

# THE ROLLA EXPRESS.

VOL. II.

ROLLA, PHELPS COUNTY, MISSOURI, DEC. 16, 1861.

NO. 13.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Fellow Citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives:

In the midst of unprecedented political troubles we have cause of great gratitude to God for universal good health and most abundant harvests. You will not be surprised to learn that in the peculiar exigencies of the times our intercourse with foreign nations has been attended with profound solicitude, chiefly turning upon our domestic affairs. A di loyal portion of the American people have, during the whole year, been engaged in an attempt to divide and destroy the Union. A nation which endures factions domestic division is exposed to disrespect abroad, and one party or both is sure, sooner or later, to invite foreign intervention. Nation thus tempted to interfere, we not always able to resist the councils of seeming expediency and ungenerous ambition, although measures adopted under such influences seldom fail to be unfortunate and injurious to those adopting them. The disloyal citizens of the United States who have offered the ruin of our country in reward for the aid and aid which they have invoked abroad, have received less patronage and encouragement than they prominently expected. If it were justly supported, the insurgent spirit to assume, that foreign nations, in the cases of our moral, social and treaty obligations, would not so readily and readily for the most worthy restoration of confidence, including especially the acquisition of certain, these nations appear yet not to have seen their way to their object directly or clearly than through the preservation of the Union. If we could dare to believe that foreign nations were induced by a higher principle than this, I am quite sure a sound argument could be made to show them that they could reach the aim more readily and easily by aiding to crush this rebellion than by giving us aid to the principle lever which, by the exciting of foreign nations to be satisfied against us, as already indicated, is in the main the intent of commerce. The nations, however, not improbably saw from the first that it was the Union which would be well served by a more energetic course. They can readily fall to perceive that the aid for their aid produces the existing difficulties, and that our aid is not on probable means to peace, and a more extensive, valuable, reliable commerce, than that the same nation broken into hostile fragments. It is not my purpose to review our relations with foreign States, because whatever gain by their wills or dispositions the integrity of our country and the stability of our Government mainly depend, not on them but on the loyalty, patriotism, virtue and intelligence of the American people. The correspondence itself, with the usual reservations, is herewith submitted. I venture to hope that it will appear that we have practiced prudence and liberality towards foreign powers, overlooking causes of irritation, and with frankness maintaining our own rights and power. In every other case, foreign questions necessarily attend a specific disability. I recommend that adequate and ample measures be adopted for maintaining the public defenses on every side. While under this general recommendation, provisions for defending our coast line may occur to the mind. Also, in the same connection, ask the attention of Congress to our sea lakes and rivers. It is believed that some fortifications and depots of arms and munitions, with harbor and navigation improvements, at well selected points upon these, would be of great importance to the national defense and preservation. I ask attention to the views of the Secretary of War, expressed in his report, upon the same general question.

I deem it of importance that the loyal regions of East Tennessee and Western North Carolina, should be connected with Kentucky and other faithful parts of the Union by railroads. I therefore recommend, as a military measure, that Congress provide for the construction of such a road, as speedily as possible. Kentucky will, no doubt, cooperate, and through her Legislature, make the most judicious selection of the line.

Some treaties designed chiefly for the interests of commerce, and having no grave political importance, have been negotiated, and will be submitted to the Senate for their consideration. Although we have failed to induce some of the commercial powers to adopt a desirable modification for the rigor of maritime war, we have far removed all the obstacles from the way of their humane reform, except such as are merely of temporary and accidental occurrence. I invite your attention to the correspondence between Her Britannic Majesty's Minister accredited to this Government, and the Secretary of State, relative to the detention of the British ship *Porchester*, in June last, by the United States steamer *Massachusetts*, for a supposed breach of the blockade. As this detention was occasioned by an obvious misapprehension of the facts, and as justice requires that we should commit no well founded act not founded in strict right, as sanctioned by public law, I recommend that appropriation be made to satisfy the reasonable demand of the owner of the vessel for her detention.

I repeat the recommendation of my predecessor, in his annual message to Congress in December last, in regard to the disposition of the surplus which will probably remain after satisfying the claims of American citizens against China, pursuant to the awards of the Commissioners, under the act of the 3d of March, 1859.

For the more effectual protection of our extensive and valuable commerce, in the Eastern seas especially, it seems that it would be advisable to authorize the commanders of sailing vessels to recapture any prizes which pirates may make of United States vessels and their cargoes.

