



FACTS! FACTS!

OSBORN'S DRUG STORE

LARGEST STOCK

Paints, Oils,

Window Glass, Putty,

VARNISHES, BRUSHES, SAND PAPER, PAINTERS STOCK, COLORS, &c.

PAINT & OIL STORE,

Very Low Figures.

Pure Fahnestock

WHITE LEAD,

DAYTON, OHIO, LINED OIL.

COTTAGE COORS

Drugs and Medicines,

Of Pure Quality,

GOOD GOODS,

LOW FIGURES,

WM. OSBORN.

Advertisement for Berrien County Record.

The Berrien County Record

OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE COUNTY.

THURSDAY MORNING, DEC. 8, 1870.

To Advertisers.

Who deserves more honor than the man who subscribes for a paper and pays for it?

ROLL OF HONOR.

Special Township Meeting.

Farm for Sale.

Scientific American.

Notice is hereby given that the Tax Roll for 1870 is now in my hands.

Settle Your Account.

Notice is hereby given that the late firm of French & DeMont are hereby notified.

Settle-Up.

THE BAPTIST.

Boots, Boots.

DISHES.

ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC CHURCH.

Good Hyson Tea.

NEW DRESS.

Go! Go! Go!!!

FOR SALE.

CHANGE OF TIME.

Eaton & Simmons sell the best Shilling Sugar in town.

SINGS.

Just Now.

Get your Job Work done at the office of the Berrien County Record.

Plowing.

Binns & Rose.

New Store.

Subscribe for the Berrien County Record.

ROLL OF HONOR.

The following persons are hereby commended for perfect deportment during the week ending December 3, 1870.

MINNIE BOY.

ADIA WIDNER.

EDNA BEARDSLEY.

FIRE IN BENTON HARBOR.

The Palladium we learn that on Thursday morning of last week, about one o'clock, a fire broke out in Russell's Hall, which resulted in the complete destruction of that building.

The fire was supposed to have originated from a defective flue.

The hall had been occupied by the Congregational Church.

The building burned was a high two story frame, 45x85 feet.

The second story was fitted up for a hall and the lower part was finished up for two store rooms.

The loss was some \$6,500.

There was an insurance, in different companies, to the amount of \$4,500.

TRED UP.

We learn that the Schooner Hibbard, on her arrival in Chicago a few days since, was taken possession of by the proper officers for damages that are claimed to be due for her running into the railroad bridge.

A more strange proceeding we have not heard of, and though the claim may be proper, still we hope her owners will test the question at issue to the full extent of the law.

We do not believe there is any valid authority in so locating a railroad bridge as to interfere with the interests of navigation or of the St. Joseph harbor in the least.

There are very few persons who do not regard the present location of the bridge as dangerous, unnecessary and inimical to the shipping interests of both St. Joseph and Benton Harbor.

Benton Harbor Palladium.

WIDNER'S ANTI-PELLETT'S FEVER AND AGUE TONIC.

The GREAT EXHIBITION OF THE CENTENNIAL EXHIBITION has discovered and offered to every man, woman or child suffering from Chills and Fever, Dumb Ague, Bilious Fever, Enlarged Spleen, Periodic Neuralgia, and Sun Pains, and that horrible malady, Congestive Chills.

It is a specific for each and all of these complaints, and may be used at any time and in any place.

It contains no poison, no arsenic or mercury—does not require rubbing, drugging and plastering with unwholesome, nauseous iodine.

Enlarged Spleen; no mercury internally to effect a cure.

Widner's Tonic cures permanently and destroys the periodicity of Chills and Malarious Fevers.

For sale at Osborn's Drug Store.

County Correspondence.

FROM GALETON.

DEAR RECORD.—You will please notice that each year, that the Graded School of Galeton Village can also afford a Roll of Honor.

The following pupils are hereby commended for perfect deportment during the week ending December 3, 1870:

DELLA DINGMAN, DELLA CLOSSEN, GEORGE BLAKESLEE, ADA GRICE, EVA SPANGENBERG, IRONDA DAVIS, LUCY WOODCOCK, IDA MYERS, ELISE SPANGENBERG, EVA MCANBER, LYDIA BLAKESLEE, HERBERT MCANBER, ELLA BLAKESLEE, PHILIP DONAHUE.

The roll, you perceive, is not a very large one; but we believe the good work has commenced in the right direction, and we hope to double the number on our next roll.

Our next roll will be a very interesting one, and we trust it will be a credit to the school.

Yours respectfully, EDWIN W. SMITH, Principal.

FROM THREE OAKS.

Mr. Editor.—I agree with "Inquisitive" and say that Galeton improved very much the past year.

RECORD under the head of Money—\$25 worth of information sent prepaid, to any address, on receipt of 50 cents.

AN APPL-DEALER of Port Huron has lately returned from Liverpool, where he contracted for the delivery of 10,000 barrels of the best Michigan apples.

He contracted for the same number of barrels last year, and filled his contract, the apples arriving in Liverpool in good order.

Many of the apples thus sent to Liverpool are thence sent to the Mediterranean in exchange for other fruits.

BUCHANAN PRICES CURRENT.

Wheat per bushel, 1.00; Corn per bushel, .75; Oats per bushel, .50; Rye per bushel, .80; Barley per bushel, .60; Potatoes per bushel, .40; Apples per bushel, .20; Butter per lb., .15; Lard per lb., .12; Eggs per doz., .10; Hens per doz., .10; Chickens per doz., .10; Turkeys per doz., .10; Geese per doz., .10; Ducks per doz., .10; Pigeons per doz., .10; Rabbits per doz., .10; Squirrels per doz., .10; Mice per doz., .10; Cats per doz., .10; Dogs per doz., .10; Horses per doz., .10; Cattle per doz., .10; Swine per doz., .10; Sheep per doz., .10; Poultry per doz., .10; Fish per doz., .10; Game per doz., .10; Wild fowl per doz., .10; Snakes per doz., .10; Insects per doz., .10; Minerals per doz., .10; Plants per doz., .10; Animals per doz., .10; Vegetables per doz., .10; Fruits per doz., .10; Spices per doz., .10; Herbs per doz., .10; Roots per doz., .10; Stems per doz., .10; Leaves per doz., .10; Flowers per doz., .10; Seeds per doz., .10; Bark per doz., .10; Resins per doz., .10; Gums per doz., .10; 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Berrien County Record--Supplement.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

A year of peace and general prosperity to this nation has passed since the last assembling of Congress. We have, through a kind Providence, been blessed with abundant crops, and have been spared from complications and war with foreign nations. In our midst comparative harmony has been restored. It is to be regretted, however, that a free exercise of the elective franchise has, by violence and intimidation, been denied to citizens in exceptional cases in several of the States lately in rebellion, and that the verdict of the people has thereby been reversed. The States of Virginia, Mississippi and Texas have been restored to representation in our national councils. Georgia, the only State now without representation, may confidently be expected to take her place there also at the beginning of the new year, and then, let us hope, will be completed the work of reconstruction. With an acquiescence on the part of the whole people in the national obligation to pay the public debt created as the price of our union and the pensions to our disabled soldiers and sailors or their widows and orphans, and in the changes to the Constitution which have been made necessary by a great rebellion, there is no reason why we should not advance in material prosperity and happiness as no other nation has ever done after so protracted and devastating a war.

THE EUROPEAN WAR.

Soon after the existing war broke out in Europe the protection of the United States Minister in Paris was invoked in favor of the North Germans, domiciled in the French territory. Instructions were issued to grant the protection asked, and this has been followed by an extension of American protection to the citizens of Saxony, Hesse and Saxe-Coburg, Gotha, Colombia, Portugal, Uruguay, the Dominican Republic, Equador, Chili, Paraguay and Venezuela in Paris. The charge was an onerous one, requiring constant and severe labor as well as the exercise of patience, prudence and good judgment. It has been performed to the entire satisfaction of this Government, and, as I am officially informed, equally so to the satisfaction of the Government of North Germany.

