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Holland City News

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HOLLAND CITY NEWS.

VOL. IV.—NO. 43.

HOLLAND, MICH., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1875.

WHOLE NO. 199.

The Holland City News.

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER,
PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY AT
HOLLAND CITY, MICHIGAN.
OFFICE: VAN LANDEGEND'S BLOCK.
G. VAN SCHOLVEN, Editor and Publisher.
TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION:—\$2.00 per year in advance.
JOB PRINTING PROMPTLY AND NEATLY DONE.

TERMS OF ADVERTISING:

One square of ten lines, (nonpareil), 75 cents
first insertion, and 25 cents for each subse-
quent insertion for any period under three
months.

	3 M.	6 M.	1 Y.
1 Square	3 50	5 00	8 00
2 "	5 00	8 00	10 00
3 "	6 00	10 00	12 00
4 "	7 00	12 00	15 00
5 "	8 00	15 00	18 00
6 "	9 00	18 00	21 00
7 "	10 00	21 00	24 00
8 "	11 00	24 00	27 00
9 "	12 00	27 00	30 00

Yearly advertisers have the privilege of three
changes.

Business Cards in City Directory, not over three
lines, \$2.00 per annum.

Notices of Births, Marriages, and Deaths pub-
lished without charge.

An X before the Subscriber's name will denote
the expiration of the Subscription. Two XX sig-
nify that no paper will be continued after date.

All advertising bills collectable quarterly

Rail Roads.

Chicago & Michigan Lake Shore R. R.

Taken Effect, Sunday, Nov. 21, 1875.

Trains.	Leave Holland.	Arrive at Holland.
Grand Rapids.	5.35 a. m.	10.25 a. m.
" "	10.15 " "	12 15 p. m.
" "	3.10 p. m.	7.25 " "
" "	5.30 " "	9.23 p. m.

Muskegon, Pentwater & Big Rapids.	5.40 a. m.	10.05 a. m.
" "	10.30 " "	2.35 p. m.
" "	3.25 p. m.	9.35 " "
" "	7.35 " "	11.00 " "

New Buffalo & Chicago.	10.45 a. m.	5.30 a. m.
" "	12.35 p. m.	3.10 p. m.
" "	9.35 " "	4.55 " "

† Daily except Saturdays

! Mixed trains.

All other trains daily except Sundays.

All trains on this road, will be run by Chicago
time, which is 30 minutes later than Columbus
time.

Lake Shore and Michigan Southern R. R.

Taken Effect, Sunday, Nov. 21, 1875.

ROM GRAND RAPIDS TO GRAND RAPIDS.	Express.	Mail.	STATIONS.	Express.	Mail.
Exp. M. A. M.	A. M.	P. M.	A. M.	P. M.	A. M.
4 15	7 30	Grand Rapids.	10 10	7 10	
4 32	7 44	Grandville.	9 55	6 55	
4 45	8 06	Allegan.	8 45	5 45	
6 11	9 41	Otsego.	8 16	5 18	
6 19	9 49	Plainwell.	8 07	5 10	
6 35	9 55	Cooper.	7 55	4 45	
6 50	9 50	Kalamazoo.	7 35	4 40	
P. M. A. M.	A. M.	P. M.	A. M.	P. M.	A. M.
8 30	11 30	White Pigeon.	5 50	3 05	
A. M. P. M.	P. M.	A. M.	P. M.	A. M.	P. M.
6 00	6 30	Chicago.	10 40	8 50	
A. M. P. M.	P. M.	A. M.	P. M.	A. M.	P. M.
2 40	5 00	Toledo.	11 55	8 30	
A. M. P. M.	P. M.	A. M.	P. M.	A. M.	P. M.
7 05	9 30	Cleveland.	7 40	3 40	
P. M. A. M.	A. M.	P. M.	P. M.	A. M.	P. M.
1 15	4 05	Buffalo.	12 10	7 55	

Mich. Lake Shore Rail Road.

Taken Effect, Thursday, Nov. 25, 1875.

Going North.		STATIONS.	Going South.
No. 4	No. 3		No. 3
p. m.	p. m.		p. m.
8 35	12 15	Muskegon	1 55
7 55	11 45	Ferryburg	2 30
7 10	11 40	Grand Haven	2 35
6 25	11 11	Pigeon	3 08
5 20	10 35	Holland	3 35
4 58	10 15	Fillmore	3 52
3 40	9 25	Allegan	4 45

Our Markets.

Produce, Etc.

Apples, bushel.	\$ 60
Beans, bushel.	1 50
Butter, lb.	25
Clover seed, bushel.	8 50
Eggs, dozen.	35
Honey, lb.	18
Hay, ton.	13 00
Onions, bushel.	40
Potatoes, bushel.	30
Timothy seed, bushel.	4 00
Wool, lb.	

Wood, Staves, Etc.

Cordwood, maple, dry	\$ 3 00
" " green	
" " beach, dry	2 00
" " green	
Hemlock bark.	4 00
Staves, white oak.	10 00
Staves, yellow.	12 00
Heading bolts, softwood	3 00
Heading bolts, hardwood	4 50
Stave bolts, softwood	3 50
Stave bolts, hardwood	4 00
Railroad ties.	12

Grain, Feed, Etc.

(Corrected by the "Flugger Mills.")

Wheat, white bushel.	\$ 1 10
Corn, shelled bushel.	65
Oats, bushel.	33
Buckwheat, bushel.	40
Barley, ton.	16 00
Feed, ton.	22 00
" 100 lb.	1 25
Barley, 100 lb.	1 00
Middling, 100 lb.	1 33
Flour, 100 lb.	3 12
Pearl barley, 100 lb.	6 00

Business Directory.

Attorneys.

HOWARD, M. D., Claim Agent, Attorney and
Notary Public; River street.

MCBRIDE, G. W., Attorney at Law and Soli-
citor in Chancery; office with M. D. How-
ard, cor. Eighth and River streets.

ORT, F. J., Counselor at Law and Solicitor at
Chancery. Office in Dr. Powers building,
West of River Street.

TEN EYCK, J., Attorney at Law and Collecting
Agent. Office in Kenyon's block, 2nd floor,
River street.

VISSCHER A., Attorney at Law, Notary Pub-
lic and Conveyancer. Kenyon's building,
Corner of Eighth and River street.

Bakeries.

BINNEKANT, J., Proprietor of the Pioneer
Bakery; baking done to order; 8th street.

PESSINK, G. J. A. Proprietor of City Bakery;
Confectionary and cigars; Refreshments in
this line served on call; Eighth street.

Banking and Exchange.

KENYON, NATHAN, Banking and Collecting,
Drafts bought and sold; cor. Eighth and
River streets.

Barbers.

DE GROOT L., Fashionable Barber and Hair-
cutter. Rooms one door east of City Hotel.

Books and Stationery.

BINNEKANT, Miss A. M., Dealer in Books &
Stationery; Confectionary, Toys, etc.; River
street.

KANTERS, L. T. & CO., Dealers in Books,
Stationery, Toys, Notions and Candles; op-
posite City Drug Store, Eighth street.

Boots and Shoes.

ELFERDINK W. & H. General dealers
in Boots and Shoes; repairing neatly done;
River street.

HEROLD, E., Manufacturer of and dealer in
Boots and Shoes, Leather, Findings, etc.;
Eighth street.

Drugs and Medicines.

DOESBURG, J. O., Dealer in Drugs and Medi-
cines, Paints and Oils, Brushes, &c. Phy-
sician's prescriptions carefully put up; Eighth St.

VAN PUTTEN, Wm., Dealer in Drugs, Medi-
cines, Paints, Oils, etc.; Proprietor of Dr.
W. VAN DEN BERG'S Family Medicines; River St.

WALSH HEBER, Druggist & Pharmacist; a full
stock of goods pertaining to the business
See advertisement.

Dry Goods.

BERTSCH, D. General dealer in Dry
Goods, Yankee Notions, Hats, Caps, etc.;
cor. Eighth and River streets.

Dressmaking.

LAUDER MISSES., Fashionable Dressmakers.
Rooms opposite the Post Office. Eighth street.

Flour and Feed.

SLOOTER & HIGGINS, Dealers in Flour and
Feed, Grains and Hay, Mill-stuff, &c., &c. in
Vennema's Brick Building.—See Advertisement.

Furniture.

MEYER H., & CO., Dealers in all kinds of Fur-
niture, Curtains, Wall Paper, Toys, Coffins,
Picture Frames, etc.; River street.

REIDSEMA J. M., & SON, General Dealers in
Furniture & Coffins; Eighth street. See ad-
vertisement.

Groceries.

FLIETSTRA, A., Groceries and Supplies; a
ready market for country produce; a choice
stock always on hand; cor. Eighth and Market st.

THE VAARWERK, G. J., Family Supply Store;
a choice stock of groceries always on hand.
Blacksmith shop in rear of store; Eighth street.

General Dealers.

DURSEMA J. & CO., Dealers in Dry Goods,
Groceries, Crockery, Glassware, Hats, Caps,
Clothing and Feed; River street.

FUFIELD, J. J., Dealer in Groceries, Dry Goods,
Flour and Feed and Produce. Liquors and
Cigars at Wholesale and Retail. Eighth street.

THE ROLLER, D., Retail Dealer in Dry Goods,
Groceries, etc.; Notary Public and convey-
ancer; office and store, cor. 9th and Market street.

VAN PUTTEN G. & CO., General Dealers, in
Dry Goods, Groceries, Crockery, Hats and
Caps, Flour, Provisions, etc.; River st.

WERKMAN, H. D., Dealer in Dry Goods, Gro-
ceries, Crockery, Flour & Provisions. New
Store, Eighth street.

WERKMAN & SONS, General Dealers in Dry
Goods, Groceries, Hats and Caps, etc.;
Grain, Flour and Feed made a specialty; River st.

WELTON & AKELY, General Dealers in Dry
Goods, Groceries, Crockery, Flour and Feed,
Provisions, etc. River street.

Hardware.

HAVERKATE, G. J., First Ward Hardware
Store; sell cheaper than any other; 8th
street.

VAN DER VEEN, E., Dealer in General Hard-
ware; cor. Eighth and River street.

VAN LANDEGEND & MELIS, Dealers in
Hard-ware, Tin-ware and Farming Imple-
ments; Eighth street.

Hotels.

AETNA HOUSE, P. ZALEMAN, Proprietor
First-class accommodation. Free Buss to and
from the Trains. Eighth street.

CITY HOTEL, J. W. MINDERHOUT, Proprietor.
Built in 1873; furnished in elegant style, and
a first-class hotel throughout.

PHOENIX HOTEL, J. McVONIA Proprietor;
opposite the C. & M. L. S. R. R. Depot; good
accommodation; building and furniture new.

Livery and Sale Stables.

BOONE & ALBERTI, Livery and Sale Stable.
Office and barn on Market street. Everything
first-class.

NIBBELINK, J. H., Livery and Sale Stable;
Office of Daily Stage Line to Saugatuck. 9th
street, near Market.

Sewing Machines.

KANTERS, L. T. & Co., Agents for Ottawa and
Allegan Counties, for the "Howe Sewing Ma-
chine." Dealers in needles and attachments.

Merchant Tailors.

BOSMAN, J. W., Merchant Tailor, and Dealer
in ready made clothing and Gents' Furnish-
ing Goods.

VORST, W., Merchant Tailor. Cloth purchas-
ed elsewhere, will be cut to order. Repairing
promptly attended to. River street.

WURZ, C. G., Merchant Tailor. Full line of
Gents' Furnishing Goods kept in stock.
Corner Eighth and Market street.

Meat Market.

BUTKAU W., New Meat Market, near corner
Eighth and Fish Street. All kinds of sau-
sages constantly on hand.

KLEYS, P., First Ward Meat Market; best of
Meats always on hand. Eighth street.

KUITE, J., Dealer in all kinds of meats and
vegetables; Meat Market on 8th street.

VAN DER HAAR, H., Dealer in Fresh, Salt,
and Smoked Meats and Vegetables; paper
and twine; 8th street.

Manufactories, Mills, Shops, Etc.

HEALD, R. K., Manufacturer of and Dealer in
Agricultural Implements; commission agent
for Mowing Machines; cor. 10th & River street.

PAUELS, VAN PUTTEN & CO., Proprietors
of *Flugger Mills*; (Steam Saw and Flour
Mills.) near foot of 8th street.

VERBEEK, H. W. & CO., Proprietors of the
Phoenix Planing Mill. All kinds of build-
ing material furnished at Grand Rapids prices.

WILMS P. H., Manufacturer of Farm Pumps.
All kinds of wood turning and sawing on
hand and done to order. River street.

Notary Publics.

POST, HENRY D., Real Estate and Insurance
Agent, Notary Public and Conveyancer; Col-
lections made in Holland and vicinity.

VAN SCHOLVEN, G., Notary Public, Justice
of the Peace and Conveyancer. Office *Hol-
land City News*, 8th street.

WALSH, H., Notary Public, Conveyancer,
and Insurance Agent. Office, *City Drug
Store*, 8th street.

Physicians.

ANNIS, T. E., Physician; residence, opposite
S. W. cor. Public Square.

LEDEBOER, B. Physician and Surgeon. Office
corner Eleventh and River street opposite
public square.

MORRIS, S. L., Physician and Surgeon. Office,
over E. HEMOLD'S Boot and Shoe Store,
Eighth street.

SCHOUTEN, R. A., Surgeon, Physician Obstetri-
cian, Regular graduated and Licensed. Of-
fice at residence, corner 9th and Fish street.

Saddlery.

VAUPELL, H., Manufacturer of and dealer in
Harness, Trunks, Saddles and Whips;
Eighth street.

Staves, Wood, Bark, Etc.

KANTERS, R., Dealer in Staves, Wood and
Bark; office at his residence, Eighth street.

Tobacco and Cigars.

THE ROLLER, G. J., General dealer in Tobacco,
Cigars, Snuff, Pipes, etc.; Eighth street.

Wagonmakers and Blacksmiths.

DJIKEMA & BRO., Wagon and Blacksmith
Shop. Horse-shoeing and all kinds of repair-
ing done. River Street.

FLEMAN, J., Wagon and Blacksmith Shop;
Horse Shoeing and all kinds of repairing
done. Cash paid for Furs.

Watches and Jewelry.

ALBERS & WYNNE, Jewelers and Watchma-
kers. The oldest establishment in the city;
Eighth street.

JOULIN & BREYMAN, Watchmakers, Jewelers,
and dealers in Fancy Goods; Kenyon's Block
River Street.

Special Notices.

I. O. O. F.

HOLLAND City Lodge, No. 192, Independent Order
of Odd Fellows, holds its regular meetings at Odd
Fellows' Hall, Holland Mich., on Tuesday Evening
of each week.

Visiting brothers are cordially invited.
R. K. HEALD, N. G.

F. & A. M.

A REGULAR Communication of UNIT LODGE,
No. 191, F. & A. M., will be held at Masonic Hall,
Holland, Mich., on Wednesday evening, January
5, at 7 o'clock.

J. O. DOESBURG, Sec'y. GEO. LAUDER, W. M. 47-ly

AND NOW it is said that the publishers
of Webster's Dictionaries are responsible
for the recent "Spelling Bee" excitement.

Whether this is true or not, the spelling
mania was a good thing, and it undoubtedly
had a very excellent influence. Of all
educational accomplishments, a proper
knowledge of the orthography of our own
language is certainly the most desirable,
and of all the deficiencies in our education-
al methods, that relating to this study is
the most marked. And we are therefore
going to say that whether the spelling
excitement came about through the adver-
tising efforts of the Webster publishers or
not, one thing is quite clear, and that is
that there is nothing that has helped to
stimulate the wide-spread interest in the
subject, or that is so nearly a Speller's
Vade Mecum as Webster's Pocket Dictionary,
sold for One Dollar, and to be had of al-
most any dealer in books. It is a marvel
of compactness, containing about three
hundred illustrations, over eighteen thou-
sand words, brief but comprehensive rules
for spelling, a large number of words from
foreign languages, phrases, proverbs, etc.
in common use. It is neatly bound in
morocco, with tucks and gilt edges. If
not otherwise obtainable it may be had by
mail from the publishers, Messrs. Ivison,
Blakeman, Taylor & Co., 139 and 140
Grand Street, New York, by enclosing to
them the price, one dollar.

Our Big Show.

Nowhere throughout the country, except
within the neighborhood of Philadelphia,
and perhaps among certain limited circles,
are the true merit and magnitude of the
coming exhibition rightly understood.

It is encouraging to notice that the great
difficulty experienced in the collection of
funds is not very seriously affecting the
progress on the buildings. The entire
cost of the exhibition, including the ex-
penses of the preparations is estimated at
eight millions of dollars. Of this the state
of Pennsylvania and city of Philadelphia
have contributed two and a half millions;
two and a half millions more have been
raised by subscriptions to the stock, and a
half million is certain to accrue from the
granting of concessions for restaurants,
soda water fountains and other establish-
ments of a like kind. The remaining two
and a half millions of expense is unprovi-
ded for. The number of visitors expected
is estimated at ten millions at the least;
this at fifty cents entrance will make the
receipts five millions of dollars, which at
the very least will cover the subscriptions.
Outside of Pennsylvania the subscriptions
received amount to only four to five hun-
dred thousand dollars. Of this amount
New York city has contributed two hun-
dred thousand dollars; from the West and
from the South scarcely a dollar has been
received.

The exhibition grounds, not counting the
stockyards and farm, occupy 236 acres, ten
acres more than were covered by the Vienna
exhibition. Fifty acres are occupied
by buildings, and the total area to be
placed under cover is more than seventy-
five acres.

