

MONTEREY, HIGHLAND COUNTY, VA., DECEMBER 18, 1896.

THE MESSAGE.

VOL. XIX.

Mr. Cleveland's Last Review of the Country's Condition.

CUBA THE CHIEF TOPIC.

Cuban Home Rule Under Our Guarantee Suggested to Spain,

When Spain is Helpless in the Island Then 232 Cleveland Thinks We Should Interfere--- "A Limit to Our Waiting"---Turkish Atracities Scored and Venezuolan Dispute Declared Ended-The Present Tariff Law is Approved --- Currency Reforms Suggested --- Greenbacks Should Pe Retired by Long-Term Bonds .-- The Reports of Departments.

Washington, December 8 .- In his annual message to Congress President Cleveland

To the Congress of the United States:

As representatives of the people in the legislative branch of their Government, you have assembled at a time when the strength and excellence of our free institutions and the fitness of our citizens to enjoy popular ruie have been again made manifest. A political contest involving momentous conse quences, fraught with feverish apprehension and creating aggressiveness so intense as to and creating aggressiveness so intense as to approach bitterness and passion, has been waged throughout our land, and determined by the decree of free and independent suf-frage, without disturbance of our tranquility or the least sign of weakness in our National

structure.

When we consider these incidents and When we consider these incidents and contemplate the peaceful obedience and manly submission which have succeeded a heated clash of political opinions, we discover abundant evidence of a determination on the jart of our countrymen to abide by every verdiet of the popular will, and to be controlled at all times by an abiding faith in the agencies established for the direction of the affairs of their Government.

In obedience to a constitutional requirement, I herein submit to the Congress certain information concerning national affairs, with the suggestion of such legislation as in my judgment is necessary and expedient.

my judgment is necessary and expedient. To secure brevity and avoid tiresome narration, I shall omit many details concerning matters within Federal control, which, though by no means unimportant, are more profitably discussed in departmental reports.

The Armenian Question.

At the outset of a reference to the more important matters affecting our relations with foreign powers, it would afford me satisfaction if I could assure the Congress that the disturbed condition in Asiatic Turkey had during the past year assumed a less hideous and bloody aspect, and that either as a con-sequence of the awakening of the Turkish Government to the dumands of humane civilization, or as the result of decisive action on the part of the great nations having the right by treaty to interfere for the protection of those exposed to the rage of mad bigotry and eruel fanaticism, the shocking features of the situation had been mitigated. Instead, however, of welcoming a softened disposition or protective intervention, we have been afflicted by continued and not unfrequent reports of the wanton destruction of homes and the bloody butchery of men, women and

children, made martyrs to their profession

of Christian faith.

While none of our citizens in Turkey have thus far been killed or wounded, though of-ten in the midst of dreadful scenes of danger, their safety in the future is by no means as sured. Our Government at home and our Minister at Constantinople have left nothing undone to protect our missionaries in Otto man territory, who constitute nearly all the individuals residing there who have a right to claim our protection on the score of Amer tion will not be relaxed; but the deen feeling and sympathy that bave been aroused among our people ought not to so far blind their reason and judgment as to lead them to demand impossible things. The outbreaks of blind fury which lead to murder and pillage blid fury which lead to murder and pillage in Turkey occur suddenly and without notice, and an attempt on our part to force such a hostile presence there as might be effective for prevention or protection would not only by resisted by the Ottoman Government, but would be regarded as an interruption of their plans by the great nations who assert their exclusive right to intervene in their own time and method for the seams. in their own time and method for the secur ity of life and property in Turkey.

Caring for Our Subjects in Turkey. Several naval vessels are stationed in the Mediterranean as a measure of caution an I to furnish all possible relief and refuge in

ase of emergency.

We have made claims against the Turkish Government for the pillage and destruction of missionary property at Harpoot and Mar-ash during uprisings at those piaces. Thus far the validity of these demands has not been admitted, though our Minister, prior to such outrages and in anticipation of dan-ger, demanded protection for the persons and property of our missionary citizens in the localities mentioned, and notwithstanding that strong evidence exists of actual complicity of Turkish soldiers in the work of

destruction and robbery. ilt us to doubt the justice of these claims, ad nothing will be om tied to bring a e tear prompt settlement.

a number of Armenian refugees having crived at our ports, an order has lately been btained from the Turkish Government peralthing the wives and children of such refu-ces to join them here. It is hoped that pereafter no obstacle will be interposed to vent the escape of all those who seek to id the perils which threaten them in kish dominions.

ur recently appointed Consul to Erzerum this post and discharging the duties of office, though for some unaccountable office, though for some unaccountable on his formal exequatur from the Sultan

ot been issued. o not believe that the present sombre peet in Turkey will be long permitted to ded the sight of Christendom. It so mays umane and enlightened civilization that igs to the close of the nineteenth cen-that it seems hardly possible that the st demand of good people throughout pristian world for its corrective treatremain unanswered.

The Insurrection in Cuba.

