liable sources, has confirmed what was then anticipated. Much of the raw cotton, formerly wrought into fabrics by the labor of our citizens, now goes abroad, and returns to us for sale in a form vastly augmented in value, and so that extent the labor of our own citizens has been diminished in value, and driven into other pursuits.

The history of iron manufacture for the last few years, furnishes an instructive lesson to the statesman of this country. This article enters into such general use in every occupation of life, in all countries advanced beyond the first step of civilization that it may well take rank among the necessaries of life in this country.

The importations of bar and pig iron for the year ending September 30, 1842, were, tons	160,055
The estimated production in the United States for that period was	230,000
Making an aggregate consumption of	330,055
Or 40¾ pounds per head.	
In 1846, the importations were	69,625
And the production estimated at	765,000
Consumption	834,625
Or 92 lbs. per head.	
In 1848, the importations were	153,377
And the production	800,000
Consumption	953,377
Or 99¾ lbs. per head.	
In 1849, the importations were	289,687
The production	650,000
Consumption	939,687
Or 95¾ lbs. per head.	
In 1850, the importations were	337,532
The production	564,000
Consumption	901,532
Or 86¾ lbs. per head.	
In 1851, the importations were	341,750
The production	413,000
Consumption	754,750
Or 69¾ lbs. per head.	

Thus we perceive that the actual consumption of iron which, under high duties and prices, was steadily augmenting in quantity, is, under the present reduced rates, both in duties and prices, gradually falling off, notwithstanding the increase of population and the great extension of our farming interests.

That this great interest is in a most depressed condition, the foregoing comparative production being for the present year less than one-half the capacity of the works, sufficiently attests. From the evidence furnished to this Department it is clear that the rolling mills, the charcoal furnaces and forges, are utterly unable to produce iron at the prices at which it is imported. During the last year many establishments were enabled to survive only by carrying the iron to the high stages of manufacture, as the making of nails and forged work. At the present time the prices are below the cost of production. If the present policy continues we must witness in a short time the total prostration of an interest, which, once destroyed, will require many years to replace it upon its present footing as to skill and experience, and we shall become dependent upon foreign countries for the most important material in the arts of peace, and the most indispensable of the muniments of war.

I present with this report several tables intended to show the sudden and extraordinary fall in the invoice values of certain articles which, prior to the tariff act of 1846, had been subject to specific duties, but which by that law were made subject to duties ad valorem. It must be apparent, from these tables, that great frauds are practised by undervaluations daily, which no expedient can prevent, unless such articles as are set forth in these tables are charged with specific instead of ad valorem duties.

COAST SURVEY

The coast survey, under the superintendence of Professor A. D. Bache, has made excellent progress during the past year. Its operations have been continued in all the states of the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. The early and continuous uninterruption spoken of in my report of last year, now extends from the mouth of the Kennebec, in Maine, to beyond Ocracoke inlet, in North Carolina. The work has been assiduously prosecuted in South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida, is nearly completed in Alabama and Mississippi, and has made good progress in Louisiana and Texas, and on the western coast of California and Oregon. The report of the Superintendent will show the details of progress—with it is a most valuable and extended list of geographical positions, determined by the preliminary calculations of the work, and extending over the whole coast, which was under survey previous to July, 1850. The numerous hydrographic sketches which also accompany that report, represent more than two-thirds of the work of the season, which admits of being thus shown in a form adapted to immediate use by navigators and others interested in it. A new edition of the hydrographic notices of the western coast is also prepared for publication. The activity and judgment with which this work is prosecuted, and its effective and economy, recommend it, in the opinion of this Department, warmly to the fostering care of Congress.

The injunction of Congress to employ as many officers of the army and navy on the work as practicable, in addition to the civilians, has been steadily kept in view, and at present sixty-six navy officers and twelve army officers are attached to the survey.

The reasons given in my report in reply to resolutions of the Senate in the early part of the last session of Congress, why the present organization of this great work should be maintained, and its control remain, as at present, in the Treasury Department, meet my unqualified approbation on the part of Congress, and, I may say, of the whole country, that I refer to it merely to express my unshaken confidence in the value of that organization, the fruits of which the whole country is now so abundantly reaping.

The Superintendent of the Coast Survey has, under the third section of the lighthouse act, caused examination for sites for lighthouses to be made by the officers of the Survey, and has reported, as by law directed, on the necessity for construction in all cases where the Fifth Auditor had been doubtful. This duty has been promptly and acceptably discharged, and constitutes a new claim on the part of the Coast Survey to consideration.

MINT.

The operations of the mint during the past year have been conducted with efficiency, and with highly satisfactory results. Under the present system the depositors promptly receive the value of their bullion so soon as it is assayed; and though the deposites are made in large masses at short intervals, on the arrival of the California steamers, yet the assays are made and the payments commenced usually within forty eight hours, and the whole generally completed within an average of five or six days after those heavy amounts of bullion—frequently by two and three hundred different depositors—are received at the mint; and the whole duty is performed without any charge to the depositors, except a large fractional per centage for the actual cost of separating the bullion. It is believed that equal facilities are not presented to individuals by the mints of any other nation as are now given by the mint of the United States.

