OUR ALASKA.

The third article of the treaty with Russia, of March 30, 1867, by which Alaska was ceded to the United States, provides that the inhabitants of the ceded territory, with the exception of the uncivilized native tribes, shall be admitted to the enjoyment of all the rights of citizens of the United States, and shall be maintained and protected in the free enjoyment of their liberty, property and religion. The uncivilized tribes are subject to such laws and regulations as the United States may from time to time adopt in regard to the aboriginal tribes of that country.

Both the obligations of this treaty and the necessities of the people, require that some organized form of government over the territory of Alaska be adopted.

There appears to be no law for the arrest of persons charged with common-law offences, such as assault, robbery, and murder, and no magistrate authorized to issue or execute process in such cases. Serious difficulties have already arisen from offences of this character, not only among the original inhabitants, but among citizens of the United States and other countries, who have engaged in mining, fishing, and other business operations within the territory. A bill authorizing the appointment of justices of the peace and constables, and the arrest and detention of persons charged with criminal offences, and providing for an appeal to United States courts for the district of Oregon, in suitable cases, will, at a proper time, be submitted to congress.

THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

The attention of congress is called to the annual report of the secretary of the treasury on the condition of the public finances.

The ordinary revenues from all sources for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1879, were $273,827,184.46; the ordinary expenditures for the same period were $266,947,882 53; leaving a surplus revenue for the year of $6,879,300.93.

The receipts for the present fiscal year, ending June 30, 1880, actual and estimated, are as follows: Actual receipts for the first quarter, commencing July 1, 1879, $79,843,663.61; estimated receipts for the remaining three-quarters of the year, $208,156,336 39; total receipts for the current fiscal year, actual and estimated, $288,000,000.

The expenditures for the same period will be, actual and estimated, as follows: For the quarter commencing July 1, 1879, actual expenditures, $91,683 385.10; and for the remaining three-quarters of the year the expenditures are estimated at $172,316,614.90—making the total expenditures $264,000,000, and leaving an estimated surplus revenue for the year ending June 30, 1880, of $24,000,000. The total receipts during the next fiscal year, ending June 30, 1881, estimated according to existing laws, will be $288,000,000; and the estimated ordinary expenditures for the same period will be $278,097,364.39—leaving a surplus of $9,902,635.61 for that year.

The large amount expended for arrears of pensions during the last and the present fiscal year, amounting to $21,747,249.60, has prevented the application of the full amount required by law to the sinking fund for the current year; but these arrears having been substantially paid, it is believed that the sinking fund can hereafter be maintained without any change of existing law.

THE WAR DEPARTMENT.

The secretary of war reports that the war department estimates for the fiscal yearending June 30, 1881, are $40,880,428.93, the same being for a less sum of money than any annual estimate rendered to congress from that department during a period of at least twelve years.

He concurs with the general of the army in recommending such legislation as will authorize the enlistment of the full number of twenty-five thousand men for the line of the army, exclusive of the three thousand four hundred and sixty-three men required for detached duty, and therefore not available for service in the field.

He also recommends that congress be asked to provide by law for the disposition of a large number of abandoned military posts and reservations, which, though very valuable in themselves, have been rendered useless for military purposes by the advance of civilization and settlement.

He unites with the quartermaster general in recommending that an appropriation be made for the construction of a cheap and perfectly fire-proof building for the safe storage of a vast amount of money accounts, vouchers, claims and other valuable records now in the quartermaster general's office, and exposed to great risk of total destruction by fire.

He also recommends, in conformity with the views of the judge-advocate general, some declaratory legislation in reference to the military statute of limitations as applied to the crime of desertion.

In these several recommendations I concur.

