PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

The President Offers His Advice to Congress.

He Discusses the Silver and Chinese Questions—He Denounces Mormonism—His Views on Civil Service Reform.

WASHINGTON, December 9.—The first message of President Cleveland was delivered to both Houses of Congress yesterday. It is as follows:

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

Your assembling is clouded by a sense of public bereavement, caused by the recent sudden death of Thomas A. Hendricks, Vice President of the United States. His distinguished public services, his complete integrity and devotion to every duty and his personal virtues will find honorable record in his country's history. Ample and repeated proofs of the confidence in which he was held by his countrymen, were manifested by his election to offices of the most important trust and highest dignity, and at length, full of years and honors, he has been laid at rest amid universal sorrow and benediction.

The Constitution, which requires those chosen to legislate for the people to annually meet in the discharge of their solemn trust, also requires the President to give to Congress information of the state of the Union, and recommend to their consideration such measures he shall deem necessary and expedient. At the threshold of a compliance with these Constitutional directions, it is well for us to bear in mind that our usefulness to the people's interests will be promoted by a constant appreciation of the scope and character of our respective duties as they relate to Federal legislation. While the Executive may recommend such measures as he deems expedient, the responsibility for legislative action will devolve on Congress. Contemplation of the grave and responsible functions assigned to the Executive branches of the Government under the Constitution, will disclose the partitions of power between our respective departments and their necessary independence, and also the need for the exercise of all the power entrusted to each in that spirit of comity and cooperation which is essential to the proper fulfillment of the patriotic obligations which rest upon us as faithful servants of the people. The zealous watchfulness of our constituency, as great and small, supplement their suffrages, and before the tribunal they establish every public servant should be judged.

FOREIGN RELATIONS.

It is gratifying to announce that the relations of the United States with all foreign powers continue to be friendly. Our position after nearly a century of successful constitutional government, maintenance of good faith in all of our engagements, the avoidance of complications with other nations and our consistent attitude toward the strong and weak alike, furnish proof of a political disposition which renders professions of good will unnecessary. There are no questions of difficulty pending with any foreign government. The Argentine Government has revived the long dormant question of the Falkland Islands by claiming from the United States indemnity for their loss, attributed to the action of the commander of the sloop Lexington in breaking up a piratical colony on those islands in 1831, and their subsequent occupation by Great Britain. In view of the [illegible] of the act of the Lexington and the derelict condition of the islands before and after their alleged occupation by [illegible] colonists, this Government considers the claim as wholly groundless.

THE KEILEY CASE. … with the Government … touching the representation … States at Vienna; having … national prerogative … citizen of unimpeached … as minister at that … Austria-Hungary … cognizance of a … upon allegations … stability of Mr. … asking that in … should be … such as could … without violation of … precepts of the … necessarily in… of a for… of selection … qualifi…

and other countries where such food products are absolutely excluded without present prospect of reasonable change.

The interpretation of our existing treaties of naturalization by Germany during the past year has attracted attention by reason of an apparent tendency on the part of the imperial government to extend the scope of their residential restrictions to which returning naturalized citizens of German origin are asserted to be liable under the laws of the empire. The temperate and just attitude taken by this Government with regard to this class of questions will doubtless lead to a satisfactory understanding.

BRITISH GOOD WILL.

The marked good will between the United States and Great Britain has been maintained during the past year. The termination of the fishery causes of treaty of Washington in pursuance of the joint resolution of March 3, 1884, must have resulted in the abrupt cessation on the 1st of July of this year, in the midst of their ventures, of the operations of citizens of the United States engaged in fishing in British American waters but for a diplomatic understanding with her Majesty's Government in June last, whereby assurance was obtained that no interruption of these operations should take place during the current fishing season.

FISHERY QUESTIONS.

In the interest of good neighborhood and of the commercial intercourse of adjacent communities the question of the North American fisheries is one of much importance. Following out the intimation given by me when the extensary arrangement above described was negotiated, I recommend that the Congress provide for the appointment of a commission, in which the Governments of the United States and Great Britain shall be respectively represented, charged with the consideration and settlement, upon a joint, equitable and honorable basis, of the entire question of the fishing rights of the Governments and their respective citizens on the coast of the United States and British North America.

The fishing interest, being intimately related to other general questions dependent upon contingency and intercourse, consideration thereof in all their equities might also properly come within the purview of such commission, and the latitude of expression of both sides should be permitted. The correspondence in relation to the fishing rights will be submitted.

EXTRADITION.

