

"I rejoice that, in concert with the Emperor of Russia, and through the success of our joint mediation, I have been enabled to adjust the differences which had long prevailed between the Ottoman Porte and the King of Persia, and had seriously endangered the tranquillity of the East.

"For several years a desolating and sanguinary warfare has afflicted the States of the Rio de la Plata. The commerce of all nations has been interrupted, and acts of barbarity have been committed unknown to the practice of civilized people. In conjunction with the King of the French I am endeavouring to effect the pacification of these States.

"The convention concluded with France in the course of the last year for the more effectual suppression of the slave trade, is about to be carried into immediate execution by the active co-operation of the two Powers on the coast of Africa.

"It is my desire that our present union, and the good understanding which so happily exists between us, may always be employed to promote the interests of humanity and to secure the peace of the world.

"I regret that the conflicting claims of Great Britain and the United States, in respect to the Territory on the North Western Coast of America, although they have been made the subject of repeated negotiations, still remain unsettled.

"You may be assured that no effort, consistent with national honour, shall be wanting on my part to bring this question to an early and peaceful termination.

"Gentlemen of the House of Commons,"

"The estimates of the year will be laid before you, at an early period.

"Although I am deeply sensible of the importance of enforcing economy in all branches of the expenditure, yet I have been compelled by a due regard to the exigencies of the public service, and to the state of our naval and military establishment, to propose some increase in the estimates which provide for their efficiency.

"My Lords and Gentlemen,"

"I have observed with deep regret the very frequent instances in which the crime of deliberate assassination has been of late committed in Ireland.

"It will be your duty to consider whether any measures can be devised, calculated to give increased protection to life and to bring to justice the perpetrators of so dreadful a crime.

"I have to lament that in consequence of the failure of the potato crop in several parts of the United Kingdom, there will be a deficient supply of an article of food which forms the chief subsistence of great numbers of my people.

"The disease by which the plant has been affected, has prevailed to the greatest extent in Ireland.

"I have adopted all such precautions as it was in my power to adopt for the purpose of alleviating the sufferings which may be caused by this calamity; and I shall confidently rely on your co-operation in devising such other means for effecting the same benevolent purpose as may require the sanction of the Legislature.

"I have great satisfaction in giving my assent to the measures which you have presented to me from time to time, calculated to extend commerce, and to stimulate skill and industry, by the repeal of prohibitory and the relaxation of protective duties.

"The prosperous state of the revenue, the increased demand for labour, and the general improvement which has taken place in the internal condition of the country, are strong testimonies in favour of the course you have pursued.

"I recommend you to take into your early consideration, whether the principles on which you have acted may not with advantage be yet more extensively applied, and whether it may not be in your power, after a careful review of the existing duties upon many articles the produce or manufacture of other countries, to make such further reductions and remissions as may tend to ensure the continuance of the great benefits to which I have adverted, and by enlarging our commercial intercourse to strengthen the bonds of amity with Foreign Powers.

"Any measures which you may adopt for effecting these great objects will, I am convinced, be accompanied by such precautions, as shall prevent permanent loss to the revenue, or injurious results to any of the great interests of the country.

"I have full reliance on your just and dispassionate consideration of matters so deeply affecting the public welfare.

"It is my earnest prayer that, with the blessing of Divine Providence on your counsels, you may be enabled to promote friendly feelings between different classes of my subjects, to provide additional security for the continuance of peace, and to maintain contentment and happiness at home, by increasing the comforts and bettering the condition of the great body of my people."

THE UNITED STATES AND GREAT BRITAIN.

The following correspondence between the Secretary of State and the Minister of Great Britain, has been submitted to the House of Representatives:—

TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES.

In compliance with the request of the House of Representatives, in their resolution of the 3d instant, I herewith communicate a report from the Secretary of State, with the accompanying correspondence which has taken place between the Secretary of State

and the Minister of the United States at London, and between the Government of Great Britain and this Government, in relation to the country west of the Rocky Mountains, since the last annual message of the President to Congress.

JAMES K. POLK.

Washington, Feb. 7, 1846.

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

Department of State,

Washington, February 5, 1846.

The Secretary of State, to whom has been referred a resolution of the House of Representatives of the 3d instant, requesting the President to communicate to that House, "so far as, in his opinion, is not incompatible with the public interest, all correspondence which has passed between the Government of Great Britain and this Government, or by or between any of the officers of said Government, in relation to the country west of the Rocky Mountains, since the last annual message of the President to this House," has the honor to lay before the President the accompanying papers.

All which is respectfully submitted.

JAMES BUCHANAN

MR. BUCHANAN TO MR. M'LANE.

Department of State,

Washington, December 13, 1845.

SIR,—

The President has received information from a variety of sources, which he cannot disregard, that Great Britain is now making extensive warlike preparations. As her relations with all the Powers of Europe seem at present to be of a peaceful character, the prevailing and natural inference here is, that these preparations look to a rupture with the United States on the Oregon question. It is of vast importance that this Government should, as early as possible, ascertain their true character. You are, therefore, instructed to embrace the first opportunity of bringing this subject to the notice of the Earl of Aberdeen, in such a manner as you may deem most expedient.

The President is also anxious to learn your own opinion upon this subject with the least practicable delay.

I am, &c.

JAMES BUCHANAN.

Louis M'Lane, Esq. &c. &c. &c.

MR. M'LANE TO MR. BUCHANAN.

London, January 3, 1846

SIR,—I received on the 29th of December your despatch dated the 13th of that month; and on the day following I sought an interview with Lord Aberdeen, in order that, in conformity with your instructions, I might bring to his notice the warlike preparations making by Great Britain, and, if possible, ascertain their real character and object.

It will not escape you that upon such a subject it is not always easy to obtain very categorical answers, or entirely definite official information; and I did not doubt that a frank personal conference was the best, if not the only mode, of obtaining any satisfactory information whatever.

In introducing the subject, I adverted at the same time to the information the President had received from a variety of sources, of the extensive warlike preparations making by Great Britain, and the natural inference upon his part, that, in the present pacific state of the relations of Great Britain with all the Powers of Europe, they could only look to a rupture with the United States on the Oregon question.

Lord Aberdeen said very promptly and frankly that it would be improper to disguise that, with the sincerest desire to avoid it, they were obliged to look to the possibility of a rupture with the United States; and that, in such a crisis, the warlike preparations now making would be useful and important; but he stated at the same time, very positively and distinctly, that they had no direct reference to such a rupture, and would have been made in the same way, and to the same extent, without regard to the relations of Great Britain and the United States.

He also adverted to the fact, that such preparations as were actually making had been commenced before the relations between the United States and Great Britain had become as serious as they now appeared to be, and therefore could not at that time have had any connection with the difficulties which have since grown out of the Oregon Question. He thought, too, that the representations as to the extent of the preparations must have been exaggerated. He denied that they related particularly, as I had been informed, to a distant service; or that they were making any addition to the old form of marine. He stated that the most extensive and formidable parts of their preparations were the fortifications of the principal and exposed ports and stations, which, he thought, could hardly be supposed to guard against invasion from the United States; and to the increase of the number of steam vessels in lieu of the old craft, which, it appeared, other nations were about to adopt, and which, he confessed, he thought a matter of doubtful policy. In short, he assumed the preparations in progress to be only a part of a wise and prudent system of national defence and protection, and of preparing in time of peace for the exigencies of war, if it should unfortunately come from any quarter whatever; and he distinctly repeated his disclaimer that they had particular or direct reference to a rupture with the United States on the Oregon question or any other ground.