MESSAGE TO CONGRESS

ENGLAND IS WARNED TO KEEP HANDS OFF.

The Principles Involved in the Venezuela Dispute Declared of the Gravest National Importance--An Independent Commission To Investigate is Urged.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—Soon after both houses of Congress met to-day, the President sent, by Executive Clerk Pruden, the expected message in regard to the British-Venezuelan complication. It was at once read in both houses, as follows:

To the Congress: In my annual message, addressed to the Congress on the 3d inst., I called attention to the pending boundary controversy between Great Britain and the Republic of Venezuela, and recited the substance of a representation made by this government to Her Britannic Majesty's government suggesting reasons why such dispute should be submitted to arbitration for settlement and inquiring whether it would be so submitted.

The answer of the British government, which was then awaited, has since been received and, together with the dispatch to which it is a reply, is hereto appended.

Such reply is embodied in two communications addressed by the British prime minister to Sir Julian Pauncefote, the British ambassador at this capital. It will be seen that one of these communications is devoted exclusively to observations on the Monroe doctrine and claims that in the present instance a new and strange extension and development of this doctrine is insisted on by the United States, that the reasons justifying an appeal to the doctrine enunciated by President Monroe are generally inapplicable "to the state of things in which we live at the present day" and especially inapplicable to a controversy involving the boundary line between Great Britain and Venezuela.

THE MONROE DOCTRINE UPHELD.

Without attempting extended arguments in reply to these positions, it may not be amiss to suggest that the doctrine upon which we stand is strong and sound, because its enforcement is important to our peace and safety as a nation and is essential to the integrity of our free institutions and the tranquil maintenance of our distinctive form of government. It was intended to apply to every stage of our national life and cannot become obsolete while our republic endures. If the balance of power is justly a cause for jealous anxiety among the governments of the old world and a subject for our absolute non-interference, none the less is an observance of the Monroe doctrine of vital concern to our people and their government.

Assuming, therefore, that we may properly insist upon this doctrine without regard to "the state of things in which we live," or any changed conditions here or elsewhere, it is not apparent why its application may not be invoked in the present controversy. If a European power, by an extension of its boundaries, takes possession of the territory of one of our neighboring republics against its will and in derogation of its rights, it is difficult to see why, to that extent, such European power does not thereby attempt to extend its system of government to that portion of this continent which is thus taken. This is the precise action which President Monroe declared to be "dangerous to our peace and safety," and it can make no difference whether the European system is extended by an advance of frontier or otherwise.

CLEARLY INTERNATIONAL LAW.

It has been suggested in the British reply that we should not seek to apply the Monroe doctrine to the present dispute, because it does not embody any principle of international law which "is founded on the general consent of nations," and that "no statesman, however eminent, and no nation, however powerful, are competent to insert into the code of international law a novel principle which was never recognized before, and which has not since been accepted by the government or any other country." Practically the principle for which we contend has peculiar, if not exclusive, relation to the United States. It may not have been admitted in so many words to the code of international law, but since, in international counsels every nation is entitled to the rights belonging to it, if the enforcement of the Monroe doctrine is something we may justly claim it has its place in the code of international law as certainly and as securely as if it were specifically mentioned, and [illegible] the United States is a suitor before the high tribunal that administers [illegible] national law the question to be [illegible] mined is whether or not we pre[illegible] claims which the justice of that [illegible] of law can find to be right and [illegible]d.

CONCESSIONS MADE BY ENGLAND.

The Monroe doctrine finds its recognition in those principles of international law which are based upon the theory that every nation shall have its rights protected and its just claims [illegible]reed. Of course this government [illegible] entirely confident that under the [illegible] ction of this doctrine we have clear [illegible] and undoubted claims. Nor is [illegible] ignored by the British reply. The [illegible] minister, while not admitting that the Monroe doctrine is applicable to present conditions, states: "In de[illegible] that the United States would [illegible] any such enterprise if it was [illegible] President Monroe adopt[illegible] which received the entire [illegible] English Government of [illegible] He further declares: [illegible] President [illegible] [illegible] English [illegible] [illegible] Again he says: [illegible] Her Majesty's government [illegible] with the view which President Monroe apparently entertained that any disturbance of the existing territorial distribution in that hemisphere by any fresh acquisitions on the part of any European state, would be a highly inexpedient change."

