ing none of the principles of the bill, and especially its specie receiving and specie circulating clauses, it would so commend itself to the whole country, and prove so beneficial to its industry, commerce and business, as to become our settled policy, undisturbed by complaint or opposition from any quarter.

Annexed will be found tables marked U and V, communicating, in compliance with the 22d section of the act of the 28th of January, 1847, the information required by that act as regards the issue, redemption, purchase and release of Treasury Notes. Statement U shows the payments into the Treasury on account of the loan of 1846. Statement X shows the amount of specie paid into the Treasury from all sources from the 1st of January, 1847, to the 3d of October, 1848, amounting to $21,464,823 55, and the disbursements in specie during the same period, amounting to $22,162,512 59, making an aggregate during that period of receipts and disbursements in specie of $43,627,336 14.

Under the act of the 31st of March last, authorizing a loan for a sum not exceeding $16,000,000, the Department on the 17th of April last, and for 60 days thereafter, advertised the proposals as per copy hereunto annexed, marked S. This advertisement was published for 60 days, not only in the several newspapers in this city, but also in the papers publishing the laws as authorized in each of the states, and, with a view to more extensive circulation, in each of the daily papers of the principal cities in the Union. The proposals were also made known to our Ministers and Consuls in the principal cities of Great Britain and the Continent, whose aid it was believed the premium might be enhanced and indefinitely extended by their efforts. The notice was not inserted in the newspapers until the 12th of April, because by the third section of the act it was declared that the advertisement should be published "not more than 60 days, or less than 30 days from the time of the first insertion of the said advertisement in one or two newspapers in the City of Washington." If, then, upon the day that the law passed, or the day succeeding, the loan had been advertised, the time for opening the proposals must have terminated by the last of May or 1st of June. The Department, however, upon the information before it, felt persuaded that the Treaty of Peace, which had then been approved by the Senate, would be ratified by Mexico; but that, in all probability, the intelligence of the ratification could not reach here by the last of May or the 1st of June, but that it would be received before the middle of June, and consequently, that if the advertisement were immediately inserted, and the proposals opened by the last of May or the 1st of June, the Government, in the absence of the news of the ratification of the treaty by Mexico, would necessarily sell the loan upon much less advantageous terms, and at a probable sacrifice of several hundred thousand dollars of premium to the Government. Under these circumstances the Department assumed the responsibility of delaying the advertisement until the 17th of April, allowing the longest period from that date authorized by law for opening the proposals, viz. the 17th of June—some days before which period I was confident that official intelligence of the ratification by Mexico of the treaty would be received here. The result justified these anticipations. The intelligence of the ratification of the treaty was not received here by the last of May or the 1st of June—nor, in fact, until a few days before the 17th of June, when it was immediately made known officially, by telegraph and otherwise; and the Government received the full benefit, in negotiating the loan, of the universal knowledge of the final ratification of the Treaty of Peace with Mexico. Upon the 17th of June, at the appointed hour, the seals were broken, and the bids opened by the Chief Clerk of this Department, in my presence and that of the bidders and the public—the bids recorded, and the loan awarded, of course, to the highest bidders.

The total amount bid, together with the names of the successful and unsuccessful bidders, will be found in the statement hereto annexed, marked M.

The whole premium obtained, it will be perceived, was $487,163,66, which was the more extraordinary, inasmuch as, on reference to the prices current, it will be found that the entire sale of the 16,000,000 of stock in a single day, exceeded the rate at which the Government six per cent. twenty years stock exclusive of interest and brokerage, was then selling in small sums in the market.

It being made by law the duty of this Department to devote its attention to "THE SUPPORT OF PUBLIC CREDIT" as well as to "*the improvement and management of the revenue*," it is proper to remark that this Government has paid punctually at all times the public debt at its maturity as well as the accruing interest, never spending for a moment of time in the discharge of either, when due. Such has been the attachment of the American people to this the Government of their choice, such their regard for honor and good faith, that however severe the trial or sacrifice they have liquidated as they fell due all the debts of the Union.

A table certified by the Register of the Treasury is hereto annexed, marked N, showing our population from 1790 to the present period every year, our debt, our receipts from loans and Treasury Notes, our revenue each year exclusive of loans and Treasury Notes as well as from these loans and notes, and the principal and interest of debt paid each year, as well as the total amount. It is an official record, which every American may read with pride and satisfaction. It shows that whenever it was necessary to pay the debts and sustain the honor of the country, the people cheerfully submitted not merely to duties on imports but to direct taxes and excises to the amount of many millions of dollars every year, and that even when our population was sparse and our moneyed resources extremely limited, the debts of the country were always punctually discharged after the adoption of the Constitution, both principal and interest, at their maturity.

