

# THE AVANT COURIER.

VOLUME 1.

BOZEMAN, MONTANA TERRITORY, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1871.

NUMBER 14.

## The Avant Courier

IS ISSUED EVERY THURSDAY.

AT BOZEMAN, GALLATIN COUNTY, M. T.

**JOSEPH WRIGHT,**  
PUBLISHER AND PROPRIETOR.

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### DIRECTORY OF FEDERAL OFFICERS OF MONTANA.

OFFICE.	NAME.	RESIDENCE.
Governor	BENZ F. POTTS	Virginia City
Secretary	J. E. CALAWAY	Helena
Chief Justice	J. W. WARD	Helena
Associate Justice	JOHN T. MURPHY	Virginia City
U. S. Dist. Atty.	W. W. WARD	Helena
Surveyor General	JOHN E. BLAIR	Helena
Register of Lands	R. P. WATSON	Helena
Receiver	R. P. WATSON	Helena
U. S. Marshal	W. F. WATSON	Helena
Assessor Int. Rev.	W. B. CHURCH	Helena
Collector	S. L. WATSON	Helena
Collector Customs	W. F. WATSON	Helena
U. S. Commissioner	E. W. CARPENTER	Helena

### Times and Places for Holding Courts in the Territory of Montana.

COUNTY.	First Monday in January and second Monday in August.
At Virginia City, first Monday in January and second Monday in August.	
At Helena, first Monday in January and second Monday in August.	
At Great Falls, first Monday in January and second Monday in August.	
At Butte, first Monday in January and second Monday in August.	
At Missoula, first Monday in January and second Monday in August.	
At Bozeman, first Monday in January and second Monday in August.	
At Miles, first Monday in January and second Monday in August.	
At Park, first Monday in January and second Monday in August.	
At Yellowstone, first Monday in January and second Monday in August.	
At Liberty, first Monday in January and second Monday in August.	
At Cascade, first Monday in January and second Monday in August.	
At Beaverhead, first Monday in January and second Monday in August.	
At Blaine, first Monday in January and second Monday in August.	
At Broadwater, first Monday in January and second Monday in August.	
At Carbonate, first Monday in January and second Monday in August.	
At Hill, first Monday in January and second Monday in August.	
At Judith, first Monday in January and second Monday in August.	
At Lake, first Monday in January and second Monday in August.	
At Mineral, first Monday in January and second Monday in August.	
At Park, first Monday in January and second Monday in August.	
At Petroleum, first Monday in January and second Monday in August.	
At Prairie, first Monday in January and second Monday in August.	
At Richland, first Monday in January and second Monday in August.	
At Stillwater, first Monday in January and second Monday in August.	
At Teton, first Monday in January and second Monday in August.	
At Yellowstone, first Monday in January and second Monday in August.	

### PROFESSIONAL CARDS.

- A. G. P. GEORGE,**  
ATTORNEY AT LAW.  
RADESBURG, M. T.
- THOMAS R. EDWARDS,**  
ATTORNEY AT LAW.  
BOZEMAN, M. T.
- Will practice in all Courts of the Territory.
- SAMUEL WORD,**  
ATTORNEY AT LAW.  
VIRGINIA CITY, M. T.
- Will practice in all courts of Montana Territory.
- J. ALLEN HOSMER,**  
Attorney and Counselor at Law.  
Office on Main street, next to Furniture store.  
BOZEMAN, M. T.
- Will practice in all courts of the Territory.
- J. J. DAVIS,**  
Attorney and Counselor at Law.  
BOZEMAN, MONTANA.
- Will practice in all courts of Montana Territory.
- H. F. WILLIAMS,**  
Attorney and Counselor at Law.  
BOZEMAN, MONTANA.
- Will practice in all Courts of the Territory. 1-1
- M. G. PAGE. G. S. COLEMAN.
- PAGE & COLEMAN,**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW.  
Will practice in all Courts of Montana.
- Land Office Business Attended to.  
1-1 BOZEMAN, M. T.
- M. D. STREET. CHAR. W. TURNER.
- STREET & TURNER,**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW.  
Office Court House building, BOZEMAN, M. T.
- Special attention paid to collecting claims, and to entries of land in Gallatin County under the Homestead and Pre-emption Acts. Plans, records and weekly reports can be seen at our office. 1-1
- DON L. BYAM,**  
ECLECTIC PHYSICIAN.  
At his residence on Middle Creek. 4
- WANTED!**  
County Warrants.
- NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I will pay the Highest Cash Price for GALLATIN COUNTY WARRANTS.
- Those having such to dispose of will send it to their nearest to give me a call. 1-1
- NEW Harness and Saddle Shop.  
E. A. Ferguson has opened a new Harness and Saddle Shop in the building occupied by Thomas Ward at a tin shop, and is prepared to furnish the people of Gallatin Valley with everything they find in such an establishment. Job work of every kind done neatly and promptly.
- The best Cigars and Tobacco in Virginia City will be found at O. P. BARBER'S.