The inadequacy of the existing arrangements for extradition between the United States and Great Britain has long been apparent. The tenth article of the treaty of 1842, one of the earliest compacts in this regard entered into by us, stipulates for the surrender in respect of a limited number of offenses. Other crimes no less inimical to social welfare should be embraced and the procedure of extradition brought in harmony with the present international practices. Relations with her Majesty's Government for an enlarged treaty of extradition have been pending since 1850, and I entertain strong hopes that a satisfactory result may soon be attained.

THE ALASKA FRONTIER.

The frontier line between Alaska and British Columbia, as defined by the treaty of cession with Russia, follows the demarkation assigned in a prior treaty between Great Britain and Russia. Modern exploration discloses that this ancient boundary is impracticable as a geographical fact. In the unsettled condition of that region the question has lacked importance, but the discovery of mineral wealth in the territory the line is supposed to traverse, admonishes us that the time has come when an accurate knowledge of the boundary is needful to avert jurisdictional complications. I recommend, therefore, that provision be made for a preliminary reconnoisance by officers of the United States to the end of acquiring more precise information on the subject. I have invited Her Majesty's Government to consider with us the adoption of a more convenient line to be established by meridian observation or by known geographical features without the necessity of an expensive survey of the whole.

SANITARY CONFERENCE.

An international conference to consider means of arresting the spread of the cholera and other epidemic diseases was held in Rome in May last, and adjourned to meet on further notice. An expert delegate, on behalf of the United States, has attended its sessions, and will submit a report.

RELATIONS WITH MEXICO.

Our relations with Mexico continue to be most cordial, as befits those of neighbors between whom the strongest ties of friendship and commercial interests exist, a natural and growing consequence of our similarity of institutions and geographical propinquity.

THE TREATY WITH MEXICO.

The lately concluded commercial treaty with Mexico still awaits stipulated legislation to carry its provisions into effect, for which one year's more time has been secured by a supplementary article signed in [illegible] last and since ratified on both sides.

ON GOOD TERMS WITH RUSSIA.

Our good relationship with Russia continues. An officer of the navy, detailed for the purpose, is now on his way to Siberia, bearing the testimonials voted by Congress to [illegible] succored the survivors [illegible] expedition.

INTERNATIONAL COPYRIGHT.

An international copyright conference was held at Berne in September on the invitation of the Swiss Government. The envoy of the United States attended as a delegate, but refrained from committing this Government to the result, even by signing the recommendatory protocol adopted. The interesting and important subject of international copyright has been before you for several years. Action is certainly desirable to effect the object in view, and while there may be questions as to the relative advantage of treating it by legislation, or by specific treaty, the matured views of the Berne conference can not fail to aid your consideration of the subject.

VENEZUELAN AWARDS.

The negotiations with Venezuela relative to the rehearing of the awards of the mixed commission, constituted under the treaty of 1866 was resumed in view of the recent acquiescence of the Venezuelan envoy in the principal points advanced by the Government that the effects of the old treaty could only be set aside by the operation of a new convention. A result in substantial accord with the advisory suggestions contained in the joint resolution of March 3, 1883, has been agreed upon and will shortly be submitted to the Senate for ratification.

NATURALIZATION.

The inadequacy of existing legislation, touching citizenship and naturalization, demands your consideration. While recognizing the right of expatriation no statutory provisions exist providing means for renouncing citizenship by an American citizen, native born or naturalized, nor for terminating and locating an improper acquisition of citizenship—even a fraudulent decree of naturalization can not now be cancelled. The privilege and franchise of American citizenship should be guarded with care and extended to those only who intend, in good faith, to assume its duties and responsibilities when attaining its privileges and benefits. It should be withheld from those who merely go through the forms of naturalization with the intent of escaping the duties of their original allegiance without taking upon themselves those of their new status, or who may acquire the rights of American citizenship for no other than a hostile purpose toward their original governments. These evils have had many flagrant illustrations. I regard with favor the suggestion put forth by one of my predecessors that provision be made for a central bureau of record of the decrees of naturalization granted by the various courts throughout the United States [illegible] with that power. The … from domicile in the … when coupled with … to become a citizen, … by statute. The … either intent to remain … in our midst, con… welfare and by his … his purpose to as… of citizenship there… which legislation … States and Territories … to the local fran… the rights of … such places him in … being a citizen of … United States … and international … within the scope … define this right … from Fed… [illegible]

For Indians	6,5[illegible],494	63
For pensions	56,102,267	49
For the military, including river and harbor improvements and arsenals	42,669,578	47
For the Navy, including vessels, machinery and improvements of Navy yards	16,021,079	69
For interest on the public debt	51,386,256	47
For the District of Columbia	3,499,650	95
For miscellaneous expenditures, including public buildings, lighthouses and collecting the revenue	54,128,654	21

The amount paid on the public debt during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1885, was $45,993,235.43 and there had been paid since that date and up to November 1, 1885, the sum of $369,828, leaving the amount of debt at the last named date, $1,514,475,860.47. There was, however, at that time in the Treasury applicable to general purposes of the Government the sum of $66,818,292.38.