In 1790 we assumed the debt of the Revolution, determined that the honor of the nation should be preserved stainless and unsullied. That debt then assumed was $75,463,476 52 being equal to a debt at this date of more than $377,000,000 according to population, and nearly six times greater according to population than our present debt. At that date the country, exhausted by a seven years war and weakened by the internal difficulties growing out of the feeble character of the old Confederation, had scarcely commenced her onward career to greatness, wealth and power, yet this debt was voluntarily assumed as a matter of honor and it was paid, including principal and interest, punctually without failure or suspension.

Again, at the close of the war of 1812, our debt in 1816 was $127,334,933 74, a portion of it bearing an interest of 7 per cent. yet that debt also was not only fully paid in 1836, both principal and interest, but the Government, after liquidating all its engagements, had a surplus left to the Treasury of $28,101,644 91, which was deposited with the States for safe-keeping, who may be called upon to return it to the Government of the Union should the emergency ever require its use, which is most improbable. At that date the country had been exhausted by a prolonged and severe struggle with the greatest power of the world, and its commerce almost annihilated by blockades and embargoes its population then was 8,678,000, and consequently, according to population, the debt of that date would be equivalent to a debt at the present period of upward of $308,000,000, or nearly five times as great as our present debt. Yet that debt of 1816 was not only punctually paid within twenty years thereafter, but a surplus as we have seen of more than $28,000,000 deposited with the States. If then in twenty years, under such circumstances, and with such a population and such resources, we could pay a debt of that magnitude and have a surplus of $28,000,000, within how short a period may we liquidate our present engagements. By reference to this table it will be seen that from 1790 to the present period, including the reimbursement of Treasury Notes, we have paid a public debt, including interest, amounting to a totality of upward of $900,000,000. By reference to the same table it appears that our revenue during the same period, derived from resources other than loans or Treasury Notes, was upwards of $1,136,000,000. It will be perceived that our present debt, including the whole of the loan yet to be paid in and deducting the purchase directed by this Department of $500,000 of the public debt within the last few weeks, would be about $63,278,450 41. [See table O] to which must be added about $26,000 for Mexican and bounty Land Scrip. The principal of the public debt paid since 4th March, 1845, is about $71,892,818 98. Our whole debt, including the loan yet to be paid in, is not a sixtieth part of the debt of Great Britain, and less than one half the annual interest of that debt.

According to a table of the Commissioner of the General Land Office, hereto annexed, marked P, it appears that our whole public domain unsold amounts to 1,442,217,837 acres, which, at the present minimum price of $1 25 per acre, would make an aggregate value of $1,802,772,296. Regarding them, however, in their present condition, as worth twenty-five cents per acre, they would yield $360,554,759.

Large as is this sum, our wealth as a nation would be more rapidly increased by the sales of all our agricultural lands at low rates, not exceeding twenty-five cents per acre in small farms to actual settlers and cultivators, and thus by enlarged products and exports insuring increased imports and augmented revenue.

As it is obvious even with liberal appropriations that the revenue for lands and customs will enable us to pay the public debt before its maturity, I present the following suggestions for the consideration of Congress. The great mass of our public debt, exclusive of Treasury Notes, consists of five per cents redeemable in 1853, of six per cents redeemable in 1856, 1862, 1867 and 1868, and the military bounty land scrip bearing six per cent. interest, redeemable at the pleasure of the Government. Of this sum the Department, as at present authorized by law, can purchase at its discretion, when the means will permit, the five per cents, the six per cents redeemable in 1856, 1862 and 1868. The military bounty land scrip bears six per cent interest, and is redeemable at the pleasure of the Government. No power, however, is given to the Secretary of the Treasury to purchase this debt, although Congress may authorize the Department to liquidate it any time without paying any premium or advance, and I advise such authority to be given to take effect at any time after the 1st July next.

As regards the debt of twenty eight millions of dollars, arising from treasury notes and stock, authorized by the act of 28th January, 1847, the Secretary of the Treasury has no authority to purchase Treasury notes at par, or stock, except when this act was pending before the two houses of Congress, this department recommended that this debt should be placed upon the same footing as those which preceded, by delegating the authority to the Treasury, to purchase any portion of it, including the Treasury notes, at the market rate above or below par. Among other reasons which influenced the department in this recommendation, was the fact that such a provision would make the debt more valuable to the purchaser when it should be sold by the Treasury, and therefore increase the premium which could be obtained, by enlarging the number of bidders for it hereafter, namely, the largest probably of all purchasers, the government itself; and the absence of this provision diminished the premiums the department was enabled to obtain upon this loan. It is obvious, that if we have the means to purchase the public debt before its maturity, it should be done, rather than pay the interest; and it is also clear that as the amount which can be purchased by the government, is increased, especially to the great extent of twenty eight millions of dollars, the Treasury can make the purchase upon better terms, by enlarging the number of competitors, who could sell to it our own stock.