The recognition of Hayti and Liberia is recommended.

The operations of the Treasury during the period which has elapsed since your adjournment have been conducted with signal success. The patriotism of the people has placed at the disposal of the Government the large means demanded by the public exigencies. Much of the National loan has been taken by citizens of the industrial classes, whose confidence in their country's faith and zeal for their country's deliverance from its present peril, have induced them to contribute to the support of the Government the whole of their limited acquisitions. This fact imposes peculiar obligations to economy in disbursement and energy in action.

It is gratifying to know that the expenses made necessary by the rebellion are not beyond the resources of the loyal people, and to believe that the same patriotism which has thus far sustained the Government will continue to sustain it until peace and union shall again bless the land.

I respectfully refer to the report of the Secretary of War for information respecting the numerical strength of the army, and for recommendations having in view an increase of its efficiency, and the well being of the various branches of the service entrusted to his care. It is gratifying to know that the patriotism of the people is equal to the occasion, and the number of troops recruited greatly exceeds the force which Congress authorized me to call into the field. I refer with pleasure to those particulars of his report which make allusion to the creditable degree of discipline already attained by our troops, and to the excellent sanitary condition of the whole army. The recommendation by the Secretary for an organization of the militia upon a uniform basis, is an object of vital importance to the future safety of the country, and is commended to the special attention of Congress. A large addition to the regular army, in connection with the detachment of its officers, will probably diminish the number of its officers, gives peculiar importance to his recommendation for increasing the capacity of the military academy.

By mere omission, I presume, Congress has failed to provide chaplains for the hospitals occupied by volunteers. This subject was brought to my notice, and I was induced to draw up the form of a letter, one copy of which was properly addressed to each of the persons named at the attached original, and a copy of the letter, marked "A," and filled with transmittals. These gentlemen, I understand, attend to the duties designated at the time respectively stated in the schedule, and have labored faithfully therein ever since. I therefore feel confident that the compensation of the same will be cheerfully paid to the military. I further suggest that special provision be made for chaplains to attend to the spiritual and moral needs of the volunteers.

The report of the Secretary of the Navy presents in detail the operations of that branch of the service, and the activity and energy which have characterized its administration, and the progress of measures to increase its efficiency and power. It has been a year since the addition by construction and purchase to our navy, and the service has been rendered more efficient and more powerful. The report also contains a list of the vessels of the navy, and the names of the officers and crew. I have been particularly and particularly pleased with the increased activity of the navy, and the progress of the Secretary of the Navy in more perfect organization of the navy by increasing the number of vessels, and the service. The report also contains a list of the vessels of the navy, and the names of the officers and crew. I have been particularly and particularly pleased with the increased activity of the navy, and the progress of the Secretary of the Navy in more perfect organization of the navy by increasing the number of vessels, and the service.

There are three vacancies on the bench of the Supreme Court, two by the decease of Justices Daniel and McLean, and one by the resignation of Justice Campbell. I have so far forbore making nominations to fill these vacancies for reasons which I will now state. Two of the outgoing Judges resided within the States now occupied by the revolt, so that if success or were appointed in the same localities they could not serve upon their circuits, and many of the most competent there probably would not take the personal hazard of accepting to serve even here upon the Supreme Bench. I have been unwilling to throw all the appointments Northward, thus disabling myself from doing justice to the South on the return of peace, although, I may remark, that to transfer to the North one which has heretofore been in the South, would not, with reference to territory and population, be unjust.

A change in our Judicial system is recommended, to keep pace with increasing population, extension of territory, and the exigencies of the times.

A revision of the Congressional Statutes is recommended.

There are no courts or officers to whom the citizens of other States may apply against citizens of the insurgent States, and there is a vast amount of debt constituting such claims. Some have estimated it as high as \$200,000,000, due in large part from insurgents in open rebellion, to loyal citizens, who are even now making great sacrifices in the discharge of their patriotic duty to support the Government. I therefore refer the whole matter to Congress, with the hope that a plan may be devised for the administration of justice in all such parts of the insurgent States and Territories as may be under control of the Government, whether by a voluntary return to allegiance and order, or by the power of our arms. This, however, not to be a permanent institution; but a temporary substitute, and to cease as soon as the ordinary courts can be re-established in peace.