The total receipts for the current fiscal year ending June 30, 1886, ascertained to October 1, 1885, and estimated for the remainder of the year, are $315,000,000. The expenditures ascertained, estimated for same time, are $245,000,000, leaving a surplus at close of year estimated at $70,000,000.

EXPORTS.

The value of exports from the United States to foreign countries during the last fiscal year was as follows:

Domestic merchandise	$726,682,946
Foreign merchandise	15,506,809
Total	$741,189,755
Gold	8,477,892
Silver	33,753,633
Total	$784,421,280

Some of the principal exports, with their values and the percentage they respectively bear to the total exportation, are given as follows:

Articles.	Value.	Percentage
Cotton and cotton manufactures	$213,799,049	29.42
Breadstuffs	160,370,820	22.07
Provisions	107,332,456	14.77
Oil, mineral, vegetable and animal	54,326,202	7.48
Tobacco and its manufactures	24,767,305	3.41
Wood and its manufactures	21,464,322	2.95

Our imports during the year were as follows:

Merchandise	$579,580,053 80
Gold	26,691,696 00
Silver	16,550,627 00
Total	$622,822,376 80

The following are given as prominent articles of imports during the year, with their values and the percentage they bear to the total importation:

Of the entire amount of duties collected, 70 per cent. was collected from the following articles of import: Sugar and molasses, 29; wool and its manufactures, 15; silks and its manufactures, 8; iron and steel and their manufactures, 7; cotton manufactures, 6; flax, hemp, jute and their manufactures, 5.

THE TARIFF.

The fact that our revenues are in excess of the actual needs of an economical administration of the Government justifies a reduction in the amount exacted from the people for its support. Our Government is but the means established by the will of a free people by which certain principles are applied which they have adopted for their benefit and protection, and it is never better administered and its true spirit is never better observed than when the people's taxation for its support is scrupulously limited to the actual necessity of expenditure, and distributed according to a just and equitable plan.

We should also deal with the subject in such a manner as to protect the interests of American labor, which is the capital of our workingmen. Its stability and proper remuneration furnish the most justifiable pretext for a protective policy. Within these limitations a certain reduction should be made in our customs revenue. The amount of such reduction having been determined, the inquiry follows where can it best be remitted and what articles can best be released from duty in the interests of our citizens.

I think the reduction should be made in the revenue derived from a tax upon the imported necessaries of life. We thus directly lessen the cost of living in every family of the land, and release to the people in every humble home a larger measure of the rewards of frugal industry.

NATIONAL BANKS.

During the year ended November 1, 1885, 145 National banks were organized, with an aggregate capital of $16,938,000, and circulation notes have been issued to them amounting to $4,274,910. The whole number of these banks in existence on the day above mentioned was 2,727. The very limited amount of circulating notes issued by our National banks, compared with the amount the law permits them to issue upon a deposit of bonds for their redemption, indicates that the volume of the circulating medium may be largely increased through this instrumentality. Nothing more important than the present condition of our currency and coinage can claim your attention. Since February, 1878, the Government has, under compulsory provisions of law, purchased silver bullion and coined the same at the rate of more than $2,000,000 every month. By this process, up to present date, 215,759,435 silver dollars have been coined.

THE SILVER QUESTION.

A reasonable appropriation or a delegation of power to the general Government would limit its exercise without express restrictions to the people's needs and the requirements of the public welfare. Upon this theory the authority to "coin money" given to Congress by the Constitution, if it permits the purchase by the Government of bullion for coinage, in any event does not justify such purchase and coinage beyond the amount needed for a sufficient circulating medium. The desire to utilize the silver product of the country should not lead to a misuse or the perversion of this power.

The necessity for such an addition to the silver currency of the Nation, as is compelled by the silver coinage act, is illustrated by the fact that up to the present time only about 50,000,000 of silver dollars so coined have actually found their way into circulation, leaving more than $165,000,000 in possession of the Government, the custody of which has entailed a considerable expense for construction of vaults for its deposit. Against this latter amount there are outstanding silver certificates of about $93,000,000.

