Cooper's Clarksburg Register.

WILLIAM P. COOPER, | "WE STAND UPON THE PRINCIPLES OF IMMUTABLE JUSTICE, AND NO HUMAN POWER SHALL DRIVE US FROM OUR POSITION."—*Jackson.* | EDITOR & PROPRIETOR.

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TERMS.

Cooper's Clarksburg Register is published in Clarksburg Va, every Wednesday morning, at $2,00 per annum, in advance, or at the expiration of SIX MONTHS from the time of subscribing; after the termination of six months $2,50 will invariably be charged. No subscription received for less than six months. No paper will be discontinued, except at the option of the proprietor, until all arrearages are paid up; and those who do not order their paper to be discontinued at the end of their term of subscription, will be considered as desiring to have it continued.

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A CHINESE ROMANCE.

In some Chinese romances and tales, we find a considerable share of wit as well as sentiment. From one of these, Valtarie has not disdained to borrow one of the best stories in his "Zadig." A desciple of the sect *Tuoutsee*, or Doctors of Reason, while mediating among the tombs, observed a young lady seated by one of them, eagerly employed in fanning the structure. On approaching the spot, and seeing her in tears, he ventured to ask whose tomb it might be, and why she took pains in fanning it? The lady, with great simplicity, replied—"You see a widow at the tomb of her husband: he was most dear to me, and he loved me in return, with equal tenderness. Afflicted at the idea of parting with me, even in death, his last words were these—'My dearest wife, should you ever think of marrying again, I conjure you to wait, at least, until the plaster of my tomb be entirely dry: after which you have my sanction to take another husband.' 'Now,' said she, 'as the materials are still damp, and not likely soon to dry, I thought I would just fan it a little to assist in dissipating the moisture.'"

"This woman," thought the philosopher "is in a monstrous hurry;" and having recently taken to himself a beautiful wife, he hastened home to apprize her of the adventure.

"Oh, the wretch!" she exclaimed, "what an unfeeling monster! How can a virtuous woman ever think of a second husband? If, for my misfortune, I should lose my husband, I would remain single for the rest of my life."

"Fair promises," thought the philosopher, "are easily made: but we shall see." He suddenly became dangerously ill: a tender scene occurred: the lady vowed eternal remembrance, and repeated her resolution to remain a widow to the end of her days. "Enough," said the philosopher, "my eyes are now closing forever:" and so saying the breath departed from his body. The desponding widow, with loud lamentations, embraced the lifeless body, and held it locked in her arms. Among the mourners who assembled on the melancholy occasion, was a youth of fair exterior, who said he had come from a distance to place himself as a pupil under the deceased sage. With great difficulty he procured a sight of the widow—she was struck with his appearance. She saw him again on the following day; they dined together, supped together, and exchanged tender looks and expressions. The youth was half smitten, the lady wholly so, and a marriage speedily agreed upon. The youth, however previously demanded three conditions, one of which may suffice for our notice: it was that the widow should forthwith turn out of the house the unsightly coffin that contained the remains of her late husband. The lady readily consented, and the coffin was set in an old shed at the bottom of the garden.

Preparations were now made for the marriage feast, but the bridegroom was suddenly seized with convulsions and fell on the floor. The bride was desired by his domestic not to be alarmed, for that these fits were not unusual, and that there was a cure for them—the only and certain cure—the brain of a man recently deceased—taken in warm wine.

"Oh" said the lady, "my late husband has been dead only a few days. Get me a hatchet, and I will go myself and open the coffin and take out the remedy.

Thus fortified, she posted away to the bottom of the garden, and striking a blow with all her might—behold! the lid flew open, a groan was heard, and to her greatest horror, the dead man rising up, very coolly said—"My dear wife, lend me your hand to get out!"

The unhappy inamorata, finding all her intrigues, discovered, and unable to survive her shame, hung herself to one of the beams. The philosopher found her, and having satisfied himself that she was quite dead, cut her down very coolly, and having repaired his own coffin, laid her in it, fully determined never to take another wife.

GOING BACK.—A man presented himself at the Jeffersonville penitentiary on Saturday, and asked to go in and be put to work—that he owed the State five year's labor. He was convicted at a recent term of the Circuit Court, held at Lawrenceburg, Ind., of manslaughter, and afterwards broke jail. A reward had been offered for his arrest, but he baffled all search. He, however, presented himself voluntarily to fill the sentence of the law. Singular instance that.—*Louisville Democrat.*

☞ Mrs. Partington says she never cared much about grand spectacles, or other sights, but there are two things she would like to have seen—the inoculation of Frank Pierce and corporation of Queen Victoria.