Under these circumstances, I recommend that the Treasury Department be authorized to purchase at the market rate, at any time when its means will allow, after the 1st of July next, any portion of the debt of twenty-eight millions authorized by the act of 28th of January, 1847, including treasury notes, if any should remain unfunded. This is the more necessary, as the sales of the public lands have been set apart by this Department, as directed by that act, for the payment of the interest and purchase of the principal of this stock, which is impossible at present, the right of purchase being limited to par. Unless their authority should be given to purchase this stock at the market rate, a considerable sum must remain in the treasury, on the first of July next, of these sales, which can be used for no purpose whatever. As soon as it was ascertained, on the estimates of the several departments, that the Government had the means to purchase a portion of its debts and arrest the interest, the department considered it to be its duty to make the purchase. Upon looking into these estimates, and comparing them with our means, it was found that there would be a balance of $9,823,694 44 in the Treasury on the first of July, 1849, and a balance of $5,049,742 11 on the first of July, 1850. There was also at that date, by the latest returns—a copy of which is hereto annexed, marked T, $1,102,651 is in specie in the several depositories, to the credit of the treasurer of the United States, after deducting all drafts issued and outstanding, and since the purchases of this stock there have remained by latest returns, marked as above, $3,661,746 29 in specie, subject to the draft of the treasurer, after deducting all drafts unpaid and outstanding. Under these circumstances, it was resolved to make the purchase to the amount of $500,000, thus using a part of the premium obtained on the loans by this department, in liquidating to that extent the debt incurred, and by the rise of the stock since that purchase, had it been delayed until the present period, the Government would have been compelled to pay a much higher price. It was essential to success (unless by largely advancing the premium) that the purchase should be made by a confidential agent, and directions for the purchase were accordingly given to Mr. C. W. Lawrence, the collector at New York, in whom the whole community in which he resides justly repose unbounded confidence, and who had executed every trust with fidelity. A full statement of all the details of this purchase, which was made at the lowest market rates, is being prepared, and will be placed promptly before the Committee of Ways and Means of the House, and of Finance of the Senate.

That the debt should be liquidated as rapidly as the means of the Treasury will permit, so as to arrest the running of interest, will not, it is presumed, be doubted, but the Government should have its option to purchase any of its stocks, so as to lessen the premium which it would be compelled to pay, and the purchase should be very gradual and progressive; for, if it were forced too rapidly, the premium would become exorbitant. In view of the uncertainty which attends all calculations of accruing revenue, it will probably not be regarded as judicious to make any farther purchase until a period succeeding the 1st of July next, when estimates both as to receipts and expenditures will be tested by results, and when it will be known with certainty what means will be at the disposal of the Department to reduce the public indebtedness. As an evidence of the progress of the country in wealth and credit, it may be useful to contrast the sales of the Government Stock and Treasury Notes during and immediately succeeding the Loan of 1812, with similar sales during and immediately succeeding the War with Mexico. By the Report of the Committee of Ways and Means of the House of Representatives of Congress of the 13th of April, 1830, it appears that for the Loans of the War of 1812 for $80,000,000, in Stock and Treasury Notes, the Government obtained but $34,000,000, after deducting discounts and depreciation, being a loss of $46,000,000 upon its transactions; whereas, in the Loans of the last War with Mexico, this Department obtained for $49,000,000 borrowed on Stock and Treasury Notes, $49,555,511 39, including a premium of $555,511 39 upon those transactions, having obtained $15,555,511 39 more for $49,000,000 of Stock and Treasury Notes sold by this Department for Loans growing out of the War with Mexico, than was received for $80,000,000 of Stock and Treasury Notes sold during and immediately succeeding the War with Great Britain, specie being secured by me under the constitutional treasury, and paid in the Stock and Treasury Notes sold. These statements are not made with a view to depreciate my distinguished predecessors in this Department, by whom those loans were negotiated. The great services rendered by them are well known and appreciated by the country, and by no one more fully than by the present incumbent of this Department, who has had an opportunity of observing all the difficulties by which they were surrounded, and how impossible it was for any Secretary under those circumstances to have made the negotiations on better terms than was effected by them; but the facts are stated, as a most gratifying proof of the wonderful advance of the wealth of the country and of the Government credit.

The Coast Survey, under the charge of the Superintendent, Prof. A. D. Bache, is making great and rapid progress. During the past year six sections of the coast on the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico have been under survey, and the computations, drawings and engravings of charts have kept pace with the field work. Within the same period six new shoals have been discovered and made known on the eastern coast, and one in Chesapeake Bay. Important suggestions in regard to the places for lighthouses and buoys have been derived from the Coast Survey reports.

While this work is conducted on the highest scientific principles, it is shown in a letter from the Superintendent that the land work costs less than the maximum paid for the survey (conducted with so much economy) of the public lands.

