

and the tubers may then be planted at the usual time. Thus from one tuber three sets for a crop may be obtained. This plan is not likely to succeed with all sorts of potatoes, and probably not with ash-leaved kidneys and others of a like nature; but it is worth trying where it is possible when seed is scarce. I will report to you in the month of March the progress of my experiments.

Yours truly,  
PORTMAN.

## United States News.

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT.

To the Senate of the United States:

In answer to the enquiry of the Senate, contained in their resolution of the 17th inst., whether, in my "judgement, any circumstances connected with or growing out of the foreign relations of this country, require at this time an increase of the naval or military force," and if so, "what those circumstances are," I have to express the opinion that a wise precaution demands such increase.

In my annual message of the 2d of December last, I recommended to the favorable consideration of Congress an increase of our naval force, especially of our steam navy, and the raising of an adequate military force to guard and protect such of our citizens as might think proper to emigrate to Oregon. Since that period, I have seen no cause to recall or modify these recommendations. On the contrary, reasons exist which, in my judgment, render it proper not only that they should be promptly carried into effect but that additional provision should be made for the public defence.

The consideration of such additional provision was brought before the appropriate committees of the two houses of Congress, in answer to calls made by them, in reports, prepared, with my sanction, by the Secretary of war and the Secretary of the Navy, on the 29th of December and the 8th of January last; a mode of communication with Congress not unusual, and, under existing circumstances, believed to be the most eligible. Subsequent events have confirmed me in the opinion that the recommendations were proper and precautionary measures.

It was a wise maxim of the Father of his country, that "to be prepared for war is one of the most efficient means of preserving peace;" and that "avoiding expense by cultivating peace," we should "remember, also, that timely disbursements to prepare for danger frequently prevent much greater disbursements to repel it." The general obligation to perform this duty is greatly strengthened by facts known to the whole world. A controversy respecting the Oregon territory now exists between the United States and Great Britain; and while, as far as we know, the relations of the latter with all European nations are of the most pacific character, she is making unusual and extraordinary armaments and warlike preparations, naval and military, both at home and in her North American possessions.

It cannot be disguised that, however sincere may be the desire of peace, in the event of a rupture those instruments and preparations would be used against our country. Whatever may have been the original purpose of these preparations the fact is undoubted that they are now proceeding, in part, at least, with a view to the contingent possibility of a war with the United States. The general policy of making additional warlike preparations was distinctly announced in the speech from the throne, as late as January last, and has since been reiterated by the ministers of the crown in both houses of Parliament. Under this aspect of our relations with Great Britain, I cannot doubt the propriety of increasing our means of defence both by land and sea. This can give Great Britain no cause of offence, nor increase the danger of a rupture. If, on the contrary we should fold our arms in security, and at last be suddenly involved in hostilities for the maintenance of our just rights, without any adequate preparation, our responsibility to the country would be of the gravest character. Should collision between the two countries be avoided, as I sincerely trust it may be, the additional charge upon the treasury, in making the necessary preparations, will not be lost; while, in the event of such a collision, they would be indispensable for the maintenance of our national rights and national honor.

The state of our relations with Mexico is still in an unsettled condition. Since the meeting of Congress another revolution has taken place in that country by which the government has passed into

the hands of new rulers. This event has procrastinated, and may possibly defeat, the settlement of the differences between the United States and that country. The minister of the United States to Mexico, at the date of the last advices, had not been received by the existing authorities. Demonstrations of a character hostile to the United States continue to be made in Mexico, which has rendered it proper, in my judgment, to keep nearly two-thirds of our army on our South-western frontier. In doing this, many of the regular military posts have been reduced to a small force, inadequate to their defence, should an emergency arise.

In view of these "circumstances," it is my "judgment" that "an increase of our naval and military force, is at this time required," to place the country in a suitable state of defence. At the same time, it is my settled purpose to pursue such a course of policy as may be best calculated to preserve, both with Great Britain and Mexico, an honorable peace; which nothing will so effectually promote as unanimity in our councils, and a firm maintenance of all our just rights.

JAMES K. POLK.

Washington, March 25, 1846.

Bangor Democrat, March 31.

*Great Freshet on the Penobscot.*—The breaking up of the ice in our river has caused the greatest disasters by flood ever experienced on the Penobscot. The loss by the destruction of property and the derangement of business, which will fall principally upon the citizens of Bangor, will be very great and cannot now be estimated with any degree of accuracy.