The realization of the value of these large quantities of bullion, by the owners of it, without loss, within a few days after it arrives in the United States, is accomplished by means of the heavy bullion fund which can at present be spared without inconvenience, from the excess of means in the Treasury. It may, however, not always be convenient to keep so large an amount reserved for this purpose from the public funds; and even if it were otherwise, the amount of this fund applied to the purchase and extinguishment of so much of the national debt would be nearly $400,000 annually, in interest now paid by the Treasury. It is believed this saving could be effected, and all the advantages at present enjoyed by the depositors of gold or other bullion still retained, if, instead of paying the mint certificates in cash, as is now done, Congress would make them receivable for all dues to the government, under suitable regulations as to the time and place of their receipt. I can see no reasonable objection to such use of these certificates, as they are the evidences of so much bullion already in the actual possession of the government, and for which the coin itself would be forthcoming, generally in a few days, and always in a few weeks.

In connection with the subject of the mint, I deem it my duty to call the attention of Congress to the present standard value of gold and silver, as established by existing laws.

The relation of gold to silver, in the legal coinage of the United States, is as 1 to 15.988; in Great Britain, as 1 to 14.287; and in France, as 1 to 15.499. From which it will be seen that one ounce in pure gold will, in the United States, be equal to that produced from the coinage of 15.988 ounces pure silver; in Great Britain it will be equal to that derived from only 14.288 ounces pure silver; and in France, to 15.499 ounces. So soon, therefore, as the state of our foreign commerce, as it now stands, requires an exportation of specie, it is obvious that our silver coin must be exported—it can be procured, till the demand for exportation is supplied.

From the operation of this law of commerce arises the present scarcity of our silver currency. At this time, though our silver coin commands a premium in exchange for gold, it is, notwithstanding, still found more advantageous for shipment abroad than gold. In consequence of the premium on silver, though the relative legal value between it and the latter is set to 15.988, the real intrinsic market value is only about 1 to 15.675. A debtor, then, who offers silver in payment must give it at the rate of 15.988 ounces in coin, by which he loses 313 thousandths of an ounce, for with 15.675 ounces he could purchase one ounce of gold, which latter would be a legal tender for the same. It is to be borne in mind, however, that though the relative value of coin in Great Britain is as 1 to 14.288, there is not the relative bullion value of the two metals, which is about 1 to 15.716, the silver coin of that country being about ten per cent less in value than silver bullion of the same weight; that is to say, the silver coin of that kingdom will go ten per cent farther in paying debts than an equal weight of fine silver bullion at the standard value. A difference so great in the value of the two species of coin has not, of course, been the result of either miscalculation or mistake, but was brought about by design, and with the same views which, it is believed, will render it necessary for us to adopt a similar plan, in order to retain and maintain a due proportion of our silver coinage. The system was to secure the gold and silver coinage of Great Britain against the fluctuations arising from the relative value of gold and silver bullion there. In Great Britain, 14.288 ounces of silver coin is equal in payment to 15.988 ounces in the United States, and 15.499 in France. It is very clear, then, that there is no inducement to export silver coin to either country from Great Britain.

Though the British government manufactures one hundred shillings in coin from bullion intrinsically worth only ninety shillings, it does not permit individuals to bring ninety shillings in bullion to the mint and receive in exchange one hundred shillings in coin; but, on the contrary, the community is obliged to pay the regular value for all the silver coin it requires. It must give £5 in pure gold or silver for one hundred shillings in coin. Coinage being a monopoly by the government, the latter can impose such terms as it deems necessary and advisable, and the public, within certain limits, will pay the government its own price for the benefit of the mint stamp.

In fixing, therefore, the proper relative value which should be established between our gold and silver coin, it should not be done with regard to the value of our coins in reference to foreign coin, but as to their intrinsic value, as bullion, in foreign countries.

The relative value of our gold and silver coins is, as already stated, as 1 to 15.988; and the bullion value of our silver coin in England, is 15.716, being a difference of 272 thousandths, or nearly two per cent. It follows, then, as a matter of course, that on all occasions where the course of our foreign trade required heavy shipments abroad, our silver coin will be first sought after for that purpose, even at a premium, and, consequently, will disappear from circulation, as it has already done to a very great extent.

There seems to be but one immediate and direct remedy for this evil, and that is the one which has already been adopted in Great Britain, namely, of changing the relative value between gold and silver coin, by reducing the quantity of fine silver in the dollar, so as to make it equal to the quantity of gold in the dollar. The opinion of the officers of the mint (in which latter I am not prepared to be considered as entitled to great judicious persons, whose opinions are of the highest weight, concur) is, that this change would be advantageously made, by making our dollar weigh three hundred and eighty-four grains, and the smaller coins in proportion; so that eight hundred ounces of such coin should be worth, by tale, exactly $1,000. The director of the mint, in a communication on the subject, says: "If such a scale of weights were adopted, the relation of silver to such pieces to gold, would be as 1.484 to 1; and if the present true relation of bullion value is about 15.675 to 1, the new proposed silver coin would be ever-valued by law about five per cent, a very small advance, and far less than in British silver, or in the worn Spanish coin, which now monopolize our circulation."

