the tariff; while the vigilant jealousy, evidently excited among the people by the occurrence of the last few years, assures us that they expect from their representatives, and will sustain them in the exercise of, the most rigid economy. Much can be effected by postponing appropriations not immediately required for the ordinary public service, or for any pressing emergency—and much by reducing the expenditures where the entire and immediate accomplishment of the objects in view is not indispensable.

When we call to mind the recent and extreme embarrassments produced by excessive issues of bank paper, aggravated by the unforeseen withdrawal of much foreign capital, and the inevitable derangement arrising from the distribution of the surplus revenue among the States, as required by Congress; and consider the heavy expenses incurred by the removal of Indian tribes; by the military operations in Florida; and on account of the unusual sessions of Congress for other objects; we have striking evidence, in the present efficient state of our finances, of the abundant resources of the country to fulfil all its obligations.—Nor is it less gratifying to find that the general business of the community, deeply affected as it has been, is reviving with additional vigor, chastened by the lessons of the past, and animated by the hopes of the future. By the curtailment of paper issues; by curbing the enterprise and adventurous spirit of speculation; and by the honorable application of the available means to the fulfilment of obligations, confidence has been restored both at home and abroad, and ease and facility secured to all the operations of trade.

The agency of the Government in producing these results has been as efficient as its powers and means permitted, by withholding from these states the deposite of the fourth instalment, and leaving several millions of outstanding credits with the banks principally in one section of the country, and more immediately beneficial to it, and at the same time, aiding the banks and commercial communities in the other sections, by postponing the payment of bonds for duties to the amount of between four and five millions of dollars; by a issue of Treasury notes as a measure to enable the government to meet the consequences of this indulgence, but affording at the same time facilities for remittance and exchange and by steadily declining to employ as general depositories of the public revenues, or receive the notes of all banks which refused to redeem them with specie; by these measures, aided by the favorable action of some of the banks, and by the support and co-operation of a large portion of the community we have witnessed an early resumption of specie payments in our great commercial capital, promptly followed in almost every part of the United States. This result has been alike salutary to the true interests of agriculture, commerce, and manufactures; to public morals; respect for the laws, and that confidence between man and man, which is so essential in all our social relations.

The contrast between the suspension of 1814 and that of 1837 is most striking. The short duration of the latter; the prompt restoration of business; the comfort it confers resulting from an adherence by the Government to the constitutional standard of value, instead of sanctioning the suspension by the receipt of irredeemable paper: and the advantages derived from the large amount of specie introduced into the country previous to 1837 form a valuable illustration of the true policy of the Government in such a crisis. Nor can the comparison fail to convince the impression that a national bank is necessary in such emergencies. Not only were specie payments resumed without its aid, but exchanges have also been more rapidly restored than when it existed thereby showing that private capital, enterprise, and prudence are fully adequate to these ends. On these points, experience seems to have confirmed the views heretofore submitted to Congress. We have been saved the mortification of seeing the distresses of the community for the third time seized on to fasten upon the country so dangerous an institution; and we may also hope that the business of individuals will hereafter be relieved from the injurious effects of a continued agitation of that disturbing subject. The baneful influence of a national bank in averting derangement in the exchanges of the country, or in compelling the resumption of specie payments, is now not less apparent than its tendency to increase inordinate speculations by sudden expansions and contractions; its disposition to create panic and embarrassment for the promotion of its own designs; its interference with politics; and its far greater power for evil than for good, either in regard to the local institutions or the operations of Government itself. What was in these respects but apprehension or opinion when a national bank was first established, now stands confirmed by humiliating experience. The scenes through which we have passed, conclusively prove how little our commerce, agriculture, manufactures, or finances require such an institution, and what dangers are attendant on its power—a power, I trust, never to be conferred by the American people upon their Government, and still less upon individuals not responsible to them for its unavoidable abuses.

My conviction of the necessity of future legislative provisions for the safe keeping and disbursements of the public moneys, and my opinion in regard to the measures best adapted to the accomplishment of these objects have been already submitted to you. These have been strengthened by recent events; and, in the full conviction that time and experience must still further demonstrate their propriety, I feel it my duty, with respectful deference to the conflicting views of others, again to invite your attention to them.