The Secretary of War further reports, that the work for the improvement of the south pass of the Mississippi river, under contract with Mr. James B. Eads, made in pursuance of an act of congress, has been prosecuted during the past year, with a greater measure of success in the attainment of results than during any previous year. The channel through the south pass, which, at the beginning of operations in June, 1875, had a depth of only seven and one-half feet of water, had, on the 8th of July, 1879, a minimum depth of twenty-six feet, having a width of not less than two hundred feet, and a central depth of thirty feet. Payments have been made in accordance with the statute, as the work progressed, amounting in the aggregate to $4,250,000; and further payments will become due, as provided by the statute, in the event of maintaining the channel now secured.

ARMY OPERATIONS.

The report of the General of the Army and of his subordinates, present a full and detailed account of the military operations for the suppression of hostilities among the Indians of the Ute and Apache tribes, and praise is justly awarded to the officers and troops engaged, for promptness, skill and courage displayed.

The past year has been one of almost unbroken peace and quiet on the Mexican frontier, and there is reason to believe that the efforts of this government and of Mexico, to maintain order in that region, will prove permanently successful.

This department was enabled during the past year to find temporary though crowded accommodations, and a safe depository for a portion of its records, in the completed east wing of the building, designed for the state, war and navy departments. The construction of the north wing of the building, a part of the structure intended for the use of the war department, is being carried forward with all possible dispatch, and the work should receive from congress such liberal appropriations as will secure its speedy completion.

THE NAVY DEPARTMENT.

The report of the Secretary of the Navy shows continued improvement in that branch of the service during the last fiscal year. Extensive repairs have been made upon vessels, and two new ships have been completed and made ready for sea.

The total expenditures of the year ended June 30, 1879, including specific appropriations not estimated for by the department, were $13,555,710.09. The expenses chargeable to the year, after deducting the amount of these specific appropriations, were $13,343,317.79; but this is subject to a reduction of $283,725,99, that amount having been drawn upon warrants, but not paid out during the year. The amount of appropriations applicable to the last fiscal year was $14,538,646.17. There was, therefore, a balance of $1,479,094.27 remaining unexpended, and to the credit of the department, on June, 30, 1879. The estimates for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1880, are $14,861,147.93, which exceeds the appropriations for the present fiscal year $361,897.28. The reason for this increase is explained in the secretary's report. The appropriations available for the present fiscal year are $14,502,250.67, which will, in the opinion of the secretary, answer all the ordinary demands of the service. The amount drawn from the treasury from July 1 to November 1, 1879, was $5,770,404.12, of which $1,095,440.33 has been refunded, leaving the expenditure for that period $4,674,963.79. If the expenditures of the remaining two-thirds of the year do not exceed the proportion for these four months, there will remain unexpended, at the end of the year, $477,358.30 of the current appropriations. The report of the secretary shows the gratifying fact that among all the disbursing officers of the pay corps of the navy, there is not one who is a defaulter to the extent of a single dollar. I unite with him in recommending the removal of the observatory to a more healthful location. That institution reflects credit upon the nation, and has obtained the approbation of scientific men in all parts of the world. Its removal from its present location would not only be conducive to the health of its officers and professors, but would greatly increase its usefulness.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

The appropriation for judicial expenses, which has heretofore been made for the department of justice, in gross, was subdivided at the last session of congress, and no appropriation whatever was made for the payment of the fees of marshals and their deputies, either in the service of process or for the discharge of other duties; and, since June 30, these officers have continued the performance of their duties without compensation from the government, taking upon themselves necessary incidental outlays, as well as rendering their own services. In only a few unavoidable instances, has the proper execution of the process of the United States failed by reason of the absence of the requisite appropriation. This course of official conduct on the part of these officers, highly creditable to their fidelity, was advised by the attorney-general, who informed them, however, that they would necessarily have to rely for their compensation upon the prospect of future legislation by congress. I therefore recommend that immediate appropriation be made by congress for this purpose.

The act making the principal appropriation for the department of justice at previous sessions has uniformly contained the following clause: "And for defraying the expenses which may be incurred in the enforcement of the act approved February 28, 1870, entitled 'An act to amend an act approved May 30, 1870, entitled 'An act to enforce the right of citizens of the United States to vote in the several states in the United States, and for other purposes,' or any acts amendatory thereof or supplementary thereto."