The length of aisles in the six larger
buildings will amount to thirty six miles,
and the aisles of all the smaller buildings,
which are to be more than one hundred
and fifty in number, will bring the total
up to fifty miles, so that, since the goods
will of course be arranged along both
sides of the aisles, one hundred miles of
walking will be necessary for a review of
the entire exhibition. These figures indi-
cate that the American exhibition will not,
in point of magnitude at least, fall behind
either of its European predecessors.

Machinery hall, which was to be com-
pleted by the first of October, is receiving
its finishing touches, and is ready for the
reception of goods. The number of en-
tries so far filed is 350 foreign and 1,200
American, and there will be many more
applications. The building is not large
enough to accommodate all, and either a
supplementary building will have to be er-
ected or sufficient space secured by means
of extensions of the principal building.

The exhibition of agricultural implements
and machinery will be one of particularly
great interest, and will occupy about three-
fifths of the entire space. A farm of forty-
six acres, on the Pennsylvania Central
Railroad, about seventeen miles from the
city, has been leased, on which a practical
trial of agricultural machinery will be
made.

For the live stock exhibition, the stock-
yards of the Pennsylvania Central Railroad
have been secured, and will be thoroughly
renovated and provided with a half mile
race track. The display of live stock will
take place during the months of Septem-
ber and October. Stock will be divided
into a number of classes, to each of which
fifteen days will be devoted as follows:
Horses, mules and asses will be on exhibi-
tion from September 1st to 15th; horned
cattle of all varieties from September 20th
to October 5th; sheep, swine and goats
from October 10th to 25th. Poultry will
be exhibited from October 25th to No-
vember 10th, and a bench show of dogs
will take place between November 10th
and 25th.

The Commissioners have decided to in-
close the whole space with a strong picket
fence, nine feet high. Along this fencing
at suitable intervals, there will be numer-
ous entrance-ways and ticket-offices, so
that from whatever quarter a visitor ap-
proaches he is sure to strike an entrance.

Six elegant restaurants, with tables for
from two thousand to five thousand guests
each, will be built within the enclosure,
and two of them have been already begun.
The track of a narrow-gauge railway, three
and a half miles long, to connect all the
buildings, is laying.

The

THE MESSAGE.

The President's Annual Address to the People.

The Cuban Question Thoroughly Discussed and Considered.

Our Foreign Relations Pronounced in a Satisfactory Condition.

The School Question—Adoption of the Blaine Constitutional Amendment Urged.

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

In submitting my seventh annual message to Congress in this centennial year of our national existence as a free and independent people, it affords me great pleasure to recur to the advancement that has been made from the time of the colonies, one hundred years ago. We were then a people numbering only 3,000,000; now we number more than 40,000,000. Then the industries were confined almost exclusively to the tillage of the soil; now manufactures absorb much of the labor of the country. Our liberties remain unimpaired. The bondmen have been freed from slavery. We have become possessed of the respect, if not the friendship, of all civilized nations. Our progress has been great in all the arts, in science, agriculture, commerce, navigation, mining, mechanics, law, medicine, etc., and in general education the progress is likewise encouraging. Our thirteen States have become thirty-eight, including Colorado, which has taken initiatory steps to become a State, and eight Territories, including the Indian Territory and Alaska, and excluding Colorado, making a territory extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific. On the South, we have extended to the Gulf of Mexico, and in the West from the Mississippi to the Pacific. One hundred years ago the cotton gin, the steamship, the railroad, the telegraph, the reaping, sewing and modern printing machines, and numerous other inventions of scarcely less value to our business and happiness, were entirely unknown. In 1776 manufactures scarcely existed, even in name, in all this vast territory; in 1876 more than two millions of persons were employed in manufactures producing more than \$2,100,000,000 of produce in amount, annually; nearly equal to our national debt. From nearly the whole of the population of 1776 being engaged in the one occupation of agriculture, in 1876, so numerous and diversified had become the occupation of our people, that less than six millions out of more than forty millions, were so engaged. The extraordinary effect produced in our country by a resort to such occupations, has built a market for the products of the fertile lands distant from the seaboard and the markets of the world.

The American system of working various and extensive manufactures, next to the farm and the pasture, and adding connecting railroads and steamboats, has produced in our distant country a result not equalled by the intelligent parts of the other nations. The ingenuity and skill of American mechanics have been demonstrated at home and abroad in a manner most flattering to their pride. But for the extraordinary genius and ability of our mechanics, the achievements of our agriculturists, manufacturers and transporters throughout the country, would have been impossible of attainment.

The progress of the miner has been great. Of coal our production was small; now many millions of tons are mined annually. So with iron, which formed scarcely an appreciable part of our products half a century ago, we now produce more than the world consumed at the beginning of our national existence. Lead, zinc and copper, from being articles of imports, we may expect to be large exporters of, in the near future. The development of gold and silver mines throughout States and Territories has not only been remarkable, but has had a large influence upon the business of all commercial nations.

Our merchants in the last hundred years have had a success, and have established a reputation for enterprise, sagacity, progress and integrity unsurpassed by the people of older nationalities. This good name is not confined to their homes, but goes out upon every sea, and into every port where commerce enters. With equal pride, we can point to our progress in all of the learned professions.

As we are now about to commence our second Centennial, commemorating our manhood as a nation, it is well to look back upon the past, and study what will be best to preserve and advance our future greatness.

From the fall of Adam for his transgression to the present day, no nation has ever been free from threatened danger to its prosperity and happiness. We should look to the dangers threatening us and remedy them so far as lies in our power. We are a Republic, wherein one man is as good as another before the law.

Under such a form of Government, it is of the greatest importance that all should be possessed of education and intelligence enough to cast a vote with a right understanding of its meaning. A large association of ignorant men cannot for any considerable period oppose a successful resistance to tyranny and oppression from the educated few, but will inevitably sink into acquiescence to the will of intelligence, whether directed by the demagogue or the priestcraft. Hence the education of the masses becomes of the first necessity for the preservation of our institutions. They are worth preserving because they have secured the greatest good to the greatest proportion of the population of any form of government yet devised. All other forms of government approach it just in proportion to the general diffusion of education and independence of thought and action. As the primary step, therefore, to our advancement in all that has marked our progress in the past century, I suggest for your earnest consideration, and most earnestly recommend it, that a constitutional amendment be submitted to the Legislatures of the several States for ratification, making it the duty of each of the several States to establish and forever maintain free public schools, adequate to the education of all the children in the rudimentary branches, within their respective limits, irrespective of sex, color, birth-place, or religion, forbidding the teaching in said schools of religious, atheistic, or pagan ideas, and prohibiting the granting of

any school funds or school taxes, or any part thereof, either by legislative, municipal, or others, for the benefit of any other object of any nature or kind whatever in connection with this important question. I would also call your attention to the importance of correcting an evil that, if permitted to continue, will probably lead to great trouble in our land before the close of the nineteenth century. It is the accumulation of vast amounts of untaxed church property.

In 1850, I believe, the church property of the United States which paid no tax, municipal or State, amounted to about \$3,000,000. In 1860 the amount had doubled; in 1875 it was about \$1,000,000,000; by 1,900, without check, it is safe to say, this property will reach a sum exceeding \$3,000,000,000. So vast a sum receiving all the protection and benefits of Government, without bearing its proportion of the burdens and expenses of the same, will not be looked upon acquiescently by those who have paid taxes. In a growing country, where real estate enhances so rapidly with time as in the United States, there is scarcely a limit to the wealth that may be acquired by corporations, religions or otherwise.

If allowed to retain real estate without taxation the contemplation of so vast a property as is here alluded to without taxation, may lead to sequestration without constitutional authority and through blood. I would suggest the taxation of all property equally, whether church or corporation, exempting only the last resting place of the dead, and possibly, with proper restrictions, church edifices.

Our relations with most of the foreign powers continue on a satisfactory and friendly footing. Increased intercourse, the extension of commerce and cultivation of mutual interests, have steadily improved our relations with the large majority of the powers of the world, rendering practicable the peaceful solution of questions which from time to time necessarily arise, leaving few which demand extended or particular notice.

The correspondence of the Department of State with our diplomatic representatives abroad is transmitted herewith. I am happy to announce the passage of an act by the General Cortes of Portugal, proclaimed since the adjournment of Congress, for the abolition of servitude in the Portuguese colonies.

It is to be hoped that such legislation may be another step onward in the great consummation to be reached when no man shall be permitted, directly or indirectly, under any guise, excuse, or form of law, to hold his fellow-man in bondage. I am of the opinion, too, that it is the duty of the United States, as contributing toward that end, and required by the spirit of the age in which we live, to provide by suitable legislation, that no citizen of the United States shall hold slaves as property in any other country, or be interested therein.

Chili has made reparation in the case of the whale ship *Good Return*, seized without sufficient cause upwards of forty years ago. Though she had hitherto denied her accountability, the denial was never acquiesced in by this Government, and the justice of the claim has been so earnestly contested for, that it has been gratifying that she should have acknowledged it.

The arbitrator in the case of the United States steamer *Montijo*, for the seizure and detention of which the Government of the United States of Columbia was held accountable, has decided in favor of the claim. This decision has settled a question which has been pending for several years, and which, while it continued open, might more or less disturb the good understanding which it is desirable should be maintained between the Republics.

A reciprocity with the King of the Hawaiian Islands was concluded some months ago. It contains a stipulation that it shall not go into effect until Congress shall enact the proper legislation for the purpose. Copies of the instrument are herewith submitted, in order that if such should be the pleasure of Congress, the necessary legislation upon the subject may be adopted.

In March last an arrangement was made through Mr. Cushing, our Minister in Madrid, with the Spanish Government for the payment by the latter to the United States of the sum of \$80,000 in coin, for the purpose of the relief of the families or persons of the ship's company and certain passengers of the *Virginius*. This sum was to have been paid in three instalments of two months each. It is due to the Spanish Government that I should state that the payments were fully and speedily anticipated by that Government, and that the whole amount was paid within a few days more than two months from the date of agreement, a copy of which is herewith transmitted. In pursuance of the terms of adjustment, I have directed distribution of the amount among the parties entitled thereto, including the ship's company and such of the passengers as were American citizens. Payments are made accordingly on the application of the parties entitled thereto.

The past year has furnished no evidence of an approaching close of the ruinous conflicts which have been raging for seven years in the neighboring island of Cuba. The same disregard of the laws of civilized warfare, and of the just demands of humanity, which have heretofore called forth expressions of condemnation from the nations of Christendom, have continued to blacken the sad scene. Desolation, ruin and pillage are pervading the rich fields of one of the most fertile and productive regions of the earth, and the incendiary's torch, firing plantations and valuable factories and buildings, is the agent marking the alternate advance or retirement of contending parties. The protracted continuance of the strife seriously affects interests of all commercial nations, but those of the United States more than others, by reason of close proximity, its larger trade and intercourse with Cuba, and the frequent and intimate personal and social relations which have grown up between its citizens and those of the island. Moreover, the property of our citizens in Cuba is large, and is rendered insecure and depreciated in value and in capacity of production. By the continuance of the strife and the unnatural mode of its conduct, the same is true, differing only in degree with respect to the interests and people of other nations, and the absence of any reasonable assurance of a near termination of the conflict, must of necessity soon compel the States thus suffering to consider what the interests of their own people and their duty toward themselves may counsel. I have hoped Spain would be enabled to establish peace in her colony, to afford security to the property and the interests of our citizens, and allow legitimate scope to trade and commerce and the natural productions of the island. Because of this hope, and from an extreme reluctance to interfere in the affairs of another and a friendly nation, especially of one whose sympathy and friendship in the struggling infancy of our existence must ever be remembered with gratitude, I have patiently and anxiously waited the progress of events. Our own civil conflict is too recent for us not to consider the difficulties which surround a Government distracted by a dynastic rebellion at home, at the same time that it has to cope with a separate insurrection in a distant colony. But whatever causes may have produced the situation which so grievously affects our interest, it exists with all its attendant evils, operating directly upon this country and its people. Thus far all the efforts of Spain have proved abortive, and time has marked no improvement in the situation. The armed bands of either side now occupy nearly the same ground as in the past, with the difference from time to time of more lives sacrificed, more property destroyed, and a wider extent of fertile and productive fields, and more valuable property constantly and wantonly sacrificed to the incendiary's torch.

In contemplation of this nature, where a considerable body of people who have attempted to free themselves of the control of the superior Government have reached such a point in occupation of territory, in power and in general organization as to constitute in fact a body politic, having a government in substance as well as in name, possessed of the elements of stability, and equipped with the machinery for the administration of internal policy and the execution of its laws, and prepared and able to administer justice at home, as well as in the province of those other powers to recognize its existence as a new and independent nation. In such cases other nations simply deal with an actually existing condition of things, and recognized as one of the powers of the earth that body politic which, possessing necessary elements, has, in fact, become a new power. In a word, the creation of a new State is a fact. To establish the condition of things essential to the recognition of the fact, there must be a people occupying a known territory, united under some known and defined form of government acknowledged by those subject thereto, in which the functions of a government, administered by usual methods, competent to mete out justice to citizens and strangers, to afford remedies for public and private wrongs, and able to assume the correlative international obligations, and capable of performing the corresponding international duties resulting from its acquisition of the rights of sovereignty, a power should exist complete in its organization, ready to take and able to maintain its place among the nations of the earth. While conscious that the insurrection in Cuba has shown strength and endurance which make it at least doubtful whether it be in the power of Spain to subdue, it seems questionable that no such civil organization exists which may be recognized as an independent government, capable of performing its obligations, and entitled to be treated as one of the powers of the earth. A recognition under such circumstances, would be inconsistent with the facts, and would compel the power giving it soon to support, by force, the Government to which it had really given its only real claim of existence.

In my judgment the United States should adhere to the policy and the principles which have heretofore been its sure and safe guides in like contests between revolted colonies and their mother country, and, acting only upon the clearest evidence, should avoid any possibility of suspicion of intervention. A recognition of the independence of Cuba being, in my opinion, impracticable and indefensible, the question which next presents itself is that of recognition of belligerent rights in the parties to the contest.

In a former message to Congress I had occasion to consider this question, and reached the conclusion that the conflict in Cuba, dreadful and devastating as were its incidents, did not rise to the fearful dignity of war. Regarding it now, after the lapse of time, I am unable to see that any notable success, or any marked or real advance, on the part of the insurgents, has essentially changed the character of the contest. It has acquired greater age, but not greater or more formidable proportions.

It is possible that the acts of foreign powers, and even acts of Spain herself, of this very nature, might be pointed to in defense of such recognition, but now, as in its past history, the United States should carefully avoid the false lights which might lead it into the mazes of doubtful law and questionable propriety, and adhere rigidly and sternly to the rule which has been its guide, and doing only that which is right, and honest, and of good report.

The question of according or withholding rights of belligerency must be judged in every case in view of the particular attending facts: unless justified by necessity, it is always, and justly, regarded as an unfriendly act and a gratuitous demonstration of moral support to the rebellion. It is necessary and it is required, when the interest and right of another Government, or of its people, are so far affected by a pending civil conflict as to require a definition of its relations to the parties thereto. But that this conflict must be one which will be recognized in the sense of international law as war belligerence, too, is a fact. The mere existence of contending armed bodies and their occasional conflicts do not constitute war in the sense referred to. Applying to the existing condition of affairs in Cuba the tests recognized by publicists and writers on international law, and which have been observed by nations of dignity, honesty and power when free from sensitive or selfish and unworthy motives, I fail to find in the insurrection the existence of such a substantial political organization, real and palpable, and manifest to the world, having the forms, and capable of the ordinary functions of government toward its own people and to other States, with courts for administration of justice with a local habitation possessing such organization of force, such material, such occupation of territory as to take the contest out of the category of a mere rebellious insurrection, or occasional skirmishes, and place it on the terrible footing of war, to which a recognition of belligerency would aim to elevate it. The contest, moreover, is solely on land; the insurrection has not possessed itself of a single seaport whence it may send forth its flag, nor has it any means of communication with foreign powers except through military lines of its adversaries. No apprehension of any of those sudden and difficult complications which a war upon the ocean is apt to precipitate upon the vessels, both commercial and national, and upon the consular officers, of other powers, calls for the definition of their relations to the parties to the contest. Considered as a question of expediency, I regard the accordance of belligerent rights still to be as unwise and premature as I regard it to be at present indefensible. As a measure of right, such recognition entails upon the country according the rights which flow from it, difficult and complicated duties, and requires from the contending parties the strict observance of their rights and obligations. It confers the right of search upon the high seas by vessels of both parties. It would subject the carrying of arms and munitions of war, which now may be transported freely and without interruption in the vessels of the United States, to detention and to possible seizure. It would give rise to countless vexatious questions, would release the parent government from responsibility for acts done by the insurgents, and would invest Spain with the right to exercise the supervision recognized by our treaty of 1795 over our commerce on the high seas, a very large part of which, in its traffic between the Atlantic and Gulf States, and between all of them and the States upon the Pacific, passes through the waters which wash the shores of Cuba. The exercise of this supervision could scarce fail to lead, if not to abuses, certainly to collisions perilous to the peaceful relations of the two States. There can be little doubt to what result such supervision would, before long, draw this nation. It would be unworthy of the United States to inaugurate the possibilities of such result by measures of questionable right or expediency, or by any indirection.

Apart from any question of theoretical right, I am satisfied that, while the accordance of belligerent rights to the insurgents in Cuba might give them a hope and inducement to protract the struggle, it would be but a delusive hope, and would not remove the evils which this Government and its people are experiencing, but would draw the United States into complications which it has waited long and already suffered much to avoid. The recognition of independence or of belligerency by this in my judgment equally inadvisable, it remains to consider what course shall be adopted should the conflict not soon be brought to an end by acts of the parties themselves, and should the evils which result therefrom, affecting all nations, and particularly the United States, continue.

