

The Japan Times.

TOKYO, SATURDAY, DEC. 8, 1906.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S MESSAGE.

We have received from an official source the following:—

The President sent his Message to Congress on December 4th. Referring to the situation, which he describes as an "attitude of hostility here and there assumed toward Japanese in this country," he says that such situation is most discreditable to Americans as a people and it may be fraught with the gravest consequences. He refers in terms of enthusiastic admiration to the high and ancient civilization of Japan, marvellous progress within the last fifty years, noble and beautiful traits of the Japanese character, courtesy of the Japanese, nationally and individually, which has become proverbial, and spontaneous gift of the Japanese people to the sufferers of San Francisco, which was accepted with gratitude; and says that Japanese have won on their own merits the right to treatment on a basis of full and frank equality. To shut them out from public schools is a wicked absurdity. Throughout Japan Americans are well treated, and in his estimation, any failure in this country to treat Japanese with like courtesy is by so much a confession of the inferiority of American civilization. American citizens that act badly.

great commercial development in their dealings with Asia, but such development can not be obtained without extending to other nations the same measure of justice and good treatment, which Americans themselves expect to receive. It is a very small body of American citizens that act badly. Where the Federal Government has power, it will deal summarily with wrongdoers. Where several states have power, he earnestly asks them to deal promptly. The President categorically recommends the passage of an act specifically providing for the naturalization of Japanese. He also recommends that the criminal and civil statutes of the United States be so amended and added to as to enable the President acting for the United States Government to enforce the rights of aliens under treaty. Even as the law now stands, the President will do everything in his power in the matter now affecting Japanese, but in order leave no particle of doubt as to the power of the national Government to completely perform and enforce its own obligations to other nations, he recommends legislative action.

The Message as usual covers a wide range of subjects. He again recommends an enactment encouraging general shipping, laying particular stress upon better communication with South America. Regarding the protection of seals, he says that the Government has not relaxed its efforts to secure agreement with Great Britain. He adds that negotiations with Japan for a similar purpose are in progress.