

MESSAGE
OF
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

COMMUNICATING

The report of the Director of the Mint, showing the operations of the mint and branch mints during the year 1850.

FEBRUARY 4, 1851.

Referred to the Committee on Finance, and ordered to be printed.

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit herewith the annual report of the director of the mint at Philadelphia, showing the operations of the mint and branch mints for the year 1850.

MILLARD FILLMORE.

WASHINGTON, January 30, 1851.

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES,
January 27, 1851.

SIR: In compliance with the 2d section of the mint act of January 18, 1837, I have the honor to make a report to you of the operations of the mint and branch mints during the past year.

The coinage of the principal mint in 1850 amounted to \$27,756,445½ in gold, \$409,600 in silver, and \$44,467½ in copper coins, and was composed of 10,039,535 pieces. The deposits for coinage amounted to \$33,149,858 in gold, and \$633,628 in silver.

The coinage at the New Orleans branch mint amounted to \$3,619,000 in gold, and \$1,456,500 in silver coins, composed of 4,404,500 pieces. The deposits were \$4,647,315 in gold, and \$1,305,413 in silver.

The coinage at Charlotte amounted to \$347,791 in gold, composed of 79,705 pieces. The deposits were \$329,289 in gold.

The coinage at Dahlonega amounted to \$258,502 in gold, composed of 64,480 pieces. The deposits amounted to \$247,698 in gold.

The coinage at the four mints was \$33,892,306, comprising \$31,981,738½ in gold, \$1,866,100 in silver, and \$44,467½ in copper coins, and composed of 14,588,220 pieces. The total deposits were \$40,304,201; of which \$38,365,160 were in gold, and \$1,939,041 in silver.

I refer you to certain tables, which are annexed to this report, for statistics relating to the operations of the mint in the past and former years.

Table A exhibits, in detail, the deposits and coinage during the past year. Table B exhibits details of the coinage from the organization of the several mints. Table C shows the total deposits of gold bullion of United States production, together with the sources whence they were derived.

From these tables it may be perceived that the operations of the mints during the past year have been unprecedented in our history. The largest coinages before executed were in 1847 and in 1843—the total amount at all the mints being, in the former year, \$22,657,672; in the latter year \$11,967,830. But the coinage of 1850 exceeded that of 1847 by over \$11,000,000, and was nearly three times that of 1843. At the Philadelphia mint the coinage of the past year was nearly twice that of 1847, and over four times that of 1843.

The increase in the proportion of our gold to our silver deposits, and the enormous amount of the former, derived from the mines of the United States, are deserving of especial notice. Of the bullion received the silver comprised less than a twentieth part of the whole value; and even of this small proportion as much as one-eighth was derived by separation from the California gold. Of the deposits of gold received, only about one thirty-fifth part was in foreign coins or bullion. The remainder, amounting to \$36,938,314, was of United States production, of which \$36,273,097 were from California. The entire receipts from that source, from the discovery of the mines to the close of 1850, were \$42,469,753.

A comparison of the deposits and coinage of gold at the Philadelphia and New Orleans mints exhibits large uncoined balances at the close of the past year; the amounts being, at Philadelphia \$5,393,413, at New Orleans \$1,028,315. I feel it to be my duty to present a brief and very general explanation of the causes to which this circumstance is to be attributed.

Prior to the discovery of the California mines, the deposits at this and the New Orleans mint were almost entirely in foreign coins, which, being already refined, were fit to pass into ingots for coinage, without other preparation than a proper admixture to bring them to our own standard. The apparatus and coining arrangements were quite ample for converting into our own money any probable amount of deposits of this character.

California gold, however, contains a large proportion of silver, above one-ninth of the mass being in that metal. This is much more than we are allowed by law to leave in the gold coin as alloy. A separation of the superfluous silver, therefore, became necessary.

This department of labor, although it forms, generally, in other countries, no part of the functions of their mints, has been made obligatory upon the mints of our own country. Separating (or refining) departments had accordingly been organized upon a scale quite moderate, indeed; but much more than sufficient for all the business of that kind prior to the influx of the California gold.