☞ What sort of a knife is best to cut a caper with?

GIRLS WHO WANTS HUSBANDS.

A writer in one of our exchanges, over the signature of "Nelly Gray," gives the following excellent advice to such girls as are in "want of husbands." We know not that there any in this place who want husbands; but supposing it at least probable that there are a few such, we have determined to publish the article in our columns:

"Girls you want to get married don't you? And what a natural thing it is for young ladies to have such a hankering for the sterner sex! It is a weakness that woman has, for this reason she is called the weaker sex! Well, if you want to get married, don't for conscience sake act like fools about. Don't go into a fit of the nips every time you see a hat and a pair of whiskers. Don't get the idea into your heads that you must put yourself in the way of every man in the neighborhood, in order to attract notice, for if you don't run after the men they will run after you. Mark that.

A husband hunter is the most detestible of all young ladies. She is full of starch and puckers, she puts on so many false airs, and she is so nice that she appears ridiculous in the eyes of every person. She may generally be found at meeting, coming in last, of course, and always takes a front seat at concerts. She tries to be the Belle of the place, and thinks she is. Poor girl! You are fitting yourself for an old maid, just as sure as the Sabbath comes on Sunday. Men will flirt with you: but they have no more idea of marrying than of committing suicide. If I was a young man, I would have no more to do with such a fancy women than I would with a rattle-snake.

Now, girls, let Nelly give you a piece of her advice, and she knows from experience that if you practice it you will gain the reputation of being worthy girls, and stand a fair chance of getting respectable husbands. It well enough that you learn to finger the piano, work embroidery, study grammar, &c., but don't let grammar or your mother neglect to teach you how to make bread, and get a meal of victuals good enough for a king. No part of ahousekeeper's duties should be neglected; if you do not marry a wealthy husband, you will need to know how to do such work, and if you do, it will be no disadvantage for you to know how to oversee a servant girl, and to instruct her to do these things as you would have them done. In the next place don't pretend to be what you are not. Affectation is the most despicable of "accomplishments," and will only cause sensible people to laugh at you. No one but a fool will be caught by affectation, it has a transparent skin, easily to be seen through. Dress plain, but neatly. Remember that nothing gives a girl so modest, becoming and lovely appearance as a neat plain dress. All the flummery and tinsel work of the dress maker and milliner are unnecessary. If you are really handsome, they do not add to your beauty one practicle—if you are homely, they only make you look worse. Gentleman don't court your laces and jewelry, but your own dear selves.

Finger rings and folderols, may do to look at, but they add nothing to the value of a wife—all young men how that.—If you know how to talk, do it naturally, and not be so distressingly polite as to spoil all you say. If your hair is straight, don't put on the curling tongs to make people believe that you have negro blood in your veins. If your neck is very black, wear a lace collar, but don't be so foolish as to daub on paint, thinking that people are so blind as not to see it; and if your cheeks are not rosy don't apply pink saucers, for the deception will be detected and become the gossip of the neighborhood.

Finally girls, listen to the counsel of your mothers, and ask their advice in everything. Think less of fashions than you do of kitchen duties—less of romances thon you do of the realities of life—and instead of trying to catch beax, strives to make yourselves worth being caught by them."

AN AMERICAN RIFLE FOR THE RUSSIAN EMPEROR.—We were shown this morning a most destructive, though simply constructed weapon of war, called Sharp's patent breech-loading and self-priming rifle. It was made for the Emperor Nicholas, and the polished walnut stock is mounted with gold. The barrel and moving part are of cast steel, and finished in a style of excellence. To load the rifle, which admits of but one charge at a time, the breech is opened by moving a lever or guard forward with the thmub, which fixes the ball in its place; the lever is removed to its position, which closes the breech, and cuts off the rear end of the cartrige, exposing the powder to the fire which communicate from the percussion cap when discharged.

The rifle can be loaded and discharged with astonishing rapidity, and the inventor claims that with the quantity of powder used by the United States muskets, it will propel a ball with greater precision and a distance one half further than that arm or any other rifle yet invented.