ENGLAND DECLINES ARBITRATION.

In the belief that the doctrine for which we contend was clear and definite, that it was founded upon substantial considerations and involved our safety and welfare, that it was fully applicable to our present conditions and to the state of the world's progress, and that it was directly related to the pending controversy and without any conviction as to the final merits of the dispute, but anxious to learn in a satisfactory and conclusive manner whether Great Britain sought under a claim of boundary to extend her possessions on this continent without right, or whether she merely sought possession of territory fairly included within her lines of ownership, this government proposed to the government of Great Britain a resort to arbitration as the proper means of settling the question, to the end that a vexatious boundary dispute between the two contestants might be determined and our exact standing and relation in respect to the controversy might be made clear. It will be seen from the correspondence herewith submitted that this proposition has been declined by the British government upon grounds, which, under the circumstances, seem to me to be far from satisfactory. It is deeply disappointing that such an appeal actuated by the most friendly feelings toward both nations directly concerned, addressed to the sense of justice and to the magnanimity of one of the great powers of the world and touching its relations to one comparatively weak and small, should have produced no better results.

The course to be pursued by this government in view of the present condition does not appear to admit of serious doubt. Having labored faithfully for many years to induce Great Britain to submit this dispute to impartial arbitration, and having been now finally apprised of her refusal to do so, nothing remains but to accept the situation, to recognize its plain requirements and deal with it accordingly.

BOUNDARY INQUIRY AND FIRMNESS.

Great Britain's present proposition has never thus far been regarded as admissable by Venezuela, though any adjustment of the boundary which that country may deem for her advantage and may enter into of her own free will cannot, of course, be objected to by the United States. Assuming, however, that the attitude of Venezuela will remain unchanged, the dispute has reached such a stage as to make it incumbent upon the United States to take measures to determine with sufficient certainty for its justification what is the true divisional line between the republic of Venezuela and British Guiana. The inquiry to that end should of course be conducted carefully and judicially, and due weight should be given to all available evidence, records and facts in support of the claims of both parties.

In order that such an examination should be prosecuted in a thorough and satisfactory manner, I suggest that Congress make adequate appropriation for the expenses of a commission to be appointed by the Executive, who shall make the necessary investigation and report upon the matter with the least possible delay. When such report is made and accepted it will, in my opinion, be the duty of the United States to resist by every means in its power as a willful aggression upon its rights and interests, the appropriation by Great Britain of any lands or the exercise of government jurisdiction over any territory which, after investigation, we have determined of right belonging to Venezuela.

NO SUPINE SUBMISSION TO WRONG.

In making these commendations I am fully alive to the responsibility incurred and keenly realize all the consequences that may follow. I am nevertheless firm in my conviction that while it is a grevious thing to contemplate the two great English speaking people of the world as being otherwise than friendly competitors in the onward march of civilization and strenuous and worthy rivals in all the arts of peace, there is no calamity which a great nation can invite which equals that which follows a supine submission to wrong and injustice and the consequent loss of national self respect and honor, beneath which is shielded and defended a people's safety and greatness.

GROVER CLEVELAND,
Executive Mansion, Dec. 17, 1895.

OLNEY'S DECLARATIONS.

The Contentions of the United States Set Forth by the Secretary.

Accompanying the President's message in regard to the Venzuela complication is the correspondence on the subject. It starts with Secretary Olney's note reopening the negotiations with Great Britain, looking to the arbitration of the boundary dispute. This bears date of July 20 last and is addressed to Mr. Bayard.

The duty of America is summed up as follows: "In these circumstances, the duty of the President appears to him unmistakable and imperative. Great Britain's assertion of title to the disputed territory, combined with her refusal to have that title investigated, being a substantial appropriation of the territory to her own use, not to protest and give warning that the transaction will be regarded as injurious to the interests of the people of the United Stated as well as oppressive in itself, would be to ignore an established policy with which the honor and welfare of this country are closely identified. While the measures necessary or proper for the vindication of that policy are to be determined by another branch of the government, it is clearly for the Executive to leave nothing undone which may tend to render such determination unnecessary."