THE FRENCH REPUBLIC.

As soon as I learned that a republic had been proclaimed at Paris and the people of France had acquiesced in the change, the Minister of the United States was directed by telegraph to recognize it, and tender my congratulations and those of the people of the United States. The re-establishment in France of a system of government, disconnected with the dynastic traditions of Europe, appeared to be a proper subject for the felicitations of Americans. Should the present struggle result in attaching the hearts of the French to our simpler forms of representative government, it will be a subject of still further satisfaction to our people.

While we make no efforts to impose our institutions upon the inhabitants of other countries, and while we adhere to our traditional neutrality in civil contests elsewhere, we cannot be indifferent to the spread of American political ideas in a great and highly civilized country like France. We were asked by the new government to use our good offices jointly with those of the European powers in the interest of peace. Answer was made that the established policy and the true interests of the United States forbade them to interfere in European questions jointly with European powers.

I ascertained informally and unofficially that the government of North Germany was not then disposed to listen to such representations from any power, and though earnestly wishing to see the blessing of peace restored to the belligerents, with all of whom the United States is on terms of friendship, I declined, on the part of this government, to take a step which could only result in injury to our true interests without advancing the object for which our intervention was invoked. Should the time come when the action of the United States can hasten the return of peace by a single hour, that action will be heartily taken.

CUBA.

It is not understood that the condition of the insurrection in Cuba has materially changed since the close of the last session of Congress. In an early stage of the contest the authorities of Spain inaugurated a system of arbitrary arrests, of close confinement, and of military trials and executions of persons suspected of complicity with the insurgents, and of seizure of their property and the sequestration of their revenues by executive warrant. Such proceedings as far as they affected the persons or property of the citizens of the United States were in violation of the treaty of 1795 between the United States and Spain. The representations of injuries resulting to several persons claiming to be citizens of the United States, by reason of such violations, were made to the Spanish government from April, 1890, to June last. The Spanish minister at Washington had been clothed with a limited power to aid in redressing such wrongs. That power was found to be withdrawn, in view, as it was said, of the favorable situation in the island of Cuba, which, however, did not lead to the revocation or suspension of the extraordinary and arbitrary functions exercised by the executive power in Cuba, and we were obliged to make our complaint at Madrid. In the negotiations thus opened and still pending there, the United States only claimed that for the future the rights reserved for their citizens by treaty should be respected in Cuba; and that to the past a joint tribunal should be established in the United States with full jurisdiction over all such claims. Before such an impartial tribunal each claimant would be required to prove his case. On the other hand, Spain would be at liberty to traverse every material fact, and thus complete, equitably would be done. A case which at one time threatened seriously to affect the relations between the United States and Spain has already been disposed of in this way.

The claim of the Col. Lloyd Aspinwall, for the illegal seizure and detention of that vessel, was referred to arbitration by mutual consent and has resulted in an award to the United States for the owners of the same of \$19,702 50 in gold. Another and long pending claim of a like nature—that of the whale ship "Canada," has been disposed of by friendly arbitration. During the present year it was referred by the joint consent of Brazil and the United States to the decision of Sir Edward Thornton, her Britannic Majesty's minister at Washington, who kindly undertook the laborious task of examining the voluminous mass of correspondence and testimony submitted by the two Governments and awarded to the United States the sum of \$100,750 00 in gold which has since been paid by the imperial government. These recent examples show that the mode which the United States have proposed to Spain for adjusting the pending claims is just and feasible, and that it may be agreed to by either nation without dishonor. It is to be hoped that this moderate demand may be acceded to by Spain without further delay. Should the pending negotiations unfortunately and unexpectedly be without result, it will then become my duty to communicate that fact to Congress, and invite its action on the subject.

SPAIN AND SOUTH AMERICA.

The long deferred peace conference between Spain and the allied South American Republics has been inaugurated in Washington, under the auspices of the United States. Pursuant to the recommendations contained in the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 17th of December 1885, the Executive Department of the government offered its friendly offices for the promotion of peace and harmony between Spain and the allied republics. Hesitations and obstacles occurred to the acceptance of the offer. Ultimately, however, a conference was arranged and was opened in this city on the 20th of October last, at which I authorized the Secretary of State to preside. It was attended by the ministers of Spain, Peru, Chili and Equador. In consequence of the absence of a representative from Bolivia, the conference was adjourned until the attendance of a Plenipotentiary from that Republic could be secured or other measures could be adopted towards compassing its object.

The allied and other republics of Spanish origin on this continent may see in this fact a new proof of our sincere interest in their welfare, of our desire to see them blessed with good governments capable of maintaining order and preserving their respective territorial integrity, and of our sincere wish to extend our own commercial and social relations with them.

The time is not probably far distant when, in the natural course of events, all European political connection with this continent will cease. Our policy should be shaped, in view of this probability, so as to ally the commercial interests of the Spanish American States more closely to our own, and thus give the United States all the pre-eminence and all the advantage which Mr. Monroe, Mr. Adams and Mr. Clay contemplated when they proposed to join in the congress of Panama.

SAN DOMINGO.

During the last session of Congress a treaty for the annexation of the republic of San Domingo to the United States failed to receive the requisite two-thirds vote of the Senate. I was thoroughly convinced that that the best interests of the country commercially and materially demanded its ratification. Time has only confirmed me in this view. I now firmly believe that the moment it is known that the United States have entirely abandoned the project of accepting as a part of its territory; the island of San Domingo, a free port will be negotiated for by European nations. In the Bay of Samana, a large commercial city will spring up, to which we will be tributary without receiving corresponding benefits. The government of San Domingo has voluntarily sought this annexation. It is a weak power, numbering, probably, less than 100,000 souls, and yet possessing one of the richest localities under the sun, capable of supporting a population of 20,000,000 of people in luxury. The people of San Domingo are not capable of maintaining themselves in their present condition, and must look for outside support. They yearn for the protection of our free institutions and laws, our progress and civilization. Shall we refuse them? The acquisition of San Domingo is desirable, because of its geographical position. It commands the entrance to the Caribbean sea and the isthmus route of commerce. It possesses the richest soil, best and most capacious harbors, most salubrious climate, and most valuable products of the forest, mine and soil of any of the West India Islands. Its possession by the United States will in a few years build up a coastwise commerce of immense magnitude, which will go far toward restoring to us our lost merchant marine. It will give to us those articles which we consider greatly valuable and do not produce, thus equalizing our exports and imports. In case of foreign war, it will give us the command of all the islands, and thus prevent an enemy from again possessing himself of a rendezvous upon our coast. It protects our coast trade between the States bordering on the Atlantic and those bordering on the Gulf of Mexico, as, by the Bahamas and the Antilles, twice we must, as it were, pass through foreign countries to get from Georgia to the east coast of Florida. San Domingo, with a stable government, under which her immense resources can be developed, will give remunerative wages to tens of thousands of laborers, not now upon the island. These latter will take advantage of every available means of transportation to abandon the adjacent islands, and seek the blessings of freedom and its sequence—each inhabitant receiving the reward of his own labor. Porto Rico and Cuba will have to abolish slavery as a measure of self preservation to retain their laborers. San Domingo will become a large consumer of the products of northern farms and manufactories. The cheap rate at which her citizens can be furnished with food and machinery will make it necessary that contiguous islands should have the same advantages in order to compete in the production of sugar, coffee, tobacco, tropical fruits, etc. This will open to us a wider market for our products. The production of our supply of these articles will cost us more than \$100,000,000 of our annual imports, besides largely increasing our exports. With such a picture, it is easy to see how our large debt abroad is ultimately to be extinguished. With the balance of trade against us, including interest on bonds held by foreigners and the money shipments of our citizens traveling in foreign lands equal to the yield of the precious metals in this country, it is not so easy to see how this result is to be otherwise accomplished. The acquisition of San Domingo is an adhesion to the Monroe doctrine. It is asserting our just claim to a controlling influence over the great commercial traffic soon to flow from west to east by way of the Isthmus of Darien, and which is to build up our merchant marine. It is to furnish new markets for the products