In such event I am of opinion that other nations will be compelled to assume the responsibility which devolves upon them, and to seriously consider the only remaining measures possible, mediation and intervention. Owing, perhaps, to the large expanse of water separating the island from the peninsula, the want of harmony and of personal sympathy between the inhabitants of the colony and those sent thither to rule them, and want of adaptation of the ancient colonial system of Europe to the present times, and to the ideas which the events of the past century have developed, the contending parties appear to have within themselves no depositary of common confidence, to suggest wisdom, when passion and excitement have their say, and to assume the part of peacemaker. In this view, in the early days of the contest, the good offices of the United States as a mediator were tendered in good faith, without any selfish purpose, in the interest of humanity, and in sincere friendship for both parties, but were at the time declined by Spain, with the declaration, nevertheless, that at a future time they would be indispensable. No intimation has been received that, in the opinion of Spain, that time has been reached, and yet the strife continues with all its dread horrors, and all its injuries to the interests of the United States and of other nations. Each party seems quite capable of working great injury and damage to the other, as well as to all the relations and interests depending on the existence of peace in the island; but they seem incapable of reaching any adjustment, and both have thus far failed of achieving any success whereby one party shall possess and control the island to the exclusion of the other. Under these circumstances, the agency of others, either by mediation or intervention, seems to be the only alternative which must sooner or later be invoked for the termination of the strife.

At the same time, while thus impressed, I do not at this time recommend the adoption of any measure of intervention. I shall be ready at all times, and as the equal friend of both parties, to respond to a suggestion that the good offices of the United States will be acceptable to aid in bringing about a peace honorable to both. It is due to Spain, so far as this government is concerned, that the agency of a third power, to which I have adverted, shall be adopted only as a last expedient. Had it been the desire of the United States to interfere in the affairs of Cuba, repeated opportunities for so doing have been presented within the last few years; but we have remained passive, and have performed our whole duty and all international obligations to Spain with friendship, fairness and fidelity, and with a spirit of patience and forbearance which negatives every possible suggestion of desire to interfere or to add to the difficulties with which she has been surrounded. The Government of Spain has recently submitted to our Minister at Madrid certain proposals, which it is hoped may be found to be the basis, if not the actual submission of, terms to meet the requirements of the particular griefs of which this Government has felt itself entitled to complain. These proposals have not yet reached me in their full text. On their arrival they will be taken into careful examination, and may, I hope, lead to a satisfactory adjustment of the questions to which they refer, and remove the possibility of future occurrences such as have given rise to our just complaints. It is understood, also, that renewed efforts are being made to introduce reform in the internal administration of the island. Persuaded, however, that a proper regard for the interests of the United States, and of its citizens entitled to relief from the strain to which it has been subjected by the difficulties of the questions, and the wrongs and losses which arise from the contest in Cuba, and that the interests of humanity itself demand the cessation of the strife before the whole island shall be laid waste, and larger sacrifices of life be made, I shall feel it my duty, should my hopes of a satisfactory adjustment and of an early restoration of peace, and the removal of future causes of complaint, be unhappily disappointed, to make a further communication to Congress at some period not far remote, and during the present session, recommending what legislation may then seem to me to be necessary.

The Free Zone, so-called, several years since established by the Mexican Government in certain of the States of that Republic adjacent to our frontier, remains in full operation. It has always been materially injurious to honest traffic, for it operates as an incentive to traders in Mexico to supply, without customs charges, the wants of the inhabitants on this side of the line, and prevents the same wants from being supplied by merchants of the United States, thereby, to a considerable extent, defrauding our revenue and checking honest commercial enterprise. Depredations by armed bands from Mexico on the people of Texas, near the frontier, continue. Though the main object of the incursions is robbery, they frequently result in the murder of unarmed and peaceably disposed persons, and in some instances even the United States post offices and mail communications have been attacked. Renewed remonstrances upon this subject have been addressed to the Mexican Government, but without much apparent effect. The military force of this Government disposable for service in that quarter is quite inadequate to effectually guard the line even at those points where the incursions are usually made. An experiment of an armed vessel on the Rio Grande for that purpose is on trial, and it is hoped that, if not thwarted by the shallowness of the river and other natural obstacles, it may materially contribute to the protection of the herdsmen of Texas.

The proceedings of the joint commission under the convention between the United States and Mexico of the 4th of July, 1868, on the subject of claims, will soon be brought to a close. The result of these proceedings will then be communicated to Congress.

I am happy to announce that the Government of Venezuela has, upon further consideration, practically abandoned its objection to pay to the United States that share of its revenue which some years since it allotted toward the extinguishment of claims of foreigners generally. In thus reconsidering its determination, that Government has shown a just sense of self-respect which cannot fail to reflect credit upon it in the eyes of all disinterested persons elsewhere. It is to be regretted, however, that its payments on account of claims of citizens of the United States are still so meager in amount, and that the stipulations of the treaty in regard to the sums to be paid, and the periods when those payments were to take place, should have been so signally disregarded.

Since my last annual message the exchange has been made of the ratification of a treaty of commerce and navigation with Belgium, and of conventions with the Mexican Republic for the further extension of the joint commission respecting claims with the Hawaiian Islands for commercial reciprocity, and with the Ottoman Empire for extradition, all of which have been duly proclaimed.

The Court of Commissioners of Alabama Claims has prosecuted its important duties very assiduously and very satisfactorily. It convened and was organized on the 23d day of July, 1874, and by the terms of the act under which it was created, was to exist for one year from that date. The act provided, however, that should it be found impracticable to complete the work of the court before the expiration of the year, the President might, by proclamation, extend the time of its duration to a period not more than six months beyond the expiration of one year. Having received satisfactory evidence that it would be impracticable to complete the work within the time originally fixed, I issued a proclamation (a copy of which is presented herewith) extending the time of the duration of the court for the period of six

months from and after the 23d day of July last. A report made, through the clerk of the court, communicated herewith, shows the condition of the calendar on the 1st of November last, and the large amount of work which has been accomplished. Thirteen hundred and eighty-two claims have been presented, of which 682 had been disposed of as of the date of the report. I am informed that 170 cases were decided during the month of November. Arguments are being made and decisions given in the remaining cases with all the dispatch consistent with the proper consideration of the questions submitted. Many of these claims are in behalf of mariners, or depend on the evidence of mariners, whose absence has delayed the taking of the necessary evidence. It is represented to me that it will be impracticable for the court to finally dispose of all the cases before it within the present limit of its duration. Justice to the parties claimant, who had been at large expense preparing their claims and obtaining evidence in their support, suggests a short extension to enable the courts to dispose of all the claims which have been presented. I recommend the legislation which may be deemed proper to enable the court to complete the work before it.

I recommend that some suitable provision be made by the creation of a special court, or by conferring the necessary jurisdiction upon such appropriate tribunal for the consideration and determination of the claims of aliens against the Government of the United States which have arisen within some reasonable limitation of time, or which may hereafter arise, excluding all claims caused by treaty provisions or otherwise. It has been found impossible to give proper consideration to these claims by the Executive Department of the Government. Such a tribunal would afford an opportunity to aliens other than British subjects to present their claims on account of acts committed against their persons or property during the rebellion, as also to those subjects of Great Britain whose claims, having arisen subsequent to the 9th day of April, 1865, could not be presented to the late commission organized pursuant to the provisions of the treaty of Washington.

The electric telegraph has become an essential and indispensable agent in the transmission of business and social messages. Its operation on land and within the limits of particular States is necessarily under the control of the jurisdiction within which it operates. The lines on the high seas, however, are not subject to particular control of any one government. In 1869 a concession was granted by the French Government to a company who proposed to lay a cable from the shores of France to the United States. At that time there was a telegraphic connection between the United States and the continent of Europe through the possessions of Great Britain at either end of the line, under the control of an association which had, at large outlay of capital and at great risk, demonstrated the practicability of maintaining such means of communication. The cost of the correspondence by this agency was not too large at the time for the proper remuneration for so hazardous and so costly an enterprise. It was, however, a heavy charge upon a means of communication which the progress in the social and commercial intercourse of the world found to be a necessity, and the obtaining of this French concession showed that other capital than that already invested was ready to enter into competition, with assurance of adequate return for their outlay. Impressed with the conviction that the interests, not only of the people of the United States but of the world at large, demanded or would demand the multiplication of such means of communication between separated continents, I was desirous that the proposed connection should be made, but certain provisions of this concession were deemed by me to be objectionable, particularly one, which gave for a long term of years the exclusive right of telegraphic communication by submarine cable between the shores of France and the United States. I could not concede that any power should claim the right to land a cable on the shores of the United States and at the same time deny to the United States or its citizens an equal right to land a cable on its shores.

The right to control the conditions for the laying of a cable within the jurisdiction and the waters of the United States, to connect our shores with those of any foreign State, pertains exclusively to the Government of the United States, under such limitation and conditions as Congress may impose. In the absence of legislation by Congress, I was unwilling, on the one hand, to yield to a foreign State the right to say that its grantees might land on our shores while it denied a similar right to our people to land on its shore; and, on the other hand, I was reluctant to deny to the great interests of the world, and of civilization, the facilities of such communication as were proposed. I therefore withheld any resistance to the landing of any cable, on condition that the offensive monopoly feature of the concession be abandoned, and that the right of any cable which may be established by authority of the Government to land upon French territory, and to connect with French land lines, and enjoy all the necessary facilities or privileges incident to the use thereof upon as favorable terms as any other company, be conceded.

As the result thereof, the company in question renounced the exclusive privilege, and the representative of France was informed that, understanding this relinquishment to be construed as granting the entire reciprocity and equal facilities which had been demanded, the opposition to the landing of the cable was withdrawn. The cable under this French concession was landed in the month of July, 1869, and has been an efficient and valuable agent of communication between this country and the continent. It soon passed under the control, however, of those who had the management of the cable connecting Great Britain with this continent, and thus whatever benefit to the public might have ensued from competition between two lines was lost. They had the greater facilities of an additional line, and the additional security in case of accident to one of them, but these increased facilities and this additional security, together with control of combined capital of the two companies, gave also greater power to prevent future construction of other lines, and to limit the control of telegraph communication between two continents to those possessing lines already laid. Within a few months past a cable has been laid, known as the United States Direct Cable Company, connecting the United States directly with Great Britain. As soon as this cable was reported to be in working order the rates of the then existing consolidated company were greatly reduced; soon, however, a break was announced in the new cable, and immediately the rates of the other line, which had been reduced, were again raised. This cable being now repaired, the rates appear not to be reduced by either line from those formerly charged by the other company.

There is reason to believe that large amounts of capital, both at home and abroad, are ready to seek profitable investment in the advancement of this useful and most civilizing means of intercourse and correspondence. They await, however, the assurance of the means and conditions on which they may safely be made tributary to the general good. As these cable telegraph lines connect separate States, these are questions as to their organization and control which probably can be best, if not solely, settled by conventions between the respective States. In the absence, however, of international conventions on the subject, municipal legislation may secure many points which seem to me important, if not indispensable, for the protection of the public against the extortions which may result from a monopoly of the right of opera-

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ing cable telegrams, or from a combination between several lines. First—No line should be allowed to land on the shores of the United States under the concession from another power, which does not admit the right of any other line or lines formed in the United States to land and freely connect with and operate through land lines. Second—No line should be allowed to land on the shores of the United States which is not, by treaty stipulation with the Government, from which it proceeds, or by prohibition in the charter, or otherwise, to the satisfaction of this Government, prohibited from communicating with any other cable telegraph line, or combining therewith for the purpose of regulating and maintaining the cost of telegraphic communication. Third—All lines should be bound to give precedence in the transmission of the official messages of the Government of the two countries between which it may be laid. Fourth—A power should be reserved to the two Governments, either jointly or to each as regards the messages dispatched from its shores, to fix a limit to the charges to be maintained for the transmission of messages. I present this subject to the earnest consideration of Congress. In the meantime, and unless Congress otherwise directs, I shall not oppose the landing of any telegraphic cable which complies with and assents to the points above enumerated, but will feel my duty to prevent the landing of any which does not conform to the first and second points, as stated, and which will not stipulate to concede to this movement the precedence in the transmission of its official messages, and will not enter into a satisfactory arrangement in regard to its charges.

Among the pressing and important subjects to which, in my opinion, the attention of Congress should be directed, are those relating to fraudulent naturalization and expatriation. The United States, with great liberality, offers its citizenship to all who, in good faith, comply with the requirements of the law. These requirements are as simple and upon as favorable terms to the emigrant as the high privilege to which he is admitted can or should permit. I do not propose any additional requirements to those which the law now demands, but the very simplicity and want of necessary formality in our law have made fraudulent naturalization not infrequently, to the discredit and injury of all honest citizens, whether native or naturalized. Cases of this character are continually being brought to the notice of our Government by our representatives abroad, and also those of persons resident in other countries, most frequently these, if they have remained in this country long enough to entitle them to become naturalized, generally have not much over-passed that period, and have returned to the country of their origin, where they reside, avoiding all duties to the United States by their absence, and claiming to be exempt from all duties to the country of their nativity and of their residence by reason of their alleged naturalization. It is due to this Government and to the great mass of the naturalized citizens who entirely, both in name and in fact, become citizens of the United States, that the high privilege of citizenship of the United States should not be held by fraud or in derogation of the laws and of the good name of every honest citizen. On many occasions it has been brought to the knowledge of the Government that certificates of naturalization are held and claimed by the parties, who admit that not only were they not within the United States at the time of pretended naturalization, but that they have never resided in the United States. In others the certificate and record of the court show on their face that the person claiming to be naturalized had not resided the required time in the United States. In others, it is admitted upon examination that the requirements of the law have not been complied with. In some cases even such certificates have been matters of purchase. These are not isolated cases, arising at rare intervals, but of common occurrence, and which are reported from all quarters of the globe. Such occurrences cannot and do not fail to reflect upon the Government and injure all honest citizens. Such fraud being discovered, however, there is no practicable means within the control of the Government by which the record of naturalization can be vacated, and should the certificate be taken up, as it usually is, by the diplomatic and consular representatives of the Government to whom it may have been represented, there is nothing to prevent the person claiming to have been naturalized from obtaining a new certificate from the court in the place of that which has been taken from him. The evil has become so great, and of such frequent occurrence, that I cannot too strongly recommend that some effective measures be adopted to provide a proper remedy and means for the vacating of any record thus fraudulently made, and of punishing the guilty parties to the transaction.

In this connection I refer to the question of expatriation and the election of nationality. The United States was foremost in upholding the right of expatriation, and was principally instrumental in overthrowing the doctrine of perpetual allegiance. Congress has declared the right of expatriation to be a natural, inherent right of all people. While many other nations have laws providing what formalities shall be necessary to work a change of allegiance, the United States has enacted the provisions of law, and has in no respect marked out how and when expatriation may be accomplished by its citizens. Instances are brought to the attention of the Government where citizens of the United States, naturalized or native-born, have formally become citizens or subjects of foreign powers—but who, nevertheless, in the absence of any provisions of legislation on these questions, when involved in difficulties, or when it seems to be to their interest, claim to be citizens of the United States, and demand the intervention of a Government which they have long since abandoned, and to which they have long since rendered no service, nor held themselves in any way amenable. In other cases, naturalized citizens, immediately after naturalization, have returned to their native country, have become engaged in business, have accepted offices or pursued inconsistent with American citizenship, and evidence no intent to return to the United States, until called upon to discharge some duty in the country where they are residing, when at once they assert their citizenship, and call upon the representatives of the Government to aid them in their pretensions. It is but justice to all bona fide citizens that no doubt should exist on such questions, and that Congress should determine, by enactment of law, how expatriation will be accomplished and change of citizenship established.

I also invite your attention to the necessity of regulating by law the status of American women who may marry foreigners, and of defining more fully that of children born in a foreign country of American parents who may reside abroad, and also of some further provision regulating, or giving legal effect to, marriages of American citizens contracted in foreign countries.

The correspondence submitted herewith, shows a few of the constantly occurring questions on the points presented to the consideration of the Government. There are few subjects to engage the attention of Congress on which more delicate relations are depending. In the month of July last the building erected for the Department of State was taken possession of and occupied by this department. I am happy to say that the archives and valuable property of the Government in the custody of that department are now safely deposited and properly cared for.

The report of the Secretary of the Treasury shows the receipts from customs of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1874, to have been \$163,103,833.69, and for the fiscal year ending June

30, 1875, to have been \$157,167,722.35, a decrease for the last fiscal year of \$5,936,111.34. The receipts from internal revenue for the year ending on the 30th of June, 1874, were \$102,493,784.90, and for the year ending on the 30th of June, 1875, were \$110,007,493.54, an increase of \$7,597,708.63. The report also shows a complete history of the working of the department for the past year, and contains recommendations for reforms and legislation which I cannot discuss in detail, but which I should like to do if space would permit, but will confine myself to a few suggestions, which I look upon as vital to the best interests of the whole people, coming within the purview of the Treasury. I mean specie resumption. Too much stress cannot be laid upon this question, and I hope Congress may be induced, at the earliest day practicable, to insure the consummation of the act of the last Congress at its last session, to bring about specie resumption on and after the 1st day of January, 1879, at the furthest. It would be a great blessing if this could be consummated even at an earlier day. Nothing seems to me more certain than that a full, healthy and permanent reaction cannot take place in favor of the industries and financial welfare of the country, until we return to a measure of values recognized throughout the civilized world. While we use a currency not equivalent to this standard, the world's recognized standard of specie becomes a commodity, like the products of the soil, the surplus seeking a market wherever there is a demand for it. Under our present system we should want none, nor would we have any. Were it not for custom duties that must be paid in coin and because of the pledge to pay the interest of the public debt in coin, the yield of precious metals would flow out for the purchase of foreign productions, and leave the United States the hewers of wood and the drawers of water, because of the wiser legislation on the subject of finance by the nations with which we have dealings.

