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The Oregon Argus.

—A Weekly Newspaper, devoted to the Principles of Jeffersonian Democracy, and advocating the side of Truth in every issue.—

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ADVERTISING RATES. One square (12 lines or less) one insertion, \$3.00. Two insertions, 4.00. Three insertions, 5.00. Each subsequent insertion, 1.00. Reasonable deductions to those who advertise by the year.

JOB PRINTING. THE PROPRIETOR OF THE ARGUS IS HAPPY to inform the public that he has just received a large stock of JOB TYPE and other new printing material, and will be in the speedy receipt of additions suited to all the requirements of the locality. HANDBILLS, POSTERS, BLANKS, CARDS, CIRCULARS, PAMPHLET-WORK and other kinds, done to order, on short notice.

The Angel of Death. Who shouldst thou fear, the beautiful angel Death, Who waits thee at the portals of the skies, Ready to kiss away thy struggling breath, And ready with gentle hand to close thy eyes? How many a tranquil soul has passed away, Fled gladly from fierce pain and pleasure dim, To the eternal splendor of the day; And many a troubled heart still calls for him. Spirit so tender for the battle here, Hays turned from life, its joys, its fears, its charms; And children shuddering at a world so drear, Have smiling passed away into his arms. He whom thou fearest will, to ease thy pain, Lay his cold hand upon thy aching brain; Will soothe the throes of the troubled heart, And bid the shadow of earth's grief depart. He will give back what neither time, nor night, Nor passionate prayer, nor longing hope restore, (Dear as to long blind eyes recover sight), He will give back those who are gone before. What were life, if life were all? Thine eyes Are blinded by their tears, or thou wouldst see Thy treasures wait thee in the far-off sky, And Death, thy friend, will give them all to thee. —From Legends and Lyrics.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO.—The Pittsburg Post, alluding to the one hundredth anniversary of old Fort Duquesne, Nov. 25, 1858, says:

One hundred years ago there was not a single white man in Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois Territories. Then what is now the most flourishing part of America was as little known as the country around the Mountains of the Moon. It was not until 1769 that the 'Hunter of Kentucky,' the gallant and adventurous Boone, left his home in North Carolina to become the first settler of Kentucky. The first pioneers in Ohio did not arrive until twenty years after this time. A hundred years ago Canada belonged to France, and the whole population of the United States did not exceed a million and a half of people. A hundred years ago the great Frederic of Prussia was performing those great exploits which have made him immortal in military annals, and with his little monarchy was sustaining a single-handed contest with Russia, Austria, and France—the three great Powers of Europe combined. A hundred years ago Napoleon was not born, and Washington was a young and modest Virginia colonist, and the great events in the history of two worlds, in which these great but dissimilar men took leading parts, were then scarcely foreshadowed. A hundred years ago the Union was the most loyal part of the British Empire, and on the political horizon no speck indicated the struggle which, within a score of years thereafter, established the greatest republic of the world. A hundred years ago there were but four newspapers in America, steam engines had not been invented, and railroads and telegraphs had not entered into the remotest conceptions of man. When we come to look back at it through the vista of history we find that to the century which has passed has been allotted more important events in their bearing upon the happiness of the world than almost any other which has elapsed since the creation. A hundred years hence what will be the developments? It is past finding out except in one thing—a thought which established Xerxes when his blood upon Mount Athos—all, with but few exceptions, now living will be dead.

METEOROLOGICAL INFLUENCE ON THE ATLANTIC CABLE.—The cable was run up to the transmission of words on the 20th of October, from some cause, of course. On that day, Dr. L. L. Chapman gives the indications for the strongest electrical perturbations in the month in his Monthly Rainbow, viz: the interception of an unusual number of those combined currents to which he attributes unusual electrical disturbance. This coincidence seems to show that the cable operations are strongly controlled by those meteorological forces which Dr. Chapman has been so many years investigating, and through which he has given so many surprisingly verified predictions of earthquakes, storms, &c. The fact that it does not remain altogether active, or inactive, seems also to indicate this. It is to be seen, then, it may be doubtful whether any Atlantic cable enterprise is ever fully successful without the practical knowledge and application of Dr. Chapman's discovery.

The opinion that no communication has ever passed through, assumed by many, is evidently absurd, from the fact that neither our President, nor the Queen, nor the Mayors of New York and London, would be necessary to a public and notorious hoax, as would have been the case in reference to their several messages, had there been any such humbugging.