Every month $2,000,000 of gold in the public treasury are paid out for $2,000,000 or more of silver dollars to be added to the idle mass accumulated. If continued long enough this operation will result in a substitution of silver for all the gold the Government owns applicable to its general purposes. It will not do to rely on the customs receipts of the Government, the silver thus coined having been made a legal tender for all debts and dues, public and private. At times during the last six months 58 per cent of the receipts for duties have been in silver or silver certificates, while the average within that period has been 10 per cent.

The portion of silver and its certificates received by the Government will probably increase as time goes on, for the reason that the nearer the period approaches when it will be obliged to offer silver in payment of its obligations, the greater inducement there will be to hoard gold against depreciation in the value of silver, or for the purpose of speculating. This hoarding of gold has already begun. When the time comes that gold has been withdrawn from circulation, then will be apparent the difference between the real value of the silver dollar and a dollar in gold, and the two coins will part company. Gold, still the standard of value and necessary in our dealings with other countries, will be at a premium over silver. Banks which have substituted gold for the deposits of their customers may pay them with silver bought with such gold, thus making a handsome profit. Rich speculators will sell their hoarded gold to their neighbors, who need it to liquidate their foreign indebtedness at a ruinous premium over silver, and the laboring men and women of the land, most defenseless of all, will find that the dollar received for the wages of their toil has sadly shrunk in its purchasing power.

It may be said that the latter result will be but temporary, and that ultimately the price of labor will be adjusted to the change. But even if this takes place the wage-worker can not possibly gain, since the price he is compelled to pay for his living will not only be measured in a coin heavily depreciated, fluctuating and uncertain in its value, but this uncertainty in the value of the purchasing medium will be made a pretext for an advance in prices beyond that justified by the actual depression.

The words uttered in 1834 by Daniel Webster in the Senate of the United States are true to-day—"The very man of all others who has the deepest interest in a sound currency and who suffers most by mischievous legislation in money matters is the man who earns his daily bread by his daily toil." The most distinguished advocate of bi-metalism, in discussing our silver coinage, has lately written: "No American citizen's hand has yet felt the sensation of cheapness either in receiving or expending the silver act dollars," and those who live by labor or legitimate trade never will feel that sensation of cheapness. However plenty silver dollars may be, they will not be distributed as gifts among the people, and if the laboring man should receive four depreciated dollars where he now receives two, he will pay in the depreciated coin more than double the price he now pays for all the necessaries and comforts of life.

Those who do not fear any disastrous consequence arising from the continued compulsory coinage of silver, as now directed by law, and who suppose that the addition of the currency of the country intended as its result will be a public benefit, are reminded that the point is easily reached [illegible] at the same time two sorts of money [illegible] excellent when the better will [illegible] be in circulation. The hoarding of [illegible] already taken place, [illegible] will not compel the [illegible] such cases. So if this [illegible] be continued, we may [illegible] that gold or its equivalent [illegible] the loss of [illegible]

ver. This, of course, must produce a severe contraction of our circulating medium, instead of adding to it. It will be disputed that any attempt on the part of the Government to cause the circulation of a silver dollar worth 80 cents, side by side with a gold dollar worth 100 cents, even with the limit that legislation does not run counter to trade; to be successful it must be seconded by the confidence of the people, that both coins will retain the same purchasing power and changeable at will. A special effort has been made by the Secretary of the Treasury to increase the amount of our silver coin in circulation, but the fact that a large share of the limited amount thus put out has soon returned to the public treasury in payment of duties, leads to the belief that the people do not now desire to keep it in hand, and this, with the evident disposition to hoard gold, gives rise to the suspicion that there already exists a lack of confidence among the people touching our financial processes. I recommend the suspension of the compulsory coinage of silver dollars directed by the law passed in February, 1878.

THE MARINE HOSPITAL SERVICE.

The Supervising Surgeon-General reports that during the fiscal year 41,714 patients have received relief through the marine hospital service, of whom 12,803 were treated in hospitals and 28,911 at dispensaries. Active and effective efforts have been made through the medium of this service to protect the country against an invasion of cholera, which has prevailed in Spain and France, and small-pox, which recently broke out in Canada.

COAST SURVEY.

The work of the coast and geodetic survey was during the last fiscal year carried on within our boundaries and of the coasts of thirty-two States, two Territories and the District of Columbia. In July last certain irregularities were found to exist in the management of this bureau, which led to prompt investigation of its methods, the abuses of which were brought to light by this examination, and the reckless disregard of duty and the interests of the Government depending on the part of some of those connected with the service made a change of superintendency and other offices necessary.

THE WAR DEPARTMENT.