In reviewing the progress of this work for the past four years the result is most striking. A part of the operations has been carried from the south-west part of Rhode Island into Maine, and the whole land work has been completed from Point Judith to Cape Cod, covering a very indented coast; the hydrography has passed Nantucket, and both the land and water work of Boston harbor has been completed. Much work of verification and filling up has been done between Point Judith and Cape May. Delaware Bay has been finished, and the Chart of the Bay and River published. The Chesapeake has been triangulated south of the Virginia line, and both this and the outer coast will be triangulated in from two to three years from the present time. The topography of this section which was commenced in 1844, is advancing to completion, and except the offshore work, one-third of the hydrography is finished. The shores of Albemarle Sound and most of its tributaries have been surveyed; the triangulation extending also over Croatan and Roanoke Sounds, and the hydrography is greatly advanced. A general reconnoissance has been made of part of the coast of South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Texas, and the operations founded upon this have been commenced in South Carolina and Texas. In Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana, the triangulations have advanced nearly from Mobile to Lake Borgne, the topography of the shores of Mississippi Sound, and of the adjacent islands, has been nearly completed, and the hydrography of the entrance to Mobile Bay and part of Mississippi Sound, and of Cat and Ship Island Harbors, and their approaches, has been finished. The survey of Galveston, upper and lower bay, has made considerable progress. Four base lines have been measured in Massachusetts, Maryland, North Carolina and Alabama, and two others have been laid out for measurement. Two of the base lines were measured with a most useful apparatus, combining new features, the invention of the Superintendent. Forty astronomical stations have been occupied in Maine, New-Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New-York, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi and Texas, a part of which, observations were made with new and improved instruments. Magnetic observations have been made with the instruments recently introduced upon the survey, at eighty-three stations. While improved Geodetic instruments have been introduced upon the work, the principles of the modern mathematics have been extended to every part of its results. The Electro-Magnetic Telegraph has been used for determining the difference of longitude of cardinal points in the work, and with a degree of precision not hitherto attainable by other methods. The Gulf stream has been explored as far South as a section across it at Cape Hatteras, and the law of the ocean temperature ascertained.

Twenty-four sheets of chart, remarkable for their arrangement, accuracy and style of execution, have been published and distributed to literary and scientific institutions at home and abroad, and placed with agents for sale at prices merely covering the cost of printing and paper. Four more sheets are in various stages of progress of engraving. While the scale of operations has been enlarged to embrace the whole extensive coast of the United States, and to afford the benefits of it to every part of the coast as rapidly as possible. The economy of the work has steadily advanced, the augmented expenditures required falling much below the increase of work done.

While so much that is eminently useful to commerce and navigation, and to our foreign and coastwise trade, has been accomplished by this great work, it has received the recommendation of men of science in Europe and America, and advanced the scientific character of the country.

On the Pacific, where this Department has already carried the work, and where it will be so useful in obtaining information and publishing charts of our Western coast, I have entrusted to it the location of the buoys, and the selection of sites for lighthouses in Oregon.

The Department has proceeded to carry into execution the several acts of Congress, passed at its last session, making appropriations for light-houses, light-boats, buoys, beacons, &c. It has also carried the laws into effect providing surf boats, rockets, carronades, life-boats, and other necessary apparatus for the better preservation of life and property, from shipwreck, calling to its aid the underwriters and Chamber of Commerce of New-York, and the Humane Society for Preserving Life, of Massachusetts.

Important improvements may be introduced into our Light House system. To conduct it properly requires an accurate knowledge of our coast and navigation, the proper sites, the character of the building and mode of construction, the proper apparatus and mode of lighting, the different elevation, color, and other distinguishing properties of the lights, and whether stationary or revolving; the necessary preparations to guard against accidents or the extinguishing of a light; adequate regulations to secure the accountability and attention of keepers; and all the administrative duties pertaining to the system. There is involved in all this a varied amount of knowledge, practical and scientific, possessed by no one individual; and to aid the Department in the execution of these laws, it has heretofore suggested to Congress, and again respectfully renews its recommendation, for the organization of a Board cresting no expense, under the supervision of the Treasury, consisting of the Fifth Auditor, the Superintendent of the Coast Survey, two officers of the Navy, an officer of the Engineers, as also of the Topographical Corps, who would unite the requisite knowledge, and enable the Department to conduct all the operations of the system upon our extensive lake and maritime frontier with increased efficiency and economy.

The Department has also proceeded to carry into execution as far as practicable, the various laws for the erection of Marine Hospitals on the rivers and lakes of the West, availing itself of the valuable services of the Topographical Bureau.

Copies of standard weights and measures, have been distributed to the States, with the exception of the four most recently admitted into the Union.

The standards for these States and for the Custom-Houses of older States not yet supplied, are in the course of preparation. The attention of the States is called in the report of the Superintendent of Weights and Measures received in June last, to the necessary steps for preparing country standards so as to secure uniformity in the weights and measures in common use. Fifteen balances for regulating standards, have been supplied to five States, and set by an agent from the Office of Weights and Measures. Two more sets, six in number, have been supplied to two other States. Twenty nine were on hand on the 1st of January last, ready for distribution. The establishment produces at the rate of six balances of the first class, and three of the second, or nine of the second, or four of the third per annum.

