s and packages registered during the was \$,338,919, of which only 2,061 were deyed or lost in transit. The operations of money-order system are multiplying yearunder the impulse of immigration, of the pid development of the newer States and critories, and the consequent demand for iditional informs of inter-communication and cenange. During the past year, 338 additional

schange, During the past year, 38 additional ioney-order offices have been established, naking a total of 5,499 in operation at the date of this report. During the year the domestic money or-ders aggregated in value \$10,507,576,935. A modification of the system is suggrested, reduc-ing the fees for money orders not exceeding \$5 from 10 cents to 5 cents, and making the maximum limit \$100, in place of \$50. Legisla-tion for the disposition of unclaimed money orders in the possession of the Post-office De, partment is recommended, in view of the fact that their total value exceeds \$1,000,000. The attention of Congress is again pointed to the subject of establishing a system of sav-ings depositories in connection with the Post-

ings depositories in connection with the Post-office Department. The statistics of mail office Department. The statistics of mail transportation show that during the past year ,ailroad routes have been increased in length 520 miles, and in cost \$111,382, while steam-boat routes have been decreased in length 182 miles, and in cost \$134,054. The so-alled Star routes have been decreased i length = 3,949 miles, and in ost \$364,144. Nearly all of the more pensive routes have been superseded by Troad service. The cost of the star service ist, therefore, rapidly decrease in the West-States and Territories. The Postmaster-length beck of the star service ist, therefore, rapidly decrease in the West-States and Territories. The Postmaster-length beck of the star service ist. mail states and rerritories. The rosanascri-ieral, however, calls attention to the con-atiy-increasing cost of the Railway Mall vice as a serious difficulty in the way of king the Department self-sustaining.

dur postal intercourse with foreign coun-ries has kept pace with the growth of the do-nestic service. Within the past year several jountries and colonies have declared their ad-pesion to the Postal Union. It now includes ill those which have an organized postal ser-vice, except Bolivia, Costa Rica, New Zealand and the British Colonies in Australia.

As has been already stated, great reductions As has been already stated, great reduction have recently been made in the expense of the Star-coute service. The investigation of the Department of Justice and the Post-office Department have resulted in the presentation of indictments against persons formerly con-nected with that service, accusing them of offenses against the United States. I have en-loined upon the officials, who are charged with he conduct of the cases on the part of the Govpriment, and upon the eminent counsel, who, effore my accession to the Presidency, were alled to their assistance, the duty of prose-uting with the utmost vigor of the law all ersons who may be found chargeable with rauds upon the Postal Service.

THE UNITED STATES COURTS. The acting Attorney General calls attention φ the necessity of modifying the present sys-2m of the courts of the United States, a ne-cessity due to the large increase of business, specially in the Supreme Court. Litigation a our Federal tribunals became greatly ex-anded after the close of the late war. So anded after the close of the late war. So ang as that expansion might be attrib-itable to the abnormal condition in which the community found itself immedi-itely after the return of peace, prudence equired that no change be made in the ponstitution of our judicial tribunds. But it has now become apparent that an immense increase of litigation has directly re-sulted from the wonderful growth and development of the country. There is no ground for belief that the business of the United States Courts will ever be less in volume than at present. Indeed, that it is likely to be much greater is generally recognized by the bench and bar. In view of the fact that Con-gress has already given much consideration to this subject. I make no suggestion as to detail. this subject, thinks no age our deliberations but express the hope that your deliberations may result in such legislation as will give early relief to our over-burdened courts. ARIZONA.