The report of the Secretary of War is herewith submitted. The attention of Congress is invited to the detailed account which it contains of the administration of his department and suggestions for the improvement of the service. The army consisted, at the date of the last consolidated returns, of 2,154 officers and 24,705 enlisted men. The expenses of the department for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1885, including $13,164,394.60 for public works and river and harbor improvements, were $45,850,999.54.

Besides the troops which were sent in pursuit of the small band of Indians who left their reservation in Arizona and committed murders and outrages, two regiments of cavalry and one of infantry were sent last July to the Indian Territory to prevent an outbreak which seemed imminent. They remained to aid, if necessary, in the expulsion of intruders upon the reservation who seemed to have caused the discontent among the Indians, but the executive proclamation warning them to remove was complied with without interference.

Troops were also sent to Rock Springs, in Wyoming Territory, after the massacre of the Chinese there, to prevent further disturbances, and afterward to Seattle, in Washington Territory, to avert a threatened attack upon Chinese laborers and domestic violence there; in both cases the mere presence of troops had the desired effect. It appears that the number of desertions have diminished, but that during the last fiscal year the number was 2,927, and one instance is given by the Lieutenant General of six desertions by the same recruit. I am convinced that this number of desertions can be much diminished by better discipline and treatment, but the punishment should be increased for repeated offenses.

The Judge Advocate General reports that the number of trials by general court martials during the year were 2,328, and that 1,184 trials took place before garrison and regimental court martials. The suggestion that probably more than a tenth of the army has been tried for offenses great and small in one year may well arrest attention. Of course many of these trials of garrison and regimental court martials were for offenses almost frivolous, and there should, I think, be a way devised to dispose of these in a more summary and less inconvenient manner than by court martial. If some of the proceedings of court martial, which I had occasion to examine, the present ideas of justice which generally prevail in the trials, I am satisfied, should be much reformed if the honor and the honesty of the army and the navy are, by their instrumentality, to be vindicated and protected.

The Board of Fortifications and Harbor Defenses, appointed in pursuance of provisions of the act of Congress, approved March 3, 1885, will, in a short time, present a report, and it is hoped that this may greatly aid the legislation so necessary to remedy the present defenseless condition of our sea coast.

THE SIGNAL SERVICE.

The work of the signal service has been prosecuted during the last year with results of increasing benefit to the country. The field of instruction has been enlarged with a view of adding to its usefulness. The number of stations in operation June 30, 1885, was 489. Telegraphic reports are received daily from 160 stations; reports are also received from 25 Canadian stations, 375 volunteer observers, 51 army surgeons at military posts, and 333 foreign stations. The expense of the service during the fiscal year, after deducting receipts from military telegraph lines, was $797,592.97.

WEST POINT ACADEMY.

The military academy at West Point is reported as being in a high state of efficiency and well equipped for the accomplishment of the purposes of its maintenance. The fact that the class which graduates next year is an unusually large one has constrained me to decline to make appointments to second lieutenancies in the army from civil life so that such vacancies as exist in these places may be reserved for such graduates, and yet it is not probable that there will be vacancies enough to provide positions for them all when they leave the military school.

NAVIGABLE WATERS.

There should be a general law of Congress prohibiting the construction of bridges over navigable waters in such manner as to obstruct navigation, with provisions for preventing the same. It seems, under existing statutes, that the Government can not intervene to prevent such a construction, when entered upon without its consent, though when such consent is asked, and granted upon condition the authority to insist upon such condition is clear.

THE NAVY DEPARTMENT.

The report of the Secretary of the Navy gives a history of the operations of his department, and the present condition of the work committed to his charge. He details in full the course pursued by him to protect the rights of the Government in respect to certain vessels unfinished at the time of his accession to office, and also concerning the dispatch boat, Dolphin, claimed to be completed and awaiting the acceptance of the department.

No one can fail to see from recitals contained in these reports that only the application of business principles has been insisted upon in the treatment of these subjects, and that whatever controversy has arisen was caused by the exaction on the part of the Department of contract obligations as they were legally construed. In the case of the Dolphin, with entire justice to the contractor, an agreement has been entered into providing for the ascertainment, by a judicial inquiry, of the complete or partial compliance with the contract in her construction, and further providing for the assessment of any damage to which the Government may be entitled on account of a partial failure to perform such contract, or payment of the sum still remaining unpaid upon her price in case a full performance is adjudged. The contractor, by reason of his failure in business being unable to complete the other three vessels, they were taken possession of by the Government in their unfinished state, under a clause in the contract permitting such a course, and are now in process of completion in the yard of the contractor, but under the supervision of the Navy Department.