THE LATE BATTLE WITH THE INDIANS.—Gen. Scott has issued a general order commending the gallantry of the American troops engaged in the numerous combats with the Indians which have occurred since May, 1857. Very important results have been gained, and in some quarters the Indians have been completely subdued. The battles have been very numerous, and many have been decided, and many remarkable victories won. Some of the battles were fought against terrible odds, and some of the struggles were very severe.

A ship canal around the Falls of Niagara, on the American side, is revived, and a meeting was held in Lockport on the 23d of September. Judge Holmes spoke warmly in favor of the canal. He thought it would ultimately be built, because it was necessary to our commerce. He thought the Government would sooner give the land necessary to build it—4,000,000 acres—now, than years hence, and this was the time to strike. It was resolved to send a delegation to Washington to attend to the subject at the next session of Congress, and to its importance upon members.

TELEGRAPHIC FEAT.—Last night, after the offices on the Magnetic Telegraph line had been cleared of their business, the operator found the line to be in excellent working order. Mr. Byron, one of the operators, contacted freely with persons in the city of New York, Alabama, which is a matter of some interest to the 'local' and; in a few moments, a conversation was carried on between the offices in the office here and those at New Orleans in as rapid a manner as if they were present in the same room. But the lightning, not content with performing this feat, gave evidence that it was powerful enough to wire a distance, and in a few moments the wires from New York City and New Orleans were attached in this office, and persons in the office in Washington, in the same way, were in communication with those in the latter city, through the medium of nearly seven hundred miles of wire. It is nearly certain that the

can be performed for so long a distance, and the weather must have been uniform throughout the seaboard portion of the country.—Washington States.

SENATOR HAMMOND'S SPEECH.—The following from the New York Times is, in the main, a fair summary of Senator Hammond's recent speech at Barnwell, South Carolina:

"The most striking feature of Senator Hammond's speech is, that he discards entirely all the absurd ultraisms by which the fire-eaters of the slaveholding States have disgusted the country and brought undeserved odium upon the South. He repudiates the whole pro-slavery policy of the Administration, and rejects with contempt the various schemes which are popularly ascribed to the Southern States. The Kansas-Nebraska bill, while it affirmed the truism of popular sovereignty and re-enacted the repeal of the obsolete Missouri Compromise, misled the South into the delusion that Kansas could be made a slave State, and thus plunged the country into a false and useless issue and gave fresh life and vigor to the Abolition party. Mr. Hammond says he thought from the first that the South itself ought to kick the Lecompton constitution out of Congress, and he voted for it only because the South then held a different opinion. The submission of that constitution to the popular vote, sooner or later, was perfectly unavoidable, and he was not in the least disappointed, or displeased, that they rejected it and refused to come into the Union upon such terms as were therein prescribed. So much for the past.

"In regard to the future, he did not believe that a majority of the Southern people desired disunion, or looked to it—as he had done in the early part of his life—as essential to their safety. He conceded fully that the ascendancy of the free States was permanently secured, and that it was hopeless for the slave States to attempt to regain it, or even to reestablish their equality.—The re-opening of the slave trade could never be secured from Congress, and would be opposed by a majority of the South; he had himself abandoned the idea, though he once entertained it. Nor can any new territory be acquired wherewith to plant new slave States. Slavery can never succeed in Central America—the eight or ten millions of natives who inhabit that country can neither be enslaved, exterminated, nor admitted to the rights of citizenship—and if these States were to come into the Union at all it would be as free States. To touch them in any way is to be contaminated.—Nor has the South any more to hope for from Cuba. If annexed as slave territory, she would only make two or three slave States, and would not restore the equilibrium of the South, while she would crush out our whole sugar culture, and afford a market for all the slaves of Kentucky, Missouri, and Maryland. If her slaves were to be liberated—if, in popular phrase, Cuba were to be 'Africanized'—the sugar and cotton culture of Louisiana and Texas would be immensely benefited thereby.—Under all these circumstances, Mr. Hammond regards all the schemes for restoring the ascendancy or equilibrium of the slave States as utterly visionary. So far as numbers and political power are concerned in the affairs of the Federal Union, the South must make up its mind to be and remain permanently in the minority. And her security must lie in what he believes to be the impossibility of bringing the North to co-operate permanently in any line of policy that will subvert the Constitution and seriously damage the South in the Confederacy. He does not believe that this can be done. He does not believe that the Northern love for the negro will ever induce them to trespass upon the constitutional rights of the Southern States. The South has already controlled and decided the policy of the Union in regard to the tariff, internal improvements, and the United States Bank, and has established the policy of slavery, as a domestic institution, not only against the North, but against England and France and the whole world. And now all that the South has to do to preserve its rights is to conciliate the North. She must not throw off her Northern allies, nor refuse assent to the just and fair demands of the Northern people."

