

**SECRETARY SHERMAN'S REPORT.**

The following are the principal features of the annual report of Secretary Sherman, submitted to congress, through the president, on the 1st inst.:

The ordinary revenues from all sources for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1879, were:

- From customs \$137,250,042 70
- From internal revenues 113,561,610 58
- From sales of public lands 684,781 06
- From tax on circulation and deposits of national banks 6,747,500 32
- From repayment of interest by Pacific railway companies 2,707,201 03
- From customs fees, fines, penalties, etc. 1,100,871 66
- From fees, consular letters, patents and bonds 2,136,751 79
- From proceeds of sales of government property 181,128 81
- From premium on sales of coin 8,104 38
- From premium on loans 1,406,943 25
- From profits on coinage, etc. 2,924,933 67
- From revenues of the District of Columbia 1,141,461 16
- From miscellaneous sources 3,046,544 05

Total ordinary receipts \$273,827,184 46

Ordinary expenditures:

- For civil expenses \$16,439,997 17
- For foreign intercourse 1,333,836 13
- For Indians 5,306,193 08
- For pensions (including \$5,373,000 arrears of pensions) 35,121,482 39
- For the military establishment, including river and harbor improvements and arsenals 40,425,660 73
- For the naval establishment, including vessels, machinery, and improvements at navy yards 15,125,136 84
- For miscellaneous expenditures, including public buildings, light-houses, and collecting the revenue 38,570,305 78
- For expenditures on account of the District of Columbia 3,597,576 41
- For interest on the public debt 105,327,949 00
- For payment of Halifax award 5,500,000 00

Total ordinary expenses \$266,947,883 53

Leaving a surplus revenue of \$6,879,300 93, which was applied as follows:

- To the redemption of United States notes, etc. \$1,613,171 00
- To the redemption of fractional currency 705,162 99
- To the redemption of 6 per cent. bonds 18,500 00
- For increase of cash balance in the treasury 6,124,021 77

Total \$6,879,300 93

The amount due the sinking fund for the year was \$36,953,694.83, leaving a deficiency on this account of \$36,076,305.70. Compared with the previous fiscal year, the receipts for 1879 have increased \$6,711,159.70, in the following items:

- In customs revenue \$7,739,367 50
- In internal revenue 2,973,983 24
- In premium on loans 1,406,943 25
- In repayment of interest by Pacific railway companies 1,340,246 07
- In profits on coinage 1,254,76 34
- In miscellaneous sources 5,580,440 10

There was a decrease of \$647,853.94, as follows:

- In sales of public lands \$151,962 31
- In premium on sales of coin 308,997 92
- In semi-annual tax on banks 115,522 64
- In proceeds of sales of government property 68,341 07
- Making a net increase on the receipts from all sources for the year of \$16,463,305.76.

The expenditures show an increase over the previous year of \$32,223,731.35, as follows:

- In the war department \$8,271,512 28
- In the interior department 8,561,292 11
- In Indians 576,828 89
- In pensions and arrears of pensions 2,827,074 35
- In interest on the public debt 12,563,851 92
- In the civil and miscellaneous 12,563,851 92

There was a decrease of \$2,240,174.53 in the navy department, and a net increase in the expenditures of \$29,983,556.73.

**FISCAL YEAR 1880.**

For the present fiscal year the revenue, actual and estimated, will be as follows:

Receipts.	
For the quarter ending Sept. 30, '79, actual.	For the remainder of the year, estimated.
For customs \$44,083,497 82	\$107,016,523 07
From internal revenue 23,448,691 81	86,500,383 19
From sales of public lands 117,353 61	82,610 29
From tax on circulation and deposits of national banks 3,369,569 69	3,229,433 40
From repayment of interest by Pacific railway companies 252,427 46	1,247,572 54
From customs fees, fines, penalties, etc. 239,579 26	899,423 74
From fees, consular letters, patents, and lands 506,864 29	1,603,135 71
From proceeds of sales of government property 55,281 18	144,118 32
From profits on coinage, etc. 489,486 09	2,030,513 91
From revenues of the District of Columbia 228,864 06	1,451,135 91
From miscellaneous sources 1,109,381 17	1,944,063 83
Total \$79,843 579 40	\$308,156,420 54