Congress at its last session authorized the construction of two additional new cruisers and two gunboats, at a cost not to exceed in the aggregate $2,995,000. The appropriation for this purpose having become available on the 1st day of July last, steps were taken for the procurement of such plans [illegible] should be likely to insure their usefulness when completed. These are of utmost importance, considering the constant advance in the art of building vessels of this character, and the time is not lost which is spent in their careful consideration and selection.

All must admit the importance of an effective navy to a nation like ours, having such an extended sea coast to protect; and yet we have not a single vessel of war that could keep the seas against a first-class vessel of any important foreign power. Such a condition ought not longer to continue. The nation that can not resist aggression is constantly exposed to its foreign policy, is of necessity weak, and its negotiations are conducted with disadvantage, because it is not in a condition to enforce the terms dictated by its sense of right and justice.

Inspired as I am by the hope shared by all patriotic citizens, that the day is not far distant when our navy will be such as befits our standing among the nations of the earth, and rejoiced at every step that leads to the direction of such consummation, I deem it my duty to especially direct the attention of Congress to the close of the report of the Secretary of the Navy, in which the humiliating weakness of the present organization of this department is exhibited, and the startling abuses and waste of its present methods are exposed. The conviction is forced upon us with a certainty of mathematical demonstration that before we proceed further in the restoration of a navy we need a thoroughly reorganized navy department.

THE POSTAL SERVICE.

The affairs of the postal service, as exhibited by the report of the Postmaster General, which will be laid before you, [illegible] the revenue, whose rate of [illegible] outstripped the prosperity of [illegible] of our growing service, [illegible] checked by the reduction in the [illegible] postage, which took effect with the beginning of October in the latter year, and it diminished during the past two fiscal years $2,750,000, in about the proportion of $2,750,000 in 1884 to $520,000 in 1885. Natural growth and development have in the meantime, increased the expenditure, resulting in a deficiency in the revenue to meet the expenses of the department of $5,250,000 for the year 1884, and $8,[illegible] in the last fiscal year. The anticipated and natural revival of the revenue has been oppressed and retarded by the unfavorable business condition of the country, of which the postal service is a faithful indicator. The gratifying fact is shown, however, by the report that our returning prosperity is marked by a gain of $380,000 in the revenue of the latter half of the last year over the corresponding period of the preceding year.

The change in weight of first class matter which may be carried for a single rate postage from a half ounce to an ounce, and the reduction by one-half cent of the newspaper postage, which, under recent legislation, began with the current year, will operate to restrain the augmentation of receipts which otherwise might have been expected to such a degree that the scale of expense may gain upon the revenue and cause an increased deficiency to be shown at its close. Yet after so long a period of increased prosperity, it is confidently anticipated that even the present low rates are as favorable as any country affords, and will be adequate to sustain the cost of service.

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT.

The report of the Secretary of the Interior, containing an account of the operation of this important department and much interesting information, will be submitted for your consideration. The most difficult subject in charge of the Department is the treatment and management of the Indians. I am satisfied that some progress may be noted in their condition as a result of a prudent administration of the present laws and regulations for their control. But it is admitted that there is a lack of a fixed purpose or policy on this subject which should be supplied. It is useless to dilate upon the wrongs of the Indians, and as useless to indulge in the heartless belief that because their wrongs are revenged in their own atrocious manner, therefore they should be exterminated. They are within the care of our Government and their rights should be protected from invasion by the most solemn obligations. They are properly enough called the wards of the Government and it should be borne in mind that this guardianship involves on our part efforts for the improvement of their condition and the enforcement of their rights.

Our Indian population, exclusive of those in Alaska, is reported as numbering 260,000, nearly all being located on lands set apart for their use and occupation, aggregating over 134,000,000 of acres. These lands are included in boundaries of 171 reservations of different dimensions, scattered in twenty-one States and Territories, presenting great variations in climate and in the kind and quality of their soils. Among the Indians upon these several reservations there exist the most marked differences in natural traits and disposition, and in their progress toward civilization.

The history of all progress which has been made in the civilization of the Indians, I think, will disclose the fact that the beginning has been religious teaching, followed by, or accompanying secular education. While the self-sacrificing and pious men and women who have aided in this good work, by their independent endeavor have for their reward the beneficent results of their labor and consciousness of Christian duty well performed. Their valuable services should be fully acknowledged by all who, under the law, are charged with the control and management of our Indian wards.