No appropriation was made for this purpose for the current year. As no general election for members of congress occurred, the omission was a matter of little practical importance. Such election will, however, take place during the ensuing year, and the appropriation made for the pay of marshals and deputies should be sufficient to embrace compensation for the services they may be required to perform at such elections.

The business of the supreme court is, at present, largely in arrears. It cannot be expected that more causes can be decided than are now disposed of in its annual session, or that by any assiduity the distinguished magistrates who compose the court can accomplish more than is now done. In the courts of many of the circuits, also, the business has increased to such an extent, that the delay of justice will call the attention of congress to an appropriate remedy. It is believed that all is done in each circuit which can fairly be expected from its judicial force. The evils arising from delay are less heavily felt by the United States than by private suitors, as its causes are advanced by the court when it is seen that they involve the discussion of questions of a public character.

The remedy suggested by the attorney general, is the appointment of additional circuit judges, and the creation of an intermediate court of errors and appeals, which shall relieve the supreme court of a part of its jurisdiction, while a larger force is also obtained for the performance of circuit duties.

I commend this suggestion to the consideration of congress. It would seem to afford a complete remedy, and would involve, if ten additional circuit judges are appointed, an expenditure, at the present rate of salaries, of not more than sixty thousand dollars a year, which would certainly be small in comparason with the objects to be attained.

THE POSTAL DEPARTMENT.

The report of the postmaster general bears testimony to the general revival of business throughout the country. The receipts of the post office department for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1879, were $30,041,832 86, being $765,465 91 more than the revenues of the preceding year. The amount realized from the sale of postage stamps, stamped envelopes, and postal cards, was $761,465 91 more than in the preceding year, and $2,387,559 23 more than in 1877. The expenditures of the department were $33,449,899 45, of which the sum of $376,461 63 was paid on liabilities incurred in preceding years.

The expenditures during the year were $801,209 77 less than in the preceding year. This reduction is to be attributed mainly to the operation of the law passed June 17, 1878, changing the compensation of postmasters from a commission on the value of stamps sold, to a commisson on stamps cancelled.

The amount drawn from the treasury on appropriations in addition to the revenues of the department was $5,031,455 96, being $2,276,197 86 less than in the preceding year.

The expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1881, are estimated at $39,920,900, and the receipts from all sources at $32,210 000, leaving a deficiency to be appropriated for, out of the treasury, of $7,710,900.

The relations of the department with railroad companies have been harmonized, notwithstanding the general reduction by congress of their compensation, by the appropriation for special facilities, and the railway post-office lines have been greatly extended, especially in the southern states. The interests of the railway mail service and of the public would be greatly promoted, and the expenditures could be more readily controlled by the classification of the employes of the railway mail service as recommended by the postmaster-general, the appropriation for salaries, with respect to which the maximum limit is already fixed by law, to be made in gross.

The postmaster general recommends an amendment of the law regulating the increase of compensation for increased service and increased speed on star routes, so as to enable him to advertise for proposals for such increased service and speed. He also suggests the advantages to accrue to the commerce of the country from the enactment of a general law authorizing contracts with American-built steamers, carrying the American flag, for transporting the mail between ports of the United States and ports of the West Indies and South America, at a fixed maximum price per mile, the amount to be expended being regulated by annual appropriations, in like manner with the amount paid for the domestic star service.

The arrangement made by the postmaster general and the secretary of the treasury for the collection of duty upon books received in the mail from foreign countries, has proved so satisfactory in its practical operation that the recommendation is now made, that congress shall extend the provisions of the act of March 3, 1879, under which this arrangement was made, so as to apply to all other dutiable articles received in mails from foreign countries.

THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT.