ARIZONA. The Acting Attorney General also calls at-tention to the disturbance of the public tran-quility during the past year in the Territory of Arizona. A band of armed desperadoes known as "cow-boys," probably numbering from 50 to 100 men, have been engaged for months in committing acts of havlessness and benefitive which the local authorities have been brutality which the local authorities have been unable to repress. The depredations of these "cow-boys" have also been extended into Mexico, which the maranders reach from the Arizona frontier. With every dispo-sition to meet the exigencies of the case, I am embarrassed by lack of authority to deal with them effectual-ly. The punishment of crimes committed within Arizona should, ordinarily, of course, be left to the Territorial authorities. But it is worthy of consideration whether acts which necessarily tend to embroil the United States with neighboring Governments should not be declared crimes against the United States. decurred crimes against the United States, Some of the incursions aliaded to may perhaps be within the scope of the law, Revised Statute, Section 5,286, forbidding "Military expeditions or enterprises" against friendly States, But in view of the speedy assembling of your body. I have preferred to await such leg-islation as in your work wisdom the occasion may islation as in your wisdom the occasion may seem to demand. It may, perhaps, be thought proper to provide that the setting on foot within our own territory of brigandage and armed marauding expeditions against friendly Nations and their citizens shall be punished as an offense against the United States. I will add that, in the event of a request from the Territorial Government for protection by the United States against "domestic violence," this Govarment would be powerless to render assist-ance. The act of 1795, Chapter 39, passed at the time when Territorial Governments received little attention from Congress, enforced this duty of the United States only as to State Governments; but the act of 1807, Chapter 33, applied also to Territories. This law seems to have remained in fo;ce until the revision of the statutes, when provision for the tories was dropped. I am not advised wheth-er this alteration was intentional or accidental, but as it seems to me that the Territories should be offered the protection which is ac-corded to States by the Constitution, I suggest legislation to that end. It seems to me that, whatever views may prevail as to the policy of recent legislation by which the army has ceased to be apart of the posse comitatus, an exception might well be made for permitting the military to assist the civil Territorial authorities in enforcing the laws of the United States. This use of the army would not seem to be within the alleged evil against which that legislation was aimed, from sparseness of population and other cir-cumstances. It is often quite impracticable to summon a posse in places where officers of justice require assistance, and where a military force is within easy reach. THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT. THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT. The repoat of the Secretary of the Interior, with accompanying documents, presents an elaborate account of the business of that de-partment. A summary of it would be too ex-tended for this place. I ask your careful Attention to the report itself. Prominent among the matter which challenges the attention of Congress at its present session is the management of our Indian affairs. While this question has been a cause of trouble and em-barrassment from the infancy of the Government, it is but recently that any effort has been made for its solution at once serious, determined, consistent, and promising success, It has been easier to resort to convenient make-shifts for tiding over the temporary difficulties, than to grapple with the great perma-nent problem, and accordingly the easier course has almost invariably been pursued. It was natural at a time when the National terri-tory seemed almost illimitable, and contained many millions of acres far south of the bounds of civilized settlement, that a policy should have been initiated which more than aught else has been the fruitful source of our Indian complications. I refer, of course, to the policy of dealing with the various Indian tribes as separate nationalities; of relegating them by treaty stipulations to the occupancy of immense reservations in the West, and of encourage reservations in the west, and of encouring ing them to live undisturbed, and, by earnest and well-directed efforts, to bring them under the influences of civilization. The un-satisfactory results which have sprung from this policy are becoming apparent to all. As the white settlements have crowded the bor-ders of the reservations, the Indians, sometimes contentedly and sometimes against their will, have been transferred to other huntingounds, from which they have been again slodged whenever their new-found homes have been desired by the adventurous settiers. These removals, and the frontier collisions by which they have often been preceded, have ' to frequent and disastrous conflicts be-on the races. It is profities to dis-bere which of them has been responsible for the disturbances

whose recital occupies so large a space upon the pages of our history. We have to deal with the appalling fact that, though thousands of lives have been sacrificed and hundreds of millions of dollars expended in the attempt to solve the Indian problem, it had until the past few years seemed scarcely nearer a solution than it was built a content way. But the flow than it was half a century ago. But the Gov-criment has of late been cautiously but steadlly feeling its way to the adoption of a policy which has already produced gratifying results, and which, in my judgment, is likely, if Congress and the Executive accord in its support, to relieve us ere long from the difficulties which have hitherto beset us.