Similar rifles have been made for the French Commissioner, Earl of Ellesmere, and Col. Stratton, of the British army in India. An order has also been received from the French minister at Washington, to construct a rifle for Louis Napoleon.

N. Y. Post.

GOING UP STAIRS.—If, when about to ascend the stairs, you find that a gentleman is going up at the same time, draw back and make a sign for him to precede you. He will bow, and pass on before you.—When coming down, do the same, that the gentleman in advance of you. A very polished man will not wait for a signal from the lady, but will bow and run up stairs, passing her as a thing of course.

[*Miss Leslie.*

DUMPLINGS.

Written for the especial benefit of, and Respectfully dedicated to, Maria and myself.

BY SLOCUM SLUGS, ESQ.

Let bards sing the praises, in all of their phases,
Of Frenchified dishes, unwholesome as rare;
Their tarts and their jellies, to cram in their bellies;
But naught in the world can with dumplings compare.
Their oysters and noodles, and all such capdoodles,
Delicious and fine in their season may be;
Their pot-pie and chickens may go to the dickens,
When there are hot dumplings for Maria and me.

Let windy debaters, 'twixt beans and pertaters,
Keep up a dispute, while despatching a meal,
And some prejudiced hearer, who thinks he sees clearer,
Stick in a word edgewise for turkey or veal—
Or preserves made of quinces—or custards and minces,
Or small-beer and cider—or sugar and tea;
Ye Gods and small fishes! they may be delicious,
But bring out the dumplings for Maria and me!

To make it the richer, have "dip" in a pitcher,
To pour on the dumplings, and soften their doom;
Then sweeten with sugar—and let every bugger
Stand out of the way—we must have elbow-room!
To see our spoons flirting, it may be diverting,
To those who such sights seldom happen to see;
But they will discover, when meal-time is over;
Two dozen have gone, 'twixt Maria and me!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Fellow Citizens of the Senate and of the House of Representatives:

The interest, with which the people of the Republic anticipate the assembling of Congress, and the fulfilment, on that occasion, of the duty imposed upon a new President, is one of the best evidences of their capacity to realize the hopes of the founders of a political system, at once complex and symmetrical. While the different branches of the Government are, to a certain extent, independent of each other, the duties of all, alike, have direct reference to the source of power. Fortunately, under this system, no man is so high, and none so humble, in the scale of public station, as to escape from the scrutiny, or to be exempt from the responsibility which all official functions imply.

Upon the justice and intelligence of the masses, in a Government thus organized, is the sole reliance of the confederacy, and the only security for honest and earnest devotion to its interests, against the usurpations and encroachments of power on the one hand, and the assaults of personal ambition on the other.

The interest, of which I have spoken, is inseperable from an inquiring, self-governing community, but stimulated, doubtless, at the present time by the unsettled condition of our relations with several foreign powers; by the new obligations resulting from a sudden extension of the field of enterprize; by the spirit with which that field has been entered, and the amazing energy with which its resources for meeting the demands of humanity, have been developed.

Although disease, assuming at one time the characteristics of a wide-spread and devastating pestilence, has left its sad traces upon some portions of our country, we have still the most abundant cause for reverend thankfulness to God for an accumulation of signal mercies showered upon us as a nation. It is well that a consciousness of rapid advancement and increasing strength be habitually associated with an abiding sense of dependence upon him who holds in his hands the destiny of men and nations.

Recognizing the wisdom of the broad principle of absolute religious toleration, proclaimed in our fundamental law, and rejoicing in the benign influence which it has exerted upon our social and political condition, I should shrink from a clear duty, did I fail to express my deepest conviction that we can place no sure reliance upon any apparent progress, if it be not sustained by national integrity, resting upon the great truths affirmed and illustrated by divine revelation. In the midst of our sorrow for the afflicted and suffering, it has been consoling to see how promptly disaster made true neighbors of districts and cities separated widely from each other, and cheering to watch the strength of that common bond of brotherhood which unites all hearts, in all parts of this union, when danger threatens from abroad, or calamity impends over us at home.