Its perplaxities. It is difficult to that any progress has true far been ward the pacification of the island the situation of affairs as depicted hast annual message has in the aroved. If Spain still holds Havana seaports and all the considerable e insurgents still roam at will ever mination of Spain to put down the of time, and is evinced by her unto believe that the insurgents

d in point of numbers and charac

without practically securing the great objects for which they took up arms. If Spain has not yet re-established her authority, neither have the insurgents yet made good their title to be regarded as an independent State. Indeed, as the contest has gone on, the pretence that civil government exists on the Island, except so far as Spain is able to maintain it, has been practically abandoned. Spain dees keep on loot such a government, more or less imperfectly, in the large towns and their immediate suburbs. But, that exception being made, the entire country is either given over to anarchy or is subject to the military occupation of one or the other party. It is reported, indeed, on reliable authority that, reported, indeed, on reliable authority that, at the demand of the Commander-in-Chief of the insurgent army, the putative Cuban Government has now given up all attempt to exercise its functions, leaving that govern-ment confessedly (what there is the best reason for supposing it always to have been in fact) a government merely on paper.

Thinks the Cuban War May Be Prolonged Indefinitely.

Were the Spanish armies able to meet their antagonists in the open, or in pitched battle, prompt and decisive results might be looked for, and the immense superiority of the Spanish forces in numbers, discipline and equipment could hardly fail to tell greatly to their advantage. But they are called upon to face a fee that shuns general engagements, that can choose and does choose its own ground, that from the nature of the country is visible or invisible at pleasure, and that fights only from ambuscade and when all the advantages of position and numbers are on its side. In a country where all that is indispensable to life and numbers are on its side. In a country where all that is indispensable to life in the way of food, clothing and shelter is so easily obtainable, especially by those born and bred on the soil, it is obvious that there is hardly a limit to the time during which hostilities of this sort may be prolonged. Meanwhile, as in all cases of protracted civil strife, the passions of the combatants grow more and more inflamed and excesses on both sides become more frequent and more deplorable. They are also participated in by bands of maranders, who, now in the name of one party and now in the name of the other, as may best suit the occasion, harry the country at will and plunder its wretched inhabitants for their ow advantage. Such a condition of things advantage. Such a condition of things would inevitably entail immense destruction of property, even if it were the policy of both parties to prevent it as far as practica-ble. But while such seemed to be the original policy of the Spanish Government, it has now apparently abandoned it and is acting upon the same theory as the insurgents, namely, that the exigencies of the contest re-quire the wholesale annihilation of properly, that it may not prove of use and advantage to the enemy.

quire the wholesals annihilation of properly, that it may not prove of use and advantage to the enemy.

It is to the same end that in pursuance of general orders Spanish garrisons are now being withdrawn from plantations and the rural population required to concentrate itself in the towns. The sure result would seem to be that the industrial value of the island is fast diminishing, and that unless there is a speedy and ratical change in existing conditions it will soon disappear altogether. That value consists very largely, of course, in its capacity to produce sugar—a capacity already much reduced by the interruptions to tillage, which have taken place during the last two years. It is reliably asserted that should these interruptions continue during the current year and practically extend, as in now threatened, to the entire sugar-producing territory of the island, so much time and so much money will be required to restore the land to its normal productiveness that it is extremely doubtful it capital can be induced to even make the attempt.

Our Pecuniary Interest in Cuba.

Our Pecuniary Interest in Cuba. The spectacle of the utter ruin of an ad-The spectacle of the litter ruin of an adjoining country, by nature one of the most fertile and charming on the globe, would engage the serious attention of the Government and people of the United States in any circumstances. In point of fact, they have a concern with it which is by no means of a wholly sentimental or philanthropic character. It lies so near to us as to be hardly separated from our territory. Our actual pecuniary interest in it is second only to that of the people and Government of Spain. It is reasonably estimated that at least from \$30,000,000 to \$50,000,000 of American capital are invested in plantations and in railroad, mining and other business enterprises on the island. The volume of trade batween the United States and Oubs, which in 1889 amounted to about 264,000,000, rose in 1895 to about \$103,000,000, and in 1894, the year before the present insurrection broke out, amounted to nearly 296,030,030. Besides this large pecuniary stake in the fortunes of Cuba, the United States finds itself inextricably involved in the present contest in other ways both vexa-

Many Cubans reside in this country and in directly promote the insurrection through the press, by public meetings, by the pur-chase and shipment of arms, by the raising of funds, and by other means, which the spirit of our institutions and the tenor of our laws do not permit to be made the subject of riminal prosecutions. Some of them, though Dubans at heart and in all their feelings and choose at heart and in all their leerings and interests, have taken out papers as naturalized citizens of the United States, a proceeding resorted to with a view to possible protection by this Government, and not unnaturally regarded with much indignation by the country of their origin. The insurgents are undoubtedly encouraged and supported by the widespread sympathy the people of this country always and instinctively feel for every struggle for better and freer gov-ernment, and which, in the case of the more adventurous and restless elements of our population, leads in only too many instances to active and personal participa tion in the contest. The result is that this Government is constantly called upon to protect American citizens, to claim damages for injuries to persons and property, now estimated at many millions of dollars, and to ask explanations and apologies for the acts of Spanish officials, whose seal for the resion of rebellion sometimes blinds them pression of rebellion sometimes blinds them to the immunities belonging to the unoffending clitzens of a frendly power. It follows from the same cause that the United States is compelled to actively police a long line of sea cost against unlawful expeditions, the escape of which the utmost vigilance will not always another to present