I recommend the passage of a law authorizing the appointment of six commissioners, three of whom shall be detailed from the army, to be charged with the duty of a careful inspection, from time to time of all the Indians upon our reservations or subject to the care and control of the Government, with a view of ascertaining their exact condition and needs, and determining what steps shall be taken on behalf of the Government to improve their situation in the direction of their self-support and complete civilization, that they ascertain from such inspection, what, if any, of the reservations may be reduced in area, and in such cases what part not needed for Indian occupation may be purchased by the Government from the Indians and disposed of for their benefit. What, if any, Indians may, with their consent, be removed to other reservations with a view of their concentration, and the same on their behalf of their abandoned reservations. What Indian lands now held in common should be allotted in severalty, in what manner and to what extent the Indians upon reservations can be placed under the protection of our laws and subjected to their penalties, and which, if any, Indians should be invested with the right of citizenship; the powers and functions of the Commissioners in regard to these subjects should be clearly defined, though they should, in conjunction with the Secretary of the Interior, be given all the authority to deal definitely with the questions presented, deemed safe and consistent. They should be also charged with the duty of ascertaining the Indians who might properly be furnished with implements of agriculture, and of what kind, and in what cases the support of the government should be withdrawn. Where the present plan of distributing Indian supplies should be changed, where schools should be established and where discontinued, the conduct, methods and fitness of agents in charge of reservations, the extent to which such reservations are occupied or intruded upon by unauthorized persons, and generally all matter related to the welfare and improvement of the Indians.

THE PUBLIC DOMAIN.

The public domain had its origin in cessions of land by the States to the general Government. The first cession was made by the State of New York, and the largest, which in area exceeded all others, by the State of Virginia. The territory, the proprietorship of which became thus vested in the United States, extended from the Western line of Pennsylvania to the Mississippi River. These patriotic donations of the States were encumbered with no condition except that they should be held and used "for the common benefit of the United States." By purchase with the common fund of all the people, additions were made to this domain until it extended to the northern line of Mexico on the Pacific Ocean and to the Polar Sea.

It is not for the common benefit of the United States that a large area of public lands should be acquired directly or through fraud in the hands of single individuals; the Nation's strength is in the people; the Nation's prosperity is in their prosperity; the Nation's glory is in the equality of justice; the Nation's prosperity is in the patriotism of her people—hence, as far as practicable, the plan adopted in the disposal of public lands should have in view the original policy which encouraged many purchasers of these lands for homes and discouraged the massing of large areas. Exclusive of Alaska, about three-fifths of the National domain has been sold or subject to contract or grant.

Of the remaining two-fifths, a considerable portion is either mountain or desert. A rapidly increasing population creates a growing demand for homes, and the accumulation of wealth inspires an eager competition to obtain the public land for speculative purposes. In the future this collision of interests will be more marked than in the past, and the execution of the Nation's trust in behalf of our settlers will be more difficult. I therefore commend to your attention the recommendations contained in my report of the Secretary of the Interior with reference to the repeal and modification of certain of our land laws.

The nation has made princely grants and subsidies to a system of railroads projected as great National highways to connect the Pacific States with the East. It has been charged that these donations from the people have been diverted to private gains and corrupt uses and thus public indignation has been aroused and suspicion engendered. Our great Nation does not begrudge its generosity, but it abhors peculation and fraud and the favorable regard of our people for the great corporations to which these grants were made, can only be revived by a restoration of confidence to be secured by their constant, unequivocal and clearly manifested integrity. A faithful application of the undiminished proceeds of the grants to the construction and perfecting of their roads, an honest discharge of their obligation and entire justice to all the people in the enjoyment of their rights on these highways of travel is all the public asks and it will not be content with less.

PENSIONS.

It appears from the report of the Commissioner of Pensions that there were on the 1st day of July, 1885, 345,125 persons borne upon the pension rolls, classified as follows: Army invalids, 241,[illegible]; widows, minor children and dependent relatives of deceased soldiers, 78,841; navy invalids, 2,745; navy widows, minor children and dependents, 1,[illegible]; survivors of the war of 1812, [illegible], and widows of those who served in that war, 17,[illegible].

About one man in two [illegible] enlisted in the late war is reported as receiving pension, exclusive of the dependents of deceased soldiers. On the 1st of July 1875 the number of pensioners were 234,821, and the increase within the ten years next thereafter was 110,304. While there is no expenditure of public funds which the people more cheerfully approve than that made in recognition of the services of our soldiers, living and dead, the sentiment underlying the subject should not be [illegible] by the introduction of any fraudulent practices; therefore, it is fully as important that the rolls should be cleansed of all those, who by fraud have secured places [illegible] meritorious claims should be speedily examined and adjusted. The reforms in the methods of doing the business of this Bureau, which have lately been inaugurated, promise better results in both these directions.

THE MORMON QUESTION.