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

To the Senate and House of Representatives.

INTRODUCTORY.  
In addressing my third annual message to the law making branch of the Government, it is gratifying to be able to state that during the past year success has generally attended the efforts to execute all the laws found upon the statute books. The policy has been not to inquire into the wisdom of the laws already enacted, but to learn their special intent and to enforce them accordingly. The past year has, under a wise Providence, been one of general prosperity to the nation. It has, however, been attended with more than usual chastisements in the loss of life and property by storm and fire. These disasters have served to call forth the best elements of human nature in our country, and to develop a friendship for us on the part of foreign nations, which goes far towards alleviating the distress occasioned by the calamities. The benevolent who have so generously shared their means with the victims of these misfortunes will reap their reward in the consciousness of having performed a noble act, and in receiving the grateful thanks of men, women and children, whose sufferings they have relieved.

### OUR FOREIGN RELATIONS.

The relations of the United States with foreign powers continue to be friendly. The year has been an eventful one, in witnessing two great nations speaking one language and having one lineage, settled by peaceful arbitration disputes of long standing, and liable at any time to bring these nations into hostile conflict. An example has thus been set, which, if successful in its final issue, may be followed by other civilized nations, and be the final means of returning to productive industry millions of men maintained to settle the disputes of nations by the bayonet and broadsword. I transmit herewith a copy of the treaty allied to, which has been concluded since the adjournment of Congress with Her Britannic Majesty, and a copy of the protocols of the conferences of the Commissioners, by whom it was negotiated. This treaty provides the methods for adjusting the questions pending between the two nations. Various questions are to be adjusted by arbitration. I recommend Congress at an early day to make the necessary provision for the tribunal at Geneva, and for the several commissions on the part of the United States, called for by the treaty. His Majesty, the King of Italy, the President of the Swiss Confederation, and His Majesty, the Emperor of Brazil, have each consented on the joint request of the two powers, to name an arbitrator for the tribunal at Geneva. I have caused my thanks to be suitably expressed for the readiness with which the joint request has been complied with by the appointment of gentlemen of eminence and learning to the important positions. His Majesty, the Emperor of Germany, has been pleased to comply with the joint wish of the two governments, and has consented to act as the arbitrator of the disputed water boundary between the United States and Great Britain. The contracting parties in the treaty have undertaken to regard as between themselves certain principles of public law, for which the United States have contended from the commencement of their history. They have also agreed to bring these principles to the knowledge of the other maritime powers, and to invite them to accede to them. Negotiations are going on as to the form of the note by which the invitation is to be extended to the powers.

### THE FISHERIES.

I recommend the legislation necessary on the part of the United States to bring into operation the articles of the treaty relating to the fisheries, and to the other matters touching the relations of the United States towards the British North American possessions, to become operative as soon as the proper legislation shall be had on the part of Great Britain and its possessions. It is much to be desired that this legislation may become operative before the fishermen of the United States begin to make their arrangements for the coming season.

### INLAND LAKE AND CANAL NAVIGATION.

I have addressed a communication, of which a copy is transmitted herewith, to the Governor of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois and Wisconsin, urging upon the governments of these States, respectively, the necessary action on their part, to carry into effect the object of the article of the treaty which contemplated the use of the canals on either side, connected with the navigation of the lakes and rivers forming the boundary, in terms of equity, by the inhabitants of both countries. It is hoped that the importance of the object, and the benefits to flow therefrom, will secure the speedy approval and legislative sanction of the States concerned.

