

of Aug. 5, 1882, and March 30, 1883. Of the four vessels under contract one, the Chicago, of 4,500 tons, is more than half finished; the Atlanta, 3,000 tons, has been successfully launched, and her machinery is now fitting; the Boston, also of 3,000 tons, is ready for launching; and the Dolphin, a dispatch steamer of 1,500 tons, is ready for delivery. Certain adverse criticisms upon the designs of these cruisers are discussed by the secretary, who insists that the correctness of the conclusions reached by the advisory board and the department has been demonstrated by recent developments in shipbuilding abroad. The machinery of the double-turreted monitors, Puritan, Terror and Amphitrite, contracted for under the act of March 3, 1883, is in process of construction. No work has been done during the past year on their armor, for lack of the necessary appropriations. A fourth monitor, the Monadnock, still remains unfinished at the yard in California. It is recommended that early steps be taken to complete these vessels, and to provide also an armament for the monitor Miantonomah. The recommendations of the naval advisory board, approved by the department, comprise the construction of one steel cruiser of 4,500 tons, one cruiser of 3,000 tons, two heavy-armed gunboats, one light cruising gunboat, one dispatch vessel armed with Hotchkiss cannon, one armed ram and three torpedo boats. The general designs, all of which are calculated to meet the existing wants of the service, are now well advanced, and the construction of the vessels can be undertaken as soon as they shall grant the necessary authority.

THE ARMY.
The act of congress approved Aug. 7, 1882, authorized the removal to the United States of the bodies of Lieutenant Commander G. W. De Long and his companions of the Jeannette expedition. The removal has been successfully accomplished. The remains were taken from their grave in the Lena delta, in March, 1883, and were retained at Yakutsk until the following winter, the season being too far advanced to admit of their immediate transportation. They arrived at New York Feb. 20, 1884, where they were received with suitable honors. In pursuance of the joint resolution of congress approved Feb. 13, 1884, a naval expedition was fitted out for the relief of Lieut. J. W. Greely, United States army, who had been engaged under his command in scientific observations at Lady Franklin bay. The fleet consisted of the steam sealer Thetis, purchased in England; the Bear, purchased at St. John's, Newfoundland, and the Alert, which was generously provided by the British government. Preparations for the expedition were promptly made by the secretary of the navy, with the active co-operation of the secretary of war. Commander George W. Coffin was placed in command of the Alert, and Lieut. W. H. Emery in command of the Bear. The Thetis was intrusted to Commander Winfield S. Schley, to whom also was assigned the superintendence of the entire expedition. Immediately upon its arrival at Upernivik the fleet began the dangerous navigation of Melville bay, and in spite of every obstacle, reached Littleton island on June 22, a fortnight earlier than any vessel had before attained that point. On the same day it crossed over to Cape Sabine, where Lieut. Greely and other survivors of his party were discovered. After taking on board the living and the bodies of the dead, the relief ship sailed for St. John's, where they arrived on July 17. They were appropriately received at Portsmouth, N. H., on Aug. 1, and at New York on Aug. 8. One of the bodies was landed at the former place. The others were put on shore at Governor's island, and with the exception of one, which was interred in the national cemetery, were forwarded thence to the destination indicated by friends. The organization and conduct of the relief expedition reflects great credit upon all who contributed to its success. In this, the last of the state messages that I shall have the honor to transmit to the congress of the United States, I cannot too strongly urge on its attention the duty of restoring our navy as rapidly as possible to the high state of efficiency which it formerly characterized it. As the long peace that has lulled us into a sense of fancied security may at any time be disturbed, it is plain that the policy of strengthening this arm of the service is dictated by considerations of use, economy, of just regard for our future tranquility and of true appreciation of the dignity and honor of this republic.

