THE HICKMAN COURIER.

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CURRENT PARAGRAPHS.

All Sorts.

Leprosy prevails and is on the increase among the Chinese in San Francisco.

George L. Norton has been confirmed as supervising inspector of steam-vessels at New Orleans.

Initiatory steps have been taken for the re-establishment of the Charlotte (N. C.) mint.

Eight Protestant Chattanooga clergymen have denounced the custum of obtaining aid for churches by means of lotteries.

The hard times are doing far more to shut up the liquor saloons than the law and order league. Two thousand are said to have been closed during the past eighteen months.

In a lead coffin lately found between Bethany and the mount of Olives was a silver ring bearing the names of Samson and Manoah. They'll be finding Adam's grave next.

According to one of the consula reports Sheffield, England, is at last convinced it will require all her energy to keep pace with America in the hardware line.

The Charlottesville and Rapidan railroad company, which intends connecting Piedmont with the Midland Virginia railroad at Charlottesville, has been organized.

A Missouri judge recently refused a divorce in a case in which the parties had lived together forty-nine years, on the ground that it was not right to spoil a golden wedding.

In Holland an apothecary is not permitted to put up an old powerful prescription. What might have suited a man six months ago may not be good for him now.

A Madrid paper states that a titled lady of that city is collecting photographs of the prettiest women she can find, to be sent to the Paris exhibition of 1878 as specimens of Spanish beanty.

The following silver pieces were coined at the mint during November: Trade dollars, 400,000; half dollars, 837,000; quarter dollars, 722,400; dimes, 140,000; total number of pieces, 2,096,400; value, $1,011,600. No gold metal was coined.

A special to the New Orleans Times says that the Red river steamer Lotus No. 2 was burned at Waterloo. No lives were lost. There were seventeen hundred bales of cotton on board. The boat was scuttled and sunk. The cargo is probably a total loss.

Baring Bros., who have turned their attention to the New Orleans grain trade, will make a good thing of it. They can lay down grain in Liverpool for 6 cents per bushel less than via New York—which alone is a big item when the transactions amount to hundreds of thousands of bushels, and may reach into the millions as soon as the advantages of New Orleans are understood by the commercial world at large.

Experiments in driving by electricity have been made in France. An electromagnet is placed beneath the coachman's seat, from which one wire is carried along the rains to the horse's bit, and another to the crupper, so that the whole length of the spine forms part of the electric current. A sudden shock, which the driver can administer at discretion, will, it is said, arrest the most furious runaway.

The public debt statement for November shows a decrease of $1,323,634 and the following balance in the treasury: Currency, $8,816,396; special fund for the redemption of fractional currency, $9,806,002; special deposit of legal tenders for the redemption of certificates of deposit, $36,055,000; coin, $133,970,214, including coin certificates of disposit. $36,055,000; coin, $133,970,214, including coin certificates, $32,391,400; outstanding legal tenders, $351,340,288; amount due military establishments $4,500,000.

There are some seven hundred carpet-making establishments in the United States, which, in prosperous times, furnish employment to between 150,000 and 200,000 operatives, men, women and children. The amount of money invested in the business is $13,000,000, which includes buildings and machinery, while $4,700,000 is expended yearly for wages. The annual production is valued at $22,000,000 to $24,000,000. Philadelphia represents three-fourths of the business, and the other fourth is divided between different manufacturing cities of the eastern states, the most prominently connected with carpet manufacturing being Hartford, Conn., and Lowell, Mass.

Work in the Pennsylvania coal mines is slightly improving. The coal works at Leechburg are running full time at fifty cents per ton, and the men have all they can do. The employes at the several collieries at Pittston, which resumed at an advance of ten per cent., have been notified of a reduction of wages of this amount. The miners continued work under protest. The strike at Mahanoy city has ended, and work resumed on the companies' conditions. All the works at St. Clair are on now, except Eagle Hill shaft, which was stopped on account of bad ventilation. The Philadelphia and Reading coal and iron company will commence work on a new colliery near Ashland in a few weeks.

A bottle was found in the creek near Kingston, Ga., near the scene of a recent murder, bearing the following inscription: "The man who was murdered at Kingston was from Spartanburg district, S. C. His blood hangs heavily on the hands by which he fell. By persevering diligence they may be discovered. Go 423 steps in a north northwest course from the clothing of the murdered man and you will find beneath a gray stone something which may stir this up.

A Daniel must come to judgment. The Lynchburgh News calls for the interpretation of writing in the sky: On last Wednesday, about sundown, a ball of fire, apparently about the size of a child's head, was seen sweeping through the sky in a southeasterly direction, leaving behind it a train of fire and smoke. In addition to the train of fire and smoke, we saw two letters formed in the cirgling, eddying smoke, the mystic letters "M. L." Who can interpret? Who read the portent?

A writer in the New Orleans Democrat has examined the tax-rate in various states, and finds that Louisiana stands at the head of the list. The state tax there is 14½ mills. The other states come in the following order: South Carolina, 10 mills; Arkansas, 10 mills (it is proposed to reduce it to 5 mills); Tennessee, 10 mills; Alabama, 7½ mills; California, 7 3-20 mills; Florida, 7 mills; Kansas, 5½ mills; Texas, Oregon and Georgia, 5 mills; Maine, 3¾ mills; Ohio, 3 1-5 mills; New Jersey, 3 mills; Illinois, 2 4 5 mills; New York, 2¾ mills; Michigan, 2½ mills; New Hampshire, 2 mills; Maryland, 1 7-10 mills; Connecticut, 1½ mills; Massachusetts, 1 mill. There is no state tax at all in Pennsylvania.

Captain J. Julius Guthrie, of the United States' life-saving service, who was lost with his men in the surf at Kitty Hawk, while going to the rescue of the Huron, was born in Washington, North Carolina, and was a son of Dr. J. W. Guthrie. He entered the United States' navy as midshipman in 1832. He served all through the Mexican war. He was promoted twice for gallantry: in 1853 commanded the naval forces that attacked the barrier forts on Canton river, in China, which he captured. Later he commanded the United States' coast survey steamer Walker, lost off the coast of New Jersey in the fall of 1859, and in 1860 was attached to the African squadron, where he captured the slaver Nightingale, which was safely brought to New York harbor. The following year, when his native state seceded, he resigned his commission and entered the confederate service, remaining in it to the end of the war, commanding the battery New Orleans and the steamer Chattahoochie. After the war he lived in retirement at Portsmouth, Virginia, but his disabilities having been removed by congress, he was appointed by General Grant to his late position. He was a popular officer, a fine scholar, polished gentleman, and consistent Christian.

President's Message.

President Hayes Talks to the 45th Congress Concerning the National Interests.

He Clings to His "Southern Policy" and "Civil Service Reform,"

And Advises a Steady Course Toward Resumption of Specie Payment.

Silver, if Remonetized, Should Not Effect the Previously Pledged Gold Interest on Bonds.

He Reviews our Foreign Relations and Indian Troubles in a Peace Wishing Way.