The present distribution of weights and measures is, in my opinion, provisional, and has been so considered by statesmen and men of science. A more general uniformity extending to different nations, was looked forward to by Jefferson and John Quincy Adams, as one day attainable, and was recommended in my last Annual Report. The time, in my opinion, has come for the serious consideration of this subject by Congress. Nations and Confederacies are about to be made in England. The reorganization of the Germanic Confederation will give a great extension to whatever system of weights and measures they may adopt; and the political changes going on in other parts of Europe are favorable to the introduction of uniformity. The success of our sons shows that it is practicable to break up the old system, and to introduce another new and entire. One standard of length, our standard of weights, our standard of capacity, with suitable multiples and subdivisions, would be promotive of convenience and of economy of time in the business of life and the intercourse of nations. The adoption of the decimal system would also, in my opinion, simplify and facilitate computations; and I recommend that authority be given to this Department, to take the necessary steps for obtaining international views and action as to uniformity of coins and of weights and measures.

During the past year the third of a series of elaborate reports of investigations on sugars and hydrometers under the direction of Prof. A. D. Bache, superintendent of weights and measures, by Prof R. J. McCulloch, Melter and Refiner of the Mint at Philadelphia, has been presented to the Department and transmitted to Congress, by whom it has been ordered to be presented with a collection of the preceding reports. This report completes the subject of hydrometers as far as is necessary to make the changes required in the use of the instrument at the Custom Houses; and standard instruments and a manual are nearly prepared for use. These extra official duties were discharged by these gentlemen without compensation.

My last report recommended the grant of one section of land for schools in every quarter township in Oregon. This grant in each of the new States, of one section of the Public Lands in each township, was designed to secure the benefit of education to all the children of that township. The object has failed to a great extent, because one section in the center of a township six miles square, is too distant from many other sections, to furnish a school to which all can resort, and because as a pecuniary provision, it is inadequate. The grant, however, of one section for every quarter township would be sufficient, while the central location would be adjacent to every other section in such quarter township, bringing the school-house within the immediate vicinage of every child within its limits. Congress, to some extent, adopted this recommendation, by granting two school sections in each township, instead of one, for education in Oregon, but it is respectfully suggested, that even thus extended, the grant is still inadequate in amount, while the location is inconvenient and too remote for a school which all can attend. This subject is again presented to the attention of Congress, with the recommendation, that it should be extended to California and New Mexico, and also to all the other new States and Territories containing the public domain. Even as a question of revenue, such grants would more than refund their value to the Government. As each quarter township is composed of nine sections, of which the central section would be granted for schools, and each of the remaining eight sections would be adjacent to that granted. These eight sections thus located, and each adjoining a school section, would be of greater value than when seperated by many miles from such opportunities, and the thirty two sections of one entire township with these benefits, would bring a larger price to the Government, than thirty-five sections out of thirty-six, where one section only so remote from the rest, was granted for such a purpose. The public domain would thus be settled at an earlier period, and yielding larger products, thus soon augment our exports and our imports, with a correspondent increase of revenue from duties. The greater diffusion of education would increase the power of mind and knowledge applied to our industrial pursuits, and augment in this way also, the products and wealth of the nation. Each State is deeply interested in the welfare of every other; for the representatives of the whole, regulate by their votes the measures of the Union, which must be more happy and prosperous in proportion as its councils are guided by more enlightened views, resulting from the more universal diffusion of light, and knowledge, and education.

The attention of Congress is respectfully invited to the condition of the public lands in California. The official reports of the great mineral wealth of that region present important questions for your consideration. That gold and quicksilver exist to a great extent in California, would seem to be placed beyond controversy. This gold would appear to require the establishment of a branch of the Mint of the United States at San Francisco. The quicksilver is not only important as connected with the mining of the precious metals, with health and the arts, but still more with the advance of science and the progress of discovery in Physics.—The mines of gold and perhaps of other minerals would seem to be located chiefly on the public lands. They belong to the Government as a trustee for the people, whose interests should be protected and secured by Congress. A scientific commission, to make geological examination, accompanied with bureau surveys, is deemed important.

The voluminous character of this report, growing out of the varied and important duties, constantly augmenting, assigned by law to this Department, renders it necessary that I should reserve for a few days, and for a special report to Congress, the Warehousing System. In advance of that Report I would remark at this time that new instructions are prepared by this Department, and the forms nearly completed, among other regulations extending a more free competition for the storage of foreign imports. The progress of the system has been most satisfactory and successful, the value of foreign goods warehoused in our ports since the passage of the law in August, 1846, up to the 30th of September last, having amounted to the very large sum of about $41,000,000.

In soon retiring from this Department and from public life, in which I have served so long with inferior abilities to many others, but with equal solicitude to promote the best interests of my beloved country, I submit with the utmost deference to the supreme wisdom of Congress my views and experience as regards the organization of the Treasury Department. Its varied and important duties, with the rapid increase of our area, business and population, can scarcely be all promptly and properly performed by any one Secretary. Yet in detaching any of its duties from this Department, the greatest care must be taken not to impair the unity, simplicity and efficiency of the system. To take from this Department its supervision over the commerce and finances, or over any of the accounting officers of the Treasury, the two Controllers, the six Auditors, the Treasurer, the Solicitor or Register, the Assistant Treasurers, or Collectors, the Revenue Marine, the Coast Survey, the Mint, the Weights and Measures, the Marine Hospitals, or the Light-house system, would cause confusion and be most prejudicial to the public service.