Which have hitherto beset us. For the success of the efforts now making to introduce among the Indians the customs and pursuits of eivilized life, and gradually to ab-sorb them into the mass of our citizens, sharing their rights and holden to their responsi-bilities, there is imperative need for legislative action. My suggestions in that respect will be chiefly such as have been already called to the netion. attention of Congress, and have received, to some extent, its consideration. First, I recom-mend the passage of an act making the laws of the various States and Territories applica-ble to the Indian reservations within their borders, and extending the laws of the State of Arkansas to the portion of the Indian Torritory not accumied by the by the Indian Territory not occupied by the five civilized tribes. The Indian should receive the protection of the law. He should be allowed to maintain in court his rights of person and property. He has repeatedly begged for this privilege. Its exercise would be very valuable to him in his progress toward civilization. Second of even greater inwars civilization. Second, of even greater impor-tance, is a measure which has been frequently recommended by my predecessors in office, and in furtherance of which several bills have been from time to time introduced in both houses of Congress. The enactment of a general law permitting the allotment in severalty, to such Indians at least as deserve it, of a reasonable quantity of land, secured to them by patent, and for their own protection made inalienable for twenty or twenty-five years, is demanded for their present welfare, and their permanent advancement. In return for such considerate action on the part of the Gov-ernment, there is reason to believe that the Indians in large numbers would be persuaded to sever their tribal relations, and to engage at once in agricultural pursuits, and that it is now for their best interests to conform their manner of life to the new order of things. By permanent title to the soil can they be led to engage in the occupation of tilling it. The well-attested reports of their increasing interweil-attested reports of their increasing inter-est in husbandry justify the hope and belief that the emictment of such a statute as I recommend would be at once attended with gratifying results. A resort to the allotment system would have a direct and powerful influ-ence in dissolving the tribal bond which is a prominent feature of savage life, and which bonds a strength to permetue it there. tends so strongly to perpetuate it there.

I advise a liberal appropriation for the sup-port of Indian schools, because of my confi-dent belief that such a course is consistent with the wisest economy, even among the most uncultured Indian tribes. There is reported to be a general and urgent desire on the part of the Chiefs and the older members for the education of their children. It is un-fortunate, in view of this fact, that during the past year the means which have been at the command of the Interior Department, for the purpose of Indian instruction, have proved to be utterly inadequate. The suc-cess of the schools which are in operation at Hampton, Carlisle and Forest Grove should not only encourage a more generous provis-ion for the support of these institutions, but should prompt the establishment of others of a similar character. They are doubtless more potent for good than the day schools upon the reservation, as the pupils are altogether separated from the surroundings of savage life and brought into constant contact with civil-ization. There are many other phases of this ization. There are many other phases of this subject which are of great interest, but which cannot be included within the becoming limits of this communication. They are discussed ably in the reports of the Secretary of the Interior and of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

For many years the Executive, in his annual message to Congress, has called attuntion to the necessity for stringent legislation for the suppression of polygamy in the Territories, especially in Utah. The existing statute for the punishment of this advance of the superishment

touching its capacity for greater usefulness deserves attention, as it more and more com-mends itself to the interest which it was created to promote.

FENSIONS. It appears from the report of the Commis-shoner of Pensions that since 1860 782.053 orig-inal Pension claims have been filed. 60.049 of these have been allowed and inscribed on the pension roll, 72,539 have been rejected and abandoned, being thirteen per cent, of the whole number of claims settled. There are now pending for settlement 206,575 original pension claims, 22,704 of which were filed prior to July 1, 1880. These, when allowed, will in-volve the payment of arrears from the date of the discharge in the case of an invalid, and PENSIONS. the discharge in the case of an invalid, and from the date of death or termination of a prior right in all other cases. From all the data obtainable it is estimated that fifteen per data obtainable it is estimated that inteen per cent, of the number of claims now pending will be rejected or aban-doned. This would show the prob-able defection of 34,040 cases and the probable admission of about 193,000 claims, all of which invoive the payment of arrears of pensions. With the present force employed, the number of adjudications remaining the same and no new business interventing this same, and no new business intervening, this number of claims (193,000) could be acted upon in a period of six years, and, taking January 1, 1884, as a near period from which to estimate each case an average amount of arrears, it found that every case allowed would require r the first payment upon it the sum of \$1,350. Multiplying this amount by the whole number of probable admissions gives \$250,000,000 as the sum required for first payments. This repre-sents the sum which must be paid upon claims which were filed before July 1, 1880, and are now pending and entitled to the benefits of the Arrears act. From this amount (\$250,000,000) may be deducted from ten to fifteen millions for cases when, the claimant dying, there is no erson who under the law would be entitled succeed to the pension, leaving \$25.000.000 as the probable amount to be paid. In these estimates no account has been taken of the 38,500 cases filed since June 30, 1880, and now pending, which must receive attention, as cur-rent business, but which do not involve payment of any arrears beyond the date of filing the claim. Of this number it is now estimated that eighty-six per cent, will be allowed, as has been stated. With the present force of the Pension Bureau, 65 clerks, it is estimated the Pension Bureau, 65 clerks, it is estimated that it will take six years to dispose of the claims now pending. It is stated by the Com-missioner of Pensions that with an addition of 250 clerks (increasing the adjudicating force rather than the mechanical), double the amount of work could be accomplished, so that these cases could be acted upon within three years. Aside from the considerations of justice which may be urged for a speedy settlement of the claims now on the files of the Pension Office, it is no less im-portant on the score of economy, inasmuch, as portant on the score of economy, inasmuch, as fully one-third of the clerical force of the office is now wholly occupied in giving attention to correspondence with thousands of claimants whose cases have been on the files for the past eighteen years. The fact that a sum so enormous may be expended by the Government to meet the demands for arrears of pensions is an admonition to Congress and the Executive to give cautious consideration to any similar project in the future. The great temptation to the presentation of fletitious claims afforded by the fact that the average sum obtained upon each application is \$1,300 leads me to suggest the propriety of making some special appropriation for the prevention of fraud. INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS.