Douglas and Lincoln.—The Missouri Statesman editor, a leading politician of the 'American' stamp, attended the discussion at Alton between Douglas and Lincoln, and accompanies a report of the speeches with the following sketch of the speakers:

"Both of these gentlemen have more reputation as stump speakers than they merit. Mr. Douglas is far the best popular speaker of the two, and yet, he is not by any means the unrivaled orator the papers represent him. In speaking, he paces the platform to and fro, very seldom stopping and standing in one place to address the people. He is a very slow and a very distinct speaker, yet earnest in his manner and fluent in his language. Every word is a distinct and separate word, dropping rather flowing, ejected rather than coming, from his lips. Each word is a breath, an independent effort of the voice, making Mr. Douglas in this respect the most singular speaker we ever heard. Take, for example, this sentence from his speech:—'I disagreed, and Mr. Buchanan told me, if I did not go with him, every friend of mine should lose his head.' Instead of pronouncing this in the ordinary flow of one word after the other, without distinct and measured pause between them, Mr. Douglas would put his whole speech in italic, and emphasize each word as follows:—'I—dis—agreed—and—Mr.—Buchanan—told—me—if—I—did—not—go—with—him—&c. Yet he is an interesting, forcible speaker, refreshing in his manner, with great power over the multitude, and able in debate much beyond his fellows. Intellectually, he would be a man of mark in any council in the world.

"In person, Mr. Douglas is small in stature, symmetrical in form, and of great physical strength. He was forty-five years old on the 23d of April last.

"Mr. Lincoln is a spare-made man, over six feet high—gaunt, long, and awkward. Intellectually, he is no common man, but he lacks the flash and the flame of a good stump speaker. He is a lawyer—more of a technical special pleader than a statesman. His arguments are metaphysical, and from first principles, rather than from facts. He is too abstract for the multitude, but withal sharp and witty. We should judge from what we saw of him that he is a very conscientious, high-minded gentleman—the soul of honor, and no demagogue. Mr. Douglas, on the contrary, is an artful politician, good at turning a short corner, and a demagogue of no mean pretensions.

"In view of the issues involved, and the antecedents and present affiliations of these distinguished men, both of them are quite obnoxious to true Americans and Whigs. The 'nigger' is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, of their harangues before the people."

MARRIAGE OF KINDRED.—A bill has passed the House of Representatives of Georgia, by a vote of fifty-six to fifty-two, prohibiting the intermarriage of first cousins, under a severe penalty, and cutting off the inheritance of the issue. The preamble to the bill asserts that many deformations of mind and body are of congenial origin, from the practice of near kindred intermarrying with each other.

The number of Regular Baptists in the United States, as appears by the published returns for the year 1857, amounts to 923,198; associations 565; churches 11,600; ordained ministers 7,141; licentiates 1,025; baptized in 1857, 63,506. The Disciples are estimated at 350,000, and other denominations that practice immersion, at 176,842. In the British Provinces the Baptists are estimated to number 29,200, and in the West India Islands 36,250.—Total in North America that practice immersion, 1,515,490.

The eighty-second anniversary of our Independence was appropriately celebrated at Fort Union, fifteen hundred or two thousand miles above St. Louis, Mo., being the first commemoration of that event in the Indian country. Mountaineers, traders, hunters, and voyagers of the country, together with pleasure-seekers from different parts of the Union, constituted a respectable assembly of persons of various characters and appearances. The President of the day was James Kipp, who has been forty years in the employ of the American fur company. Among the participants the Chiefs of the Assiniboine nation, by special invitation, shone in the most conspicuous position, while the country women of Minne-ha-ha graced the places usually occupied by the 'ladies,' and were remembered by the toast-master with all due gallantry.

In the South Carolina Legislature, Dec. 2, Hon. James Chesnut, President of the State Senate, was elected United States Senator on the tenth ballot. This is a signal triumph of the Conservatives.

James B. Clay has sold the residence of Henry Clay, Ashland, for \$200,000 acres of Texas land.