But there are important public duties having no necessary connection with commerce or finances, that could be most advantageously separated from the Treasury and devolved upon a new department of the Government. Among these are the Land Office, land titles and surveys connected therewith, linear and geological. The business of the Land Office occupies a very large portion of the time of the Secretary of the Treasury every day, and his duties connected therewith must be greatly increased by the accession of our immense domain in Oregon, New-Mexico and California—especially in connection with the valuable mineral lands, their private land claims and conflicting titles.—From all decisions of the Commissioner of the General Land Office as to Government titles or private land claims, preëmptions, private entries or purchases of the public domain, an appeal lies to the Secretary of the Treasury. This is but one branch of these duties, and yet as some evidence of the amount of labor thus devolved upon him from this source, I have pronounced judgment in upward of 5,000 cases, involving land titles since the 10th March, 1845. These are generally judicial questions, and not financial, requiring often great labor and research, and having no necessary connection with the duties of the Treasury Department. The daily correspondence of this Department with the Commissioner of the General Land Office, Surveyors General, the Registers and Receivers, and other persons connected with the system, is most voluminous.

The supervisory power now exercised by the Secretary of the Treasury over the expenses of the Courts of the United States and other duties connected therewith, through the Marshals and Clerks of these Courts, gives rise to a very considerable daily correspondence with these officers, and having no necessary connection with the finances, should also be detached from the Treasury Department, as well as from the State Department, the duties of these Marshals in connection with the census of the United States. Having transferred the laborious duties enumerated from the Secretary of the Treasury, Congress should authorize him to appoint an Assistant Secretary, who should be a man of great talents and experience, with a salary not less than $3,000 a year, who should examine all letters, contracts and warrants prepared for the signature of the Secretary, and perform such other duties not requiring the signature of the Secretary as might conveniently be devolved upon him by the Department. To maintain the unity and efficiency of the system, he should be appointed by the Secretary and subject to his direction. He would want one able and efficient clerk, with a salary not less than $1,700 per annum.

The office of Controller of the Treasury should be divided, and that great and augmenting portion of his duties relating to the receipts from Customs, and the accounts of Collectors and other officers of the Customs connected therewith, should be devolved upon the head of a new bureau, to be called the Commissioner of Customs, whose duties would be various and important.

The First Controller should retain all the other duties now performed by him, and especially his decision upon claims and accounts, which would occupy the whole time of the head of the bureau.

Combined as now are, under the First Controller, the duties appertaining both to receipts and expenditures of the public money, accounts and claims, the office is overburdened with business which cannot promptly and properly be performed by any one individual, however able and laborious.

The duties now performed by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs are most numerous and important, and must be vastly increased with the great number of tribes scattered over Texas, Oregon, New-Mexico and California, and with the interesting progress of so many of the Tribes in Christianity, knowledge and civilization. These duties do not necessarily appertain to war, but to peace, and to our domestic relations with those tribes placed by the Constitution under the charge of this Government.

This most important bureau, then, should be detached from the War Department, with which it has no necessary connection.

The duties of the Patent Office, great and important as they now are, must necessarily increase with the progress of light and knowledge, the developments of the wonderful inventive genius of our countrymen, and the researches of so many enlightened minds in this country into machinery, the physical sciences, and the arcana of Nature. This bureau has no necessary or proper connection with the State Department, and ought to be separated from it.

The Pension Office should also be detached from the War Department, inasmuch as no military orders are given to pensioners as such by the Navy Department, much less to the widows and heirs who receive these bounties from the Government.

There is another reason why the Pension Office as well as the Indian Bureau, should be detached from the War Department and placed under the supervision of the same Secretary to whom the Land Office would be intrusted, namely, under our system of Revolutionary and Military Bounties and Land Warrants, as well as under Treaties and Reservations with Indian Tribes. Many questions arise in relation to our public lands and private land claims, connecting themselves frequently and intimately with our general land system, and with decisions upon land titles made by the Commissioner of the General Land Office, and therefore all these Bureaus whose duties are so intimately connected with the public lands, as well as with private land claims, ought to be placed under the supervision of the same Department, or conflict of decision and jurisdiction may, and does, in fact, take place.