An Earnest Plea for Greater Educational Advantages--Revenue, the Army, District of Columbia, Etc.

Fellow-citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives:--With great gratitude to the bountiful Giver of all good, I congratulate you at the beginning of your first regular session. You find our country blessed with wealth and peace and abundant harvests, and with encouraging prospects of an early return of general prosperity. The pacification of the country continues and will be until it is fully accomplished and must remain the most important of all our national interests. The earnest purpose of good citizens generally to unite their efforts in these endeavors is evident. It found decided expression in the resolutions announced in 1876 by the national conventions of the leading political parties of the country. There was a widespread apprehension that the momentous results in our progress as a nation, marked by the recent amendments to the constitution, were in imminent jeopardy; that the good understanding which prompted their adoption in the interest of a loyal devotion to the general welfare, must prove a barren truce, and that the sections of the country once engaged in civil strife might be again almost as widely severed and disunited as they were when arrayed in arms against each other. The course to be pursued, in my judgment, which seems the wisest in the presence of this emergency, was plainly indicated in my inaugural address; it pointed to the time which all our people desired to see, when a genuine love of our whole country and of all that concerns its true welfare shall supplant the destructive force of the mutual animosity of races and of sectional hostility. Opinions have differed widely as to the measures best calculated to secure this great end. This was to be expected; the measures adopted by the administration have been subjected to severe and varied criticisms. Any course whatever which might have been entered upon would certainly have encountered distrust and opposition. These measures were, in my judgment, such as were most in harmony with the constitution and with the genius of our people, and best adopted, under all circumstances, to attain the end in view. The beneficent results already apparent prove that these endeavors are yet to be regarded as a mere experiment, and should sustain and encourage us in our efforts. Already in the brief period which has elapsed, the immediate effect happens, no less than the justice of the course pursued, is demonstrated, and I have the abiding faith that time will furnish its ample vindication in the minds of the great majority of my fellow-citizens. The discontinuance of the army for the purpose of upholding local governments in two states of the union, was no less a constitutional duty and requirement, under the circumstances existing at the time, than it was a necessary measure for the restoration of local self-government and the promotion of national harmony.

The withdrawal of the troops from such employment was effected diligently and with solicitous care for the peace and good order of society and the protection of the prosperity and persons of every right of all classes of citizens, the results that have followed are indeed significant and encouraging, all apprehensions of danger from remitting those states to local self-government is dispelled and a most salutary change in the minds of the people has begun, and is in progress in every part of that section of the country once the theatre of unhappy civil strife, substituting for suspicion, distrust and aversion has given place to concord, friendship and patriotic attachment to the union. No one will deny that the often fatal commission of crimes, which for several years have been of frequent occurrence, and have alarmed the public mind, have almost entirely ceased, and that a spirit of mutual forbearance and hearty national interest has succeeded. There has been a general re-establishment of order and of the orderly administration of justice. Instances of any remaining lawlessness have become of rare occurrence; political turmoil and turbulence have disappeared and useful industries have been resumed and public credit in the southern states has been greatly strengthened, and the encouraging benefits of a revival of commerce between the sections of the country lately embroiled in the civil war are fully enjoyed. Such are some of the results already attained, upon which the country is to be congratulated, and they are of such importance that we may with confidence patiently await the desired consummation that will surely come with the natural progress of events.

It may not be improper here to say that it should be our fixed and unalterable determination to protect by all the vailable and proper means under the constitution and the laws of the lately emancipated race in the experiment of their rights and privileges, and I urge upon those, to whom heretofore the colored people have sustained the relation of bondsmen, the wisdom and justice of human and liberal local legislation with respect to their educational and general welfare a firm adherence to the laws of both national and state as to their civil and political rights of the colored people now advanced to full and equal citizenship. The immediate repression and sure punishment by the national and local authorities within their respective jurisdictions of every instance of lawlessness and violence toward them is required for the security alike of both races, and is justly demanded by the public opinion of the country and the age. In this way the restoration of harmony and good will and the complete protection of every citizen in the full enjoyment of every constitutional right will surely be attained. Whatever authority rests with me to this end I shall not hesitate to put forth; whatever belongs to the power of congress and the jurisdiction of the courts of the union they may confidently be relied upon to provide and perform, and to the legislatures, the courts and the executive authorities of the several states I earnestly appeal to secure by adequate, appropriate and seasonable means within their borders these common and uniform rights of the united people which love liberty, abhor oppression and revere justice; these objects are very dear to my heart and I shall most earnestly strive for their attainment. The cordial co-operation of all classes, of all sections of the country and of both races is required for this purpose, and with their blessing assured, and not otherwise, we may safely hope to hand down our free institutions of government unimpaired to the generations that will succeed us.