In the adjustment of this subject, it will be necessary to consider the depreciation in the value of gold which may have taken place already, or shall hereafter occur, in consequence of the immense additional supplies which have been, and will no doubt continue to be, thrown into circulation from California, Australia, and other countries. This consideration might justify a much greater present over-valuation of silver coin, as the future depreciation of gold will probably soon overcome the limit of the present proposed advance.

If this plan is adopted by Congress, it of course will involve the necessity of making silver coin a legal tender only for debts of small amount, say not exceeding ten dollars, which is about the sum (forty shillings) which has been established in Great Britain.

The subject of a change in the coinage of the country is one of very great importance, and involves consequences which require the most serious consideration and deliberation. That the present relative value of our gold and silver coin requires some change, I have little doubt; and I have therefore deemed it my duty to bring the subject to the notice of Congress.

The great increase in the amount of bullion which now comes to the United States for coinage, compared with former times, seems to require the establishment of branches to the mint at those points where the largest amount of bullion and foreign coin are received. Any transportation of these articles beyond the places where they are produced or received from abroad, is attended with delay, risk, and expense, which should be avoided, if possible, without too great expense to the government.

The State of California is now producing gold dust certainly equal in amount to seventy-five millions of dollars, and probably equal to one hundred millions of dollars a year. The information in possession of this department warrants the opinion that this product will not be diminished in amount for many years to come.

The distance from San Francisco, by way of the Isthmus of Panama and New York, to the mint at Philadelphia, is about 6,250 miles. The precious metals there found have, therefore, to be transported that distance and back, at great risk and expense, before the owner can receive its equivalent in the legal coin of the United States. Such a burdensome tax upon the interests of California should be removed by the establishment of a branch mint at the most eligible point in that State.

Nearly all the importations of specie and bullion concentrate at the port of New York; two-thirds of all the customs duties collected in the country are there paid in specie. Sound policy demands that at that great commercial and financial centre a branch mint should be established, which would be the custodian of the large amount of public moneys there collected, and which will enable foreign coin and bullion to be converted most speedily into our own currency, without the risk, delay, and expense of transportation to any other point.

It is believed that the establishment of such an institution at that point would not charge much additional annual expense upon the Treasury. The Treasurer thereof would supersede the office of Assistant Treasurer. The branch mints at Dahlonega, Georgia, and Charlotte, North Carolina, may be converted into assay offices, whereby several superfluous officers might be dispensed with. The deposits of bullion at those establishments have been regularly declining, without any decrease in the annual expenses. The transportation from thence of bars and ingots, the values of which would be attested by the government assayers, would be easily effected at little risk or expense.

For these and other reasons, heretofore expressed by my predecessor, I earnestly recommend the immediate establishment of branch mints at New York, San Francisco, and the discontinuance of those in North Carolina and Georgia as mints for coinage, retaining them as assay offices, under such regulations as to the number of offices, &c., as Congress may deem proper.

The expenses of the mint and branches have of course greatly increased since the accession of California, and will be still further augmented in case Congress should determine to establish the two additional branches at San Francisco and New York. I would, therefore, suggest for the consideration of Congress, the propriety of authorizing a small seigniorage on the bullion deposited by corporations or individuals, for the purpose of covering the actual expenses of coinage, instead of allowing the latter to remain as an exclusive charge upon the Treasury. This, it is believed, is the universal usage at all other national mints, and the charge would be but a mere fractional per centage, amounting only to a very few cents per ounce.

The department is now required by law to submit annually to Congress the mint assays of certain foreign coins; and it is recommended that this requirement be extended so as to embrace annual assays of the coins of those foreign countries with which the United States have any considerable commercial intercourse, and that an appropriation not exceeding one thousand dollars be made to defray the annual expense incurring such foreign coin as can only be obtained from abroad.

Invoices of merchandise imported from foreign countries, and subject to ad valorum duties, are required by our existing revenue laws to be made out in the currency of the country whence the shipment is made, and to include such expenses as are included in the invoice by which to form the dutiable value. Such invoices have been required from time to time, in respect to several foreign countries, been prescribed by specific laws.

The President of the United States is authorized, by the sixty first section of the act of 1799, to establish fit and proper regulations for estimating duties on imported merchandise, the original cost of which shall be exhibited in depreciated currency issued and circulated under the authority of any foreign government. In the execution of this power, consuls of the United States are required to certify on invoices of merchandise shipped from the countries of their residence and made out in depreciated currency, or in a currency which is held to be not fixed by our laws, the value of such currency in Spanish or United States silver dollars. It is obvious, however, so far as the foreign currency consists of coin, that the most accurate and reliable method of ascertaining its value, as compared with our own, is by an actual assay at the mint.

