

Maryland Gazette.

**ANNAPOLIS:
THURSDAY, DEC. 8, 1824.**

**Washington, Dec. 6, 1824.
MESSAGE**

Of the President of the United States, communicated to the Senate and House of Representatives, at the commencement of the First Session of the Nineteenth Congress.

Fellow Citizens of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives,

In taking a general survey of the concerns of our beloved country, with reference to subjects interesting to the common welfare, the first sentiment which impresses itself upon the mind, is of gratitude to the Omnipotent Dispenser of all Good, for the continuance of the signal blessings of his Providence, and especially for that health which, to an unusual extent, has prevailed within our borders; and for that abundance which, in the vicissitudes of the seasons, has been scattered with profusion over our land. Nor ought we less to ascribe to Him the glory, that we are permitted to enjoy the bounties of His hand in peace and tranquillity; in peace with all the other nations of the earth, in tranquillity among ourselves. There has, indeed, rarely been a period in the history of civilized man, in which the general condition of the Christian Nations has been marked so extensively by peace and prosperity. Europe, with a few partial and unhappy exceptions, has enjoyed ten years of peace, during which all her Governments, whatever the theory of their constitutions may have been, are successively taught to feel that the end of their institution is the happiness of the people, and that the exercise of power among men can be justified only by the blessings it confers upon those over whom it is extended.

During the same period, our intercourse with all these nations has been pacific and friendly—it so continues. Since the close of your last session, no material variation has occurred in our relations with any one of them. In the commercial and navigation system of Great Britain, important changes of municipal regulation have recently been sanctioned by acts of parliament, the effect of which, upon the interests of other nations, and particularly upon ours, has not yet been fully developed. In the recent renewal of the diplomatic missions on both sides, between the two governments, assurances have been given and received of the continuance and increase of that mutual confidence and cordiality by which the adjustment of many points of difference had already been effected, and which affords the surest pledge for the ultimate satisfactory adjustment of those which still remain open, or may hereafter arise.

The policy of the United States, in their commercial intercourse with other nations, has always been of the most liberal character. In the mutual exchange of their respective productions, they have abstained altogether from prohibitions—they have interdicted themselves the power of laying taxes upon exports, and whenever they have favoured their own shipping, by special preferences, or exclusive privileges in their own ports, it has been only with a view to counteravail similar favours and exclusions granted by the nations with whom we have been engaged in traffic, to their own people or shipping, and to the disadvantage of ours. Immediately after the close of the last war, a proposal was fairly made by the act of Congress of the 3d of March 1815, to all the maritime nations to lay aside the system of retaliating restrictions and exclusions, and to place the shipping of both parties to the common trade, on a footing of equality, in respect to the duties of tonnage and impost. This offer was partially and successively accepted by Great Britain, Sweden, the Netherlands, the Hanseatic Cities, Prussia, Sardinia, the Duke of Oldenburg, and Russia. It was also adopted, under certain modifications, in our late commercial convention with France. And by the act of Congress of 8th January, 1824, it has received a new confirmation, with all the nations who had acceded to it, and has been offered again to all those who are, or may hereafter be, willing to abide in reciprocity by it. But all these regulations, whether established by treaty, or by municipal enactments, are still subject to one important restriction. The removal of discriminating duties of tonnage and impost, is limited to articles of the growth, produce or manufacture of the country to which the vessel belongs, or to such articles as are most usually first shipped at other ports. It will deserve the serious consideration of Congress, whether even this remnant of restriction may not be safely abandoned, and whether the general tender of equal competition made in the act of the 8th of January 1824, may not be extended to include all articles of merchandise not prohibited, of what country soever they may be the produce or manufacture. Proposals to this effect have already been made to us by more than one European government, and it is probable that if once established by legislation or com-

act with any distinguished maritime state, it would recommend itself by the experience of its advantages to the general accession of all.