of our farms, shops and manufactories. It is to make slavery unsupportable in Cuba and Porto Rico at once and ultimately so in Brazil. It is to settle the unhappy condition of Cuba and end an exterminating conflict. It is to provide the honest means of paying our honest debts without over-taxing the people. It is to furnish our citizens with the necessities of every day life at cheaper rates than ever before. It is, in fine, a rapid stride towards that greatness which the intelligence, industry and enterprise of the citizens of the United States will cause this country to assume among the nations. In view of the importance of this question, I earnestly urge upon Congress early action expressive of its views as to the policy of acquiring San Domingo. My suggestion is that, by a joint resolution of the two Houses of Congress, the Executive be authorized to appoint a commission to negotiate for a treaty with the authorities of San Domingo for the acquisition of that island, and that an appropriation be made to defray the expenses of such commission. The question may then be determined by the action of the two Houses of Congress upon a resolution of annexation, as in the case of the acquisition of Texas. So convinced am I of the advantages to flow from the acquisition of San Domingo, and of the great disadvantages which almost any calamities—to flow from non-acquisition, that I believe the subject has only to be investigated to be approved.

MEXICAN MATTERS.

It is to be regretted that our representations in regard to the injurious effects, especially upon the revenue of the United States, of the policy of the Mexican government in exempting from import duties a large tract of its territory on our borders, have not only been fruitless, but that it is even proposed in that country to extend the limits within which the privilege advertised to has hitherto been enjoyed. The expediency of taking into your serious consideration the proper means for contracting the policy referred to will, it is presumed, engage your earnest attention.

EXTRADITION TREATIES.

It is the obvious interest, especially of neighboring nations, to provide against injury to those who may have committed high crimes within their borders, and who may have sought refuge abroad. For this purpose extradition treaties have been concluded with several of the Central American Republics, and others are in progress.

THE VENEZUELAN CLAIMS.

The sense of Congress is desired as early as may be convenient upon the proceedings of the Commission on Claims against Venezuela, which were communicated in my messages of March 4, 1869, March 1, 1870, and March 31, 1870. It has not been deemed advisable to distribute any of the money which has been received from that government till Congress shall have acted upon the subject.

THE MASSACRE IN CHINA.

The massacre of French and Russian residents at Tien Tsin, under circumstances of great barbarity, were supposed by some to have been premeditated, and to indicate a purpose among the populace to exterminate foreigners in the Chinese empire. The evidence fails to establish such a supposition but shows a complexity of the local authorities with the mob. The government at Peking, however, seems to have been disposed to fulfill its treaty obligations so far as it was able to do so. Unfortunately, the news of the war between the German States and France reached China soon after the massacre, and it would appear that the popular mind became possessed with the idea that this contest, extending to Chinese waters, would neutralize the Christian influence and power, and that the time was coming when the superstitious mass might expel all foreigners and restore mandarin influence. Anticipating trouble from this cause, I invited France and North Germany to make an authorized suspension of hostilities in the East, where they were temporarily suspended by act of the commanders, to act together for the future protection in China of the lives and property of Americans and Europeans.

ABOLITION OF THE SLAVE TRADE.

Since the adjournment of Congress the ratifications of the treaty with Great Britain for abolishing the mixed courts for the suppression of the slave trade have been exchanged. It is believed that the slave trade is now confined to the eastern coast of Africa, whence the slaves are taken to Arabian markets.

NATURALIZATION.

The ratifications of the naturalization convention between Great Britain and the United States have also been exchanged during the recess, and thus a long standing dispute between the two governments has been settled in accordance with the principles always contended for by the United States.

OUR NORTHWESTERN BOUNDARY.

In April last while engaged in locating a military reservation near Pembina, a corps of engineers discovered that the commonly received boundary line between the United States and the British Possessions at that place is about 5,700 feet south of the true position of the Zenith parallel, and that the line when run on what is now supposed to be the true position of that parallel would leave the fort of the Hudson Bay Company at Pembina within the territory of the United States. This information was communicated to the British government, and I was requested to consent, and did consent, that the British occupation of the fort of the Hudson Bay Company should continue for the present. I deem it important, however, that this part of the boundary lines should be definitely fixed by a joint commission of the governments, and I submit herewith an estimate of expense for such a commission on the part of the United States and recommend an appropriation for that purpose. The land boundary is already fixed and marked from the summit of the Rocky Mountains to the Georgian Bay. It should now be in like manner marked from the Lake of the Woods to the summit of the Rocky Mountains.

THE ALABAMA CLAIMS.

I regret to say that no conclusion has been reached for the adjustment of the claims against Great Britain, growing out of the course adopted by that government during the rebellion. The Cabinet of London, so far as its views have been expressed, does not appear to be willing to concede that her Majesty's government was guilty of negligence, or did or permitted any act during the war by which the United States has just cause of complaint. Our firm and unalterable convictions are directly the reverse. I would recommend to Congress to authorize the appointment of a commission to take the proof of the amounts and the ownership of these claims, on notice to the representative of Her Majesty at Washington, and that authority be given for the settlement of these claims by the United States, so that the Government shall have the ownership of appropriate claims as well as the responsible control of all the demands against Great

Britain. It cannot be necessary to add that whenever Her Majesty's government shall entertain a desire for a full and friendly adjustment of these claims the United States will enter upon their consideration with an earnest desire for a conclusion consistent with the honor and dignity of both nations.

THE FISHERY QUESTION.