While the results of such annual assays will place within the power of the President the best means of performing the duty of establishing fit and proper regulations on the subject, they will also enable Congress to revise and correct, from time to time, by further legislation, the values in custom house receipts and computations of the foreign coins already fixed and regulated by our laws. It is to be observed that the proceeds of the coins thus procured will, after assay, be transferred to the treasury and carried to the credit of said appropriation for subsequent disbursement, in like manner. It will, therefore, be reduced only by the expense of transmitting the coin from abroad and the loss consequent upon their assay.

MISCELLANEOUS

By the 2d section of the act of 10th of August, 1846, the money received from the property of John Smithson, amounting to $515,169, was lent to the Treasury at six per cent interest, and in addition to the interest which had been stipulated on this fund at the time of the passage of said act, amounting to $242,129, the Treasury has continued to pay, under the provisions of said law, an annual interest of upwards of thirty thousand dollars. During the whole of this latter period a large surplus, including, of course, this fund, has been lying unproductive in the Treasury, and the above annual payments have been an extra charge upon the Treasury, and will so continue to be, unless Congress should think proper to otherwise order. As there is at present every prospect of a continued large surplus in the Treasury, I would respectfully suggest, in order to save this annual payment that the Department should be authorized to take the money, and actually invest it, by investing the full amount in stocks of the United States, on terms which will render the result equally advantageous to the Smithsonian Institution as it now is under the present annual payments direct from the Treasury.

The Board of General Appraisers, established in pursuance of the third section of the act of 3d March, 1851, entitled "An act to amend the acts regulating the appraisement of merchandise, and for other purposes," promptly entered upon their general duties, as contemplated by that act. During the past season, one of the board, under instructions of this Department, visited the several ports upon our northern frontier; and, from the information communicated by him, and the satisfactory manner in which he executed his instructions, the most beneficial results must follow. Another of the board is about to proceed to California, and it is not doubted by the Department that the action of the general appraisers will tend very materially to establish that uniformity in appraisements so desirable, and by which both the revenue and the honest importer will be greatly benefited.

By the act of 3d March, 1845, no revenue cutter nor steamer can be purchased or built unless an appropriation there for of all be made.

The several iron steamers then in progress of construction have been condemned as unfit for revenue purposes. Some of the sailing cutters have become unseaworthy, and the number of vessels appertaining to this branch of the service has been, therefore, necessarily reduced to an extent injurious to the interests of the revenue.

The brig Lawrence, now on the western coast, is found to be unsuited to this service, in consequence of the great expense attendant upon keeping a vessel of her size in commission, and the want of proper sailing qualities. I therefore recommend that authority be given for her disposal and the building of six additional vessels, which are required for our greatly-extended coast. Should authority be given, as suggested, to sell the Lawrence, and appropriate the proceeds towards the building and equipping of the six new vessels, there will be required in addition, to accomplish that object, the sum of seventy-five thousand dollars. I would respectfully recommend to Congress a considerable increase to the pay of the officers of the revenue marine employed on the Pacific, where their present compensation is entirely inadequate, in consequence of the very heavy expenses to which they are unavoidably subject in that quarter. Whilst the army there has had its pay greatly augmented, and all the civil officers connected with the collection of the revenue receive salaries far beyond those of the Atlantic ports, the officers of the revenue marine alone are left without any addition to their pay. At this time the seamen on board the revenue cutters there are receiving nearly the same pay as the commissioned officers, and at an earlier date instances occurred where the former have actually received higher wages than the latter. I would further recommend that any increase of pay which Congress may think proper to grant to that body of meritorious officers be not only for the future, but also have a retractive effect.

Numerous appropriations were made during the last session of Congress for additional marine hospitals and lighthouses, and also for the continuation and completion of similar works previously commenced. Some of these structures have been finished and occupied since the adjournment of Congress, and several are so nearly completed as to warrant the expectation that they may be occupied within the ensuing sixty days. The marine hospitals at Pittsburg, Cleveland, Detroit, Milwaukie, and Chicago, are among those thus finished and occupied, or expected to be occupied within the period stated. Those in process of erection at Natchez, Nepeleon, and Saint Louis, are in such a state of forwardness as to justify the belief that they will be finished early in next year. Reports from the officers and agents employed in the superintendence of these works are herewith transmitted, marked.

A site for a marine hospital at Evansville, Indiana, has been selected, but no conveyance of the land has yet reached the department, and all further steps are necessarily impeded until the title is perfected.

An application for the marine hospital at San Francisco was adopted soon after the appropriation for this object was made, and a commissioner appointed and despatched to that city in March last, with a view to the commencement of this work on a site which was then understood and still believed to be the property of the United States. Difficulties, however, presented themselves in connection with the title thereto, sufficient, in the opinion of the commissioner, to authorize a suspension of the work. Recent advices, however, lead to the belief that they will soon be removed, when the erection of the building will be immediately commenced.