With the exception of limited sums deposited in the few banks still employed under the act of 1836, the amount received for duties, and, with very inconsiderable exception, those accruing from lands also, have, since the general suspension of specie payments by the deposite banks been kept and disbursed by the Treasurer, under his general legal powers, subject to the superintendence of the Secretary of the Treasury. The propriety of defining more specifically, and of regulating by law, the exercise of this wide scope of executive discretion has been already submitted to Congress. A change in the office of collector of the principal ports, has brought to public notice a defect in the general system, particularly in the case of with which I shall have occasion in a special report from the Secretary of the Treasury. By his report and the accompanying documents it will be seen that the weekly returns of the defaulting clerk apparently exhibited, throughout, a faithful discharge of the duties entrusted to his management. It, however, now appears that he concealed, by resorting the public moneys shortly after his appointment, and continued to do so, progressively increasing the amount, for the term of more than seven years, embracing a portion of the period during which the public moneys were deposited in the bank of the United States, the whole of that of the States bank deposite system, and concluding only on his retirement from office, after that system had substantially failed, in consequence of the suspension of specie payments.

The way in which this defalcation was so long concealed, and the steps taken to indemnify the United States, as far as practicable, against loss, will also be presented to you. The case is one which imperatively claims the attention of Congress, and furnishes the strongest motive for the establishment of a more severe and secure system for the safe keeping and disbursement of public moneys, than any that has heretofore existed.

It seems proper, at all events, that by an early enactment, similar to that of other countries, the application of public money by an officer of Government, to private uses, should be made a felony and visited with severe and ignominious punishment.—This is already in effect, the law in respect to the mint; and has been productive of the most salutary results. Whatever system is adopted, such an enactment would be wise as an independent measure, over much of the public moneys must, in their collection and ultimate disbursement, pass two or more through the hands of public officers, in whatever manner they are intermediately kept. The Government, it must be admitted, has been from its commencement comparatively fortunate in this respect. But the appointing power cannot always be well advised in its selections and the experience of every country has shown that public officers are not at all times proof against temptation. It is a duty therefore, which the Government owes, as well to the interest committed to its care as to the officers themselves, to provide every guard against transgressions of this character, that is consistent with reason and humanity. Congress cannot be too jealous of the conduct of those who are intrusted with the public money, and I shall at all times be disposed to encourage a watchful discharge of this duty. If a more direct co-operation on the part of Congress, in the supervision of the conduct of the officers entrusted with the custody and application of the public money is deemed desirable, it will give me pleasure to assist in the establishment of any judicious and constitutional plan by which that object may be accomplished. You will, in your wisdom, determine upon the propriety of adopting such a plan, and upon the measure necessary to its effectual execution. When the late Bank of the United States was incorporated, and made the depository of the public moneys, a right was reserved to Congress to inspect, at its pleasure by a committee of that body, the books and the proceedings of the bank. In one of the States whose banking institutions are supposed to rank amongst the first in point of stability, they are subjected to constant examination by commissioners appointed for the purpose, and much of the success of its banking system is attributed to this watchful supervision. The same course has also, in view of its beneficial operation, been adopted by an adjoining State, favorably known for the care it has always bestowed upon whatever relates to its financial concerns.

I submit to your consideration whether a committee of Congress might not be profitably employed in inspecting, at such intervals as might be deemed proper, the affairs and accounts of officers intrusted with the custody of the public moneys. The frequent performance of this duty might be made obligatory on the committee in respect to those officers who have large sums in their possession, and left discretionary in respect to others. They might report to the Executive such delinquencies as were found to exist, with a view to a prompt removal from office unless the default was satisfactorily accounted for; and report, also, to Congress, at the commencement of each session, the result of their examinations and proceedings.

It does appear to me that with a subjection of this class of public officers to the general supervision of the Executive, to examinations by a committee of Congress at periods of which they should have no previous notice, and to prosecution and punishment as for felony for every breach of trust, the safe keeping of the public moneys under the system proposed, might be placed on a surer foundation than it has ever occupied since the establishment of the Government.