1 advise appropriations for such internal improvements as the wisdom of Congress may deem to be of public importance. The neces-sity of improving the navigation of the Missislppi River Justifies a special allusion to that subject. I suggest the adoption of some measure for removal of obstructions which now impede the navigation of that great channel of commerce

THE CIVIL SERVICE.

In my letter necepting the nomination for the Vice-Presidency I stated that in my judgment "no man should be an incumbent of an office, the duties of which he is for any cause unfit to perform, or who is lacking in the abil-ity, fidelity or integrity which a proper admin-istration of such office demands. This senti-ment would doubtless meet with general ac-quiescence, but opinion has been widely divided upon the wisdom and impracticability of the various reformatory schemes which have been suggested, and of certain proposed regulations governing appointments to public of-fice. The efficiency of such regulations has been distrusted mainly because they have seemed to exait mere educational and abstract tests above general business capacity, and even special fitness for the work in hand. It seems to me that the result that should be applied to the management of the public serv-ice may properly conform, in the main, to such as regulate the condition of successful pri vate business. Original appointments should be based upon ascertained fitness. The tenure of office should be stable; positions of respon-sibility should, so far as practicable, be filled by the promotion of worthy and efficient offi-cers. The investigation of all complaints and the punishment of all misconduct should be prompt and thorough." The views expressed in the foregoing letter are those which will govern my administra-tion of the Executive office. They are doubt-less shared by all intelligent and patriotic citizens, however divergent in their opinion as to the best methods of putting them into practical operation. For example, the assertion that original ap-pointments should be based upon ascertained fitness "is not open to dispute," but the question how, in practice, such fitness can be most effectually ascertained is one which has for years excited interest and discussion. The measure which, with slight variations in its details, has lately been urged upon the atten-tion of Congress and the Executive, has its principal feature in the scheme for competi-tive examination. Save for certain examina-tions, which need not here be specified, this plan would admit to the service only its lowest grade, and would accordingly demand that all vacancies in the higher positions should be filled by promotion alone. In these par-ticulars it is in conformity with the existing civil-service system of Great Britain, and indeed the success which has attended that system in the country of its birth is the strong-est argument which has been urged for its adoption here. The fact should not, however, be overlooked that there are certain features of the English system which have not general ly been received with favor in this country, even among the foremost advocates of Civilservice reform. Among them are: First, a tenure of office which is substantially a life tenure. Second, a limitation of the maximum age at which an applicant can enter the service, whereby all men in middle life or under are, with some exceptions, rigidly excluded. Third, a retiring allowance upon going out of office. These three elements are as important fac-tors of the problem as any of the others. To eliminate therefrom the English system would effect a most radical change in its theory and practice. The avowed purpose of that system is to induce the educated young men of the country to devote their lives to public employment, by an assurance that, having once entered upon it, they need never leave it, and that, after voluntary retirement, they shall be recipients of an annual pension. That this system, as an entirety, has proved very suc-cessful, in Great Britain seems to be gen-erally conceded, even by those who once operally conceded, even by those who once op-posed its adoption. To a statute, which should incorporate all its essential features, I should feel beamd to an additional features. feel bound to give my approval, but whether it would be for the best interests of the public to fix upon an expedient. for immediate and extensive application, which embraces certain features of the English system, but excludes or ignores others of equal importance, may be seriously doubted even by those who are impressed, as I am myself, with the grave im-portance of correcting the evils which inhere in the present methods of appointment. If, for example, the English rule, which shuts out persons above the age of 25 years from a large number of public employments, is not to be made an essential part of our system, it is questionable whether the attainment of the highest number of marks at a competitive ex-amination should be the criterion by which all applications for appointment should be put to test; and under similar conditions it may also be questioned whether admission to the service should be strictly limited to its lowest ranks, There are very many characteristics which go to make up a model civil servant; prominent among them are probity, industry, good sense, good habits, good temper, patience, ardor, courtesy, tact, self-reliance, manly deference to superior officers, and manly considerations for inferiors. The absence of these traits is not supplied by a wide knowledge of books, or by promptitude in answering questions, or by any other quality likely to be brought to light