The refinery of the Philadelphia mint at the close of 1848, when the first deposits from California were received, was capable of separating about \$100,000 per month of argentiferous gold bullion. Since then, the amount of that bullion received has gone on increasing, month by month, until it reached the sum of \$4,600,000 in December last.

To meet the demands thus made upon us very extensive enlargements became necessary, and have been effected, in the refining department of

the mint. By arrangements now on the point of completion, the capacity of this establishment for refining will have reached to from six to seven millions of dollars per month, by the separating process now in use.

This large increase of power has not been attained without many necessary delays and interruptions in the progress of our work, while the stream of our deposits was constantly on the rise; so that, although the changes indicated were prosecuted with the greatest energy, we have not been able to avert the accumulation of the large uncoined balance to which I have referred.

I see no reason to doubt, however, that, with the means now at our disposal, and such further enlargements as are in our power, the mint will be enabled in a few months both to free itself from the debt now accumulated, and to secure prompt payment of all future deposits.

At the New Orleans mint, difficulties analogous to our own have been sustained, with some others to which we have not been subjected. There is no reason, however, to doubt the competency of that mint to any coinage which is likely to be demanded of it.

In the coining department of this mint no changes of a marked character were required. In consequence of the increasing demand for the smaller gold coins, we have, however, found it necessary to add largely to the adjusting force, whose duty it is to test the weights of the separate pieces before they are struck. At the suggestion of the chief coiner I authorized him to employ females for this purpose, the labor being entirely suited to their capacity. Nearly forty have already been introduced into that service; and the number will be still further increased. We are consequently enabled, in addition to the necessary supply of the larger pieces, to extend very greatly our coinage of the smaller gold pieces, with a view to meet the deficiency created by the withdrawal of silver from circulation.

It is proper that I should state, to prevent misapprehension, that the discrepancy between the deposits and coinage of silver at the Philadelphia mint, is apparent only. The amount of those deposits stated as of United States production is constituted almost altogether of the silver contained in California gold; which, though credited in full to the depositor, is subject to certain charges growing out of the expense of its separation, the net amount only being included in the payment of the deposit. Some portion of this silver is, likewise, retained in the refinery, it being indispensably necessary as a *material* in the process of separating mixed bullion at present adopted.

Very respectfully, your faithful servant,

R. M. PATTERSON,
Director.

MILLARD FILLMORE,
President of the United States.

A.
Statement of deposits and coinage at the mint of the United States and its branches, in the year 1850.

DEPOSITES.

	Mints.				Total.
	Charlotte.	Dahlonoga.	New Orleans.	Philadelphia.	
GOLD.					
United States coins, old standard.....	.....	.....	\$622	\$9,374	\$9,996
Foreign coins.....	.....	.....	62,010	1,241,730	1,303,740
United States bullion	\$320,289	\$247,698	4,580,021	31,790,306	36,938,314
Foreign bullion.....	.....	.....	4,662	108,448	113,110
Total of gold.....	320,289	247,698	4,647,315	33,149,858	38,365,160
SILVER.					
Foreign coins.....	.....	.....	1,201,013	325,583	1,526,596
Foreign bullion.....	.....	.....	67,831	75,361	143,192
United States bullion .....	.....	.....	36,569	232,684	269,253
Total of silver.....	.....	.....	1,305,413	633,628	1,939,041
Total gold and silver.	320,289	247,698	5,952,728	33,783,486	40,304,201

A—Continued.
COINAGE.

	Mints.				Total.
	Charlotte.	Dahlonega.	New Orleans.	Philadelphia.	
GOLD.					
Double eagles.....pieces.....			141,000	1,170,261	1,311,261
Eagles.....do.....			57,500	291,451	348,951
Half eagles.....do.....	63,591	43,950		64,491	172,032
Quarter eagles.....do.....	9,148	12,148	84,000	252,923	358,219
Dollars.....do.....	6,966	8,382	14,000	481,953	511,301
Value of gold.....	\$347,791	258,502	\$3,619,000	\$27,756,445½	\$31,981,738½
SILVER.					
Dollars.....pieces.....			40,000	7,500	47,500
Half dollars.....do.....			2,456,000	227,000	2,683,000
Quarter dollars.....do.....			412,000	190,800	602,800
Dimes.....do.....			510,000	1,931,500	2,441,500
Half dimes.....do.....			690,000	955,000	1,645,000
Value of silver.....			\$1,456,500	\$409,600	\$1,866,100
COPPER.					
Cents.....pieces.....				4,426,844	4,426,844
Half cents.....do.....				39,812	39,812
Value of copper.....				\$44,467½	\$44,467½
Total coinage in pieces.....	79,905	64,480	4,404,500	10,039,535	14,588,220
Total coinage in value.....	\$347,791	\$258,502	\$5,075,500	\$28,210,513	\$33,992,306

B.