The secretary of the treasury will lay before you additional information containing new details on this interesting subject. To those I ask your early attention. That it should have given rise to a great diversity of opinion cannot be a subject of surprise. After the collection and custody of the public moneys had been for so many years connected with, and made subsidiary to the advancement of private interests, a return to the simple and self-denying ordinances of the constitution could not but be difficult. But time and free discussion in electing the sentiments of the people & destroy the exorbitancy of that which has ever characterized the resorts on great emergencies, were relied upon for as satisfactory settlement of the question. Already has this anticipation on one important point at least—the impropriety of diverting public money to private purposes—been fully realized. There is no reason to suppose that legislation upon that branch of the subject would now be embarrassed by a difference of opinion, or fail to receive the cordial support of a large majority of our constituents.

The connection which formerly existed between the government and banks, was in reality, injurious to both, as well as to the general interests of the community at large. It aggravated the disasters of trade, and the derangements of commercial intercourse, and administered new excitement and additional means to wild and reckless speculations, the disappointments of which, threw the country in convulsions of panic, and all that produced violence and bloodshed. The imprudent expansion of bank credits, which was the natural result of the command of the revenues of the state, furnished the resources for unbounded license in every species of adventure, seduced industry from its regular and salutary occupations, by the hope of abundance without labor, and deranged the social state, by tempting all trades and professions into the vortex of speculation on remote contingencies.

The same wide-spreading influence impeded also the resources of the Government, curtailed its useful operations, embarrassed the fulfilment of its obligations, and seriously interfered with the execution of the laws. Large appropriations and oppressive taxes are the natural consequences of such a connection, since they increase the profits of those who are allowed to use the public funds and make it their interest that money should be accumulated and expenditures multiplied. It is thus that a concentrated money power is tempted to become an active agent in political affairs, and all past experience has shown, on which side that influence will be arrayed. We deceive ourselves if we suppose that it will ever be found asserting and supporting the rights of the community at large, in opposition to the claims of the few.

In a Government whose distinguishing characteristic should be a uniform and equalization of its services and burthens, the advantages of individuals will be augmented at the expense of the mass of the people. Nor is it the nature of combinations for the acquisition of legislative influence to confine their interference to the single object for which they were originally formed. The temptation to exert it to other matters is, on the contrary, not unfrequently too strong to be resisted. The industry in the direction of the public affairs of the community at large, is, therefore, in no slight danger of being seriously and injuriously affected by giving to a comparatively small, but very eminent class, a direct and exclusive personal interest in so important a portion of the legislation of Congress as that which relates to the custody of the public moneys. If laws acting upon private interests cannot always be avoided, they should be confined within the narrowest limits, and left, wherever possible, to the Legislatures of the States. When not thus restricted, they lead to combinations of powerful associations, losing an influence necessarily selfish, and turn the fair course of legislation to sinister ends, rather than to objects that advance public liberty, and promote the general good.

The whole subject now rests with you, and I cannot but express a hope that some definite measure will be adopted at the present session.

It will not, I am sure, be deemed out of place for me here to remark, that the declaration of my views in opposition to the policy of employing banks as depositories of the Government funds cannot justly be construed as indicative of hostility, official or personel to those institutions; or to repeat, in this form, and in connection with this subject, opinions which I have uniformly entertained, and on all proper occasions expressed. Though always opposed to their creation in the form of exclusive privileges, and, as a State magistrate, abating by appropriate legislation to secure the community against the consequences of their occasional mismanagement, I have yet ever wished to see them protected in the exercise of rights conferred by law, and have never doubted their utility, when properly managed, in promoting the interests of trade and, through that channel, the other interests of the community.—To the General Government they present themselves merely as State institutions, having no necessary connection with its legislation or its administration. Like other State establishments, they may be used or not in conducting the affairs of the Government, as public policy and the general interests of the Union may seem to require. The only safe or proper principle upon which their intercourse with the Government can be regulated, is that which regulates their intercourse with the private citizen—the conferring of mutual benefits.—When the Government can accomplish a financial operation better with the aid of the banks than without, it should be at liberty to seek that aid as it would the services of a private banker, or other capitalists or agents, giving the preference to those who will serve it on the best terms. Nor can there ever exist an interest in the officers of the General Government, as such, inducing them to embarrass or annoy the State banks any more than to secure the hostility of any other class of State institutions, or of private citizens. It is not in the nature of things that hostility to these institutions can spring from this source, or any opposition to their course of business, except when they themselves pervert, or attempt to pervert their creation, and are apt to assert powers not conferred upon them, or to subvert the standard of the constitution. While operations to their regular ends cannot exist in this quarter, resistance to any attempt to make the government dependent upon them, or the successful administration of public affairs, is a matter of duty, and I trust it never will be of inclination, no matter from what motive or consideration the attempt may originate.