Mr. Bayard is directed to read the communication to Lord Salisbury and ask a definite decision regarding arbitration.

Apache Chief Eskiminzin Dead.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—The Bureau of Indian Affairs was notified today of the death of Eskiminzin, one of the most noted chiefs of the Apaches at the San Carlos Reservation, Ariz.

[illegible]

PARIS, Mo., Dec. [illegible]—Ira [illegible], a farmer, [illegible] miles south of this city, committed suicide by shooting. He was about [illegible] years old.

HOUSE ACTS QUICKLY

BILL FOR VENEZUELA COMMISSION PASSED.

The Bill Introduced by Mr. Hitt of Illinois —Mr. Boutelle of Maine and Mr. Crisp of Georgia Alone Favor a Policy of Caution —Senator Chandler's Defense Bill.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—Mr. Hitt of Illinois, Republican, rose in the House as soon as it had been called to order to-day and called for unanimous consent for the consideration of the following:

"A bill making an appropriation for the expense of a commission to investigate and report on the true division line between the republic of Venzuela and British Guiana.

"Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, that the sum of $100,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, be and the same is hereby appropriated for the expenses of a commission to be appointed by the President to investigate and report upon the true divisional line between the republic of Venezuela and British Guiana."

When the words were read by the clerk they were loudly applauded on both sides of the chamber.

Mr. Boutelle prefaced his remarks by the statement that he disliked to object to the consideration of such a bill, "but," said he, "it seems that this subject is one of such serious importance that the House of Representatives should proceed in a decorous manner to consider it. The President's message was read yesterday, and, it seems to me, gentlemen may not be ready to pass upon a bill of this importance without deliberation."

MR. BOUTELLE WANTED CAUTION.

Cries of "Ready, Ready" from the Republican side interrupted Mr. Boutelle, but he urged that the matter was one which affected the relations of the two great English speaking nations of the world. He said: "I have been accused of being a jingo, whatever that may mean. I hope no one in that part of the country where I am known would believe that I would hesitate in my support if the honor, dignity or safety of the country required, to take up arms against any or all of the nations of the world. But the press shows the country to be in a state of feverish excitement. It seems that we ought to give this matter as much consideration as we would give to an appropriation of a few thousand dollars."

Mr. Boutelle referred to the President's message as an extraordinary one, and went on: "It seems that we should send to the committee, to be calmly considered, this great question and the message in which the executive himself for the first time in the history of such correspondence, has outlined the possibilities of war between the two great Anglo-Saxon nations of the world."

The speaker asked: "Does the gentleman object?"

Mr. Boutelle said that he had merely suggested a hope that the bill would go to the committee.

MR. HITT'S PATRIOTIC TALK.

Mr. Hitt announced that he only desired to say a word concerning the bill and its purpose. He would do so, he said, "without mentioning this side or that side, for he hoped there would be no two sides when it came to a question like this. Aside from its general discussion of matters of national policy and interests, there was a request made by the president for help from the house to enable him to exercise his executive functions.

"The first thing for us to remember as patriots," said Mr. Hitt, "is that the success of our country depends upon our maintaining a united front—that our government should speak for all the people of the United States." The suggestion of the President was for a judicial investigation. He was sure it was made in the proper spirit and the occasion required that the country should act as one man. In such a time the executive was hampered by every criticism that comes from his country. It should not be understood by the British press that the President was not backed up by his country, but only by his own party. The people had had a long time to consider the Monroe doctrine; they might not agree with all the details outlined by the President and Secretary Olney and the discussion here would prove a help to those across the sea. He hoped the bill would pass.

Mr. Hitt moved the previous question, but Mr. Crisp of Georgia secured his permission to say a word. He began: "I speak for all this side of the House, where there is no division as to the propriety of passing the bill. This House respectfully invited the government of Great Britain to arbitrate the boundary question between Venezuela and British Guiana. Great Britain has declined. Now what are we to do? If the American people have a fixed opinion on any question, they have a decisive opinion that no European country can acquire territory on the American continent by force."

