

THE MESSAGE.

An Exhaustive Review of Public Affairs.

A Tribute to the Late Vice-President.

Foreign Relations Described.

Reference to the Chinese on This Coast.

Silver Question Discussed at Length.

Naval Reconstruction Earnestly Advised.

Statement of Postoffice Operations.

Land-Grant Railroads to Be Looked After.

Polygamic Practices Sternly Denounced.

Civil Service Reform Commended—Old Methods in the Navy Department Condemned—Public Land Frauds—Etc.

To the Congress of the United States: Your assembling is clouded by a sense of public bereavement caused by the recent and sudden death of Thomas A. Hendricks, Vice-President of the United States. His distinguished public services, his complete integrity and devotion to every duty and his personal virtues will find an honorable record in his country's history. Ample and repeated proofs of the esteem and confidence in which he was held by his fellow-countrymen were manifested by his election to offices of the most important trust and highest dignity, and, at last, full rest amidst general sorrow and benediction. The Constitution, which requires those chosen to legislate for the people to annually meet in the discharge of their solemn trust, also requires the President to give to Federal legislation the sanction of the Union and recommend to their consideration such measures as he shall deem necessary to expedite. At the threshold of a compliance with these constitutional decisions it is well to keep in mind that our people's interests will be best served by a constant appreciation of the patriotic character of our respective departments, and the need for the exercise of all the power entrusted to each in that spirit of comity and co-operation which is essential to the proper fulfillment of the patriotic obligations which rest upon us as faithful servants of the people. The jealous watchfulness of our constituencies, great and small, supplements their suffrage, and therefore by the tribunal they establish every public servant should be judged.

FOREIGN RELATIONS. It is gratifying to announce that the relations of the United States with all foreign Powers continue to be friendly. Our position, after nearly a century of successful constitutional Government, maintenance of good faith in all our engagements, the avoidance of complications with other nations, and a consistent, amicable attitude toward the strong and weak alike, furnish proof of a political disposition which renders professions of good will unnecessary. There are no questions of difficulty pending with any foreign Government.

THE FAULKLAND ISLANDS DISPUTE. The Argentine Government has revived the long dormant question of the Falkland Islands, by claiming from the United States indemnity for their loss attributed to the action of the commander of the sloop of war Lexington in breaking up a colony on these islands in 1791, and their subsequent occupation by Great Britain. In view of the ample justification for the act of the Lexington, and the direct control of the islands before and after their alleged occupation by the Argentine colonists, the claim is wholly groundless.

RESTRICTION ON FISH. I regret to say that the restrictions continue upon the importation of our pork into France, notwithstanding the abundant demonstration of the absence of sanitary danger in its use, but I entertain strong hopes that with a better understanding of the matter this vexatious prohibition will be removed. It would be pleasing to be able to say as much with respect to Germany, Austria and other countries, where such food products are absolutely excluded, without any present prospect of a reasonable change.

THE AUSTRIAN MISHON. A question has arisen with the Government of Austria-Hungary, touching the representation of the United States at Vienna, having under my constitutional prerogative appointed an estimable citizen of unimpeachable probity and competence Minister at that court. The Government of Austria-Hungary invited this Government to take cognizance of certain exceptions, based upon allegations against the personal acceptability of Mr. Kelley. The appointed envoy asked that in view thereof, the appointment should be withdrawn. The reasons advanced were that the Minister could not be acquiesced in without violation of my oath of office and the precepts of the Constitution, since they necessarily involved limitations in favor of a foreign Government upon the right of selection by the Executive, and required such an appointment to be made in violation of the limitation of a large and important principle of our Government. The Austria-Hungarian Government finally decided not to receive

Mr. Kelley as the envoy of the United States, and that gentleman has since declined his nomination, leaving the post vacant. I have made no new nomination, and the interests of the Government at Vienna are now in the hands of the Secretary of the Legation as Charge d'Affaires ad interim.

THE WAR ON THE Isthmus. Early in March last a war broke out in Central America, by the attempt of Guatemala to consolidate the several States into a single Government. In those countries the United States forbore to interfere actively, but lent the aid of their friendly offices in deprecation of the war and in promoting peace. Success among the belligerents, and by such conquests contributed importantly to the restoration of tranquility to the locality. The emergencies growing out of civil war in the United States of Colombia demanded of the Government the employment of an armed force to fulfill its guarantee under the thirty-fifth article of the treaty of 1846 to the Isthmus of Panama, desirous of exercising only the powers expressly reserved to us by the treaty, and mindful of the fact that the Isthmus was to be held by the United States, the forces of the United States were withdrawn.

THE Isthmus of Panama. A question of much importance was presented by the decrees of the Colombian Government, threatening the closure of the rights of the Isthmus to the United States, and declaring vessels held by the revolutionists to be pirates, and liable to capture by any force authorized to protect the Isthmus. An effective closure of ports not in possession of the Government but held by the revolutionists could be maintained only by the use of force. The Isthmus is a narrow strip of land, and the vessels of insurgents against the legitimate authority are deemed to be pirates. The Isthmus is a narrow strip of land, and the vessels of insurgents against the legitimate authority are deemed to be pirates. The Isthmus is a narrow strip of land, and the vessels of insurgents against the legitimate authority are deemed to be pirates.

THE Isthmus of Panama. The interest of the United States in a practicable transit for ships across the Isthmus of Panama has been repeatedly manifested during the last half century. My immediate predecessor ceased to negotiate with the republic of Colombia, and the Isthmus was closed to the United States. The Isthmus is a narrow strip of land, and the vessels of insurgents against the legitimate authority are deemed to be pirates. The Isthmus is a narrow strip of land, and the vessels of insurgents against the legitimate authority are deemed to be pirates.

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acts lately passed to execute the treaty of 1846 restrictive of the immigration of Chinese laborers into the United States. Individuals engaged in business with the Chinese, and the power of the Executive to remedy and call for judicial determination. The condition of the Western States and Territories is, despite this restrictive legislation, far from being satisfactory. The recent outbreak in the Territory of Utah, indubitably within the protection of the treaty, and the still more recent threatened outbreak of the same character in Washington Territory, are still fresh in the minds of all who are conversant with the bitterness of feeling among the Mongolian race on the Pacific coast, and may lead to similar lawless demonstrations. All the powers of this Government should be exerted to maintain the most good faith toward the Chinese in the treatment of their persons and property, and to prevent the recurrence of such outbreaks and to aid the representatives of China in their investigation of the outrages and to assist to secure that they are traceable to the lawlessness of men not citizens of the United States engaged in competition with the Chinese. It is the duty of this Government to maintain law and order, and to prevent the recurrence of such outbreaks and to aid the representatives of China in their investigation of the outrages and to assist to secure that they are traceable to the lawlessness of men not citizens of the United States engaged in competition with the Chinese.

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