POSTAL AFFAIRS.
THE REDUCTION IN LETTER POSTAGE.
The report of the postmaster general acquaints you with the present condition and needs of the postal service. It discloses the gratifying fact that the loss of revenue from the reduction in the rate of letter postage, as recommended in my message of December, 1882 and effected by the act of March 3, 1883, has been much less than was generally anticipated. My recommendation of this reduction was based upon the belief that the actual falling off in receipts from letter postage for the year immediately succeeding the change of rate would be \$3,000,000. It has proved to be only \$2,275,000. This is a trustworthy indication that the revenue will soon be restored to its former volume by natural increases of sealed correspondence. I confidently repeat, therefore, the recommendation of my last annual message, that the single rate of postage upon drop letters be reduced to one cent wherever the payment of two cents is now required by law. The double rate is only exacted at offices where the carrier system is in operation, and it appears that at these offices the increase in tax upon local letters defrays the cost not only of its own collection and delivery, but of the collection and delivery of all other mail matter, and this is an irregularity that ought no longer to exist. I approve the recommendation of the postmaster general that the unit of weight in the rating of first-class matter should be one ounce instead of one-half ounce, as it now is. In view of the statistics furnished by the department, it may be well doubted whether the change would result in any loss of revenue. That it would greatly promote the convenience of the public is beyond dispute. The free delivery system has been lately applied to five cities, and the total number of offices in which it is now in operation is 159. Experience shows that its adoption under proper conditions is equally an accommodation to the public and an advantage to the postal service. It is more than self-sustaining, and, for the reasons urged by the postmaster general, may properly be extended. It is the opinion of that officer that it is proper to provide means whereby exceptional dispatch in dealing with letters in free-delivery offices may be secured by the payment of extraordinary postage. This scheme may be made effective by the employment of a special stamp, whose cost shall be commensurate with the expense of the entire extra service. In some of the large cities private express companies have undertaken to outstrip the government mail carriers by affording, for the prompt transmission of letters, better facilities than have hitherto been at the command of the postoffice. It has always been the policy of the government to discourage such enterprises, and in no better way can that policy be maintained than in supplying the public with the most efficient service that, with due regard to its own best interests, can be furnished for its recommendation.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.
PROPOSED REFORMS.
The attorney general renews the recommendation contained in his report of last year, touching the fees of witnesses and jurors. He favors radical change in the fee bill, the adoption of a system by which attorneys and marshals of the United States should be compensated solely by salaries, and the erection by the government of a penitentiary for the confinement of offenders against its laws.

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT.
SECRETARY TULLER'S RECOMMENDATIONS.
Of the varied governmental concerns in charge of the interior department, the report of its secretary presents an interesting summary. Among the topics deserving particular attention I refer you to his observations respecting our Indian affairs, the pre-emption and timber culture acts, the failure of railroad companies to take title to lands granted by the government and the operations of the pension office, the patent office, the census bureau and bureau of education. Allusion has been made already to the circumstance that has been a different Indian tribes and as between the Indians and the whites, the past year has been one of unbroken peace. In this circumstance the president is glad to find justification for the policy of the government in dealing with the Indian question, and confirmation of views which were fully expressed in his first communication to the forty-seventh congress. The secretary urges a new enactment of a statute for the punishment of crimes committed on Indian reservations, and recommends the passage of the bill now pending in the house of representatives, for the purchase of a district of 18,000 square miles from the Sioux reservation. Both these measures are worthy of approval. I concur with him also in advising the repeal of the pre-emption law, the enactment of statutes resolving the present legal complications touching lapsed grants to railroads, and the funding of the debt of the several Pacific railroads under such guarantee as shall insure its ultimate payment.

UTAH.
STRINGENT MEASURES SUGGESTED.
The report of the Utah commission will be read with interest. It discloses the results of recent legislation looking to the prevention and punishment of polygamy in that territory. I still believe that if that abominable practice cannot be suppressed by law, it can only be dealt with by the most radical legislation consistent with the restraints of the constitution. I again recommend, therefore, that congress assume absolute political control of the Territory of Utah, and provide for the appointment of a commission with such governmental powers as in its judgment may justly and wisely be put into its hands.