Among the other subjects of great and general importance to the people of this country, I cannot be mistaken, I think, in regarding as pre-eminent the policy and measures which are designed to secure the restoration of the currency to that normal and healthful condition in which by the resumption of specie payments our internal trade and foreign commerce may be brought into harmony with the systems of exchanges which is based upon precious metals as the intrinsic money of the world in the public judgment and that this end should be sought and compassed as speedily and as securely as the resources of the people and the wisdom of their rulers can accomplish. There is a much greater degree of unanimity than is found to concur in the specific measures which will bring the country to this desired end, or the rapidity of the steps by which it can be safely reached upon a most anxious and deliberate examination which I have felt my duty to give the subject. I am but more confirmed to the opinion which I expressed in accepting the nomination for the presidency and again upon my inauguration that the policy of resumption should be pursued by every suitable means and that no legislation would be wise that should disparage the importance or retard the attainment of that result. I have no disposition and certainly no right to question the sincerity and integrity of opposing opinions, and would neither conceal nor undervalue the considerable difficulty and even occasional distress which may attend the progress of the nation toward this primary condition to its general and permanent prosperity. I must, however, adhere to my most earnest convictions that any wavering of purpose, of unsteadiness in methods so as from avoiding or reducing the inconvenience inseperable from the transition from an irredeemable to a redeemable paper currency, would only tend to increased and prolonged disturbance in values, and unless relieved, must end in serious disorder, dishonor and disaster in the financial affairs of the government and of the people. The mischief which I apprehend and urgently deprecate, is confined to no class of the people, indeed, but seem to me most certainly to threaten the industrious masses, whether their occupations are of the skilled or common labor. To them, it seems to me, it is of prime importance that their labor should be compensated in money, which is itself fixed in exchangeable value by being irrevocably measured by the labor necessary to its production. This permanent equality of the many of the people is sought for, and can only be regained by the resumption of specie payment. The rich, the speculative, the operating, the money dealing classes may not always feel the mischiefs of, or may find casual profits in a variable currency; but the misfortunes of such a currency, to those who are paid salaries or wages are inevitable and remediless. Closely connected with this general subject of the resumption of specie payments is one subordinate but still of grave importance—I mean the readjustment of our coinage system by the renewal of the silver dollar as an element in our specie currency. Endowed by legislation with the quality of the legal tender to a greater or less extent as there is no doubt of the power of congress under the constitution to coin money and regulate the values thereof and as this power covers the whole range, authority applicable the metal, the rated value, and the legal tender quality which shall be adopted for the coinage. The considerations which should induce or discourage a particular measure connected with the coinage, belong clearly to the province of legislative discretion and public expediency. Without intruding upon the province of legislation in the least, I have thought the subject of such critical importance in the actual condition of our affairs as to present an occasion for the exercise of the duty imposed by the constitution on the president of recommending to the consideration of congress such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient. Holding the opinion, as I do, that neither the interested of the government nor the people of the United States would be promoted by disparaging silver as one of the two precious metals which furnish the coinage of the world, and that legislation which looks to maintaining the volume of intrinsic money to as full measure of both metals as their relative commercial values will permit, would be neither unjust nor inexpedient. I must ask your indulgence to a brief and definite statement of certain essential features in any such legislative measures which I feel it my to recommend. I do not propose to enter duty the debate represented on both sides by such able disputants in congress and before the people and in the press, as to the extent which the legislation of any one nation can control this question, even within its own borders, against the laws of trade or the positive laws of other governments. The wisdom of congress in shaping any particular law that may be presented for my approval may wholly supercede the necessity of entering into the reconsiderations, and I willingly avoid either vague or intricate inquiries. It is only the plain and practical traits of such legislation that I desire to recommend to your attention. In any legislation providing for a silver coinage, regulating its value and imparting to it the quality of legal tender, it seems to me of great importance that congress should not lose sight of its action, and operating in a twofold capacity and in two distinct directions. If the United States government were free from a public debt its legislative dealing with the question of silver coinage would be purely sovereign and governmental, and under no restraint but those of the constitutional power and the public good, as affected by the proposed legislation. But in the actual circumstances of the nation, with a vast public debt distributed very widely among our own citizens and held in great amount also abroad, the nature of the silver coinage measures as affecting this relation of the government to the holders of the public debt has become in any proposed legislation of the highest concern, the obligation of the public faith transcends all questions of profit or public advantage, otherwise its unquestionable maintenance is the dictate as well as the highest expediency as the most necessary duty, and will be carefully guarded by congress and the people alike. The public debt of the United States to the amount of $729,000,000 bears interests at the rate of 6 per cent; $708,000,000 at the rate of 5 per cent., and the only way in which the country can be relieved from the payments of these high rates of interest is by advantageously refunding the indebtedness. Whether the debt is ultimately paid in gold or in silver coin is of but little moment compared with the possible reduction of interest by one-third by refunding it at such reduced rates. If the United States had the unquestionable right to pay its bonds in silver coin, the little benefit from that process would be greatly overbalanced by the injurious effect of such payment, if made or proposed against the honest conviction of the public credit. All the bonds that have been issued since February 12, 1873, when gold became the only unlimited, the legal tender metallic currency of the country are justly payable in gold coin, or in coin of equal value. During the time of these issues the only dollar that could be, or was received by the government in exchange for bonds, was the gold dollar. To require the public creditors to take in repayment any dollar of less commercial value would be regarded by them as a repudiation of the full obligation assumed The bonds issued prior to 1873, were issued at a time when the gold dollar was the only coin in circulation, or contemplated by either the government or the holders of the bonds, as the coin which they were to be paid in. It is far better to pay these bonds in that coin than to seem to take advantage of the unforeseen fall of silver bullion in a new issue of silver coin that made it so much less valuable. The power of the United States to coin money and to regulate the value thereof ought never to be exercised for the purpose of enabling the government to pay its obligations in a coin of less value than that contemplated by the parties when the bonds were issued. Any attempt to pay the national indebtedness in a coinage of less commercial value than the money of the world would involve a violation of the public faith and work irreparable injury to the public credit. It was the great merit of the act of March, 1869, in strengthening public credit, that it removed all doubt as to the purpose of the United States to pay their bonded debt in coin. That act was accepted as a pledge of public faith. The government has derived great benefit from it in the progress thus far made in refunding the public debt at low rate of interest, adherence to the wise and just policy of an exact observance of the public faith, will enable the government rapidly to reduce the burden of interest on the national debt to an amount exceeding $20,000,000 per annum, and enact an aggregate saving to the United States of more than $ 00,000,000 before the bonds can be fully paid. In adapting the new silver coinage to the ordinary uses of currency in the everyday transaction of life and preserving the quality of the legal tender to be assigned to it, a consideration of the first importance should be so to adjust the ratio between the silver and gold coinage, which now constitutes our specie currency as to accomplish the desired end of maintaining the circulation of the two metallic currencies, and keeping up the volume of the two precious metals as our intrinsic money. It is a mixed question for scientific reasoning and historical experience to determine how far and by what methods a practicable equilibrium can be maintained which will keep both metals in circulation in their appropriate spheres of common use. An absolute equality of commercial value, free from disturbing fluctuations, is hardly attainable, and without it an unlimited legal tender for private transactions assigned to both metals would tend to drive out of circulation the dearest coinage, and disappoint the principal object proposed by the legislation in view. I apprehend, therefore, that the conditions of a near approach to equality of commercial value between the gold and silver coinage of the same denomination and of a limitation of amounts for which the silver coinage is to be a legal tender, are essential to maintaining both in circulation. If these conditions can be successfully observed, the issue from the mint of silver dollars would afford material assistance to the community in the transition to the redeemable paper money, and would facilitate the resumption of specie payment and its permanent establishment. Without these conditions I fear that only mischief and misfortune would follow from a coinage of silver dollars with the creation of unlimited legal tender. Even in private transactions any expectation of temporary ease from an issue of silver coinage to pass as a legal tender at a rate materially above its commercial value is, I am persuaded, a delusion, nor can I think that there is any substantial distinction between an original issue of silver dollars at a nominal value materially above their commercial value, and the restoration of the silver dollar at a rate which once was, but has ceased to be, its commercial value. Certainly the issue of our gold coinage at a reduced weight materially below its legal tender value would be any the less a debasement of the coinage by reason of its equalling or even exceeding in weight a good coinage which, at some past time, had been commercially equal to the legal tender value assigned to the new issue. In recommending that the regulation of any silver coinage which may be authorized by congress should observe these conditions of commercial value and limited legal tender. I am governed by the feeling that every possible increase should be given to the volume of metallic money which can be kept in circulation, and thereby every possible aid afforded to the people in the process of resuming specie payments It is because of my conviction that a disregard of these conditions would frustrate the good results which are desired from the proposed coinage, and embarrass with new elements of confusion and uncertainty the business of the country, that I urge upon you attention to these considerations.

I respectfully recommend to congress that in any legislation providing for a silver coinage and imparting to it the quality of a legal tender, there be impressed on the measure a firm provision exempting the public debt heretore issued and now outstanding from the payment either of principal or interest in any coinage of less value than the present gold coinage of the country.

