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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

(Editorial, Hochi, December 7, 1906.)

As our special telegram published in yesterday's issue of this paper tells us, the long-expected Message of the President was given to Congress on the 4th inst. Though we cannot know fully the facts about the Message on account of the brevity of the telegrams received by the various newspapers, yet, on the whole, it seems to be an extraordinary document, written in a spirit of fairness and justice. It also seems probable that the President means to remove permanently the root of disputes between the Federal Government and the State Governments by settling, on the one hand, the San Francisco affair and, on the other, by defining the rights of the Federal Government with reference to treaties concluded with foreign countries.

We admire President Roosevelt's sincere and steadfast efforts to maintain the national honor of the United States. The San Francisco affair is apparently a small matter, but it has far-reaching consequences. Upon the settlement of this affair depend the questions involving the relations between the international treaties and the national statutes, and the respective rights of the Federal and State Governments. It will therefore be seen how a local affair has given rise to a grave constitutional question.

The argument of the Government and people of Japan

is in entire accord with that of President Roosevelt, while only the authorities of the State of California disagree with either. Though this is a state of things impossible to conceive in ordinary countries, yet this unique feature can be accounted for by the history of the national organization of the United States, which gives extremely wide powers to the local governments. A State Government refuses to observe the treaty pledges which the Federal Government is bound to observe, and the President is handicapped in the exercise of his supreme powers. It is most important to settle permanently the present question with a view to improving the imperfect national organization of the United States. It is also important for the purpose of maintaining friendly relations with foreign countries. Under the present system of government, disputes similar in nature to the San Francisco affair may in the future take place with any other country. The President's effort to enforce the spirit of the treaty between Japan and America means therefore more than his desire to maintain the cordial friendship between Japan and the United States. It does not admit of any doubt that President Roosevelt is prompted by the patriotic desire to perfect the national organization of his country.

In his Message the President declares that failure to treat the Japanese with the same cordiality as is shown to Americans in Japan is a confession of the inferiority of American civilization. We have from time to time censured the American people with articles of similar purport. Now we find unexpectedly a repetition of our argument by the President of the United States. He also argues an amendment of the

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Constitution by which the President will be able to enforce the treaty rights of aliens against individual States. President Roosevelt emphasizes that he will employ all permissible forces, civil and military, in settling the Japanese question. We can imagine how firm and determined he is, and the manly attitude he has taken is worthy of the high regard the world has for President Roosevelt.

On the contrary, Senator Rayner, who courts the popularity of the masses in the United States, is reported to have introduced a resolution to the effect that the Federal Government has no right to accept the protest of a foreign government concerning the schools of individual States, and that the only policy to be adopted by the President is to inform Japan that the system of government of individual States is not within the authority of the courts of the Federal Government. The crazy and obdurate attitude of Senator Rayner is in striking contrast with the patriotic and civilized policy of President Roosevelt.

We have a piece of advice to offer to the American people. They should listen to the wise and far-sighted President, and reject the advice of those shallow-minded agitators who go contrary to the current of the world's civilization. Settle the present question in this way and be careful not to disgrace the prestige of the United States.