The reports of the secretary of the interior and of the commissioner of Indian affairs, setting forth the present state of our relations with the Indian tribes on our territory, the measures taken to advance their civilization and prosperity, and the progress already achieved by them, will be found of more than ordinary interest. The general conduct of our Indian population has been so satisfactory that the occurrence of two disturbances, which resulted in bloodshed and destuction of property is all the more to be lamented.

The history of the outbreak on the White River Ute reservaiton in Western Colorado has become se familiar by elaborate reports in the public press, that its remarkable incidents need not be stated here in detail. It is expected that the settlement of this difficulty will lead to such arrangements as will prevent further hostile contact between the Indians and the border settlements in Western Colorado.

The other disturbance occurred at the Mascalero agency, in New Mexico, where Victoria, the head of a small band of marauders, after committing many atrocities, being vigorously chased by a military force made his way across the Mexican border and is now on foreign soil.

While these occurrences, in which a comparatively small number of Indians were engaged, are most deplorable, a vast majority of our Indian population have fully justified the expectations of those who believe that by human and peaceful influence the Indian can be led to abandon the habits of savage life and to develop a capacity for useful and civilized occupations. What they have already accomplished in the pursuit of agricultural and mechanical work, the remarkable success which has attended the experiment of employing as freighters a class of Indians hitherto counted among the wildest and most intractable, and the general and urgent desire expressed by them for the education of their children, may be taken as sufficient proof that they will be found capable of accomplishing much more if they continue to be wisely and fairly guided. The "Indian policy," sketched in the report of the secretary of the interior, the object of which is to make liberal provision for the education of the Indian youth, is to settle the Indians upon farm-lots in severalty, to give them title in fee to their farms, inalienable for a certain number of years, and when their wants are thus provided for, to dispose by sale of the lands on their reservations not occupied and used by them, a fund to be formed out of the proceeds for the benefit of the Indians, which will gradually relieve the government of the expenses now provided for by annual appropriations, must commend itself as just and beneficial to the Indians, and as also calculated to remove those obstructions which the existence of large reservations presents to the settlement and development of the country. I therefore earnestly recommend the enactment of a law enabling the government to give Indians a title in fee, inalienable for twenty-five years, to the farm-lands assigned to them by allotment. I also repeat the recommendation made in my first annual message, that a law be passed admitting 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 relations, to the benefit of the homestead act, and to grant them patents containing the same provision of inalienability for a certain period.

The experiment of sending a number of Indian children, of both sexes, to the Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute, in Virginia, to receive an elementary English education and practical instruction in farming and other useful industries, has led to results so promising, that it was thought expedient to turn over the cavalry barracks at Carlisle, in Pennsylvania, to the interior department for the establishment of an Indian school on a larger scale. The school has now one hundred and fifty-eight pupils, selected from various tribes, and is in full operation. Arrangements are also made for the education of a number of Indian boys and girls belonging to tribes on the Pacific slope, in a similar manner, at Forest Grove, in Oregon. These institutions will commend themselves to the liberality of congress, and to the philanthropic munificence of the American people.

INDIAN TERRITORY RAID.

Last spring, information was received of the organization of an extensive movement in the western states, the object of which was the occupation by unauthorized persons of certain lands in the Indian Territory ceded by the Cherokees to the government for the purpose of settlement by other Indian tribes.

On the 29th of April, I issued a proclamation warning all persons against participation in such an attempt, and, by the co-operation of a military force, the invasion was promptly checked. It is my purpose to protect the rights of the Indian inhabitants of that territory to the full extent of the executive power. But it would be unwise to ignore the fact that a territory so large and so fertile, with a population so sparse and with so great a wealth of unused resources, will be found more exposed to the repetition of such attempts as happened this year, when the surrounding states are more densely settled, and the westward movement of our population looks still more eagerly for fresh lands to occupy. Under such circumstances the difficulty of maintaining the Indian territory in its present state will greatly increase, and the Indian tribes inhabiting it would do well to prepare for such a contingency. I, therefore, fully approve of the advice given to them by the secretary of the interior on a recent occasion, to divide among themselves in severalty as large a quantity of their lands, as they can cultivate, to acquire individual title in fee, instead of their present tribal ownership in common, and to consider in what manner the balance of their lands may be disposed of by the government for their benefit. By adopting such a policy they would more certainly secure for themselves the value of their possessions, and at the same time promote their progress in civilization and prosperity, than by endeavoring to perpetuate the present state of things in the territory.