I am not prepared to say that I can suggest the best legislation to secure the end so heartily to be commended. It will be a source of great gratification to me to be able to approve of any measure of Congress looking effectively toward securing resumption. Unlimited inflation would probably bring about specie payments more speedily than any legislation looking to the redemption of legal tenders in coin, but it would be at the expense of honor. The legal tenders would have no value beyond settling present liabilities, or, properly speaking, repudiating them. They would buy nothing after the debts were all settled. There are a few measures which seem to me important in this connection, and which I commend to your earnest consideration: First, the repeal of so much of the Legal Tender act as makes these notes receivable for debts contracted after a date to be fixed in the act itself—say not later than the 1st of January, 1877. We should then have a quotation at real values, not fictitious ones. Gold would no longer be at a premium, but currency at a discount. A healthy reaction would set in at once, and with it a desire to make the currency equal to what it purports to be. The merchants, manufacturers, and every calling, could do business on a fair margin of profit. The money to be received having an unvarying value, laborers and all classes who work for stipulated pay or salary would receive more for their income, because extra profits would no longer be charged by the capitalist to compensate for the risk of a downward fluctuation in value of the currency.

Second, That the Secretary of the Treasury be authorized to redeem, say not exceed \$2,000,000 monthly, of legal-tender notes, by issuing, in their stead, a long bond, bearing interest at the rate of 3 65-100 per cent. per annum, of the denominations ranging from \$50 to \$1,000 each. This would, in time, reduce the legal-tender notes to a volume that could be kept aloft without demanding redemption in large sums suddenly.

Third, That additional power be given to the Secretary of the Treasury to accumulate gold for final redemption, either by increasing revenue, curtailing expenses or both. It is preferable to do both, and I recommend that a reduction of expenditure, be made wherever it can be done without impairing Government obligations or crippling the due execution thereof. One measure for increasing the revenue, and the only one I think of, is the restoration of the duty on tea and coffee. These duties would add probably \$18,000,000 to the present amount received for imports, and would in no way increase the prices paid for those articles by the consumers. These articles are the products of countries collecting revenue from exports, and as we, the largest consumers, reduce the duties, they proportionately increase them. With this addition to the revenue, many duties now collected, and which give but an insignificant return for the cost of collection, might be remitted, and to the direct advantage of the consumers at home. I would mention those articles which enter into manufactures of all sorts. All duties paid upon such articles go directly to the cost of the article when manufactured here, and must be paid for by the consumers. The duties not only come from the consumers at home, but act as a protection to foreign manufacturers of the same completed articles in our own and distant markets. I will suggest or mention another subject bearing upon the problem of how to enable the Secretary of the Treasury to accumulate balances. It is to devise some better method of verifying claims against the Government than at present exists through the Court of Claims, especially those claims growing out of the late war. Nothing is more certain than that a large percentage of the amounts passed and paid are in part, or wholly, fraudulent, or are far in excess of the real losses sustained. The large amount of losses, proven on good testimony, according to the existing laws, by the affidavits of fictitious or unscrupulous persons, to have been sustained on small farms and plantations, are not only far beyond the possible yield of those places for any one year, but as everyone knows who has had experience in tilling the soil, and who has visited the scenes of these spoliations, are in many instances more than the individual claimants were ever worth, including their personal and real estate. The report of the Attorney-General, which will be submitted to Congress at an early day, will contain a detailed history of the awards made and the claims pending of the class here referred to.

The report of the Secretary of War, accompanying this message, gives a detailed account of many expenditures for the year just passed, expenses for maintenance, etc., with recommendations for legislation, to which I respectfully invite your attention. To some of these I invite special attention: First, the necessity of making \$800,000 appropriation for the Subsistence Department available before the beginning of the next fiscal year. Without this provision, troops at points distant from supply or production must either go without food or existing laws must be violated. It is not attended with cost to the Treasury. Second, his recommendations for the families of deceased officers by voluntary deductions from the monthly pay of officers. This again is not attended with burden upon the Treasury, and would for the future relieve much distress which every old army officer has witnessed in the past—of officers dying suddenly, or being killed, leaving families without even the means of reaching their friends—if they were fortunate enough to have friends to aid them. Third, the repeal of the law abolishing mileage and a return to the old system. Fourth, the trial with torpedoes, under the charge of the Corps of Engineers, and appropriation for the same. Should war ever occur between the United States and any maritime power, torpedoes will be among, if not the most effective and cheapest auxiliaries for the defense of harbors, and also in aggressive operations, that we can have. Hence it is

advisable to learn by experiment their best construction and application, as well as effect. Fifth, A permanent organization for the Signal Service Corps. This service has now become a necessity of peace as well as war, under the advancement made by the present able management. Sixth, A renewal of the appropriation for compiling the official records of the war, etc.

The condition of our navy at this time is a subject of satisfaction. It does not contain, it is true, any of the powerful quailing ironclads, which make so much of the maritime condition situation for our foreign policy require that we should have a large number of ships of this character, while this situation and the nature of our ports continue to make those of other nations little dangerous to us under any circumstances. Our navy does contain, however, a considerable number of ironclads of the monitor class, which, though not properly cruisers, are powerful and effective for harbor defense, and for operations near our own shores. Of these, all the single turreted ones, fifteen in number, have been substantially rebuilt, their rotten wooden beams replaced with iron, their hulls strengthened, and their engines and machinery thoroughly repaired, so that they are now in the most efficient condition and ready for sea as soon as they can be manned and put in commission. The five double turreted ironclads belonging to our navy, by far the most powerful of our ships for fighting purposes, are also in hand, undergoing complete repairs, and could be ready for sea in periods varying from four to six months. With these completed according to present designs, and our two iron torpedo boats now ready, our ironclad fleet will be, for the purposes of defense at home, equal to any force that can be readily brought against it. Of our wooden navy, also, cruisers of various sizes, to the number of about forty, including those now in commission, are in the Atlantic, and could be ready for duty as fast as men could be enlisted for those not already in commission. Of these, one-third are in effect new ships, and though some of the remainder need considerable repairs to their boilers and machinery, they are, or can readily be made, effective. This constitutes a fleet of more than fifty war ships, of which fifteen are iron-clad, now on hand on the Atlantic coast. The navy has been brought to this condition by a judicious and practical application of what could be spared from the current appropriations of the last few years, and from that made to meet the possible emergency of two years ago. It has been done quietly, without proclamation or display, and though it has necessarily strained the department in its ordinary expenditure, and, as far as the ironclads are concerned, has added nothing to the cruising force of the navy, yet the result is not the less satisfactory, because it is to be found in a great increase of real rather than apparent force. The expenses incurred in the maintenance of an effective naval force in all its branches are necessarily large, but such force is essential to our position, relations and character, and affects seriously the weight of our principles and policy throughout the whole sphere of naval responsibilities. The estimates for the regular support of this branch of the service for the next year amount to a little less in the aggregate than those made for the current year; but some additional appropriations are asked for objects not included in the ordinary maintenance of the navy, but believed to be of pressing importance. At this time it would, in my opinion, be wise at once to afford sufficient means for the immediate completion of the five double-turreted monitors now undergoing repairs, which must otherwise advance slowly, and only as money can be spared from current expenses. Supplemented by these, our navy, armed with the destructive weapons of modern warfare, manned by our instructed officers, will present a force powerful for the home purposes of a responsible though peaceful nation.

The report of the Postmaster General, herewith transmitted, gives a full history of the workings of his department for the year just passed. It will be observed that the deficiency to be supplied from the general Treasury is increased over the amount required for the preceding year. In a country so vast in area as the United States, with large portions sparsely settled, it must be expected that this important service will be more or less a burden upon the treasury for many years to come; but there is no branch of the public service which interests the whole people more than that of the cheap and rapid transmission of the mails to every inhabited part of our territory.

Next to the free school, the postoffice is the great educator of the people, and it may well receive the support of the General Government.

The subsidy of \$150,000 per annum, given the vessels of the United States for carrying the mails between New York and Rio Janeiro having ceased on the 30th day of September last, we are without direct mail facilities with the South American States. This is greatly to be regretted, and I do not hesitate to recommend the authorization of a renewal of that contract, and also that the service may be increased from monthly to semi-monthly trips.

The commercial advantages to be gained by a direct line of American steamers to the South American States will far outweigh the expense of the service.

By an act of Congress, approved March 3, 1875, almost all matter, whether properly mail matter or not, may be sent any distance through the mails in packages not exceeding four pounds in weight for the sum of sixteen cents per pound. So far as the transmission of real mail matter goes, this would seem entirely proper. But I suggest that the law be so amended as to exclude from the mails merchandise of all descriptions, and limit this transportation to all articles enumerated, and which may be classed as mail matter proper.

The discovery of gold in the Black Hills, a portion of the Sioux reservation, has had the effect to induce a large emigration of miners to that point. Thus far, the effort to protect the treaty rights of the Indians of that section has been successful, but the next year will certainly witness a large increase of such emigration. The negotiations for the relinquishment of the gold field having failed, it will be necessary for Congress to adopt some measures to relieve the embarrassment growing out of the causes named. The Secretary of the Interior suggests that the supplies now appropriated for the sustenance of that people, being no longer obligatory under the treaty of 1868, but simply a gratuity, may be issued or withheld at his discretion.

The condition of the Indian Territory, to which I have referred in several of my former annual messages, remains practically unchanged. The Secretary of the Interior has taken measures to obtain a full report of the condition of that Territory, and will make it the subject of a special report at an early day. It may then be necessary to make some further recommendation in regard to legislation for the government of that Territory.

The steady growth and increase of the business of the Patent Office indicate in some measure the progress of the industrial prosperity of the country. The receipts of the office are in excess of its expenditures, and the office generally is in a prosperous and satisfactory condition.

The report of the General Land Office shows that there were 2,453,601 acres less disposed of during this than during the last year. More than one-half of this decrease was in land disposed of under homestead and timber culture laws. The causes of this decrease are supposed to be found in the grasshopper scourge, and the drought, which prevailed so extensively in some of the frontier States and Territories during that time as to discourage and deter entries by actual settlers. The cash receipts were less by \$6,903,

220 than during the preceding year. The entire surveyed area of the public domain is 680,258,094 acres, of which 26,077,531 acres were surveyed during the past year, leaving 1,154,471,762 acres still unsurveyed.

The report of the Commissioner of Pensions makes interesting suggestions in regard to the management and disposition of the public domain, and the modification of existing laws, the apparent importance of which should insure for them the careful consideration of Congress. The number of pensioners still continues to decrease, the highest number having been reached during the year ending June 30, 1872. During the last year 11,557 names were added to the rolls, and 12,977 were dropped therefrom, showing a net decrease of 1,420; but while the number of pensioners has decreased, the annual amount due on the pension-rolls has increased \$4,473,313. This is caused by the greatly increased average rate of pensions, which, by the liberal legislation of Congress, has increased from \$20.26 in 1872 to \$103.91 in 1875, to each invalid pensioner—an increase in the average rate of 10 per cent. in the three years. During the year ending June 30, 1875, there was paid on account of pensions, including the expenses of disbursement, \$29,638,116, being \$910,032 less than was paid the preceding year. This reduction in the amount of expenditures was produced by the decrease in the amount of arrearages due on allowed claims and on pensions, the rate of which was increased by the legislation of the preceding session of Congress.

At the close of the last fiscal year there were on the pension-rolls 234,821 persons, of whom 210,363 were army pensioners, 165,478 being invalids, and 104,885 widows and dependent relatives; 3,420 navy pensioners, of whom 1,636 were invalids, and 1,784 widows and dependent relatives; 21,038 were pensioners of the war of 1812, 15,875 of whom were survivors, and 5,163 of whom were widows. It is estimated that \$29,535,000 will be required for the payment of pensions for the next fiscal year, an amount \$965,000 less than the estimate for the present year.

The geographical explorations have been prosecuted with energy during the year, covering an area of about 40,000 square miles in the Territories of Colorado, Utah and New Mexico, developing the agricultural and mineral resources, and furnishing interesting scientific and topographical details of that region.

The method for the treatment of the Indians adopted at the beginning of my first term has been steadily pursued, and with satisfactory and encouraging results. It has been productive of evident improvement in the condition of that race, and will be continued with only such modifications as further experience may indicate to be necessary.

The Board heretofore appointed to take charge of the articles and materials pertaining to the War, the Navy, the Treasury, the Interior and the Post Office Departments, and the Department of Agriculture, the Smithsonian Institute, and the Commission of Food and Fishes, to be contributed, under the legislation of last session, to the International Exhibition to be held at Philadelphia, during the Centennial year, 1876, has been diligent in the discharge of the duties which have devolved upon it, and the preparations so far made, with the means at command, give assurance that the Government contributions will be made one of the marked characteristics of the exhibition. The Board has observed commendable economy in the matter of the erection of buildings for the Government exhibit, the expense of which, it is estimated, will not exceed, say, \$80,000. This amount has been withdrawn, under the law, from the appropriations of five of the principal departments, which leaves some of those departments without sufficient means to render their respective practical exhibits complete and satisfactory. The exhibition being an international one, and the Government being a voluntary contributor, it is my opinion that the contribution should be of a character in quality and extent to sustain the dignity and credit of so distinguished a contributor. The advantages to the country of a creditable display in an international point of view, are of the first importance, while an indifferent or creditable participation by the Government would be humiliating to the patriotic feelings of our people themselves. I commend the estimates of the Board for the necessary additional appropriations to the favorable consideration of Congress.

The powers of Europe, almost without exception, many of the South American States, and even the more distant Eastern powers, have manifested their friendly sentiments toward the United States, and the interest of the world in our progress, by taking steps to join with us in celebrating the Centennial of the Nation, and strongly recommend that a more national importance be given to this exhibition by such legislation and by such appropriation as will insure its success. Its value in bringing to our shores innumerable useful works of art and skill, the commingling of the citizens of foreign countries and our own, and the interchange of ideas and manufactures, will far exceed any pecuniary outlay we may make.

I transmit herewith the report of the Commissioner of Agriculture, together with the reports of the Commissioners of the Board of Audit and the Board of Health of the District of Columbia, to all of which I invite your attention.

The Bureau of Agriculture has accomplished much in disseminating useful knowledge to the agriculturist, and also in introducing new and useful productions adapted to our soil and climate, and is worthy of the continued encouragement of the Government.

The report of the Commissioners of Education, which accompanies the report of the Secretary of the Interior, shows a gratifying progress in educational matters. In nearly every annual message that I have had the honor of transmitting to Congress, I have called attention to the anomalous, not to say scandalous, condition of the affairs existing in the Territory of Utah, and have asked for definite legislation to correct it. That polygamy should exist in a free, enlightened and Christian country, without the power to punish so flagrant a crime against decency and morality, seems preposterous. True, there is no law to sustain this unnatural vice, but what is needed is a law to punish it as a crime, and at the same time to fix the status of the innocent children—the offspring of this system, and of the possibly innocent plural wives; but, as an institution, polygamy should be banished from the land. While this is being done, I invite the attention of Congress to another, though perhaps no less an evil, the importation of Chinese women, but few of whom are brought to our shores to procure honorable or useful occupation.

Observations while visiting the Territories of Wyoming, Utah and Colorado, during the last Autumn, convinced me that existing laws regulating the disposition of public lands, timber, etc., and probably the mining laws themselves, are very defective, and should be carefully amended, and at an early day. In Territories where the cultivation of the soil can only be followed by irrigation, where the lands can only be used as pasturage, and this only where stock can reach water to quench thirst, cannot be governed by the same laws as to entries of lands, every acre of which is an independent estate by itself. Lands must be held in larger quantities to justify the expense of conducting water upon it to make it fruitful, or to justify utilizing it as pasturage. The timber in most of the Territories is principally confined to the mountain regions, which are held for entry in small quantities only, and as mineral lands. The timber is the property of the United States, for the disposal of which there is now no adequate law.

The settler must become a consumer of this timber, whether he lives upon the plains or engages in working the mines. Hence every man becomes either a trespasser himself, or, knowingly a patron of trespassers. My opportunities for observing were not sufficient to justify me in recommending specific legislation on these subjects; but I do recommend that a joint committee of the two houses of Congress, sufficiently large to be divided into sub-committees, be organized to visit all the mining States and Territories during the coming summer, and that this committee shall report to Congress, at the next session, such laws, or amendments to the laws, as may seem necessary to secure the best interests of the Government and the people of these Territories, who are doing so much for their development. I am sure the citizens occupying the Territories described do not wish to be trespassers, nor will they be, if legal ways are provided for them to become owners of these actual necessities of their position.

As this will be the last annual message which I shall have the honor of transmitting to Congress before my successor is chosen, will repeat or recapitulate the questions which I deem of vital importance which are to be legislated upon and settled at this session: 1. That the States shall be required to afford the opportunity of a good common school education to every child within their limits. 2. No tenets shall ever be taught in any school supported in whole or in part by the State, nation or by the proceeds of any tax levied upon any community; make education compulsory, so far as to deprive all persons who cannot read and write from becoming voters after the year 1890, disfranchising none, however, on the ground of illiteracy who may be voters at the time this amendment takes effect. 3. Declare the Church and State forever separate and distinct, but each free within their proper spheres, and that all church property shall bear its own proportion of taxation. 4. Drive out licensed immorality such as polygamy and the importation of women for illegitimate purposes. To recur again to the centennial year, now as we are about to begin the second century of our national existence, would be a most fitting time for these reforms. 5. Enact such laws as will insure a speedy return to a sound currency, such as will command the respect of the world.