The course pursued by the Canadian authorities towards the fishermen of the United States during the past season has not been marked by a friendly feeling. By the first article of the Convention of 1818 between Great Britain and the United States, it was agreed that the inhabitants of the United States should have forever, in common with British subjects the rights of taking fish in certain waters therein defined—in the waters not included in the limits named in the convention, i.e., within three miles of the ports of the British coast. It has been the custom for many years to give to the fishermen of the United States a reasonable warning of their violation of the technical rights of Great Britain. The Imperial government is understood to have delegated the whole or a share of its jurisdiction and control of these inshore fishery grounds to the Colonial authority, known as the Dominion of Canada, and this semi-independent, but irresponsible agent, has exercised its delegated powers in an unfriendly way. Vessels have been seized without notice or warning, in violation of the custom previously prevailing, and have been taken into the Colonial ports, their voyages broken up, and the vessels condemned. There is reason to believe that this unfriendly and vexatious treatment was designed to bear harshly upon the hardy fishermen of the United States, with a view to political effect on this government. The statutes of the Dominion of Canada assume a still broader and more untenable jurisdiction over the vessels of the United States. They authorize officers or persons to bring vessels, hovering within three marine miles of any of the coasts, bays, creeks or harbors of Canada, into port, to search the cargo and to examine the master on oath touching the cargo and voyage, and to inflict on him a heavy pecuniary penalty if true answers are not given. If such a vessel is found preparing to fish within three marine miles of any such coasts, bays, creeks, or harbors, without a license or after the expiration of the period named in the last license to it,—they provide that the vessel with her tackle, etc., shall be forfeited. It is not known that any condemnations have been made under the statute. Should the authorities of Canada attempt to enforce it, it will become my duty to take such steps as may be necessary to protect the rights of the citizens of the United States. It has been claimed by Her Majesty's officers that the fishing vessels of the United States have no right to enter the open ports of the British possessions in any other manner except for the purpose of shelter, of repairing damages, and of purchasing wood and obtaining water; that they have no right to enter at the British Custom Houses or to trade, except for the purchase of wood and water, and that they must depart within 24 hours after a notice to leave. It is not known that any seizure of a fishing vessel carrying the flag of the United States has been made under this claim. So far as the claim is founded in an alleged construction of the Convention of 1818 it cannot be acquiesced in by the United States. It is hoped that it will not be insisted upon by Her Majesty's government. During the conference which preceded the negotiation of the Convention of 1818 the British Commissioners proposed expressly to exclude the fishermen of the United States from the privilege of carrying on trade with any of His Britannic Majesty's subjects residing within the limits assigned for their use, and also that it should not be lawful for the vessels of the United States engaged in such fishery to have on board any goods, wares or merchandise whatever, except such as may be necessary for the prosecution of their voyages to and from said fishery grounds, and that any vessel of the United States which shall contravene this regulation may be seized, condemned and confiscated with her cargo. This proposition, which is identical with the construction now put upon the language of the Convention, was emphatically repelled by the American Commissioner, and thereupon was abandoned by the British plenipotentiaries, and Article 1, as it stands in the Convention, was substituted. If, however, it be said that this claim is founded on provincial or colonial statutes and not upon the Convention, this government cannot but regard them as unfriendly and in contravention of the spirit, if not of the letter of the treaty, for the faithful execution of which the Imperial government is alone responsible. Anticipating then that an attempt, may possibly, be made by the Canadian authorities, in the coming season, to repeat their unneighborly acts towards our fishermen, I would recommend you to confer upon the Executive the power to suspend, by proclamation, the operation of the laws authorizing the transit of goods, wares and merchandise in bond through the territory of the United States to Canada; and further, should such an extreme measure become necessary, to suspend the operation of any laws whereby the vessels of the Dominion of Canada are permitted to enter the waters of the United States.

NAVIGATION OF THE ST. LAWRENCE.

An unfriendly disposition has been manifested on the part of Canada in the maintenance of the claim of the right to exclude the citizens of the United States from the navigation of the St. Lawrence. This river constitutes a natural outlet to the ocean for States with an aggregate population of about 17,000,000 inhabitants, and with an aggregate tonnage of 681,367 tons upon the water which discharges into it. The foreign commerce of our ports on those waters is open to British competition, and the major part of it is done in British bottoms. If the American seamen are excluded from this natural avenue to the ocean, the monopoly of the direct commerce of the lake ports with the Atlantic would be in foreign hands, their vessels on trans-Atlantic voyages having an access to our lake ports, which would be denied to American vessels in similar condition. To state such a proposition refutes its justice. During the administration of John Quincy Adams, Mr. Clay demonstrated the natural right of the citizens of the United States to the navigation of this river, claiming that the act of the Congress of Virginia in opening the Rhine and other rivers to all nations, showed the judgment of European jurists and statesmen, that the inhabitants of a country, through which a navigable river passes, have a natural right to enjoy the navigation of that river to and into the sea, even though passing through the territory of another power. This right does not exclude the co-equal right of the sovereign possessing the territory through which the river debouches into the sea to make such regulations relative to the policy of its navigation as may be reasonably necessary, but those regulations should be framed in a liberal spirit of amity, and

should not impose needless burdens upon the commerce which has the right of transit. It has been found in practice more advantageous to arrange these regulations by mutual agreement. The United States are ready to make any reasonable arrangement as to the policy governing the navigation of the St. Lawrence which may be suggested by Great Britain. If the claim made by Mr. Clay was just, when the population of the States bordering on the shores of the lakes was only 3,400,000, it now derives greater force and equity from the increased population, wealth, production and tonnage of the States on the Canadian frontier. Since Mr. Clay advanced his argument in behalf of our own rights, the principle for which he contended has been frequently and by various nations recognized. By law, or by treaty it has been extended to several other great rivers. By the treaty concluded at Mayence in 1881, the Rhine was declared free from the point where it is first navigable into the sea. By the convention between Spain and Portugal, concluded in 1855, the navigation of the Douro, throughout its whole extent, was made free for the subjects of both powers. In 1858 the Argentine Confederation, by treaty, threw open the free navigation of the Paraguay and the Uruguay to the merchant vessels of all nations. In 1856 the Crimean war was closed by a treaty which provided for the free navigation of the Danube. In 1858, Bolivia by treaty declared that it regarded the rivers Amazon and La Plata, in accordance with fixed principles of natural law, as highways or channels opened by nature for the commerce of all nations. In 1859 the Paraguay was made free by treaty, and in December, 1860, the Emperor of Brazil, by an Imperial decree, declared the Amazon to be open to the frontier of Brazil to the merchant ships of all nations. The greatest living British authority on this subject, while asserting the abstract right of the British claim, says it seems difficult to deny that Great Britain may ground her refusal upon strict law, but it is equally difficult to deny first, that in so doing, she exercises harshly an extreme and hard law; secondly, that her conduct with respect to the navigation of the St. Lawrence is in glaring and discreditable inconsistency with her conduct with respect to the navigation of the Mississippi. On the ground that she possessed the small domain in which the Mississippi took its rise, she insisted on the right to navigate the entire volume of its waters. On the ground that she possessed both banks of the St. Lawrence where it disembogues itself into the sea, she denies to the United States the right of navigation, while about one-half of the waters of Lakes Ontario, Huron, Erie and Superior, and the whole of Lake Michigan, which flow through the river, are the property of the United States. The whole nation is interested in securing cheap transportation from the agricultural States of the west to the Atlantic seaboard; to the citizens of those States. It secures a greater return for their labor to the inhabitants of the seaboard; it offers cheaper food to the nation and an increase in the annual surplus of wealth. It is hoped that the government of Great Britain will see the justice of abandoning the narrow and inconsistent claim to which her Canadian provinces have urged her adherence.

OUR COMMERCE.

Our depressed commerce is a subject to which I called your special attention at the last session. I suggested that we would in the future have to look more to the countries south of us, and to China and Japan for its revival. Our representatives to all these governments have exerted their influence to encourage the trade between the United States and the countries to which they are accredited, but the fact exists that the carrying is done almost entirely in foreign bottoms; and while this state of affairs exists we cannot control our due share of the commerce of the world. That between the Pacific States and China and Japan is about all the carrying trade now conducted in American vessels. I would recommend a liberal policy towards that line of American steamers—one that will insure its success, and even increased usefulness. The cost of building iron vessels,—the only ones that can compete with foreign ships in the carrying trade—is so much greater in the United States, than in foreign countries that without some assistance from the government, they cannot be successfully built here. There will be several propositions laid before Congress in the course of the present session, looking to a remedy for this evil, even if it should be at some cost to the National Treasury. I hope such encouragement will be given as will secure American shipping on the high seas and American ship building at home.

CONDITION OF THE ARCHIVES OF THE GOVERNMENT.

The condition of the archives at the Department of the State calls for the early action of Congress. The building now rented by that department is a frail structure, and at an inconvenient distance from the Executive Mansion and from the other departments. It is ill adapted to the purpose for which it is used, has not the capacity to accommodate the archives, and is not fire proof. Its remote situation, its slender construction, and the absence of a supply of water in the neighborhood leaves but little hope of safety for either the building or its contents in case of the event of a fire. Its destruction would involve the loss of the rolls containing the original acts and resolutions of Congress; of the history and records of the revolution, and of the confederation; of the whole series of diplomatic and consular archives since the adoption of the Constitution, and of the many other valuable records and papers left with that department when it was the principal depository of the governmental archives. I recommend an appropriation for the construction of a building for the Department of State.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS.