PASSED WITHOUT ONE DISSENT.

Mr. Hitt entreated Mr. Crisp, in view of the magnitude of the interests involved, not to precipitate a hasty discussion of them.

Mr. Crisp reminded Mr. Hitt that the Republicans had introduced the bill which he had attempted to bring in himself yesterday, and continued, saying that if the boundary could not be ascertained by arbitration with Great Britain the United States should ascertain it at once. "And when we have ascertained where it is," he concluded, "we should have the courage and manhood to maintain it."

Mr. McCreary of Kentucky and Mr. Boutelle were shouting for recognition, but Mr. Hitt refused to yield the floor, and the previous question was put and carried with a shout of "ayes" and no opposing votes.

A resolution was offered by Mr. Dingley and agreed to that the holiday adjournment be from Friday, December 20, to Friday, January 3. Then the House at 12:[illegible] adjourned until Friday.

MR. CHANDLER'S DEFENSE BILL.

In the senate Mr. Chandler of New Hampshire introduced a bill to strengthen the military armament." It directs the president to strengthen the military force of the United States by adding 1,000,000 infantry rifles, 1,200 guns for field artillery and not exceeding 5,000 heavy guns for fortification. The sum of $1,000,000 is made immediately available for the purpose of the proposed armament.

THE MESSAGE APPROVED.

Created a Great Sensation in the City of Washington.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—The message of President Cleveland to Congress transmitting the correspondence between Secretary Olney and Lord Salisbury relative to the Venezuelan boundary dispute created a real sensation in Washington. Nowhere was there a voice lifted in dissent from the doctrine so firmly laid down by the President, but on the contrary there was an outburst of patriotic feeling that must have been highly gratifying to the chief executive.

On the streets, the message was discussed and old veterans of the late war talked exultingly of what they were prepared again to undertake at the call of their country.

In the great hall of the pension building, the employes gathered and sang with great gusto the "Star Spangled Banner," and "My Country, 'Tis of Thee."

At the White House messages poured in from every quarter of the country, congratulating the President upon his message. They came from men of all parties and station.

The matter, of course, was of the greatest interest in diplomatic circles, and the general impression, on a sober second consideration of the notes, was that the matter has not reached a stage where war is imminent, and that the hint of Great Britain's purpose to reopen negotiations with Venezuela, looking to settlement of the dispute between themselves, perhaps may be regarded as the indication of how the whole matter will end.

Minister Andrade of Venezuela secured a copy of the message early in the day, and cabled it, by way of Cuba and Hayti, to his government. The time of transmission is eight hours, and it is felt that its reception at Caracas will be the signal for an enthusiastic demonstsation. Mr. Andrade's satisfaction was almost beyond the power of expression. "The message is superb," he said with much enthusiasm. "It is even a surprise to me in its vigor, in the nobility of the sentiments expressed, and in the masterly exposition of the Monroe doctrine. There can be no doubt or misconstruction of its meaning. In my country it can not but arouse the keenest appreciation on the part of the government and the people for this powerful expression of friendship from a strong country in behalf of a comparatively weak one."

Mr. Andrade was asked what the next step of Venezuela would be.

"There is nothing further for us to do. We have announced our policy, and in that we have the co-operation and support of the United States. We are a little more than spectators now."

"Is the plan of a commission to investigate the question and fix the line feasible?" the minister was asked.

"Perfectly so," he replied. "The evidence can readily be furnished, so far as Venezuela is concerned. It will be a laborious work, as the documents and maps are very voluminous, and from many sources, including those of Holland, Spain and other countries, as well as those of Venezuela."

CLEVELAND CRITICISED.