It is important that some more convenient means should be provided, if possible, for the adjustment of claims against the Government, especially in view of their increased numbers by reason of the war.

The revenue to the Post Office Department from all sources, during the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1861, including the annual permanent appropriation of \$700,000 for the transportation of mail matter, was \$9,940,234 49 being about 1.5 per cent less than the revenue of 1860. The expenditures were \$13,606,709 11, showing a decrease of more than eight per cent, as compared with those of the previous year, and leaving an excess of expenditures over the revenue for the last fiscal year of over \$3,667,472 71.

The present insurrection shows, I think, that the extension of the District across the Potomac River at the time of establishing the Capital here, was eminently wise, and consequently that the relinquishment of that portion of it which lies in the State of Virginia was unwise and dangerous. I submit for your consideration the expediency of requiring that part of the District, and the restoration of the original boundaries thereof, through negotiations with the State of Virginia.

The cash receipts from the sales of public lands during the last year, have exceeded the expenses of our land system only about \$200,000. The sales have been entirely suspended in the Southern States, while the interruption to the business of the country, and the diversion of large numbers of men from labor to military service, have obstructed settlements in the new States and Territories of the Northwest.

The receipts of the Patent Office have declined in the month about \$100,000, rendering a large reduction of the force employed necessary to make it self-sustaining.

The demands upon the Pension Office will be largely increased by the insurrection. Numerous applications for pensions, based upon the casualties of the existing war, have already been made. There is reason to believe that many who are now upon the pension roll and in receipt of the bounty of the Government, are in the ranks of the insurgent army, or giving them aid and comfort. The Secretary of the Interior has directed the suspension of the payment of the pension of such persons upon the proof of their disloyalty. I recommend that Congress authorize that officer to cause the names of such persons to be stricken from the pension rolls.

The relations of the Government with the Indian tribes have been lately disturbed by the insurrection, especially in the Northern Superintendency and in that of New Mexico. The Indian country south of Kansas is in possession of insurgents from Texas and Arkansas. The agents of the U. S. Government appointed since the 1st of March to this Superintendency have been unable to reach their posts, while thousands of those who were in office before that time have opposed the insurrectionary cause, and aimed to exercise the power of agents by virtue of commissions from the insurgents. It has been stated in the public press that a portion of these Indians have been organized as a military force, and are attached to the army of the insurgents, although the Government has no official information upon the subject. Letters have been written to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs by several prominent Chiefs, giving assurance of their loyalty to the United States, and expressing the wish for the presence of the Federal troops to protect them.

The execution of the laws for the suppression of the African slave trade, has been confined to the Department of the Interior. It is a subject of congratulation that the efforts which have been made for the suppression of this inhuman traffic, have recently been attended with unusual success.

The Territories of Colorado, Dakota and Nevada, created by the last Congress, have been organized, and civil

administration has been inaugurated therein, under auspices especially gratifying.

Through the Secretaries of State and Interior, a plan or system has been devised and partly executed, which will be laid before you, under any by virtue of the act of Congress entitled "An act to consolidate property used for insurrectionary purposes," approved August 3, 1861. Legal claims of certain persons to the labor or services of certain other persons have become forfeited, and numbers of the latter thus liberated are already dependent on the United States, and must be provided for in some way. Besides this, it is not impossible that some of the States will pass similar enactments for their own benefit respectively, and by the operation of which persons of the same class will be thrown upon them for disposal. In such cases I recommend that Congress provide for accepting such persons from such States according to some mode of valuation in lieu *pro tanto*, of direct taxes, or upon some other plan to be agreed on with such States respectively; that such persons on such acceptance by the Government, be at once deemed free and that in any event steps be taken for colonizing with classes, or the one first mentioned, if the other shall not be brought into expedience, in some place or places in a climate congenial to them.

In the exercise of my best discretion, I have adhered to the blockade of the Ports held by the insurgents, instead of putting in force, by proclamation, the law of Congress enacted at the latest session for closing those ports. Also, obeying the dictates of prudence, as well as the obligations of law, in respect of transacting, I have adhered to the act of Congress to confiscate property used for insurrectionary purposes. A new law upon the same subject shall be proposed, if propriety will be duly considered. The Union must be preserved, and hence all indispensable means must be employed. The last ray of hope for preserving the Union peacefully expired at the assault on Fort Sumter, and a general review of what has occurred since may not be unprofitable. What was plainly unceremonious, is now more distinctly and more distinct now, and the progress of events is plainly in the right direction. The insurgents confidently claimed a strong support from north of Mason and Dixon's line, and the friends of the Union were not free from apprehension on this point. This, however, was soon scented defeat, and on the right side.