The question whether a change in the control of the Indian service should be made, was in the forty-fifth congress referred to a joint committee of both houses for inquiry and report. In my last annual message I expressed the hope that the decision of that question, then in prospect, "would arrest further agitation of this subject, such agitation being apt to produce a disturbing effect upon the service as well as the Indians themselves." Since then, the committee having reported, the question has been decided in the negative by a vote in the house of representatives.

For the reasons here stated, and in view of the fact that further uncertainty on this point will be calculated to obstruct other much-needed legislation, to weaken the discipline of the service, and to unsettle salutary measures now in progress for the government and improvement of the Indians, I respectfully recommend that the decision arrived at by congress at its last session be permitted to stand.

TIMBER TRESPASSES.

The efforts made by the department of the interior to arrest the depredations on the timber lands of the United States have been continued, and have met with considerable success. A large number of cases of trespass have been prosecuted in the courts of the United States; others have been settled, the traspassers offering to make payment to the government for the value of the timber taken by them. The proceeds of these prosecutions and settlements turned into the treasury, far exceed in amount the sums appropriated by congress for this purpose. A more important result, however, consists in the fact that the destruction of our public forests by depredation, although such cases still occur, has been greatly reduced in extent, and it is probable that if the present policy is vigorously pursued and sufficient provision to that end is made by congress, such trespasses, at least those on a large scale, can be entirely suppressed, except in the territories where timber for the daily requirements of the population cannot, under the present state of the law, be otherwise obtained. I therefore earnestly invite the attention of congress to the recommendation made by the Secretary of the Interior, that a law be enacted enabling the government to sell timber from the public lands without conveying the fee, where such lands are principally valuable for the timber thereon, such sales to be so regulated as to conform to domestic wants and business requirements, while at the same time guarding against a sweeping destruction of the forests. The enactment of such a law appears to become a more pressing necessity every day.

AGRICULTURE.

My recommendations in former messages are renewed in favor of enlarging the facilities of the department of agriculture. Agriculture is the leading interest and the permanent industry of our people. It is to the abundance of agricultural production, as compared with our home consumption, and the largely increased and highly profitable market abroad which we have enjoyed in recent years, that we are mainly indepted for our present prosperity as a people. We must look for its continued maintenance to the same substantial resource. There is no branch of industry in which labor, directed by scientific knowledge, yields such increased production in comparison with unskilled labor, and no branch of the public service to which the encouragement of liberal appropriations can be more appropriately extended. The omission to render such aid is not a wise economy; but, on the contrary, undoubtedly results in losses of immense sums annually that might be saved through well-directed efforts of the government to promote this vital interest.

The results already accomplished with the very limited means heretofore placed at the command of the department of agriculture is an earnest of what may be expected with increased appropriations for the several purposes indicated in the report of the commissioner, with a view to placing the department upon a footing which will enable it to prosecute more effectively the objects for which it is established.

Appropriations are needed for a more complete labratory for the establishment of a veterinary division, and a division of forestry, and for an increase of force.

The requirements for these and other purposes, indicated in the report of the commissioner under the head of the immediate necessities of the department, will not involve any expenditure of money that the country cannot with propriety now undertake in the interests of agriculture.

EDUCATION.

It is gratifying to learn from the bureau of education the extent to which educational privileges throughout the United States have been advanced during the year. No more fundamental responsibility rests upon congress than that of devising appropriate measures of financial aid to education, suplemental to local action in the states and territories, and in the District of Columbia. The wise forethought of the founders of our government has not only furnished the basis for the support of the common school systems of the newer states, but laid the foundations for the maintenance of their universitias and colleges of agriculture and mechanic arts. Measures in accordance with this traditional policy for the further benefit of all these interests, and the extension of the same advantages to every portion of the country, it is hoped, will receive your favorable consideration.