The expenditures for the same period, actual and estimated, will be:

Expenditures.	
For the quarter ending Sept. 30, '79, actual.	For the remainder of the year, estimated.
For civil and miscellaneous expenses, including public buildings, light-houses and collecting revenue \$12,165,764 34	\$39,356,369 66
For Indians 2,048,748 02	3,451,231 98
For pensions, regular 10,822,749 06	20,480,237 94
For arrears of pensions 16,374,249 60	3,202,750 40
For military establishments, including river and harbor improvements and arsenals 12,104,897 38	31,017,672 62
For naval establishments, including vessels and machinery, and improvements at navy yards 4,196,599 58	11,303,430 41
For expenditures on account of the District of Columbia 1,163,728 65	2,414,237 35
For interest on the public debt 32,736,685 40	61,140,724 54
Total ordinary expenditures \$91,683,385 10	\$172,316,616 90

Total receipts, actual and estimated, \$388,000,000  
Total expenditures, actual and estimated, 264,000,000

Leaving a remainder of \$124,000,000

After applying the balance of the special deposit of United States notes held in the treasury for the redemption of fractional currency, amounting to \$8,375,164, to the payment of arrears of pensions, as directed in section 3 of the act approved June 21, 1878, the increased revenue derived during the months of July, August, and September of the present year was fully absorbed by current expenses and the payment of \$16,374,349 60 arrears of pensions accruing under act approved Jan. 25, 1873. Notwithstanding these unusual demands, the department has been able to purchase and apply to the sinking fund out of the surplus revenues for the month of October \$1,050,000 5 per cent bonds of 1881, and \$676,000 5 per cent bonds, act of March 3, 1864, the latter of which is the excess of redemption of these bonds over issues of 4 per cent under the refunding acts, and, under existing appropriations available for expenditure within this year, be made by congress, the surplus revenues, in addition to paying off the balance of arrears of pensions, will probably enable the department to apply to the sinking fund account during the year the sum of \$24,000,000.

**FISCAL YEAR 1881.**

The revenues of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1881, estimated upon existing laws, will be:

- From customs \$152,000,000
- From internal revenues 116,000,000
- From sales of public lands 1,000,000
- From tax on circulation and deposits of national banks 6,750,000
- From repayment of interest by Pacific railway companies 2,750,000
- From customs fees, fines, penalties, etc. 1,100,000
- From fees, consular letters patent, and lands 2,200,000
- From proceeds of sales of government property 200,000
- From profits on coinage, etc. 2,500,000
- From miscellaneous sources 4,750,000

Total ordinary receipts \$388,000,000

The estimate of expenditures for the same period, received from the several executive departments, are as follows:

- Legislative \$2,544,920 88
- Executive 13,500,093 91
- Judicial 309,340 00
- Foreign intercourse 1,185,185 00
- Military establishment 29,319,794 78
- Naval establishment 14,509,147 55
- Indian affairs 4,391,818 38
- Pensions 32,404,000 00
- Public works, treasury department 3,121,159 00
- War department 7,527,094 42
- Navy department 376,000 00
- Interior department 8,050,000 00
- Department of agriculture 1,000,000 00
- Postal service 7,711,900 00
- Miscellaneous 17,901,530 75
- Permanent annual appropriations 88,877,416 00
- Interest on the public debt 39,828,225 72
- Sinking fund 5,778,600 00
- Refunding customs, internal revenue, lands, etc. 5,500,000 00
- Collecting revenue from customs 1,766,000 00
- Miscellaneous 1,766,000 00

Total estimate expenditures, including sinking fund \$378,097,364 39

—or an estimate surplus of \$109,902,635.61. Excluding the sinking fund, the estimated surplus will be \$233,369,138.67, showing a surplus of \$44,739,861.33.