not always suffice to prevent. The Question of Intervention. These inevitable entanglements of the United States with the rebellion in Cuba, the large American property interests affected, and considerations of philanthropy and huand considerations of pullating part are manify in general, have led to a vehement demand in various quarters for some sort of positive intervention on the part of the United States. It was at first proposed that belligerent rights should be accorded to the insurgents—a proposition no longer urged because untimely and in practical operation clearly retilons and injurious to our own interests. It has since been and is now sometimes contended that the independence of the insurgents should be recognized. But imperfect and restricted as the Spanish government of the island may be, no other exists there—unless the will of the military officer in temporary command of a particular district can be dignified as a species of government. It is now also suggested that the United States should buy the islanda suggestion possibly worthy of consideration if there were any evidence of a desire or willingness on the part of Spain to enter ain such a proposal. It is arged, finally, that, all other methods failing, the existing internecine strife in Cuba should be terminated by our intervention, even at the cost of a war between the United States and Spain—a war which its advocates confidently prophesy could be neither large in its proportions nor

doubtful in its issue.

The correctness of this forecast need be neither affirmed nor denied. The United States has nevertheless a character to main-tain as a nation, which plainly diotates that right and not might should be the rule of its conduct. And yet neither the Gevernment nor the people of the United States have shut their eyes to the course of events in Onba, or have failed to realize the existence of concoded grievance, which have led to the present revolt from the authority of Spain—grievances recognized by the Queen Regent ources, and are none the less in-their reselve not to succumb,

and by the Cortes, voiced by the most patrietic and enlightened of Spanish statesmen,
without regard to party, and demonstrated
by reforms proposed by the executive and
approved by the legislative branch of the
Spanish Government. It is in the assumed
temper and disposition of the Spanish Government to remedy these grievances, fortiiled by indications of influential public
coninion in Spain, that this Government has opinion in Spain, that this Government has hoped to discover the most promising and effective means of composing the present strife, with honor and advantage to Spain and with the achievement of all the reasonable objects of the insurrection.

Cleveland's Plan for Ending the War. It would seem that if Spain should offer to Cuba genuine autonomy—a measure of home rule which, while preserving the sovereignty of Spain, would satisfy all rational requirements of her Spanish subjects—there should be no just reason why the pacification of the island might not be effected on that basis. Such a result would appear to be in the true interest of all concerned. It would at once stop the conflict which is now con-suming the resources of the island and maksuming the resources of the island and making it worthless for whatever party may ultimately prevail. It would keep intact the possessions of Spain without touching her honor, which will be consulted rather than impugned by the adequate redress of admitted grievances. It would put the prosperity of the island and the fortunes of its inhabitants within their own control, without severing the matural and ancient ties which bind them to the mother country, and would yet enable them to test their caand would yet enable them to test their ca-pacity for self government under the most pacity for self government under the most favorable conditions. It has been objected on the one side that Spain should not promise autonomy until her insurgent subjects lay down their arms; on the other side, that promised autonomy, however liberal, is insufficient, because without assurance of the promise being fulfilled.

But the research lenges of a requirement

promise being fulfilled.

But the reasonableness of a requirement by Spain, of unconditional surrender on the part of the insurgent Cubans before their autonomy is conceded, is not altogether apperent. It ignores important features of the situation—the stability two years' duration has given to the insurrection; the feasibility of its indefinite prolongation in the nature of things, and as shown by past experience: of its indefinite prolongation in the nature of things, and as shown by past experience; the utter and imminent ruin of the island, unless the present strife is speedily composed; above all, the rank abuses which all parties in Spain, all branches of her Government and all her leading public men concede to exist and profess a desire to remove; facing such circumstances, to withhold the profer of needed reforms until the parties demanding them put themselves at mercy by throwing down their arms, has the appearance of neglecting the gravest of perils and inviting suspicion as to the sincerity of any professed willingness to g ant reforms. The objection on behalf of the insurgents—that promised reforms cannot be relied upon—must of course be considered, though we have no right to assume, and no reason for assuming, that anything Spain undertakes to do for the relief of Cuba will not be done according to both the spirit and the letter of the underboth the spirit and the letter of the under-

United States' Offered Guarantee. Nevertheless, realizing that suspicions and precautions on the part of the weaker of two precautions on the part of the weaker of two sombatants are always natural and not always unjustifiable - being sincerely destrous in the interest of both, as well as on its own account, that the Caban problem should be solved with the least possible delay—it was intimated by this Government to the Government of Spain some months ago that, it a satisfactory measure of home rule were tendered the Cuban insurgents, and would be accepted by them upon a guaranty of its execution, the United States would endeavor to find a way not objectionable to Spain of furnishing such guaranty. While no definite response to this intimation has yet been received from the Spanish Government, it is believed to be not altollogether unwelcome, while, as already suggested, no reason is perceived why it should not be approved by the insurgents. Neither party can fail to see the importance of early action, and both must realize that to prolong the present state of thincs for even prolong the present state of things for a short period will add enormously to the time and labor and expenditure necessary to bring about the industrial recuperation of the Island. It is therefore fervently hoped on all grounds that earnest efforts for healing the branch between Spain and the insurgent Cubans, upon the lines above indicated, may be once inaugurated and pushed to an immediate and successful issue. The friendly offices of the United States, either in the manner above outlined or in any other way consistent with our Constitution and laws, will always be at the disposal of either party.