Believing that these views will commend themselves to the great majority of the right-thinking and patriotic citizens of the United States, I submit the rest to Congress. (Signed), U. S. GRANT, EXECUTIVE MANSION, December 7, 1875.

FORTY-FOURTH CONGRESS.
REGULAR PROCEEDINGS.
WASHINGTON, Monday, Dec. 6.—The Senate was called to order precisely at 12 o'clock by Hon. T. W. Ferry, President pro tem. After prayer, Cooper (Tenn.) presented the credentials of D. M. Key, the successor of Andrew Johnson, who was sworn in. . . . Boutwell announced the death of Vice-President Wilson, and said that at an early day resolutions relating to his life and public services would be offered. . . . At 12:48 adjourned.

House.—Mr. McPherson, Clerk of the House of the Forty-third Congress, called the House to order at 12 o'clock. The call of the roll showed 286 members present. . . . On motion of Lamar, the election of Speaker was proceeded with. Michael C. Kerr was chosen on the first ballot, he receiving 173 votes, to 106 for James G. Blaine, and 3 scattering. . . . The new Speaker was sworn in, and the election of the other officers proceeded with, resulting in the choice of all the nominees of the Democratic caucus. . . . Kelley (Pa.), being the oldest member in continuous service, administered the oath to Speaker Kerr. . . . An attempt was made to open up the Louisiana controversy by the introduction by Wood of a resolution referring the credentials of Morey (signed by Kellogg) and Spencer (signed by McEnery) to the Election Committee. After a sharp debate, participated in by Wood, Blaine, Lamar and Holman, the resolution was defeated and Morey was sworn in.

TUESDAY, Dec. 7.—Senate.—James E. English, appointed Senator from Connecticut, to succeed O. S. Ferry, was sworn in and took his seat. . . . The Senate listened to the reading of the President's message, and soon after adjourned.

House.—The proceedings in the House were unimportant, the most of the time of the session being consumed in listening to the reading of the message and the drawing of seats.

DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS.
The Democratic members of the Forty-fourth Congress met in the Hall of the House of Representatives, at Washington, at 2 o'clock p. m. on Saturday, Dec. 4. On motion of Fernando Wood, L. Q. C. Lamar, of Mississippi, was called to preside over the caucus. After a 20-minute speech by Lamar, and some preliminary proceedings, Holman nominated Kerr for Speaker, Clymer nominated Randall, and Hewitt nominated Sam Cox. The first ballot resulted: Kerr, 71; Randall, 59; Cox, 31; Sawyer, 1. Second ballot: Kerr, 77; Randall, 63; Cox, 21; Sawyer, 1. The third ballot resulted in the nomination of Kerr, who received 90 votes to 68 for Randall and 7 for Cox. On motion of Randall, the nomination was declared unanimous. Other nominations were made, as follows: Clerk, George M. Adams, of Kentucky; Sergeant-at-Arms, John G. Thompson, of Ohio; Doorkeeper, L. H. Fitzhugh, of Texas; Postmaster, James Stuart, of Virginia; Chaplain, I. L. Townsend (Episcopalian), of Washington.

REPUBLICAN CAUCUS.
The Republican members of the House held a caucus the same evening, continuing in session only a short time. Mr. Blaine and all the old officers were renominated.

Intense Excitement in Madrid Over Grant's Message.

MADRID, Dec. 8.—The message of President Grant occasions great excitement. A complete summary of the Cuban section was cabled to Senor Collantes, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and an informal meeting of the Ministry was held to-day. Its great verbiage startles the Spanish statesmen. A day's delay in sending in the message is regarded suspiciously, and the belligerency disclaimer will be variously discussed in tomorrow's newspapers. Duplicitly will probably be charged, and the ultra organs intimate threats of a Carlist recognition. The newspapers are issuing extras, and the streets are crowded. The excitement is equal to that shown over the Virginian affair.

Not Ungrateful.

The following card, published in the Wells (Minn.) Gazette, over the signature of B. I. Reynolds, of Winnebago City, is a curiosity. Politicians do not usually make known the means by which they secured votes, and Mr. Reynolds can take the belt for his frankness: "Agreeable to promise before election, I shall be pleased to give any person who voted for me (taking their word for it) legal advice free of charge for two years. For any town which I carried, or nearly carried, I will with pleasure prosecute or defend suits, or do any business they may desire, for two years, free of charge. To my friends who so generously stood by me, I am under many obligations, which I hope they will give me a chance to repay."

DALTON, Ga., has a man that never drank a glass of milk of any kind never ate an ounce of butter, nor drank a cup of coffee; but he is death on "in-yuns and garlic."

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, '75.

SENATOR FERRY will please accept our thanks for valuable Public Documents.

It is remarked of John Bright, as an evidence of his power over a large audience, that in a fine passage in one of his recent speeches out of 190 words, 149 were of a single syllable.

A suit of the State of Louisiana against General James Longstreet, the ex-Confederate, to recover \$62,000 paid to him for "militia" services, is now pending in the Supreme Court in Louisiana, and will be recognized as one of the fruits of the political troubles in that State.

WOMEN are beginning to obtain new privileges in Minnesota. At the late election a large majority was given for a constitutional amendment providing that any woman of 21 years of age and older may vote at any election for officers of schools or may be eligible to any office pertaining to the management of schools.

A DEMOCRATIC House of Representatives, with a hard-money-man for Speaker, and a Republican Senate with an inflationist for its Presiding officer, are two stubborn facts, which are entitled to some consideration hereafter by our Republican exchanges in identifying a specie basis with national honesty, and inflation with repudiation.

At a large meeting of the Methodist Episcopal Sabbath-School Union and of the Tract-Society, at Boston, on last Monday, and also at the weekly meeting of preachers, comprising nearly 200 ministers, Bishop Haven urged as a measure of relief for the public, the re-nomination of Gen. Grant for President. His views were adopted by a unanimous vote.

SENATOR Ferry, who is now acting Vice-President of the United States, believes that he is not an inflationist, although he advocated an increase of the currency a few months ago, when banks had plenty of money for which they could not find safe employment at three per cent.—Through some mysterious mental process he had convinced himself that a "slight" augmentation of the volume of the currency would have produced much benefit.—*Witness.*

THE British solicitor's report to the chairman and directors of the Emma Silver Mining Company, contains the following paragraph: "The American Ambassador, Major-General Schenck, was loaned £10,000 to enable him to purchase shares, and he secured a written guaranty for interest at eighteen per cent per annum, unknown to his colleagues." This little transaction on the part of our Minister at the Court of St. James, may serve as a "key" to his late treatise on "poker."

FULL proceedings of the re-assembling of Congress, the President's Message, and reports of Departments will be found in our inside pages. In accordance with the result of the Democratic caucus, Mr. Kerr, of Indiana, was elected Speaker of the House and on taking his position said:

"GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: I am heartily grateful to you for the honor which you have conferred upon me in calling me to this exalted station. I profoundly appreciate the importance and delicacy of its duties. I shall doubtless many times need your patient indulgence. I pray that you will grant it, and, with nothing but kindly feelings toward every member of the House, I promise that in all my official acts I will divest myself to the utmost of my ability of all personal bias, and observe complete fairness and impartiality toward all and toward all the great and diversified interests of our country represented in this House.

Mr. Kelley, of Pennsylvania, as the oldest member of the House in continuous service, administered the oath of office to the Speaker.

THE following criticism upon the prevailing tendency in the common schools of this country of teaching too much of everything and not enough of anything is worthy of our attention: "There can be no doubt that certain grave faults in our school system have outlived every effort at improvement, if, indeed, some of them are not, as there is reason to think, the result of measures meant to be improvements. Superficiality is almost an American characteristic, and for that very reason the efforts of our educators to eradicate it should be unceasing; but no observer can fail to see in our school systems, almost everywhere, direct agencies for fostering it, many of them born of an earnest desire to increase the usefulness of the schools. In an attempt to teach too much, for one thing, the schools generally teach too slightly; and it is safe to say that the number of things taught in most of the common schools might be reduced one-half with marked advantage. To become convinced of this one has only to look at the prescribed course of study in the schools of almost any city in the country, or to observe the miniature libraries which schoolboys and schoolgirls carry daily in their journeys between their homes and their schoolrooms."

THE following books have been received and added to the City Library:

A Summer in Norway—J. D. Caton.
The Rhine, a tour from Paris to Mayence—Victor Hugo.
Norwood—H. W. Beecher.
Illustrated Natural History—J. G. Wood.
Villas and Cottages—Vaux.
Adventures by Land and Sea—J. Barnes.
Life of Daniel Webster—S. P. Lyman.
Sea Kings and Naval Heroes—J. G. Edgar.
Paris Commune—W. P. Pettridge.
California—C. Nordhoff.
Self-Made Men—C. C. B. Seymore.
Nimrod of the Seas—W. M. Davis.
Before the Mast—J. D. Hazen.
Good and Great Men—
Getting on in the World—W. Mathews.
Guliver's Travels—J. Smith.
Children of the Abbey—
Life of Napoleon—P. C. Headly.
German Popular Tales—Grimm Bros.
Fairy Tales—H. Anderson.
Mishaps of Pelter—
Widow Goldsmith's Daughter—Miss J. P. Smith.
Chris and Otho—Miss J. P. Smith.
Life of Livingston—J. E. Chombliss.

THE last and most successful of American story writers of to-day is the Rev. Wm. M. Baker, pastor of a Presbyterian Church in Boston, and they do say he gets more for a single serial than his whole year's salary as pastor. He has already written "The New Timothy" and "Mose Evans," and is now engaged upon a story entitled "A Good Year," the scenes of which are laid in "the most interesting city of the South," during a residence there. The story, we learn, is to be published in the Rev. Dr. Talmage's paper, *The Christian at Work*.

Special Notices.

To Consumptives.

The advertiser, having been permanently cured of that dread disease, Consumption, by a simple remedy, is anxious to make known to his fellow sufferers the means of cure. To all who desire it, he will send a copy of the prescription used, (free of charge), with the directions for preparing and using the same, which they will find a sure Cure for Consumption, Asthma, Bronchitis, &c. Parties wishing the prescription will please address
Rev. E. A. WILSON,
94 Penn St., Williamsburgh, N. Y.

Errors of Youth.

A gentleman who suffered for years from Nervous Debility, Premature Decay, and all the effects of youthful indiscretion will, for the sake of suffering humanity, send free to all who need it, the recipe and direction for making the simple remedy by which he was cured. Sufferers wishing to profit by the advertiser's experience can do so by addressing in perfect confidence,
JOHN B. OGDEN,
42 Cedar st., New York.

Special Notice.

The CITY DRUG STORE will be kept open on Sundays, until further notice is given.

HEBER WALSH,
Proprietor.

HOLLAND, Sept. 18, 1874.

New Advertisements.

Something New!

P. H. Wilms, THE WELL KNOWN PUMP MANUFACTURER.

Of this place, has added to his splendid Wooden Pump the Iron Drive Well Pump, and is ready to furnish all and everybody with all kinds of Pumps: Force Pumps, Rubber Hose, Large Iron Vessel Pumps, Pony Engine Pumps, and anything in the line of Pumps from a small Basket Hand-Pumps up to a Steam Fire Engine.

He can also put down Drive Well points on wooden pumps, which is an improvement on both iron and wooden pumps—on iron pumps because they don't rust, the water pumps easier and faster and they don't freeze or burst in cold weather; and an improvement on wooden pumps: it saves making a well, and nothing can get into the well and spoil the water.

Business place on River Street, between Tenth and Eleventh street, Holland, Mich.

Welton & Akeley,

(Successors to M. P. Vissers.)

DEALERS IN

Dry Goods,
Groceries,
Provisions,
Flour & Feed,
Bolted Meal,
Bran, Corn,
Oats, Potatoes,
Country Produce, Etc.

RIVER STREET, HOLLAND.

Messrs Welton & Akeley have bought out the stock and trade of M. P. Vissers and will continue the business at the old stand. If good goods and low prices will continue to draw them their heavy trade they are sure to retain it. A general invitation is extended to all to call and visit the crippled auctioneer.

HOLLAND, November 11, 1875.

CANCER CURED BY DR. BOND'S DISCOVERY.

Remedies, with full directions, sent to any part of the world. Send for pamphlet and particulars. Address:

E. T. BOND, M. D., Penna. Cancer Institute,
No. 1319, Chestnut St., Philadelphia, Pa.

M. P. VISSER

Removed to Eighth Street.

He has filled his Store with a complete stock of

Groceries, Flour,
Potatoes, Beans,
Apples and Provisions,
Also a full line of
Liquors & Beer,

These liquors are of various qualities and prices and will be sold only by the measure. No liquor will be sold to minors unless upon the written orders of their parents or employers, who will be held responsible.

These goods will be sold as cheap as possible, but only for

CASH! CASH!

In trade I will take Oats, Corn, Beans, Apples, Potatoes, Butter, Eggs and many other articles for which the highest price will be paid.

A NOVELTY.

Second-hand clothing will be taken in exchange.

Store: Opposite the Post-Office.

M. P. VISSER.

HOLLAND, Mich., Dec. 1, 1875. 42-4

E. HEROLD,

DEALER IN

BOOTS & SHOES,

EIGHTH STREET, CITY OF HOLLAND.

The undersigned respectfully announces that he still sustains his old reputation, and that nobody needs to be wanting in anything which belongs to his line of trade.

Ladies, Gents, Youths, and Misses Wear

Also a full line of

FINDINGS,

The most competent workmen constantly employed, and all work made up in the latest style and with dispatch.

Repairing will Receive Prompt Attention.

E. HEROLD.

HOLLAND, Feb. 20th, 1874. 1-31/2-1y

Joslin & Breyman,

Watchmakers & Jewelers,

Bankbuilding, Cor. Eighth and River St.



Having disposed of most of our old stock, we have occupied my new quarters, on RIVER STREET with a beautiful stock of everything pertaining to a complete

Jewelry and Variety Store.

Silver Ware,
Plated Ware,
Watches, Clocks,
Jewelry, and
Musical Instruments.

We request all of our old friends to come and see us in our new place and satisfy themselves as to the above.

Mr. J. Wykhulzen, the Jeweler and Repairer of the First Ward, has established himself with us, and will be pleased to see his old customers and friends continue their former favors.

All Repairing will be Neatly and Promptly executed.

HOLLAND, Mich., Feb. 22, 1875.

2-1y JOSLIN & BREYMAN.

J. O. DOESBURG,

DRUGGIST AND APOTHECARY.

NO. 70, EIGHTH STREET.

Drugs,
Medicines,
Paints and Oils
Are sold as cheap at this Drug Store as at any other. Medicines warranted to be strictly pure.

Trusses,
Chamois Skins,
Counter, Cloth,
Hair and
Paint Brushes.

All the leading Patent Medicines in the market. A full Stock of the very best Perfumery sold in bottle or by measure.

J. O. DOESBURG.

HOLLAND, Mich., July 30, 1875.

FOR SALE or TO RENT.

Owing to ill-health I offer for sale or to rent the *Alma House*, in the City of Holland. Proposals to exchange for other property will also be entertained.

For further information apply to

P. ZALSMAN.

Holland, Mich.

Oct. 15 1877.

If you wish to see a well assorted stock of Goods for the Fall and Winter trade, go and call at the store of

DUURSEMA & KOFFERS,

DEALERS IN

Dry Goods,
Furnishing Goods,
Clothing,
Crocery,
Stoneware,
Notions and Trimmings,
Hats & Caps,
Groceries,
Flour & Feed,
Provisions etc.

RIVER STREET, HOLLAND, MICH.

We invite the Public to come and examine our stock and judge for themselves. Our line of clothing is very large and complete and we have no doubt but we can satisfy all who wish to purchase.

WANTED.

Everything in the line of Produce will be receive and at the highest market prices.

HOLLAND, Mich., November 5, 1875.

Extensive Trade,

At the Store of

WERKMAN & SONS,

River Street, Holland, Mich.

We have on hand a large stock of

Fall and Winter Goods,

And keep a full line of

Dry Goods,
Hats & Caps,
Crocery and
Provisions.

CIGARS! CIGARS!

We have the agency for one of the largest manufacturing in the country and sell cigars at

Wholesale and Retail.

Grain, Flour and Feed, Etc.,
Are dealt in very extensively by us, and all orders are promptly filled and delivered.

Country Produce!

Our aim is to pay the Highest Market Price for all kinds of Country Produce, and we make this a specialty. We never refuse to buy anything in this line. Our connections are such that we can always pay the highest prices.

HOLLAND, Oct. 28, 1875.

De Feyter Bro's,

DEALERS IN

Wood, Lumber, Bark, Ties,
Timber, and all kinds
of Wood Produce.

We have put up in our woods, (on the Lake Shore Road, two miles West of the white school-house on the Grand Haven road) a first-class portable saw-mill which is now in good running order, and can serve the public at any time with all kinds of building material and fencing at low prices, and deliver the same wherever wanted.

We can lengthen out so as to saw 40 feet, and will make long lumber and timber a specialty. Our facilities for getting out deck planks and any kind of ship timber are unequalled.

All bills will be filled promptly and with dispatch, and a fair dealing can be relied upon. Custom sawing done at bottom figures.

All kinds of Farm Products, taken in pay for lumber and sawing. Also Wood, Bark and Railroad Ties, when delivered at our Pier on Lake Michigan, or on any of the docks along Black Lake.