by competitive examination. To make success in such a contest, therefore, an indispen-mable condition of public employment would very likely result in the practical exclusion of the older applicants, even though they might possess qualifications far superior to their younger and more brilliant competitors.

These suggestions must not be regarded as evincing any spirit of opposition to the com-petitive plan, which has been, to some ex-tent, successfully omployed already, and which may bereafter vindicate the claims of which may hereafter vindicate the claims of its most earnest supporters, but it ought to be seriously considered whether the application of the same educational standard to persons of mature years, as to young men fresh from school and college, would not be likely to ex-alt mere intellectual proficiency above other qualities of equal or greater importance. Another feature of the proposed system is the selection by promotion of all officers of the Government above the lowest grade, except such as would fairly be regarded as exponents of the policy of the Exception and the princi-ples of the dominant party, to afford encourageof the policy of the Executive and the princi-ples of the dominant party, to afford encourage-ment to faithful public servants by exciting in their minds the hope of promotion, if they are found to merit it, is much to be desired; but would it not be farcleal to adopt a rule so rigid as to permit no other mode of supplying the intermediate wants of the service? There are many persons who fill subordinate posi-tions with great credit, but lack those qualties which are requisite for the higher posts of duty, and, besides the modes of thought and action of one whose service in a Governmental bureau has been long-continued, are often so cramped by routine procedure as al-most to disqualify bim from instituting changes required by the public interests, and infusion of new blood from time to time into the middle ranks of the service might be very benefi-cial in its results. The subject under discussion is one of grave importance. The evils which are complained of cannot be eradicated at once. The work must be gradal. The present English system is a growth of years, and was not created by a single stroke of Executive or Legislative action. Its begin-nings are found in an order in council promul-gated in 1855, and it was after patient and caugated in Islo, and it was after patient and cali-ticus scrutiny of its workings that, fifteen years later, it took its present shape. Five years after the issuance of the order in coun-cil, and at a time when resort had been had to competitive examination as an experiment much more extensively than has yet been the much more extensively than has yet been the case in this country, a select committee of the House of Commons made a report to that House, which, declaring its approval of the competitive method, deprecated, nevertheless, any precipitancy in its general adoption, as likely to endanger its ultimate success, During this tentative period the results of the two methods of class examination and competitive examination were closely watched and compared. It may be that before we confine ourselves upon this important question within the stringent bounds of statu-tory enactment, we may profitably await the tory enactment, we may profitably await the result of further inquiry and experiment. The submission of a portion of the nominations to a central Board of Examiners selected solely for testing the qualifications of applicants, may, perhaps, without resort to the competi-tive test, put an end to the mischief which at tends the present system of appointment, and it may be feasible to vest in such a Board a wide discretion, to ascertain the characteristics and attainments of candidates in those particu-lars which I have already referred to as being no less important than more intellectual at-If Congress should deem it advisable at the