The convention of commerce and navigation between the United States and France, concluded on the 24th of June 1822, was, in the understanding and intent of both parties, as appears upon its face, only a temporary arrangement of the points of difference between them, of the most immediate and pressing urgency. It was limited in the first instance, to two years, from the 1st of October 1822, but, with a proviso, that it should further continue in force till the conclusion of a general and definitive treaty of commerce; unless terminated by a notice six months in advance, of either of the parties to the other. Its operation, so far as it extended, has been mutually advantageous; and it still continues in force, by common consent. But it left unadjusted several objects of great interest to the citizens and subjects of both countries, and particularly a mass of claims, to considerable amount, of citizens of the United States upon the government of France, of indemnity for property taken or destroyed under circumstances of the most aggravated and outrageous character. In the long period during which continual and earnest appeals have been made to the equity and magnanimity of France, in behalf of these claims, their justice has not been, as it could not be, denied. It was hoped that the accession of a new Sovereign to the Throne would have afforded a favourable opportunity for presenting them to the consideration of his government. They have been presented and urged, hitherto without effect.

The repeated and earnest representations of our Minister at the Court of France, remain as yet without an answer. Were the demands of nations upon the justice of each other susceptible of adjudication by the sentence of an impartial tribunal, those to which I now refer would long since have been settled, and adequate indemnity would have been obtained.—There are large amounts of similar claims upon the Netherlands, Naples, and Denmark. For those upon Spain, prior to 1819, indemnity was, after many years of patient forbearance, obtained, and those upon Sweden have been lately compromised by a private settlement, in which the claimants themselves have acquiesced. The governments of Denmark and of Naples have been recently reminded of those yet existing against them; nor will any of them be forgotten while a hope may be indulged of obtaining justice, by the means within the constitutional power of the Executive, and without resorting to those measures of self-redress, which, as well as the time, circumstances and occasion, which may require them, are within the exclusive competency of the Legislature.

It is with great satisfaction that I am enabled to bear witness to the liberal spirit with which the republic of Colombia has made satisfaction for well-established claims of a similar character. And among the documents now communicated to Congress, will be distinguished a Treaty of Commerce and Navigation with that Republic, the ratifications of which have been exchanged since the last recess of the Legislature. The negotiation of similar treaties with all the independent South American States, has been contemplated, and may yet be accomplished. The basis of them all, as proposed by the United States, has been laid in two principles; the one of entire and unqualified reciprocity; the other the mutual obligation of the parties, to place each other permanently upon the footing of the most favoured nations. These principles are, indeed, indispensable to the effectual emancipation of the American hemisphere from the thralldom of colonizing monopolies and exclusions; an event rapidly realising in the progress of human affairs, and which the resistance still opposed in certain parts of Europe to the acknowledgment of the Southern American Republics as independent States, will, it is believed, contribute more effectually to accomplish. The time has been, and that not remote, when some of those states might, in their anxious desire to obtain a nominal recognition, have accepted of a nominal independence, clogged with burdensome conditions, and exclusive commercial privileges granted to the nation from which they have separated, to the disadvantage of all others. They are now all aware that such concessions to any European nation, would be incompatible with that independence which they have declared and maintained.

Among the measures which have been suggested to them by the new relations with one another, resulting from the recent changes of their condition, is that of assembling at the Isthmus of Panama, a Congress at which each of them should be represented, to deliberate upon objects important to the welfare of all. The republics of Colombia, of Mexico, and of Central America, have already deputed plenipotentiaries to such a meeting, and they have invited the United States to be also represented there by their ministers. The invitation has been accepted, and ministers on the part of the United States will be commissioned to

attend at those deliberations, and to take part in them so far as may be compatible with that neutrality from which it is neither our intention, nor the desire of the other American states that we should depart.

The commissioners under the 7th article of the treaty of Ghent have so nearly completed their labours, that by the report recently received from the agent on the part of the U. States, there is reason to expect that the commission will be closed at their next session, appointed for the 22d of May of the ensuing year.