### BOUNDARY LINE.

I renew the recommendation for an appropriation for determining the true position of the 49th parallel of latitude, where it forms the boundary between the United States and the British North American Possessions, between the Lake of the Woods and the summit of the Rocky Mountains. The early action of Congress in the recommendation aimed would put it in the power of the War Department to place a force in the field during the next summer.

### COMPLIMENT TO MINISTER WASHINGTON.

The resumption of diplomatic relations between France and Germany has enabled me to give directions for the withdrawal of the protection extended to Germans in France, by the diplomatic and consular representatives of the United States in that country. It is just to add that the delicate duty of this protection has been performed by the Minister and Consulate at Paris, and the various Consuls in France under the supervision of the latter, with great kindness, as well as with prudence and tact. Their course has received the commendation of the German Government, and has wounded no susceptibility of the French. The Government of the Emperor of Germany continues to manifest a friendly feeling towards the United States, and a desire to harmonize with the United States, and just policy which this Government maintains in its relations with Asiatic powers, as well as with the South American Republics. I have given assurance that the friendly feeling of the Government are fully shared by the United States.

### AUSTRIA AND ITALY.

The ratification of the compact and naturalization connections with the Austria-Hungary Empire, have been exchanged. I have

### been officially informed of the annexation of the States of the Church to the Kingdom of Italy, and the removal of the Capital of that Kingdom to Rome. In conformity with the established policy of the United States I have recognized this change.

### OUR CLAIMS AGAINST SPAIN.

The ratification of the new treaty of commerce between the United States and Italy, has been exchanged. The two powers have agreed in their treaty that property at sea shall be exempt from capture, in case of war between the two powers. The United States has spared no opportunity of incorporating this rule into the obligations of nations.

### OUR RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA.

The intimate friendly relations which have so long existed between the United States and Russia continues undisturbed. The visit of the third son of the Emperor is a proof that there is no desire on the part of his government to diminish the cordiality of these relations. The hospitable reception which has been given to the Grand Duke is a proof that on our side we share the wishes of that Government. The inexcusable course of the Russian Minister at Washington, rendered it necessary to ask his recall, and to decline to longer receive that functionary as a diplomatic representative. It was impossible, with self respect, or with a just regard for the dignity of the country, to permit Mr. Catacazy to continue to hold interviews with this Government, after his abuse of Government officials, and during his persistent interference, through various means, with the relations between the United States and other powers. In accordance with my wishes, our Government has been relieved of further intercourse with Mr. Catacazy, and the management of the affairs of the Imperial Nation has passed into the hands of a gentleman entirely unobjectionable.

### OUR RELATIONS WITH CHINA AND JAPAN.

With Japan we continue to maintain intimate relations. The cabinet of the Mikado has, since the close of the last session of Congress, selected citizens of the United States to strengthen the credit of the country and to convince its citizens of their entire ability to meet every dollar of liability without bankrupting them; but in view of the accomplishment of these desirable ends, of the rapid development of the resources of the country, its increasing ability to meet large demands, and the amount already paid, it is not desirable that the present resources of the country should continue to be taxed in order to continue this rapid payment. I therefore recommend a modification of both tariff and internal tax laws. I recommend that all taxes from internal sources be abolished, except those on spirits, vineous, and malt liquors, and tobacco in its various forms. In readjusting the tariff I suggest that careful estimates be made of the amount of surplus revenue collected under the present laws; after providing for the current expenses of the Government, the interest account, and a sinking fund, and that this surplus be reduced in such a manner as to afford the greatest relief to the greatest number. There are many articles not produced at home, such as medicines compounded, from which very little revenue is derived, but which enter into general use. All such articles I recommend to be placed on the free list, should a further reduction prove advisable. I would then recommend that it be made upon those articles which can bear it without disturbing home production or reducing the wages of American labor. I have not entered into figures, because to do so, would be to repeat all that was laid before you in the report of the Secretary of the Treasury. The present laws for collecting revenues, pay collectors of Customs small salaries, but provide for shares in all seizures, which, at principal ports of entry particularly, raise the compensation of those officials to a large sum. It has always seemed to me as if this system must at times work dishonestly. It holds out inducements to dishonest men, should such get possession of those offices, to look in their scrutiny of goods entered, to enable them finally to make large seizures.