I recommend your reconsideration the propriety of transferring to the Department of the Interior, to which they seem more appropiate to belong, all powers and duties in relation to the territories with which the Department of State is now charged by law or usage; and from the Interior Department to the War Department, the Pension Bureau, so far as it regulates the payment of pensions to soldiers. I would further recommend that the payment of naval pensions be transferred to one of the Bureaus of the Navy Department.

ESTIMATES OF THE EXPENSES FOR THE COMING YEAR.

The estimates for the expenses of the Government for the fiscal year are \$18,244,941, 61 less than for the current one, but exceed the appropriations for the present year for the same items \$8,972,127.50. In this estimate, however, is included \$22,398,273.37 for public works heretofore begun under Congressional provision, and for which only so much is asked as Congress may choose to give. The appropriation for the same work for the present fiscal year was \$11,984,518.01.

GOLD AND THE CURRENCY.

The average value of gold as compared with

national currency for the whole of the year 1869 was about 154, and for 11 months of 1870 the same relative value has been about 115. The approach to a specie basis is very gratifying, but the fact cannot be denied that the instability of the value of our currency is prejudicial to our prosperity, and tends to keep up prices to the detriment of trade. The evils of a depreciated and fluctuating currency are so great that now, when the premium on gold has fallen so much, it would seem that the time has arrived when by wise and prudent legislation Congress should look to a policy which would place our currency at par with gold at no distant day. The tax collected from the people has been reduced more than \$50,000,000 per annum. By steadiness in the present course, there is no reason why, in a few short years, the national tax gatherer may not disappear from the door of the citizen almost entirely. With the revenue stamp dispensed by the postmasters in every community, and a tax of liquors of all sorts and tobacco in all its forms, and by a wise adjustment of the tariff which will put a duty only upon those articles which we could dispense with, known as luxuries, and upon those which we use more of than we produce—revenue enough may be raised, after a few years of peace and consequent reduction of indebtedness, to fulfill all our obligations. A further reduction of expenses, in addition to a reduction of the interest account, may be relied on, to make this practicable. Revenue reform, if it means this, has my hearty support. If it implies a collection of all the revenue for the support of the Government, for the payment of the principal and the interest of the public debt, pensions, etc., by directly taxing the people, then I am against revenue reform, and confidently believe the people are with me. If it means failure to provide the necessary means to defray all expenses of the Government, and thereby reputation of the public debt and pensions, then I am still more opposed to such kind of revenue reform. Revenue reform has not been defined by any of its advocates to my knowledge, but seems to be accepted as something which is to supply very man's wants without any cost or effort on his part. A true revenue reform cannot be made in a day but must be the work of national legislation and of time. As soon as the revenue can be dispensed with, all duty should be removed from coffee, tea and other articles of universal use, not produced in our country. The necessities of the country compel us to collect revenue from our imports. An army of assessors and collectors is not a pleasant sight to the citizens, but that, or a tariff for revenue, is necessary. Such a tariff, so far as it acts in encouragement to home products, affords employment to labor at living wages in contrast to the pauper labor of the old world, and also in the development of home resources.

THE ARMY.

Under the act of July 15, 1870, the army has gradually been reduced so that on the first of January, 1871, the number of commissioned officers and men will not exceed the number contemplated by that law. The department building is an old structure not fit for use, and entirely inadequate in its dimensions to our present want. Many thousands of dollars are now paid annually for rent of private buildings to accommodate the various bureaus of the departments. I recommend an appropriation for a new war department building suited to the present and growing wants of the nation. The report of the Secretary of War shows a very satisfactory reduction in the expenses of the army for the last fiscal year. For details you are referred to his accompanying report.

THE NAVY.

The expense of the navy for the whole of the last year, i. e. from December 1, 1869, to the date of the last report, are less than \$9,000,000 or about \$1,000,000 less than they were during the previous year. The expenses since the commencement of this fiscal year, i. e. since July 1st, show for the five months a decrease of over \$2,400,000 from those of the corresponding months of last year. The estimates for the current year were \$23,205,073 03; those for next year are \$20,683,817, with \$865,100 additional for necessary permanent improvements. These estimates were made closely for the mere maintenance of the naval establishment, as it now is, without such in the nature of a permanent improvement. These appropriations made for the last and the current years were evidently thus intended by Congress, and are sufficient only to keep the navy on its present footing by the repairing and refitting of our ships. This policy must, of course, gradually but surely destroy the navy, and it is in itself not economical, as each year that it is pursued the necessity for more repairs on ships and navy yards, becomes more imperative and more costly, and our current expenses are annually increased for the mere repair of ships, many of which must soon become unserviceable and useless. I hope during the present session of Congress to be able to submit a plan by which naval vessels can be built, and repairs made with a great saving upon the present cost. It can hardly be wise statesmanship in a government which represents a country with over 5,000 miles of coast line on both oceans, exclusive of Alaska, and containing 400,000 of the most fertile people, with relations of every nature with almost every foreign country, to rest with such inadequate means of enforcing any foreign policy, either of protection or of redress. Separated by the ocean from the nations of the eastern continent, our navy is our only means of direct protection to our citizens abroad, or for the enforcement of any foreign policy.

THE POSTOFFICE DEPARTMENT.

The accompanying report sets forth the satisfactory working of this department and with the adoption of the recommendations contained therein, particularly those relating to a reform in the franking privilege, and the adoption of correspondence cards, a self-sustaining postal system may speedily be looked for, and at no distant day a further reduction of the rate of postage be attained. I recommend the authorization by Congress to the Postmaster General and Attorney General to issue all commissions to officials appointed through their respective departments. At present, these commissions, where appointments are precedential, are issued by the State department. The law in all the departments of the Government except those of the postoffice and of justice, authorizes each to issue its own commissions.

CIVIL SERVICE REFORM.

Always favoring practical reforms, I respectfully call your attention to one abuse of long standing which I would like to see remedied by this Congress. It is a reform in the Civil Service of the country. We have to get beyond the mere fixing of the tenure of office of clerks and employes who do not require the advice and consent of the Senate to make their appointments complete; I would have it govern not the tenure, but the manner of making all appointments. There is no duty which so much embarrasses the executive and heads of departments as that of appointments, nor is there any such arduous and thankless labor imposed on senators and representatives as that of finding places for constituents. The present system does not secure the best, and often not even fit men for public places. The elevation and purification of the civil service of the government will be hailed with approval by the whole people of the United States.

OUR INDIAN POLICY.

Reform in the management of Indian affairs has received the special attention of the administration from its inauguration to the

present day. The experiment of making it a missionary work was tried with a few agencies given to the denomination of Friends, and has been found to work most advantageously. All agencies and superintendencies not so disposed were given to officers of the army. The act of Congress regulating the army renders army officers ineligible for civil positions. Indian agencies being civil offices, I determined to give all the agencies to such religious denominations as had heretofore established missionaries among the Indians, and perhaps to some other denominations who would undertake the work on the same terms, i. e. as a missionary work. The societies selected are allowed to name their own agents subject to the approval of the executive, and are expected to watch over them and aid them as missionaries to Christianize and civilize the Indian, and to train him in the arts of peace. The government watches over the official acts of these agents, and requires of them as strict an accountability as if they were appointed in any other manner. I entertain the confident hope that the policy now pursued will, in a few years, bring all the Indians upon reservations where they will live in houses, have school houses and churches, will be pursuing peaceful and self-sustaining avocations, and where they may be visited by the law-abiding white men with the same impunity that he visits the civilized white settlements. I call your special attention to the report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs for full information on this subject.

THE PUBLIC LANDS.