All or nearly all of the lighthouse structures, for which appropriations were made by the act of 31 March, 1851, have been delayed because of the preliminary examinations enjoined by the second and third sections of that act, and several authorized by previous acts, on account of the requirements of the joint resolution of Congress, dated 11th September, 1841, as will be seen from the report of the Superintendent of the lighthouse establishment.

The department has not yet succeeded in making a definite contract for the erection of the lighthouses on the Pacific coast, which have been authorized by Congress, and great difficulty exists in accomplishing that object, in consequence of what is considered the inadequate appropriation, in the opinion of those best capable of judging of the facts and circumstances connected with their construction in that portion of the Union.

The Department will probably have to await the further action of Congress, and if additional appropriations are made at an early day, the whole of the structures could be commenced in the spring, so soon as the rainy season has terminated, in which case it is believed they can be completed and put into operation previous to the ensuing winter.

In pursuance of the authority given to the Department by the 5th section of the act of 3d March, 1851, entitled "An act making appropriations for lighthouses, light-houses, buoys, &c.," a board of officers, constituted as directed by the provisions of that act, was organized soon after its passage. The board is composed of the following officers, viz:—Gen. Totten and Col. Kearney, of the army; Commodore Shubrick and Commander Dupont, of the navy; Professor Bache, Superintendent of the Coast Survey; and Lieut. Jenkins, of the navy, as secretary.

The attention of the board has been directed to the objects contemplated by Congress. The result of their labors will be transmitted in a separate report at an early day.

The completion of the experiment for testing the use and economy of the calcium light has been delayed by the sickness of the inventor, and other causes. It is expected however, that a full report thereof will be made at an early day which, when received, will be transmitted to Congress.

Sites for the new custom-houses authorized at Bangor, Pittsburg, Louisville, Saint Louis, and Mobile, have been selected and purchased, and the necessary measures for the erection of suitable buildings are in progress. The limited appropriation for the site and building authorized at Cincinnati, will not justify the prosecution of that work beyond the purchase and location of the site. I have, therefore, submitted an additional estimate which is required to enable the department to erect a building adapted to the several purposes specified by Congress.

The restriction placed upon the appropriation for a Custom House and lot at Bath, Maine, has prevented any expenditure for that purpose being made. The purchase of a suitable site will absorb so large a proportion of the appropriation as to forbid the erection of a building with the limited amount remaining at the disposal of the Department. An additional appropriation of $25,000 is therefore recommended.

The requirements of the joint resolution of 11th September, 1841, not having yet been complied with, in relation to the site for a Custom House at Norfolk, selected by the commissioners appointed for the purpose, the commencement of that structure has necessarily been delayed.

No information in regard to a proper site for the Custom House authorized in the territory of Oregon has yet been received.

It is expected that the Custom House at Savannah will be completed and occupied within a few weeks.

The work upon the New Orleans Custom House has progressed as rapidly as circumstances would allow; that at Charleston, S. C., will be prosecuted with every desire for its completion at the earliest practicable day.

The intricate difficulties in construing and enforcing many of the provisions of our existing revenue and collection laws, and particularly those levying duties on imports, have given rise to a multiplicity of suits against the collecting officers; and often, under the practice of indemnifying collectors, who seem to have acted in good faith, the United States are subjected to heavy bills of costs.

In many instances such suits do not really necessitate a resort to courts for redress for the party aggrieved, as relief might be afforded by the Department, if the facts were fully and fairly stated to it by the officer against whom the action is brought.

By the 24th section of the tariff act of 1842, it is made the duty of collectors and other officers of the customs to execute and carry into effect all instructions of the Secretary of the Treasury relative to the execution of the revenue laws, and his decision is conclusive and binding upon them. As a proper protection of the officer, as well as to prevent the unnecessary accumulation of costs, it is respectfully suggested that some provision be made by law to prevent the institution of suits against collectors for their acts in executing the revenue and collection laws, until an application shall have been made to the Department for redress, or a denial thereof, prescribing some period within which such application and decision by the Department shall be made. Such a provision would seem the more expedient, inasmuch as the Department cannot, in many cases, exercise the power conferred by law in advance, and not even on an appeal from the collector's decision, without delaying the business of the importer and the government. Many cases of this character arise in distant sections of the Union, where such necessary delay would often prove of serious detriment to all concerned. The parties would thus save all their legal rights in any event, and the Department could often prevent the necessity and expense of litigation by affording relief.