It is no more than just to the banks to say, that, in the late emergency, most of the firmly resisted the strongest temptation to extend their paper issues, when apparently sustained in a suspension of specie payments by public opinion, even though in some cases made by legislative enactment. To this honorable course, aided by the forbearance of the general government, acting in obedience to the constitution and laws of the United States, to the introduction of an uniform paper medium, may be attributed in a great degree, the speedy restoration of the currency to a sound state, and the business of the country to its wonted prosperity. The banks have but to continue in the same course, and to concur in their appropriate sphere, to avoid all interference from the General Government, to derive from it all the protection and benefits which it bestows on other state institutions, on the people of the states, and on the states themselves. In this their true position, they cannot but secure the confidence and good will of the people and the Government will be they can only lose when, leaping from their legitimate sphere, they attempt to control the legislation of the country, and pervert the operations of the Government to borrowed purposes.

Our experience under the act passed at the last session to grant preemption rights to settlers on the public lands, has as yet been too limited to enable us to pronounce with safety upon the efficacy of its provisions to carry out the wise and liberal policy of the Government in that respect. There is, however, the best reason to anticipate favorable results from its operation. The recommendations formerly submitted to you, in respect to a graduation of the price of the public lands, remain to be finally acted upon. Having found no reason to change the views then expressed, your attention to them is again respectfully requested.

Every proper exertion has been made, and will be continued, to carry out the wishe of Congress in relation to the tobacco trade, as indicated in the several resolutions of the House of Representatives and the regulation of the two branches. A favorable impression has, I trust, been made in the different foreign countries to which particular attention has been directed, and although we cannot hope for an early change in their policy, as in many of them a convenient and large revenue is derived from monopolies in the fabrication and sale of this article, yet in these monopolies are really injurious to the people whose they are exercised, and the revenue derived from them may be less injuriously and with equal beauty obtained from another and a liberal system of administration, we cannot doubt that our efforts will be eventually crowned with success. If persisted in with temperate firmness, and supported with prudent legislation.

In recommending to Congress the adoption of the necessary provisions at this session to taking the next census, or enumeration of the inhabitants of the United States, the suggestion presents as if whether the scope of the measure might not be usefully extended by causing it to embrace authentic statistical returns of the great late estate especially interested in or necessarily affected by the legislation of Congress.

The accompanying report of the Secretary of War presents a satisfactory account of the state of the army and of the several branches of the public service confided to the superintendance of that officer.

The law increasing and organizing the military establishment of the United States, has been nearly carried into effect, and the army has been extensively and usefully employed during the past season.

I would again call to your notice the subjects connected with and essential to the military defences of the country, which were submitted to you at the last session; but which were not acted upon, as is supposed, for want of time. The most important of them is the organization of the militia on the maritime and inland frontiers. This measure is deemed important, as it is believed that it will furnish an effective volunteer force in aid of the regular army, and may form the basis for a general system of organization for the entire militia of the United States. The erection of a national foundry and gunpowder manufactory, and one for making small arms, the latter to be placed at some point west of the Alleghany mountains, all appear to be of sufficient importance to be again urged upon your attention.

The plan proposed by the Secretary of War for the distribution of the forces of the United States in time of peace, is well calculated to promote regularity and economy in the local administration of the service, to preserve the discipline of the troops, and to render them available for the maintenance of the peace and tranquility of the country. With this view, likewise, I recommend the adoption of the plan presented by that officer for the defence of the western frontier. The preservation of the lives and property of our fellow citizens who are settled upon that border country, as well as the existence of the Indian population, which might be tempted by our want of preparation to rush on their own destruction and attack the white settlements, all seem to require that this subject should be acted upon without delay, and the War Department authorised to place that country in a state of complete defence against any assault from the numerous and warlike tribes which are congregated on that border.

It affords me sincere pleasure to be able to apprize you of the entire removal of the Cherokee nation of Indians to their new homes west of the Mississippi. The measures authorized by Congress at its last session with a view to the long standing controversy with them, have had the happiest effects. By an agreement concluded with them by the commanding general in that country, who has performed the duties assigned to him on the occasion with commendable energy and humanity, their removal has been principally under the conduct of their own chiefs, and they have emigrated without any apparent reluctance.