PUBLIC LIBRARY.

To preserve and perpetuate the national literature should be among the foremost cares of the national legislature. The library gathered at the captiol still remains unprovided with any suitable accommodations for its rapidly increasing stores. The magnitude and importance of the collection, increased as it is by the deposits made under the law of copyright, by domestic and foreign exchanges, and by the scientific library of the Smithsonian Institution, call for building accommodations which shall be at once adequate and fire-proof. The location of such a public building, which should provide for the pressing necessities of the present, and for the vast increase of the nation's books in the future, is a matter which addresses itself to the discretion of congress. It is earnestly recommended as a measure which should unite all suffrages, and which should no longer be delayed.

WASHINGTON MONUMENT.

The joint commission created by the act of congress of August 2, 1876, for the purpose of supervising and directing the completion of the Washington national monument, of which commission the president is a member, has given careful attention to this subject, and already the strengthening of the foundation has so far progressed as to ensure the entire success of this part of the work. A massive layer of masonry has been introduced below the original foundation, widening the base, increasing the stability of the structure, and rendering it possible to carry the shaft to completion. It is earnestly recommended that such further appropriations be made for the continued prosecution of the work as may be necessary for the completion of this national monument at an early day.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

In former messages, impressed with the importance of the subject, I have taken occasion to commend to congress the adoption of a generous policy towards the District of Columbia. The report of the commissioners of the District, herewith transmitted, contains suggestions and recommendations, to all of which I earnestly invite your careful attention. I ask your early and favorable consideration of the views which they express as to the urgent need of legislation for the reclamation of the marshes of the Potomac and its eastern branch, within the limits of the city, and for the repair of the streets of the capital, heretofore laid with wooden blocks, and now by decay rendered almost impassable, and a source of imminent danger to the health of its citizens. The means at the dispesal of the commissioners are wholly inadequate for the accomplishment of these important works, and should be supplemented by timely appropriations from the federal treasury.

The filling of the flats in front of the city will add to the adjacent lands and parks now owned by the United States, a large and valuable domain, sufficient, it is thought, to reimburse its entire cost, and will also, as an incidental result, secure the permanent improvement of the river for the purpose of navigation.

The constitution having invested congress with supreme and exclusive jurisdiction over the District of Columbia, its citizens must of necessity look to congress alone for all needful legislation affecting their interest; and as the territory of this district is the common property of the people of the United States, who equally with its resident citizens, are interested in the prosperity of their capital, I cannot doubt that you will be amply sustained by the general voice of the country in any measures you may adopt for this purpose.

I also invite the favorable consideration of congress to the wants of the public schools of this district, as exhibited in the report of the commissioners. While the number of pupils is rapidly increasing, no adequate provision exists for a corresponding increase of school accommodation, and the commissioners are without the means to meet this urgent need. A number of the buildings now used for school purposes are rented, and are, in important particulars, unsuited for the purpose. The cause of popular education in the District of Columbia is surely entitled to the same consideration at the hands of the national government as in the several states and territories, to which munificent grants of the public lands have been made for the endowment of schools and universities.

RUTHERFORD B. HAYES.

EXECUTIVE MANSION, December 1, 1879.

Elephants and Their Ways.

London Spectator.