In addition to such provision, it is also respectfully suggested that some regulation should be made by law as to costs in suits against public officers under the revenue and collection laws, and also to enable the department to bring up such cases for final decision to the Supreme Court, whatever may be the amount in controversy. Such a process would settle the law in such cases, and thus constitute the rule of administration and prevent much expensive litigation. Suits involving the same principles are often upon the docket at the same time, and the decision of one ought to be sufficient to control the disposition of all. Some additional power to enable the court, in cases involving the same construction of law, to consolidate suits against collectors, whether instituted by the same or different parties, would answer all the purposes of justice, and prevent the unnecessary multiplication of costs. It is also respectfully suggested whether the provisions of the act of 22d July, 1813, "An act concerning suits and costs in courts of the United States," ought not to be extended, or modified, as to suits against public officers for acts under the revenue and collection laws, as to make some fixed and specific regulations limiting the allowance and amount of costs. Under the provisions of existing laws, plaintiffs within the same State with the collector may commence suit against him in State courts, and the defendant, by petition to the circuit court, can have the suit removed, and entered on the docket of that court. As the defendant in such cases will doubtless ordinarily, if not always, avail himself of this privilege, it is suggested whether such suits might not properly be required to be brought originally in the federal courts, which would lead to additional uniformity in the law, and would prevent the unnecessary accumulation of costs.

It is desirable that the numerous laws respecting the navigation and commerce of the United States should undergo a careful revision and arrangement. These enactments have been accumulating for more than half a century, and many of their provisions are complex, if not conflicting. Others are still unrepealed, though they have long been inapplicable to the condition of our commerce, and of the country. A repeal of obsolete and useless provisions, and a proper arrangement of the residue under appropriate titles, with judicious amendments and additions, and the whole compriced within a single act, or two or three consecutive statutes, so as to be readily referred to and understood, would be a measure of great public utility, promote a more uniform and faithful administration of the laws, and afford a more certain protection to the interests of the government and the commercial community.

Further legislation in connection with portions of our commerce is undoubtedly necessary. Our coasting laws, however wise and useful in the infancy of the country, contain many provisions still in force, which in consequence of the increased facilities which steam offers for transportation by land and water over or in largely extended territory, are not only totally useless, but impose vexatious and embarrassing restraints on the coastwise and interior commerce, without furnishing any adequate security to the public revenue. In consequence of this state of the laws, importers are often obliged, at no inconsiderable expense, to entrust their business with the custom houses to agents supposed to be well versed therein; and the difficulty on the part of the officers of the customs, as well as importers, of correctly understanding and applying the provisions of such a complex mass of legislation, gives rise to frequent and expensive litigation, augments the business at the custom houses and at this department, and gives to the operation of law that uncertainty which it is the duty of every wise government to avoid.

Respectfully,

THOS. CORWIN, Secretary of the Treasury.

MURDER AMONG U. S. TROOPS.—A serious affray occurred on Sunday night last among the U. S. troops stationed at Smithville, N. C., during which a sergeant major was killed. Six of those engaged in the affray have been placed in irons.—*Charleston News, 30th Dec.*

CITY TRADE REPORT.

TUESDAY, Jan. 6—6 P. M.

BREADSTUFFS.—*Flour* appeared quiet; the operations comprising but 4,300 barrels, common to good State and Southern, at $4 43¾ a $4 56¼; choice State and favorite round hoop Ohio, $4 56¼ a $4 68¾; and mixed to fancy Western, $4 56¼ a $4 75 per barrel. Superfine rye flour was in request, at $4, and Jersey corn meal at $3 25 per barrel. Nothing was done in wheat, oats or rye. Barley fetched 77c. for 2,000 bushels two rowed, a reduction; and corn, 65c. for 4,000 bushels Western mixed, the previous value.

COTTON.—The sales to-day were without change in prices, and reported at 3,000 bales.

FREIGHTS.—The inclemency of the weather interrupted business, and engagements were light. Some 500 or 600 bales of cotton were taken for Liverpool at 5 32d; while some vessels stood out for 3-16d. Other articles were nominally the same. There was no change to notice in rates to other European ports. To California, rates were steady at 45c. a 70c. The ship Congress, about twenty years old, was sold for about $8,000.

PROVISIONS were as noted yesterday, with sales of pork and beef, in lots, at old rates; 200 packages plain cured shoulders and hams at 6½c a 6¾ and 8½c. per pound; and 150 bbls. with 200 kegs lard at 8¾c. a 9 and 9¼ a 9¾c. per pound. Ohio and State butter commanded 11c a 18c., and fair to choice cheese 6½c. a 7½c. per pound.

Telegraphic Reports.

CHARLESTON, Jan. 5, 1852.

The sales of cotton to-day, amounted to 2,100 bales, at 6 a 8½c. The market is firmer, and full prices are sustained.

NORFOLK, Jan. 5, 1852.

Corn has advanced to 56 a 57c. for yellow, 55c. for white, and 54c. for mixed. Sales have been made of W. O. pipe at $45; heading at $33 a $35; Hhds $31; Bbls. $18 a $19; R. O. hhds. $25. State Stock is at $100 a $100 25. Wilmington and Raleigh Railroad, at 44.

CINCINNATI, Jan. 6, 1852.

