

The Berrien County Record.

D. A. WAGNER, Editor.

W. K. KINGSLEY, Editor.

VOLUME VI.

BUCHANAN, MICH., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1872.

NUMBER 42.

JOHN C. WELCH,

DEALER IN

Diamonds,

Gold and Silver Watches, Fine

Jewelry, Ladies' and Gents'

Gold and Silver Chains,

Coin Silver Table Ware

and Silver Plated

Goods

Of every description, and of the most cele-

brated manufacturers. Agent for

Aiken, Lambert & Co's

COLD PENS,

Of which we have a full and well selected

supply.

Violin & Guitar Strings,

NOTIONS.

POCKET CUTLERY.

GOLD, SILVER & STEEL-BOWED

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Made a specialty of.

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Repaired with Neatness.

All Goods Warranted to be invari-

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Central Block, Buchanan.

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FLOURING MILLS.

ROUGH & PEARS PROPRIETORS.

Cash Paid for Wheat, Corn, &c

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Watches, Jewelry,

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A share of the public patronage solicited. Store in

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Keep as good prices, and charge as

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As any establishment in the City

HOWE & DAVIS SEWING MACHINES

OFFICE: In "Record" Building, north side of Front Street, near State Street.

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and hair dresser, located in the

block of State, Buchanan, Mich.

WEINER & EDWARDS, manu-

facturers of Lumber and Lath, Custom Sawing,

and Milling done in the best manner and at

reasonable prices. Mill on South side of Front Street,

near the bridge, Buchanan, Mich.

W. H. SAWYER, Justice of the

Peace, Public and Notary Agent. Will

perform all duties in the most efficient manner.

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W. J. PETERSON, well digger-

and well drainer, located in the

block of State, Buchanan, Mich.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK.

BUCHANAN, MICH.

Mortgage Sale.

DEBATE having been made in the payment of the

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Poetry.

YOU KISSED ME!

You kissed me! My head dropped

Low on your breast,

With a feeling of halter-

And infinite raptures

While the holy emotions

My tongue dared not speak,

Fixed up like a flame

From my heart to my cheek!

Your arms held me fast,

Oh! I never was so bold!

My soul through my eyes,

As the sun draws the mist

From the sea to the skies;

And your lips to my lips

Till I pressed in my bliss,

From that rapturous kiss

You kissed me! My heart and

Berrien County Record--Supplement.

THE MESSAGE

Our Foreign Relations Considered.

Results of the Geneva and Berlin Arbitrations.

Abstracts of the Reports of the Various Departments.

The Abolition of the Franking Privilege Again Urged.

GOOD WORDS ABOUT CIVIL SERVICE REFORM.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

In transmitting to you my fourth annual message, it is with thankfulness to the Giver of all good that as a Nation we have been blessed for the last year with peace at home and abroad, and a general prosperity vouchsafed to but few people. With the exception of the recent devastating fire, which swept from earth with a breath, as it were, millions of accumulated wealth in the city of Boston, there has been no overshadowing calamity within the year to record. It is gratifying to note how, like their fellow-citizens of the city of Chicago under similar circumstances a year earlier, the citizens of Boston are rallying under their misfortunes; and the prospect is that their energy and perseverance will overcome all obstacles and show the same prosperity soon that they would have known had no disaster befallen them. Otherwise we have been free from pestilence, war and calamities which often overtake nations, and, as far as human judgment can penetrate the future, no cause seems to exist to threaten our present peace.

THE GENEVA AWARD.

When Congress adjourned in June last, a question had been raised by Great Britain, and was then pending, which for a time seriously imperilled the settlement by a friendly arbitration of the differences existing between this government and that of Her Britannic Majesty by the Treaty of Washington, which had been referred to the tribunal of arbitration which had met at Geneva in Switzerland. The arbitrators, however, disposed of the question which had jeopardized the whole of the treaty and threatened to involve the two nations in most unhappy relations toward each other, in a manner entirely satisfactory to this government and in accordance with the views and the policy which it had maintained. The tribunal which had convened in Geneva in December concluded its laborious session on the 14th day of September last, on which day having availed itself of the discretionary power given to it by the treaty to award a sum in gross, it made its decision. Thereby it awards the sum of \$15,500,000 in gold as the indemnity to be paid by Great Britain to the United States for the satisfaction of all claims referred to its consideration. This decision happily disposes of a long-standing difference between the governments, and in common with another award made by the German Emperor, under a reference to him by the same treaty, leaves the two governments without shadow upon the friendly relations which it is my sincere hope may forever remain equally unclouded.

The report of the agent of the Government of the United States appointed to attend the Geneva Tribunal, accompanied by the protocols of the proceedings of the arbitrators, the arguments of the counsel of both governments, the awards of the Tribunal, and the opinions given by the several arbitrators, is transmitted herewith. I have caused to be communicated to the heads of the heads of the three friendly powers who complied with the joint request made to them under the treaty the thanks of this government for the appointment of the arbitrators made by them respectively, and also my thanks to the prominent personages named by them, and my appreciation of the dignity, patience, impartiality and great ability with which they discharged their arduous and high functions. Her Majesty's government has communicated to me its appreciation by Her Majesty of the able and indefatigable industry displayed by Mr. Adams, the arbitrator named on the part of this Government during the protracted inquiries and discussions of the tribunal. I cordially unite with Her Majesty in this appreciation. It is due to the agent of the United States before the tribunal to record my high appreciation of the marked ability, unwearied patience, and the prudence and discretion with which he has conducted the very responsible and delicate duties committed to him, as it is also due to the learned and eminent counsel who attended the tribunal on the part of this Government, to express my sense of the talents and wisdom which they brought to bear in the argument of a result so happily reached. It will be the province of Congress to provide for the distribution among those who may be entitled to it of their respective shares of the money to be paid.

Although the sum awarded is not payable until a year from the date of the award, it is deemed advisable that no time be lost in making a proper examination of the several cases in which indemnification may be claimed. I consequently recommend the creation of a board of commissioners, for the purpose.

THE SAN JUAN DECISION.

By the thirty-fourth article of the Treaty of Washington, the respective claims of the United States and of Great Britain, in their construction of the treaty of the 15th of June, 1846, defining the boundary line between their respective countries, were submitted to the arbitration and award of His Majesty, the Emperor of Germany, to decide which of these claims is most in accordance with the true interpretation of the treaty of 1846. His Majesty, the Emperor of Germany, having been pleased to undertake the arbitration, has the earnest thanks of this Government and of the people of the United States, for the labor, pains and care which he has devoted to the consideration of this long-pending difference. I have caused

an expression of my thanks to be communicated to His Majesty. Mr. Bancroft, the representative of this Government at Berlin, conducted the case and prepared the statement on the part of the United States with the ability that his past services justified and that the public were expecting at his hands. As a member of the Cabinet at the date of the treaty which has given rise to the discussion between the two Governments; as Minister to Great Britain when the construction now pronounced unfounded was first advanced, and as the agent and representative of the Government to present the case and to receive the award, he has been associated with the question in all of its phases, and in every stage has manifested a patriotic zeal and earnestness in the maintenance of the claim of the United States. He is entitled to much credit for the success which has attended the submission.