If Congress should deem it advisable at the present session to establish competitive tests for admission to the service, no doubts such as have been suggested shall deter me from giv-ing the measure my carnest support, and I un-gently recommend, should there be a failure to pass any other other act upon this subject, that an appropriation of \$25,000 per year may be made for the enforcement of section 1.754 of the Revised Statutes. With the aid thus afford-ed me, I shall strive to execute the provisions of that has according to its letter and spirit. I am unwilling, in justice to the present civil

service of the Government, to dismiss this subject without declaring my dissent from the subject without declaring my dissent from the severe and almost indiscriminate censure with which they have been recently assaulted; that they are, as a class, indolent, insufficient, cor-rupt, is a statement which has been often made and widely circulated, but when the extent, variety, delicacy and importance of their duties are considered, the great majority of the employes of the Government are, in my judgment, deserving of high com-

of the vote for Presidential Electors was sharply called to the attention of the people more than four years ago. It is to be hoped that some well-defined measure may be de-vised before another National election, which will render unnecessary a resort to any ex dient of a temporary character for the termination of questions upon contested returns.

INABILITY OF THE PRESIDENT. Questions which concern the very existence of the Government and the liberties of the people were suggested by the prolonged ill-ness of the late President, and his consequent incapacity to perform the functions of his office. It is provided by the second article of the Constitution, in the fifth clause of its first section, that in case of the removal of the President from office, or of his death, resigna-President from office, or of his death, resigna-tion, inability to discharge the powers and duties of said office, the same shall devolve on the Vice-President. What is the intention of the Constitution in its specification of "inability to discharge the powers and duties of said office," as one of the contin-genetics which calls the Vice-President to the exercise of Presidential functions? Is the inability designated in its nature to long-continued intellectual incapacity, or has it broader import? What must be its extent and duration? How must its existence be established? Has the President, whose inabil-ity is the subject of inquiry, any voice in de-termining whether or not it exists? Or is the decision of that momentous and delicate ques-tion confided to the Vice President, or is it contemplated by the Constitution that contemplated by the Constitution that Congress should provide by law pre-cisely what should constitute inabil-ity, and how and by what tribunal or authority it should be ascertained? If the inability proves to be temporary in its nature, and during its continuance the Vice-President Inwfully exercises the functions of the Execu-tive, by what tenure does he hold his office? Does he continue as President for the remain-der of the four-years term, or would the elected President, if his inability should cease In the interval, be empowered to resume his office, and if, having such lawful authority, he should exercise it, would the Vice-President be thereupon empowered to resume his powers and duties as such? I cannot doubt that these important questions will receive your early and thoughtful consideration. CONCLUSION. Deeply impressed with the gravity of the re

sponsibilities which have so une xpectedly devolved upon me, it will be my constant purpose to co-operate with you in such measures as will promote the glory of the country and the prosperity of its people.

CHESTER A. ARTHUR WASHINGTON D C December 6, 1881.

A Kiss on the Siy.

There is to be found much refreshment in a well-proportioned kiss. This much everybody acknowledges, though only a frank few have the courage to acknowledge it openly. And it is a curious fact, as yet unexplained by the philosopher, that the slyer the kiss is the more there is in it of refreshment.

A kiss that is paid as a forfeit before a whole room full of people is prosaic, not to say embarrassing. The girt laughs, which spoils the romance, and the fellow, ten to one, blushes- neither of them thinking much of it-and they both are apt pretty soon to forget all about it.

But let the same fellow kiss the same girl when nobody is looking-and the situation is as different as possible. That sort of a kiss, fired off in a hurry behind a door or in a conservatory, is like an electric shock, and is as sweet cream. The taste of it sort of holds on, and constantly suggests the propriety, or impropriety, as the case may be, of trying it again. And the laughing and blushing are exactly reversed. The fellow laughs, without spoiling the

of this odious crime, so revolting to the moral and religious sense of Christianity, has been persistently and contemptuously violated ever since its enactment. Indeed, in spite of commendable efforts on the part of the authorities who represent the United states in that Territory, the law has, in very rare instances, been enforced, and for a cause to which reference will presently be made, is practically a dead letter. The fact that ad-herents of the Mormon Church, which rests herents of the Mormon Church, which resis-upon polygamy as its corner-stone, have re-cently been peopling in large numbers Idaho, Arizona and other of our Western Territories, is well calculated to excite the liveliest interest and apprehension. It imposes upon Con-gress and the Executive the duty of opposing to this barbarous system all the power which under the Constitution and law they can wield for its destruction. Reference has been al-ready made to the obstructions which the United States officers have encountered in their efforts to punish the violations of the law. Prominent among the obstacles is the difficulty of procuring legal evidence sufficient to warrant a conviction, even in the case of the most notorious offenders.