Freights have again receded. Pork is taken for New Orleans at 62½. Hogs are unchanged. The arrivals up to to-day are 311,000, against 288,000 at the same time last year. Lard has advanced; 1000 tierces of prime sold at 7¾c. Mess Pork—250 bbls changed hands at $12 50. The river is falling.

Married,

January 5, by Rev. Wm. Starr, Mr. JOSEPH P. DANIEL, of Paterson, N. J., to CAROLINE M., eldest daughter of Thomas Nelson Tickele, Esq., city of Dublin.

Dublin papers please copy.

In this city, on Monday, the 5th instant, by the Rev. W. Rowlands, ELISHA TROUGHTON, Esq., to Mrs. JANE RICHARDS, both of New York city.

Died,

On the morning of Jan. 5, after a lingering illness from scarlet and typhoid fever, CHARLES ALLEN, aged 3 years 7 months and 26 days. Also, on the evening of the 5th, after 36 hours' illness of the same fever, MARY AMANDA ALLEN, aged 10 months and 22 days, children of Charles and Amanda Allen.

The friends of the family, and those of his brother, William Allen, of Brooklyn, are respectfully invited to attend their funeral from the residence of their parents, No. 4 Patchin Place, Ames street at 10 o'clock, this day. At Norwalk, suddenly, Jan 4, GERSHOM B. SMITH, formerly of Norwalk land, Conn, aged 71 years and 10 months.

On Monday, Jan. 5, of consumption, OWEN S. SUMMERS, in the 27th year of his age,

The funeral will take place at 10 o'clock, A. M., this day, from his late residence, 203 Greene street.

January 5, suddenly, AARON SORIA, a native of Bordeaux, in the 90th year of his age.

His friends and acquaintances, and those of his son, Joseph Soria, are invited to attend his funeral, this day, at 11 o'clock A. M., precisely, from his late residence, No. 16 Perry street.

On Monday, Jan. 5, after a short but severe illness, CATHARINE A., only daughter of Jane and the late B. W. Thatcher, in the 23d year of her age.

Her friends and relatives of the family are affectionately invited to attend her funeral, this day, at 11 o'clock, from her late residence, 111 Greene street, without further invitation.

January 4, at Greenwood, N. J., the residence of his sister, MRS. HOLSMAN, ANDREW PARSONS, in the 61st year of his age.

The friends of the family are invited to attend his funeral at St. Paul's Church, Paterson, to morrow, at 1 o'clock.

On Sunday morning, WILLIAM G., son of Richard and Catherine Evans, aged 1 year and 3 months.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend his funeral, this afternoon, at 1 o'clock, from the residence of his father, No. 316 West Seventeenth street.

On Tuesday, Jan. 6, after a short illness, DR. T. OLCOTT POTTER.

His friends, and those of his brother, William T. Porter, are respectfully invited to attend his funeral to-morrow, Jan. 8, at 12 o'clock, M., from Grace Church, Broadway. His remains will be taken to Greenwood Cemetery for interment.

On Tuesday, Jan. 6, WILLIAM HENRY, only child of William H. and Susan Street aged 2 years and 10 days.

The friends and relatives of the family are invited to attend the funeral, without further notice, on Thursday, at 2 o'clock P. M., from the corner of Baltic and Clinton streets, Brooklyn.

On Monday, Jan. 5, EBENEZER CHASE, aged 61 years.

His relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend his funeral, on Friday, at 11 o'clock, from his late residence, corner of Broadway and Fifty-fourth street.

Children weep not for your father,
Mother, dry that starting tear;
Your loved one is happy now with Jesus,
Where we all must soon appear.

January 6, SUSAN GARDINER, aged 2 years and 4 months, daughter of Chas. M. and Susannah Church.

The relatives and friends of the family are requested to attend her funeral, this day, at 2 o'clock, from 78 Chatham street.

On Monday, Jan. 5, at 10 P. M., MARCUS HURD.

His funeral will take place this day, at 10 o'clock, from 181 Church street. His friends, and those of his brother, Augustus Hurd, are invited to attend.

On Tuesday, Jan. 6, MRS. MARGARET ODELL, widow of the late Benjamin Odell, in the 51st year of her age.

Her friends and acquaintances, and those of the family, also, the members of the Protective Union Society, in general, are respectfully invited to attend her funeral, on Thursday, at 11 o'clock from the residence of her son in law, Mr. Peter Smith Thirty-second street, one door East of Third avenue. Her remains will be taken to Fort Washington for interment.

January 6, ELIZA, wife of Maurice Herlehy, a native of Doneraile, Ireland, aged 36 years.

Her funeral will take place on Thursday, Jan. 8, from her late residence, No. 24 Ann street, at 11 o'clock A. M.

On Monday, Jan. 5, MORTIMER MCKENZIE, son of Mary A. and Solomon V. Roberts, aged 14 months and 1 day, of inflammation of the brain, following dysentery.

The relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral this day, at 3 o'clock P. M., from their residence, No. 149 Court street, Brooklyn.