After a patient investigation of the case, and of the statements of each party, His Majesty the Emperor, on the 21st day of October last, signed his award in writing, decreeing that the claim of the government of the United States that the boundary line between the territories of her Britannic Majesty and the United States should be drawn through the Haro channel is most in accordance with the true interpretation of the treaty concluded on the 15th of June, 1846, between the agents of her Britannic Majesty and of the United States. Copies of the case presented on behalf of each government and of the statement in reply of each, and a translation of the award are transmitted herewith. This award confirms the United States in their claim to the important archipelago of islands lying between the continent and Vancouver's Island, which for 26 years, since the ratification of the treaty of 1846 Great Britain has contested. This leaves us for the first time, in the history of the United States as a Nation without a question of disputed boundary between our territory and the possessions of Great Britain on this continent. It is my grateful duty to acknowledge the prompt and spontaneous action of Her Majesty's government in giving effect to the award in anticipation of any request from this government. Before the reception in the United States of the award signed by the Emperor, Her Majesty had given instruction for the removal of her troops which had been stationed there, and for the cessation of all exercise of claim of jurisdiction, so as to leave the United States in exclusive possession of the lately disputed territory. I am grateful to be able to announce that the orders for the removal of the troops have been executed, and that the military joint occupation of San Juan has ceased. The islands are now in the exclusive possession of the United States. It now becomes necessary to complete the survey and the determination of that portion of the boundary line through the Haro channel, upon which the commission which determined the remaining part of the line were unable to agree. I recommend the appointment of a commission to act jointly with one which may be named by Her Majesty for that purpose.

THE ALASKAN BOUNDARY.

Experience of the difficulties attending the determination of our admitted line of boundary after the occupation of the territory, and its settlement by those owing allegiance to the respective governments, points to the importance of establishing by natural objects or other monuments the actual limits between the territory acquired by purchase from Russia and the adjoining possessions of her Britannic Majesty. The region is now so sparsely occupied that no conflicting interests of individuals or of jurisdiction are likely to interfere to the delay or embarrassment of the actual location of the lines. If deferred until population shall enter and occupy the territory, some trivial contest of neighbors may again arise, and the two governments in antagonism. I, therefore, recommend the appointment of a commission to act jointly with one that may be appointed on the part of Great Britain to determine the line between our territory of Alaska and the co-terminous possessions of Great Britain.

THE FISHERIES.

In my last annual message I recommended the legislation necessary on the part of the United States to bring into operation the articles of the Treaty of Washington of May, 1871, relating to the fisheries and to other matters touching the relations of the United States toward the British North American Possessions, to become operative so soon as the proper legislation should be had on the part of Great Britain and its possessions.

That legislation on the part of Great Britain and its possessions had not then been had, and during the session of Congress a question was raised, which for the time, was whether any action by Congress in the direction indicated would become important. That question has since been disposed of, and I have received notice that the Imperial government and the Legislature of the Provincial government have passed laws to carry the provisions of the treaty in the matters referred to into operation. I, therefore, recommend your early adoption of the legislation in the same direction necessary on the part of this government.

THE BOUNDARY LINE BETWEEN THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS AND LAKE OF THE WOODS.

The joint commission for determining the boundary line between the United States and the British possessions between the Lake of the Woods and the Rocky Mountains has organized, and entered upon its work. It is probable that the force will be increased so that the completion of the survey and determination of the line may be the sooner attained. I, therefore, recommend that a sufficient appropriation be made.

OUR RELATIONS WITH EUROPEAN POWERS.

With France, our earliest ally, Russia, the constant and early friend of the United States, Germany, with whose government and people we have so many causes of friendship and so many common sympathies, and the other powers of Europe our relations are maintained on the most friendly terms.

TREATIES WITH FOREIGN POWERS.

Since my last annual message the exchange has been made of the ratifications of a treaty with the Austro-Hungarian Empire, relating to naturalization; also, of a treaty with the German Empire, respecting consuls and trade marks; also, of a treaty with Sweden and Norway, relating to naturalization, all of which treaties have been duly proclaimed.

THE INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL CONGRESS.

Congress at its last session having made an appropriation to defray the expense of commissioners on the part of the United States to the International Statistical Congress at St. Petersburg, the persons appointed in that character proceeded to their destination and attended the sessions of the congress. Their report shall in due season be laid before you. This congress meets at intervals of about two years, and has held its sessions in several of the countries of Europe. I submit to your consideration the propriety of extending an invitation to the congress to hold its next meeting in the United States. The centennial celebration to be held in 1876 would afford an appropriate occasion for such a meeting.

THE VIENNA EXPOSITION.

Preparations are making for the International Exposition to be held during the next year in Vienna on a scale of unusually great magnitude. The tendency of the Exposition is in the direction of advanced civilization, and the elevation of industry, of labor and of the increase of human happiness, as well as of greater intercourse and good will between nations. As this Exposition is to be the first which will have been held in Eastern Europe, it is hoped that American manufacturers will be ready to avail themselves of the opportunity for the presentation of their productions, if encouraged by proper aid; and at the last session of Congress authority was given for the appointment of one or more agents to represent the Government at the Exposition. The authority thus given has been exercised; but, in the absence of any appropriation, there is danger that the important benefits which the occasion affords will, in a large degree, be lost to the citizens of the United States. I commend the subject strongly to your consideration, and recommend that an adequate appropriation be made for the purpose. The further aid American exhibitors at the Vienna Exposition, I would recommend in addition to an appropriation of money that the Secretary of the Navy be authorized to fit up two naval vessels to transport between our Atlantic cities and Trieste, and the most convenient port to Vienna, and back, their articles for exhibition.

OUR RELATIONS WITH MEXICO.

Since your last session the President of the Mexican Republic, distinguished by his high character, and by his services to his country, has died. His temporary successor has now been elected with great unanimity by the people, a proof of the confidence, on their part, in his patriotism and wisdom, which, it is believed, will be confirmed by the results of his administration. It is particularly desirable that nothing should be left undone by the government of either republic to strengthen their relations as neighbors and friends. It is much to be regretted that many lawless acts continue to disturb the quiet of the settlements on the border between our territory and that of Mexico; and that complaints of wrong to American citizens in various parts of the country are made. The revolutionary condition in which the neighboring republic has so long been involved has, in some degree, contributed to this disturbance. It is to be hoped, with a more settled rule of order through the republic, which may be expected from the present government, that the acts of which just complaint is made will cease. The proceeding of the commission under the convention with Mexico of the 4th of July, 1863, on the subject of claims, have unfortunately been checked by an obstacle, for the removal of which measures have been taken by the two governments, which, it is believed, will prove successful. The commissioners appointed pursuant to the joint resolutions of Congress of the 7th of May last, to enquire into the depredations made in the Texas frontier, have diligently made investigations in that quarter. Their report upon the subject will be communicated to you. Their researches were necessarily incomplete, partly on account of the limited appropriation made by Congress. Mexico, on the part of that government, has appointed a similar commission to investigate these outrages. It is not announced officially, but the press of that country states that the fullest investigation is desired, and that the co-operation of all parties concerned is invited to secure that end. I therefore, recommend that a special appropriation be made at the earliest day practicable to enable the commissioners on the part of the United States to return to their labors without delay.