Your attention is called to the opinion of the Supreme Court of the United States explain-ing its judgment of reversal in the case of Miles, who had been convicted of bigany in Utah. The court refers to the fact that the secrecy attending the celebration of marriage Utah. secrecy attending the celebration of marriage in that Territory makes the suppression of that part of polygamy very difficult, and the propriety is suggested of modifying that law of evidence which now makes a wife incompe-tent to testify against her husband. This sug-gestion is approved. I recommend also the passage of an act providing that in the Ter-ritories of these United States the fact that a woman has been married to a person charged with bigamy shall not disqualify her as a witness upon his trial for that offense. I further recommend legislation by which any further recommend legislation by which any person solemnizing a marriage in any of the Territories shall be required, under stringent Perritories shall be required, under stringent penalties for neglect or refusal, to file a cer-tificate of such marriage in the Supreme Court of the Territory, until Congress shall make or devise other practicable measures for obviating the difficulties which have hith-erto attended the efforts to suppress this in-iquity. I assure you of my determined pur-pose to accouncies with you in any determined purpose to co-operate with you in any lawful and discreet measures which may be proposed to that end.

EDUCATION. Although our system of government does not contemplate that the Nation should pro-vide or support a system for the education of vide or support a system for the education of our people, no measures calculated to provide that general intelligence and virtue upon which the perpetuity of our institutions so greatly depend have ever been regarded with indifference by Congress or the Executive. A large portion of the public domain has been, from time to time, devoted to the promotion of the cause of education. There is now a spe-cal reason why by action most the proceeding cial reason why, by setting apart the proceeds of the sales of public lands, or by some oth-er course, the Government should aid the work of education. Many who now excreise the right of suffrage are unable to read the ballot which they cast. Upon many who had just emerged from a condition of slavery were suddenly devolved the responsibilities of citizenship in that portion of the country most impoverished by war. I have been pleased to learn from the report of the Commissioner of Education that there has been lately a commendable increase of interest and effort for their instruction, but of interest and effort for their instruction, but all that can be done by local legislation and private generosity should be supplemented by such aid as can be constitutionally afforded by the National Government. I would suggest that, if any fund be dedicated to this purpose, it may be wisely distributed in the different States according to the ratio of liliteracy, as the these means these beautions which are most by this means those locations which are most in need of such assistance will reap the especial benefit

AGRICULTURE. The report of the Commissioner of Agriculture exhibits results of the experiments in which that Department has been engaged durwhich that Department makes important sug-gestions in reference to the agricultural de-velopment of the country. The steady in-crease of our population, and the consequent addition to the number of those engaged in the pursuit of husbandry, are giving to this Department a growing dignity and impor-tance. The Commissioner's suggestions mendation THE MERCHANT SERVICE

The continuing decline of the merchant marine of the United States is to be greatly de-plored. In view of the fact that we furnish so large a proportion of the freights of the commercial world, and that our shipments are steadily and rapidly increasing, it is a cause of surprise that not only is our navigation inter-est diminishing, but if is less than when our exports and imports were not half so large as now, either in bulk or value. There must be some peculiar hindrance to the develop-ment of this interest, or the enterprise and energy of American mechanics and capitalists would have kept this country at abreast of our rivals in the triendly or lernet contest for ocean supremacy. The substitution of iron for wood and of steam for sail have wrought great revolutions in the carrying trade of the world, but these changes could not have been adverse to America if we had given to our navigation interest a portion of given to our navigation interest a portion of the aid in protection which have been so wisely bestowed upon our manufactures. I commend the whole subject to the wisdom of Congress, with the suggestion that no question of greater magnitude or farther-reaching im-portance can engage their attention.

IMMIGHATION.