Whatever circumstances may arise, our policy and our interests would constrain us to object to the acquisition of the island or an interference with its control by any other

A Limit to Our Patience in Regard to Spain. It should be added that it cannot be rea-sonably assumed that the hitherto expectant attitude of the United States will be indefi-itely maintained. While we are anxious to secord all due respect to the sovereignty of Spain, we cannot view the pending conflict in all its features, and properly apprehend our inevitably eleas relations to it, and its possible results, without considering that by the course of events we may be drawn waiting for Spain to end the contest, either

alone and in her own way, or with our friendly co-operation. When the inability of Spain to deal successfully with the insurrection has become manifest, and it is demonstrated that her poses of its rightful existence, and when a hopeless struggle for its re-establishment has degenerated into a strile which means nothing more than the useless sacrifice of human life and the utter destruction of the very subject-matter of the conflict, a situation will be presented in which our obligations to the sovereignty of Spain will be superseded by higher obligations, which we can hardly hesitate to recognize and discharge. Deterring the choice of ways and methods until the time for action arrives, we should make them depend upon the precise condi-tions then existing; and they should not be determined upon without giving careful head to every consideration involving our honor and interest, or the international duty we owe to Spain. Until we face the contin-gencies suggested, or the situation is by other incidents imperatively changed, we should continue in the line of conduct hereshould continue in the line of conduct here-tofore pursued, thus in all circumstances exhibiting our obedience to the require-ments of public law and our regard for the duty enjoined upon us by the position we occupy in the family of nations.

A contemplation of emergencies that may arise should plainly lead us to avoid their ereation, either through a careless disregard of present duty or even an undue stimula-tion and ill-timed expression of feeling. But I have deemed it not amiss to remind the Congress that a time may arrive when a correct policy and care for our interests, as regard for the interests of other na tions and their citizens, joined by considerations of humanity and a desire to see a rich and fertile country, intimately related to us, saved from complete devastation, will con-strain our Government to such action as will subserve the interests thus involved and at the same time promise to Cuba and its in-habitants an opportunity to enjoy the Blessings of peace.

The Venezuelan boundary question has ceased to be a matter of difference between Great Britain and the United States, their respective Governments having agreed upon the substantial provisions of a treaty be tween Great Britain and Venezuela submit ting the whole controversy to arbitration. The provisions of the treaty are so eminently just and fair, that the assent of Venezuela thereto may confidently be anticipated.

Arbitration Treaty With England. Negotiations for a treaty of general arbi-tration for all differences between Great Britain and the United States are far advanced and promise to reach a successful consummation at an early date.

Having discussed the Cuban question at length, the President turns to other matters. He repeats his recommendation "in favor of providing at public expense official residences for our ambassadors and ministers at foreign capitals."

foreign capitals."

Figures are given showing that the Government's receipt last year were \$409,475,403.78 while expenditures in the same time were \$434,678,651,48, the expenditures over receipts thus amounting to \$25,203,245.70.

The number of immigrants arriving in the United States during the fiscal year wis \$43,267, of whom \$40,468 were permitted to land, and \$2799 were debarred, on various grounds prescribed by law, and returned to the countries whence they came, at the expense of the steamship companies by which they were brought in. The increase in immigration over the preceding year amounted to \$4,731.

The report of the Secretary of War exhibits satisfactory conditions in the several branches of the public service intrusted to

The Post Office Department is in good condition, and the exhibit made of its operation during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1898, if allowance is made for imperfections in the laws applicable to it, is very satisfactory.

"The construction of vessels for our new The construction of vessels for our new navy has been energetically prosecuted by the present Administration upon the general line previously adopted, the Department having seen no necessity for radical changes in prior methods under which the work was found to be progressing in a manner highly satisfactory."

found to be progressing in a manner highly satisfactory."

There have been authorized by Congress since March, 1893, five battleships, six light-draft gunboats, sixteen torpeed boats and one submarine torpedo boat. Contracts for the building of all of them have been let. The Secretary expresses the opinion that we have for the present a sufficient supply of cruisers and gunboats, and that hereafter the construction of battleships and torpedo hoats will supply our needs.

the construction of battleships and torpedo boats will supply our needs.

The President endorses "the recommendation made by the present Secretary of the Interior, as well as his predecessor, that a permanent commission, consisting of three members, one of whom shall be an army officer, be created to perform the duties now devolving upon the Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner of Indian Affairs. The management of the Bureau involves such numerous and diverse details, and the advantages of an uninterrupted policy are supparent that I hope the change suggested will meet the approval of the Congress."

Pensions.

The diminution of our enormous pension roll and the decrease of pension expenditure, which have been so often confidently foretoid, still fall in material realization. The number of pensioners on the rolls at the close of the fiscal year ended June 39, 1896, was 970,678. This is the largest ever reportclose of the fiscal year ended June 30, 1896, was 970,678. This is the largest ever reported. The amount paid exclusively for pensions during the year was \$138,214,761.94, a slight decrease from that of the preceding year, while the total expenditures on account of pensions, including the cost of maintaining the Department and expenses attending pension distribution, amounted to \$142,206,550.59, or within a very small fraction of one-third of the entire expense of supporting the Government during the same year. The number of new pension certificates issued was 90,640. Of these 40,374 represent original allowances of claims and 15,878 increases of existing pensions.

The number of persons receiving pensions from the United States but residing in foreign countries at the close of the last fiscal year was 3781, and the amount paid to them during the year was \$582,735.38.

The sum appropriated for the payment of pensions for the current fiscal year ending June 30, 1897, is \$140,000,000, and for the succeeding year it is estimated that the same amount will be necessary.