The organization of the civil service of the country has for a number of years attracted more and more of public attention. So general has become the opinion that the method of admission to it and the conditions of remaining in it are unsound, that both the great political parties have agreed in a most explicit declaration of the necessity of reform, and in the most emphatic demands for it. I have fully considered the declarations and demands to be the expressions of the sincere conviction of the intelligent masses of the people upon the subject, and that they should be recognized and fallowed by earnest and prompt action on the part of the legislative and executive departments of the government, in pursuance of the purpose indicated. Before my accession to office, I endeavored to have my views distinctly understood, and upon my inauguration, my accord with the public opinion was stated in terms believed to be plain and unambiguous. My experience in the executive duties has strongly confirmed my belief in the great advantage the country would find in observing strictly the plan of the constitution, which imposes upon the executive the sole duty and responsibility of the selection of those Federal officers who, by law, are appointed, not elected. In like manner was assigned to the senate the complete right to advise and consent to, or to reject, the nominations so made. Whilst the house of representatives stands as the public censor of the performance of official duties, with the prerogative of investigation, and providing in all cases of derelictions, the blemishes and imperfections in the civil service may, as I think, be traced in most cases to a practical confusion of the duties assigned to the several departments of the government. My purpose in this respect has been to return to the system established by the fundamental law, and to do this with the heartiest co-operation and most cordial understanding with the senate and house of representatives. The practical difficulties in the selection of the numerous officers for the posts of widely-varying responsibilities and duties, are acknowledged to be very great. No system can be expected to secure absolute freedom from mistakes, and the beginning of an attempted change of custom is quite likely to be more embarrassed in this respect than at any subsequent period. It is here that the constitution gives to us the most positive proof of its claims to the great wisdom accorded to it. It gives to the executive the assistance of the knowledge and experience of the senate, which, when acting upon nominations, as to which they may be disinterested and impartial judges, secures as strong a guarantee from freedom of errors of importance, as is possible in human affairs. In addition to this, I recognize the public advantage of making all nominations, as nearly as possible, personal, in the sense of being free from mere caprice or favor in these directions and to those offices in which special training is of greatly increased value. I claim that such a rule as to the tenure of office should obtain such inducements as may induce men of proper qualifications to apply themselves industriously to the task of becoming proficient. Bearing these things in mind, I have endeavored to reduce the number of changes in subordinate places, usually made up on the change of a general administration, and shall most certainly co-operate with congress in a better system by such modes and rules of admission as the public service and promotion within it as may promise to be most successful in making thorough competency, efficiency and character the decisive tests in these matters. I ask the renewed attention of congress to what has already been done by the civil service commission, appointed in pursuance of an act of congress by my predecessor, to prepare and revise the civil service rules.

In regard to much of the departmental service, especially at Washington, it may be difficult to organize a better system than that which has thus been provided, and it is now being used to a considerable extent under my direction. The commission has still a legal existence, although for several years no appropriation has been made for defraying its expenses. Believing that this commission has rendered valuable agency in improving the administration of the civil service, it is my purpose to transmit to congress as early as practicable a report by the chairman of the commission, and to ask your attention to such measures on this subject as in my opinion will further promote improvement of the civil service.

During the past year the United States have continued to maintain peaceful relations with foreign powers. The outbreak of war between Russia and Turkey, though at one time attended with grave apprehensions as to its effect upon other European nations, has had no tendency to disturb the amicable relations existing between the United States and each of the contending powers. An attitude of just and impartial neutrality has been preserved, and I am gratified to state that in the midst of their hostilities both the Russian and Turkish governments have shown an earnest desire to adhere to the obligations of all treaties with the United States and give due regard to the rights of Americans.

By the terms of the treaty defining the rights, immunities and priveleges of consuls between Italy and the United States, made in 1868, either government, after the lapse of 10 years, may terminate the existence of the treaty by giving 12 months' notice of its intention. The government of Italy, availing itself of this faculty, has now given the required notice, and the treaty will accordingly end on the 17th of September, 1878. It is understood, however, that the Italian government wishes to renew it in a general scope, desiring only certain modifications in some of its articles. In this disposition I concur, and shall hope that no serious obstacles may intervene to prevent or delay the negotiation of a satisfactory treaty.

Numerous questions in regard to passports, naturalization, and exemption from military service, have continued to arise in cases of emigrants from Germany who have returned to their country. The provisions of the treaty of February 22, 1868, however, have proved to be so ample and so judicious that the legation of the United States at Berlin has been able to adjust all the claims arising under it not only without detriment to the amicable relations existing between the two governments, but it is believed without injury or injustice to any naturalized American citizen. It is desirable that the treaty originally made with the North German Union in 1867 should now be extended so as to apply equally to all the states of the empire of Germany.

The invitation of the government of France to participate in the exposition of the products of agriculture, industry and the fine arts, to be held at Paris during the coming year, was submitted for your consideration at the extra session. It is not doubted that its acceptance by the United States, and a well selected exhibition of the products of American industry on that occasion, will tend to stimulate international emigration as well as to promote the traditional friendship between the two countries.

A question arose some time since as to the the proper meaning of the extradition articles of the treaty of 1842 between the United States and Great Britain. Both governments, however, are now in accord in the belief that the question is not one that should be allowed to frustrate the ends of justice or disturb the friendship between the two nations. No serious difficulty has arisen in accomplishing the extradition of criminals when necessary. It is probable that the points of disagreement will in due time be settled, and if need be, more explicit declarations be made in a new treaty.

The fishery commission, under articles 18 to 30 of the treaty of Washington, has concluded its session. The results of the deliberations of the commission, as made public by the commission, will be communicated. A treaty for the protection of trade marks has been negotiated with Great Britain, which has been submitted to the senate for its consideration. The revolution which recently occurred in Mexico was followed by the accession of the successful party to power, and the installation of its chief, Gen. Porfiero Diaz, in the presidential office. It has been the custom of the United States when such changes of government have heretofore occurred in Mexico to recognize and enter into amicable relations with the de facto government as soon as it could appear to have the approval of the Mexican people, and should manifest a disposition to adhere to the obligations of treaties and international friendship. In the present case recognition has been deferred by the occurrences on the Rio Grande border, the records of which have already been communicated to each house of congress in answer to their respective resolutions of inquiry. Assurances have been received that the authorities at the seat of the Mexican government have both the disposition and the power to prevent and punish such unlawful invasions and depredations. It is earnestly to be hoped that events may prove these surmises to be well founded. The best interests of both countries require the maintenance of peace on the borders and the development of commerce between the two republics. It is gratifying to add that this temporary interruption of official relations has not prevented due attention by the representatives of the United States in Mexico to the protection of American citizens as far as practicable, nor has it interfered with the promt payment of the amounts due from Mexico to the United States under the treaty of July 4th, 1868, and awards of the joint commission. While I do not anticipate an interruption of the friendly relations with Mexico, yet I cannot but look with some solicitude upon a continuance of the border disorders as exposing the two countries to emotions of popular feeling and mischances of action, which are naturally unfavorable to complete the amity. I am firmly determined that nothing shall be wanted on my part to promote a good understanding between the two nations. I yet must ask that the attention of congress be called to actual occurrences on the border, that the lives and property of our citizens may be adequately protected.