SENATOR SEWARD'S SPEECH.—Of all the contemptible methods of misrepresentation in which some men indulge, the most despicable is the practice of quoting a passage so separated from the context as to make it appear that the writer or speaker has said what he did not say. It not infrequently happens that a sentence even is broken, and some single clause of it quoted in order to wing a falsehood. Any one who could be guilty of such an act deserves to be pilloried. He justly sinks himself beneath the notice of an honest man. Senator Seward is just now suffering somewhat in this way, through the misrepresentation of one or two venal and partisan sheets, whose statements are copied by other papers, who may believe them to be true. Mr. Seward, in his Rochester speech, made the following remark:

"On the other hand, while I do confidently believe and hope that my country will yet become a land of universal freedom, I do not expect that it will be made so otherwise than through the action of the several States, co-operating with the Federal Government, and all acting in strict conformity with their respective Constitutions."

This extract of itself shows how far Mr. Seward was from indulging in the Abolition trade and treasonable sentiments that some have been prompt to attribute to him. Where is the treason contained in that paragraph? The speaker had just before expressed his conviction that slave labor and free labor are so opposed to each other that they cannot forever continue to exist under one government. A struggle between the two has been going on, silently or openly, ever since the formation of the Government; and one or the other must ultimately triumph. Senator Seward believes that free labor is destined to achieve that triumph, and he has good grounds for his opinion. It is only contemptible journals, like the Missouri Republican, that descend to the low falsity of separating parts of sentences, and commenting on those alone, in order to make a plausible show of objection to such belief.—St. Louis Dem.

AMERICAN ENTERPRISE.—In crossing the plains from Mendoza to San Luis, South America, Lieut. Strain met an intelligent American, who had crossed the Andes and pushed his way thus far into the unfrequented regions of the South. The pursuit of science, Strain supposed, had led an enthusiastic votary to undertake this distant tour into the semi-civilized region. Great was his astonishment to find that the traveler was an agent for an American patent medicine.

DONATI'S COMET.—The brilliant comet of last fall was first discovered about four years since, by Prof. Donati, of Florence, Italy, from whom it takes its name. Its period of revolution has been ascertained to be 2,470 years.

It is estimated that England pays annually \$300,000,000 for manure—more than the entire commerce of the country.—The total value of a year's crop has been reported to Parliament, some time ago, as being about \$300,000,000.

LOGICAL.—A writer in the Westminster Review once took the position that alcohol is food, and offered the following logic as proof:

"Food is force, Alcohol is force, Therefore, alcohol is food." Dr. Mussey gives a formula equally legitimate and conclusive, namely:

"Horse-feed is force, Whipping a horse is force, Therefore, whipping a horse is horse-feed." To which capital logic our John adds his:

"My ma is a woman, Queen Victoria is a woman, Therefore, Queen Victoria is my ma." Our Jeemee expresses his sentiments:

"The fool is not all dead, The writer of the above is not dead, Therefore, said writer is a fool."

A CHANGE.—The Petersburg Intelligencer advertises for an assistant editor, and says he must be a gentleman constructed mainly of wrought iron, having a metallic skin, embossed with ferruginous warts, and a stomach adapted to the digestion of blazing lightwood knots and boiling water—in short, a steam man. Such a gentleman, or any person desirous of anticipating the pleasures of Hades, below, can find congenial employment at that office until frost.

The Parkerites (a spurious sort of Baptists) built a church, twenty years ago, in Coles County, Ill., and so decided it that if there was ever allowed within its walls a temperance lecture, a Bible Society meeting, a missionary meeting or a Sunday school, the title was forfeited and fell back to the original owner. Ten years since its pulpit became vacant for want of hearers, and now the sheep and swine sleep there.

A woman abandons her opinion the moment her husband adopts it; even in church the women sing an octave higher than the men, in order not to agree with them in anything.

The President's Message.—Continued.

AN INCREASED TARIFF SPECIFIC DUTIES.

No statesman would advise, that we should go on increasing the national debt to meet the ordinary expenses of the government. This would be a most ruinous policy. In case of war, our credit must be our chief resource, at least for the first year, and this would be greatly impaired by having contracted a large debt in time of peace. It is our true policy, to increase our revenue so as to equal our expenditures. It would be ruinous to continue to borrow.—Besides, it may be proper to observe, that the incidental protection, thus afforded by a revenue tariff, would at the present moment, to some extent, increase the confidence of the manufacturing interests, and give a fresh impulse to our reviving business. To this surely no one will object.