INSURGENT CUBA.

It is with regret that I have again to announce a continuance of the disturbed condition of the island of Cuba. No advance toward the pacification of the discontented part of the population has been made. While the insurrection has not gained in advantage and exhibits no more of the elements of power or of the prospects of ultimate success than were exhibited a year ago, Spain, on the other hand, has not succeeded in its repression; and the parties stand apparently in the same relative attitude which they have occupied for a long time past. This contest has lasted now for more than four years. Were it seen at a distance from our neighborhood, we might be indifferent to its result, although humanity could not be unmoved by many of its incidents, wherever they might occur. It is, however, at our door. I cannot doubt that the continued maintenance of slavery in Cuba is among the strongest inducements to the continuance of this strife. A terrible wrong is the natural cause of a terrible evil. The abolition of slavery, and the introduction of other reforms in the administration of government in Cuba, could not fail to advance the restoration of peace and order. It is especially to be hoped that the present liberal government of Spain will voluntarily adopt this view. The law of emancipation, which was passed more than two years since, has remained unexecuted in the absence of regulations for its enforcement. It was but a feeble step toward emancipation; but it was a recognition of right, and was hailed as such; and exhibited Spain in harmony with sentiments of humanity and of justice, and in sympathy with the other powers of the Christian and civilized world. Within the past few weeks, the regulations for carrying out the laws of emancipation have been announced, giving evidence of the sincerity of the intention of the present government to carry into effect the law of 1870. I have not failed to urge the consideration of the wisdom of the policy, and the justice of a more effective system for the abolition of the great evil which oppressed a race, and continues a bloody and destructive contest close to our border, as well as the expediency and the justice of conceding reforms of which the propriety is not questioned. Deeply impressed with the conviction that the continuance of slavery is one of the most active causes of the continuance of the unhappy condition in Cuba, I regret to believe that citizens of the United States, or those claiming to be such, are large holders in Cuba, of what is there claimed as property, but which is forbidden and denounced by the laws of the United States. They are thus, in defiance of the spirit of our laws, contributing to the continuance of this distressing and stirring contest. In my last annual message I referred to this subject, and I again recommend such legislation as may be proper to denounce and, if not prevent, at least to discourage American citizens from holding or dealing in slaves.

THE PACIFIC QUESTION.

It is gratifying to announce that the ratification of the convention concluded under the auspices of this government, between Spain, on the one part, and the allied Republics of the Pacific on the other, providing for an armistice have been exchanged. A copy of the instrument is herewith submitted. It is hoped that this may be followed by a permanent peace between the same parties.

OUR RELATIONS WITH THE CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICAN POWERS.

The differences which at one time threatened the maintenance of peace between Brazil and the Argentine Republic, it is hoped are in the way of satisfactory adjustment. With these States, as with the Republics of Central and South America, we continue to maintain the most friendly relations. It is with regret however, that I announce that the Governor of Venezuela has made no further payments on account of the awards under the Convention of the 25th of April, 1860. That republic is understood to be now almost, if not quite tranquilized. It is hoped, therefore, that it will lose no time in providing for the unpaid balances of debt to the United States, which, having originated in injuries to its citizens by the Venezuelan authorities, and having been acknowledged pursuant to a treaty in the most solemn form known among nations, would seem to deserve a preference over debts of a different origin, and contracted in a different manner. This subject is again recommended to the attention of Congress for such action as may be deemed proper.

OUR RELATIONS WITH JAPAN.

Our treaty relations with Japan remain unchanged. An imposing embassy from that progressive nation visited this country during the year that is passing, but, being empowered with no powers for the signing of a convention in this country, no conclusion in that direction was reached. It is hoped, however, that the interchange of opinion which took place during their stay in this country has led to a mutual appreciation of the interest there which may be promoted when the revision of the existing treaty shall be undertaken. In this connection I renew my recommendation of one year ago, that, to give impetus and add to the efficiency of our diplomatic relations with Japan and China, and to further aid in relating the good opinion of these people, and to secure to the United States its share of the commerce destined to flow between these nations and the balance of the commercial world, an appropriation be made to support at least four American youths in each of these countries as a part of the official family of our ministers. Our representatives would not even then be placed upon an equality with the representatives of Great Britain or some other powers. As now situated, our representatives in Japan and China have to depend for interpreters and translations upon the natives of those countries, who know our language imperfectly, or procure for the occasion the services of employees in foreign business houses; or the interpreters of other foreign ministers.

TRANSFER OF DEPARTMENT WORK.

I renew the recommendation made on a previous occasion of the transfer to the Department of the Interior, to which they seem more appropriately to belong, all of the powers and duties in relation to the territories with which the Department of State is now charged by law or by custom.

RELIEF OF DESTITUTE AMERICANS ABROAD.

Congress, from the beginning of the Government, has wisely made provision for the relief of distressed seamen in foreign countries. No similar provision, however, has hitherto been made for the relief of citizens in distress abroad, other than seamen. It is understood to be customary with other governments to authorize consuls to extend such relief to their citizens or subjects in certain cases. A similar authority and an appropriation to carry it into effect are recommended in the case of citizens of the United States, destitute or sick under such circumstances. It is well known that such citizens resort to foreign countries in great numbers, though most of them are able to bear the expenses incident to locomotion. There are some who, through accident or otherwise, become penniless and have no friends at home able to sustain them. Persons in this situation must be left to cast themselves upon the charity of foreigners, or be relieved at the private charge of our own officers who usually, even with the most benevolent dispositions, have nothing to spare for such purposes. Should the authority and appropriation asked for be granted, care will be taken to carry the beneficence of Congress into effect so that it shall not be unnecessarily or unworthily bestowed.

THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

The money received and carried into the Treasury during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1872, were, from customs \$216,377.77; from sales of public lands \$2,575,714.19; from internal revenue \$130,642,177.72; from tax on national bank circulation, etc., \$6,523,396.83; from the Pacific Railroad Companies \$749,861.87; from customs fines, etc., \$1,136,442.34; from fees, consular, patent, and etc., \$2,284,095.92; from miscellaneous resources, \$4,412,254.71. Total ordinary receipts \$364,094,220.91. From premium on sales of coin \$9,419,637.65. Total net receipts \$373,513,858.56. Balance in the Treasury June 30, 1871, \$109,935,705.79, including \$13,233.35 received from unavailable sources. Total available cash \$483,449,564.35.

