



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

FELLOW-CITIZENS OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

Throughout the year since our last meeting, the country has been eminently prosperous...

Why is it, then, that discontent now so extensively prevails among the Union of the States...

But let us beware in time, and remove the cause of danger. It cannot be denied that, for five and twenty years, the agitation at the North against slavery in the South has been incessant.

Without their aid, it is beyond the power of any President, no matter what may be his own political proclivities, to restore peace and harmony among the States.

And this brings me to observe that the election of any one of our fellow citizens to the office of President does not of itself afford any cause for dissolving the Union.

They, and they alone, can do it. All that is necessary to accomplish the object, and all which the slave States have ever contended for, is to be left alone, and permitted to manage their domestic institutions in their own way.

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States would be enlarged by the Constitution. The truth is, that it was not until many years ago, that the people of the United States were united...

So far, then, as Congress is concerned, the objection is not that they have already done so, but that what they may do hereafter will surely be admitted that this apprehension of future danger is no good reason for an immediate dissolution of the Union.

Only three days after my inauguration the Supreme Court of the United States solemnly declared that the power did not exist in a territorial legislator. Yet such has been the factious temper of the times that the correctness of this decision has been extensively impugned before the public, and the question has given rise to angry political contentions throughout the country.

The most palpable violations of constitutional duty which have yet been committed consist in the acts of different State legislatures to legislate on the subject of fugitive slaves.

It ought to be remembered, however that for these acts, neither Congress nor any President can justly be held responsible. Having been passed in violation of the Federal Constitution, they are therefore null and void.

Without this provision it is a well-known historical fact that the Constitution itself could never have been adopted by the Convention.

Should he fall in the performance of this high duty, he will have manifested the highest fidelity to the Constitution and laws, to the great injury of the people of nearly one half of the States of the Union.

It is to be regretted, with great loss and considerable expense to the government, that the State legislatures will repeal their unconstitutional and obnoxious enactments. Unless this shall be done without unnecessary delay, it is impossible for any man to govern the Union.

Such a principle is wholly inconsistent with the history as well as the character of the Federal Constitution. After it was framed, with the consent of the people of the several States for the ratification.

And in this position of the Executive? He is bound by solemn oath before God and the country to execute the laws as they are presented, and with this obligation he cannot be absolved by any human power.

The only act of Congress on the statute-book bearing upon this subject, are those of the 23rd of February, 1850. The President, authorized by the President, after he shall have ascertained that the militia with his posse comitatus are armed, and that the laws have been violated.

The bare enumeration of these provisions is sufficient to show that they are not laws, but mere resolutions of Congress, which are not binding on the Executive.

The question of protecting the right in all the common Territories throughout the Territory, and until they shall be admitted as States, is a question which is not settled by the Constitution.

There was a full attendance of members in both Houses on Monday last, forty-eight being present in the Senate and twenty-two in the House.

Although it may seem indelicate to allude to our own affairs, or any praise which has been bestowed upon the "Old Family Journal," our feelings of gratitude to many of our contemporaries for their kind notices, will, we are sure, be permitted.

It appears, from the proceedings of that body on the 31st May, 1850, that the "Old Family Journal" has been published in the State of Virginia, and that it is a paper which is well calculated to do good.

Our old and valued friend the Virginia Free Press, which has been published in the State of Virginia, and that it is a paper which is well calculated to do good.

There is a certain set of men who will only do the right to think for themselves, but will not do the same degree of arduous and presumptuous duty as others.

Words of Truth and Sobriety. The following proceedings of a portion of the people of Harrison county are well worthy the serious consideration of all reflecting persons throughout the State.

At a meeting of a portion of the people of Harrison county, held at a court house on the 24th of March, 1850, the following resolutions were adopted: A committee consisting of the Messrs. S. Carlin, Wm. W. Harrison, Aaron C. ...

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