diminution should take place, both to strengthen the credit of the country and to convince its citizens of their entire ability to meet every dollar of liability without bankrupting them; but in view of the accomplishment of these desirable ends, and of the rapid development of the resources of the country, its increasing ability to meet large demands, and the amount already paid, it is not desirable that the present resources of the country should continue to be taxed in order to continue this rapid payment. I therefore recommend a modification of both the tariff and internal tax laws. I recom-

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