The net expenditures by warrants during the same period were: For civil expenses, \$16,159,005.70; for foreign interests, \$13,409,369.14; Indians, \$7,065,738.83; pensions, \$28,583,402.70; for military establishments, including fortifications, river and harbor improvements, and arsenals \$85,372,157.20; for naval establishments, including vessels and machinery, and improvements at navy yards, \$21,249,809.90; for miscellaneous civil, including public buildings, lighthouses, and collecting the revenue, \$42,953,329.08; interest on the public debt, \$117,357,389.79; total, exclusive of the principal and premium on public debt, \$370,559,695.91; for premium on bonds purchased, \$4,953,266.76; for redemption of the public debt, \$99,960,253.54; total \$106,918,520.30; total net disbursement, \$377,413,215.21. Balance in Treasury, June 30, 1872, \$185,044,509.40; total \$483,449,564.35. From the foregoing statement it appears that the reduction of the principal of the debt during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1872, was \$99,960,253.54. The source of this reduction is as follows: Net ordinary receipts during the year \$364,094,220.91. Net ordinary expenditures, including interest on the public debt, \$370,559,695.91; balance \$34,134,524.00. Add amount of receipts from premium on sales of gold in excess of the premium paid on bonds purchased, \$2,424,470.89. Add the amount of the reduction of the cash balance at the close of the year, the same as the commencement of the year, \$3,771,348.65; total, \$99,960,253.54. This statement treats solely of the principal of the public debt. By the monthly statement of the public debt, which, added together, the principal and interest due and unpaid, and deducted the cash in the Treasury on the day of publication, the reduction was \$100,544,491.23. The source of this reduction was as follows: Reduction in principal account, \$99,960,008.54; reduction in unpaid interest account, \$3,380,953.96; total \$103,340,962.50. Reduction in cash on hand, \$2,746,465.22; total, \$106,087,428.72. On the basis of the last available statement, the reduction was \$100,544,491.23. The present time, as follows: From March 1, 1869, to March 1,

1870, \$87,134,732.84; from March 1, 1870, to March 1, 1871, \$117,619,630.25; from March 1, 1871, to March 1, 1872, \$94,595,348.94; from March 1, 1872, to March 1, 1873, eight months, \$64,047,237.64. Total, \$363,396,990.87. With the great reduction of taxation by the acts of Congress at its last session, the expenditures of the government, in collecting the revenue will be much reduced for the next fiscal year. It is very doubtful, however, whether any further reduction of so vexatious a burden upon any people will be practicable for the present. At all events, as a measure of justice to holders of the nation's certificates of indebtedness, I recommend that no more legislation be had on this subject unless it be to correct errors of omission or commission in the present laws, until sufficient time has elapsed to prove that it can be done and still leave sufficient revenue to meet the current expenses of the government, and provide for the sinking fund established by law. The preservation of our National credit is of the highest importance; next in importance to this comes a solemn duty to provide a National currency of fixed, unvarying value, as compared with gold, as soon as practicable, having due regard for the interests of the debtor class and the vicissitudes of trade and commerce, and convertible into gold at par.

THE WAR DEPARTMENT.

The report of the Secretary of War shows the expenditures of the War Department for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1871, to be \$35,799,991.82, and for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1872, to be \$35,372,157.20, showing a reduction in favor of the last fiscal year of \$427,834.62. The estimates for military appropriations for the next fiscal year ending June 30, 1872, are \$33,301,373.73. The Chief of Engineers' reports are submitted separately for fortification, river and harbor improvements, and for public buildings and grounds and the Washington aqueduct. The affairs of the Freedmen's Bureau have all been transferred to the War Department and regulations have been put into execution for the speedy payment of the bounty pay, etc., due colored soldiers properly coming under that bureau. All war accounts for money and property prior to 1871 have been examined and transmitted to the treasury for final settlement. During the fiscal year there has been paid for transportation on railroads \$1,300,000, of which \$80,857 was over the Pacific Railroad; for transportation by water \$326,073.52, and by stage \$43,975.84, and for the purchase of transportation animals, wagons, hire of teamsters, etc., \$1,246,506.41. About \$370,000 have been collected from Southern railroads during the year, leaving about \$4,000,000 still due. The Quartermaster's report was examined and transmitted to the accounting officers for settlement \$36,717.20 of claims, by loyal citizens for quartermaster's stores taken during the war. Subsisting supplies to the amount of \$8,904,812 have been issued to Indians. The annual average mean strength of the army was 24,101 white and 2,494 colored soldiers. The total deaths of soldiers for the year reported was 376 white and 54 colored. The distribution of the medical and surgical history of the war is yet to be ordered by Congress. There exists an absolute necessity for a medical corps of the full number established by the act of Congress of July 23, 1860, there being now 59 vacancies, and the number of successful candidates rarely exceeds eight or 10 in any one year. The river and harbor improvements have been carried on with energy and economy, though many are only partially completed. The results have saved to commerce many times the amount expended. The increase of commerce with a greater depth of channels, greater security in navigation, and the saving of time adds millions to the wealth of the country, and increases the resources of the Government. The bridge across the Mississippi River at Rock Island, has been completed, and the proper site has been determined upon for the bridge at LaCrosse. The able report made by the commissions appointed to investigate the Buto Tunnel, has been transmitted to Congress. These observations and the report of the signal office have been continued, and stations have been maintained at each of the principal lakes, seaport and river cities, and ten additional stations have been established in the United States; and arrangements have been made for exchange of reports with Canada, and similar exchange of observations is contemplated with the West India Islands.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR ENDORSED.

The attention of Congress is invited to the following recommendations of the Secretary of War: A discontinuance of the appointment of extra lieutenants, to serve as adjutants and quartermasters, the adoption of a code providing specific penalties for well defined offenses, so that the inequality of sentences adjudged by courts-martial may be adjusted; the consideration of accounts, under which expenditures are made, as a measure of economy; a reappropriation of the money for the construction of a depot at San Antonio, the title to the site being now perfected; a special act placing the cemetery at the City of Mexico on the same basis as other National cemeteries; the authority to purchase sites for military posts in Texas; the appointment of commissary sergeants from non-commissioned officers, as a measure for securing the better care and protection of supplies; an appropriation for the purchase of the catalogues and tables of the anatomical section of the Army Medical Museum; a reappropriation of the amount for the manufacture of breech-loading arms; should the selection be so delayed by the Board of Officers as to leave the former appropriation unexpended at the close of the fiscal year; the sale of such arsenals east of the Mississippi, as can be spared; the proceeds to be applied to the establishment of one large arsenal of construction and repair upon the Atlantic coast; the purchase of a suitable site for a proving and experimental ground for heavy ordnance; the abrogation of laws which deprive inventors in the United States service from deriving any benefit from their inventions; the repeal of the law prohibiting the removal in mail of a continuance of the work upon the coast defenses; the repeal of the seventh section of the act of July 13th, 1860, taking from engineer soldiers the per diem granted to other troops; a limitation of time for the presentation of subsistence supplies under the act of July 4th, 1864; and a modification in the mode of the selection of cadets for the military academy, in order to enhance the usefulness of the academy, which is impaired by the large amount of time necessarily expended in giving new cadets a thorough knowledge of the more elementary branches of learning which they should acquire before entering the academy; also an appropriation for philosophical apparatus; and an increase in the number and the pay of the Military Academy Band.