The successful accomplishment of this important object; the removal, also, of the entire Creek nation, with the exception of a small number of fugitives amongst the Seminoles in Florida; the progress already made towards a speedy completion of the removal of the Chickasaws, the Choctaws, the Pottawatamies, the Otawas, and the Chippewas, with the extensive purchases of Indian lands during the present year, have rendered the speedy and successful result of the long established policy of the Government upon the subject of Indian affairs entirely certain. The occasion is, therefore, deemed a proper one to place this policy in such a point of view as will exonerate the Government of the U. States from the undeserved reproach which has been cast upon it through several successive administrations. That a mixed occupancy of the same territory, by the whites and red man, is incompatible with the safety or happiness of either, is a position in respect to which there has long since ceased to be room for a difference of opinion. Reason and experience have alike demonstrated its impracticability. The bitter fruits of every attempt heretofore to overcome the barriers interposed by nature, have only been destruction, both physical and moral, to the Indian; dangerous conflicts of authority between the Federal and State Governments; and detriment to the individual prosperity of the citizen, as well as the general improvement of the country. The removal policy, the principles of which were settled more than thirty years ago, under the administration of Mr. Jefferson, consists in an extinction for a fair consideration, of the title, to all the lands still occupied by the Indians within the States and Territories of the U. States; their removal to a country west of the Mississippi, much more extensive, and better adapted to their condition than that on which they have resided; the guarantee to them, by the United States, of their exclusive possession of that country for ever, exempt from all intrusions by white men, with ample provisions for their security against external violence and internal dissensions, and the extension to them of suitable facilities for their advancement in civilization.—This has not been the policy of particular administrations only, but of each in succession since the first attempt to carry it out under that of Mr. Monroe. All have labored for its accomplishment, only with different degrees of success. The manner of its execution has, it is true, from time to time given rise to conflicts of opinion and unjust imputations; but in respect to the wisdom and necessity of the policy itself, there has not, from the beginning, existed a doubt in the mind of any calm, judicious, disinterested friend of the Indian race, accustomed to reflection and enlightened by experience.

Occupying the double character of contractor on its own account, and guardian for the parties contracted with, it was hardly to be expected that the dealings of the Federal Government with the Indian tribes would escape misrepresentation.—That there occurred in the early settlement of this country, as in all others where the civilized race has succeeded to the possessions of the savage, instances of oppression and fraud on the part of the former, there is too much reason to believe. No such offences can, however, be justly charged upon this Government since it became free to pursue its own course. Its dealings with the Indian tribes have been just and friendly throughout; its efforts for their civilization constant, and directed by the best feelings of humanity; its watchfulness in protecting them from individual frauds unremitting; its forbearance under the keenest provocations, the deepest injuries, and the most flagrant outrages, may challenge at least a comparison with any nation, ancient or modern, in similar circumstances; and it in future times a powerful, civilized, and happy nation of Indians shall be found to exist within the limits of this northern continent, it will be owing to the consummation of that policy which has been so unjustly assailed. Only a very brief reference to facts in confirmation of this assertion can in this form be given, and you are, therefore, necessarily referred to the report of the Secretary of War for further details. To the Cherokees, whose case has perhaps excited the greatest share of attention and sympathy, the United States have granted in fee, with a perpetual guaranty of exclusive and peaceable possession, 13,554,135 acres of land, on the west side of the Mississippi, eligibly situated, in a healthy climate, and in all respects better suited to their condition than the country they have left, in exchange for only 9,492,160 acres on the east side of the same river. The United States have in addition stipulated to pay them five millions six hundred thousand dollars for their interest in improvements on the lands thus relinquished, and one million one hundred and sixty thousand dollars for subsistence and other beneficial purposes; thereby putting it in their power to become one of the most wealthy and independent separate communities, of the same extent, in the world.