Early last week the river above us began to swell and the ice to break up. In the great saw mill region, Oldtown, Milford, Great Works and Orono the danger first appeared, the ice from the first mentioned place starting down and forming a dam just below the latter, causing the water to flow backward and rise to a most unusual and dangerous height. The bridge at Milford was carried away, but all the mills above Orono remain and without material injury as far as is yet known. A remarkable escape considering the danger.

At Orono the large and valuable block, over 400 feet long and 60 wide, known as the Basin Mills, was floated off on Friday night.—This immense building took its departure down river in all its original greatness, without being broken or apparently injured, until it reached Eddington Bend, two or three miles below, where a part of it still remains, and the balance is now, perhaps, floating in the ocean in small pieces. The river mills were much injured, also the Still-water Canal, two locks of which were nearly destroyed.

Saturday morning the ice came down from between Oldtown and Mattawamkeag, some fifty miles, passed harmlessly by the Mill District, Oldtown, &c., started the great jam below Orono, and sweeping away the mills, (22 saws) at the Corporation, four miles above Bangor, formed another jam at and above the city, causing the water to overflow the banks of the river. Several families were expelled from their homes above us, and their houses were submerged and much injured by the water. Several small bridges were carried away.

Up to Friday night, there were no appearances here betokening an unusual freshet.—Saturday morning the aspect of things had materially changed; the water had overflowed the wharves penetrated to the cellars in the lower part of the city, and destroyed the upper bridge over the Kenduskeag.

Saturday night a part of the jam moved down, and in a few minutes the whole lower part of the city was inundated, the water having risen ten feet in as many minutes. All day Sunday, the water was from 4 to 12 feet in the principal business streets, being 15 feet deep on the wharves the East side of Broad street. The water came up within a foot of the second story of the stores on West Market square, the same in Wall street, on Broad street it was still higher, the post office was seven or eight feet under water, the great block in which it is kept was in the same state. Exchange street and City point were flooded, in the same manner, and at the entrance to our office the water was six feet deep on the side walk. All day boats were plying between the different points, and the stores were entered through the windows of the second story. Just as daylight disappeared in the evening the ice gave way and in three minutes the water fell about ten feet, and the next morning at daylight there did not appear to be much of a freshet.

Yesterday morning a most melancholy spectacle met our view. The streets

were blocked up with various descriptions of lumber, huge boulders of ice, store houses moved from their foundations, and various kinds of wrecks.—While we are writing there are perhaps twenty rafts of boards in Main street, they extend up to the Hatch house where they were floated.—Broad street is impassable, there being piles of lumber there twenty feet high, timber strewn in every direction, crushed buildings and immense blocks of ice.

The Penobscot bridge and the two upper bridges over the Kenduskeag are gone, and the lower Kenduskeag bridge is much injured and rendered impassable the footways on each side and the middle part of it have been carried away. The Market house was floated off, and is now standing near the old Penobscot ferry. Two or three other small buildings were swept off and others were started from their foundations and damaged. The old Cart store on the point has gone down river.

Several new vessels on the stocks at Bangor and Brewer, partially built, were knocked off, but none were carried away although removed several rods from their first position.

By estimation, there was half a million dollars worth of lumber on our wharves, and the banks of the rivers, a considerable portion of which has been lost; but what proportion it is impossible to determine. This loss will be severely felt.

In the lower parts of the city many families were driven from their houses leaving behind them much of their furniture, and in some instances barely escaping with their lives.

While many of the traders removed their goods to the upper stories of the buildings, others did not take these precautions—goods to a large amount have therefore been destroyed or injured, and all regular business must be suspended for some days. Everything is in a state of confusion and derangement.

We hear that pretty much a clean sweep of all the wharves was made at Hampden. The mills stand above us at the Kenduskeag, but the bridge at six mile falls we learn is gone. Other small bridges about us have been carried away, and the travelling must be very difficult, if the roads are not impracticable for carriages.

A large number of our citizens suffer to a greater or less extent, some are injured to the whole amount of their property, but whether personal sufferers or not, all feel it to be a common calamity. During the seventeen years of our residence, we have never seen a gloom so deep and universal pervading this place.

At 3 o'clock on Sunday morning, by the enterprise of individuals, ferry boats were put on the Kenduskeag, to run from the foot of Hammond street to East Market Square. The toll was 9d until daylight when it was reduced one half.

It was a profitable business while the water was fifteen feet above the bridge, but at dark the business terminated for want of water.

New York Sun, March 28.