TRANSPORTATION OF WESTERN PRODUCTS TO THE ATLANTIC SEABOARD.

The attention of Congress is invited to the various enterprises for the more certain and cheaper transportation of the constantly increasing surplus of western and southern products to the Atlantic seaboard. The sub-

ject is one that will force itself upon the legislative branch of the government sooner or later; and I suggest, therefore, that immediate steps be taken to gain all available information to insure equitable and just legislation. The route to connect the Mississippi Valley with the Atlantic at Charleston, S. C., and Savannah, Ga., by water by the way of the Ohio and Tennessee rivers and canals, and black water navigation to the Savannah and Ocmulgee rivers, has been surveyed and a report made by an accomplished engineer officer of the army. A second and third new routes will be proposed for the consideration of Congress, namely, by an extension of the Kanawha & James River Canal to the Ohio, and by the extension of the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal. I am not prepared to recommend government aid to these, or other enterprises, until it is clearly shown that they are not only of National interest, but that when completed, they will be of a value commensurate with their cost. That production increases more rapidly than the means of transportation in our country has been demonstrated by past experience, and that the unprecedented growth in the population and products of the whole country will require additional facilities and cheaper means for the more bulky articles of commerce to reach tide water and a market in the near future is equally demonstrated. I would, therefore, suggest, either a committee or commission to be authorized to consider this whole question, and to report to Congress at some future day for its better guidance in legislating on this important subject. The railroads of the country have been rapidly extended during the last few years to meet the growing demands of producers, and reflect much credit upon the capitalists and managers engaged.

SHIP CANAL AROUND NIAGARA FALLS.

In this connection, in addition to these, a project to facilitate commerce by the building of a ship canal around Niagara Falls on the United States side, which has been anticipated for many years, will not doubt be called to your attention this session.

Looking to the great future of the country and the increasing demands of commerce, it might be well, while on this subject, not only to have examined and reported upon the various practicable routes for connecting the Mississippi with tide water on the Atlantic, but the feasibility of an almost continuous land locked navigation from Maine to the Gulf of Mexico. Such a route along our coast would be of great value at all times, and of inestimable value in case of a foreign war. Nature has provided the greater part of this route, and the obstacles to be overcome are easily within the skill of the engineers. I have not alluded to this subject with a view of having any further expenditure of public money made at this time than may be necessary to procure and place all the necessary information before Congress in an authentic form, to enable it hereafter, if deemed practicable and worthy, to legislate on the subject without delay.

THE NAVY DEPARTMENT.

The report of the Secretary of the Navy, herewith accompanying, explains fully the condition of that branch of the public service, its wants and deficiencies, the expenses incurred during the past year, and appropriations for the same. It also gives a complete history of the services of the navy for the past year in addition to its regular services. It is evident that unless steps are taken to preserve our navy in a very few years the United States will be the weakest nation upon the ocean of all the great powers. With an energetic, progressive business people like ours, penetrating and forming business relations with every part of the known world, a navy strong enough to command the respect of our flag abroad is necessary for the full protection of their rights. I recommend a careful consideration by Congress of the recommendations made by the Secretary of the Navy.

THE POSTOFFICE DEPARTMENT.

The accompanying report of the Postmaster General furnishes a full and satisfactory exhibit of the operations of the Postoffice Department during the year. The ordinary revenues of the department for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1872, amounted to \$21,915,426 37, and the expenditures \$26,653,192 21. Compared with the previous fiscal year, the increase of revenue was \$1,578,380.05, or 9.37 per cent, and the increase of expenditures \$2,293,083 23, or 9.29 per cent. Adding to the ordinary revenues the annual appropriation of \$700,000 for free matter, and the amounts paid for the subsidies on the mail steamship lines from special appropriations, the deficiency paid out of the general Treasury was \$3,317,705 04, an excess of \$399,707 23 over the deficiency appropriation for the year 1871. Other interesting statistical information relating to our rapidly extending postal service is furnished in this report. The total length of railroad mail routes on the 30th of June, 1872, was 57,911 miles, 3,077 additional miles of such service having been put into operation during the year. Eight new lines of railway postoffices have been established, with an aggregate length of 2,909 miles, and the number of letters exchanged in the mails with foreign countries was 24,362,500, an increase of 4,066,503, or 20 per cent, over the number in 1871; and the postage thereon amounts to \$1,371,257 25. The total weight of the mails exchanged with European countries exceeded 320 tons. The cost of the United States Trans-Atlantic Mail Steamship Service, was \$220,301 70; the total cost of the United States Ocean Steamship Service, including the amounts paid to the subsidized lines of mail steamers, \$1,027,020 97. The following are the only steamship lines now receiving subsidies for mail service under special acts of Congress: The Pacific Mail Steamship Co. receive \$500,000 per annum for carrying a monopoly mail between San Francisco, Japan and China, which will be increased to \$1,000,000 per annum for a semi-monthly mail on and after October 1st, 1873. The United States and Brazil Mail Steamship Co. receive \$150,000 per annum for carrying a monthly mail between New York and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; and the California, Oregon & Mexico Steamship Company receive \$75,000 per annum for carrying a monthly mail between San Francisco and Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands, making the total amount of mail steamship subsidies at present \$725,000 per annum.

Our postal communications with all parts of the civilized world have been placed upon a most advantageous footing by the improved postal conventions and the arrangements recently concluded with the leading commercial countries of Europe and America, and the gratifying statement is made that, with the conclusion of a satisfactory convention with France, the details of which have been definitely agreed to by the head of the French Postal Department subject to the approval of the Minister of Finance, little remains to be accomplished by treaty for some time to come in respect to the reduction of rate or improved facilities of postal intercourse.

Your favorable consideration is respectfully invited to the recommendations made by the Postmaster General for an increase of service from monthly to semi-monthly trips on the mail steamship route to Brazil, for a subsidy for the establishment of an American line of mail steamers between San Francisco, New Zealand and Australia, for the establishment of postoffices, savings banks, and for the increase of the salaries of the heads of bureaus.

THE FRANKING PRIVILEGE.

I have heretofore recommended the abolition of the franking privilege, and see no reason now for changing my views on that subject. It not having been favorably regarded by Congress, however, I now suggest a modification of that privilege to correct its glaring and costly abuses.

PURCHASE OF THE TELEGRAPH.

I would recommend also the appointment of a committee, or commission, to take into consideration the best method equitable to private corporations who have invested their time and capital in the establishment of telegraph lines, of acquiring the title to all telegraph lines now in operation, and of connecting this service with the postal service of the Nation. It is not probable that this subject could receive proper consideration during the limits of a short session of Congress; but it may be initiated, so that further action may be fair to the government and to the private parties concerned.

SUBSIDIZING OCEAN STEAMERS.