During the last fiscal year, 309,501,413 acres of public land were disposed of. Of this quantity, 389,991,005 acres were taken under the Homestead law, and 215,951,551 acres sold for cash. The remainder was located with military warrants, college or Indian scrip, or applied in satisfaction of emigrants or for railroads, or for other public uses. The entries under the Homestead law during the last year covered 981,545 acres more than those during the preceding year. Surveys have been vigorously prosecuted to the full extent of the means applicable to the purpose. The quantity of land in the market will amply supply the present demand. The claim of the settlers under the homestead or the pre-emption laws is not, however, limited to lands subject to sale at private entry. Any unappropriated surveyed public land may, to a limited amount, be acquired under the former laws, if the party entitled to enter under them will comply with the requirements they prescribe in regard to residence and cultivation. The actual settler's preference right of purchase is even broader and extends to lands which were unsurveyed at the time of his settlement. His right was formerly confined within much narrower limits, and at one period of our history was defined only by special statutes. They were enacted from time to time, legalizing what was then regarded as an unauthorized intrusion upon the national domain. The opinion that the public lands should be regarded chiefly as a source of revenue is no longer maintained. The rapid settlement and successful cultivation of them is now justly considered of more importance to our well being than the fund which the sale of them would produce. The remarkable growth and prosperity of our new States and territories attest the wisdom of the legislation which enables the tiller of the soil to secure a permanent home on terms within reach of all. The pioneer who incurs the dangers of a frontier life, and thus aids in laying the foundation of new commonwealths, renders a signal service to his country, and is entitled to its special favor and protection. The laws, which secure that object, largely promote the general welfare. These should therefore be cherished as a permanent feature of our land system. Good faith requires us to give full effect to existing grants. The time honored and beneficent policy of setting apart certain sections of the public land for educational purposes in the new States should be continued. When ample provision shall have been made for these objects, I submit, as a question worthy of serious consideration, whether the residue of our national domain should not be wholly disposed of under the provisions of the homestead and pre-emption laws.

In addition to the swamp and overflowed lands granted to the States in which they are situated, and the lands taken under the Agricultural College act or for internal improvement purposes under the act of September, 1841, and the acts supplemental thereto, there had been conferred, up to the close of the last fiscal year, by patent or other equivalent evidence of title, to States and corporations, 273,963,571 acres for railroads, canals and wagon roads. It is estimated that the additional quantity of 174,735,523 acres is still due under grants of like uses. The policy of this selling the States in building works of internal improvement was inaugurated more than 40 years since in the grants to Indiana and Illinois to aid those States in opening canals to connect the waters of the Wabash with those of Lake Erie, and the waters of the Illinois with those of Lake Michigan. It was followed, with some modification, in the grant to Illinois of alternate sections of public land, within certain limits, to the Illinois Central Railroad. Four States and sundry corporations have received similar subsidies in connection with railroads completed or in process of construction. As the reserved sections are rated at the double minimum, the sale of them at the enhanced price has thus, in many instances, indemnified the treasury for the granted lands. The construction of some of these thoroughfares has given a vigorous impetus to the development of our resources, and the settlement of the most distant portions of the country. It may, however, well be insisted that much of our legislation in this regard has been characterized by indiscriminate and profuse liberality. The United States should not loan their credit in aid of any enterprise, undertaken by States or corporation, nor grant lands, in any instance, unless the projected works of acknowledged national importance. I am strongly inclined to the opinion that it is inexpedient and unnecessary to bestow subsidies of either description, but should Congress determine otherwise, I earnestly recommend that the rights of settlers and of the public be more effectually secured and protected by appropriate legislation.

PATENTS.

During the year ending September 30, 1870, there were filed in the Patent Office, 19,411 applications for patents, 3,874 caveats and 160 applications for the extension of patents. Including reissues and designs, 18,332 patents were issued, 110 extended, and 1,089 allowed but not issued by reason of the non-payment of final fees. The receipts of the office during the fiscal year were \$126,304 29 in excess of its expenditures.

THE CENSUS.

The work of the census bureau has been energetically prosecuted. The preliminary report, containing much information of special value, will be ready for delivery during the present session, and the remaining volumes will be completed with all the dispatch consistent with perfect accuracy. In arranging and classifying the returns we shall thus, at no distant day, be furnished with an authentic record of our condition and resources. It will, I doubt not, attest the growing prosperity of the country, although during the decade which has just closed, it was so severely tried by the great war waged to maintain its integrity, and to secure and perpetuate our free institutions.

PENSIONERS AND PENSIONERS.

During the last fiscal year, the sum paid to pensioners, including the cost of disbursement, was \$27,750,911, and 1,759 bounty land warrants were issued. At its close, 193,636 names were on the pension rolls. The labors

of the pension office have been directed to the severe scrutiny of the evidences submitted in favor of new claims, and to the discovery of fictitious claims which have been heretofore allowed. The Appropriation for the employment of special agents for the investigation of frauds, has been judiciously used, and the results obtained have been of unquestionable benefit to the service.

EDUCATION AND AGRICULTURE.

The subjects of education and agriculture are of great interest to the success of our republican institutions, and our happiness and progress as a nation. In the interests of one a bureau has been established in the Interior Department—the Bureau of Education—and in the interests of the other a separate department—that of Agriculture. I believe great general good is to flow from the operations of both these bureaus, if properly fostered. I cannot commend to your careful consideration too highly the reports of the Commissioners of Education and of Agriculture, nor urge too strongly such liberal legislation as will secure their efficiency.

CONCLUSION—THE POLICY OF THE ADMINISTRATION.

In conclusion, I would sum up the policy of the administration to be: A thorough enforcement of every law; a faithful collection of every tax provided for; economy in the disbursement of the same; a prompt payment of the debt of the nation; a reduction of taxes as rapidly as the requirements of the country will admit; the reduction of taxation; and the tariff to be so arranged as to afford the greatest relief to the greatest number; honest and fair dealing with all other people; to the end that a war with all its blighting consequences may be avoided, but without surrendering any right or obligation due to us; a reform in the treatment of Indians and in the whole civil service of the country; and, finally, the securing of a pure, untrammelled ballot, where every man entitled to cast a vote may do so, just once at each election, without fear of molestation or persecution on account of his political faith, nativity or color.

(Signed), U. S. GRANT.

EXECUTIVE MANSION, December 5, 1870.

VENETIAN BLONDES.—It seems that the folly of making artificially light hair is not confined to our own times. In the sixteenth century the Venetian ladies did the same thing. A contemporary writer says: The Strasbourg goose, fastened to the floor before the fire to enlarge its liver, affords the closest parallel to the fair, or would-be fair, Venetian, with her dripping head exposed to the sun, as Cesare Vecellio, writing in 1539, pictures her: "The houses of Venice are commonly crowned with little constructions in wood, resembling a turret without a roof. On the ground these lodges or boxes are formed of masonry, floored like what are called *terazzi* at Florence and Naples, and covered with a cement of sand and lime to protect them from the rain. It is in these that the Venetian woman may be seen as often, and indeed, oftener than in their chambers; it is that, with their heads exposed to the full ardor of the sun during whole days, they strain every nerve to augment their charms, as if they needed it, as if the constant use of so many methods known to all did not expose their natural beauty to pass for no better than artificial. During the hours when the sun darts its most vertical and scorching rays they repair to these boxes and condemn themselves to broil in them unattended. Seated there, they keep on wetting their hair with a sponge dipped in some elixir of youth prepared with their own hands or purchased. They moisten their hair as fast as it is dried by the sun, and it is by the unceasing renewal of this operation that they become what you see them, blondes."