The other commission, appointed to ascertain the indemnities due for slaves carried away from the U. S. after the close of the late war, have met with some difficulty, which has delayed their progress in the enquiry. A reference has been made to the British government on the subject, which it may be hoped, will tend to hasten the decision of the commissioners or serve as a substitute for it.

Among the powers specifically granted to Congress by the constitution, are those of establishing uniform laws on the subject of bankruptcies throughout the U. S. and of providing for organizing, arming and disciplining the militia, and for governing such part of them as may be employed in the service of the U. States.

The magnitude and complexity of the interests affected by legislation upon these subjects, may account for the fact, that, long and often as both of them have occupied the attention and animated the debates of Congress, no systems have yet been devised, for fulfilling, to the satisfaction of the community, the duties prescribed by these grants of power. To conciliate the claim of the individual citizen to the enjoyment of personal liberty, with the effective obligation of private contracts is the difficult problem to be solved by a law of bankruptcy.—These are objects of the deepest interest to society; affecting all that is precious in the existence of multitudes of persons, many of them in the classes, essentially dependent and helpless; of the age requiring nurture, and of the sex entitled to protection, from the free agency of the parent and the husband. The organization of the militia is yet more indispensable to the liberties of the country.—Tis only by an effective militia that we can at once enjoy the repose of peace, and bid defiance to foreign aggression; it is by the militia that we are constituted an armed nation, standing in perpetual panoply of defence, in the presence of all the other nations of the earth. To this end, it would be necessary so to shape its organization, as to give it a more united and active energy.—There are laws for establishing a uniform militia throughout the U. States, and for arming and equipping its whole body. But it is a body of dislocated members without the vigour of unity, and having little of uniformity, but the name. To infuse into this most important institution the power of which it is susceptible, and to make it available for the defence of the Union, at the shortest notice, and at the smallest expense of time, of life, and of treasure, are among the benefits to be expected from the persevering deliberations of Congress.

Among the unequivocal indications of our national prosperity, is the flourishing state of our finances.—The revenues of the present year, from all their principal sources, will exceed the anticipations of the last. The balance in the treasury, on the 1st of January last, was a little short of two millions of dollars, exclusive of two millions and a half, being the moiety of the loan of five millions, authorized by the act of 26th May, 1824. The receipts into the treasury from the first of January, to the thirtieth of September, exclusive of the other moiety of the same loan, are estimated at sixteen millions, five hundred thousand dollars; and it is expected that those of the current quarter will exceed five millions of dollars; forming an aggregate of receipts of nearly twenty-two millions, independent of the loan. The expenditures of the year will not exceed that sum more than two millions. By those expenditures, nearly eight millions of the principal of the public debt have been discharged. More than a million and a half has been devoted to the debt of gratitude to the warriors of the revolution; a nearly equal sum to the construction of fortifications, and the acquisition of ordnance, and other permanent preparatives of national defence; half a million to the gradual increase of the Navy; an equal sum for purchases of Territory from the Indians, and payment of annuities to them; and upwards of a million for objects of internal improvement, authorized by special Acts of the last Congress. If we add to these, four millions of dollars for payment of interest upon the public debt, there remains a sum of about seven millions, which have defrayed the whole expense of the Administration of Government, in its Legislative, Executive, and Judiciary Departments; including the support of the Military and Naval Establishments, and all the occasional contingencies of a Government co-extensive with the Union.

