

AND: for the United States... The decision of His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Russia, on the question submitted to him by the United States and Great Britain, concerning the construction of the first article of the treaty of Ghent, has been received. A convention has since been concluded, between the British and the Emperor of Russia, under the mediation of His Imperial Majesty, to prescribe the mode by which that article shall be carried into effect, in conformity with that decision. I shall submit this convention to the Senate for its advice and consent, as to the ratification, and, if obtained, shall immediately bring the subject before Congress, for such provisions as may require the interposition of the Legislature.

Since your last session, the prohibition which had been imposed on the commerce between the United States and the British colonies, in the West India and the West Indies, has likewise been removed. Satisfactory evidence having been adduced, that the ports of those colonies had been opened to the vessels of the U. S. by an act of the British Parliament, bearing date on the 24th of July last, on the condition that the President should direct the Secretary of State to issue a proclamation, in pursuance of the act of the last session, above recited, to declare, by proclamation, bearing date on the 24th of August last, that the ports of the U. S. should thenceforward, and until the end of the next session of Congress, be open to the vessels of Great Britain employed in that trade, under the limitation specified in that proclamation.

The Military Academy forms the basis in regard to science, on which the Military establishment rests. It furnishes annually, after due examination, and on the report of the Academic Staff, many well informed youths, to fill the vacancies which occur in the several corps of the Army, while others, who retire to private life, carry with them such attainments, as, under the right use, to the several States, to the officers and to train the Militia, will enable them to promote the great object of the power vested in Congress of providing for the arming, equipping, and disciplining the Militia. Thus, by the mutual and harmonious cooperation of the two governments in the education of a youth divided between them, the object always to be cherished, the attainment of a great result, on which our liberties may depend, cannot fail to be secured.

From the best information that I have been able to obtain, it appears that our manufactures, though depressed immediately after the war, have considerably increased, and are still increasing, under the encouragement given by the Tariff of 1816, and by subsequent laws. Satisfied I am, whatever may be the abstract doctrine in favour of unrestricted commerce, provided all nations would concur in it, and that has not been interrupted by war, which has never occurred, and cannot be expected, that there are other strong reasons applicable to our situation, and relations with other countries, which impose on us the obligation to cherish and sustain our manufactures. Satisfied, however, I likewise am, that the interest of every part of our Union, even of those most benefited by manufactures, requires that this subject should be touched with the greatest caution, and a critical knowledge of the effect to be produced by the slightest change. On full consideration of the subject, in all its relations, I am persuaded, that a further augmentation of our duties, in respect to certain foreign articles, in favour of our own, and without affecting injuriously any other interest. For more particular details, I refer you to the communications which were made to Congress during the last session.

So great was the amount of accounts for monies advanced during the late war, in addition to others of a previous date, which, in the regular operations of the government, necessarily remained unsettled, that it required a considerable length of time for their adjustment. By a report from the First Comptroller of the Treasury, it appears that on the 4th of March, 1817, the accounts then unsettled amounted to one hundred and thirty millions six hundred and eighty thousand three hundred and ninety-five dollars and fifty-six cents, and had been settled, that day, a balance unsettled of nine millions eight hundred and seventy-three thousand eight hundred and seventy-nine dollars and eighty-five cents. That there have been drawn from the Treasury, in paying the public debt, and discharging the government in all its operations and disbursements, since the 4th of March, 1817, one hundred and fifty-seven million one hundred and ninety thousand three hundred and eighty dollars and ninety six cents, the accounts for which have been settled to the amount of one hundred and thirty-seven million five hundred and one thousand four hundred and fifty-one dollars and twelve cents, leaving a balance unsettled of nineteen million six hundred and ninety-seven thousand nine hundred and eighty-four cents. For precise details respecting each of these balances, I refer to the report of the Comptroller and the documents which accompany it.

From this view, it appears that our commercial differences with France and Great Britain have been placed in a train of amicable arrangement, on conditions fair and honourable, in both instances, to each party; that our revenues are in a very productive state; our revenues are being at present fully competent to all demands upon them; our branches are well organized in all the most important services, in case of emergency; that our number will admit of that due progress has been made, under existing appropriations, in the construction of fortifications, and in the operations of the ord-

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