Our diplomatic relations with foreign powers have undergone no essential change since the adjournment of the last Congress. With some of them, questions of a disturbing character are still pending, but there are good reasons to believe that these may all be amicably adjusted

For some years past, Great Britain has so construed the first article of the convention of the 20th of April, 1818, in regard to the fisheries on the northeastern coast, as to exclude our citizens from some of the fishing grounds, to which they freely resorted for nearly a quarter of a century subsequent to the date of that treaty.—The United States have never acquiesced in this construction, but have always claimed for their fishermen all the rights which they have so long enjoyed without molestation. With a view to remove all difficulties on the subject, to extend the rights of our fishermen beyond the limits fixed by the convention of 1818, and to regulate the trade between the United States and the British North American provinces, a negotiation has been opened with a fair prospect of a favorable result. To protect our fishermen in the enjoyment of their rights, and prevent collision between them and the British fishermen, I deemed it expedient to station a naval force in that quarter during the fishing season.

Embarrassing questions have also arisen between the two governments with regard to Central America. Great Britain has proposed to settle them by an amicable arrangement, and our minister at London is instructed to enter into negotiations on that subject.

A commission for adjusting the claims of our citizens against Great Britain, and those of British subjects against the United States, organized under the convention of the 8th of February last, is now sitting in London for the transaction of business.

It is in many respects desirable that the boundary line between the United States and the British provinces in the northwest, as designated in the convention of the 15th of June, 1846, and especially that part which separates the territory of Washington from the British possessions on the north, should be traced and marked. I therefore present the subject for your notice.

With France, our relations continue on the most friendly footing. The extensive commerce between the United States and that country, might, it is conceived, be released from some unnecessary restrictions, to the natural advantages of both parties. With a view to this subject, some progress has been made in negotiating a treaty of commerce and navigation.

Independently of our valuable trade with Spain, we have important political relations with her, growing out of our neighborhood to the islands of Cuba and Porto Rico. I am happy to announce, that since the last Congress, no attempts have been made by unauthorized expeditions within the United States, against either of those colonies. Should any movement be manifested within our limits, all the means at my command will be vigorously exerted to repress it. Several annoying occurrences have taken place at Havana, or in the vicinity of the island of Cuba, between our citizens and the Spanish authorities. Considering the proximity of that island to our shores—lying as it does, in the track of trade between some of our principal cities,—and the suspicious vigilance with which foreign intercourse, particularly that with the United States, is there guarded, a repetition of such occurrences may well be apprehended. As no diplomatic intercourse is allowed between our consul at Havana and the Captain-General of Cuba, ready explanations cannot be made, or prompt redresses afforded where injury has resulted.

All complaints on the part of our citizens under the present arrangement, must be in the first place presented to this government, and then referred to Spain.—Spain again refers it to her local authorities in Cuba for investigation, and postpones an answer till she has heard from those authorities. To avoid these irritating and vexatious delays, a proposition has been made to provide for a direct appeal for redresses to the Captain-General by our consul, in behalf of our injured fellow-citizens. Hitherto, the government of Spain has declined to enter into any such arrangement. This course on her part is deeply regretted; for without some arrangement of this kind, the good understanding between the two countries may be exposed to occasional interruption. Our minister at Madrid is instructed to renew the proposition, and to press it again upon the consideration of her Catholic Majesty's government.

For several years Spain has been calling the attention of this government to a claim for losses by some of her subjects in the case of the schooner Amistad.—This claim is believed to rest on the obligations imposed by our existing treaty with that country. Its justice was admitted, in our diplomatic correspondence with the Spanish government, as early as March, 1837; and one of my predecessors, in his annual message of that year, recommended that provision should be made for its payment. In January last, it was again submitted to Congress by the Executive. It has received a favorable consideration by committees of both branches, but as yet, there has been no final action upon it. I conceive that good faith requires its prompt adjustment, and I present it to your early and favorable consideration.

Martin Koszta, a Hungarian by birth, came to this country in 1850, and declared his intention, in due form of law, to become a citizen of the United States.—After remaining here nearly two years, he visited Turkey. While at Smyrna he was forcibly seized, taken on board an Austrian brig of war then lying in the harbor of that place, and there confined in irons, with the avowed design to take him into the dominions of Austria. Our consul at Smyrna and legation at Constantinople interposed for his release, but their efforts were ineffectual. While thus imprisoned, Commander Ingraham, with the United States ship of war, St. Louis, arrived at Smyrna, and after inquiring into the circumstances of the case, came to the conclusion that Koszta was entitled to the protection of this government, and took energetic and prompt measures for his release. Under an arrangement between the agents of the United States and Austria, he was transferred to the custody of the French consul-general of Smyrna, there to remain until he should be disposed of by the mutual agreement of the Consuls of the respective governments at that place.