A ROMANCE.—The following romantic story is told of Lord March (grandson of Charles II.) who afterwards became the second Duke of Richmond, and who, while yet quite young, was engaged, without being consulted as to the choice, to a lady still younger. The bride was Lady, the daughter of the Earl of Cadogan, Marlborough's favorite general. Their union (according to Napier's account) was a bargain to cancel a gambling debt between the parents, and the young Lord March was brought from college and the lady from the nursery, for the ceremony. The bride was amazed and silent, but the bridegroom exclaimed, "Surely you are not going to marry me with that dowry?" Married he was, however, and his tutor instantly carried him off to the continent. A few years after this event Lord March returned home from his travels a most accomplished gentleman, but having such a very disagreeable recollection of his wife that he avoided home, and repaired on the first night of his arrival to the theatre. There he saw a lady of so fine an appearance that he asked who she was, and on being answered that she was the reigning toast, "the beautiful Lady March," he hastened to claim her, and they lived together so affectionately that one year only after his decease in 1750 she died of grief.

MAN AND HORSE.—Julius Von Wicked, the noted German military writer, describes the following scene which occurred after the capitulation of Sedan: "It was a touching scene," says he, "to see a fine looking officer of the Chasseurs d'Afrique take leave of a splendid bay horse, with a black mane, a fine full blooded Arabian. He usually embraced the noble steed affectionately, and he wept quite freely all sorts of affectionate names. The intelligent animal seemed to comprehend his master, and pressed its head against his breast in a caressing manner, as Oriental horses are wont to do. Suddenly the officer stepped back, and a terrible struggle seemed to take place in his breast. He held his hand to his eyes, and then he tore his sword from his scabbard, plunged it into the breast of his noble charger, piercing his heart. He had aimed well, for the faithful horse fell dead without a struggle. The officer turned away, sobbing like a child, without bestowing a look on the saddle or trappings, and joined his companions who were mounting into the railway cars which took them to their place of captivity."

DEATH A RELIEF.—A German paper relates the following little incident which occurred in the hospital of Sildburghausen. A Prussian had been taken there who had been wounded at Woerth in the foot, in a manner that amputation became necessary. He bore his misfortune manfully, and only asked that it might be communicated in a letter to his betrothed in Paris. He was in a fair way of recovery, and already able to leave his bed, when the following letter arrived from his intended: "I have learned, with the utmost regret that you have lost your foot, but as I can not possibly marry a cripple, I feel compelled to consider our engagement as not existing." The Prussian said not a word, and laid the letter on his bed. His wound became worse and worse from that moment, and he died a few days afterward.

COPPERPLATE ENGRAVING.—The invention of copperplate engraving is believed to have been derived from Maso Finiguerra, a Florentine, who lived between the years 1400 and 1460. It is said that he impressed with earth all the things which he engraved in silver, for the purpose of filling them with *niello*, a metallic substance reduced to powder, composed of silver, copper, lead, sulphur, and borax. And having poured over the earthen impressions liquid sulphur, they became printed and filled with smoke. "Whence," says Visari, "being rubbed with oil, they showed the same as the silver, and this he also did with damped paper, and with the same tint, pressing over it with a round roller, smooth in every part, which not only made them appear printed, but as if drawn with a pen."

REVERENCE OF THE PARSEES FOR ANIMALS.

Although the Parsees are the only sacred animal of the Hindus revered by the Parsees, for they pay no special regard to the monkey or the other animal divinities of their neighbors, they are the protectors of the whole animal kingdom, dogs and pigeons being their most esteemed proteges. Bombay is the paradise of both birds and the quadruped. At certain hours of the day, at feeding time, it is almost impossible to walk or drive through the streets without treading on several of these birds, rendered fearless by long continued immunity from harm. On the green, as the open space in the center of the fort is *par excellence* styled, the intensely bright sky is clouded by the countless blue wings swooping down for their food. Statisticians have frequently demonstrated the enormous waste of human food that occurs daily on this one spot. Enough, they assert, to feed a whole village of human paupers; but the Parsees persist in their whim, for it has nothing to do with their religion, in spite of the pleadings of political economy. If there be some political feeling at the bottom of their love for their pigeons, which, we may say here, are the same species as our own wild pigeon, there can be no title of such sentiment about the dogs that infest the city. Nowhere else in the world can be seen such specimens of the genus *canis*. The dogs of Pera and Constantinople are sleek thorough bred compared with the *pygges* of Bombay. During daylight they are hidden away in holes and sycaves, but an hour after sunset they sallied out in search of companionship and food, and make night hideous with their yelping and growling. The jackals of Calcutta are sufficiently irritating to insupportable nerves, but their noise is music itself by the side of the Parsees' four legged friends. There are very stringent laws in force interfering with these animals, and one of the most serious riots that ever took place in Bombay had its origin in the slaying of one or more dogs by some English sailors. The Parsee population worked themselves up into a furious state of excitement, attacking with sticks and stones every European that showed himself, until the authorities were obliged to call out the military, and an English regiment was marched into the fort; from their barracks on the adjoining island of Cooolaba Theriot occurred in the month of May, the hottest season of the year, and several of the soldiers were killed by *coup de soleil* in their short march of a mile and a quarter. The disturbance was eventually quelled, but not without further loss of life. This occurred twenty-five years ago, and the dogs have been since un molested.—A. G. Constable, in *Harper's Magazine* for December.

AN INDIAN BURYING GROUND.

In the township of Almer, on the farm of Mr. Alford Weldon, remains of Indians are frequently found, and everything indicates that it was used as a burial place by the former inhabitants of this country. It is situated on a high piece of ground near Cass river, and the earth is washed away by the high water, bringing to view parts of skeletons. In the center of this piece of ground is a high knoll which has often attracted attention, and aroused the curiosity of some to know why it was made there, and what it contained. Mr. Otis W. Leonard resolved toathom the mystery, and commenced work with a spade one day last week, and had not dug more than three feet before he discovered the secret. From a hole about two and one-half feet in diameter, and at the depth above mentioned, he succeeded in taking out half a dozen skulls, and a great quantity of bones belonging to different parts of the human frame. Digging in different parts of the knoll he found the same, everything indicating that the bodies were placed in sitting position, and always facing the east. The knoll is about 25 feet in diameter, and about three feet high. On this knoll or a little on one side is a large pine stump that must have grown after the remains were deposited there, as a number remember part of the tree standing, and always in an upright position. The roots run in such a manner into the ground that there is no doubt of its growing since the knoll was made. The Indians are supposed to have belonged to the *Chippewa* race. Some of the Indians now here have been questioned in regard to this place, but nothing could be learned from them. Their only reply would be, "Don't know, may be, had Indian." We understand that it is the intention of some to remove the mound entirely, and deposit the remains in a new place. As they are now interred, a plow would quite frequently turn them out.—*Insula Advertiser*.

CONFESSION WHICH IS GOOD FOR THE SOUL.

French Christians, both Protestants and Romish, are laying to heart the divine judgments on France, and are publicly confessing the sins of the nation. Bishop Dupanloup of Orleans, who resisted strenuously the infallibility dogma, has published a letter in which he points to the utter public and social demoralization of the people, and says: "We have almost entirely ceased to speak the truth. We have especially ceased to practice virtue; virtue has been banished from almost all ranks. The evil is deep; it is seen and deplored, but the stream follows its course. In a similar strain, Rev. M. Platte, the Protestant pastor at Nice, puts forth this touching litaney: "Our principles and our manners have been corrupted. We have absolved, glorified and crowned perjury. We have regarded as mere prejudices, conscience and truth. We have made light of whatever is pure and sacred among men. Woman, marriage and its holy duties, all the domestic virtues, have been for us subjects of ridicule. Our theatres and our schools have become schools of immorality. By the frivolity of our character, by our long resignation to servitude, by the looseness of our tastes, by our shameful fashions, by our obscene songs, we have dishonored our times, and scandalized the world. In all the ranks of our society, vice has flourished, exposing without shame before the eyes of all that which it is not permitted even to mention. Then Thy wrath has kindled, and upon this Sodom and this Gomorrah which we have become. Thou hast rained down fire and brimstone. Thou art just, O Lord, and our guilt has merited this chastisement." There is hope in this humility. God may be abasing the pride of France, in order to introduce a new era of morality and religion, which shall deliver that unhappy land from its foes, infidelity and superstition; and shall prepare it by general education and a pure gospel for permanent institutions of political freedom.