### CURRENCY AND GOLD VALUATIONS.

Your attention is respectfully invited to the subject of the continued fluctuations in the value of gold compared with the National currency, which has a most damaging effect upon the increase and development of the country, in keeping up the prices of all articles necessary in every day life. It fosters a spirit of gambling, prejudicial alike to National morals and National finances. If the question can be met as to how to get a fixed value to our currency—that value uniformly approaching par with specie—a very desirable object will be gained.

### THE ARMY.

For the operations of the army in the past year, the expense of maintaining it, the estimates for the ensuing year, and for continuing the sea coast and other improvements, conducted under the supervision of the War Department, I refer you to the accompanying report of the Secretary of War. I call your attention to the provisions of the Act of Congress, approved March 3, 1869, which discontinues promotion in the Staff corps of the army, until provided for by law. I recommend that the number of officers in each grade of Staff corps be fixed, and that whenever the number of any grade falls below the number so fixed, that the vacancy be filled by promotion from the grade below. I also recommend that when the office of Chief of Corps becomes vacant, the place may be filled by selection from the corps in which the vacancy exists.

### INDIAN AFFAIRS.

The policy pursued towards the Indians has resulted favorably, so far as can be judged from the limited time during which it has been in operation through the tribes, by the various societies of Christians to whom has been entrusted the execution of the policy, and the Board of Commissioners, authorized by the law of April 10, 1869. Many tribes of Indians have been induced to settle upon reservations; to cultivate the soil, and to partially accept civilization. They are eager to be civilized, and to settle upon reservations, to cultivate the soil, and to partially accept civilization. They are eager to be civilized, and to settle upon reservations, to cultivate the soil, and to partially accept civilization.

### SOUTH AMERICAN REPUBLICS.

Our relations with the various republics of the continent of South America continue, with one exception, to be cordial and friendly. I recommend some action by Congress regarding the overdue installments, under the awards of the Venezuela Claims Commission of 1866. The internal dissension of that government present no justifications for the absence of effort to meet their solemn treaty obligations. The ratification of all extradition treaties with Nicaragua has been exchanged.

### ABOLITION OF SLAVERY IN BRAZIL.

It is a subject of congratulation that the great Empire of Brazil has taken the initiatory step toward the abolition of slavery. Our relations with that Empire, always cordial, will naturally be made more so by this act. It is not too much to hope that the government of Brazil may hereafter find it for its interest, as well as internationally right, to advance toward entire emancipation more rapidly than the present act contemplates. The true prosperity and greatness of a nation is to be found in the education and elevation of its laborers. It is a subject for regret that the reforms in this direction, which were voluntarily promised by the statement of Spain, have not been carried out in the East India colonies. The laws and regulations for the apparent abolition of slavery in Cuba and Porto Rico leave most of the laborers in bondage, with no hope of release, until their lives become a burden to their employers. I desire to direct your attention to the fact that the citizens of the United States are large holders in foreign lands of this species of property, forbidden by the fundamental law of their alleged country. I recommend to Congress to provide by stringent legislation a

### suitable remedy against the holding, owning or dealing in slaves, or being interested in slave property in foreign lands, either as owners, hirers, or mortgagors, by persons of the United States.

### THE CUBAN DISTURBANCE.

It is to be regretted that the disturbed condition of the island of Cuba continues to be a source of annoyance and of anxiety. The existence of a protracted struggle in such close proximity to our own territory, without apparent prospect of an early termination, cannot be other than a subject of concern to a people, who, while abstaining from interference in the affairs of other powers, naturally desire to see every country in the undisturbed enjoyment of peace, liberty, and the blessing of free institutions. Our naval commanders in Cuban waters have been instructed, in case it should become necessary, to spare no effort to protect the lives and property of bona fide American citizens, and to maintain the dignity of the flag. It is hoped that all pending questions with Spain, growing out of the affairs of Cuba, may be adjusted in the spirit of peace and conciliation, which has hitherto guarded the two powers in their treatment of such questions.