The estimates for the revenues for the next fiscal year are based upon the assumption that the increased receipts during the past few months are abnormal, and mainly due to the filling up of wants created by recent depression rather than by the actual increase of trade. These wants being supplied, the revenue for next year probably will not be increased beyond the amount estimated. The estimated expenditures for the same period are based upon the requirements of existing law and the necessary appropriations for public works in course of construction. The estimated surplus of \$109,902,635.61 will probably be exhausted by additional appropriations. Should congress increase the appropriations beyond this limit, or repeal or reduce existing laws, other sources of revenue must be provided. Should this source be determined upon, however, the secretary does not recommend, he would suggest, as a means of meeting the deficiency, the restoration of a moderate duty on tea and the imposition of an internal tax on manufacturers of opium, as hereinafter more fully stated.

**COINS AND COINAGE.**

The operations of the mint and assay office during the year, and their condition at the present time are exhibited in the report of the director of the mint. The report also contains recommendations for increasing the effectiveness of that branch of the service, and furnishes information relative to the amount of specie in the country, and the production of the mints of the United States, and statistics, brought up to recent dates of the currency of the principal countries of the world of the rates of production of the precious metals, and of their consumption in coinage, and in the arts and manufactures.

The value of the gold coinage during the year was \$49,829,247 of standard silver dollars, \$27,272,500 of subsidiary silver coins, \$88,500 of minor coin, \$97,798 of standard gold coins, and \$2,592,500 of gold bullion.

The director estimates the coin in the country on Oct. 31, 1879, at \$305,750,497 of gold and \$121,432,550 of silver. The value of the gold coin in New York assay office at that time awaiting coinage amounted to \$49,831,035 of gold and \$4,543,182 of silver, making the total amount of coin and bullion \$54,374,217. The value of the specie in the country at any given time, is always difficult; but this estimate appears to have been carefully prepared from coinage reports and statistics of receipts, exports and imports of the director.

The amount of gold and silver annually used in the arts and manufactures form no inconsiderable factor in estimating the production of the mints, or the specie available for circulation, and an attempt has been made to arrive at the amounts so used from records of the New York assay office, which furnishes the principal part of the metals consumed for these purposes, and from the report of the mints. The general result while incomplete in details, indicates that the total consumption for purposes other than coinage is in excess of estimates heretofore made. In the last annual report the secretary stated:

It would seem to be the best policy for the present to limit the aggregate issue of our silver dollars, based on the ratio of six to one, to such sums as can clearly be maintained at par with gold until the price of silver in the market shall assume a definite ratio to gold, when that ratio should be adopted for the issue of coin to conform to it; and the secretary respectfully recommends that he be authorized to discontinue the coinage of the silver dollar when the amount outstanding shall exceed \$300,000,000.

He respectfully calls the attention of congress to the importance of further limiting the coinage of the silver dollar. The market value of the bullion in this coin has been, during the past year 10 to 16 per cent less than the market value of the bullion in the gold dollar.

Gold and silver were separated in the refiners of the mints and the assay office at New York in the amount of \$27,272,500 of silver. The general result while incomplete in details, indicates that the total consumption for purposes other than coinage is in excess of estimates heretofore made. In the last annual report the secretary stated:

The amount of silver coin of less than a dollar provided for by law having been executed, the coinage of this money is suspended. The demand for minor coins particularly for the one-cent pieces—has been pressing. The bullion production from the mints of the United States for the last year is estimated at \$1,000,000,000 to be nearly \$20,000,000, the production of gold silver being equal. The years total production is less than that of the preceding year, caused by a diminution in the yield of the mines. Nevada's silver is not compensated by increased production in other places.