On Tuesday, January 6, of brain fever, MELVINA, the wife of Walter Pearsall, aged 26 years, and daughter of the late James Lilly.

The relatives and friends of the family, and the Order of United Americans, of Washington Chapter O. U. A., are invited to attend the funeral to-morrow, at 10 A. M., from her late residence, [illegible] street. The remains will be taken to [illegible]

MARITIME INTELLIGENCE.

Movements of the Ocean Steamers.

NAME.	LEAVES	DATE.	FOR
Cambria	Liverpool	Dec 27	Boston.
Asia	Liverpool	Jan 7	New York.
Arctic	Liverpool	Jan 7	New York.
City of Glasgow	Philadel.	Jan 8	Liverpool.
Merlin	New York	Jan 8	Bern & St Thom
Empire City	New York	Jan 9	Havana, &c.
Ohio	New York	Jan 10	Chagres.
Pacific	New York	Jan 10	Liverpool.
Brother Jonathan	New York	Jan 12	Chagres.
Africa	New York	Jan 14	Liverpool.
Franklin	New York	Jan 17	Havre.

ALMANAC—JANUARY 7.

SUN RISES	7 27	MOON RISES	eve 5 26
SUN SETS	4 46	HIGH WATER	morn 8 27

PORT OF NEW YORK, JAN. 6, 1852.

Cleared.

Steamship Cherokee, Tanner, Chagres. M O Roberts.
Ship Racer, Steele, Liverpool, D Ogden.
Brig Geo Washington, McKenzie, Gonaives, J S Whitney & Co.
Brig W F Richardson, Richardson, Wilmington, NC, Tilden & Co.
Schr Charles Henry, Appleby, Lavacca, &c, Stanton & Thompson.
Schr Orlando, Hale, Saltille, J W Elwell.
Schr Hanover, Worth, Richmond, C H Pierson.
Schr Mary Miles, Poole, Gloucester, master.

Arrived.

Steamship Alabama, Woodhull, Savannah, Jan 3, 4¼ PM, with mdse and passengers, to S L Mitchill. Jan 5, 2 AM, 35 miles S of Hatteras, exchanged signals with steamship Florida, for Savannah; 6 AM, off the shoal, passed steamship Southerner, for Charleston; 4th, passed brig Philura, for Savannah.
Ship Southampton (pkt), Tucker, London, Dec 2, with mdse and passengers to J Griswold. Spoke nothing.
Schr Excel, Berry, New Haven, 2 days.
Schr E F Lewis, Berry, Portland, 5 days.

Below.

One ship (new), unknown.

There are 4 ships anchored at the SWSpit, detained by head winds.

JAN 6—Wind during the day, NE, with snow and rain.

Telegraphic Marine Reports.

CHARLESTON, Jan 5.

Arrived—Schr Col Satterly, NYork.

NORFOLK, Jan 5.

Arrived—Steamer Roanoke, NYork; schrs Onesa, and Rowcnay, Provincetown; Mary, Newburyport.

Herald Marine Correspondence.

KEY WEST, Dec 30.

Schr Leesburg has finished repairing, and left for Mobile; expenses $1,700.

Schr Julia M Hallock Smith, from Boston for Mobile, arrived 18th. She had a heavy deck load—a locomotive engine, off the Capes, in a heavy gale, lost foresail, and to save the deck load, ran under bare poles 5 days; was 26 days from port. She sailed on the 20th inst, after temporarily repairing.

Schr Webbannet, Stearns, 23 days from Boston for Mobile, Dec 3, experienced a heavy gale, carried away foregaff, lost jib and mainsail, and had galley washed overboard; repaired temporarily and sailed on the 23d.

Bark John Stroud, Elwell, from NYork for St Marks, ran ashore, on the night of 22d inst, on the Delta Shoal, remained ashore 12 hours; took no assistance from the wreckers, but succeeded in getting off, and arrived here on 25th; will discharge and be hove out for further examination; consigned to P J Fontaine.

Bark White Cloud, Drinkwater, from Bonaire for NOrleans, arrived here on the 27th in a leaking condition, having been ashore eight days on the Colorado Reef; cargo salt; will discharge for examination. The report, previously published, from Charleston, said she was ordered to be sold.

Brig Emeline (of Bristol), with molasses, from Havana for NYork, came into this port on the 27th, leaking, will be discharged and hove out.

The U S schr Williams, York, struck on the Washerwoman Shoal Dec 25th inst, and remained ashore two days; wrecked by the cutter Crawford, N Coite commanding.

Brig Orizaver (of Belfast, Me), Alden, from Honduras for NYork, was spoken 23d inst, off Tortugas, 23d inst, by the U S schr Action; took from the brig eight Californians, passengers from Honduras.

The hull of schr Gov Arnold, condemned, sold for $50. Cargo will probably be sold upon the receipt of advices from the owners. Capt Smith, reported by the last mail to be at the point of death, has recovered.

Arrived—Dec 17, schrs Eliza, Howland, NBedford; 20th,