Coinage of the mint and branch mints from their organization to the close of the year 1850.

I. MINT OF THE UNITED STATES AT PHILADELPHIA.

Periods.	GOLD COINAGE.					Dollars, Pieces.
	Double eagles. Pieces.	Eagles. Pieces.	Half eagles. Pieces.	Quarter eagles. Pieces.		
1793 to 1817.	845,909	22,197	.....	.....
1815 to 1837.	3,087,925	879,903	.....	.....
1838.	7,200	286,588	47,030	.....	.....
1839.	38,248	118,143	27,021	.....	.....
1840.	47,338	137,382	18,859	.....	.....
1841.	63,131	15,833	.....	.....	.....
1842.	81,507	27,578	2,823	.....	.....
1843.	75,462	611,205	100,546	.....	.....
1844.	6,361	340,370	6,784	.....	.....
1845.	26,153	417,099	91,051	.....	.....
1846.	20,095	395,942	21,598	.....	.....
1847.	862,264	919,781	29,814	.....	.....
1848.	145,484	260,775	8,886	.....	.....
1849.	653,618	133,070	23,294	.....	682,567
1850.	291,451	64,491	252,923	.....	481,953
	1,170,261					
Total	1,170,261	2,450,904	7,662,091	1,532,729		1,170,520

B—Continued.

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES AT PHILADELPHIA—Continued.

Periods.	SILVER COINAGE.					COPPER COINAGE.	
	Dollars.	Half dollars.	Quarter dollars.	Dimes.	Half dimes.	Cents.	Half cents.
1793 to 1817.....	<i>Pieces.</i> 1, 439, 517	<i>Pieces.</i> 13, 104, 433	<i>Pieces.</i> 650, 280	<i>Pieces.</i> 1, 007, 151	<i>Pieces.</i> 265, 543	<i>Pieces.</i> 29, 316, 272	<i>Pieces.</i> 5, 235, 513
1818 to 1837.....	1, 000	74, 793, 560	5, 041, 749	11, 854, 949	14, 463, 700	46, 554, 830	2, 205, 200
1838.....	3, 546, 000	832, 000	1, 992, 500	2, 255, 000	6, 370, 200	.....
1839.....	3, 334, 561	491, 146	1, 053, 115	1, 069, 150	3, 128, 661	.....
1840.....	3, 435, 008	188, 127	1, 358, 580	1, 344, 085	2, 462, 700	.....
1841.....	120, 000	1, 622, 500	1, 150, 010	1, 597, 367	.....
1842.....	88, 000	1, 887, 500	815, 000	2, 383, 390	.....
1843.....	645, 600	1, 370, 000	1, 165, 000	2, 428, 320	.....
1844.....	421, 200	72, 500	430, 000	2, 397, 752	.....
1845.....	922, 000	1, 755, 000	1, 564, 000	3, 894, 804	.....
1846.....	510, 000	31, 300	27, 000	4, 120, 800	.....
1847.....	734, 000	245, 000	1, 274, 000	6, 183, 669	.....
1848.....	146, 000	451, 500	668, 000	6, 415, 799	.....
1849.....	340, 000	839, 000	1, 309, 000	4, 178, 500	.....
1850.....	190, 800	1, 931, 500	935, 000	4, 426, 844	.....
Total.....	2, 405, 490	110, 160, 326	11, 320, 902	27, 472, 095	28, 754, 478	125, 859, 908	7, 520, 369

B--Continued.

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES AT PHILADELPHIA--Continued.