The total amount of silver dollars coined to Nov. 1, 1879, under the act of Feb. 22, 1875, was \$45,206,200, of which \$13,002,362 was in circulation and the remainder, \$32,203,838, in the treasury at that time. No effort has been spared to put this coin in circulation. Owing to its limited coinage it has been kept at par, but its free coinage would soon reduce its current value to its bullion value and thus establish a single silver standard. The inevitable result would be to exclude gold coin from circulation. It is impossible to ascertain what amount of silver coin, based upon the ratio of sixteen of silver to one of gold, can be maintained at par with gold; but it is manifest that this can only be done by the government holding in its vaults the great body of the silver coin. It would seem that nothing would be gained by an unlimited coinage unless it were possible to measure all values by the silver standard. The secretary cannot too strongly urge the importance of adjusting the coinage rates of the two metals by treaties with commercial nations, and, until this can be done, of limiting the coinage of silver dollar to such a sum; for, in the opinion of congress this would enable the department to readily maintain the standard dollars of gold and silver at par with each other.

**THE NATIONAL BANKS.**

The report of the comptroller of the currency gives complete statistics relative to the operations of the national banking system, from its organization until the present time; the number of banks in operation on Oct. 2, of the present year, the date of their last reports, was 2,032, and the aggregate capital, \$454,007,200, including \$164,789,688; individual deposits, \$710,772,928; circulating United States coin and certificates, \$42,174,731.38; legal tender notes, including United States certificates, \$93,973,446; loans, \$750,310,707. The total circulation of the national banks was \$7,151,418. Among the subjects discussed in the report are the relations which have existed between the national banks and the government in the resumption of

specie payments and in the funding of the public debt. In both of these important financial operations the co-operation of the national banks has been of essential service to the government. The amount of specie payments made by the banks on hand as reserves nearly one-third of the entire amount of legal-tender notes outstanding, which, together with the coin, is much in excess of the amount of the aggregate circulation. They have constantly held as security for their circulating notes and for government deposits and other purposes more than one-fifth of the interest-bearing debt of the government in the treasury for the redemption of their circulating notes, and such redemption has been made, without failure or delay, at their expense. In this mode exchanges have been made between all parts of the country at the lowest possible rates. The effect of the business depression prevalent from 1873 until the resumption of specie payments upon the national banks is shown in the losses which they have sustained and the dividends which many have been compelled to pass; also by the noticeable diminution from year to year. The aggregate capital and deposits of banks other than national is also given, and such other information in reference to those banks as could be obtained from the officers who have charge of the execution of the banking laws of the different States. The large taxes paid by national banks to the national state, and municipal authorities have been a great deal in relieving other property from the burden of the tax of the United States. They have more than interest 4 per cent. on their entire circulation. Thus the large amount of non-taxable United States bonds held by them became taxable, and the taxes are in effect paid for the franchise they enjoy of issuing circulating notes. The cost of liquidating the affairs of national banks which have been placed in the hands of receivers since the establishment of the system is, for the first time, given in the report, and will serve to correct the impression which has been commonly entertained, that too great a portion of the assets of such banks has been expended in the settlement of their affairs. Tables are also given, showing the loss to depositors, and also whether creditors, and through the insolvency of national banks, and these losses are compared with similar losses incurred by the creditors of insolvent banks other than national, and the comparison is exceedingly favorable to the national system. The circulation of the banks, which, since the passage of the act of Jan. 14, 1875, has largely decreased, is now increasing in its aggregate amount showing that the system responds promptly to the varying requirements of business. The advantages of this system over any system of banks hitherto devised are that their circulating notes are secured by the endorsement of the government, and are credit in the country wherever issued; they are more perfectly protected from counterfeiting; equal exchanges between distant parts of the country are promptly redeemed on demand at one common place; the banks are subjected to a strict and vigilant surveillance by independent officers of the government; their condition is frequently made known to the public, and they contribute a very large percentage of their profits to the treasury; and, in making the banks, after an existence of sixteen years, through periods of great inflation and great depression, has produced such results, may fairly appeal for the confidence and support of congress.

The total importation of rice during the last fiscal year amounted to 75,824,525 pounds. Of this quantity 59,428,879 pounds were imported into San Francisco, and about 5,507,000 came from China, a large part of which was undoubtedly consumed by the Chinese on the Pacific coast, who are the principal consumers of rice in the United States. The article will bear a higher rate of duty than now imposed by law, without materially enhancing the cost of living to the general public.