The Commissioner of Pensions reports

amount will be necessary.

The Commissioner of Pensions reports that during the last fiscal year 339 indictments were found against violators of the pension laws. Upon these indictments 167 convictions.

In my opinion, based upon such state-ments as these and much other information and observation, the abuses which have been allowed to creep into our pension system have done incalculable harm in demoralizing our people and undermining good citi ing our people and undermining good citi-zenship. I have endeavored within my sphere of official duty to protect our pension roll and make it what it should be, a roll of honor, containing the names of those disabled in their country's ser-vice and worthy of their coun-try's affectionate remembrance. When I have seen those who pose as the soldiers' friends, active and alert in urging greater laxity and more reckless pension expendilaxity and more reckless pension expenditure, while nursing selfish schemes, I have deprecated the approach of a situation when necessary retrenchment and enforced economy may lead to an attack upon pension abuses, so determined as to overlook the discrimination due to those who, worthy of a nation's care, ought to live and die under the protection of a nation's gratitude.

Agriculture. Under the present management of the Department of Agriculture its usefulness partment of Agriculture its usefulness has been enhanced in every direction, and at the same time strict economy has been enforced to the utmost extent permitted by Congressional action. From the report of the Secretary it appears that through careful and prudent financial management he has annually saved a large sum from his appropriations, aggregating during his incumbency and up to the close of the present fiscal year nearly one-fifth of the entire amount appropriated. These results have been accompropriated. These results have been accom-plished by a conscientious study of the real needs of the farmer and such a regard for economy as the genuine farmer ought to ap-preciate, supplemented by a rigid adherence to civil service methods in a Department which should be conducted in the interest of agriculture instead of partisan politics.

agriculture instead of partisan politics.

The Secretary reports that the value of our exports of farm products during the last fiscal year amounted to \$570,000,000, an increase of \$17,000,000 over those of the year immediately preceding. This statement is not the less welcome because of the fact that, notwithstanding such increase, the proportion of exported agricultural products to our of exported agricultural products to our total exports of all descriptions fell off cur-ing the year. The benefits of an increase in ing the year. The benefits of an increase in agricultural exports being assured, the decrease in its proportion to our total exports is the more gratifying when we consider that it is owing to the fact that such total exports for the year increased more than \$75,000,000.

The large and increasing exportation of our agricultural products suggests the great usefulness of the organization letaly astable.

usefulness of the organization lately estab lished in the Department for the purpose of giving to those engaged in farming pursuits reliable information concerning the condi-tion, needs and advantages of different foreign markets. Inasmuch as the success of the farmer depends upon the advantageous sale of his products, and inasmuch as foreign markets must largely be the destination of such products, it is quite apparent that a knowledge of the conditions and, wants that affect those markets ought to result in sow-ing more intelligently and reaping with a better promise of profit. Such information points out the way to a prudent foresight in the selection and cultivation of crops and to the selection and observations of unreasoning monotony of production, a glutted and depressed market and constantly recurring

Opposed to Free Seeds.

In my opinion the gratuitious distribution of seeds by the Agricultural Department as at present conducted sught to be discon-No one can read the statement of the Secretary on this subject and doubt the extravagance of questionable results of this practice. The professed friends of the farmer, and certainly the farmers themselves, are naturally expected to be willing to rid a Department devoted to the promo-tion of farming interests of a feature which tends so much to its discredit.

The Weather Bureau, now attached to the Department of Agriculture, has continued to extend its sphere of usefulness, and by an uninterrupted improvement in the accuracy of its forecasts has greatly increased its efficiency as au aid and protestion to all whose

ecoupations are related to weather condi-

Civil Service. The progress made in Civil Service Reform

furnishes a eause for the utmost congratul"tion. It has survived the doubts of its friends as well as the rancor of its onemies, and has gained a permanent place among the agencies destined to cleanse our polities and te improve, ecocomize and elevate the

and to improve, economize and elevate the public service.

The Civil Service rules as amended during the last year provide for a seusible and uniform method of promotion, basing eligibility to better positions upon demonstrated efficiency and faithfulness. The absence of fixed rules on this subject has been an infirmity in the system more and more apparent as its other benefits have been better appreciated.

The Matter of Tarif. The Matter of Taria.

The Matter of Taris.

Concerning the tariff the President says that "our tariff laws are only primarily justified as sources of revenue to enable the Government to meet the necessary expenses of its maintenance," and adds: "I believe our present tariff law, if allowed a far opportunity, will in the near future yield a revenue which, with reasonably economical expenditures, will overcome all deficiencies. In the meantime no deficit that has occurred or may occur need excite or disturb us. To meet any such dedicit we have in the Treasury in addition to a gold reserve of \$100,000,000, a surplus of more than \$128,000,000 applicable to the payment of the expenses of the Government, and which must, unless expended for that purpose, remain a useless hoard, or, if not extravagantly wasted, must in any event be perverted from the purpose of its exaction from our people. The pryin any event be perverted from the purpose of its exaction from our people. The pryment, therefore, of any deficiency in the revenue from this fund is nothing more than its proper and legitimate use. The Government thus applying a surplus fortunately in its Treasury to the payment of expenses not met by its current revenues, is not at all to be likened to a man living beyond his insome and thus incurring debt or encroaching