FOREIGN TRADE.
HOW TO EXTEND IT.
In the course of this communication reference has more than once been made to the policy of this government as regards the extension of our foreign trade. It seems proper to declare the general principles that should, in my opinion, underlie our national efforts in this direction. The main conditions of the problem may be thus stated: We are a people rich in mechanical pursuits and fertile in invention; we cover a vast extent of territory, rich in agricultural products and in nearly all the raw materials necessary for successful manufacture. We have a system of productive establishments more than sufficient to supply our demands. The wages of labor are nowhere so great. The scale of our living of our artisan classes is such as tends to secure their personal comfort and the development of those higher moral and intellectual qualities that go to the making of good citizens. Our system of tax and tariff legislation is yielding a revenue which is in excess of the present needs of the government. These are elements from which it is sought to devise a scheme by which, without unfavorably changing the nature of workingmen, our merchant marine shall be raised from its enfeebled condition and new markets provided for the sale, beyond our borders, of the manifold fruits of our industrial enterprise. The problem is complex and can be solved by no single measure of innovation or reform. The countries of the American continent and the adjacent islands are for the United States the natural markets of supply and demand. It is from them that we should obtain what we do not produce, or do not produce in sufficiency, and it is to them that surplus productions of our fields, our mills, and our workshops should flow, under conditions that will equalize or favor them in comparison with foreign competition. Four paths of policy lead to point to this end. First, a series of reciprocal commercial treaties with the countries of America which shall foster between the United States and them an unhampered movement of trade. The conditions of these treaties should be the free admission of such merchandise as this country does not produce, in return for the admission free or under a favored scheme of duties of our own products, the benefits of such exchange to apply on those goods carried under the flag of the parties to the contract; the removal on both sides from vessels so privileged of all tonnage dues and national imports, so that their vessels may ply unhindered between our ports and those of the other contracting parties, though without infringing on the reserved home coasting trade. The removal of reduction of burdens on the exported products of those countries coming within the benefits of the treaties, and the avoidance of the technicalities, restrictions, and specialties by which our intercourse with those countries is at present hampered. Secondly, the establishment of the consular service of the United States on a starry footing, permitting the relinquishment of consular fees for not only as respects vessels under the national flag, but also as respects vessels of the treaty nations carrying goods entitled to the benefits of the treaties. Thirdly, the enactment of measures to favor the construction and maintenance of a steam-carrying marine under the flag of the United States. Fourthly, the establishment of a uniform currency basis for the countries of America, so that the coined products of our mines may circulate on equal terms throughout the whole system of commonwealths. This would require a monetary union of America, whereby the output of the bullion-producing countries and the circulation of those which yield neither gold nor silver, could be adjusted in conformity with the population, wealth and commercial needs of each. As many of the countries furnish no bullion to the common stock, the surplus production of our mines and mints might thus be utilized and a step taken toward the general remonetization of silver. To the accomplishment of these ends, so far as they can be attained by separate treaties, the negotiations already concluded and now in progress have been directed, and the favor with which this enlarged policy has thus far been received warrants the belief that its operations will, ere long, embrace all or nearly all the countries of this hemisphere. It is by no means desirable, however, that the policy under consideration should be limited to these countries alone. The healthful enlargement of our trade with Europe, Asia and Africa should be sought by reducing tariff burdens on such of their wares as neither we nor the other American states are fitted to produce,

and thus enabling ourselves to obtain in return a better market for our supplies of food, of raw material and of the manufactures in which we excel. It seems to me that many of the embarrassing elements in the great national conflict between protection and free trade may thus be turned to good account; that the revenue may be reduced so as no longer to overtax the people; that the protective duties may be retained without becoming burdensome; that our shipping interests may be judiciously encouraged, the currency fixed on a firm basis and above all such a unity of interests established among the states of the American system as will be of great and ever increasing advantage to them all. All treaties in the line of this policy which have been negotiated, or are in process of being negotiated, contain a provision deemed to be requisite under the clause of the constitution limiting to the house of representatives the authority to originate bills for raising revenue.

THE CIVIL SERVICE.
WORK OF THE LAW AND COMMISSION.
On the 29th of February last I transmitted to congress the first annual report of the civil service commission, together with communications from the heads of the several revenue departments of the government, respecting the working of the law under which the commission has been acting. The good results therein foreshadowed have been more than realized. The system has fully answered the expectations of its friends in securing competent and faithful public servants, and in protecting the appointing officers of the government from the pressure of personal importunity and from the labor of examining the claims and pretensions of rival candidates for public employment. The law has had the unqualified support of the president and of the heads of the several departments, and the members of the commission have performed their duties with zeal and fidelity. Their report will shortly be submitted, and will be accompanied by such recommendations for enlarging the scope of the existing statute as shall commend themselves to the executive and the commissioners charged with the administration.