### TO GIVE IMPORTANCE AND TO ADD TO THE EFFICIENCY OF OUR DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH JAPAN AND CHINA, AND TO FURTHER RETAINING THE GOOD OPINION OF THOSE PEOPLE, AND TO SECURE TO THE UNITED STATES ITS SHARE OF THE COMMERCE DESTINED TO FLOW BETWEEN THOSE NATIONS AND THE BALANCE OF THE COMMERCIAL WORLD, I earnestly recommend that an appropriation be made to support at least four American youths in each of those countries, to serve as a part of the official family of our Ministers. There our representatives would not even then be placed upon an equality with the representatives of Great Britain and some other powers. As now situated our representatives have to depend for interpreters and translators upon the natives of those countries, who know our language imperfectly, or procure for the occasion the services of employees in foreign business houses, or the interpreters to other foreign ministers. I would also recommend liberal measures for the purpose of supporting the American line of steamers now plying between San Francisco and Japan and China, and the Australian line, almost our only remaining lines of ocean steamers, and of increasing their service.

### REDUCTION OF THE PUBLIC DEBT.

The national debt has been reduced to the extent of \$36,077,146.50 during the year, and by the negotiation of national bonds at our rate of interest the interest on the public debt has been so far diminished that now the sum to be raised for interest account is nearly seventeen million dollars less than on the 1st of March, 1870. It was highly desirable that this rapid diminution should take place, both to strengthen the credit of the country and to convince its citizens of their entire ability to meet every dollar of liability without bankrupting them; but in view of the accomplishment of these desirable ends, of the rapid development of the resources of the country, its increasing ability to meet large demands, and the amount already paid, it is not desirable that the present resources of the country should continue to be taxed in order to continue this rapid payment. I therefore recommend a modification of both tariff and internal tax laws. I recommend that all taxes from internal sources be abolished, except those on spirits, vineous, and malt liquors, and tobacco in its various forms. In readjusting the tariff I suggest that careful estimates be made of the amount of surplus revenue collected under the present laws; after providing for the current expenses of the Government, the interest account, and a sinking fund, and that this surplus be reduced in such a manner as to afford the greatest relief to the greatest number. There are many articles not produced at home, such as medicines compounded, from which very little revenue is derived, but which enter into general use. All such articles I recommend to be placed on the free list, should a further reduction prove advisable. I would then recommend that it be made upon those articles which can bear it without disturbing home production or reducing the wages of American labor. I have not entered into figures, because to do so, would be to repeat all that was laid before you in the report of the Secretary of the Treasury. The present laws for collecting revenues, pay collectors of Customs small salaries, but provide for shares in all seizures, which, at principal ports of entry particularly, raise the compensation of those officials to a large sum. It has always seemed to me as if this system must at times work dishonestly. It holds out inducements to dishonest men, should such get possession of those offices, to look in their scrutiny of goods entered, to enable them finally to make large seizures.