In regard to the mode of assessing and collecting duties under a strictly revenue tariff, I have long entertained and often expressed the opinion, that sound policy requires this should be done by specific duties, in cases to which these can be properly applied. They are well adapted to commodities which are usually sold by weight or by measure, and which, from their nature, are of equal or nearly equal value. Such, for example, are the articles of iron of different classes, raw sugar, and foreign wines and spirits.

In my deliberate judgment, specific duties are the best, if not the only means of securing the revenues against false and fraudulent invoices, and such as been the practice adopted for this purpose by other commercial nations. Besides, specific duties would afford to the American manufacturer the incidental advantages to which he is fairly entitled under a revenue tariff.—The present system is a sliding scale to his disadvantage. Under it when prices are high and business prosperous, the duties rise in amount when he least requires their aid. On the contrary, when prices fall, and he is struggling against adversity, the duties are diminished in the same proportion, greatly to his injury.

Neither would there be danger that a higher rate of duty than that intended by Congress, could be levied in the form of specific duties. It would be easier to ascertain the average value of any imported article for a series of years; and, instead of subjecting it to an ad valorem duty at a certain rate per centum, to substitute in its place an equivalent specific duty.

By such an arrangement the consumer would not be injured. It is true, he might have to pay a little more duty on a given article in one year; but if so, he would pay a little less in another, and in a series of years these would counterbalance each other, and amount to the same thing, so far as his interest is concerned. This inconsequence would be trifling, when contrasted with the additional security thus afforded against frauds upon the revenue, in which every consumer is directly interested.

I have thrown out these suggestions as the fruit of my own observation, to which Congress, in their better judgment, will give such weight as they may justly deserve.

THE TREASURY.

The report of the Secretary of the Treasury will explain in detail the operations of that department of the government. The receipts into the Treasury from all sources during the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1858, including the treasury notes authorized by the act of December 23, 1857, were seventy million two hundred and seventy-three thousand eight hundred and sixty-nine dollars and fifty-nine cents (\$70,274,869.59), which amount, with the balance of seventeen million seven hundred and ten thousand one hundred and fourteen dollars and twenty-seven cents (\$17,710,114.27) remaining in the treasury at the commencement of the year, made an aggregate for the service of the year of eighty-seven million nine hundred and eighty-three thousand nine hundred and eighty-three dollars and eighty-six cents, (\$87,984,983.86).

The public expenditures during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1858, amounted to eighty-one million five hundred and eighty-five thousand five hundred and sixty-seven dollars and seventy-seven cents (\$81,587,667.70), of which nine million six hundred and eighty-four thousand five hundred and thirty-seven dollars and ninety-nine cents (\$9,684,537.99) were applied to the payment of the public debt, and redemption of treasury notes with the interest thereon, leaving in the treasury on July 1, 1858, being the commencement of the present fiscal year, six million three hundred and ninety-eight thousand three hundred and sixteen dollars and ten cents (\$6,398,316.10).

The receipts into the treasury during the first quarter of the present fiscal year, commencing the 1st July, 1858, including one half of the loan of twelve millions of dollars, with the premium upon it, authorized by the act of 14th June, 1858, were twenty-five million two hundred and thirty thousand eight hundred and seventy-nine dollars and forty-six cents (\$25,230,879.46), and the estimated receipts for the remaining three quarters to the 30th June, 1859, from ordinary resources, are thirty-eight million five hundred thousand dollars (\$38,500,000), making, with the balance before stated, an aggregate of seventy million one hundred and twenty-nine thousand one hundred and ninety-five dollars and fifty-six cents (\$70,129,105.56).

The expenditures during the first quarter of the present fiscal year were twenty-one million seven hundred and eight thousand one hundred and ninety-eight dollars and fifty-one cents (\$21,708,198.51); of which one million and ten thousand one hundred and forty-two dollars and thirty-seven cents (\$1,010,142.37), were applied to the payment of the public debt and the redemption of treasury notes, and the interest thereon. The estimated expenditures during the remaining three quarters to 30th June, 1859, are fifty-two million three hundred and ninety-eight dollars and forty-eight cents, (\$52,359,698.48) making an aggregate of sev-

enty-four million sixty-five thousand eight hundred and ninety-six dollars and ninety-nine cents, (\$74,065,896.99) being an excess of expenditures beyond the estimated receipts into the treasury from ordinary sources, during the fiscal year to the 30th June, 1859, of three million nine hundred and thirty-six thousand seven hundred and one dollar and forty-three cents (\$3,936,701.43). Extraordinary means are placed by law within command of the Secretary of the Treasury, by the re-issuance of treasury notes redeemed, and by negotiating the balance of the loan authorized by the act of 14th June, 1858, to the extent of eleven millions of dollars, which, if realized during the present fiscal year will leave a balance in the treasury, on the first day of July, 1859, of seven million sixty-three thousand two hundred and ninety-eight dollars and two cents (\$7,063,298.57).