Pursuant to that agreement, he has been released, and is now on his way to the United States. The Emperor of Austria has made the conduct of our officers who took part in this transaction a subject of grave complaint. Regarding Koszta as still his subject, and claiming a right to seize him within the limits of the Turkish empire, he has demanded of this government its consent to the surrender of the prisoner, a disavowal of the acts of its agents, and satisfaction for the alleged outrage. After a careful consideration of the case, I came to the conclusion that Koszta was seized without legal authority at Smyrna; that he was wrongfully detained on board the Austrian brig of war; that, at the time of the seizure he was clothed with the nationality of the United States, and that the acts of our officers, under the circumstances of the case, were justifiable, and their conduct has been fully approved by me, and a compliance with the several demands of the Emperor of Austria has been declined.

For a more full account of this transaction and my views in regard to it, I refer to the correspondence between the charge d'affaires of Austria and the Secretary of State, which is herewith transmitted.—The principles and policy therein maintained on the part of the United States, will, whenever a proper occasion occurs, be applied and enforced.

The condition of China at this time renders it probable that some important changes will occur in that vast empire, which will lead to a more unrestricted intercourse with it. The commissioner to that country, who has been recently appointed, is instructed to avail himself of all occasions to open and extend our commercial relations, not only with the empire of China, but with other Asiatic nations.

In 1852, an expedition was sent to Japan, under the command of Commodore Perry, for the purpose of opening commercial intercourse with that island. Intelligence has been received of his arrival there, and of his having made known to the Emperor of Japan the object of his visit; but it is not yet ascertained how far the Emperor will be disposed to abandon his restrictive policy, and open that populous country to a commercial intercourse with the United States.

It has been my earnest desire to maintain friendly intercourse with the governments upon the continent, and to aid them in preserving good understanding among themselves. With Mexico, a dispute has arisen as to the true boundary line between our territory of New Mexico and the Mexican State of Chihuahua.—A former commissioner of the United States, employed in running that line pursuant to the treaty of Guadaloupe Hidalgo, made a serious mistake in determining the initial point on the Rio Grande; but, inasmuch, as his decision was clearly a departure from the directions for tracing the boundary contained in that treaty, and was not concurred in by the surveyor appointed on the part of the United States, whose concurrence was necessary to give validity to that decision, this government is not concluded thereby; but that of Mexico takes a different view of the subject.

There are also other questions of considerable magnitude pending between the two republics. Our minister in Mexico has ample instructions to adjust them.—Negotiations have been opened, but sufficient progress has not been made therein to enable me to speak of the probable result. Impressed with the importance of maintaining amicable relations with that republic, and of yielding with liberality to all her just claims, it is reasonable to expect that an arrangement mutually satisfactory to both countries may be concluded, and a lasting friendship between them confirmed and perpetuated.

Congress having provided for a full mission to the States of Central America, a minister was sent thither in July last. As yet, he has had time to visit only one of these States (Nicaragua) where he was received in the most friendly manner.—It is hoped that his presence and good offices will have a benign effect in composing the dissensions which prevail among them, and in establishing more intimate and friendly relations between them respectively, and between each of them and the United States.

Considering the vast regions of this continent, and the number of States which would be made accessible by the free navgiation of the river Amazon, particular attention has been given to this subject. Brazil, through whose territory it passes into the ocean, has hitherto persisted in a policy so restrictive, in regard to the use of this river, as to obstruct and nearly exclude foreign commercial intercourse with the states which lie upon its tributaries and upper branches. Our minister to that country is instructed to obtain a relaxation of that policy, and to use his efforts to induce the Brazilian government to open a common use, under proper safeguards, this great natural highway for international trade. Several of the South American States are deeply interested in this attempt to secure the free navigation of the Amazon, and it is reasonable to expect their co-operation in this matter.

As the advantages of free commercial intercourse among nations are better understood, more liberal views are generally entertained as to the common rights of all to the free use of those means which nature has provided for international communication. To these more liberal and enlightened views, it is hoped that Brazil will conform her policy, and remove all unnecessary restrictions upon the free use of a river which traverses so many states and so large a part of the continent. I am happy to inform you that the Republic of Paraguay and the Argentine confederation have yielded to the liberal policy still resisted by Brazil, in regard to navigable rivers within their respective territories. Treaties embracing this subject among others have been negotiated with these governments which will be submitted to the Senate at the present session.