Another year has passed without bringing to a close the protracted contest between the Spanish government and the insurrectionists in the island of Cuba. While the United States has sedously abstained from intervention in this controversy. It is impossible not to feel it is attended by incidents affecting our citizens. Apart from the effect of the hostilities upon trade between the United States and Cuba, their progress is inevitably accompanied by complaints, having more or less foundation, of searches, arrests, embargoes and oppressive taxes upon the property of American residents, and of unprovoked interference with American vessels and commerce. It is due to the government of Spain to say that during the past year it has promptly disowned and offered reparation for any unauthorized acts of undue zealous subordinates whenever such acts have been brought to its attention; nevertheless such occurrences cannot but tend to excite a feeling of annoyance, suspicion and resentment, which are greatly to be deprecated, between the respective subjects and citizens of two friendly powers, and much delay consequent upon the accusations of fraud in some of the awards has occurred in respect to the distribution of the limited amounts received from Venezuela under the treaty of April 25, 1866, applicable to the awards of the joint commission created by that treaty. So long as these matters are pending in congress the executive cannot assume either to pass upon the question presented or to distribute the fund received. It is eminently desirable that definite legislative action should be taken, either deciding the award to be final or providing some method for a re-examination of the claims.

Our relations with the republics of Central and South America, and with the empire of Brazil, have continued without serious change, further than temporary interruption of the diplomatic course with Venezuela and with Guatamala. Amicable relations have already been fully restored with Venezuela, and it is not doubted that all grounds of misunderstanding with Guatamala will speedily be removed from all these countries. These are favorable indications of a disposition on the part of their governments and people to reciprocate our efforts in the direction of increased commercial intercourse.

The government of the Samoan Islands has sent an envoy, in the person of its secretary of state, to invite the government of the United States to advise and protect their independence; to establish commercial relations with their people, and assist them in their steps towards a responsible and regular government. The inhabitants of these islands having made considerable progress in Christian civilization and the development of trade, are doubtful of their ability to maintain peace and independence without the aid of some stronger power. The subject is deemed worthy of respectful attention, and the claims upon our assistance by these distant communities will be carefully considered.

The long commercial depression in the United States has directed attention to the subject of the possible increase in our foreign trade, and the methods for its development, not only with Europe, but with other countries, specially with the states and sovereignties of the western hemisphere. Instructions from the department of state were issued to the various diplomatic and consular officers of the government asking them to devote attention to the questions and by which they could bring the respective countries of their efficient residences and the United States could be most judiciously founded. In obedience to these instructions examinations and reports upon this subject have been made by many of these officers and transmitted to the department, and some are submitted to the consideration of congress.

The annual report of the secretary of the treasury on the state of finances presents important questions for the action of congress, upon some of which I have already remarked. The revenue of the government during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1877, were $269,000,586.62. The total expenditures for the same period were $238,660,008.93, leaving a surplus revenue of $30,340,577.69. This has substantially supplied the requirements of the sinking fund for that year. The estimates of revenue of the current fiscal year are $265,500,000, and the estimated expenditures for the same period are $232,430,643.72. If these estimates prove to be correct, there will be a surplus revenue of $33,069,356.28, an amount nearly sufficient for the sinking fund of that year. The estimated revenues for the next fiscal year are $269,250,000. It appears from the report that during the last fiscal year the revenues of the government, compared with the previous year, have largely decreased. This decrease, amounting to the sum of $18,481,452.54, was mainly in custom duties, caused partly by the large falling off of the amount of imported dutiable goods, and partly by the general falling off of prices in the markets of production of such articles as par advaiorem tax. While this is felt injuriously in the diminution of revenue, it has been accompanied with a very large increase of exportations. The total exports during the last fiscal year, including corn, has been $602,637,487, and the imports have been $492,097,540 leaving a balance of trade in favor of the United States amounting to the sum of $166,539,917, the beneficial effects of which extend to all branches of business. The estimated revenue for the next fiscal year will impose upon congress the duty of strictly limiting appropriations, including the requisite sum for the maintainence of a sinking fund within the aggregate estimate of receipts, while the aggregate of taxes should not be increased. Amendments might be made to the revenue laws that would, without diminishing the revenue, relieve the people from unnecessary burdens. A tax on tea and coffee is shown by the experience not only of our own country but of other countries to be easily collected without loss by under valuation or fraud, and largely borne in the country of production. A tax of ten cents a pound on tea and two cents a pound on coffee would produce a revenue exceeding $12,000,000, and thus enabling congress to repeal a multitude of annoying taxes yielding revenue not exceeding that sum. The internal revenue system grew out of the necessities of war, and most of the legislation imposing taxes on domestic product under this system has been repealed by the substitution of tax on coffee. All the forms of internal tax ation may be repealed except that on whisky, spirits, tobacco and beer. Attention is also called to the necessity of enacting more vigorous laws for the protection of the revenue, and for the punishment of frauds and smuggling. This can best be done by judicious provisions that will induce the disclosure of the attempted frauds by undervaluation and smuggling. All revenue laws should be simple in provisions and easily understood; and so far as practicable the rates of taxation should be in the form of the specific goods, and not ad valorem, requiring the judgment of experienced men to ascertain values and exposing the revenue to the temptation of fraud. My attention has been called during the recess of congress to the abuses existing in the collection of the customs, and strenuous efforts have been made for their correction by executive orders. The recommendation submitted to the secretary of the treasury by a commission appointed to examine into the collection of customs duties at the port of New York contain many suggestions for the mode of customs laws, to which the attention of congress is invited, and it is a matter of congratulation that notwithstanding the severe burdens caused by the war, the public faith with all creditors has been preserved, and that as the result of this policy the public credit has continuously advanced, and our public securities are regarded with the highest favor in the markets of the world. I trust that no act of the government will cast a shadow upon its credit. The progression of refunding the public debt has been rapid and satisfactory under the contract existing. When I entered upon the discharge of the duties of my office the bonds bearing interest at the rate of 4½ per cent. were being rapidly sold, and within three months the aggregate sale of these bonds had reached the sum of $200,000,000. With my sanction the secretary of the treasury entered into a new contract for the sale of 4 per cent bonds, and within thirty days after the popular subscription for such bonds was opened subscriptions were had amounting to $75,496,550, which were paid for within thirty days after the date of subscription. By this process within but little more than one year, the annual interest of the public debt was reduced in the sum of $3,775,000. I recommend that suitable provision be made to enable the people to convert their savings into government securities as the best mode in which small savings may be secured and yield interest. It is the object of public policy to retain among our own people the securities of the United States. In this way our country is guarded against their sudden return from foreign countries, caused by war or other disturbances beyond our limits. The commerce of the United States with foreign nations, and especially the export of domestic productions, has of late years largely increased, but the greater portion of this trade is conducted in foreign vessels. The importance of enlarging our foreign trade, and especially by direct and speedy interchange with countries on this continent, cannot be overestimated, and it is a matter of great moment that our own shipping interests should receive to the utmost practical extent the benefit of our commerce with other lands. These considerations are forcibly urged by all the large cities of the country, and public attention generally was wisely attracted to the solution of the problems they present. It is not doubted that congress will take them up in the broadest spirit of liberality and respond to the public demand by practicable legislation. Upon this subject the report of the secretary of war shows that the army has been actively employed during the year, and has rendered very important service in repressing hostilities in the Indian country; in preserving peace and protecting life and property in the interior as well as along the Mexican border. A long arduous campaign has been prosecuted with final complete success against a portion of the Nez Perces tribe of Indians. A full account of this campaign will be found in the report of the general of the army. It will be seen that in its course several battles were fought, in which a number of gallant officers and men lost their lives. I join with the secretary of war and the general of the army in awarding to the officers and men employed in the long and toilsome pursuit, and in the final capture of these Indians, the honor and praise which is so justly their due. The very serious riots which occurred in several of the states in July last rendered necessary the employment of a considerable portion of the army to preserve the peace and maintain order. In the states of West Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Illinois these disturbances were so formidable as to defy the local and state authorities, and the national executive was called upon, in the mode provided by the constitution and laws, to furnish military aid. And I am gratified at being able to state that the troops sent in response to these calls for aid in the suppression of domestic violence were able, by the influence of their presence in the disturbed regions, to preserve the peace and restore order without the use of force. In the discharge of this delicate and important duty both officers and men acted with great prudence and courage, and for their services deserve the thanks of the country. Disturbances along the Rio Grande, in Texas, to which I have already referred, have rendered necessary the constant employment of a military force in that country. A full report of all recent military operations in that quarter has been transmitted to the house of representatives, in answer to a resolution of that body, and it will not, therefore, be necessary to enter into details. I regret to say that these lawless incursions into our territory by armed bands from the Mexican side of the line for the purpose of robbery have been of frequent occurrance, and in spite of the most vigorous efforts of the commanders of our forces the marauders have generally succeeded in escaping into Mexico with their plunder. In my last I gave orders for the exercise of the utmost vigilance on the part of our troops for the suppression of these raids and the punishment of the guilty parties as well as the recapture of the property stolen by them. Gen. Ord, commanding in Texas, was directed to invite the co-operation of the Mexican authorities in an effort to this end, and to assure them that I was anxious to avoid giving the least offense to Mexico; at the same time he was directed to give notice of my determination to put an end to the invasion of our territory by lawless gangs intent upon the plunder of our citizens and the effectual punishment of the outlaws, and should make the crossing of the border by our troops in their pursuit necessary. It is believed that this policy has had the effect to check somewhat these depredations, and that with a considerable increase of our force upon that frontier, and the establishment of several additional military posts along the Rio Grande, so as most effectually to guard that extensive border, peace may be preserved and the lives and property of our citizens in Texas fully protected. Prior to the first day of July last the army was, in accordance with law, reduced to the maximum of 25,000 enlisted men, being a reduction of 2,500 below the force previously authorized. The reduction was made as required by law entirely from the infantry and artillery branches of the Pacific without any reduction of the cavalry. Under the law as it now stands it is necessary that cavalry regiments are recruited to 100 men in each company for service on the Mexican and Indian frontiers. The necessary effect of this legislation is to reduce the infantry and artillery arms of the service below the number required for efficiency, and I concur with the secretary of war in recommending that authority be given to recruit all companies of infantry to at least 50 men, and all batteries of artillery to at least 75 men, and power, in case of emergency, to increase the former to 100 and the latter to 125 men each. I invite your attention to the following recommendations of the secretary of war: First, that provision be made for supplying the army a more abundant and better supply of reading matter. Second, That early action be taken by congress looking to a complete revision and publication of the army regulations. Third, That section 1228 of the revised statutes, limiting the number of officers on the retired list be repealed. Fourth, That the claims arising under the act of July 4, 1864, for supplies taken by the army during the war, be taken from officers of the quartermaster and commissary generals and transferred to the southern claims commission, or some other tribunal having more time, and better facilities for their prompt investigation and decision than are possessed by these officers; hence that congress provide for an annuity fund for the families of deceased soldiers as recommended by the paymaster general of the army.