South of the line, noble men: Delaware led off right from the first; Maryland was made to seem against the Union; our soldiers were assaulted, bridges were burnt, and railroads were torn up within her limits, and we were many days at one time without the ability to bring a single regiment over her soil to the Capitol. Now her bridges and railroads are repaired and opened to the Government. She already gives seven regiments to the cause of the Union, and none to the enemy, and her people at a regular election have sustained the Union by a large majority, and a larger aggregate vote than they ever before gave to any candidate on any question. Kentucky, too, for some time in doubt, is now decidedly, and I think, unchangeably, ranked on the side of the Union. Missouri is comparatively quiet, and I believe cannot again be overrun by the insurgents. These three States, of Maryland, Kentucky and Missouri, neither of which would promise a single soldier at first, have now an aggregate of not less than 40,000 in the field for the Union; while of their citizens, not more than a third in number are among the insurgents, and they of doubtful whereabouts and existence.

After a somewhat bloody struggle of months, winter closes on the Union people of Western Virginia, leaving them masters of their own country. An insurgent force of about one thousand five hundred, for months dominating the narrow peninsular region

consisting the counties of Accomac and Northampton, and known as the Eastern shore of Virginia, together with some contiguous parts of Maryland, have laid down their arms, and the people there have renewed their allegiance to and accepted the protection of the old flag. This leaves no armed insurrection north of the Potomac east of the Chesapeake. Also, we have obtained a footing at each of the insurrection points of the Southern coast, of Hatteras, Port Royal, Tybee Island near Savannah, and Ship Island; and we likewise have some general accounts of popular movements in behalf of the Union in North Carolina and Tennessee. These things demonstrate that the cause of the Union is advancing steadily Southward, since your last adjournment.

Lieutenant General Scott has retired from the head of the Army. During his long life the nation has not been ungrateful of his merit; yet, on calling to mind how faithfully, nobly and brilliantly he has served the country, when few of the now living had been born, and therefore continually I cannot but think we are still his debtors. I submit, therefore, for your consideration, what further mark of recognition is due to him from ourselves as a grateful people. With the retirement of General Scott, cases the Executive duty of appointing in his stead a General in Chief of the Army. It is a fortunate circumstance that, neither in council nor country was there, so far as I know, any difference of opinion as to the proper person to be selected. The retiring chief repeatedly expressed his judgment in favor of General McClellan for the position, and in this the nation seemed to give an unanimous concurrence.

From the first taking of our national census to the last one seventy years, and we find our population at the end of the period eight times as great as it was at the beginning. The increase of those other things which men deem desirable, has been even greater. We thus have at our view what the popular principle applied to government thro' the machinery of the States and the Union has produced in a given time, and also what, if firmly maintained, it promises for the future. There are already among us those who, if the Union be preserved, will live to see it contain 250,000,000. The struggle of to-day is not altogether for to-day—it is for a vast future also. With a firm reliance on Providence, all the more firm and earnest let us proceed in the great task which events have devolved upon us.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.  
Washington, D. C., Dec. 3, 1861.

It is reported that some of Capt. Woods' men surrounded the house of a Mr. Smith, near Humbolt, on the night of the 9th inst., when Capt. Hymen, a notorious secessionist, who was very active with Miscal Johnson, and who was recruiting for the rebels and picking up deserters, was found to be there. He swore he would die before he would be taken prisoner, and leveled his gun at the troops, when Sargent Adams drew a head and shot him through the eye. He died instantly.

Brownstown, Ind., Dec. 1, '61.  
To the Quarter Master, U. S. Army,  
Rolla, Missouri:

DEAR SIR: Having seen in the papers that there were a great many people at Rolla, Mo., in a suffering condition, and a detriment to the army, I take pleasure in saying to you that if there are any of the Goss families, or Bodenhammers, or John Marrell, or any of his family, or the widow Garly, or any of her family, at your place, say to them that if they will come here they can be provided for. Every thing is plenty. I will also say to you that W. T. Garly and J. N. Goss, of Greene county, Mo., are here with me. The persons spoken of are relatives of these and mine. Yours, respectfully,  
GILES M. GOSS.