In 1875 the Supreme Court of the United States declared unconstitutional the statutes of certain States which imposed upon ship-owners or consignees a tax of \$1.50 for each busies of the second state of the second state of the second state and local authorities against expense for the future relief or support of such pas-senger. Since this decision the expense attending the care and supervision of immi-grants has fallen on the States at whose ports they have landed. As a large majority of such immigrants, immediately upon their arrival, proceed to the inland States and the Territories to seek permanent homes, it is mani-festly unjust to impose upon the State whose shores they first reach the burden which it now bears. For this reason, and because of the National importance of the subject, I recommend legislation regarding the supervision and transitory care of immigrants at the ports of debarkation.

ALASKA.

ALASKA. I regret to state that the people of Alaska have reason to complain that they are as yet unpro-vided with any form of governmeni by which life or property can be protected. While the extent of its population does not justify the application of the costly machinery of Terri-torial administration, there is immediate ne-cessity for constituting such a form of gov-ernment & will promote the education of the people and secure the administration of jus-tice. The Senate at its last session passed a tice. The Senate at its last session passed a bill providing for the construction of a building for the library of Congress, but it failed to become a law. The provision for such ample protection for this great collection of books, and for the copyright department connected with it, has become a subject of National importance, and should receive prompt attention.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

The report of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, herewith transmitted, will inform you fully of the condition of the affairs of the District. The vital importance of legislation for the reclamation and im-provement of the marshes, and for the establishment of the harbor lines along the Poto-mac River front is manifest. It is represented that in their present condition these marshes seriously affect the health of the residents of the adjacent parts of the city, and that they greatly mar the general as-pect of the park in which stands the Washing-ton Monument. This improvement would add to that park and the park south of the Ex ecutive Mansion a large area of valuable land, and would transform what is now believed to be a dangerous nulsance into an attractive andscape extending to the river front. They recommend the removal of the steam railway lines from the surface of the streets of the city, and the location of the necessary depots in such places as may be convenient for the public accommodation. They call attention to the deficiency of the water supply, which seriously affects the material prosperity of the city and the health and comfort of its inhabitants. I commend these subjects to your careful consideration.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS.

The importance of timely legislation with respect to the ascertainment and declaration

romance a bit, and the girl blushes like a pink carnation.

It is queer that the very same thing should, under such slightly altered circumstances, be so entirely different, nor is it any the less queer because the difference has existed from the earliest ages of the world. - Philadelphia Times. ----

A Sanitary Life.

Our English friends are just at present discussing the question as to whether a sanitary life is worth living: whether it is more agreeable to indulge in unlimited lobster, pine-apple and dry champagne, and live a short life and a merry one, or to dole out an everlasting existence on oatmeal and milk and a specified ounce of rare roast mutton, is the question. Is it, then, better to live long, and stretch out days in senility when there are no amusements in one's life, save whist? Or is it more pleasant to dash through some thirtyeight years, and, having accomplished something, to pass out of sight? An English physician of merit says this: "I think men were happier and better, and lived nobler lives, before the pursuit of health and the yearning for longevity became a craze almost amounting to madness. What to eat, drink and avoid, what to wear and how to live, by what means to avoid infection, to keep off disease, and to escape death, for a few weary and wearied years, are questions which engross the thoughts, if they do not embitter the lives, of the multitude." This rather cynical doctor certainly hits the truth. Death is the nightmare of many-particularly those of the wealthier classes, who dread the time when their fine possessions will be of no further use to them. The wise man takes care of himself, but looks forward to the inevitable end of all things with complacency.

-Specimens of a new method of counterfeiting silver coins were received at the Treasury Department recently. The coin is cut in three pieces and portions of it filed off. The pieces are then put together again by the use of solder. Coins manipulated in this way are not so much smaller than the original that they can be distinguished by other than actual comparison. In addition to this cutting off, holes are drilled into the coin from the edges and silver taken therefrom, replaced by a base metal, and the edges polished so as to make detection almost impossible

-A consignment of pedigree cattle, valued at \$150,000, left Liverpool a few days ago for Canada. The stock included Hereford bulks, Aberdeenshire polled cattle, picked Jersey cows, and shorthorns from the herds of Lords Lathom and Polworth. The same vessel conveyed a cargo of Shropshire and Oxford down sheep, and a number of prize poultry. The whole has been selected for various well-known farmers in the Dominion.