A GRAND CLIMAX IN THE OPERA.

A striking place in the Imperial Opera of Vienna the other day. The members of the orchestra had received an increase of salaries, and the choristers demanded the same. Their demands were refused, and so they intended to strike. The managers were in great tribulation as to what form this strike was to assume. At first it was believed that they would stay away altogether, but no, when evening came they appeared as usual, and the performance of the "Magic Flute" commenced. But fancy the astonishment of the manager and the audience when the choristers only murmured their parts. In vain did the leader gesticulate with his *baton*, they could hardly be heard. To increase the distress some of the solo singers refused to sing, with such a chorus, and they had to be replaced by others. But a general collapse ensued when the leader, by a very excellent means, was seized by a fit of insanity. The partman had to go down, and the spectators believed that the money back at the door. Next day the demands of the choristers were satisfied.

WHY THE RAIN FELL FOR FIVE DAYS UPON A GROUP OF GRAVES IN ALABAMA.

Some days ago we published an account from Mobile of a mysterious dropping of rain upon certain graves in the cemetery near that city: "The mystery" is thus solved: To the Editor of the Register:—Having occasion to visit a sick person near the catholic grave-yard, curious I was prompted to make some inquiry about the phenomenon of rain falling in a certain yard. It is all due to a young leafless wild cherry tree standing in an adjoining yard. This is not uncommon at this season of the year with the wild cherry, crape myrtle, and swamp poplar trees. It is caused by the sap ascending after the leaves have fallen off, in great quantities, from some atmospheric cause. The little sap left on the branches when the leaf falls off coats over with gum; the sap rises and collects under the coat, and by a *vis a tergo* action burst the coating, and many of them at a time produce a very fine shower. There are other phenomena of this kind in and about the city. One (a poplar tree in Holly's garden) is now or was about a week ago, giving quite as much water as the one in question. A crape myrtle on the old shell road has been showering every fall for many years.

Monte, Nov. 4, 1870.

As having a curious affinity with the above paragraph, we reproduce an extract from the Holly Springs, Miss., Reporter: "A singular phenomenon may be witnessed on the farm of M. C. Pegues, five miles southeast of Holly Springs. A black gum tree, about 80 feet high, growing on the hillside, surrounded by other trees, has been for years a source of wonder to many in that neighborhood and has gained for itself the name of 'raining tree.'" On Saturday last several persons visited this remarkable tree. The day was perfectly calm, warm and cloudless, with the exception of a few clouds in the south. Immediately under, and a short distance beyond the branches of the tree, a gentle rain was falling continually, saturating the ground beneath, and nowhere else was a particle of moisture visible. The water collected in the fallen leaves had the appearance and taste of rain water.—*Christian News*.

THE BEAUTIES OF THE LAW.

A correspondent of the *Norwich Bulletin*, who writes from North Kingston, Rhode Island, says that about four years since Mr. Sylvester Franklin, of that place, brought action against John Brown of the same town, for damages to his wife in a collision of vehicles in the public highway. Mr. Brown is a very old man and drives a very slow horse, and Franklin's wife is much younger and drives a fast horse. At the time of the collision she was racing with another party, and they were driving very fast down hill and around a corner, when they suddenly came upon old Mr. Brown, who was coming from mill, and who did not succeed in giving quite half the road, as the notice was rather short for age and a slow team; consequently they collided, Mrs. Franklin going unceremoniously over the dasher and fracturing an arm. For this Mr. Brown was sued, and after a severe contest, in which the lawyers have not failed to take all the advantages of motions for new trials and writs of error, and whatever other devices known to the law and requisite in a ruinous lawsuit, it has at last come to a close in favor of the defendant. The suit has been most severe in its consequences upon the parties. The plaintiff has spent nearly all of the little property saved by years of industry, which a short time previously he had invested in a snug little home, and when the final judgment was given he lifted up his voice and wept. Mr. Brown is nearly 80 years of age, and though possessing a comfortable share of the world's goods, has been extremely of a sufferer from this ill-chosen suit, having been harassed for such a long time; the excitement at last proved too much for his enfeebled constitution, and while upon the witness stand, being brow-beaten by the shrewdest of counsel on the cross-examination, he had a paralytic shock, which deprives him of the use of one side from head to foot.

THE NEW NIGHT TIME PIECE.

This curious and ingenious invention, says the *Queen*, an English paper, may be said to be a combination of reading lamp and clock. In external contour the night time piece resembles an ordinary table lamp of the globe form of construction; but surrounding the globe as a zone or band are the figures representing the 12 hours of a common dial. A blue steel hand or index, which appears black when the lamp is lit, points to the hours and minutes as they are registered by the clock work, which occupies a round box or case below the oil reservoir. This consists of a deep glass chamber cup, in which a hollow porcelain ball floats holding on its upper surface, a short waxed cotton wick. On the glass cup being filled with oil the wick is ignited, just as in the case of a common floating night lamp. The works are then wound up, the time set, and the night time piece is on duty. It is so arranged as to run for 30 hours without fresh winding up. Should the movement be slow, or tending to gain, there is a little ball at the end of the pendulum, which, by turning from right to left, edgeways the wick. If it loses, the ball is turned in the opposite direction. Nothing can surpass the simplicity of the arrangement under consideration, which we are of opinion will be found of great value to invalids and those whose occupation will oblige them to mark the flight of time by night as well as by day.

THE OSWATONIC DAM.

The Oswatonic dam, the Oswatonic river just above Birmingham, Ct., is completed. The dam is 600 feet wide and 23 feet high, and sets the water back five miles, making the heaviest water power in Connecticut, if not in New England. Thirty years ago a similar scheme was projected, but opposing shad fisheries above prevented its execution. At several periods since, have the movements been defeated, until in 1864 another application was met, as usual, by the opposing shad lovers. Then a delegation was sent to Maine to investigate the arrangement of the fisheries there. They returned, bringing with them a gentleman experienced in the business, also a model of a weir, whereby fish could go up the dam. Consequently, in 1868, the charter was granted. The capital was soon raised, and the work commenced. The first of October, 1869, the water was advanced, but the great freshet of October 4 swept a large portion of it away, owing to the condition in which it was left. Discouraged, but not disheartened, the company soon raised the necessary additional capital, and resumed the work. Now it stands in honor to the company an ornament to the Oswatonic valley, and, in the future, when the dropping of the hammer, the buzzing of the spindle, and the clatter of machinery generally shall be heard, a blessing to other generations.—*Cor. Northville Record*.

A PAIR OF SPINS.

Two peasants, were shot, the other day, near Paris, for conveying information. Their way of proceeding was as follows: Having discovered where the last German sentinel was placed, one peasant came up through the German lines pretending that he was going to gather crapes in his field, which happened to be just outside of the Prussian boundary. Of course the sentinel refused to let him pass. While he is gesticulating and pleading his cause up comes another blue-bloused peasant, "Oh, my dear brother," cries blousé No. 1, "how art thou, and how are thy wife and children?" The two brothers embrace, and each slip a packet of letters into the other's blouse under the nose of the sentry. But the other morning a sentry was more suspicious, and he put himself and his needle-gaz between these two dear brothers, and Paris sent them off to the supports in the rear. When searched, whole bundles of letters were found on them, and they were at once shot as spies.