There are but three mail lines of ocean steamers, namely, the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, between San Francisco, China and Japan, with a provision made for a semi-monthly service after October 1, 1873; the United States and Brazil line, monthly, and the California, New Zealand & Australian line, monthly, plying between the United States and foreign ports, and owned and operated under our flag. I earnestly recommend that such liberal contracts for carrying the mails be authorized with these lines as will insure their continuance. If the expediency of extending the aid of the Government to lines of steamers which hitherto have not received it, should be deemed worthy of the consideration of Congress, political and commercial objects make it advisable to bestow such aid on a line under our flag between Panama and the western South American ports. By this means much trade now directed to other countries might be brought to us, to the mutual advantage of this country and those living in that quarter of the continent of America.

THE CARRYING TRADE.

The report of the Secretary of the Treasury will show an alarming falling off in our carrying trade for the last 10 or 12 years, and even for the past year. I do not believe that the public treasure can be better expended in the interest of the whole people than in trying to secure this trade. An expenditure of \$5,000,000 per annum for the next five years, if it would restore to us our proportion of the carrying trade of the world would be profitably expended. The price of labor in Europe has so much enhanced within the last few years, that the cost of building and operating ocean steamers in the United States is not so much greater than in Europe. I believe the time has arrived for Congress to take this project into serious consideration.

THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

Detailed statements of the disbursements through the Department of Justice will be furnished by the report of the Attorney General, and though these have been somewhat increased by the recent acts of Congress to enforce the rights of citizens of the United States to vote in the several States of the Union, and to enforce the provisions of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, I cannot question the necessity and salutary effect of these enactments. Reckless and lawless men, forget to say, have associated themselves together in some localities to deprive other citizens of the rights guaranteed to them by the Constitution of the United States, and to that end have committed deeds of violence, but the prevention and punishment of many of these persons have tended greatly to the repression of such disorders. I do not doubt that a great majority of the people in all parts of the country favor the full enjoyment, by all classes of persons, of those rights to which they are entitled under the Constitution and the laws, and I invoke the aid and influence of all good citizens to prevent organizations whose objects are, by unlawful means, to interfere with those rights. I look with confidence to the time, not far distant, when the obvious advantages of good order and peace will induce an abandonment of all combinations prohibited by the acts referred to, and when it will be unnecessary to carry on prosecutions or inflict punishment to protect citizens from the lawless designs of such combinations.

Applications have been made to me to pardon persons convicted of a violation of said acts, upon the ground that clemency in such cases would tend to tranquilize the public mind, and, to test the virtue of that policy, as disposed, as far as my sense of justice will permit, to give these applications a favorable consideration; but any action thereon is not to be constructed as indicating any change in my determination to enforce with vigor such act, so long as the conspiracy and combinations therein named disturb the peace of the country. It is much to be regretted, and is regretted by no one more than myself, that a necessity has ever existed to execute the Enforcement Act. No one can desire more than I that the necessity of applying it may never again be demanded.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.

The Secretary of the Interior reports a satisfactory improvement and progression of the several bureaus under the control of the Interior Department. They are all in excellent condition. The work in them for some years has been in arrears, has been brought down to a recent date, and in all the current business has been promptly dispatched.

THE INDIANS.

The policy which was adopted at the beginning of the Administration with regard to the management of the Indians, has been as successful as its most ardent friends anticipated. Within so short a time it has reduced the expense of their management, decreased their forages upon the white settlements, tended to give the largest opportunity to the extension of the great railways through the public domain, and the pushing of settlements into more remote districts of the country, and at the same time improved the condition of the Indians. The policy will be maintained without any change, excepting such as further experience may show to be necessary to render it more efficient. The subject of converting the so-called Indian Territory south of Kansas into a home for the Indians, and erecting thereon a territorial form of government, is one of great importance as a complement of the existing Indian policy. The question of removal to the Territory has within the past year been presented to many of the tribes resident upon other and less desirable portions of the public domain, and has generally been received by them with favor as a preliminary step to the organization of such a Territory. It will be necessary to confine the Indians now resident therein to farms of proper size, which shall be secured to them in fee, the residue to be used for the settlement of other friendly Indians. Efforts will be made in the immediate future to induce the removal of as many peaceably disposed Indians only to the Indian Territory as can be settled properly without disturbing the harmony of those already there. There is no other location now available where a people who are endeavoring to acquire a knowledge of pastoral and agricultural pursuits, can be as well accommodated as upon the unoccupied lands in the Indian Territory.

A territorial government should, however, protect the Indians from the inroad of whites for a term of years, until they become sufficiently advanced in the arts of civilization to guard their own rights, and from the disposal of lands held by them for the same period.

THE PUBLIC LANDS.

During the last fiscal year there were disposed of, out of the public lands, 11,864,975 acres, a quantity greater by 1,099,270 acres than was disposed of the previous year. Of this amount, 1,370,320 acres were sold for cash, 389,460 acres located with military warrants, 4,671,332 acres taken for homesteads, 693,613 acres located with college scrip, 3,551,837 acres granted to railroads, 465,347 acres granted to wagon roads, 71,425 acres given to States as swamp land, 5,703 acres located by Indian scrip. The cash receipts from all sources in the Land Office amounted to \$3,213,100. During the same period 22,016,608 acres of the public land were surveyed, which added to the quantity before surveyed, amounts to 583,304,780 acres, leaving 1,257,633,623 acres of the public lands still unsurveyed. The reports from the subordinate offices of the Land Office contain interesting information in regard to their respective districts. They uniformly mention the fruitfulness of the soil during the past season and the increased yield of all kinds of products. Even those States and Territories where mining is the principal business, the agricultural products have exceeded the local demand, and liberal shipments have been made to distant points.

THE PATENT OFFICE.

During the year ending September 30, 1872, there were issued from the Patent Office 13,626 patents, 233 extensions and 556 certificates and registers of trade marks. During the same time 19,537 applications for patents, including reissues and designs, have been received, and 3,100 caveats filed. The fees received during the same period amounted to \$70,635,980, and the total expenditures to \$62,355,390, making the net receipts over the expenditures \$7,740,650. Since 1839, 200,000 applications for patents have been filed, and about 134,000 patents issued, the offices being conducted under the same laws and general organization as when only from 100 to 500 applications were made per annum. The Commissioner shows that the office has outgrown the original plan and that a new organization has become necessary. This subject was presented to Congress in a special communication in February last, with my approval, and the approval of the Secretary of the Interior; and the suggestions contained in said communication were embraced in the bill that was reported to the House by the Committee on Patents at the last session. The subject of the reorganization of the Patent Office as contemplated by the bill referred to is of such importance to the industrial interests of the country that I commend it to the attention of Congress.

The Commissioner also treats the subject of the separation of the Patent Office from the Department of the Interior. This subject is also embraced in the bill heretofore referred to. The Commissioner complains of the want of room for the model gallery, and for the working force and necessary files of the office. It is impossible to transact the business of the office properly without more room in which to arrange files and drawings that must be consulted hourly in the transaction of business. The whole of the Patent Office building will soon be needed, if it is not already, for the accommodation of the business of the Patent Office.