Having thus detached the Patent Office from the Department of State, the Land Office from the Treasury as well as its supervisory duties in connection with accounts of Marshals and Clerks of the Courts, including their connexion with the Census, having detached also from the War Department, the Indian Bureau and the Pension Office, the same supervisory authority as regards them, all now exercised respectively by the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Secretary of War, should be intrusted to the head of a new Department, to be called the Secretary of the Interior, inasmuch as his duties would be connected with those branches of the Public Service devolved upon this Government by the express letter of the Constitution, associated with our Domestic Affairs. The duties of this new Department thus organized, would be great and important, fully equal to those appertaining to the head of any other Department, except the Treasury, under our system as at present organized. The whole increased expense of this reorganization would not exceed $20,000 per annum; whereas, to the Government in an increased accountability and efficiency of the service, and to the People, in the more prompt discharge of their business with the several Departments and bureaus, and the consequent immense saving of time and expense, the gain would be great indeed, the advantages vastly exceeding the small additional expense.

From the great and continued multiplication of the Treasury Department as now organized, with the rapid increase of our maritime frontiers, our area, our commerce, revenue and population, there is great danger, that, at some future period, the Treasury Department may be broken down by the weight of its labors, and consequences ensue disastrous to the public interest.

Organized even as now proposed, the duties of the Treasury Department would still be great and arduous.

Connected with this subject, I recommend the completion, at an early day, of the Treasury Building, so as to secure fire-proof rooms to all our Bureaus, free as to secure fire-proof rooms to all our Bureaus, free as to secure fire-proof rooms to all our Bureaus, free from rent, as well as accommodate and include in this edifice the State Department, with its invaluable archives.

The Department has purchased, for the sum appropriated by Congress, both the Bridges within this District over the Eastern branch of the Potomac, which are now free of toll, as designed by the wise and liberal legislation of Congress; and in consummating this result, valuable aid was rendered to me by the Mayor of this city.

The various recommendations of this, my last Financial Report, are respectfully submitted to the enlightened consideration of the two Houses of Congress. They are believed to be such as would best promote the true interests of the American people. For them and for my country and her glorious confederacy of sovereign and united States, I invoke the continued blessings of Heaven. May her union be harmonious, progressive and perpetual; may her career be one of honor, peace, and glory—of equity, justice and good faith; may each successive Administration in all time to come, in faithfully discharging the arduous duties of its exalted trust, receive the support and approbation of the people; guided by conscious rectitude may they be commended and sustained in every effort to promote the public good, and even their errors, which are the lot of humanity, be regarded with indulgence, and overruled by a benignant Providence for the advancement of the happiness and welfare of our beloved country. (Signed) R. J. WALKER,

Secretary of the Treasury.

Hon. C. Winthrop,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

By Telegraph to the New-York Tribune.

Thirtieth Congress.

SENATE....Washington, Monday, Dec. 11.

Mr. Fitzpatrick, of Alabama, took seat in place of Mr. Lewis.

A warm discussion took place between Mr. Dix and others on printing 20,000 copies of the Secretary of the Treasury's Report. Twenty thousand copies were ordered: 29 to 21.

Mr. Dickinson offered a resolution in favor of establishing a transfer office of Government stock in New-York, which was adopted.

Mr. Sliger reëlected Chaplain, receiving 39 of 47 votes.

Mr. Douglass reported bill to make California and New-Mexico a State; read twice and laid on the table.

A memorial from Mr. Aspinwall was presented to both Houses, asking contract for transporting Government property across the contemplated railroad over the Isthmus of Panama.

No Committees appointed. Adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The Committees announced are substantially the same as last year. The rules of last session were adopted, appropriation bills having preference over special orders.

The Secretary of the Treasury's report was referred to the Committee of Ways and Means, and ten thousand extra copies ordered printed.

Mr. Ashmun's resolution for printing the debates of the House in the Intelligencer and Union, had met with unexpected opposition; and the Editors urged the withdrawal, on the grounds that they would not consent to be put in a position which would subject theirs to the imputation of pensioned presses.

The Committee on Commerce was authorized to report upon the expediency of altering the laws for storing goods; also the expediency of erecting a light-house on Duncan's Island.

Mr. Gurley moved to pay witnesses in the contested election of Monroe vs. Jackson. Lost.

Mr. Tallmadge moved to make the New-York Branch Mint bill the special order for Monday. Lost for want of a two-thirds vote.

Mr. Eckard, of Penn. moved a resolution instructing the Committee on Ways and Means to inquire into the expediency of repealing a bill based upon the principle of the Tariff of 1842. The yeas and nays were called for. Yeas, 96; Nays, 93.

A bill to reduce the rates of Postage was reported by Mr. Gogin.—Referred.

A resolution was adopted, inquiring of the President the cause of the detention of American citizens as prisoners in Ireland. Adjourned.

Things in Washington.

Washington, Monday, Dec. 11.

President Polk sent no Gold Message to Congress to-day.

The election for Governor in Virginia comes off to-morrow.

Election for Mayor in Boston.

Boston, Monday, Dec. 11—P. M.

The election in this City to-day for Mayor, resulted as follows:

Bigelow (Whig)	5604	Smith (Native)	352
James (Loco)	1142	Scattering	230
Sumner (Free Soil)	918		

Bigelow's majority is 2422
Quincy's majority last year 582
Whig gain 1840

Things in Albany.

