national character, require that we should adopt such measures as will be effectual in costraining our citizens form committing

odopt such measures as will be effectual in contraining our citizens form committing such outrages.

I regret to inform you that the President of Paraguay has refused to ranfy the treasty between the United States and that State, as amended by the Senate, the signing of which was mentioned in the message of my predecessor to Congress at the opening of its sension to December, 1853. The reasons assigned for this refusal will appear in the correspondence werewith submitted.

It being desirable to asceriain the fit mess of the river La Plata and its tributaries for navigation by stoom, the United States steamer Water Witch was sent thither for that purpose in 1853. This enterprise was successfully carried on until Fabruary, 1855, when, whilst in the praceful presentation of her voyage up the Parana river, the steamer was fired upon by a P. raguayan Fort. The fire was returned, but as the Water Witch was of small force, and not designed for off-haive operations, she retired from the conflict. The prefeat upon which the allack was made was a decree of the President of Paraguay of October 1851, prohibiting foreign vessels of war from navigating the river of that State. As Paraguay, however, was the owner of but one bank of the river of that state. As Paraguay, however, was the owner of but one bank of the river of that state. As Paraguay, however, was the owner of but one bank of the river of that state. As Paraguay, however, was the owner of but one bank of the river of that state. As Paraguay, however, was the owner of but one bank of the river of that state. As Paraguay, however, was the owner of but one bank of the river of that state. As Paraguay, however, was the owner of but one bank of the river of that state. As Paraguay, however, was the owner of but one bank of the river of that state, as small steamor, engaged in a scientific enterprise, intended of for the advantage of commencial States generally. Under these circumstances, I is monaterially to the paraguay government.

entisfaction from the Paragueyan government.

CResans of the United States, also, who were established in husiness in Paraguey, have had their property seized and taken from them, and otherwise been treated by the authorities in an insuling and arbitrary manner, which requires reduces.

A demand for these purposes will be made to a firm but conciliatory spirit.—This will the more probably be granted if the Executive shall have authority to use other means in the event of a refusal.—This is accordingly recommended.

It is unnecessary to state in detail the alarming condition of the Territory of Kansas at the time of my inanguration. The opposing parties stood in hostile array against each other, and any secident might have relighted the fames of civil wer. Besides, at this critical moment, Kansas was left without a governor by the resignation of Gov. Geary.

Kanas was left without a governor by the resignation of Gov. Geary.

On the 10th of February previous, the tearitorial legislature had passed a law providing for the election of delegates on the third Monday of June to a convention to meet on the first monday of Sapienter, for the purpose of froming a constitution preparatory to admission into the Union. This law was in the main fair and just; and it is to be registived that all the qualified cheters had not registered themselves and voted under its provisions.

At the time off the election for dele-

At the time off the election for delegates, an extensive organization existed in the Territory, whose avowed object it was, if need be, to put down the lawful government by force, and to establish a government of their own under the so called Topeka constitution. The persons attached to this fevolutionery organization abstained from taking any part in the election.

The act of the territorial legislature had The act of the territorial legislature had emitted to provide for submitting to the people the constitution which might be framed by the convention; and in the excited state of public feeling throughout Kansas an apprehension extensively prevailed that a design existed to forae upon them a constitution in relation to slavery against their will. In this emergency it became my duty, as it was my anquentionshle right, having in view the union of all good extirens in the support of the territorial laws, to express an opision on the true construction of the provisions concerning slavery contained in the organic act of Congress of the 20th May, 1804.—Congress declared it to be the true intent and meaning all this act not to legislate slavery into any Territory or State ner to exclude it therefrom, but to lauve the people thereof perfectly free to form and tragifate their domestic institutions in their own way." Under it Kansas, "when educated as a State "was to the received into the Union, with or without slavery, as their constitution may prescribe at the time of their admission.

as their constitution may prescribe at the time of their admission.

Did Congress meen by this language that the deligates elected to frame a constitution should have authority finally to decide the question of slavery or did they means themselves should decide this question by a disserved? On this subject, I configer I had never entertained a decime dust, and, therefore, in my instructions to Goveror Walker of the 25th March last, I marely said that whee a constitution shall be accounted to the people of the Pertitory they must be protected in the exercise of their right of voting for or against that instrument, and the fair expression of the popular will must not be interrupted by fraud or violence.

In expressing this epinion, it was far from my insultion to interfere with the decision of the people of Kaussa, either for or against always. From this I have always carefully abstained. Intrusted with the duty of taking "care that the law be intelliged by the captured by the constitution of the people of Kaussa should fusuall the Congress the evidence required as the eigenis act, whether for or against above, ry, and in this manner smooth their peace, ry, and in this manner smooth their peace will be their direction whether this taxorism do mestic institution should or should not continue to exist. Indeed, this was the only possible mode in which thoir will could be subscribedly accertained.

The election of delegates to a convention of the model of the majority, on the direct question whether this taxorism do

resentative sufficiently powerful to induce him to disregard the will of his constituents. The truth is, that no other suthentic and suffafactory mode exists of axortaining the will of a large sujority of the people of any State or Territory on an important and exciting question like that of slavery in Kenses, except by leaving it to a direct vote. How wise, then, was it for Congress to pass over all subordinate and intermediate agencies, and proceed to the source of all legitimate power under our institutions.

this requirement, as applicable to the whole constitution, had not been inserted, and the convention were not bound by its terms ple reference to its language. It was "not to legislate slavery into any Territory or State, nor to exclude it therefrom, but to sto legislate slavery into any Territory or Siste, nor to exclude it therefrom, but to leave the people thereof perfectly free to form and regulate their domestic institutions in their own way." According to the plain construction of the acutance, fice words "domestic institutions" have a direct, as they have an appropriate reference to glavery. "Domestic institutions" are limited to the family.

The relations between master and slave and a few others are "domestic institutions," and are entirely distinct from institutions of a political character. Besides, there was no question then before Congress, nor indeed has there since been any acrious question before the people of Danass of the "domestic institution" of slavery.

The convention, after an excited and angry debate, finally determined, by a majority of only two, to submit the question of slavery to the people, though, at the last, forty three of the fifty delegates present affaced their signatures to the constitution.

A large majority of the convention were

States for the admission of the State into the Union.

At this election every citizen will have an apportunity of expressing his opinion by his vote. "whether Kannas shall be received the to the Union with or without alaver; "and thus this exciting question may be peacefully scated in the very mode required by the organic law. The election will be held ander legitlushes authority; and if any portion of the inhabitants shall refuse to vote, a fair concertuality to one having been presented.

less laid in a store of pr

Service of the work has been been serviced by the control of the c

instance, that I should regard it as inexpedient, at least for the provent, to undertake its revision.

I transmit herewith the reports made to me by the Secretaries of War and of the Navy, of the Interior, and of the Postmanter General. They all contain valuable and important information and suggestlem, which I consument to the favorable consideration of Congress of the Secretary of War presents at suggestion of the Secretary of the construction of the manual war steamers of light draught. For some years the Government has been obliged on many ofcasions to hire such steamers from individuals to supply lite pressing wants. At the present moment we have no armed vessels in the navy which can enter any of the harbors south of Norfolk, although many millions of fireign and domestic commerce annually pass in and out of these harbors. Some of our most valuable interests and most valuable. The last valuable valuable v