A new branch of commerce, important to the agricultural interests of the United States, has, within a few years past, been opened with Peru. Notwithstanding the inexhaustible deposits of guano upon the islands of that country, considerable difficulties are experienced in obtaining the requisite supply. Measures have been taken to remove those difficulties and to secure a more abundant importation of the article. Unfortunately there has been a serious collision between our citizens, who have resorted to the Chincha islands for it, and the Peruvian authorities stationed there. Redress for the outrages committed by the latter, was promptly demanded by our minister at Lima. This subject is now under consideration, and there is reason to believe that Peru is disposed to offer adequate indemnity to the aggrieved parties.

We are thus not only at peace with all foreign countries, but, in regard to political affairs, are exempt from any cause of serious disquietude in our domestic relations.

The controversies, which have agitated the country heretofore, are passing away with the causes which produced them and the passions which they had awakened; or if any trace of them remains, it may be reasonably hoped that it will only be perceived in the zealous rivalry of all good citizens to testify their respect for the rights of the States, their devotion to the Union, and their common determination that each one of the States, its institutions, its welfare and its domestic peace shall be held alike secure under the sacred ægis of the constitution.

The new league of amity and mutual confidence and support, into which the people of the republic have entered, happily affords inducement and opportunity for the adoption of a more comprehensive and unembarrassed line of policy and action, as to the great material interests of the country, whether regarded in themselves or in connection with the powers of the civilized world.

The United States have continued gradually and steadily to expand, through acquisitions of territory, which, how much soever some of them may have been questioned, are now universally seen and admitted to have been wise in policy, just in character, and a great element in the advancement of our country, and with it of the human race, in freedom, in prosperity and in happiness. The thirteen States have grown to be thirty-one, with relations reaching to Europe on the one side, and on the other to the distant realms of Asia.

I am deeply sensible of the immense responsibility which the present magnitude of the republic, and the diversity and multiplicity of its interests, devolves upon me: the alleviation of which, so far as relates to the immediate conduct of the public business is, first in my reliance on the wisdom and patriotism of the two Houses of Congress; and secondly, in the directions afforded me by the principles of public polity, affirmed by our forefathers of the epoch of 1798, sanctioned by long experience, and consecrated anew by the overwhelming voice of the people of the United States.

Recurring to these principles, which constitute the organic basis of Union, we perceive that, vast as are the functions and the duties of the federal government, vested in, or entrusted to, its three great departments, the legislative, executive, and judicial, yet the substantive power, the popular force, and the large capacities for social and material development, exist in the respective States, which, all being of themselves well constituted republics, as they preceded, so they alone are capable of maintaining and perpetuating the American Union. The federal government has its appropriate line of action in the specific and limited powers conferred on it by the constitution, chiefly as those things in which the States have a common interest in their relations to one another, and to foreign governments; while the great mass of interests which belong to cultivated men, the ordinary business of life, the springs of industry, all the diversified personal and domestic affairs of society, rest securely upon the general reserved powers of the people of the several States.

There is the effective democracy of the nation, and there the vital essence of its being and its greatness.

Of the practical consequences which flow from the nature of the Federal Government, the primary one is the duty of administering with integrity and fidelity the high trust reposed in it by the Constitution, especially in the application of the public funds, as drawn by taxation from the people, and appropriated to specific objects by Congress. Happily I have no occasion to suggest any radical changes in the financial policy of the government. Ours is almost, if not absolutely, the solitary power of Christendom having a surplus revenue, drawn immediately from imposts on commerce, and therefore, measured by the spontaneous enterprise and national prosperity of the country, with such indirect relations to agriculture, manufactures, and the products of the earth and sea, as to violate no constitutional doctrine, and yet vigorously promote the general welfare. Neither as to the sources of the public treasure, nor as to the manner of keeping and managing it, does any grave controversy now prevail, there being a general acquiescence in the wisdom of the present system.

The report of the Secretary of the Treasury will exhibit, in detail, the state of the public finauces, and the condition of the various branches of the public service administered by that department of the government.

The revenue of the country, levied almost insensibly to the tax-payer, goes on from year to year, increasing beyond either the interests or the prospective wants of the government.