Albany, Monday, Dec. 11.

The Saratoga and Washington Railway was opened on Friday through to Whitehall.

Fanny Kemble Butler arrived in our city yesterday, and is stopping at the Delavan House. She will probably proceed by private conveyance to West Stockbridge.

In Markets there is but little doing, as dealers are waiting for the arrival of the Canada.

Forest and Macready.

Baltimore, Monday, Dec. 11—P. M.

Macready was received this evening at the Front st. by an immense audience, and throughout the performances was loudly and enthusiastically cheered. There was no hissing or disturbance during the evening.

Forrest performed at the Holliday st. and was handsomely received by a house crowded to an overflow.

Markets....New Orleans, Dec. 6.

The Cotton Market continues firm, with sales of 3,000 bales. In Flour we have no change to notice; the sales of the day reach 4,000 bls. The demand for Corn is active, with sales of 50,000 bushels at our previous quotations. For Sugar there is a good demand, though the market is scarcely so firm; the sales are 600 hhds. Provisions remain unchanged.

Board of Assistant Aldermen....Monday, Dec. 11.

Death of Ald. McDermott.—A Preamble and Resolutions were received from the Board of Aldermen, announcing the death of Ald. Wm. J. McDermott, of the Eighth Ward, stating that he was on Sunday seized with an attack of apoplexy which in a few hours terminated his existence; also, speaking in high terms of his character, and mourning for thirty days; the chair formerly occupied by him shrouded in black; the city flags to be displayed at half-staff, and a Committee appointed to make the necessary arrangements for his funeral.

Assistant Ald. Getty, of the Eighth offered some feeling and impressive remarks in relation to the death of his colleague—he saw him in health but twenty-four hours previous to his death, affording another proof of the uncertainty of human life. He had not yet attained to middle age, being but 33 years old—and has left the partner of his bosom, still a very young woman, with four orphan children to take care of; but that God who has promised to be a friend to the fatherless and the widow, will be to her a stay and support in this her hour of affliction.

The preamble and resolutions were unanimously concurred in, and Assistant Ald. Franklin, Paxton and Herring, together with Assistant Ald. Small, the President, were appointed a Committee on the part of the Board.

The Board then adjourned to Monday next.

Court Calendar....This Day.

Supreme Court.—Nos. 10, 15, 17, 30, 42, 52, 58, 64, 66, 70, 78, 83, 85, 13, 101, 105, 117, 118, 119, 122, 123, 130, 132, 137, 147, 148, 150, 14, 6, 23, 238, 7, 36, 73, 110, 90, 62, 106, 108, 51, 16, 130, 134, 138.

Chiefly Court.—Same as yesterday.

Common Pleas.—Part I—Nos. 8, 51, 53, 59, 61, 67, 71, 73, 75, 77. Part II.—Nos. 74, 94, 100, 108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 124, 90.

To the Fire Department.—Regular Nomination.—For Assistant Engineer, MICHAEL EICHELLS, Ex-Foreman of Engine Co. No. 19. d11 3t*p

CITY ITEMS.

The Reported Case of Cholera.—An official announcement was made yesterday to the Sanitary Committee of the Board of Health (consisting of Alderman De Forest, Assistant Alderman Hibbard, and others) of a case of Cholera at the German Hotel, corner of Greenwich and Cedar sts.—the same house at which a former one was reported. On inquiry at the Hotel, we learned that the man spoken of is a German, for some time past in the habit of sleeping or lodging at the house, and taking his meals elsewhere. On Sunday evening he returned to the house as usual about 10 o'clock. On Monday morning he complained of stiffness or cramp in his legs, and was otherwise affected.

We saw him about 2 o'clock, when, if we could judge from the appearance of Cholera in 1832, nothing like the disease was exhibited either in his countenance or the feeling of his skin—he looking full and but little ill, and his limbs and body perfectly warm and comfortable—but the physicians in attendance said a reaction had taken place for the better. Ice was freely administered to him, which we could not but think (though, of course, as to that the physicians were the best judges) a very bad remedy for a cramp in the stomach; and the man himself stated that he thought ice did him no good. The house is a large, airy one, occupied as a German boarding-house; and, with all due deference to the official report, we could not but think that everything looked, as is generally the case among Germans, tidy and clean. The mode in operation, by order of the City authorities, while we were there, however, did not savor much, we thought, of wisdom or humanity, as regards a sick room. The man was in bed, under the care of physicians and the influence of means rendering his system peculiarly sensitive to external causes—yet the windows and door were open and a colored man in the room slashing and throwing water about the floor and swabbing up the room, calculated, altogether, to give a man even in health his death of cold—at the same time, we thought, there was a great want of proper nurses for the patient. One of the physicians present stated that he has had many worse cases than that in this City since 1832. We could not but think the Board of Health, or whose ever duty it might be, was remiss in permitting the patient, if they really thought it a Cholera case, to remain in the house, in the midst of so large a number of new