The estimated receipts during the next fiscal year ending 30th June, 1860, are sixty-two millions of dollars (62,000,000), which, with the above estimated balance of seven million sixty-three thousand two hundred and ninety-eight dollars and fifty-seven cents (\$7,063,298.57), make an aggregate for the service of the next fiscal year of sixty-nine million six hundred and thirty-seven cents (\$69,063,298.57). The estimated expenditures during the next fiscal year ending 30th June, 1860, are seventy-three million one hundred and thirty-nine thousand one hundred and forty-seven dollars and forty-six cents (\$73,139,147.46), which leave a deficit of estimated means, compared with the estimated expenditures for that year, commencing on the first of July, 1859, of four million and seventy-five thousand eight hundred and forty-eight dollars and eighty-nine cents (\$4,075,848.89).

In addition to this sum, the Postmaster General will require from the treasury, for the service of the Post Office Department, three million eight hundred and thirty-eight thousand seven hundred and twenty-eight dollars, (\$3,838,728), as explained in the report of the Secretary of the Treasury, which will increase the estimated deficit on the 30th June, 1860, to seven million nine hundred and fourteen thousand five hundred and seventy-five dollars and eighty-nine cents, (\$7,914,578.89).

To provide for the payment of this estimated deficiency, which will be increased by such appropriations as may be made by Congress, not estimated for in the report of the Treasury Department, as well as to provide for the gradual redemption, from year to year, of the outstanding treasury notes, the Secretary of the Treasury recommends such a revision of the present tariff as will raise the required amount. After what I have already said, I need scarcely add that I concur in the opinion expressed in his report—that the public debt should not be increased by an additional loan, and would therefore strongly urge upon Congress the duty of making, at their present session, the necessary provision for meeting these liabilities.

THE PUBLIC DEBT.

The public debt on the 1st of July, 1858, the commencement of the present fiscal year, was \$25,155,977.66.

During the first quarter of the present year, the sum of \$10,000,000 has been negotiated of the loan authorized by the act of 14th June, 1858—making the present outstanding public debt, exclusive of treasury notes, \$35,155,977.66. There was on the 1st July, 1858, of treasury notes issued by authority of the act of December 23, 1857, unredeemed, the sum of \$19,754,800—making the amount of actual indebtedness, at that date, \$54,910,777.66. To this will be added \$10,000,000 during the present fiscal year—this being the remaining half of the loan of \$20,000,000, not yet negotiated.

The rapid increase of the public debt, and the necessity which exists for a modification of the tariff, to meet even the ordinary expenses of the government, ought to admonish us all, in our respective spheres of duty, to the practice of rigid economy. The objects of expenditure should be limited in number, as far as this may be practicable, and the appropriations necessary to carry them into effect, ought to be disbursed under the strictest accountability. Enlightened economy does not consist in the refusal to appropriate money for constitutional purposes, essential to the defense, progress, and prosperity of the republic, but in taking care that none of this money shall be wasted by mismanagement, in its application to the objects designated by law.

Comparisons between the annual expenditure at the present time, and what it was ten or twenty years ago, are altogether fallacious. The rapid increase of our country in extent and population renders a corresponding increase of expenditure, to some extent, unavoidable. This is constantly creating new objects of expenditure, and augmenting the amount required for the old. The true questions then, are, have these objects been unnecessarily multiplied? or, has the amount expended upon any or all of them been larger than comports with due economy? In accordance with these principles, the heads of the different executive departments of the government have been instructed to reduce their estimates for the next fiscal year to the lowest standard consistent with the efficiency of the service, and this duty they have performed in a spirit of just economy. The estimates of the Treasury, War, Navy, and Interior Departments, have each been in some degree reduced; and unless a sudden and unforeseen emergency should arise, it is anticipated that a deficiency will exist in either within the present or next fiscal year. The Post Office Department is placed in a peculiar position, different from the other departments, and to this I shall hereafter refer.

I invite Congress to institute a rigid scrutiny to ascertain whether the expenses in all the departments cannot be still further reduced; and I promise them all the

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