Governor Altgeld Charges the Administration With Bad Faith.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Dec. 19.—Governor Altgeld expressed his opinion of the President's message on the Venezuelan question in the following language:

"Behind the ponderous pretense of this message several remarkable things are conspicuous, which will give comfort and much satisfaction to the English. First, when carefully analyzed, the message is found to be a loud cry to Congress to help the Administration let go of the tiger's tail, and it shows clearly that the Administration is looking around for a hole in the fence to creep through in order to get out of the field in which it has been doing some grunting and a little rooting. And it also shows that either we have the most incompetent State department that this Government ever had, or else that this department is willing to put itself into a ridiculous position in order to be able to gain time, so as to shove everything over on the next Administration.

"Now, suppose a commission is appointed, and it goes through the form of an investigation and then reports that the facts are in favor of England, and that we ought never to have interfered, and have no ground for protesting, how will we then look in the sight of the other nations? On the other hand, if the commission should not be willing to make such a report then it will be easy to carry things along until after the end of this administration, for it is easy to put in a great deal of time in examining boundary line questions.

"And you notice the president asks that he be permitted to name this commission. Of course he will name friends of his, and they will not report until he asks them to. You are, therefore, safe in saying that if this commission is appointed there will be no interruption of those English influences which have been so potent with the present federal administration, and poor Venezuela will be like Cuba, they will find that the head of the American republic is so engrossed with great and mighty thoughts that he can take no notice of them."

Burglars Use Dynamite.

CLINTON, Mo., Dec. 19.—Burglars used dynamite on the vault doors of the bank of [illegible], ten miles south of here, last night, but were unable to open the inner safe. They stole a team of horses and fled, abandoning the team at [illegible], where it is thought they boarded a train for Texas.

Eugene V. Debs Withdraws.

TERRE HAUTE, Ind., Dec. 19.—At a meeting of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen in this city, Eugene V. Debs, for many years its grand secretary, [illegible] made a speech, withdrawing from the Brotherhood.

KNEW NEITHER.

A Reporter Has an Experience With an English Visitor.

A few evenings ago there chanced to be a distinguished visitor from the British isles at one of the Washington hotels, and to him the reporter sent up his card, putting his name just over the paper he represented, thinking the juxtaposition would establish the connection between the two with sufficient clearness. It has always done so with American victims. The bellboy who took the card tarried long—in fact, he stayed so long that a second boy was sent after the first, to see what caused the delay. In a little while down came both, No. 1 bringing the information that the tourist said he didn't know either one of the gentlemen, and begged to be excused.

Then the boy explained that the guest on being handed the card gazed at it awhile in silence, and finally went to his trunk and hauled out a book. For some minutes he hunted for the name of the reporter in his list of acquaintances, and then he began running through the P's, thinking it possible he must have met a Mr. Post somewhere in his travels. As his search wasn't successful in either case he got a second book and went through that with a similar result. That was why the bellboy tried the reporter's patience and that was why the message came that "he didn't know either one of the gentlemen."

Saved by a Dog and a Drum.

In 1776 a ship was wrecked on the south coast of England, not far from Portsmouth. Fortunately, owing to the sharp wits of one of the sailors, all souls were saved. He got a drum that happened to be on board, repaired its defects so as to make it quite watertight, then fastened a rope to it securely, and tied the whole round a dog. Next he let the dog into the sea, and the noble animal succeeded in reaching the land. There some on-lookers seized the drum and hauled in the rope. By now a much stronger rope had been tied to the end of the first one, and by its means passengers and crew were gradually drawn ashore.

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Curiosities of the Divorce Statistics.

Of the 328,716 divorces granted in the United States for twenty years, 216,176, or 68.8 per cent of the whole, were granted to wives on their petitions for divorce from their husbands, while only 112,546, or 34.2 per cent of the whole, were granted husbands for alleged fault of their wives.

Piso's Cure for Consumption is an A No. 1 Asthma medicine. W. R. WILLIAMS, Antioch, Ills., April 11, 1894.

The Lady—Is this novel a fit one for my daughter to read? The Salesman—I don't know. I'm not acquainted with your daughter.

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Bach never took anything for breakfast but a bit of bread and a cup of coffee.

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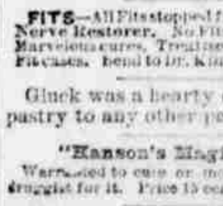

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