Elephant-hunting naturally takes a prominent place in Col. Pollock's pages. He gives some good stories, which generally relate to the prowess and hair-breadth escapes of his friends and brother officers in following the noble game. He says that the Asiatic elephants should be divided into two classes—the Goondas, those that have large tusks, and the Mucknahs, or those that have none, or only rudimentary ones; the two kinds seldom herding together, and having peculiarities of formation which render them very distinct, although they do not seem to have been noticed by other writers. The Mucknah is usually taller and more bulky than the tusker, and has a longer and very ponderous trunk. While some animals of this kind are absolutely without tusks, most of them have short, sharp ones, growing downwards like those of the walrus, with which they can inflict most formidable blows. Col. Pollock seems to have been greatly impressed with the sagacity of the elephant in its wild state, particularly that displayed in its choice of camping and feeding grounds, which are often surrounded on three sides by a tortuous river impassable to ordinary mortals, the fourth being protected by a tangled thicket or quagmire. "I have been an hour or more," he says, "trying to penetrate into one of their fastnesses, where twenty or thirty elephants were congregated within a space nowhere more than 400 yards square; but so well were all the approaches protected, that at last, when I did succeed in crossing over, at the risk of either being swept away by the force of the current, or drowned in its deep bed, or bogged in the quagmires, the noise we made was sufficient to awaken the Seven Sleepers, to say nothing of disturbing a herd of elephants, and I had the pleasure of seeing them make their exit one way as I entered on the opposite side; and once more the animals were on the move; such was the intricate nature of the country it was useless, indeed impossible, to follow them." The Burmese and Assamese, it seems, laugh at the European for firing only at the brain of an elephant, as they aim with considerable success at the point of the shoulder, which is one of its five vulnerable points. It is as amusing to find that there is much rascality practiced about the sale of a tame elephant as about that of a horse, the vicious one being drugged and sold as docile, the sleepy one brightened up by the use of ginger or brandy, and the useless brute, that never carries flesh, fed up for the time with massalahs and sugar cane. The person accustomed to elephants is perfectly able to judge of their state of mind by the peculiar noises they utter; the sort of whistling from the trunk denotes satisfaction, trumpeting a sign of rage, the striking the trunk on the ground with a pitiful cry shows alarm, and a kind of grunt is used to express impatience or dissatisfaction. Col. Pollock gives a good deal of information as to the various ways of catching and training them, and he rather defends the mahouts from the many sins alleged against them, saying they are, as a rule, a plucky and not a bad class of men, easily managed if treated with kindness and firmness. The trip up the Irriwaddie to Pagau Myo, Ava, Umrapoorah, and Mandalay is one of the most interesting portions of Col. Pollock's book. On this occasion he saw the white elephant, although he was not clad in his state trappings, covered with magnificent precious stones, "any one of which is worth a fortune." The animal stood about ten and a half feet nigh, was handsomely made, and had tusks seven feet long, which, as they all but touch the ground, required to be slightly shortened each year.

An Amusing Discovery.

"An amusing discovery has just been made at the town halls of several French villages," says the London *Truth*, of "plaster busts of the Republic, which are nothing else than former busts of the Empress Eugenie, slightly altered by the addition of a bundle of corn ears in the hair, and a Phrygian cap or some other Republican attribute. It seems that an enterprising firm of plaster-casts merchants, having purchased at a discount shortly after the 4th of September, 1870, all the effigies of the ex-Empress which were on the market, have, by making these judicious alterations, succeeded in disposing of their wares with considerable profit.

SWEDEN has passed a law giving to married women entire control of their property and their earnings.

BREACH OF PROMISE IN CHINA.

How They Manage Such Things in the Celestial Empire.

Shanghai Shen Pao.

In a country village near Nangkin lived two men named Chen and Yu. Yu had a daughter, who was formally betrothed to Chen's son, and, probably on account of her parent's poverty, was sent to her future father-in-law's house, to be brought up there. After a time Yu, who is a weaver, went to live in Kanking, and his daughter came to pay a visit to her mother. The girl, who was now grown up, was very discontented with her loi, complaining of having to work in the fields, and of her father-in-law's roughness and coarseness; and her parents began to repent of the engagement, and determined to try and break it off. Next door to them was a scholar named Chin, who was waiting for the next examinations, and occupying himself meanwhile as a schoolmaster. Constantly seeing the girl, he took a fancy to her, and formed an intrigue with her.