**INTERNAL REVENUE.**

The receipts from the several sources of taxation under the internal revenue laws for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1879, were as follows:

- From spirits \$12,572,634 69
- From tobacco 10,186,022 65
- From fermented liquors 10,186,022 65
- From banks and other sources 12,026,663 18
- From penalties, etc. 27,697 86
- From adhesive stamps 6,702,384 06
- From arrears of taxes under repealed laws 226,995 00
- Total \$113,818,466 37

**EXPORTS AND IMPORTS.**

The exports and imports of the United States during the last fiscal year are as follows:

- Exports on domestic merchandise \$68,340,700
- Exports on foreign merchandise 12,026,663 18
- Total \$80,367,363 18
- Imports of merchandise 445,777,775

Excess of exports over imports \$364,416,460

Compared with the previous years the imports are greater by \$3,726,243, and the exports by \$15,573,675. The annual average of the excess of such imports over exports for the ten years ending June 30, 1875, is \$104,593,232, but during the last four years there has been an excess of exports over imports, as follows:

- In 1876 \$79,644,481
- In 1877 151,122,004
- In 1878 257,811,234
- In 1879 364,416,460

The total gold and silver exports of domestic merchandise from the United States has increased from \$275,166,697 in 1869 to \$698,340,700 in 1879, an increase of 154 per cent. With one or two unimportant exceptions, the United States stands alone among the commercial nations in having an excess of exports over imports of merchandise.

**Fishing on Sunday.**

Indianapolis News.

It was a delightful Sunday afternoon, Sabbath-school was out, and the superintendant took a stroll up the canal. The grasshoppers were turning somersets in the high grass, their last performance for the season, and the emerald-vested katydid warbled from their velvety coverts under the mullein leaves. When he got to the aqueduct over Fall Creek, where the water, escaping through the time-riven timbers, joins the flood below, most musical in their meeting, he found a wicked acquaintance, with a line dangling in the water. He was about to frame a reproof for the Sabbath-breaker when, goodness gracious, what a bite! Another, and a bass, a perfect beauty, was flouncing over the green grass. "What sort of bait are you using, Jim?" (The reproof was postponed.) "Hoppers" was the reply, as the line, rebaited, slid into the stream. He fumbled nervously in his vest pocket, and found he had hook and line, but—Jim had another bite, and another three-quarter-pound bass was thrown upon the bank. "Where do you get your bait?" he asked. "Oh, these boys'll ketch 'em for you." "You don't say so!" The line came out of his pocket, the hook was baited, and a three-quarter-pounder was gasping on the shore. Another, and then another! Never was such luck. The superintendant was excited. "Hurry up with the grasshoppers." "Please, Mr. C., here's a hopper," piped a small boy. The superintendant looked down. The eyes of the angler and his helper met. It was a crowning mercy he didn't tumble into the water. The grasshopper purveyor was the boss boy of his Sunday-school. There are sermons in running brooks that Sunday-school superintendent, and yet he can't be got within a mile of a stream, and can't even look at an ice-wagon without a shudder.

A very old lady on her death-bed in a penitential mood said: "I have been a great sinner more than eighty years, and didn't know it." An old darkey woman who had lived with her a long time exclaimed: "Lors! I knowed it all the time."

**SHALL THE RAILROADS BE KING**

The Recent Great Startling Combination and the Public Interest.

New York Herald.