Periods,	TOTAL COINAGE.				Total value coined.
	No. of pieces coined	Value of gold.	Value of silver.	Value of copper.	
1793 to 1817.....	52, 019, 407	\$5, 610, 957 50	\$8, 268, 295 75	\$319, 340 28	\$14, 198, 593 53
1818 to 1837.....	158, 882, 816	17, 639, 382 50	40, 566, 897 15	476, 574 30	58, 682, 853 95
1838.....	15, 336, 518	1, 622, 515 00	2, 293, 000 00	63, 702 00	3, 979, 217 00
1839.....	9, 260, 345	1, 040, 747 50	1, 949, 136 00	31, 286 61	3, 021, 170 11
1840.....	7, 053, 084	1, 207, 437 50	1, 028, 603 00	24, 627 00	2, 260, 667 50
1841.....	5, 051, 831	710, 475 00	577, 750 00	15, 973 67	1, 304, 198 67
1842.....	7, 483, 180	960, 017 50	1, 442, 500 00	23, 833 90	2, 426, 351 40
1843.....	10, 405, 233	4, 062, 010 00	2, 443, 750 00	24, 283 20	6, 530, 043 20
1844.....	5, 460, 967	1, 782, 420 00	1, 037, 050 00	23, 977 52	2, 843, 447 52
1845.....	9, 283, 607	2, 574, 652 50	803, 200 00	38, 948 04	3, 416, 800 54
1846.....	7, 447, 335	2, 234, 655 00	1, 347, 580 00	41, 208 00	3, 623, 443 00
1847.....	11, 545, 278	13, 296, 080 00	990, 450 00	61, 836 69	14, 348, 366 69
1848.....	8, 691, 444	2, 780, 930 00	420, 050 00	64, 157 99	3, 265, 137 99
1849.....	9, 519, 513	7, 948, 332 00	922, 950 00	41, 984 32	8, 913, 266 32
1850.....	10, 039, 535	27, 756, 445 50	409, 600 00	44, 467 50	28, 210, 513 00
Total.....	327, 480, 093	91, 227, 057 50	64, 500, 811 90	1, 296, 201 02	157, 024, 070 42

B—Continued.

2 BRANCH MINT AT NEW ORLEANS.

Periods.	GOLD COINAGE.					Dollars.
	Double eagles.	Eagles.	Half eagles.	Quarter eagles.		
	<i>Pieces.</i>	<i>Pieces.</i>	<i>Pieces.</i>	<i>Pieces.</i>	<i>Pieces.</i>	<i>Pieces.</i>
1838.....						
1839.....						
1840.....			32,500		17,346	
1841.....			6,350		26,200	
1842.....		4,500	16,400		7,180	
1843.....		27,300	175,062		19,800	
1844.....		175,062	179,075		290,002	
1845.....		118,700	364,600			
1846.....		47,500	41,000			
1847.....		81,780	58,000		66,000	
1848.....		571,500	12,000		124,000	
1849.....		35,850				
1850.....		23,900				
	141,000	57,500				215,000
					84,000	14,000
Total.....	141,000	1,143,592	709,925	634,523		229,000

B—Continued.

BRANCH MINT AT NEW ORLEANS—Continued.

Periods.	SILVER COINAGE.				
	Dollars.	Half dollars.	Quarter dollars.	Dimes.	Half dimes.
1838.....	Pieces.	Pieces.	Pieces.	Pieces. 205,000	Pieces. 35,000
1839.....	.....	115,000	.....	690,000	460,000
1840.....	.....	815,000	426,100	1,241,000	909,000
1841.....	.....	367,000	452,500	2,007,500	815,000
1842.....	.....	957,000	769,000	1,950,000	350,000
1843.....	.....	2,268,000	518,000	150,000	.....
1844.....	.....	2,005,000	740,000	.....	220,000
1845.....	.....	2,094,000	.....	230,000	.....
1846.....	59,000	2,304,000	.....	.....	.....
1847.....	.....	2,584,000	368,000	.....	.....
1848.....	.....	3,180,000	.....	.....	600,000
1849.....	.....	2,310,000	.....	300,000	140,000
1850.....	40,000	2,456,000	412,000	510,000	690,000
Total.....	99,000	21,455,000	3,685,600	7,283,500	4,219,000

B—Continued.

BRANCH MINT AT NEW ORLEANS—Continued.