MISCELLANEOUS.
BANKRUPTCY—THE CHOLERA.
In view of the general persistent demand throughout the commercial community for a national bankrupt law, I hope that the differences which have hitherto prevented its enactment may not obstruct its present session. The pestilence which for the past two years has been raging in the countries of the East recently made its appearance in European ports with which we are in constant communication. The then secretary of the treasury, in pursuance of a proclamation of the president, issued certain regulations restricting, and for a time prohibiting the importation of immigrants, and the admission of baggage of immigrants and of travelers arriving from infected quarters. Lest this course may have been without strict warrant of law, I approve the recommendation of the present secretary, that congress take action in the premises, and I also recommend the immediate adoption of such measures as will be likely to ward off the dreaded epidemic, and to mitigate its severity in case it shall unhappily extend to our shores.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.
The annual report of the commissioners of the District of Columbia reviews the operations of the several departments of its municipal government, and I ask your careful consideration of its suggestions in respect to restricting, especially concerning such as relate to a revision of the civil and criminal code, the performance of labor by persons sentenced to imprisonment in the jail, the construction and occupation of wharves along the river front and the erection of a suitable building for district offices. I recommend that in recognition of the eminent services of the late General S. Grant, president of the nation, congress confer upon him a suitable pension. The measures that seem to me necessary and expedient I have now, in obedience to the constitution, recommended for your adoption. As respects others of no less importance I shall content myself with renewing the recommendations already made to congress, with the exception of the grounds upon which such recommendations were based: The preservation of forests on the public domain; the granting of government aid for popular education; the amendment of the federal constitution so as to make effective the disapproval by the president of particular items in appropriation bills; the enactment of statutes in regard to the filling of vacancies in the presidential office, and the determining of vexed questions respecting presidential inability, are measures which may justly receive your serious consideration. As the time draws nigh when I am to retire from the public service, I cannot refrain from expressing to the members of the national legislature, with whom I have been brought into personal and official intercourse, my sincere appreciation of their unflinching courtesy, and of their harmonious co-operation with the executive in so many measures calculated to promote the best interests of the nation; and to my fellow citizens generally I acknowledge a deep sense of obligation for the support which they have accorded me in the administration of the executive department of the government.

CHESTER A. ARTHUR.
WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 1, 1884.
A VERITABLE MASCOT.
The special correspondent of the Buffalo Courier has discovered a mascot which he describes as follows: During the trial of the great grape sugar suit of John J. Alberger and Horace Williams against Cleora A. Hamlin and others, a change of venue came before the courts of Genesee county in December, 1880. President-elect Cleveland spent ten days in Batavia as one of the attorneys for the plaintiff. Mr. Cleveland stopped at a local hotel, and during his stay was given a seat at one of the dining-room tables which he retained at every meal. One of the dining-room girls took particular pains to see that he was served promptly and well, and whenever Mr. Cleveland's name has been brought before the public as a candidate she has been enthusiastic in his support. In October, 1882, when the adjourned judicial district convention was held here, the Hon. L. L. Lewis of Buffalo, one of the candidates for the nomination, met the hotel his headquarters during the deadlock that ensued, and occupied the same seat at the same table that Gov. Cleveland had retained, and was waited upon by the same girl. The result of the convention was Judge Lewis' nomination and subsequent election. During the recent Republican congressional convention here Landlord Collins of the St. James, was telling the story of the hotel his headquarters during the deadlock that ensued, and occupied the same seat at the same table that Gov. Cleveland had retained, and was waited upon by the same girl. The result of the convention was Judge Lewis' nomination and subsequent election. During the recent Republican congressional convention here Landlord Collins of the St. James, was telling the story of the hotel his headquarters during the deadlock that ensued, and occupied the same seat at the same table that Gov. Cleveland had retained, and was waited upon by the same girl. 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