By the treaties made and ratified with the Miamies, the Chippewas, the Sioux, the Sacs and Foxes, and the Winnebagoes, during the last year, the Indian title to eighteen millions four hundred and fifty-eight thousand acres has been extinguished. These purchases have been much more extensive than those of any previous year, and have, with other Indian expenses, borne very heavily upon the Treasury. They leave, however, but a small quantity of unbought Indian lands within the States and Territories; and the Legislature and Executive were equally sensible of the propriety of a final and more speedy extinc-

tion of Indian titles within these limits. The treaties which were, with a single exception, made in pursuance of previous appropriations for defraying the expenses, have subsequently been ratified by the Senate, and received the sanction of Congress by the appropriations necessary to carry them into effect. Of the terms upon which these important negotiations were concluded, I can speak from direct knowledge; and I feel no difficulty in affirming that the interest of the Indians in the extensive territory embraced by them is to be paid for at its fair value, and that no more favorable terms have been granted to the United States than would have been reasonably expected in a negotiation with civilized men, fully capable of appreciating and protecting their own rights. For the Indian title to 116,349,897 acres, acquired since the 4th of March, 1829, the United States have paid $72,560,056, in permanent annuities, funds, reservations for Indians, expenses of removal and subsistance, merchandise, mechanical and agricultural establishments, and improvements.

When the heavy expenses incurred by the United States, and the circumstances that so large a portion of the entire territory will be forever unsalable, are considered, & this price is compared with that for which the U. S. sell their own lands, no one can doubt that justice has been done to the Indians in these purchases also. Certain it is, that the transactions of the Federal Government with the Indians have uniformly been characterized by a sincere and paramount desire to promote their welfare; and it must be a source of the highest gratification to every friend to justice and humanity to learn that notwithstanding the obstruction from time to time thrown in its way, and the difficulties which have arisen from the peculiar and impracticable nature of the Indian character, the wise, humane and undeviating policy of the Government in this, the most difficult of all our relations, foreign or domestic, has at length been justified to the world in its near approach to a happy and certain consummation.

The condition of the tribes which occupy the country set apart for them in the west, is highly prosperous and encourages the hope of their early civilization. They have, for the most part, abandoned the hunter state, and turned their attention to agricultural pursuits. All those who have been established for any length of time in that fertile region, maintain themselves by their own industry. There are among them traders of no inconsiderable capital, and planters exporting cotton to some extent; but the greater number are small agriculturists, living in comfort upon the produce of their farms. The recent emigrants, although they have in some instances, removed reluctantly, have readily acquiesced in their unalterable destiny. They have found at once a recompense for past sufferings, and an incentive to industrious habits in the abundance and comforts around them.

There is reason to believe that all these tribes are friendly in their feelings towards the United States; and it is to be hoped that the acquisition of individual wealth, the pursuits of agriculture, and habits of industry, will gradually subdue their warlike propensities, and incline them to maintain peace among themselves.

To effect this desirable object, the attention of Congress is solicited to the measures recommended by the Secretary at War, for their future government and protection, as well from each other as from the hostility of the warlike tribes around them, and the intrusions of the whites. The policy of the Government has given them a permanent home, and guaranteed to them its peaceful and undisturbed possession. It only remains to give them a government and laws which will encourage industry, and secure to them the rewards of their exertions. The importance of some form of government cannot be too much insisted upon. The earliest effects will be to diminish the causes and occasions for hostilities among the tribes, to inspire an interest in the observance of laws to which they will have themselves assented, and to multiply the securities of property, and the motives for self improvement. Intimately connected with this subject, is the establishment of the military defences recommended by the Secretary of War, which have been already referred to. Without them, the Government will be powerless to redeem its pledges of protection to the emigrating Indians against the numerous warlike tribes that surround them, and to provide for the safety of the frontier settlers of the bordering states.

The case of the Seminoles constitutes at present the only exception to the successful efforts of the Government to remove the Indians to the homes assigned them west of the Mississippi. Four hundred of this tribe emigrated in 1836, and fifteen hundred in 1837 and 1838, leaving in the country, it is supposed, about 2,000 Indians. The continued treacherous conduct of these people; the savage and unprovoked murders they have lately committed, butchering whole families of the settlers of the Territory, without distinction of age or sex, and making their way into the very centre and heart of the country, so that no part of it is free from their ravages; their frequent attacks on the light-houses along that dangerous coast; and the barbarity with which they have murdered the passengers and crews of such vessels as have been wrecked upon the reefs and keys which border the Gulf, leave the Government no alternative but to continue the military operations against them until they are totally expelled from Florida.

