

ties. The agent has received from the United States, standards of weights of fifty, twenty-five, ten, five, and one pound avoirdupois, and one pound troy; of measures of length, the yard; and of measures of capacity a half bushel, a half gallon, the half, the fourth, the eighth, and the sixteenth of a gallon. The measure of length is nearly completed, and will be ready for distribution during the present month. Some time must elapse before the copies of the other measures, and of the weights, can be prepared with that accuracy which is required, and will be doubtless attained.

That the proper temperature may be had to make the required experiments on the metal to be used in the construction of the whole series of these standards, two years may be required. That the several States might with more facility, and at less expense, have made copies of the standards to be distributed, Congress at December session 1837, directed the Secretary of the Treasury to have made, under the superintendence of Mr. Hassler, one standard balance for each State. These balances, it is expected will be distributed in the course of the present month, when the weights for this State will be commenced, and without delay, finally adjusted.

Judging from the mechanical execution of the measure of length, and the extreme accuracy which is sought to be attained in its finish, we may anticipate that these copies of the United States standards for Maryland, will in all respects be equal to the originals, and will do credit to the agent and the State. From the manner in which the agent has, so far executed his trust, it gives me pleasure to say that he is, in my judgement, eminently qualified to perform the duty for which he has been selected.

A protest has been received from Rhode Island against the interference of Congress with the Internal Government and Constitution of that State. Resolutions have been transmitted from several States, concerning slave representation in Congress, the annexation of Texas, the repudiation of the State debts, or their assumption by the General Government. These several communications will be submitted to your consideration.

The threats of a dissolution of the Union, uttered in several of these proceedings are, I know, altogether misplaced, if intended to influence your judgments on a great question of public policy. We have many instances in the history of the country, when language, equally intemperate, was used as to measures which are now universally approved of. Such impolitic and undignified proceedings, did not then deter, they will not now intimidate, those who have in charge the most important question of the day.

The purchase of Louisiana, although loudly denounced at the time, and declared to be a sufficient cause for a dissolution of the Union, is now regarded by almost every man whose opinions are entitled to respect, as a measure of infinite advantage to the Union, and conferring lasting honor on the administration of that truly great man, under whose auspices it was accomplished. It is worth while, at this day, to advert to the history of the times when the