*Epidemic.*—Although medical schools are springing up at the West, and many clever graduates matriculate, yet they want enterprise, a bold industrious persevering inquiry into the nature of epidemics prevailing in the west, and the best modes of cure. Henry Wilder, of Greenville, Floyd county, Ia., died in February after an illness of only a few hours. Several other persons have died there and in the neighboring towns, of a disease the most fearful and appalling. A paper published in Floyd county, says physicians have no knowledge of the disease, and stand horror stricken, to witness their patients struck down in a moment and hurried to the tomb. History gives no account of so fatal a malady. In all cases persons attacked have died. The first symptoms are chilliness, severe vomiting, paroxysm, congestion of the brain followed immediately by death. Young physicians should forthwith repair to the seat of danger, watch the disease, experiment upon cures, trace out the causes and prepare notes as to the remedies. This would be giving force and efficiency to their study of medicine.

## Colonial News.

New Brunswick.

Fredrickton Loyalist, April 2.

*Great Destruction of Property—Breaking up of the Saint John River.*—We have this week to record one of the most calamitous events that has perhaps, ever

occurred on this river; so far as the destruction of property is concerned. On Saturday and Sunday last, the water in the river rose to an unusual height, owing to the previous thaw, which had continued for several days without interruption, until the snow which was of an unusual depth, had almost entirely disappeared from off the face of the country.

From information received from the upper country it appears that the ice had run down as far as the French Village, situate about 12 miles above this City, where it jammed across from shore to shore; the water, as a natural consequence rose above the jam to a fearful height carrying with it almost every building within its reach. Almost all the barns situate on the low lands in that vicinity are swept away, with a number of dwelling houses; besides a great number of horses, cattle, and sheep. All the bridges of any consequence between this city and Woodstock, with the exception of those over Eel River, and Sullivan's Creek are entirely destroyed, or carried away and crushed to pieces, amidst the immense mountains of ice that form the different ice-jams below.

We are unable, owing to the want of information, to lay before our readers the amount of damage done; but we fear that a fearful tale yet remains to be told. We have heard of no more than the loss of two lives up to this date, but we fear that many others yet remain to be recorded. Since Sunday last, the excitement in this city has been very great, and very many families have removed out of town to the high lands in this vicinity. The jam above, up to this time remains stationary, and it seems to be the general opinion of those who have visited the scene, that it will remain there, until melted away. The island below the jam have suffered the greatest loss. The hon. Col. Shore, the proprietor of Shore's Island, the uppermost, we believe, of the group, has sustained a very severe loss, amounting as we are informed to £1000; fortunately, his dwelling house is built of stone, and has stood the shock; but the barns, of a very superior description, have been swept away, containing 3 horses, 17 head of cattle, and 50 sheep, besides hay and grain. This we look upon as not only a private but a public loss; as the description of Stock destroyed was very superior.

Sugar Island, the next below appears to have suffered most severely; such was the force of the ice and water, that it carried before it every building on the island, together with cattle, horses, stacks of hay, &c. &c. which are entirely swept away and buried beneath the ponderous masses below. The family of Mr. F. Goodine remained on the island until Sunday, when they were rescued from their perilous situation by the bravery of some individuals from the main land, who at the imminent risk of their own lives, succeeded in rescuing them from a watery grave; some members of the family were almost exhausted from exposure, and want of sustenance.

As near as we can ascertain upwards of 100 buildings have been destroyed, besides an amount of other property of which it is impossible at present to form any estimate. Tuesday afternoon last the ice moved slowly down a short distance, having broken off from the main body at Government House, from which place down to the store of Thomas Pickard, Esq., the River, while we write this article, is perfectly open. Owing to the change of the weather, since Tuesday, it having turned cold, it is generally thought that Fredrickton will escape the flood, which must inevitably have visited us, had the thaw continued. The water is now rapidly decreasing, and we are inclined to the belief that no further damage of any consequence will occur; however, it is impossible to tell what a few days may bring forth, should the weather again turn soft. On Monday last the authorities despatched two pieces of artillery up the River, to be stationed at equal distances between this City and the jam, for the purpose of giving warning to the inhabitants should the jam break.

Since writing the above the ice has run down as far as the mouth of the Nashwalk where up to the time of our going to press it remains.

Woodstock Telegraph, March 28.

The ice in the Main River and the Creek cleared out yesterday. Our bridge was considered to be in danger, but we are pleased to think that there is no occasion for any further apprehension.

The Bridge across the Maduxnakick, in the neighbourhood of Peabody's Mill, about six miles from here was carried away by the ice.