HOLLAND, Mich., March 12, 1875. 4-1f

BOOKBINDING!

The undersigned wishes to inform his old friends and residents of Holland and vicinity that being at present located at Muskegon, he has made arrangements with Mr. W. Vorst, at Holland, at whose store, on River street, all job work for binding can be left. I have purchased a new and complete line of tools and stock and will furnish first-class work.

A. CLOETINGH.

MUSKEGON, Sept. 3 1875.

1875. FALL AND WINTER. 1876

We have received and opened a complete line of goods for the season. Our Fall and Winter Millinery includes the latest styles. We intend to make Shawls a specialty, and have also in stock a heavy assortment of

Ladies & Children Cloaks & Cloaking,

Ready made and cut and made to order, with a full line of Trimmings, also Velvetines, Double Wove Paisley Shawls, Balmorals, Ladies and Children's Hosiery and Underwear.

L. & S. VAN DEN BERGE,

EIGHTH STREET HOLLAND, MICH

Dress Silks, Ladies Scarfs and Gloves, and a full line of Kid Gloves, Perfume and Soaps. In the line of Millinery notions we cannot be surpassed. Ribbons, Velvets, Satins, in large quantities.

TOYS! TOYS! TOYS!

For Boys and Girls. Work Boxes, Building Blocks, Writing Desks, Albums, Maps, Smoking Sets, Dolls, Excursion Trains, Etc., Etc.,

We are the only agent for the sale of the "Brilliantine," a new preparation for giving a splendid lustre to all kinds of Starched Linen Wear. We also keep Butterick's Patterns.

CITY HOTEL,

HOLLAND, MICH.

The Proprietor announces to the Public that no pains will be spared by him to make this House FIRST-CLASS in every respect.

The Rooms are spacious and well furnished with new and elegant furniture.

Office on First Floor.

For the convenience of Commercial Agents a large and well lighted sample room has been fitted up on the ground floor. Livery connected with the Hotel.

J. W. MINDERHOUT, Prop'r.

DR. SCHOUTEN'S ANTI-BILIOUS AND EXPECTORANT PILLS.

Have a specific influence upon the Liver and Bowels, and stimulate these organs into such vigorous action that the impediments are removed. Favorably known by operating mildly. They prevent all irregularities originating from impurities of the Blood.

—SOLD AT—

Wholesale and Retail

—BY—
H. WALSH, Druggist.

Holland, Mich.

HOLLAND, Mich., Feb. 25, 1875. 2-1f

SLOOTER & HIGGINS

DEALERS IN

GROCERIES

AND

Flour and Feed.

Eighth Street, Holland, Michigan.

We have removed our store in the Brick Building of

MR. A. VENNEMA,

Opposite BAKKER & VAN RAALTE'S shoe store.

Flour, Feed,

Hay, Grain,

and Mill Stuff,

At Lowest Cash Prices.

SLOOTER & HIGGINS.

HOLLAND, Oct. 15, 1875.

PURE

Golden Machine Oil.

BY THE GALLON, AT

J. O. DOESBURG.

HOLLAND, July 7, 1875.

Notings.

STEALING the "wash" is again in practice.

"TOM COLLINS" was in town the other day, but could not be found.

MESSRS. WEYMAR & Kruidenier are putting up a paint shop on Eighth street, opposite P. & A. Steketee's.

COMPLETE success is said to have attended the attempt in Paris, of raising and training zebras for domestic purposes.

COLUMBUS discovered America, but when a boy he had as much difficulty in seeing an empty wood-box or water pail as any other boy.

THERE is a man in Buena Vista, Alabama, who has eleven daughters at home.—It takes one hundred and ninety-eight yards of calico to go round.

At the late meeting of the Council of Hope College, Prof. G. J. Kollen was appointed general agent for the endowment of the institution, vice Rev. J. W. Beardslee, declined.

A CHRISTIAN Chinaman, Ah For, gathers his countrymen on Sundays and evenings in chapels built at his expense in Virginia City, Nevada, and has them instructed in the English language.

THE attention of our readers is called to the new advertisement of Mr. Wilms, our pump manufacturer. We are glad to notice that the development of this manufacturing interest is in the hands of a live man.

"Now," said a citizen of Rawlins, Wyoming Territory, at a recent dance, "you see that heifer in a red dress? that's my wife; an' ef you dance with her more'n two times, I'll shut yer hed off. What'll yer drink?"

MAMMA: What are you crying for, Annie? Annie (who had suddenly burst into tears): Because—because—you've taken my orange. Mamma: Why, you asked me two or three times to take it. Annie: Yes, I know I did; but I thought you would say, no.

A GENTLEMAN once called on the late Mr. Astor to solicit a donation for a charitable purpose. He gave \$5. "Why, Mr. Astor," said the solicitor, "how is it you give so little? Your son, John Jacob, gave us \$200." "Well," replied the old man, "he could afford it. He has a rich father and I haven't."

THE select Committee on Cemetery, appointed by the Common Council, have made a report on the subject which is published in full in our last page. They recommend the extension of the present cemetery. The Council committed the further execution of the project into the hands of the Mayor, Clerk and City Attorney.

At Norwich, Conn., the other day a tramp was given an old vest. He soon returned with a five dollars bill he said he found in one of the pockets. The gentleman of the house was so well pleased with his honesty that he gave him a dollar and the next day discovered that the bill was a wretchedly executed counterfeit.

THE purchase by the city of the Appleton fire engine has virtually been abandoned. It appears from a communication received from the Mayor of Appleton that the sale of their engine had never been decided upon; but that upon an offer of \$300 for the same, the matter would be presented and final action taken. At the meeting of last Wednesday, our Council refused to make such offer.

SENATOR MORTON has already introduced his bill to regulate the counting of electoral votes for president and vice president, and also his familiar proposal to amend the constitution so as to abolish the electoral college, and provide for the election of president and vice president directly by the people. It is understood that the bill provides that the electoral vote of no state shall be thrown out without the concurrence of both houses of congress. The bill will probably pass the senate.

THE stove factory of E. Van Der Veen & Co., and the saw mills of Pauels, Van Putten & Co., and J. Van Dyk & Co., are all running, having resumed with the late change of the weather. This, with the River street improvement, and sundry building and repairing jobs incident thereto, renders the season favorable for the laboring classes—potatoes only 30 cents a bushel—the collection in the First Church on Thanksgiving amounted to \$100.

On Wednesday, Mr. George Lauder left for California, with a view to make that locality his home. His family for the present remain here. We regret to see Mr. Lauder leave this place. As a citizen he was very useful, and as a neighbor true and straightforward. In the organization of our Fire Department, of which he was the first Chief Engineer, his services rendered are entitled to great credit. At the first charter election he was elected city Treasurer, and afterwards held the office of Alderman for five years.

FIVE billiard tables have been presented to Princeton college.

THE late Vice President left property valued at not more than \$10,000.

FRANCIS KEY, the author of the "Star Spangled Banner," is to have a monument.

LIST of letters remaining in the Post Office at Holland, Mich., Dec. 9, 1875: Nellie Farnes, Miss Delora Green.

Wm. VERBEEK, P. M.

You will notice that when a boy steps on a Canada thistle, or sticks a splinter into his foot, it's invariably a few seconds before school.

THE official canvass shows that at the late election in Wisconsin the temperance ticket obtained only a little more than four hundred votes.

GOVERNOR Thayer, of Wyoming Territory, in his annual message to the Wyoming legislature, extols the working of woman suffrage, and recommends its continuance.

JUDGE R. A. HILL, of the United States Court at Jackson, Miss., is about the most sensible judicial officer in the country, for he will not permit a man to be sworn as a juror who cannot read and write.

THE dry goods men of Allegan, with one or two exceptions, have determined to close their stores this winter at seven o'clock in the evening, excepting on Saturday nights. They commenced on Monday.

A WATCHMAN on the C. & M. L. S. R. R., at Grand Rapids, was very badly injured last week, by the bursting of one of the flues of the engine, on which he was riding, which sent the hot water and steam all over the unfortunate man's face and body.

On Tuesday evening, December 14th, 1875, Isaac Verwey, Esq., editor of the Grand Rapids Standard will lecture at this place, in Kenyon's Hall. The lecture will be in the Holland language, on the subject of "The Calling of the State." (De Roeping van den Staat.) Tickets for sale at Kanter's bookstore.

A most gigantic land swindle has been detected in Missouri and Arkansas lands, whereby twelve millions acres of land have been disposed of in fraudulent deeds. This land ring had agencies in nearly all the States and principal cities, and even in Europe. The lands were offered at very low prices and many are the victims.

THE Grand Lodge of Freemasons in Paris, and most of the lodges in France, have subscribed to the fund for the erection of a monument to Liberty in New York harbor. For the same object, a grand and very successful fete was given at the Palais d'Industrie, Paris, on November 19th, by the Franco-American Union.

On Friday morning of last week, fire was discovered in the blacksmith and repair shops of the Grand Rapids and Indiana Railroad at Kalamazoo, and in spite of all efforts they were destroyed, with a part of their contents. The loss is reported at \$10,000, on which there was no insurance. The fire caught from a stove in one of the rooms.

Just before the rebellion, John Slidell, then United States Senator, secured an appropriation and authority to have a naval vessel sent on a cruise along the coasts of Central and South America and certain of the West India Islands, for the purpose of collecting new specimens of seed of sugar cane to be experimented with in the Southern States. Congress will be urged this winter to repeat the enterprise.

THERE was a rector who, after his establishment in a parish, preached the same sermon to his congregation Sunday after Sunday—a very good sermon, but always the same. At last the farmers sent a deputation to request a change. "Very well," said the rector, "but now let any one of you tell me something about the sermon." Not a person could give an account. "Then," resumed the clergyman, "I'll continue to preach it till I'm sure you know what it contains."

It is well enough for our dealers in cigars and tobacco to remember that empty tobacco pails and cigar boxes are dangerous property to handle, and to be cautious how and to whom they dispose of the same. The revenue laws are very severe on this point, and ignorance or carelessness is no excuse. It is said that of late somebody has made it his business here, to keep track of empty tobacco pails and cigar boxes, by lurking and sneaking around the several stores and places where the same are kept, and watch and "detect" any irregularity that may take place in the disposal thereof. The result of these efforts thus far, as it is rumored, is that several parties have been informed against; but we rather doubt whether there is much "stock taken" in the "informers," or credibility given to his statements.

At the Drug Store of Wm. Van Putten the rush for Epizootic medicines is as great as ever.

MR. HIGGINS, the artist, has been taking some views of Eighth street.

A COMPANY of negro minstrels are said to be meeting with great success in Paris.

A WEAK female will berate a man for letting her stand up in a horse car, and she will then dance from ten o'clock till two.

THE mild weather has enabled that part of our fleet, who were laid up near the harbor, to break through the ice and sail up town.

THE revisers of the authorized version of the New Testament have reached the fourteenth chapter of the First Epistle to the Corinthians.

THE following vessels, all owned here have gone into ordinary at this port:—Joses, Banner, Tri-Color, Mary, A. Plugger, Four Brothers, Wollin, Bates and Hope.

THE Legislature of California has enacted a law which allows every citizen who will plant trees and maintain them for three years, a deduction from his taxes of \$1 for each tree so planted.

MR. J. STEVENS, of this place, was tried in the U. S. District Court last week, and found guilty of selling liquor without having paid the special tax. The sentence was \$100 fine and thirty days imprisonment.

WE are requested to state that the concert to be given at the Third Reformed church by the Singing Society under the leadership of Mr. C. Van Oostenbrugge, has been postponed until Monday evening, December 20th.

DE GRAAF BRO'S inform us that their vessel, the *Abigail*, beached north of Muskegon harbor, will not prove a total loss, but that under ordinary circumstances they will get her off next spring. If they had only had the present fine weather a week sooner, they would have been all right.

A COLLEGE girl wrote home: "Dee Paw-Paw, we study Latin fo' owa's a day. French, seven up and science evah so lounig. The good matrons nevah let us go owet. Won't you send me my leggins and skates for a poo' little girl who lives in the village. Don't forget the heel straps."

WHEN the question of reducing the wages of the men employed by the Boston and Providence Railroad was brought up at a recent meeting of the directors, the president, Mr. Clifford, declared that their pay was not too large, and that he would prefer to give up half his own salary rather than vote for such a reduction.

In a letter to a friend in Milwaukee, Wis., Ex-Treasurer Spinner shows that he still cherishes his 3-65 bond scheme. He says: "The scheme will prevail as soon as it shall be thoroughly understood. The bug-bear cries of 'inflation' 'repudiation,' and 'rag-baby' have had their day. Next year's election will be fought on this issue."

OUR drug store clerks in this city seem to travel along the line of promotion. Mr. Dan O'Riley, for years with Mr. Wm. Van Putten, has taken the "road" for a wholesale hardware house in Chicago. A few weeks ago Mr. Henry Ferry of the City Drug Store, obtained a fine situation at Fuller, Finch & Fuller, wholesale druggists, Chicago.

MESSRS. Welton & Akeley have raised their store and warehouse on River street, to conform with the new grade since the filling in. It is a decided improvement and was rendered absolutely necessary. Since the job is completed everybody appears to be satisfied. Mr. Akeley informs us "that it was all he could do to keep the crowd in good humor, during the three days the building stood on stilts, that anxious they were to come in and purchase their goods at that place."

"WHO KILLED COCK ROBBIN?"—The late fire at the Ward School house has involved us in a similar question, and to a certain extent, we've "put our foot in," personally. At the time of the fire it was stated by us that "evidently it must have been caused by a defect in the chimney." Upon examination of the chimney it was reported that everything was all right and that it was built in a good and workmanlike manner. This led us to say last week that "the late fire at the Ward School house, appears not to have been caused by any defects in the chimney, but by excessive and injudicious firing." This again is denied by the young lady in charge of the school, and her friends have been at us, for thus injuring etc. Now, in order to get out of this trouble, we'll take back everything we've said, touching either architect, builder, teacher, or all of them, and will defend the chimney and the stove pipe against all assaults. The chimney is hereby declared by us not to have been defective, and the firing not to have been excessive or injudicious, and as we go to press, we deny that there has been any fire at all. We have no doubt that in case the matter should be thoroughly investigated and left to a jury, the verdict would be in harmony with the above.

J. FLIEMAN,

MANUFACTURER OF

Top or Open Buggies,
Light & Heavy Wagons.
SLEIGHS, TRUCKS, etc.

Also sole Agent for the

Studebaker Bro's Mfg Co.,

SOUTH BEND, IND.

This wagon is the best wagon in use in this State, and the only slope-spoked wagon manufactured. It is a better wagon than the Jackson Wagon, and I will sell them just as cheap, and give a written warranty for one year. Wagons of my own manufacture I will sell for

SIXTY DOLLARS CASH.

All Work Warranted.

General Blacksmithing done with neatness and dispatch.

Horse Shoeing a Speciality.

J. FLIEMAN,

HOLLAND, September 1, 1875.

FOR SALE!

HOUSE, STORE and LOT.

I offer for sale Lot 8, Block 41, being on the South-East corner of Ninth and Market Streets, City of Holland. The buildings are all new. It is a desirable location for any kind of business. Terms easy. D. TE ROLLER.

Nathan Kenyon, Banker.
HOLLAND, MICH.,

Does a general Banking, Exchange, and Collection business. Collections made on all points in the United States and Europe. Particular attention paid to the collections of Banks and Bankers. Remittances made on day of payment. All business entrusted to me shall have prompt attention. Interest allowed on time deposits, subject to check at sight. Foreign exchange bought and sold. Tickets to and from all points in Europe sold at my office.

BAKKER & VAN RAALTE,

MANUFACTURERS OF AND DEALERS IN

BOOTS, SHOES,

RUBBERS, ETC.

A Very large stock on hand.

6th Street, - - HOLLAND, MICH.

J. M. Reidsema & Son.

The oldest Furniture House in the City.

Always keep a full and well selected stock of Furniture, at prices corresponding with the times.

Wall Paper,
Window Shades,
Carpets,
Oil Cloths,
Feathers,
Feather Beds,
Mattresses,

COFFINS.

Wall paper bought of us, will be trimmed free of charge.

NEW STOCK OF

CLOTHING

AT

John Roost & Son,

CO. OF RIVER & NINTH STREET.

Dealers in

Gents' Furnishing Goods,

Choice Groceries

AND

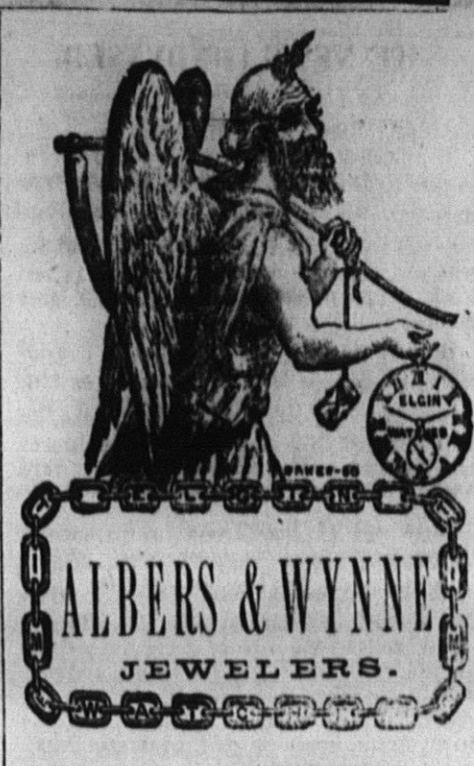
TEAS AND SYRUPS.

Highest market price paid for Butter & Eggs, in trade or in cash.

HOLLAND, Mich., Oct. 6, 1875.