There are other motives which would urge the Government to pursue this course towards the Seminoles. The United States have fulfilled in good faith all their treaty stipulations with the Indian tribes, and have, in every other instance, insisted upon a like performance of their obligations. To relax from this salutary rule because the Seminoles have maintained themselves so long in the Territory they had relinquished, and in defiance of their frequent and solemn engagements, still continue to wage a ruthless war against the United States, would not only evince a want of constancy on our part, but be

of evil example in our intercourse wi
other tribes. Experience has shown th
but little is to be gained by the march
armies through a country so intersect
with inaccessible swamps and marsh
and which, from the fatal character of t
climate, must be abandoned at the end
the winter.

I recommend, therefore, to your atte
tion, the plan submitted by the Secreta
of War in the accompanying report,
the permanent occupation of the port
of the territory freed from the India
and the more efficient protection of the p
ple of Florida from their inhuman warfa

From the report of the Secretary of
Navy, herewith transmitted, it will
pear that a large portion of the dispo
ble naval force is either actively empl
ed, or in a state of preparation for
purposes of experience and discipline,
the protection of our commerce. So
fectual has been this protection, that,
far as the information of Government
tends, not a single outrage has be
tempted on a vessel carrying the fla
the United States, within the present y
in any quarter, however distant or ex
ed.

The exploring expedition sailed f
Norfolk on the 19th of August last,
information has been received of its
arrival at the Island of Madeira.
best spirit animates the officers and cre
and there is every reason to anti
from its efforts, results beneficial to c
merce and honourable to the nation.

It will also be seen that no reductio
the force now in commission is con
plated. The unsettled state of a por
of South America renders it indispe
ble that our commerce should receive
tection in that quarter; the vast an
creasing interests embarked in the
of the Indian and China seas, in
whale fisheries of the Pacific ocean,
in the Gulf of Mexico, require equa
tention to their safety; and a small
dron may be employed to great advan
on our Atlantic coast, in meeting s
demands for the reinforcement of
stations, in aiding merchant vesse
distress, in affording active service
additional number of officers, and in
ing the different ports of the U
States, an accurate knowledge of
is obviously of the highest importanc

The attention of Congress is re
fully called to that portion of the r
recommending an increase in the nu
of smaller vessels, and other su
tions contained in that document.
rapid increase and wide expansion o
commerce, which is every day sc
new avenues of profitable adventure
absolute necessity of a naval force
protection precisely in the degree
extension; a due regard to the na
rights and honour; the recollection
former exploits, and the anticipation
future triumphs whenever opportuni
sents itself, which we may rightfu
dulge from the experience of the p
seem to point to the navy as a mos
cient arm of our national defence,
proper object of legislative encourag

The progress and condition of th
Office Department, will be seen b
rence to the report of the Postmast
neral. The extent of post roads c
by mail contracts, is stated to be 1
miles, and the annual transportation
them 34,550,202 miles. The num
post offices in the United States is
and rapidly increasing. The gro
nue for the year ending on the 30
of June last, was $4,262,115 00.
accruing expenditures, $4,680,088
cess of expenditure, $417,923 00.
has been made up out of the surpl
viously on hand. The cash in
the 1st instant was $314,068.
venue for the year ending June 30
was $161,510 more than that for
ending June 30, 1837. The expe
of the department had been gradu
on the anticipation of a largely in
revenue. A moderate curtailment
service consequently became ne
and has been effected, to shield
partment against the danger of em
ment. Its revenue is now improv
it will soon resume its onward c
the march of improvement.

Your particular attention is re
to so much of the Postmaster G
report as related to the transport
the mails upon rail roads. The
that subject do not seem adequat
cure that service, now become al
sential to the public interests, a
same time, protect the departm
combinations and unreasonable de

Nor can I too earnestly req
attention to the necessity of pr
more secure building for this dep
The danger of destruction to w
important books and papers are c
ly exposed, as well from the hig
bustible character of the building
ed, as from that of others in the
calls loudly for prompt action.

Your attention is again earne
ted to the suggestions and reco
tions submitted at the last sessi
spect to the District of Columbia

I feel it my duty, also, to brin
notice certain proceedings at l
have recently been prosecuted in
trict, in the name of the Unite
on the relation of Messrs. St
Stokes, of the State of Marylan
the Postmaster General, and w