The amount of duties secured on merchandise imported, from the commencement of the year, is about twenty-five millions and a half; and that which will accrue during the current quarter, is estimated at five millions and a half; from these thirty-one millions, deducting the drawbacks, estimated at less than seven millions, a sum exceeding twenty-four millions will constitute the revenue of the year; and will exceed the whole expenditures of the year. The entire amount of public debt remaining due on the first of January next, will be short of eighty one millions of dollars. By an act of Congress of the 3d of March last, a loan of twelve millions of dollars was authorized at four and a half per cent. or an exchange of stock to that amount of four and a half per cent. for a stock of six per cent. to create a fund for extinguishing an equal amount of the public debt, bearing an interest of six per cent. redeemable in 1826. An account of the measures taken to give effect to this Act will be laid before you by the Secretary of the Treasury. As the object which it had in view has been partially accomplished, it will be for the consideration of Congress, whether the power with which it clothed the Executive should not be renewed at an early day of the present Session, and under what modifications. The Act of Congress of the 3d of March last, directing the Secretary of the Treasury to subscribe, in the name and for the use of the United States, for one thousand five hundred shares of the capital stock of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal Company, has been executed by the actual subscription for the amount specified, and such other measures have been adopted by that officer, under the Act, as the fulfilment of its intentions requires. The latest accounts received of this important undertaking, authorize the belief that it is in successful progress. The payments into the Treasury from proceeds of the sales of the Public Lands, during the present year, were estimated at one million of dollars. The actual receipts of the first two quarters have fallen very little short of that sum; it is not expected that the equal half of the year will be equally productive; but the income of the year from that source may now be safely estimated at a million and a half. The act of Congress of the 18th May, 1824, to provide for the extinguishment of the debt due to the United States by the purchasers of public lands, was limited, in its operation of relief to the purchaser, to the tenth of April last. Its effects at the end of the quarter during which it expired, was to reduce that debt from ten to seven millions. By the operation of similar prior laws of relief, from and since that of the 2d of March, 1821, the debt had been reduced, from upwards of twenty-two millions, to ten. It is exceedingly desirable that it should be extinguished altogether, and to facilitate that consummation, I recommend to Congress the revival, for one year more, of the Act of the 18th May, 1824, with such provisional modification as may be necessary to guard the public interests against fraudulent practices in the resale of the relinquished land.—The purchasers of public lands are among the most useful of our fellow citizens, and since the system of sales for cash alone has been introduced, great indulgence has been justly extended to those who had previously purchased upon credit. The debt which had been contracted under the credit sales had become unwieldy, and its extinction was alike advantageous to the purchaser and the public. Under the system of sales, matured, as has been, by experience, and adapted to the exigencies of the times, the debt will continue, as they have become, an abundant source of revenue; and when the pledge of them to the public creditor shall be redeemed by the entire discharge of the national debt, the swelling tide of wealth with which they replenish the common Treasury may be made to reflow in unending streams of improvement from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean.

The condition of the various branches of the public service resorting from the Department of War, and their administration during the current year, will be exhibited in the Report from the Secretary of War, and the accompanying documents herewith communicated.—The organization and discipline of the army are effective and satisfactory. To counteract the prevalence of desertion among the troops, it has been suggested to withhold from the men a small portion of their monthly pay, until the period of their discharge; and some expedient appears to be necessary, to preserve and maintain among the officers so much of the art of horsemanship as could scarcely fail to be found wanting, on the possible sudden eruption of a war, which should overtake us unprovided with a single corps of cavalry. The military Academy at West Point, under the restrictions of a severe but paternal superintendence, recommends itself more and more to the patronage of the nation; and the number of meritorious officers which it forms and introduces to the public service, furnishes the means of multiplying the undertakings of public improvements, to which their acquirements at that institution are peculiarly adapted. The school of Artillery practice, established at For-

ress Monroe, is well suited to the same purpose, and may need the aid of further legislative provisions to the same end. The report from the executive branches of the military service, connected with the quartermaster, clothing, subsistence, health, and discipline of those officers in the performance of their respective duties, is the faithful accountability, which pervaded every part of the system.