on his principal.
"It is not one of the functions of our Gov-"It is not one of the functions of our Government to accumulate and make additions to a fund not needed for immediate expenditure. With individuals it is the chief object of struggle and effort. The application of an accumulated fund by the Government to the payment of its running expenses is a duty. An individual living beyond his insome and embarrassing himself with debt, or drawing upon his accumulated fund of principal is either unfortunate or improvier drawing upon his accumulated fund of principal, is either unfortunate or improvident. The distinction is between a government charged with the duty of expending for the benefit of the people and for proper purposes all the money it receives from any source, and the individual who is expected to manifest a natural desire to avoid debt or to accumulate as much as possible and to live within the income derived from such accumulations, to the end that they may be increased or at least remain unimprired for the future use and enjoyment

they may be increased or at least remain un-impaired for the future use and enjoyment of himself or the objects of his love and affec-tion who may survive him.

"It is immeasurably better to appropriate our suuplus to the payment of justifiable ex-penses than to allow it to become an invita-tion to reckless appropriations and extravagant expenditures.

"I suppose it will not be denied that under the present law our people obtain the neces-saries of a comfortable existence at a cheap-er rate than formerly. This is a matter of supreme importance, since it is the palpable duty of every just Government to make the burdens of taxation as light as possible. The people should not be required to relinquish this privilege of cheaper living except under the stress of their Government's necessity made plainly manifest."

Reform in Finance.

Upon the question of reforming the finance system of the country the President says:

I am more convinced than ever that we can have no assured financial peace and safety until the Government currency obligations upon which gold may be demanded from the Treasury are withdrawn from circulation and cancelled. This might be done, as has been heretofore recommended, by their exchange for long-term bonds bearing a low rate of interest or by their redemption with the proceeds of such bonds. Even if only the United States notes known as greenbacks were thus retired, it is probable that the Treasury notes issue I in paymen of silver purchases und r the act of July 14, 1893, now paid in gold when demanded, would not create much disturbance, as they might, from time to time, when received in the Treasury by redemption !n gold or otherwise, be gradually and prodently replaced

This plan of issuing bonds for the purpose of redemption certainly appears to be the most effective and d rect path to the needed reform. In default of this, however, it reform. In default of this, however, it would be a step in the right direction if currency obligations redeemable in gold, whenever so redeemed, should be canceled in stead of being reissued. This operation would be a slow remedy, but it would improve present conditions.

National banks should redeem their own

notes. They should be allowed to issue cir culation to the par value of bonds deposited as security for its redemption, and the tax on their circulation should be reduced to

on their circulation should be reduced to one-fourth of I per cent. In considering projects for the retirement of United States notes and Treasury notes issued under the law of 1890, I am of the opinion that we have placed too much stress upon the danger of contracting the cur-rency, and have calculated too little upon the gold that would be added to our circulation if invited to us by better an i safer finan-cial methods. It is not so much a contraetion of our currency that should be avoided as its unequal distribution.

This might be obviated, and any fear of

harmful friction at the same time removed, by allowing the organization of smaller banks and in less populous communities than are now permitted, and also authorizing existing banks to establish branches in small

communities under proper restrictions.

The entire case may be presented by the statement that the day of sensible and sound financial methods will not dawn upon us until our Government abandons the ing business and the accumulation of fun is, and confines its monetary operation to the and confines its monetary operation to the receipt of the money contributed by the people for its support, and to the expenditure of such money for the people's benefit.

Our business interests and all good citizens long for rest from feverish agitation, and the inauguration by the Government of a reformed financial policy which will encourage enterprise and make certain the rewards of labor and industry.

wards of labor and industry. "Trusts and Monopo'les."

"Trusts and Monopo'ies."

Another topic in which our people rightfully take a deep interest may be here briefly considered. I refer to the existence of trusts and other huge aggregations of capital, the object of which is to secure the monopoly of some particular branch of trade, industry, or commerce and to stifle wholesome competition. When these are defended it is usually on the ground that though they increase profits they also reduce prices and thus may benefit the public. It must be remembered, however, that a reduction of prices to the people is not one of the real objects of these organizations, nor is their tendency necessarily in that direction, If it occurs in a particular case, it is only because it accords with the purposes or interests of those managing the Such occasional results fall far short of Such occasional results fall far short of

Such occasional results fall far short of compensating the palpable evits charged to the account of trusts and monopolies. Their tendency is to crush out individual independence and to hinder or prevent the free use of human faculties and the full devolopment of human character. Through them the farmer, the artisan and the small trader is in danger of dislodgment from the proud position of being his own master, watchful of all that touches his country's prosperity, in which he touches his country's prosperity, in which he has an individual lot, and interested in all that affects the advantages of business of which he is a factor, to be relegated to the level of a mere appurtenance to a great machine, with little free will, with no duty but that of a pas-sive obedience, and with little hope or oppor-tunity of rising in the scale of responsible and

tunity of rising in the scale of responsible and helpful citizenship.

To the instinctive belief that such is the inevitable trend of trusts and monopolies is due the widespread and deep-scated popular aversion in which they are held and the not unreasonable insistence that, whatever may be their incidental economic advantages, their general effect upon personal character, prospects, and usefulness cannot be otherwise than in rious.