B. P. HIGGINS,
PHOTOGRAPHER,

Eighth St. Holland, Mich.



Watches, Silver Ware,
Clocks, Spectacles, &
Jewelry, Pocket-Knives

These goods will be sold at the lowest possible Price. Every Article Warranted to be just as Represented.

Watches, clocks and Jewelry Repaired in the best manner.

HOLLAND, Mich., December 1, 1874.

PHENIX
Planing Mill.

In re-building our new shop we have purchased entire new Machinery.

Of the Most Approved Patterns;

And we are confident we can satisfy all who want

Planing, Matching,
Or Re-Sawing Done.

WE HAVE A STEAM
DRY KILN

AND THE DRYING OF LUMBER
WE SHALL MAKE A
SPECIALITY.

DOORS, SASH AND BLINDS.

Or anything in our line, manufactured on short notice.

H. W. VERBEEK & Co.

REMOVED!

MRS. J. WYKHUIZEN has removed from

Eighth Street to No. 25, Tenth Street,

West of Hope Church.

Cures: Felons,

Burns, and

Scrofulous Swellings.

Makes a specialty of all FEMALE COM

PLAINT AND DISEASES OF

CHILDREN.

And recommends herself to the citizens

of Holland and vicinity.

Mrs. Wykhuisen's Queen of Ointment

can be bought at the Store of J. H. Klek-

inveld, Eighth Street. Price, 25 Cents.

HOLLAND, Mich., February 25, 1875.

J. J. FIFIELD'S

FIRST WARD STORE.

I have just received a new and

FRESH SUPPLY OF

Dry Goods,

Hats & Caps,

Crockery,

Glassware,

Groceries, and

Liquors.

And keep constantly on hand a full line of

FLOUR & FEED.

I have increased my room in order to accommo-

date this large stock and invite the public of the city

and vicinity to come and examine my goods and

prices.

I continue to carry on a WHOLESALE

trade in

LIQUORS & CIGARS,

and give notice of this for the special ben-

efit of all dealers in said articles.

Farmers will find my store a welcome

place. I wish to buy all they have to sell

in the line of PRODUCE, and can sup-

ply them with everything they need in my

line. A good stable and accommodations

for their teams are offered to them.

MR. JAMES WESTVEER will always be

found ready to wait upon any of his old

friends who wish to call upon him.

All orders will be promptly filled and

delivered home—free of charge.

J. J. FIFIELD.

HOLLAND, Mich., Oct. 15, 1875.

Meat Market,

Jacob Kuite.

Since the dissolution of our co-partnership, I am

carrying on this business alone, at the OLD STORE,

where I can be found at all times, and where I will

keep constantly on hand, the choicest of Salt and

Fresh Meats, and offer them at the lowest prices.

I expect to see all our old friends, to come and call

on me, when I will offer them such bargains as will

induce them to purchase their daily rations with

me.

I will sell cheaper than any

one in this City.

JACOB KUIE.

Holland, Feb. 14, 1874.

THE NEWS CONDENSED.

THE EAST.

The steamer *Sunshine* was sunk by the ice in the Hudson River, at West Point, a few days ago. Six of the crew and five passengers lost their lives. A passenger train collided with a freight train near Buffalo, N. Y., last week. Three persons were killed and a large number wounded, several dangerously.

HON. IRA HARRIS, ex-United States Senator from New York, is dead. The schooner *J. G. Jenkins* was recently lost in a gale on Lake Ontario, together with all on board, consisting of nine persons. The Philadelphia Navy Yard was sold at auction, last week, for \$1,000,000.

The escape of Ross Tweed has produced a big sensation in New York city. The manner in which the great ring thief obtained his freedom is briefly as follows: For several weeks past it has been the habit of the prison authorities to allow Tweed to visit his friends and relatives in the city, accompanied, of course, by officers. On the day of his escape he was driven to the house where his wife was living, and went up-stairs alone, the official remaining below. Not returning in fifteen minutes, the latter became alarmed, searched for his bird, and discovered he had flown. The Sheriff offers a reward of \$10,000 for his capture.

THE WEST.

SOMETHING of a sensation was produced in Chicago, the other day, by the finding, in the office of an express company, of a barrel in which had been placed the body of a beautiful young woman and a babe. It was at first thought that a foul crime had been perpetrated, but investigation proved that it was the work of resurrectionists. The bodies had been stolen from one of the cemeteries, and were intended for the Iowa Medical College. The guilty parties have been arrested.

CHARLES E. CRIST, an old and honored citizen of Cincinnati, has proved a wolf in sheep's clothing. He has disappeared, and it now leaks out that he has committed defalcations to the amount of \$100,000. Another one of the internal revenue thieves—Avery, the Treasury clerk—has been convicted at St. Louis. Joyce, his pal, who was sent up some time ago, is said to be writing a novel in his cell in the Missouri Penitentiary, a portion of which will be devoted to the whisky ring. Several Western lawyers have been implicated in pension frauds. The trials of the Chicago whisky ring cases will begin Jan. 11. Gas costs \$4 per 1,000 cubic feet in Des Moines, Iowa, and the business men generally have discarded its use. Merchants say they get a better light from kerosene at 15 cents a night than they did from gas at \$1.25. The city is to be illuminated with kerosene instead of gas lamps.

The President having granted the request of Gen. O. E. Babcock for a court of inquiry into the reports connecting him with the St. Louis whisky ring, Gen. Sheridan, Hancock and Terry were designated to compose the court. They are now in session at Chicago. A terrible tragedy occurred at Cleveland the other day. A man named Adam, in a fit of rage, murdered his wife and stepdaughter, and mortally wounded Mrs. Benton, a neighbor, who interfered. The weapon used was an ax.

JASPER D. WARD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, has resigned at the request of Attorney-General Pierpont.

THE SOUTH.

The Bank of America, of New Orleans, has suspended.

THREE men were killed, two mortally wounded, and several others badly scalded, by the explosion of a sugar-house boiler near Franklin, La., a few days ago.

WASHINGTON.

ACCORDING to the monthly bulletin of Secretary Bristow, the public debt was decreased \$480,075 during the month of November. Postmaster-General Jewell, in his annual report, recommends that the postage on transient newspapers be reduced one cent for every two ounces and fraction thereof. All naval officers have been ordered to report for duty immediately.

The Secretary of the Treasury has sent to Congress his estimates for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1877. The following is a recapitulation by Departments: Congress, \$6,958,475; Executive, \$78,400; Department of State, \$1,601,095; Treasury Department, \$171,193,367; War Department, \$57,430,499; Navy Department, \$22,794,426; Interior Department, \$40,594,135; Postoffice, \$9,862,714; Department of Justice, \$3,850,040; Agriculture, \$251,565; grand total, \$314,612,006. The appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1876, were \$16,864,592 less than these estimates.

GENERAL.

Secretary Bristow has written a letter to the District Attorney at St. Louis, in which he denounces as "absolutely and unqualifiedly false" the story started by the whisky-ring thieves that he was interested in a distillery at Louisville. He adds: "I beg to repeat the request, heretofore communicated to you, that these frauds on the Government shall be proved to the very bottom, and every ramifications of the ring shall be followed in every part from beginning to end, and that no one having connection with or guilty knowledge of its operations shall be permitted to escape. So far as this Department is concerned, I ask that every allegation against any officer of it, from its head to its humblest employee, be thoroughly investigated and vigorously prosecuted, if any ground exists therefor. I have read this to the President, who repeats his injunction, 'Let no guilty man escape.'"

News has been received in Washington of the death, in China, of the Hon. Benjamin P. Avery, the American Minister to that country, who was appointed about two years ago to succeed Minister Low.

The Centennial committee on the Opening Ceremonies have selected Wm. M. Everts for the orator, Henry W. Longfellow for the poet, and a grandson of Richard H. Lee, of Virginia, for the reader of the Declaration of Independence.

SESAN DENTON, the well-known actress, is dead.

The cable brings news of another ocean disaster. The Atlantic steamer *Deutschland* has been wrecked in the North Sea, and a large number of her passengers and crew lost.

POLITICAL.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the "Independent" party, in Chicago, last week, it was decided to hold a National Convention of the party, at Indianapolis, in May next, to nominate candidates for President and Vice-President.

The election of Kerr to the Speakership is due largely to the unthringing influence of the Illinois delegation. The new Doorkeeper of the House at Washington occupied the same post in the Confederate Congress at Richmond.

FOREIGN.

AUSTRIA has sent to the European powers a draft of reforms to be submitted to the Sultan of Turkey. The civil war in Cuba still rages. Three hundred Spanish troops were recently ambushed and slain by a body of insurgents. Russia has annexed the northern half of

Khokand. A Madrid telegram of Dec. 2 says: "The Spanish note to the United States promises gradual emancipation; increased freedom of conscience; that foreigners when arrested shall have immediate hearing; that legal redress shall be obtainable for past injuries. Great anxiety exists in Madrid regarding the reception of the note in Washington. The note is Spain's ultimatum."

SHOCKING accounts are received of the destitution and wretchedness of the refugees from Herzegovina, who have crossed the Austrian frontier into Dalmatia to the number of 150,000, and the infernal barbarity of the Turks, whose treatment of their captives would disgrace a band of Comanches.

ORDER reigns in Khokand. The insurrectionary natives, to the number of 20,000, were lately encountered by a Russian force and defeated with great loss, and the rebellion seems to be ended. Lord Derby says England bought the Suez Canal solely to prevent a preponderance of foreign influence in its control. It is also stated that France's reason for rejecting an offer to purchase the property was the fear of a war with Germany.

The young man with the unpronounceable name, who was to wed Bismarck's daughter, is dead. The Khedive of Egypt is prosecuting the war vigorously against the Abyssinians. The Prince of Wales is having a jolly old time in India. The cable brings news of two terrible colliery explosions—one in Yorkshire, England, resulting in the sacrifice of 140 human lives; the other, by which some 20 miners were killed in the South of Wales. It is said Russia will propose an international conference on the Suez Canal question, and if her demand is refused will claim freedom of action in the East.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS.

Secretary of the Treasury.

The report of the Secretary of the Treasury on the state of the finances for the fiscal year 1875, ending June 30, embraces estimates of receipts and expenditures, and plans of revenue. Up to that date the total revenues for the year were \$238,000,051.10, and the expenditures \$274,623,392.84. The Secretary estimates that the revenues for the current year will fall short by the amount of \$3,285,000.94 of providing for the appropriations made by Congress. The reduction of the public debt made during the year is shown to have been \$14,399,514.84.

The Secretary makes an earnest plea for frugality and rigid economy in administration, a faithful collection of the revenue, and the reduction of the expenditures to the lowest point demanded by the necessities of government. Upon this subject he says: "Increase of public expenditures in time of great prosperity and extravagance is accomplished by an easy process; but a corresponding reduction when the reverse comes can be brought about only by the closest vigilance, and most determined resistance to every appeal for appropriations not required by the existing necessities of government. No appropriation of money should be made without reference to the probable amount of revenue to accrue within the year in excess of existing obligations and liabilities."

The Secretary states that the "amount which appears upon the books of the treasury as actually applied to the sinking fund within the past fiscal year is \$25,170,400. For the current fiscal year it is estimated that \$32,140,914 must be applied to the fund. To meet this requirement a call was made on the 1st day of September for \$8,000,000 six per cent. fifty-two bonds, and on the 15th day of November a further call for \$5,000,000 bonds of the same class. The balance necessary to complete the total amount for this year will be called from time to time in such manner as to cause the least disturbance of the market, and it is hoped that the whole amount will be presented for payment within the year."

The Secretary reviews the operations of the syndicate for refunding the national debt. He states that "the funding of the five hundred million of six per cent. bonds into those bearing five per cent. interest has been accomplished, thereby saving an annual interest to the Government of five million dollars. The success which has attended the refunding of \$175,548,300 of the national debt during the last six months, with the steady improvement of the national credit, indicates the belief that the remainder of the six per cent. bonds can be refunded within a reasonable time, in accordance with the provisions of the acts of Congress."

The Secretary takes strong ground in favor of an early resumption of specie payments. Upon this subject he says:

"Every branch of industry and all classes of people are alike interested in the restoration of a sound and stable circulating medium, the laborer and producer no less than the merchant, bondholder, and banker. The present unequal and fluctuating currency oppresses and injures laborers and producers, who constitute a great majority of our people, far more than it affects injuriously dealers in money. The difference between gold and our paper currency is a margin upon which experienced money dealers do business, and it is this that gives the opportunity for artificial combinations whereby values are increased or reduced at pleasure. The purchasing power of the currency is increased or diminished by the manipulations of large operators united for that purpose, and producers and laborers are often made to suffer, without effective power of resistance. Restoration of a sound and unvarying currency must bring better relative wages, with more constant employment, because the value of labor, as of that which it produces, will be measured by a more certain standard; and, with the return of confidence, there must come activity, prosperity, larger markets, and greater demand, which, as both reason and experience prove, do not tend to lower wages, or make employment less certain."

"The claim that the large issue of inconvertible paper currency has been beneficial to producers is, perhaps, sufficiently disproved by reference to the reports of sales of leading articles of produce, such as wheat, corn, and pork, before and since the issue of such currency. The most trustworthy statistics show that such articles were sold in New York during the five years from 1870 to 1874, inclusive, for about the same price that they brought in the five years from 1869 to 1870, inclusive."

"On the other hand it is equally certain that the farmer has paid increased prices, during the period from 1870 to 1874, for articles of domestic consumption, upon which the difference between gold and currency must be paid by the consumer, who pays in the latter. Thus the producer of domestic articles is constantly subjected to loss in exchanging his products for such articles as coffee, tea, sugar, and other imported goods, which enter into daily consumption. In this connection it should be borne in mind that a greater volume of currency is required for the transaction of business when currency is in circulation, than when gold is general use is gold, which flows through every artery of commerce. The statistics of our foreign trade illustrate this proposition. For every imported article the consumer must pay to the importer, besides the cost in gold, increased by his percent age of profit, as much more as the difference between gold and the currency with which payment is made. This difference, commonly called the premium on gold, is paid by many millions the total amount which would otherwise be required to complete all such transactions."

"The proper office of currency, whether it be gold or paper, is to serve as a medium of exchange for the adjustment of transactions between buyers and sellers. When it is sound and stable, receivable in all parts of the commercial world, the amount which actually passes from hand to hand in business transactions is far below the volume of business. A small percent thereof is adjusted by the actual handling of money. Exchanges are for the most part, made by transfers of credits through banks and other agencies. Wherever exchanges and business transactions are conducted on the basis of coin, and paper convertible into it, the volume will be regulated by natural causes. Money, like merchandise, will go where there is demand for it, and where something of value can be obtained in exchange for it. When the financial panic of 1873 created a demand for gold in this country, a ready and constant supply came steadily from abroad to meet the necessities of our people, and brought speedy relief. Now, the enforced use of inconvertible paper currency not only obstructs the flow of gold from abroad, but drives from the country the precious metals yielded by our mines."

"Good and bad currency cannot be retained in anything like equal proportions in a country having considerable sales with other powers and people. The silver will flow steadily to the foreign market, and the commercial world where business is done on the basis of an unvarying standard of value, and where every issue of paper is convertible into the precious metals at the option of the holder, because they are needed there. Such is the inevitable operation of the law of supply and demand; and the present limited and inadequate supply of coin in this country is chiefly due to this cause. Gold has become a commodity of trade, the price of

which from day to day depends largely upon the will of those who have combined to control the market. This presents a serious obstruction to all productive industries and commerce, and introduces into business transactions an element of uncertainty, which causes the most intelligent calculations, and tends to destroy confidence, without which there can be no real or permanent prosperity. Apparent but fictitious property has often followed large issues of irredeemable paper currency, but no result is more certain to flow from a given cause than disaster and financial distress to follow a period of inflation of business and credit caused by excessive issues of paper currency. The philosopher teaches by example, as well as the deductions of reason, conclusively that there is no effective remedy for the evil but the removal of its cause."

"The circumstances attending the issue of the United States notes now in circulation impose upon the Government a peculiar obligation to provide for their speedy and certain redemption in coin. They were issued in the exercise of a power which can be called into use only in time of supreme necessity, and are paid out in support of an army composed of brave and patriotic citizens who had responded to the call of their country in the hour of its extreme peril. To suffer a promise made at such a time and under such circumstances to be dishonored by subsequent indifference or non-performance, would be little better than open repudiation, and would affect injuriously our national name and credit."

It is worthy of note that for the most part those who now oppose the resumption of legal-tender notes, and who ask for a further issue and continued and indefinite issue of the notes now in circulation, were most strenuous in their opposition to such issues during the civil war. The acts authorizing such issues were denounced as in violation of sound principles of finance, not warranted by the Constitution. Their constitutional validity was resisted at every point, and subjected to the test of judicial decision in almost every court in the country, both State and national. The Supreme judicial tribunal of the nation upheld the acts as measures of necessity in a time of great exigency, but it has neither decided nor intimated that such power may be exercised by Congress in time of public tranquility. Indeed it is fairly inferable, from all the Court has said in the various cases in which the question has been before it, that the issue of such notes in time of peace is not within the constitutional power of Congress. The language and argument of the Court leave no reason to believe that it would sustain the claim of power to increase the volume of such issues or to resume such as have been redeemed in obedience to law, when the public exigency no longer exists. Those who opposed such issues at a time of supreme necessity, and insist upon further issues when the emergency has passed away, put themselves in the attitude of opposing war measures in the midst of war, and advocating them in a time of profound peace. Congress carefully confined the operation of the act to the period of necessity by authorizing the resumption of specie payments, as the exigencies of the public interest shall require."

