

employed, and too often, of neces-
sities which such service demands.
to your attention, and also the propo-
sition of congress, and now renew-
ed the topographical corps. This reor-
ganization without any addition to the present
advantage to the public service.
which devolves upon these officers is at
the community, and the information
in peace and in war.

have been experienced in con-
taining the ordinary ap-
pears, which passed one branch of the
the last session, but was lost in the
the most unexpected, not only because
and delayed the progress of a system
acted immediately after the last war,
and, but also because it contained a
is inserted in accordance with the views
of this important object, and other
of influence, some portions of which might
be applied during the past season. I in-
clude in that part of the report of the secre-
tary on this subject, and recommend an
to liberal to accelerate the armament of
ably in the proposition submitted by
the whole Atlantic seaboard in a complete
to the permanent interests of
of this measure, but there are also
of the present juncture, give it peculiar
to call to the subject your special

military education has been in opera-
tion its usefulness, and it has given to
of officers. It is not alone in the im-
provement of the troops, that these
are also extensively engaged in the
of concerns of the various matters con-
nected in the execution of the staff duties
of military organization; in the removal
of the various expendi-
of Indian relations; in the formation of
of harbors and rivers; in the
of the fabrication of much of the
of the public defence; and in the preserva-
of the whole; and in other
of adjoining classification.

embrace very heavy expenditures
of fidelity, science and business ha-
and a system which shall secure these
by the public interest. That this
measure, obtained by the military
of the state of the service, and by the
which has generally followed the neces-
of other political systems, the present
of the nation, no doubt, has its imperfections,
and, but I trust these can be improved
and by legislative scrutiny, without de-

as well as all other nations are
of external relations, point to the
of the organization of the militia. I am again
of the subject, to bring it to your
of domestic violence, and to repel foreign
of our country, we must rely, in
of the great body of the community, whose
of whose power must support, the govern-
of military force is not consonant to the
of our countrymen;
of our time, and these also of our own times,
of the enormous expense, of these
of the military organizations. That just
of inadequate preparation on one hand,
of a large force on the other, is
of a right to expect from their govern-
of be attained only by the maintenance of
of by such an organization of the phy-
of as may bring this power into opera-
of as is required. A classification of
of the most obvious means of effecting this
of which may be made as will be just to
of a proper period of life, from one
of calling first for the services of that
of or action, which, from age, is
of and may be called to perform it with least
of to the public. Should the danger ever
of to require additional force, the other
of be ready for the call. And if, in
of military associations were en-
of held out for their formation, our
of of efficient service. Now, when we
of time to digest and establish a practi-
of is certainly worth the experiment,
of we are appreciating the blessings of a
of to his share of the burden
of. Indeed, a moderate portion of
of is better applied than in car-
of such an arrangement, and in

giving the necessary elementary instruction. We are happily
at peace with all the world. A sincere desire to continue so,
and a fixed determination to give no just cause of offence to
other nations, furnish, unfortunately, no certain grounds of ex-
pectation that this relation will be uninterrupted. With this
determination to give no offence is associated a resolution,
equally decided, tamely to submit to none. The armor and the
attitude of defence afford the best security against those colli-
sions which the ambition, or interest, or some other passion of
nations, not more justifiable, is liable to produce. In many
countries, it is considered unsafe to put arms into the hands of
the people, and to instruct them in the elements of military
knowledge. That fear can have no place here, when it is re-
collected that the people are the sovereign power. Our govern-
ment was instituted, and is supported, by the ballot box, not by
the musket. Whatever changes await it, still greater changes
must be made in our social institutions, before our political
system can yield to physical force. In every aspect, therefore,
in which I can view the subject, I am impressed with the im-
portance of a prompt and efficient organization of the militia.