The report of the secretary of the navy shows that we have six squadrons now engaged in the protection of our foreign commerce and other duties pertaining to the naval service, the condition and operation of the department; also show the total expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1877, were $5,607,707,454. There are unpaid claims against the departments chargeable last year which are presented to the consideration of congress by the report of the secretary. The estimate for the fiscal year, commencing July 1, 1878, are $1,623,234,440, exclusive of the sum of $2,314,231, submitted for new buildings, repairs and improvements at the several navy yards. The appropriations for the present fiscal year, commencing July 1877, are $1,359,293,290. The amount drawn from the treasury from July 1, to November 1, 1877, is $5,343,037 40, of which there is estimated to be yet available $1,029,528 30, showing the amount of actual expenditures during the first four months of the present fiscal year to have been $4,313,509 10.

The report of the postmaster general contains in full the condition of the postoffice department. The ordinary revenues of the department for the fiscal year, ending July 20, 1877, including receipts from money orders and from official stamps and stamped envelopes amount to the sum of $27,531,585 26; the additional sum of $70,013,000, was realized from the general treasury for various purposes, making the receipts from all sources $34,544,885 26. The total expenditures during the fiscal year amounted to $33,436,322.44—leaving an excess of total receipts over total expenditures of $1,058,562 82, and an excess of total expenditures over ordinary receipts of $5,954,737 18. deducting from the total receipts the sum of $6,326,184 received from international money orders proceeding fiscal year, and deducting from the total expenditure the sum of $188,818 20 paid on the liabilities incurred in previous fiscal year. The expenditure receipts appertaining to the business of the last fiscal year were as follows: Expenditures, $32,322 504 24; receipts ordinary from money order business and from official postage stamps, $27,468,323 42; excess of expenditures, $4,854,180 42.

The ordinary revenue of the postoffice department for the year ending June 30, 1879, are estimated at an increase of 3 per cent. over those of 1877, making $29,049,098.28, and the expenditures for the same year are estimated at $36,427,881, leaving an estimated deficiency for 1879 of $7,393,392.62. The additional legislation recommended by the postmaster general for the improvement of the mail service, and to protect the postal revenues from these abuses practiced under the existing laws is respectfully commended to the careful consideration of congress.

The report of the attorney general contains several suggestions as to the administration of justice, which I invite your attention to. The pressure of business in the supreme court and certain circuit courts of the United States is now such that serious delays to the great injury and even oppression of suiters occur, and a remedy should be sought for this condition of affairs. Whether it will be found in the plan briefly sketched in the report of increasing the numbers of the judges of the circuit courts, and by means of this addition to the judicial force, of ereating an intermediate court of errors and appeal, or whether some other mode can be devised for obviating the difficulty which now exists, I leave to your mature consideration.