Our relations with the numerous tribes of aboriginal natives of the country, scattered over its extensive surface, & so dependent even for their existence, upon our power, have been during the present year highly interesting. An act of Congress of 22 May 1824, made an appropriation to defray the expenses of making treaties of trade and friendship with the Indian Tribes beyond the Mississippi. An act of 31 March, 1823, authorized Treaties to be made with the Indians for their consent to the making of a road from the frontier of Missouri that of New Mexico. And an act of the same date, provided for defraying the expenses of holding treaties with the Sioux, Chippewas, Menomenees, Sauks, Foxes, &c. for the purpose of establishing boundaries, promoting peace, between the Tribes. The first and the last objects of these Acts have been accomplished; and the second is yet in a process of execution. The treaties, which since the last session of Congress have been concluded with the several Tribes, will be laid before the Senate for their consideration, conformably to the Constitution. They comprise large and valuable acquisitions of Territory; and they secure an adjustment of boundaries, and give pledges of permanent peace between several Tribes which had been long in bloody war against each other.

On the 12th of February last, a treaty was signed at the Indian Springs between commissioners appointed on the part of the United States, and certain Chiefs and individuals of the Creek Nation of Indians which was received at the seat of Government only a few days before the close of the last session of Congress, and the late Administration. The advice and consent of the Senate was given it, on the 3d of March, too late to receive the ratification of the President of the United States, it was ratified on the 7th of March, under unsuspecting impression that it had been negotiated in good faith, and the confidence inspired by the recommendation of the Senate. The subsequent transactions in relation to it, will form the subject of a separate message.

The appropriations made by Congress, for public works as well in the construction of fortification, as for purposes of internal improvement, as far as they have been expended, have been faithfully applied. Their progress has been delayed by the want of suitable officers for superintending them. An increase of both the Corps of Engineers, Military and Topographical, was recommended by my predecessor at the last session of congress.—The reasons upon which that recommendation was founded, submitted in all their force, and have acquired additional urgency since that time. It may also be expedient to organize the Topographical Engineers into a corps similar to the present establishment of the Corps of Engineers. The Military Academy at West Point, will furnish from the Cadets annually graduated there, officers well qualified for carrying this measure into effect.

The board of Engineers for Internal Improvement appointed for carrying into execution the Act of Congress of the 30th April, 1824, to procure the necessary surveys, plans, and estimates, on the subject of roads and canals, have been actively engaged in that service from the close of the last session of Congress. They have completed the survey necessary for ascertaining the practicability of a Canal from the Chesapeake Bay to the Ohio River, and are preparing a full Report on that subject; which, when completed, will be laid before you. The same observation is to be made with regard to the two other objects of national importance, upon which the Board have been occupied; namely, the accomplishment of the National Road from this City to New Orleans, and the practicability of uniting the waters of Lake Memphrigo with the Connecticut River, and the improvement of the navigation of that River; the surveys have been made, and are nearly completed. The report may be expected at an early period during the present session of Congress.

The acts of congress of the last session relative to the surveying, marking, or laying out roads in the Territories of Florida, Arkansas and Michigan, from the Gulf of Mexico, and the continuation of the Cumberland road, and some of them, fully executed, and others in the process of execution. They for completing or commencing fortifications, have been delayed only so far as the corps of engineers has been inadequate to furnish officers for the necessary superintendance of the states of Virginia and Maryland, incorporated in the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company, three commissioners on the part of the United States have been appointed for opening books and receiving subscriptions, in concert with a number of commissioners appointed on the part of each of those states. A meeting of the commissioners has been postponed to await the definitive report of the board of engineers. The report of the board of engineers for the Cumberland road, and the most important of our commerce and mariners, the works for the security of the Plymouth Beach, and for the preservation of the islands in Boston Harbour, have received the attention required by the laws relating to those objects, respectively. The continuation of the Cumberland road, the most important of them all, after surmounting no inconsiderable difficulty in fixing upon the direction of the road, has commenced under the most promising auspices, and with the advantage of a great reduction in the comparative cost of the work.