Transactions in railroad shares are always topics of public interest, and if the interest may be supposed to be in any degree proportionate to the extent of the transaction, the attention given in financial circles to the great sale of New York Central shares just made by Mr. Vanderbilt cannot be regarded as in any degree exaggerated. In fact, this event has not only compelled the minute attention of the great financial world in two hemispheres, but it has excited the wonder and piqued the curiosity of the public generally outside of financial circles; and if it has not especially stirred the imaginations of our "statesmen" and politicians with its glimpse at the possible public effects of operations properly within the field of private concerns, this is merely because politics is the only activity in which Americans engage without any fair comprehension of all the limits and relations of that pursuit. Wall street and Lombard street are two great pivots upon which the money world of our age turns, and the money world of this age is certainly more vital than any other part of it; for the heroic, the scientific, the literary, the political activities all wait upon the men who are filled with the characteristic spirit of the current civilization. And it cannot be a concern without the farthest reaching relations that compels for many days the exclusive attention of the two great money centers here and in London.

Precisely how the parties to this great operation have sketched in their minds' eyes the respective consequences of such a sale and purchase—what specific objects, secret or ostensible, either side may have had in view—they have not set forth to the public; and that is of the less consequence, because in great concerns, in concerns of the first magnitude, whether in the sphere of finance or in any other sphere, it is always true that the most important results are not those that were counted upon by the men who planned the event. It is commonly said on a small scale in the theater, that as nobody ever knows what character is to bear away the honors. Possibly it may be the hero who shall shine forth in the splendor of primacy as the play wright intended; but it is just as likely to be his lackey. And in this respect as in so many others the stage is only the world in a miniature. Grand transactions are planned for one purpose serve another. Some unobserved line or phrase in a law proves when you get into court to be its affective part. We have had statutes passed to force inflation, and they forced contraction. Certainly the framers of the national constitution never intended that the government of this country should be in the hands of political conventions, or they would at least have named such bodies. People may trouble themselves the less with Mr. Vanderbilt's schemes and those of his customers from the consideration that everybody is, fully as much as those persons are, in the confidence of the forces that will actually determine the consequences of this sale.

Doubtless, however, this event may be fairly regarded as one of the early moves in a grand combination with a view to one more of those peculiar conflicts sufficiently known to the public as railroad wars—great schemes of rivalry, which sacrifice the welfare of the people to the large projects and games of the money lords, in order to enforce rigorously upon one or another set of lines the pitiless principle of the survival of the fittest. From the standpoint of the great railroad projects, the Atlantic seaboard is regarded as a mere dumping place for the produce of the west on one hand, and for the produce of Europe on the other, and the great endeavor of combined corporations is to secure the largest dump at their favored spot. Shall this be Baltimore, shall it be Philadelphia, shall it be New York city? That is the ultimate inquiry of all their schemes. With the combination of which the Central becomes a part by this transaction, it is very likely that this city will stand a chance to hold its own against cities that have had some advantages over us in previous conflicts of this nature, and with that result, as it bears favorably upon our prosperity, we have no reason to find fault, unless it be secured at too great cost to the country generally.

And that is to be contemplated always as one of the possible consequences in these cases. No local advantage is worth the cost that is to be secured through a fact which affects detrimentally the country at large and that proves injurious to such a great machinery of prosperity as the railroad system. And every railroad war is a detriment to the country. The cheap freights and cheap fares that are the temporary symptoms are like the exaggerated activities, physical or mental, of a man in delirium; they mean ultimate exhaustion, the ruin of shareholders, the forcing of roads into the hands of wreckers, the demoralization and corruption of Boards of Directors and of the management generally, the perversion of a great instrument of modern civilization from its legitimate public uses to be a mere trap for securing dishonest gain. Two or three days ago Mr. S. L. M. Barlow testified before the railroad investigators of a case in which certain individuals in a Board of Directors were paid \$65,000 each to resign their places, and that was in order that men more facile—perhaps men of a lower price—might be put there. If Boards of Directors in railroad corporations and other parts of the administrative machinery go down these particular "slippery ways of vice," if their places are sought and occupied not for legitimate commercial

and financial reasons, but only as bits of property to be sold out, then our commercial world must tend to the same sort of pitiful rottenness that is observed in our political world in many municipalities, notably in this city; and any fact which tends in that direction is a public calamity; and railroad wars or other events that lead to making the shares of a corporation the baubles of speculation do lead that way. Certainly we do not say that the sale of Central, whoever may be the real buyer, must be evil; but it is clear that a combination which has required such a guarantee as the sale actually made means that its purposes shall not be stayed or limited at a critical moment by the scruples of the man who inherited the Central as 'a great trust.'