Periods.	TOTAL COINAGE.			
	No. of pieces coined.	Value of gold.	Value of silver.	Total value coined.
1838	240,000	.....	\$22,250	\$22,250
1839	1,282,346	\$43,365	149,500	192,865
1840	3,449,800	228,000	683,575	911,575
1841	3,660,030	94,700	538,125	632,825
1842	4,089,500	404,500	883,250	1,287,750
1843	3,580,139	3,371,000	1,278,500	4,649,500
1844	3,448,300	3,010,000	1,198,500	4,208,500
1845	2,412,500	680,000	1,070,000	1,750,000
1846	2,568,780	1,272,800	1,211,000	2,483,800
1847	3,659,500	6,085,000	1,384,000	7,469,000
1848	3,815,850	358,500	1,620,000	1,978,500
1849	2,988,900	454,000	1,192,000	1,646,000
1850	4,404,500	3,619,000	1,456,500	5,075,500
Total.....	39,600,145	19,620,865	12,687,200	32,308,065

B—Continued.

3. BRANCH MINT AT CHARLOTTE, N. C.

Periods.	GOLD COINAGE.					Total value of coin- age.
	Half eagles.	Quarter eagles.	Gold dollars.	Total.	Pieces.	
1838	<i>Pieces.</i> 12, 886	<i>Pieces.</i> 7, 894	<i>Pieces.</i>	<i>Pieces.</i> 20, 780	<i>Dollars.</i> 84, 165 00	
1839	23, 467	18, 173	.....	41, 640	162, 767 50
1840	18, 994	12, 834	.....	31, 828	127, 055 00
1841	21, 467	10, 281	.....	31, 748	133, 037 50
1842	27, 480	8, 642	.....	36, 122	159, 005 00
1843	44, 353	26, 096	.....	70, 449	287, 005 00
1844	23, 631	11, 622	.....	35, 253	147, 210 00
1845 .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1846	12, 995	4, 808	.....	17, 803	76, 995 00
1847	84, 151	23, 226	.....	107, 377	478, 820 00
1848	64, 472	16, 788	.....	81, 260	364, 330 00
1849	64, 823	10, 220	.....	86, 677	361, 299 00
1850	63, 591	9, 148	.....	79, 705	347, 791 00
Total	462, 310	159, 732	18, 600	640, 642	2, 729, 480 00	

B—Continued.

4. BRANCH MINT AT DAHLONEGA, GA.

Periods.	GOLD COINAGE.					Total value of coin- age.
	Half eagles.	Quarter eagles.	Gold dollars.	Total.		
	<i>Pieces.</i>	<i>Pieces.</i>	<i>Pieces.</i>	<i>Pieces.</i>	<i>Dollars.</i>	
1838.....	20,583	.....	.....	20,583	102,915 00
1839.....	18,939	13,674	.....	32,613	128,880 00
1840.....	23,896	3,532	.....	27,428	128,310 00
1841.....	30,695	4,164	.....	34,859	163,885 00
1842.....	59,608	4,643	.....	64,251	309,647 50
1843.....	98,450	36,209	.....	134,659	582,772 50
1844.....	89,054	17,332	.....	106,386	488,600 00
1845.....	90,629	19,460	.....	110,089	501,795 00
1846.....	80,294	19,303	.....	99,597	449,727 50
1847.....	64,405	15,784	.....	80,189	361,485 00
1848.....	47,465	13,771	.....	61,236	271,752 50
1849.....	39,036	10,945	21,588	71,569	244,130 50	
1850.....	43,950	12,148	8,382	64,480	258,502 00	
Total.....	707,004	170,965	29,970	907,939	3,992,402 50	

B—Continued.

Summary exhibit of the coinage of the mints, to the close of 1850.

Mints.	Comment of coinage.	Gold coinage.		Silver coinage.		Copper coinage.		Entire coinage.	
		Value.		Value.		Value.		Number of pieces.	Value.
Philadelphia.....	1793	\$91,227,057 50		\$64,500,811 90		\$1,296,201 02		327,480,093	\$157,024,070 42
New Orleans	1838	19,620,865 00		12,687,200 00		.....		39,600,145	32,308,065 00
Charlotte	1838	2,729,480 00		.....		.....		640,642	2,729,480 00
Dahlonga.....	1838	3,992,402 50		.....		.....		907,939	3,992,402 50
Total .....	.....	117,569,805 00		77,188,011 90		1,296,201 02		368,628,819	196,054,017 92

Statement of the amount of gold of domestic production deposited at the mint of the United States and its branches to the close of 1850.