The operation of the laws relating to revolutionary pensioners may deserve the renewed consideration of congress. The act of 18th March 1818, while it made provision for many meritorious and indigent citizens, who had served in the war of independence, opened a door to numerous abuses and impositions. To remedy this, the act of 1st May, 1820, exacted proofs of absolute indigence, which many really in want were unable, and susceptible of that delicacy which is so peculiar to veterans, to be deeply reluctant to give. The result has been, that some of the least deserving have been preferred, and some in whom the requisites both of worth and want were combined have been stricken from the list. As the numbers of these venerable relics of an age gone by diminish, as the dears of body, mind, and estate, of those that survive, must in the course of that nature increase, should not a more liberal portion of indulgence be dealt out to them? May we not, in most instances, be benefited from the demand, when the service can be duly proved; and may not the last days of human infirmity be spared the mortification of purchasing aittance of relief only by the expenditure of its own necessities? I submit to congress the expediency of either providing for individual cases of this description by special enactment, or of revisiting the act of 1st May, 1820, with a view to mitigate the rigour of its exclusions, in favour of persons to whom charity now by a sad can scarcely discharge the debt of justice.

The portion of the civil force of the Union in actual service, has been chiefly employed on three stations; the Mediterranean, the coasts of South America bordering on the Pacific Ocean; and the West-Indies. An occasional cruiser has been sent to range along the African shores most polluted by the traffic of slaves; one armed vessel has been stationed on the coast of our eastern boundary, to cruise along the fishing grounds in Hudson's Bay, and on the coast of Labrador; and the first service of a new frigate has been performed in restoring to his native soil, and domestic enjoyments, the veteran law whose youthful blood and treasure had freely flowed in the cause of our country's independence; and whose whole life had been a series of services and sacrifices to the improvement of his fellow men. The visit of Gen. La Fayette, alike honourable to himself & to our country, closed, as it had commenced, with the most affecting testimonials of devoted attachment on his part, and of unbounded gratitude of this people to him in return. It will form hereafter a pleasing incident in the annals of our Union, giving to real history the intense interest of romance, and signally marking the unpurchased tribute of a great nation's social affections to the disinterested champion of the liberties of human kind.

The constant maintenance of a small fleet in the Mediterranean is a necessary requisite for the humiliating alternative of paying tribute for the security of our commerce in that sea, and for a precarious peace, the safety of every precious of four Barbary states, by whom it was liable to be violated. An additional motive for keeping a respectable force stationed there at this time, is found in the rage of war raging between the Greeks and the Turks; and in which the neutral navigation of this Union is always in danger of outrage, and depredation. A few instances have occurred of such depredations upon our merchant vessels by pirates or pirates wearing the Grecian flag, without real authority from the Greek or any other government. The he-rcules of the Greeks themselves, in our warmest sympathies as freemen and Christians have been engaged, have been maintained with vigour, and success adverse and favorable.

Similar motives have rendered expedient the keeping of a like force on the coasts of Peru and Chili on the Pacific. The irregular and convulsive character of the war upon the shores, has been extended to the continent upon the ocean. An active warfare has been kept up for several years, with a success, though generally to the advantage of the American patriots. But their efforts have not always been under the auspices of their own governments. Blockades, unobjectionable upon any acknowledged principles of international law, have been maintained by the supreme authorities, the laws of nations, and the principles of commerce against the United States, in consequence of complaint & of the violation of our laws. Complaints of this nature have been made by the commanders of the Spanish royal

Company, three commissioners on the part of the United States have been appointed for opening books and receiving subscriptions, in concert with a number of commissioners appointed on the part of each of those states. A meeting of the commissioners has been postponed to await the definitive report of the board of engineers. The report of the board of engineers for the Cumberland road, and the most important of our commerce and mariners, the works for the security of the Plymouth Beach, and for the preservation of the islands in Boston Harbour, have received the attention required by the laws relating to those objects, respectively. The continuation of the Cumberland road, the most important of them all, after surmounting no inconsiderable difficulty in fixing upon the direction of the road, has commenced under the most promising auspices, and with the advantage of a great reduction in the comparative cost of the work.

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