PENSIONERS.

The amount paid for pensions in the last fiscal year was \$30,169,340, an amount larger by \$3,708,434 than was paid during the preceding year. Of this amount \$2,313,409 were paid under the act of Congress of February 17, 1871, to the survivors of the war of 1812. The annual increase of pensions by the legislation of Congress has more than kept pace with the natural yearly losses from the rolls. The act of Congress of June 3, 1872, has added an estimated amount of \$750,000 per annum to the rolls without increasing the number of pensioners. We cannot, therefore, look for any substantial decrease in the expenditures of this department for some time to come, or so long as Congress continues to so change the rates of pensions. The whole number of soldiers enlisted in the war of the rebellion was 2,688,523. The total number of claims for invalid pensions is 176,000, being but six per cent. of the whole number of enlisted men. The total number of claims on hand at the beginning of the year was 91,669. The number received during the year was 25,574. The number disposed of was 35,178, making a net gain of 1,364. The number of claims now on file is 79,035. On the 30th of June 1872, there were on the rolls the names of 95,405 invalid military pensioners, 113,518 widows, orphans and dependent relatives, making an aggregate of 208,923 army pensioners. At the same time there were on the rolls the names of 1,449 navy pensioners, and 730 widows, orphans and dependent relatives, making a whole number of naval pensioners 3,179. There have been since the passage of the act to provide pensions for the survivors of the war of 1812, 36,551 applications prior to June 30, 1872. Of these there were allowed during the last fiscal year 30,126 claims; 4,345 were rejected during the year, leaving 11,580 claims pending at that date. The number of pensions of all classes granted during the last fiscal year was 33,888. During that period 6,796 names, from the rolls for various causes 9,108 names, leaving a grand total of 223,224 pensioners on the rolls on the 30th of June, 1872. It is thought that the claims for pensions on account of the war of 1812 will all be disposed of the 1st of May, 1873. It is estimated that \$30,480,000 will be required for the pension service during the next fiscal year.

THE CENSUS.

The ninth census is about completed. Its completion is a subject of congratulation, inasmuch as the use made of the statistics therein contained, depends very greatly on the promptitude of publication. The Secretary of the Interior recommends that a census be taken in 1875, which recommendation should receive the ready attention of Congress. The interval at present established between the Federal census is so long, that information obtained at the decennial periods as to the material condition, wants and resources of the Nation, is of little practical value after the expiration of the first half of that period. It would probably obviate the constitutional provision regarding the decennial census. The census taken in 1875 should be divested of all political character, and no reapportionment of Congressional representation should be made under it. Such a census, coming as it would in the last year of the first century of our National existence, would furnish a noble monument of progress of the United States during that century.

EDUCATION.

The rapidly increasing interest in education is a most encouraging feature in the current history of the country; and it is no doubt true that this is due in a great measure to the efforts of the Bureau of Education. That office is continually receiving evidences, which abundantly prove its efficiency, from the various institutions of learning and educators of all kinds throughout the country. The report of the Commissioner contains a vast amount of educational details of great interest. The bill now pending before Congress, providing for the appropriation of part of the proceeds of the sales of public lands for educational purposes to aid the States in

the general education of their rising generation, is a measure of such great importance to our real progress, and is so unanimously approved by the leading friends of education, that I commend it to the favorable attention of Congress.

THE TERRITORIES.

Affairs in the territories are generally satisfactory. The energy and business capacity of the pioneers who are settling up the vast domains not yet incorporated into States, are keeping pace in internal improvements and civil government with the older communities. In but one of them, Utah, is the condition of affairs unsatisfactory, except so far as the quiet of the citizen may be disturbed by real or imaginary danger of Indian hostilities. It has seemed to be the policy of the Legislature of Utah to evade all responsibility to the Government of the United States, and even to hold a position in hostility to it. I recommend a careful revision of the present laws of the Territory by Congress, and the enactment of such a law as the one proposed in Congress at its last session, for instance, or something similar to it, as will secure peace, the equality of all citizens before the law and the ultimate extinguishment of polygamy.

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Since the establishment of a territorial government for the District of Columbia, the improvement of the condition of the city of Washington and surroundings, and the increased prosperity of the citizens is observable to the most casual visitor. The Nation, being a large owner of property in this city, should bear with the citizens of the District in a just share of the expense of these improvements. I recommend, therefore, an appropriation to reimburse the citizens for the work done by them along and in front of the public grounds during the past year, and a liberal appropriation in order that the improvement and embellishment of the public buildings and grounds may keep pace with the improvements made by the Territorial authorities.

AGRICULTURE.

The report of the Commissioner of Agriculture gives a very full and interesting account of the several divisions of that department, the horticultural, agricultural, statistical, entomological and chemical, and the benefits conferred by each upon the agricultural interests of the country. The whole report is a complete history in total of the workings of that department in all of its branches, showing the manner in which the farmer, merchant and miner is informed, and the extent to which he is aided in his pursuits. The Commissioner makes one recommendation, that measures be taken by Congress to protect and secure the planting of forests; and suggests that no part of the public lands should be disposed of without the condition that one tenth of it be reserved in timber when it exists; and when it does not exist, inducements should be offered by planting it.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION.

In accordance with the terms of the act of Congress, approved March 3, 1871, providing for the 100th anniversary of American independence, a commission has been organized, consisting of two members from each of the States and Territories. The Commission has held two sessions, and has made satisfactory progress in the organization, and in the preliminary steps necessary for carrying out the provisions of the act, and for executing the provisions also of the act of June 1, 1871, creating a centennial board of finance. A preliminary report of progress has been received from the President of the Commission, and is herewith transmitted. It will be the duty of the Commission at your coming session to transmit a report of the progress made, and to lay before you the details relating to the exhibition of American and foreign arts, products and manufactures, which by the terms of the act is to be held under the auspices of the government of the United States in the city of Philadelphia in the year 1876. This celebration will be looked forward to by American citizens with great interest as making a century of greater progress and prosperity than is recorded in the history of any other nation, and providing a further good purpose in bringing together on our soil people of all the civilized nations of the earth in a matter calculated to secure international good feeling.

CIVIL SERVICE REFORM.

An earnest desire has been felt to correct the abuses which have grown up in the civil service of the country, through the defective method of making appointments to office. Officers have been regarded too much as the reward of political services. Under the authority of Congress rules have been established to regulate the terms of office and the mode of appointments. It cannot be expected that any system of rules can be entirely effective, and prove a perfect remedy, for the evil until they have been thoroughly tested by actual practice, and amended according to the requirements of the service. During my term of office it shall be my best endeavor to so apply the rules as to secure the greatest possible reform in the civil service of the government; but it will require the direct action of Congress to render the enforcement of the system binding upon my successors; and I hope that the experience of the past year, together with appropriate legislation by Congress, may reach a satisfactory solution of this question, and secure to the public service for all time a practical method of obtaining faithful and efficient officers and employees.