1. MINT OF THE UNITED STATES.

Periods.	Virginia.	North Carolina.	South Carolina.	Georgia.	Tennessee.	Alabama.	New Mexico.	California.	Various sources.	Total.
1804 to 1827.....	.....	\$110,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	\$110,000
1828 to 1837....	\$427,000	2,519,500	\$327,500	\$1,763,900	\$12,400	.....	.....	.....	\$13,200	5,063,500
1838 to 1847....	518,294	1,303,636	152,366	566,316	16,499	\$45,493	.....	.....	21,037	2,623,641
1848.....	57,886	109,034	19,228	3,370	3,497	3,670	.....	.....	.....	241,544
1849.....	129,382	102,688	4,309	10,525	2,739	2,977	\$682	\$44,177	.....	5,767,092
1850.....	65,991	43,734	759	5,114	307	1,178	5,392	31,667,505	144	31,790,306
Total.....	1,198,553	4,188,592	504,162	2,349,225	35,442	53,318	38,963	37,193,121	34,707	45,596,083

C—Continued.

2. BRANCH MINT AT NEW ORLEANS.

Periods.	Virginia.	North Carolina.	South Carolina.	Georgia.	Tennessee.	Alabama.	New Mexico.	California.	Various sources.	Total.
1838 to 1847.		\$741	\$14,306	\$37,364	\$1,772	\$61,903			\$3,613	\$119,699
1848.			1,488	2,317	947	6,717		\$1,124		12,593
1849.			423			4,062		669,921	2,783	677,189
1850.						3,560		4,575,567	894	4,580,021
Total.....		741	16,217	39,681	2,719	76,242		5,246,612	7,290	5,389,502

C--Continued.

3. BRANCH MINT, CHARLOTTE, N. C.

Periods.	Virginia.	North Carolina.	South Carolina.	Georgia.	Tennessee.	Alabama.	New Mexico.	California.	Various sources.	Total.
1838 to 1847.....		\$1,529,777	\$143,941							\$1,673,718
1848.....		359,075	11,710							370,785
1849.....		378,223	12,509							390,732
1850.....		307,289	13,000							320,289
Total.....		2,574,364	181,160							2,755,524

Ex.—2

C—Continued.

4. BRANCH MINT, DAHLONEGA, GEORGIA.

Periods.	Virginia.	North Carolina.	South Carolina.	Georgia.	Tennessee.	Alabama.	New Mexico.	California.	Various sources.	Total.
1838 to 1847...		\$64,351	\$95,427	\$2,978,353	\$32,175	\$47,711				\$3,218,017
1848.....		5,434	8,151	251,376	2,717	4,075				271,753
1849.....		4,882	7,323	225,824	2,441	3,661				244,131
1850.....		4,500	5,700	1,200	204,473	1,800		\$30,025		247,698
Total.....		79,167	116,601	3,456,753	241,806	57,247		30,025		3,981,599

Summary exhibit of the entire deposits of domestic gold at the mint and branches to the close of 1850.

Mints.	Virginia.	North Carolina.	South Carolina.	Georgia.	Tennessee.	Alabama.	New Mexico.	California.	Various sources.	Total.
Philadelphia....	\$1,198,553	\$4,188,592	\$504,162	\$2,349,225	\$35,442	\$53,318	\$38,963	\$37,193,121	\$34,707	\$45,596,083
New Orleans....	.....	741	16,217	39,681	2,719	76,242	.....	5,246,612	7,290	5,389,502
Charlotte....	.....	2,574,364	181,160	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,755,524
Dahlonega....	.....	79,167	116,601	3,456,753	241,806	57,247	.....	30,025	.....	3,981,599
Aggregate..	1,198,553	6,842,864	818,140	5,845,659	279,967	186,807	38,963	42,469,758	41,997	57,722,708