Though Cougress has attempted to deal with

Though Congress has attempted to deal with

this matter by legislation, the favrs passed for that purpose thus far have proved ineffective, not because of any lack or disposition, or attempt to enforce them, but simply because the laws themselves as interpreted by the courts do not reach the difficulty. If the incourts do not reach the difficulty. If the insufficiencies of existing laws can be remedied by further legi lation it should be done. The fact must be recognized, however, that all faderal legislation on this subject may fall short of its purpose because of inherent obstacles, and also because of the complex character of our governmental system, which while making the Faderal authority supreme within its sphere, has carefully limited that sphere by metes and bounds which cannot be transgressed. The decision of our highest court on this precise question renders it quite doubtful whether the evils of trusts and monopolies can be adequately treated shrough Federal action, unless they seek directly and purposely to include in their objects transportation or intercourse between States or between the United States and foreign countries.

RECORDER

tries.

It does not follow, however, that this is the limit of the remedy that may be sonlied. Even though it may be found that I eleval authority is not broad enough to fully reach the case, there can be no doubt of the power of the several State: 12 act effectively in the premises, and there should be no reason to doubt their willingness to judiciously exercise such power.

In concluding this communication, its last words shall be an appeal to the Congress for the most rigid economy in the exception of the money it holds in trust for the people. The way to perplexing extravagance is easy, but a return to frugality is difficult. When, however, it is considered that those who bear, however, it is considered that those who bear the burdens of taxation have no guaranty of honest care save in the fidelity of their public servants, the duty of all possible retrenshment is plainly manifest.

When our differences are forgotten, and our contests of political opinion are no longer remembered, nothing in the retrospect of our public service will be as fortunate and comforting as the recollection of official day well performed and the memory of a constant devotion to the interests of our confiding fellow countrymen.

low countrymen.

GROVER CLEVELAND. Executive Mansion, Dec. 7, 1896.

FIFTY-FOURTH CONGRESS.

2n Dar. — The notice of the opening of a Cuban discussion was about the only feature of interest developed at the brief session of the Senate, which lasted only 25 minutes. Senator Cullom gave notice of a speech on Cuba next Thursday. The Senators had expected to start the wheels of actual business, but the appearance of a House resolution relative to the death of ex-Speaker Crisp led to the customary adjournment as a mark of respect. A large number of bureau reports were received, including that of the government directors of the Pacific railways.

3n Dar. —The Senate, by the decisive vois

3p Day.—The Senate, by the decisive vote of 35 to 21, adopted a motion to take up the Dingley tariff-silver bill. Immedia ely foliowing it, Mr. Aldrich, of Rhode Island, one of the republican members of the finance committee, moved to recommit the bill to that committee, and this motion was pending when the morning hour expired, and the entire matter lapsed as though no vote had been taken. The debate was at times sharp and personal. Three sets of rigorous resolutions for Cuban independence furnished an interesting feature. They came from Mr. Cameron, of Pennsylvania, Mr. Mills, of Texas, and Mr. Call, of Florida.

4th Day.—The Senate took up the immi-3D DAY,-The Senate, by the decisive vote

4TH DAY—The Senate took up the immigration bill and partly perfected it, also hearing the first of the speeches on Cuba, those of Mr. Cullom and Mr. Call. The disposition to pu through the immigration bill was shown by the defeat of a motion by Mr. Cibsen of Maryland to perform the mean. was shown by the dereat of a motion by Mr. Gibson, of Maryland, to postpone the measure until after the holidays. Only thirteen votes, all democrats, were given in favor of the postponement. The proposition served to involve Messrs. Chandler, Lodge and Gibson in several spirited personal collo-

House.

2D DAY.—The House proceeded to business three bills of considerable importance and the first of the regular supply bills—that for pensions. Three of the tills related to postal matters. One provided for the use of private mailing cards of the same general size and character as the present postal cards when one-cent stamps are affixed; another for a limited indemnity of \$10 for the loss of registered mail matter, and the third for a private carrier service in cities, towns and villages where no free delivery exists.

3p Day.-The House held a three-hour session, and passed a dozen bills of minor importance. Among them were the following. To extend for five years the time in which the University of Utah shall occupy lands granted to it: to authorize the use of the abandoned Fort Bidwell military reser vation in California as a training scho Indians; to confirm certain cash entries for public lands in Arkansas made under the graduation act of 1854; to provide for the location and purchase of public lands for reservoir sites in Montana, South Dakots and Wyoming.

4TH DAY.—The House passed two bills. One of them is to secure to musical compositions the same measure of protection under the copyright law as is now afforded pro-ductions of a strictly dramatic character. The bill imposes a fine of \$100 for the first and \$50 for each subsequent unauthorized production. A bill to prohibit the sale of liquor in the Capitol building was also passed.

ABOUT NOTED PEOPLE.

Mayor Houghton, of North Adams, Mass., has given his \$1,000 salary to the local hospital. Mr. Selous, the African traveler and explorer, has some idea of visiting the Rocky

Mountains. Lady Jane Harriet Swinburne, mother of Algernon Charles Swinburne, the poet, has just died in England at the age of 88.

The original manuscript of Rossini's famous opera, "William Tell," was sold in Paris recently by auction for £188.