At the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1852, there remained in the treasury a balance of fourteen million six hundred and thirty-two thousand, one hundred and thirty-six dollars. The public revenue for the fiscal year, ending June 30, 1853, amounted to fifty-eight millions, nine hundred and thirty-one thousand eight hundred and sixty-five dollars from customs, and to two million four hundred and five thousand seven hundred and eight dollars from public lands and other miscellaneous sources, amounting together to sixty-one million three hundred and thirty-seven thousand five hundred and seventy-four dollars; while the public expenditures for the same period, exclusive of payments on account of the public debt, amounted to forty-three million five hundred and fifty-four thousand two hundred and sixty-two dollars; leaving a balance of thirty-two million four hundred and twenty-five thousand four hundred and forty-seven dollars of receipts above expenditures.

The fact of increasing surplus in the treasury, became the subject of anxious consideration at a very early period of my administration, and the path of duty in regard to it seemed to me obvious and clear, namely: first, to apply the surplus revenue to the discharge of the public debt, so far as it could judiciously be be done; and, secondly, to devise means for the gradual reduction of the revenue to the standard of the public exigencies.

Of these objects, the first has been in the course of accomplishment, in a manner and to a degree highly satisfactory.—The amount of the public debt, of all classes, was, on the fourth of March, 1853, sixty-nine millions one hundred and ninety thousand and thirty-seven dollars; payments on account of which have been made, since that period, to the amount of $12,703,329, leaving unpaid, and in the continuous course of liquidation, the sum of $56,486,708. These payments, although made at the market price of the respective classes of stocks, have been effected readily, and to the general advantage of the treasury, and have, at the same time proved of signal utility in the relief they have incidentally afforded to the money market and to the industrial and commercial pursuits of the country.

The second of the above-mentioned objects, that of the reduction of the tariff, is of great importance, and the plan suggested by the Secretary of the Treasury, which is to reduce the duties on certain articles, and to add to the free list many articles now taxed, and especially such as enter into manufactures, and are not largely, or at all, produced in the country, is commended to your candid and careful consideration.

You will find in the report of the Secretary of the Treasury, also, abundant proof of the entire adequacy of the present fiscal system to meet all the requirements of the public service, and that, while properly administered, it operates to the advantage of the community in ordinary business transactions.

I respectfully ask your attention to sundry suggestions of improvements in the settlement of accounts, especially as regards the large sums of outstanding arrears due the government, and of other reforms in the administrative action of his department, which are indicated by the Secretary; as also the progress made in the construction of marine hospitals, custom houses, and of a new mint in California and assay office in the city of New York, heretofore provided for by Congress; and also to the eminently successful progress of the Coast Survey, and of the Light-house Board.

Among the objects meriting your attention will be important recommendations from the Secretary of War and Navy. I am fully satisfied tha the navy of the United States is not in a tcondition of strength and efficiency of commensurate with the magnitude of our commercial and other interests; and commend to your especial attention the suggestions on this subject made by the Secretary of the Navy. I respectfully submit that the army which, under our system, must always be regarded with the highest interest, as a nucleus around which the volunteer forces of the nation gather in the hour of danger, requires augmentation or modification, to adapt it to the present extended limits and frontier relations of the country, and the condition of the Indian tribes in the interior of the continent; the necessity of which will appear in the communications of the Secretary of War and the Interior.

In the administration of the Post Office Department for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1853, the gross expenditure was seven million nine hundred and eighty-two thousand seven hundred and fifty-six dollars; and the gross receipts during the same period, five million nine hundred and forty-two thousand seven hundred and thirty-four dollars; showing that the current revenue failed to meet the current expenses of the department by the sum of two millions forty-two thousand and thirty-two dollars. The causes which, under the present postal system and laws, led inevitably to this result, are fully explained by the report of the Postmaster General; and one great cause being the enormous rates the Department has been compelled to pay for mail service rendered by railroad companies.

The exhibit in the report of the Postmaster General of the income and expenditures by mail steamers, will be found peculiarly interesting, and of a character to demand the immediate action of Congress.

Numerous and flagrant frauds upon the Pension Bureau have been brought to light within the last year, and in some instances merited punishments inflicted; but, unfortunately, in others, guilty parties have escaped, not through the want of sufficient evidence to warrant a conviction, but in consequence of the provisions of limitation in the existing laws.

From the nature of these claims, the remoteness of the tribunals to pass upon them, and the mode in which the proof is