There is one effect of this event upon which we may count as tolerably certain, and that is that it will force upon the minds of thoughtful men throughout the country, some distinct consideration of the fact that interests of such moment to the public welfare—interests that concern the convenience and fortune of every individual—ought not at any time or in any country to be at the mercy or subject to the dictation and the caprice of so small a number of men as now control the great mass of railroad interests in the United States. In other countries the public dominion makes itself felt in these concerns; the general will, as declared through the law marks a fixed limit to the vagaries of speculative trickery. Here the general will of the nation does not touch the subject, and the local will, as heard in the state legislatures, mostly declares itself like the directors above referred to in order that it may be bought out. Our people please themselves with the fancy that they are free because they have the right to meddle a little in politics now and then. In conventions, in legislatures and in all similar places, they chatter and twaddle and scream like so many crows and jays over the eternal principles of freedom as secured in the political fabric, and meanwhile the great economical facts in life—the facts which are and always were the really shaping and controlling forces in the political destinies of a people—sweep rapidly and certainly forward on lines that indicate the will and movement of the despotic spirit. In that movement a great collision with the popular will is in preparation.

**Spicy Paragraphs.**

She will never crown with her earnest love The life of some honest, loving man. For she kindled the fire in the kitchen stove With the lightsome tilt of the kerseene can. —Burlington Hawkeye.

The household that keeps a baby can afford to set its alarm clock very cheap.

When you see a callow youth with a wooden toothpick in his mouth it is not circumstantial evidence that he's selling lumber by sample. —New York News

A member of Congress chided his daughter because she permitted her lover to stay after 10 o'clock. "La, pa," she said we are only holding a little extra session."

If a hunter will only hunt long enough he will be sure to pull his gun over the fence by the muzzle, and the day he does that he quits hunting. —Detroit Free Press.

The editor of a Red Bank (N. J.) newspaper replies to an attack upon him in another Red Bank newspaper by saying that "when an idiot, pen, ink and paper get together the result should not be published."

A gentleman met a stranger on the street grasped his hand cordially and exclaimed, in tones of polite recognition "Mr. Brown I believe!" "If you believe that," calmly replied the stranger whose name was Hamilton, "you'll believe anything."

It is strange how sudden the opening of a parlor door will send two people to the ends of the sofa, and set them to counting the figures in the carpet. There must be something powerful in the draft of air to blow human beings around that way. —Providence Journal.

A shirt of strong chain mail is now worn by the Czar of Russia. We presume Alexander's object is to cut down the dimensions of his wash bill, but it looks rather small of a man in his line. Let your laundry list alone, Alec, and attend to the Nilisht. That's our advice. —Boston Transcript.

President Lincoln once listened patiently while a friend read a long manuscript to him, and who then asked "What do you think of it? how will it take?" The President reflected a little while, and then answered: "Well for people who like that kind of thing, I think that is just about the kind of thing they'd like."

**Boston's New Steamship Line.**

Edinburg Scotsman, Nov. 15.

The steamer Phœnician, 1,454 tons net register, sailed from Glasgow last night for Boston. This vessel is the pioneer of a steam service from Clyde to this northern United States port, and she is intended to sail from Boston early next month direct for Glasgow. Messrs. Allan, the owners of the Phœnician, intend to have a sailing every alternate third week, according to the necessities of the service. It is expected that Boston, which has now a very complete railroad route to the Canadian frontier, will prove the winter port, as Montreal is the summer port, for the Canadian interior. The Messrs. Allan, who have a weekly Clyde and Canadian steam service to Montreal during the summer, will thus divert a portion of their fleet to the Boston route during the winter. For some years past they have had occasional steamers sailing to and from Portland during the winter, but the new route presents greater facilities for a steady and regular trade.