### INDIAN AFFAIRS.

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### Under the provisions of the above act, I issued a proclamation calling the attention of the people of the United States to the same, and declaring my reluctance to exercise any of the extraordinary powers thereby conferred upon me, except in case of necessity, but making known my purpose to exercise such powers whenever it should become necessary to do so for the purpose of securing to all persons of the United States the peaceful enjoyment of the rights guaranteed to them by the Constitution and laws. After the passage of this law, information was received from time to time that combinations of characters referred to in this law existed and were powerful in many parts of the Southern States, and especially in certain counties of South Carolina. A careful investigation was made, and it was ascertained that the line of the counties of that State such combinations were active and powerful, embracing a sufficient portion of the citizens to control the local authority, and having for their objects the depriving of the emancipated class of the substantial benefits of freedom and of the privileges of free political action of those citizens who did not sympathize with their own views. Among their operations were frequent scourgings and occasional assassinations, generally perpetrated at night by disguised persons, their victims in almost all cases being citizens of different political sentiments from their own; free persons who had shown a disposition to claim the usual rights with other citizens. Thousands of inefficient and well disposed citizens were the sufferers by this lawless violence. Thereupon, on the 13th of October 1871, a proclamation was issued in the terms of the law, calling upon the members of the combination to disperse within five days, and to deliver to the Marshal or military officers of the United States all arms, ammunition, uniforms, disguises, and other means and implements used by them for carrying out their unlawful purposes. This warning not having been heeded, on the 17th of October another proclamation was issued, suspending the writ of *habeas corpus* in nine counties in that State. Direction was given that within the counties so designated, persons supposed, upon credible information, to be members of such unlawful combinations, should be arrested by the military forces of the United States, and be delivered to the Marshal to be dealt with according to law. In two of said counties many arrests have been made. At the last accounts the number of persons thus arrested was 168. Several hundred whose criminality was ascertained to be of an interior degree, were released for the present. These have generally made confession of their guilt. Great caution has been exercised in making these arrests, and notwithstanding the large number, it is believed that no innocent person is held in custody. The prisoners will be held for regular trial in the judicial tribunals of the United States. As to the persons who were about to take vigorous measures to enforce the law, many persons absconded, and there is good reason for supposing that all of such persons have been notified of the law. A full report of what has been done under this law will be submitted to Congress by the Attorney General.

### THE PUBLIC DOMAIN.

I renew my recommendation that the public lands as the heritage of our children be disposed of only as required for occupation, and to actual settlers. Those already granted have been, in a great part, disposed of in such a way as to secure access to the balance of the hardy settler, who may wish to avail himself of them; but caution should be exercised even in attaining so desirable an object. Educational interests may well be secured by the grant of proceeds of the sale of public lands to settlers. I do not wish to be understood as recommending in the least degree a curtailment of what is being done by the General Government for the encouragement of education.

### INTERNAL BUDGET.

The report of the Secretary of the Interior, submitted with this, will give you the information collected and prepared for publication in regard to the census taken during the year of 1870, the operations of the Bureau of Education for the year, the Patent Office, the Pension Office, the Land Office and the Indian Bureau.

### THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

The report of the Commissioner of Agriculture gives the operations of his Department for the year. As agriculture is the ground work of our prosperity, so much importance cannot be attached to the labors of this Department. It is in the hands of an able head, with able assistants, who are all zealously devoted to introducing into the agricultural products of the nations all the various climates and soils of our vast territory; and giving all useful information as to the method of cultivation of plants, cereals and other products. The Agricultural Bureau is working a great national good, and, if liberally supported, the more widely its influence will be extended and the less dependent we shall be upon the products of foreign countries.

### BUREAU OF COMPENSATION.

The subject of compensation to the heads of bureaus and officials holding positions of responsibility and requiring ability and character to fill properly is one to which your attention is invited. But few of the officials receive a compensation equal to the respectable support of a family while their duties are such as to involve millions of interest. In private life services demand a compensation equal to the services rendered. A wise economy would dictate the same rule in the government service.

### GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES.

I have not given the estimates for the support of Government for the ensuing year, or a comparative statement between the expenditures for the year just passed and the one just preceding, because all these figures are contained in the accompanying reports, or in those presented directly to Congress. These estimates have my approval.

### REMOVAL OF MARIQUETS.

More than six years having elapsed since the last hostile gun was fired between the armies then arrayed against each other—one for the perpetration, the other for the destruction of the Union—it may well be considered whether it is not now time that the disabilities imposed by the 14th amendment should be removed. That amendment does not exclude the ballot, but only requires the disability to hold office of certain classes. When the purity of the ballot box is secure a