U. S. GRANT.

EXECUTIVE MANSION, December 2, 1872.

THE ITEM OF THE PERIOD.

How the Horrors are Nicely Sugar-coated.

What a relief it is to gain information of a serious accident without any of the horrible details that shock the senses and curdle one's blood. What can be more vivid than the following, and yet we smile rather than shudder in thoughts of the mistaken interloper who gets cut up:

"The gentleman who recently proceeded to 'clean out' the editor of the Sioux City Times has consented to postpone operations until the doctors have fixed half a dozen broken bones for him, and extracted three or four bullets."

Is not the following brief, comprehensive, and to the point?

"Mrs. Swan, of Cochran, N. Y. lighted her fire with kerosene on Monday, leaving a husband and one child."

Of horrible accidents how pleasant it is to read and be left to imagine as much, or as little, horror as you please. Here is the whole story in a nutshell, and a full column of ghastly particulars would not add to it:

"A Pennsylvania, after lighting a match, threw it into a powder keg. The Coroners of three counties are collecting the shreds."

Here we have a conflagration done up in style:

"John Baldwin, of Grundy County, Iowa, owned a defective flue. He doesn't own it, now. Loss, \$600."

And here is another:

"A Kansas farmer fired at some rats under the barn and killed several. Loss, \$2,000; uninsured."

Witness the following physiological item. No exhaustive medical treatise could express more:

"A man in Galveston, the other day, who

complained of being over-heated, effected a permanent cure by drinking six glasses of ice-water, without the aid of a physician. He was cool when the Coroner came."

The following precautionary item tells a sad story of experience, and we may take the lesson, without a shudder:

"An agricultural gentleman of Denver, Col., who, despite his wife's warnings persisted in smoking - on a load of hay the other morning, returned home shortly afterward with his hair and eyebrows singed, and the iron work of his wagon in a potato sack."

Here is another equally good:

"Mr. Collins, of Hartford, bought a ferocious watch-dog. Mr. Collins came home late that night. His wife says that his trousers can't be mended. The dog's skin is for sale cheap. Mr. Collins hopes to be able to sit down in a few weeks."

And here is a chapter of agricultural information, clear and concise, in five lines:

"A gentleman of Winooski, Vt. who recently tried a solution of lye as an antidote to cabbage worms, will not do so again, at least not with the several acres of cabbage plants that he experimented on the other day."

If we must have items of scandal published, commend us to the man who can satisfy himself with elucidating as follows:

"A lady in Atlanta tied her husband's hands and feet the other day, just for fun, and then went through his pockets for a certain billet-doux, and found it. His physician tells him that his face won't be badly scared, though he may remain permanently bald."

What a climax in this bit of romance:

"A mother-in-law in Lansingburgh, New York, is trying to rid her eyes of a quantity of red pepper which in some strange way or other came through the key-hole of her daughter-in-law's room."

Thus we see how the most serious and painful events may be made to present a surface of comicality, and if the lesson is conveyed all is gained. The man who invented a sugar-coating for nauseous pills did a humane thing.

GAMES OF CHANCE.

Henry Ward Beecher's Views Concerning Them.

From the New York Led. ast.

There is much said against games of chance; and it may be worth while for your readers to have some guiding principle in judging about such matters. Those who say that there is nothing wrong in the use of chances, in a proper manner, refer to the fact that, in the Jewish church, the lot was not only used, but that it was substantially a part of the unwritten constitution of the nation. The fact is substantially true, and equally true of almost all ancient nations.

The land of Palestine was divided among the tribes by lot; after the captivity, Jerusalem was re-populated from the tribes of Judah and Benjamin, selected by lot; the spoil of battle or captured cities was divided by lot; men were selected for battle by lot; the distribution of priestly service in the temple among the 16 of the family of Eleazar and the eight of Ithamar, was by lot. Matthias was chosen by lot by the apostles to fill the place made vacant by the apostasy of Judas. The lot was used for the detection of culprits, as in the case of Jonathan, and the still more striking case of Achan.

The lot, for the decision of doubtful or obscure cases, runs back to a period when men had not learned the art of investigation, long before there was an art or science of evidence; before judicial tribunals had learned calmly to sift matters and determine the truth; when affairs were likely to be determined by the hot passions of men.

Imperfect as the lot must have been, as a judicial test, it was certainly a great advance over the precipitate action inspired by passion, since it took matters out of the hands of men and referred them to the arbitration of a higher power.

That the Jews believed that a Divine Providence made use of the lot in the affairs of men, is clear from Proverbs, xvi: 33: *The lot is cast into the lap, but the whole disposing thereof is of the Lord.*

It is very plain, then, that the lot was employed in an early and rude state of society, before men had learned the right use of their faculties, in the determination of serious questions, and that it carried with it a sense of the Divine Presence. It was, indeed, a solemn appeal to God to determine justice and right, as trial by arms in the middle ages was, and as the oath is in modern times; and there can be no sort of justification drawn from it for the use of the lot in a light and trivial way, or as an instrument of amusement, any more than one could justify profane swearing by alleging that men were sworn in civil courts.

To the ancients, the lot, the casting of dice, and various other expedients, were not supposed to involve chance. To them it was an appeal to certain knowledge.

Whatever may be believed in respect to the lot, as a civil and religious custom, no one pretends that it now has any validity. Throwing cuts, casting lots, throwing dice, and the multitude of other expedients, are, and are regarded as mere appeals to chance. And the question is, whether it is right to employ such methods.

1. In all cases where the use of chance is likely to stir up evil feeling, to pervert the conscience, to induce an element of dishonesty, it is not right to use it. The use of chance as an element of gambling, no matter how minute the sum, is mischievous.

2. In things indifferent, where an appeal to chance is a mere convenience, and where experience shows that no harm, but much good follows, there is no reason why chance should not be employed. Seats may be apportioned by lot, as fairer than any other mode of distribution.

3. Amusements may be sought based upon the element of chance. There are scores of games which turn on chance which neither excite evil feelings nor blur the moral sense, nor produce any moral injury whatever, and which do, on the other hand, produce innocent hilarity kindly social relations, and help to redeem social gatherings from moping stiffness or coarse indulgence.

Games of skill and games of chance both stand upon the same ground. They are modes of producing innocent pleasure, in hours appropriate to relaxation and amusement.

If in their practical workings they are found to produce evil, they are to be set aside; not because they are wrong in principle, but simply because, under certain circumstances, they are found to be mischievous. Just as bread and meat are sometimes forbidden, not because they are unwholesome, but because, in certain conditions of the human system, wholesome things are unwholesome.

Because gamblers employ the element of chance for evil, we must not forbid other persons from employing it for good. All gambling may turn upon chance, but all chance does not involve gambling. There is no such thing as innocent gambling. There is a good deal of chance that is not only innocent, but beneficial.

The district magistrate of Hangyang has issued two proclamations - the one forbidding Chinese landlords to charge extra rent for rooms or houses on account of the birth of children in them, and the other prohibiting under severe penalties the murdering of newborn babes.