The present condition of the Indian tribes on territory of the United States and our relations with them are fully set forth in the report of the secretary of the interior and commissioner of Indian affairs. After a series of most deplorable conflicts, a successful termination of which, while reflecting honor upon the brave soldiers who accomplished it cannot lessen our regret at the occurrence. We are now at peace with all the Indian tribes on our borders. To preserve that peace by a just and humane policy will be the object of my earnest endeavors. Whatever may be said of their character and savage propensities, of the difficulties of introducing among them the habits of civilized life, and the obstacles they have offered to the progress of settling on certain parts of the country, the Indians are certainly entitled to our sympathy and to a conscientious respect on our part for their claims upon our sense of justice. They were the aboriginal occupants of the land we now possess. They have been driven from place to place, and the purchase money paid to them in some cases for what they called their own has still left them as poor in many instances as when they had settled down upon the land assigned them by the compact, and began to support themselves by their own labor. They were rudely jostled off and thrust into the wilderness again. Most of our Indian wars have had their origin in broken promises and acts of injustice upon our part, and the advance of the Indians in civilization has been slow, because the treatment they received did not permit a faster and more general improvement. We cannot expect to improve and follow our guidance unless we keep faith with them, respecting the rights they possess, and, unless, instead of depriving them of opportunities, we lend them a helping hand. I cordially approve of the policy regarding the management of Indian affairs outlined in the report of the secretary of the interior and of the commissioner of Indian affairs. The faithful performance of our promises is the first consideration of a good understanding with the Indians. I cannot too urgently recommend to congress that prompt and liberal provision be made for the conscientious fulfillment of all engagements entered into by the government with the Indian tribes. To withhold the means necessary for the performance of a promise is always false economy and is apt to prove disastrous in its consequence. Especial care is recommended to provide for the Indians settled on their reservation, cattle and agricultural implements to aid them in whatever efforts they make to support themselves, and by the establishment and maintenance of schools to bring them under the control of civilized influences. I see no reason why Indians who can give satisfactory proof of having by their own labor supported their families for a number of years, and who are willing to detach themselves from their tribal attractions, should not be admitted to the benefit of the homestead act and the privileges of citizenship, and I recommend the passage of a law to that effect. It will be an act of justice as well as a measure of encouragement. Earnest efforts are being made to purify the Indian service so that every dollar appropriated by congress shall redound to the benefit of the Indians benefited. These efforts will have my firm support. With an improved service and every possible encouragement held out the Indians to better their condition and to elevate themselves in the scale of civilization, we may hope to do, at some time, a great work for them and for ourselves.

I invite the attention of congress to the importance of the statements and suggestions made by the secretary of the interior concerning the depredations committed upon the timber lands of the United States and the necessity for the preservation of forests It is believed that the measure taken in pursuance of the existing law to arrest these depredations will be entirely successful if congress, by an appropriation for that purpose, renders their continued enforcement possible. The experience of other nations teaches us that a country cannot be stripped of its forests with impunity. We shall expose ourselves to the gravest consequences unless the wasteful and improvident manner in which the forests in the United States are destroyed be effectually checked. I earnestly recommend that the measures suggested by the secretary of the interior for the suppression of depredations on the public timber lands of the United States, for the selling of timber from the public lands, and for the preservation of forests be embodied in the law, and that considering the urgent necessity of enabling the people of certain states and territories to purchase timber from the public lands in a legal manner, which at present they cannot do, such law be passed without unavoidable delay. I would also call the attention of congress to the statements made by the secretary of the interior concerning the disposition that might be made of the desert lands by irrigation west of the 100th meridian These lands are practically unsalable under existing laws and the suggestion is worthy of considerative action; that a system of leasehold tenure would make them a source of profit to the United States, while at the same time legalizing the business of cattle raising, which is at present carried on upon them.

The report of the commissioner of agriculture contains the gratifying announcement of the extraordinary success which has rewarded the agricultural industry of the country for the past year With fair prices which they obtain for the products of the soil, especially for the surplus which our people have to export, we may confidently turn to cultivation.

This is the most important of all our resources for the revival of the depressed industries of the country. The report shows our agricultural progress during the year, and contains a statement of the work done by these departments for the advancement of our agricultural industry, upon which the prosperity of our people so largely depends. Matters of information are included of real interest to all who seek by the experience of others to improve their methods of cultivation.

The efforts of the department to increase the production of important articles of consumption will, it is hoped, improve the demand for labor and advance the business of the country, and eventually result in saving some of the many millions that are annually paid to foreign nations for sugar and other products which habitual use has made necessary in our domestic every day life.

The board on behalf of the United States executive departments at the international exposition of 1876 has concluded its labors. The final report of the board was transmitted to congress at the last session. As these papers are understood to contain interesting and valuable information, and they constitute the only report emanating from the government on the subject of the exhibition, I invite attention to the matter, and recommend that the report be published for general information.

Congress is empowered by the constitution with the authority of exclusive legislation over the District of Columbia, in which the seat of government of the nation is located. The interests of the district having no direct representative in congress are entitled to special consideration and care at the hands of the general government. The capital of the United States belongs to the nation. It is natural that the American people should take pride in the seat of their national government and desire it to be an ornament to the country. Much has been done to render it beautiful, convenient and attractive, but much remains to be done, which its permanent inhabitants are not able and ought not to be expected to do. To impose on them a large proportion of cost required for public improvements, which are in a great measure planned and executed for the convenience of the government and of the many thousands of visitors from all parts of the country who temporarily reside in the capital of the nation, is an evident injustice. Special attention as asked by the commissioners of the district in their report, which is herewith transmitted, to the importance of a permanent adjustment by congress of the financial relation between the United States and the district, involving the regular annual contribution by the United States of its just proportion of the expenses of the district government, and of the outlay for all needed public improvements and such measures of relief from the burden of taxation now resting on the people of the district as in the wisdom of congress may be deemed just. The report of the commissioners show that the affairs of the district are in as satisfactory a condition as could be expected, in view of the heavy debt resting upon it, and its very limited means for necessary expenses. The debt of the district is as follows: Old funded debt, $8,379,691 96; 3 65 bonds guaranteed by the United States, $13,743,250; total bonded debt, $22,122,941 96; to which should be added certain outstanding claims explained in the report of the commissioners, $1,182,103 52, making the total debt of the district $23,310,146 48, The commissioners also ask attention to the importance of the improvement of the Potomac river and the condition of the marshes bordering on the city of Washington. Their views are concurred in by the members of the board of health, whose report is also herewith transmitted. Both the commercial and sanitary interests of the district will be greatly promoted, I doubt not, by this improvement. Your attention is invited to the suggestion of the commissioners and of the board of health for the organization of a board of charities, to have supervision and control of the disbursement of all moneys for charitable purposes from the district treasurer. I desire also to ask your especial attention to the need of adding to the efficiency of the public schools of the district by a supplemental aid from the national treasury. This is especially just since so large a number of those attending the schools are the children of employes of the government. I earnestly commend to your care the interests of the district who are so intimately associated with the government established by the state, and to whose enterprise the good order and attractiveness of the capital are mainly due, and ask your attention to the request of the commissioners for legislation in behalf of the interests intrusted to their care. The appropriations asked for the care of the reservations belonging to the government within the city, by the commissioners of public buildings and grounds, are commended to your favorable consideration. The report of the joint commission created by an act approved August 2, 1876.