### majority of one is sure to elect officers reflecting the views of the majority. I do not see the advantage or propriety of excluding men from office, merely because they were, before the rebellion, of standing and character sufficient to be elected to positions requiring them to take an oath to support the Constitution and admitting the eligibility of those exercising precisely the same views but of less standing in their communities, it may be said the former violated an oath, while the latter did not. The latter did not have it in their power to do so. If they had taken this oath, it cannot be doubted they would have broken it; as did the former class. If there are any great criminals distinguished above all others for this part they took in opposition to the Government, they ought, in the judgment of Congress, to be excluded from such an amnesty. This subject is submitted for your careful consideration. The condition of the Southern States is unhappy and not such as all true patriotic citizens would like to see. Social ostracism for opinion's sake; personal violence or threats towards persons entertaining political views opposed to those entertained by the majority of the citizens, prevents immigration, and the flow of much needed capital into the States lately in rebellion. It will be a happy condition of the country when the old citizens of these States will take an interest in public affairs; promulgate ideas honestly entertained; vote for men representing their views; and permit the freedom of expression and ballot in those chattering different political views.

### WORKING OF THE TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Under the provisions of the act of Congress, approved February 21st, 1871, a Territorial Government was organized in the District of Columbia. Its results thus far have fully realized the expectations of its advocates. Under the direction of the territorial officers, a system of improvements has been inaugurated, by means of which Washington is rapidly becoming a city worthy of the Nation's Capital. The citizens of the District having voluntarily taxed themselves in large amounts for the purpose of contributing to the advancement of the seat of Government, I recommend liberal appropriations on the part of Congress, in order that the Government may bear its just share of the expense of carrying out various systems of improvements. By the great fire in Chicago, the most important of the Government buildings in that city were consumed. Those burned had already become inadequate to the wants of the Government in that growing city, and looking to the near future, were totally inadequate. I recommend, therefore, that an appropriation be made immediately to purchase the remainder of the square on which the burnt buildings stood, provided it can be purchased at a fair valuation, and provided the Legislature of Illinois will pass a law authorizing its construction for Government purposes; and also an appropriation of as much money as can be properly expended towards the erection of Government buildings during this fiscal year.

### PROTECTION OF IMMIGRANTS.

The number of immigrants ignorant of our laws and habits, and coming into our country annually, has become so great, and the imposition practiced upon them so numerous and flagrant, that I suggest Congressional action for their protection. It seems to me a fair subject of legislation by Congress. I cannot now state as fully as I desire the nature of the complaints made by immigrants of the treatment they receive, but will endeavor to do so during the session of Congress, particularly if the subject should receive your attention.

### CIVIL SERVICE.

It has been the aim of the Administration to enforce honesty and efficiency in all public servants, and those who have violated the trust placed in them have been proceeded against with all the vigor of the law. It had men have secured places it has been the fault of the system established by law and custom for making appointments, or the fault of those who recommended them for Government positions. Persons who are not sufficiently well known to them personally, or who give letters endorsing the character of office-seekers, without proper sense of the grave responsibility—

### [Storm between here and Corlue.—Op.]

can in a measure correct this abuse; is much desired. In meretricious pursuits the business man who gives a letter of recommendation to a friend to enable him to obtain credit for a stranger, is regarded as morally responsible for the integrity of his friend, and his ability to meet his obligations. I would enforce this principle against all endorser of persons for public place, which would insure great caution in making recommendations. A salutary lesson has been taught the careless and the dishonest servant in the great number of prosecutions and convictions of the last two years. It is gratifying to notice the favorable change which is taking place throughout the country in bringing to punishment those who have proved recreant to the trusts confided to them, and in elevating to public office none but those who possess the confidence of the honest and virtuous, which, it will always be found, comprise the majority of the community in which they live.

### In my message to Congress one year ago, I

urgently recommended a reform in the Civil Service of the country. In conformity with that recommendation, Congress, in the 4th section of an act, making appropriations for sundry civil expenses of the Government and for other purposes, approved March 3d, 1871, gave the necessary authority to the Executive to inaugurate a civil service reform, and placed upon him the responsibility of doing so. Under the authority of said act, I constituted a Board of gentlemen eminently qualified for the work, to devise rules and regulations to effect the needed reform. Their labors are not yet completed, but it is believed that they will succeed in devising a plan which can be adopted to the great relief of the Executive, the heads of departments, and members of Congress, which will redound to the true interests of the public