The plan of removing the aboriginal people who yet remain
within the settled portions of the United States, to the country
west of the Mississippi river, approaches its consummation. It
was adopted on the most mature consideration of the condition
of this race, and ought to be persisted in till the object is ac-
complished, and prosecuted with as much vigor as a just re-
gard to their circumstances will permit, and as fast as their
consent can be obtained. All preceding experiments for the
improvement of the Indians have failed. It seems now to be
an established fact, that they cannot live in contact with a civ-
ilized community and prosper. Ages of fruitless endeavors
have, at length, brought us to a knowledge of this principle of
intercommunication with them. The past we cannot recall,
but the future we can provide for. Independently of the treaty
stipulations into which we have entered with the various tribes
for the usufructuary rights they have ceded to us, no one can
doubt the moral duty of the government of the United States to
protect, and, if possible, to preserve and perpetuate the scatter-
ed remnants of this race, which are left within our borders. In
the discharge of this duty, an extensive region in the west has
been assigned for their permanent residence. It has been div-
ided into districts and allotted among them. Many have al-
ready removed, and others are preparing to go; and with the ex-
ception of two small bands, living in Ohio and Indiana, not ex-
ceeding fifteen hundred persons, and of the Cherokees, all the
tribes on the east side of the Mississippi, and extending from
Lake Michigan to Florida, have entered into engagements
which will lead to their transplantation.

The plan for their removal and re-establishment is founded
upon the knowledge we have gained of their character and
habits, and has been dictated by a spirit of enlarged liberality. A
territory exceeding in extent that relinquished, has been grant-
ed to each tribe. Of its climate, fertility and capacity to sup-
port an Indian population, the representations are highly favor-
able. To these districts the Indians are removed at the expense
of the United States; and, with certain supplies of clothing,
arms, ammunition, and other indispensable articles, they are
also furnished gratuitously with provisions for the period of a
year after their arrival at their new homes. In that time, from
the nature of the country, and of the products raised by them,
they can subsist themselves by agricultural labor, if they choose
to resort to that mode of life; if they do not, they are upon the
skirts of the great prairies, where countless herds of buffalo
roam, and a short time suffices to adapt their own habits to the
changes which a change of the animals destined for their food
may require. Ample arrangements have also been made for
the support of schools: in some instances council houses and
churches are to be erected, dwellings constructed for the chiefs,
and mills for common use. Funds have been set apart for the
maintenance of the poor; the most necessary mechanical arts
have been introduced, and blacksmiths, gunsmiths, wheel-
wrights, millwrights, &c. are supported among them. Steel
and iron, and sometimes salt, are purchased for them; and
ploughs, and other farming utensils, domestic animals, looms,
spinning wheels, cards, &c. are presented to them. And be-
sides these beneficial arrangements, annuities are, in all cases,
paid, amounting, in some instances, to more than thirty dollars
for each individual of the tribe, and in all cases sufficiently
great, if justly divided and prudently expended, to enable them,
in addition to their own exertions, to live comfortably. And
as a stimulus for exertion, it is now provided by law that "in
all cases of the appointment of interpreters, or other persons
employed for the benefit of the Indians, a preference shall be
given to persons of Indian descent, if such can be found who are
properly qualified for the discharge of the duties."

Such are the arrangements for the physical comfort, and for
the moral improvement, of the Indians. The necessary meas-
ures for their political advancement, and for their separation
from our citizens, have not been neglected. The pledge of the
United States has been given by congress, that the country des-
tined for the residence of this people, shall be forever "secured
and guaranteed to them." A country, west of Missouri and
Arkansas, has been assigned to them, into which the white set-
tlers are not to be pushed. No political communities can
be formed in that extensive region, except those which are es-
tablished by the Indians themselves, or by the United States for
them, and with their concurrence. A barrier has thus been
raised, for their protection against the encroachments of our

citizens, and guarding the Indians, as far as possible, from those
evils which have brought them to their present condition.
Summary authority has been given, by law, to destroy all ar-
dent spirits found in their country, without waiting the doubtful
result and slow process of a legal seizure. I consider the abso-
lute and unconditional interdiction of this article, among these
people, as the first and great step in their melioration. Half-
way measures will answer no purpose. These cannot success-
fully contend against the cupidity of the seller, and the over-
powering appetite of the buyer. And the destructive effects of
the traffic are marked in every page of the history of our Indian
intercourse.