An act providing for the completion of the Washington monument is herewith transmitted, with accompanying documents. The board of engineer officers detailed to examine the monument, in compliance with the second section of the act, have reported that the foundation is insufficient. No authority exists for making the expenditure necessary to secure its stability. I therefore recommend that the commission be authorized to expend such portion of the sum appropriated by the act as may be necessary for the purpose. The present unfinished condition of the monument, begun so long ago, is a disgrace to the nation. It cannot be doubted that the patriotic sense of the country will mainly respond to such, that prompt provision may be made for its completion at an early day, and urge upon congress the propriety and necessity of immediate legislation for this purpose.

Wisdom of leiglation upon the part of congress in aid of the states for the education of the whole people in those branches of study which are to-night in the common schools of the country and not longer a question. The intelligent judgment of the country goes still further, regarding it as also both constitutional and expedient for the general government to extend to the technical and higher education such aid as is deemed essential to the general welfare and to our due performance among the enlightened and cultured nations of the world. The ultimate settlement of all questions of the future, whether of administration or finance, of a true nationality of sentiment depends upon virtue and intelligence of the people it is vain to save the expression of free government with means insuring the intelligence of those who are the source of power. No less than one-seventh of the entire voting population of our country are yet unable to read and write. It is encouraging to observe in connection with the growth of fraternal feeling in those states in which slavery formerly existed the evidences of increasing interest in universal education, and I shall be glad to give my approval to any appropriate measures which may be enacted by congress for the purpose of supplementing with national aid the local systems of education in these states, and in all the states. Having already invited your attention to the needs of the District of Columbia with respect to its public school system, I here add that I believe it desirable, not so much with reference to the local wants of the district, but to the great and lasting benefit of the entire country, that this system should be crowned with a university in all respects in keeping with the national capital, and thereby realize the cherished hope of Washington on this subject.

I also earnestly commend the request of the regents of the Smithsonian institution that an adequate appropriation be made for the establishment and conduct of a national museum under their supervision.

The request of providing for the preservation and growth of the library of congress is also of national importance as the depository of all copyright publications and records. This library has outgrown the provisions for its accommodations, and the erection of such site as the judgment of congress may approve, of a fire-proof library building to preserve the treasures and enlarge the usefulness of this valuable collection is recommended. Also such legislation as will render available and efficient for the purpose of instruction, so far as is consistent with the public service, the cabinets or museums of invention, of surgery, of education, and of agriculture and of other collections. The property of the national government, the capital of the nation should be something more than a mere political center. We should avail ourselves of all the opportunities which Providence has here placed at our command to commit the general intelligence of the people and increase the conditions most favorable to the success and perpetuity of our institutions.

[Signed] R. B. HAYES.

A Terrible Letter.

A great deal of discussion has arisen since Mrs. Stuart committed suicide as to the nature of four letters left by her and written just before she took poison. The most strenuous efforts have been made by the friends of the deceased to suppress these epistles, and Coroner Woltman has refused to make them public. It has been learned, however, that three of these letters were to relatives, and merely stated that she had determined to live no longer, bade them farewell, and asked their pardon for her determination. The fourth letter was addressed to her husband. It was couched in mild and affectionate language, but was absolutely terrible in its contents. It called the attention of Mr. Stuart to their wedding six months ago. It referred to the homes they had left to go through the world together. It reminded him of the blessings, happiness, and prospects they had started out with, and recalled the good reasons the bride had to look forward to the future with the most sanguine expectations. It spoke of their vows—hers to love, honor and obey him, and his—to love, cherish and support her. It said that if ever a woman went honestly and lovingly to a husband, she went so to him, and if ever a woman had been a true and affectionate wife, she had been one. It then, in painful language, showed how the change had come over her dream, and how she had seen the rich web of her fancy gradually drop from her full and glowing ideas until it left the mere skeleton of her hopes, an unbearable, ghastly reminder of what they had been and to what they were reduced. It pictured in the language of youthful despair the gradual sinking of her husband into the power of the vice of drink, until he became absolutely lost to himself and to her, and became cold, selfish, repellant, cruel, and finally intolerable. And then it said all this being so, absolutely so, unchangeably so, she had no wish to live any longer—her every hope was gone, and she would follow them. She said she could not help it—she asked his pardon for her determination—told him that she still loved him--bade him farewell, and then took her life.—*N. Y. Times.*

A "Mum" Sociable.

It was announced that a "mum" sociable would be held last evening in the lecture room of the Park avenue Methodist church, and a Times reporter was sent to see what in the dickens it was, a strong suspicion being entertained that it might be a sort of Mumm's cabinet meeting, and that, paradoxically as it sounds, there might be a moistening of palates with "extra dry." These suspicions were wholly incorrect. There was nothing to drink. Champagne Charlie and the Widow Clicquot were absent. The peals of laughter that greeted the reporter as soon as he got within a block or two of the church assured him that a "mum" sociable was one at which nobody made a noise. The sociable was conducted until 9 o'clock on the ordinary plan. There was conversation unrestrained, laughter *ad libitum,* and some good music. At 9 o'clock "it" was "cheesed," and nobody was allowed to speak, under penalty of paying a fine, which fine went into the treasury of the ladies of the church. There was some very lively pantomime, some intelligible and some bewildering. Persons who were familiar with the deaf-mute alphabet were the envy of the others. Some of the girls, who practice sign language daily at school, chatted away on their fingers with much eloquence and elegance. A court was provided for the trial of offenders. The judge and the lawyers and witnesses were allowed to talk, and a great deal of merriment was caused by the travesty on judical proceedings, which was well carried out. The court was organized to convict, and to all appearances the "mum" sociable proved a good financial measure. At 9:30 o'clock the ban was removed from conversation, and after some more sociable of the ordinary variety, Dr. McChesney dismissed his parishioners, who went home feeling that they never had so much fun in their lives as they did at the "mum" sociable.—*Chicago Times.*

A Series of Ca(r)tastrophes.

First she plants herself firmly on the wrong corner, waves wildly to a conductor in the dim distance and looks deeply insulted when he passes out of sight, after briefly informing her that she must change her position. This being effected, she is just about crossing, in order to reach the next car, when, of course, "a horrid wagon" happens to be coming along (about half a block away). She waits patiently till the obstacle is removed, meanwhile serenely surveying an inquiring crowd of small boys anxious to see the fun. But just as the conductors furious at the delay, is about to pull the strap, she scrambles onto the platform, grabbing the wrong railing in mortal terror, and as the car gives the inevitable jolt in starting loses her balance and flings her arms convulsively around the conductor's neck, who, in a spasm of horrow, shoves her inside of the car, in blushing confusion. If all the seats happen to be filled, she looks around wit such a significantly tragic glare that some weak-minded individual hastens to give her his seat. She plumps down contentedly, and immediately stares stonily into space, blissfully unconscious that nineteen painfully-obvious hair-pins are giving her the appearance of an enraged porcupine, and her spit-curl is no more.