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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Fellow-citizens of the Senate
and House of Representatives.

Sixty years have elapsed since the establishment of this Government, and the Congress of the United States again assembles to legislate for an empire of freemen. The predictions of evil prophets, who formerly pretended to foretel the downfall of our institutions, are now remembered only to be derided, and the United States of America, at this moment, presents to the world the most stable and permanent government on earth.

Such is the result of the labors of those who have gone before us. Upon Congress will eminently depend the future maintainance of our system of free government, and the transmission of it, unimpaired, to posterity.

We are at peace with all the world, and seem to maintain our cherished relations of amity with the rest of mankind. During the past year we have been blessed by a kind Providence with an abundance of the fruits of the earth; and, although the destroying angel, for a time, visited extensive portions of our territory with the ravages of a dreadful pestilence, yet, the Almighty has at length deigned to stay his hand, and to restore the inestimable blessing of general health to a people who have acknowledged his power, and deprecated his wrath and implored his merciful protection.

While enjoying the benefits of amicable intercourse with foreign nations, we have not been insensible to the distraction and wars which have prevailed in other quarters of the world.—It is the proper theme of thanksgiving to Him who rules the destiny of nations, that we have been able to maintain, amidst all these contests, an independent, neutral position, towards all belligerent powers.

Our relations with Great Britain are of the most friendly character. In consequence of the recent alteration of the British Navigation Acts, British vessels, from British and foreign ports, will, (under our existing laws,) after the first day of January next, be admitted to entry in our ports, with cargoes of the growth, manufacture, or production of any part of the world, on the same terms, as to duties, imports and charges, as vessels of the United States with their cargoes; and our vessels will be admitted to the same advantages in British ports, entering therein on the same terms as British vessels. Should no Order in Council disturb this legislative arrangement, the late act of the British Parliament by which Great Britain is brought within the terms proposed by the act of Congress of the first of March, 1817, it is hoped it will be productive of benefit to both countries.

A slight interruption of diplomatic intercourse which occurred between this Government and France, I am happy to say, has been terminated, and our Minister there has been received. It is, therefore, unnecessary to refer, now, to the circumstances which led to that interruption—I need not express to you the sincere satisfaction with which we shall welcome the arrival of another envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary from a sister Republic, to which we have so long been, and still remain bound by the strongest ties of amity.

Shortly after I had entered upon the discharge of the Executive duties, I was apprised that a new steamer, belonging to the German Empire, was being fitted out in the harbor of New York, with the aid of some of our naval officers, rendered under the permission of the late Secretary of the Treasury. This permission was granted during an armistice between that Empire and the Kingdom of Denmark which had been engaged in the Schleswig Holstein war. Apprehensive that this act of intervention on our part might be viewed as a violation of our neutral obligations, incurred by the treaty with Denmark, and of the provisions of the act of Congress of the 20th of April, 1818, I directed that no further aid should be rendered by any agent or officer of the navy; and I instructed the Secretary of State to apprise the Minister of the German Empire, accredited to this Government, of my determination to execute the law of the United States, and to maintain the faith of treaties with all nations. The correspondence which ensued between the Department of State and the Minis-

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