Some general legislation seems necessary for the regulation
of the relations which will exist in this new state of things be-
tween the government and people of the United States and
these transplanted Indian tribes; and for the establishment
among the latter, and with their own consent, of some prin-
ciples of intercommunication, which their juxtaposition will call
for; that moral may be substituted for physical force; the au-
thority of a few and simple laws, for the tomahawk; and that
an end may be put to those bloody wars, whose prosecution
seems to have made part of their social system.

After the further details of this arrangement are completed,
with a very general supervision over them, they ought to be left
to the progress of events. These, I indulge the hope, will se-
cure their prosperity and improvement; and a large portion of
the moral debt we owe them will then be paid.

The report from the secretary of the navy, showing the con-
dition of that branch of the public service, is recommended to
your special attention. It appears from it, that our naval force
at present in commission, with all the activity which can be
given to it, is inadequate to the protection of our rapidly in-
creasing commerce. This consideration, and the more general
one which regards this arm of the national defence as our best
security against foreign aggressions, strongly urge the continu-
ance of the measures which promote its gradual enlargement,
and a speedy increase of the force which has been heretofore
employed abroad and at home. You will perceive, from the
estimates which appear in the report of the secretary of the navy,
that the expenditures necessary to this increase of its force,
though of considerable amount, are small compared with the
benefits which they will secure to the country.

As a means of strengthening this national arm, I also recom-
mend to your particular attention the propriety of the suggestion
which attracted the consideration of congress at its last session,
respecting the enlistment of boys at a suitable age in the service.
In this manner a nursery of skilful and able-bodied seamen can
be established, which will be of the greatest importance. Next
to the capacity to put afloat and arm the requisite number of
ships, is the possession of the means to man them efficiently;
and nothing seems better calculated to aid this object than the
measure proposed. As an auxiliary to the advantages derived
from our extensive commercial marine, it would furnish us with
a resource ample enough for all the exigencies which can be
anticipated. Considering the state of our resources, it cannot
be doubted that whatever provision the liberality and wisdom
of congress may now adopt, with a view to the perfect organi-
zation of this branch of our service, will meet the approbation
of all classes of our citizens.

By the report of the postmaster general, it appears that the
revenue of that department during the year ending on the 30th
day of June last, exceeded its accruing responsibilities \$236,206;
and that the surplus of the present fiscal year is estimated at
\$476,227. It further appears that the debt of the department,
on the first day of July last, including the amount due to con-
tractors for the quarter then just expired, was about \$1,064,381,
exceeding the available means about \$23,700; and that, on the
1st instant, about \$597,077 of this debt had been paid; \$409,991
out of postages accruing before July, and \$187,086 out of post-
ages accruing since. In these payments are included \$67,000 of
the old debt due to banks. After making these payments, the
department had \$73,000 in bank on the 1st instant. The pleas-
ing assurance is given, that the department is entirely free from
embarrassment, and that, by collection of outstanding balances,
and using the current surplus, the remaining portion of the bank
debt, and most of the other debt, will probably be paid in April
next, leaving thereafter a heavy amount to be applied in ex-
tending the mail facilities of the country. Reserving a consid-
erable sum for the improvement of existing mail routes, it is
stated that the department will be able to sustain, with perfect
convenience, an annual charge of \$300,000 for the support of
new routes, to commence as soon as they can be established
and put in operation.

The measures adopted by the postmaster general to bring the
means of the department into action, and to effect a speedy ex-
tinguishment of its debt, as well as to produce an efficient ad-
ministration of its affairs, will be found detailed at length in his
able and luminous report. Aided by a reorganization on the
principles suggested, and such salutary provisions in the laws
regulating its administrative duties, as the wisdom of congress
may devise or approve, that important department will soon at-
tain a degree of usefulness proportioned to the increase of our
population and the extension of our settlements.

Particular attention is solicited to that portion of the report of
the postmaster general which relates to the carriage of the mails
of the United States upon rail roads constructed by private cor-
porations under the authority of the several states. The reli-
ance which the general government can place on those roads