The future father-in-law, Chen, finding the girl was not sent back to his house, and hearing a rumor, of Chin's attentions, began to suspect that Yu was trying to break off the match, and sent a match-maker to hurry on the marriage. Yu replied that he had never accepted any betrothal presents, and that no one could make him take them, and that he would not give his consent to the marriage. Chen then went himself with the match-maker, but with no further result than a great deal of mutual abuse. Chen next filed a petition in the magistrate's court, and Yu presented a counter petition written for him by Chin. The case came on for hearing, and the magistrate soon elicited the truth. After rating Yu soundly, he turned to Chen and said: "You can take the girl or not, as you like, but I strongly advise you not to." Chen persisted in having her, and the magistrate ordered the two parties to draw up a formal contract. Chin, who was present in court, motioned to Yu not to sign the contract. He was detected, however, by the magistrate in so doing, and was called up and questioned, and then cautioned that a man in his position should not mix himself up in a case of this sort. The magistrate then looked up the almanac and chose a lucky day in June for the wedding day, whereupon Chin stepped forward and in Yu's behalf begged that the marriage might be held for the autumn. This interference thoroughly exasperated the magistrate, who thumped the table and ordered Chin to be kept in confinement till after the marriage was completed. In a few days' time the match-maker presented herself at Yu's house with the customary presents. When she was well inside, the door was closed, and father and daughter fell upon her and beat her horribly.

The woman, after this foretaste, not knowing what would happen on the real wedding day, appealed to the magistrate, who again called up the parties. Yu could only allege in excuse that the son-in-law had not come in person to his house. Chen said that the custom was given up in the country, and besides, his son had not the money to buy a proper dress for the occasion. The magistrate replied that the bridegroom should certainly go to the house, and, as he was poor, the magistrate would give him the money for the dress. Moreover, when the day came, the magistrate said he would send two policemen with the bridegroom, and if there was any trouble the girl should be carried to the magistrate's Yamen and married there. When the day came, the policeman escorted the party to the bride's house and then came back to the bride-groom's, and waited till the marriage ceremony had actually been performed, when they retired.

DALLAS, in Texas, has a cosmopolitan population. The patient on the first bed as you enter the city hospital is a negro, the next a Swede, the third bed is occupied by an Englishman, followed by one in which a son of the Emerald Isle swears away the hours as he discusses what he claims is the tyrannical rule of the English government. The fifth bed is occupied by an American, who seconds the Irishman's arguments, declaring that a republican form of government is the best under the sun. A Hebrew occupies the sixth bed, and listens to the others quarrel. Next is a Polander, and last a Russian. A few days ago a Mexican was discharged from this institution.

Feeble Ladies.

Those languid, tiresome sensations, causing you to feel scarcely able to be on your feet; that constant drain that is taking from your system all its elasticity; driving the bloom from your cheeks; that continual strain upon your vital forces, rendering you irritable and fretful, can easily be removed by the use of that marvelous remedy, Hop Bitters. Irregularities and obstructions of your system are relieved at once, while the special cause of periodical pain is permanently removed. Will you heed this?—*Cincinnati Saturday Night.*

THE consolidation of the Edison Telephone company with the Bell Telephone company caused the stock of the latter to rise from $130 to $1,000 a share—a phenomenal advance, which made a few of the shareholders very wealthy, particularly Assistant Postmaster General Brady and Mr. Vail, formerly the well-known superintendent of the railway mail service. They are understood to hold a controlling interest in the company's business for the states of New York and New Jersey, which is regarded as the most valuable part of the company's business.

Make a Note of This.

Prof. Green, a distinguished allopathic physician, wrote to the Medical Journal to the effect that after all other means had failed, he sent for the Kidney Cure, (now Safe Kidney and Liver Cure), and to his astonishment cured a serious case of Bright's Disease by administering it, and afterwards found it equally beneficial in other cases. He advised his brother physicians to use it in preference to anything else for kidney diseases.