"The Government is bound, not only by economic considerations and proper regard for the interest of the people, but by express and repeated promises, to provide for the redemption in coin of all its issues of legal-tender notes. The original legal-tender act was regarded and treated at the time of its adoption as a temporary measure, made necessary and justifiable only by the exigency of war, which taxed all the resources and energies of the nation."

After reciting the various acts of Congress authorizing the issue of United States notes, and the declaration of the Supreme Court that these acts should be accepted as conclusive of the obligation and duty of the Government to provide for the payment in specie of all such issues, the Secretary continues:

"These provisions of the various acts of Congress, which were passed with the approval of the Executive, and the clear adjudication of the Supreme Court, as well as the plainest principles of political economy, demand that the Government should commit the notes issued under the circumstances before stated. National faith and honor could not be more distinctly or unequivocally pledged to the performance of a plain duty."

"In view of these solemn and repeated pledges, it seems idle to resort to the consideration of elementary principles of finance to prove the evils of an irredeemable paper currency. In the face of such pledges, disregard of which would bring national dishonor and ruin, it is not necessary to discuss questions of expediency, or to point out the ill which the experience of the civilized world shows must follow a violation of well-known laws of political economy."

"It is among the first and most important functions of Government to give to its people a sound and stable currency, having a fixed relation to the standard of values in general use among nations. The true matter with which Government has to do is not to maintain the volume of its currency, but to maintain the stability of the currency. When it has established a currency of fixed and stable value, having a known relation to that of other powers, and furnishing a uniform medium of exchange, the volume may and should be left to be determined by the wants of trade and business. Natural causes, aided by individual effort and enterprise, will regulate the volume of currency far more wisely and with greater safety to business than acts of Congress imposing artificial limits, subject to increase or diminution at every session. The existing provisions of the law making United States notes legal tender for all debts, both public and private, with certain exceptions relating to transactions with Government, is an artificial barrier to the use of gold and silver, tending not only to prevent the flow of gold toward this country, but promoting the shipment abroad of our own production of precious metals. For this reason Congress should abolish the legal-tender quality of the notes, as to all contracts made, and liabilities arising after a fixed date, to be the first day of January, 1877, being already fixed by law as the time when the redemption of United States notes then outstanding shall begin. It would be proper and safe to provide that such notes shall not be legal tender for contracts made, or liabilities incurred after the first day of January, 1877. Such an act would not too suddenly change the value of the notes, and would not affect injuriously either debtors or creditors, but would remove a present obstruction to the retention of our gold and silver production, and create a demand for the return of the gold now abroad, thus promoting final resumption by preventing the country from it."

"In furtherance of the purpose of the act of the last Congress to provide for the resumption of specie payments, the Secretary recommends that authority be given for funding legal-tender notes into bonds bearing a low rate of interest. Such bonds should run for a longer period of time than those now authorized for refunding the interest-bearing debt, and should be made available to national banks for deposit, to secure their circulation and other liabilities to the Government, and should bear a rate of interest so low as not to cause too rapid absorption of the notes. It seems probable that a bond bearing interest at the rate of four per cent. would invite the funding of a sufficient amount of legal-tender notes to lessen materially the sum of gold which, in the absence of such provision, must be accumulated in the treasury by the 1st of January, 1877, to carry out the imperative requirements of the act of Jan. 14, 1875. If it be apprehended that authority to the Secretary to fund an unlimited amount of notes might lead to too sudden conversion of the currency, Congress could limit the amount to be funded in any given period of time. The process being in no sense compulsory as to the holders of United States notes, and the rate of interest on the bonds being made low, it is not probable that currency which could find profitable employment would be presented for redemption in such form. Only excess of notes above the needs of business would seek to be converted, and such conversion would greatly facilitate redemption at the time now fixed by law, and besides would have the advantage of publicity as to the exact amount to be withdrawn in any given month. Bonds issued for this purpose should be of the denomination of fifty and one hundred dollars, and any multiple thereof, in order to meet the convenience of all classes of holders of United States notes. The faith of the Government now stands pledged to redemption on and after January 1, 1877, and to the final redemption and return of the currency of the country of the legal-tender notes as fast as they shall be presented for redemption, according to the provisions of the act of January 14, 1875. To resume on the 1st of January, 1877, without further legislation, would require the accumulation of a large amount of gold in the Treasury in order to avert the possibility of failure of the plan. Such an amount of gold can be procured with difficulty, and not without more or less embarrassing effect upon the trade and commerce of our own and other countries. The present abundance and cheapness of both currency and capital presents a favorable opportunity for the withdrawal and redemption of a considerable part of the outstanding legal-tender notes, thereby making easy and effectual the redemption of the notes. Such withdrawal of legal-tender notes from circulation, and the accumulation of gold in the treasury in proportion to the amount withdrawn, would tend to appreciate the notes remaining outstanding and make it easier to protect and keep in circulation the silver coin now authorized to be issued."

"The act last referred to is an express recognition of the duty and obligation of the Govern-

ment to resume specie payment at the day therein named; and, however widely different may be the views of the intelligent persons upon the means adopted by Congress, it is gratifying to know that the end sought to be reached has met the concurrence of the country, and that a majority of the people, wherever the matter has been publicly and fully discussed, have signified their approval of the determination of Congress to be faithful to its pledges, and to relieve them of the ill of an irredeemable paper currency."

"The act in question not only makes express provisions for resumption at a fixed date, but commits the Government to the use of all such means as may be needful to that end. If experience shall show that the means provided by Congress need to be supplemented by further legislation for the easier and more certain accomplishment of the end, it must be assumed that Congress will not suffer the great purpose to be impeded for want of such additional legislation. The act confers large powers on the Secretary of the Treasury, touching the issue of United States bonds for the purpose of procuring the supply of gold necessary to execute such of its provisions as go into immediate operation, and to provide for the redemption in gold of United States notes outstanding on and after the 1st of January, 1877. In this respect the power conferred on the Secretary is ample; but, if, for any cause, it should be found impracticable to accumulate in the Treasury a sufficient amount of gold to carry out the provisions of the act, the Secretary is left without the choice of other means to accomplish the end. It may, perhaps, be doubted whether the process of accumulating a large amount of gold by a future time could go on without meeting opposition from the financial powers of the country. It is safe to say that so large an amount of gold as would be required to carry out the purpose and direction of the act cannot be suddenly acquired. It can be done only by gradual processes, and by taking advantage of favorable conditions of the money market from time to time."

"The loss of interest on large sums hoarded in the Treasury for a considerable period in advance of January, 1877, is a consideration not to be disregarded, although it should not be permitted to outweigh the benefits to result from full and complete execution of the act."

"The Secretary regrets that the condition of the Treasury has been such as to render it necessary to make sales of gold coin from time to time to meet current expenditures payable in currency. Such sales have been made in New York City, upon public notice, in accordance with the plan previously adopted, and have been limited from month to month to the amount necessary to keep on hand a sufficiency of currency to meet probable demands upon the Treasury under existing circumstances. It is the desire of the Secretary to retain in the Treasury, so far as practicable, the gold received from customs, and sales are discontinued whenever the balance of currency in the Treasury is sufficient to meet currency payments."

"The Secretary says that 'banking having been made free by the act of the last Congress, without restriction as to the amount of circulating notes that may be issued by any part of the country, it is believed that such currency will distribute itself according to the demands and necessities of business. The privileges which attach to national banks being open to individuals in all parts of the country, capital will not be slow to establish additional banks, or to increase the circulation of the notes already in existence, whenever and wherever the exigencies of business shall render it apparent that an increase of circulation is desirable. But it does not seem probable that such demand will arise to any considerable extent while the volume of legal-tender notes continues so great as to cause large deposits in the Government's vaults, for want of safe and profitable investment."

"The diminished use of silver coin in various European countries, and the increasing production of our silver mines, would appear to render the present a very favorable time for procuring supplies of bullion for the manufacture of silver coin to be used in the redemption of the fractional currency."

"So much of the act of January 14, 1875, as relates to the fractional currency, has been put into partial operation, and is now being extended as rapidly as the exigencies of the case will admit. Since the passage of the act, 8,243,642 ounces of silver bullion have been purchased, at an average price of 111 4/10 cents per standard ounce. The mints have been put in active operation, and the aggregate amount of silver coin now in the Treasury is \$10,600,000."

The report says that "in the collection of duties upon imports, two evils are chiefly operative to prevent the Government from realizing the full measure of revenue—first, smuggling, and secondly, undervaluation. The first general suggestion which presents itself by way of remedy for some of the defects of the present system of appraisements is an increase in the number of general appraisers, to be drawn from the ranks of subordinate officers of requisite ability and experience; and, secondly, a consolidation of customs districts; by which minor districts would be merged in larger ones, thus reducing the sphere of action of this class of officers, and enabling them to concentrate their efforts to better advantage."

Referring to the estimates of receipts and expenditures for the next fiscal year, and to the necessity now existing for the accumulation of gold in the Treasury, the Secretary again calls the attention of Congress to the effect of the act of 1872, repealing the duty on coffee and tea. In his last annual report the Secretary expressed the opinion that the act admitting these articles to free entry had been without advantage to consumers in this country, but that the duty had been added to the cost abroad. Subsequent consideration of the subject has confirmed the views heretofore expressed, and the Secretary recommends restoration of the duty on the articles in question."

The Secretary alludes to the internal revenue frauds, the collusion of dishonest officials, and the vigorous measures that have been taken to bring the conspirators to justice. He "considers it important to the future collection of the revenue, that all parties engaged in persistent and systematic frauds shall be visited with the severest penalties of the law. To this end instructions have been repeatedly given to officers of internal revenue, and others in the service of this Department, to render all proper assistance to the officers of the Department of Justice in the prosecution of the cases now pending, and in the detection and punishment of such guilty parties as have not yet been indicted. It is deemed of especial importance that officers of the Government who have betrayed their trust, and engaged in frauds on the revenue, shall be brought to speedy and condign punishment. Those who are intrusted with official duties and responsibilities should be given to know that the Government will not deal lightly with them when they prove to be guilty of corruption in office."

Report of the Secretary of War.

Secretary Belknap's report is, as usual, a very lengthy document, and our space permits only a brief abstract of its salient features. He is gratified to state that since his last report a marked improvement has taken place in the morale of the service. The army is now reduced to 25,000 men. Recruiting was resumed in November, 1874, for the purpose of keeping up the standard number, and under a careful system in the selection of the men the class of recruits now received is of a superior quality. The number of desertions has been largely reduced, being about 2,100 less than during the previous year, while the number of re-enlistments has increased nearly threefold. The state of contentment thus shown is due, in a great measure, to the excellent system of pay established, which is now graduated by length of service, and affords the soldier an opportunity to deposit his savings with the Government and receive interest for the same until the end of his term."

The Secretary calls attention to the fact that large numbers of married men have been enlisted, and that their presence in the ranks proves a source of embarrassment to military discipline, as it is an injury to their families. He asks for appropriate legislation to correct this growing evil."

The work of care and improvement of national cemeteries has been satisfactorily performed during the year. Nine cemeteries have been inclosed with walls, leaving eleven yet uninclosed. The works for the defense of our seaboard, under the Engineer Department, have progressed satisfactorily and as rapidly as the means provided would admit. The trials of torpedoes have continued, and have proved the importance of this auxiliary in the defense of our harbors."

Secretary Robeson states that under the act of Congress for the relief of persons from the ravages of grasshoppers, 1,957,108 rations were issued to 63,593 adults, and 43,942 children under 12 years of age, residing in Minnesota, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, Colorado and Dakota. Of the sum of \$150,000 appropriated by Congress, \$132,887.69 was disbursed for the purpose contemplated by the act, and \$17,112.31 was returned to the Treasury."

The Secretary calls attention to the fact that the annual appropriation for arming and equip-

ping the militia (\$300,000) is now no larger than in 1868, when the population was about 8,000,000, and says that with such a meager appropriation it is impossible for him to meet all the demands made upon his department by the States and Territories."

Secretary Belknap heartily approves of the plan proposed by the Board on Armaments in 1874, for the concentration of ordnance manufacturing, by the establishment in the vicinity of New York city of a grand arsenal of construction."

The entire army has been supplied during the year with new rifles and carbines, caliber 45.

The Secretary calls attention to the Rio Grande troubles, and says measures have been instituted to preserve the integrity of, and enforce a proper regard for, the territory of the United States."

The Indians in the Department of the Missouri are represented to be in a peaceful mood at present, and all on their reservations except the Utes."

It is suggested that Alaska be attached to Washington Territory as a county."

The report shows that the actual expenditures of the War Department for the year ending June 30, 1874, including river and harbor improvements, were \$42,326,314.71; the same for the last fiscal year, ending June 30, 1875, were \$41,277,375.28—showing a reduction of \$1,048,939.43. The estimates for the military establishment for the ensuing fiscal year ending June 30, 1877, are \$38,452,396.50; those for the current fiscal year, ending June 30, 1876, were \$32,488,969.50—being an increase of \$5,963,427. The appropriations for that purpose for the current fiscal year were \$28,727,407.99."

Secretary Belknap states that the curiosities of the great Yellowstone National Park are rapidly being destroyed, and urges that troops be stationed in or near the park to prevent spoliation. He rightly says that everything should be done that can be to protect all that is grand and beautiful in that remarkable region."

The Postoffice Department.

The Postmaster-General's annual report shows the receipts of the Department to be \$27,441,360, and expenditures \$33,611,309. The receipts exceed those of 1874 1 1/10 per cent., and the expenditures 4 1/10-100. The actual amount drawn from the Treasury was \$4,716,829, or \$543,606 less than the previous year. The recorded complaints of missing letters number 5,645, of which 2,677 were registered letters containing bonds, drafts, etc., amounting to \$76,216, while the unregistered letters contained valuables amounting to \$75,997. Of the former, 1,083 were satisfactorily accounted for, 911 actually lost, and 683 remain under investigation. Arrests for violation of the postal laws numbered 307, the greater portion not being connected with the postal service. One hundred and seven convictions were had, and 157 await trial."

The fact that but one American steamship line carries mails across the Atlantic, and none to South America, is regarded as humiliating to American pride. Mr. Jewell thinks as a matter of national pride, as an aid to the revival of American commerce, and as a means of supplying an efficient steam marine service for immediate use by the Government in case of war, provision should be made for the transportation of our mails on important ocean routes in steamships officered and manned by our own citizens and sailing under our own flag. Mr. Jewell thinks the straw-bidding evil can be effectually removed by such a change in the law as will authorize the Postmaster-General, on the failure of any accepted bidder, to offer a contract as at present to the next lowest bidder in the list, if in his judgment, the bid be not too high, and if this next lowest bidder declines to enter into a contract, to be authorized to enter into a contract with any person not a bidder at any price not exceeding said next lowest bid."

Mr. Jewell praises the fast mail service, and thinks it will be still further increased. He recommends that any person be permitted, without additional charge, to write a form of presentation in any book, pamphlet, magazine, periodical, or any other matter of the third class, and also that the sender of any package be permitted without additional charge to write his or her name and address on the outside thereof with the word "from" above or preceding the same, so as to inform the person addressed of the name of the sender, and to write briefly on any package the number and name of articles inclosed."

As to the transient printed matter, the Postmaster-General says: "I recommend that the postage on transient newspapers and periodicals, books, printed matter of all sorts, lithographs and maps, sheet-music, photographs, and manuscripts designed for publication, shall be reduced to one cent for each two ounces or fraction thereof, which was the rate before the enactment of the law advancing it during the closing hours of the last Congress."

The Postmaster-General says the new system of prepayment of postage on newspapers has saved the department about \$1,000,000 during the first year of its trial, and is of the opinion that the law ought to stand."

It is recommended that the pay of Postmasters of the fourth class be based upon the business of their respective offices, as determined by the cancellation of stamps."

Mr. Jewell recommends the passage of a law compelling Postmasters whose net income is \$1,000 or more to give entire attention to the duties of their offices."

The Navy.

Secretary Robeson's report of the naval service for the year shows that the number of vessels of every class and description now borne on the navy register is 147, carrying 1,195 guns, and 152,492 tons measurement. Of these, many are sailing vessels of little or no value as part of the efficient force for either the cruising or fighting purposes of the present day. The steam vessels as distinguished from ironclads and torpedo-ships, number 95, of which 35 are tugs. Of the remainder 38 are ready for use when required. Our iron-clad fleet consists of 26 vessels, 21 of the monitor type, 2 torpedo-ships, and 3 never launched. All the vessels (80) are available, including 16 ironclads and 2 torpedo-boats. Details are given of the operations of the fleet on each of the six stations."

The Secretary is gratified to state that the navy is stronger and in a more efficient condition than at any time within the last seven years. He asks Congress for an appropriation to finish at once all the repairs of the five double-turreted monitors. With these added to it, our ironclad service would, for purposes of defense, present a very substantial barrier to anything which could cross the seas and attempt to enter our ports."

The Public Domain.

Commissioner Burdett, of the General Land Office, states that the disposal of public lands for the last fiscal year amount to 7,671,271.29 acres, as follows:

	Acres.
Disposal of public lands by ordinary cash sales.....	45,061
Military bounty land warrant locations under acts of 1850, 1862, and 1863.....	137,000
Homestead entries.....	1,356,057
Timber culture entries.....	454,870
Agricultural College acre locations.....	9,432
Certified for railroad.....	1,077,618
Land approved to States swamp.....	47,721
Certified for Agricultural Colleges.....	22,921
Certified for common schools.....	142,883
Certified for universities.....	16,434
Internal improvement selections approved to States.....	6,514
State land-broad acre locations.....	1,526
Chippewa half-breed acre locations.....	11,181

Total.....7,070,271
Residuals of previous year.....5,