A London Daily Mall representative says the Queen has been a total abstainer from alcoholic liquors for the last three years. Margaret Thomson, a granddaughter of

the Poet Burns and widow of David Wingate, the miner poet, has died at Glasgow. Mr. Kato, the secretary of the Japanese Legation in Paris, has just been appointed Commissioner-General of Japan at the expo-

sition of 1900. The Queen Regent of Spain, who will soon have a motor carriage, will be the first European sovereign to use one. It will be known

as an "electric victoria." The design of the proposed Wagner monunent at Bairut has been fixed upon. It consists of a temple with a round cupola on plilars, with a statue of Wagner in the centre. Robert Louis Stevenson's grave in the Apia Mountains is said by a writer in the Sketch to be painfully neglected. Its almost inaccessible site may have something to do with

Col. Fred D. Grant has been visiting the old Grant homestead at East Windsor Hill, Jonn. A portion of the house, which was once occupied by an ancestor of Colonel Grant, is nearly two centuries old. Senator George F. Hoar, of Massachusetts,

has presented an interesting relic to the First hurch of Plymouth, Mass. It is a considerable portion of the original threshold of the church in Delft Haven, Holland, in which the pilgrims held their last service before departing for America.

Loss of the North German Lloyd Steamer Salier.

The Accident Occured on the Corrobado Rocks, off the Desolate Spanish Coast-Founin the Recent Heavy

The steamship Salier, owned by the North German Lloyd Company, is believed to have een totally lost off the Spanish coast. She left Corunna on December 7 for Vilagarcia, Spain, and is believed to have

prevailed off the Spanish coast. No details of the disaster have been obained. A steamship has gone in search of

foundered in the heavy gale which recently

he missing vessel. Vigo, Spain -The statement that there ere no passengers on board the Salier is ncorrect. There were 210 passengers on board. Her crew was composed of 65 men. All on board, passengers and crew, per-

The Sailer's passengers consisted of 113 Russians, 35 Galicians, 61 Spaniards and one

The Salier was bound from Bremen to Buenos Ayres, via Corunna and Villagarcia. The passengers were mostly in the steerage. The Corrobedo rocks, on which it is believed the Saller was lost, are situated off the southwest const of Corunna and should have been given a wide berth before the steamer headed eastward, and then in an easterly direction for the bay leading up to Villa

Was On The Baltimore Line.

The Saller was a well-known vessel at Baltimore. She ran for many years between Baltimore and Bremen, carrying passengers and freight, and was rated A1 at Lloyds.

The steamship was regarded as a staunch one, and met with no disaster while on the line. During the past fall she was transferred to the Australian Line of the Lloyds Company, on which she was running at the time of the awful disaster reported above,

The news of the sinking caused considerable comment in shipping circles. The place where she went down is well remembered as the one where the ill-fated Britis? man-of-war Lord Howe met destruction

When running to Baltimore the Salier was commanded by Captain Wempe. She left Baltimore on September 9 for Bremen, where she arrived on September 23. She is be lieved to have been loaded with coal wher she was lost. She was a brig-rigged, screy steamer, built at Hull, England, in 1875, and is believed to have been carrying a crew of about 60 to 70 men. She was of 3,000 gross tons register, 351 feet long, 39.6 feet bean and 32.6 feet deep.

WORK AND WORKERS.

The Ætna rolling mill at Cleveland, Ohio, resumed operations, employing 350 men. Alexander Bremer has been elected President of the Musical Mutual Protective Union, Two hundred employes of the Pacific Roll-

ing Mills, at San Francisco, are on a strike against a heavy reduction in wages, ranging from 20 to 50 per cent. Tho Hartford Carpet Company started 25? looms in the brussels department of its factory at Thompsonville, Conn. The brussely department has been closed for over four

The withdrawal of troops from Leadville has been begun, but all will not be recalled until Governor McIntyre becomes satisfied that the officials of Lake county can controlthe strike situation.

months.

The working time of the shop and engine house employes of the Missouri Pacific 1 a 1road, in Kansas City, Kansas, has been in creased from six to nine hours per day. The order affects about 3,000 employes. A Niagara Falls despatch says that the Al-

bright & Wilson Electro-Chemical Company of Great Britain have closed a contract with the Niagara Falls Power Company, and will transfer their plant to that The stevedores employed on the docks of

the Crosby Transportation Company on the Muskegon, Grand Rapids and Milwaukee Railroad, at Muskegon, Minnesota, are on strike on account of a cut in wages from 20 to 15 cents per hour. The joint convention of operators and min-

ers have not yet reached an agreement on the scale for next year. The entire session was devoted to discussions on the Ohio thin vein and machine and pick mining. The discus sion at times was animated and bitter.

Fifty of the mechanics employed by Moran Bros., shipbuilders, of Seattle, Wash., are on a strike, and will leave on the next steamer for San Francisco. The men have been employed on two steam steel vessels the Moran? are building for the government; a torpedo . destroyer and a government tugboat.

AWFUL CRUELTY OF A FATHER

His Brutal Treatment Caused the Death of Hi. Daughter. After a long preliminary examination

Rudolph Brockman, a wealthy farmer, livin; in Osage township, Kan., has been held it the sum of \$10,000 to answer for the murde of his 17-year old daughter, Mary. Four weeks ago Brockman gave the girl :

terrible beating because she did not work to

suit him in his cornfield. He then tied :

rope around one of her ankles, fastened the other end of the rope to the rear axle of hit wagon, and drove to his farm, a quarter of a mile off, dragging the girl behind. Arriving tuere he locked her up in the barn without sufficient clothing and without

food. The girl was found by her uncle and another neighbor, who carried her away. but her injuries were so serious that ab on November 22.