In the Territory of Utah the law of the United States, passed for the suppression of polygamy, has been energetically and faithfully executed during the past year with measurably good results. A number of convictions have been secured for unlawful cohabitation, and in some cases pleas of guilty have been entered and a slight punishment imposed upon a promise by the accused that they would not again offend against the law or advise [illegible] aid or abet in any way its violation by others.

The Utah Commissioners [illegible] the opinion, based upon such information [illegible] they are able to obtain, that but few polygamous marriages have taken place in the territory during the last year. They further report that while there can not be found upon the registration lists of voters the name of a man actually guilty of polygamy, and while none of that class are holding office, yet at the last election in the Territory all the officers elected, except in one county, were men who, though not actually living in the practice of polygamy, subscribe to the doctrine of revelation, and a law unto all higher and more binding upon the condition than any human law, local or national.

This is the strange spectacle presented of a community, protected by a Republican form of government, to which they own allegiance, sustaining by their suffrages a principle and belief that sets at naught that obligation of absolute existence to the law of the land which lies at the foundation of Republican institutions. The strength, perpetuity and destiny of the Nation rests upon our homes, established by the law of God, guarded by parental care, regulated by parental authority and sanctioned by parental love.

There should be no relaxation in the firm but just execution of the law now in operation, and I should be glad to approve such further discreet legislation as will rid the country of this blot upon its fair name. Since the people upholding polygamy in our Territories are reinforced by immigration from other lands, I recommend that a law be passed to prevent the importation of Mormons into the country.

THE CIVIL SERVICE.

The report of the Civil Service Commission, which will be submitted, contains an account of the manner in which the civil service law has been executed during the last year and much valuable information on this important subject.

I am inclined to think that there is no sentiment more general in the minds of the people of our country than a constitution of the correctness of principle, upon which the civil service reform is based. In its present condition the law regulates only part of the subordinate public positions throughout the country. It applies tests of fitness to applicants for these places by means of a competitive examination and gives large discretion to the Commissioners as to character of examination and many other matters connected with its execution. Thus the rules and regulations adopted by the Commissioners have much to do with the practical usefulness of the statute and with the result of its application.

The people may well trust the commission to execute the law with perfect fairness, and with as little friction as possible, but of course, no relaxation of the principle which underlies it, and no weakening of the safeguards which surround it can be expected. Experience in its administration will probably suggest amendment of methods of its execution, but I venture to hope that we shall never again be remitted to the system which distributes public positions purely as rewards for partisan services.

Doubts may well be entertained whether our Government could stand the strain of a continuance of this system, which upon every change of administration, inspires an immense army of claimants for office, to lay siege to the patronage of the Government, engrossing time of public officers with the importunities spreading abroad the contagion of their disappointments, and filling the air with the tumult of their discontent.

The allurements of an immense number of offices and places exhibited to the voters of the land, and the promise of their bestowal in recognition of partisan activity, debauch the suffrage and rob political action of its thoughtful and deliberative character. The evil would increase with the multiplication of officers consequent upon our extension, and the mania for office holding, growing from its indulgence, would pervade our population so generally that patriotic purpose, the support of principle, the desire for the public good and solicitude for the Nation's welfare would be nearly banished from the activity of our party contests and cause them to degenerate into ignoble, selfish and disgraceful struggles for the possession of office and public place.

Civil service reform enforced by law came not too soon to check the progress of demoralization. One of its effects not enough regarded and the freedom it brings to the political action of those conservative and sober men, who, in fear of the confusion and risk attending an arbitrary and sudden change in all the public offices with change of party rule, cast their ballots against such a chance. Parties seem to be necessary, and will continue to exist, nor can it be now denied that there are legitimate advantages connected with office holding which follows party supremacy.

While partisanship continues bold and pronounced, and supplies so much of motive to sentiment and action, it is not fair to hold public officials in charge of important trusts responsible for the best results in the performance of their duties and yet insist that they shall rely in confidential and important cases upon the work of those not only opposed to them in political affiliation, but steeped in partisan prejudice and rancor, that they have no loyalty to their chiefs and no desire for their success. Civil service reform does not exactly accomplish this, nor does it require that their insubordinates' positions, who fail in yielding their best service, or who are incompetent, should be retained merely because they are in place.

The whining of a clerk discharged for indolence or incompetency, who, though he gained his place by the worst possible operation of the spoils system, suddenly discovered that he is entitled to protection under the sanction of civil service reform, represents an idea no less absurd than the clamor of the applicant who claims the vacant place as his compensation for the most questionable party works. The civil service law does not prevent the discharge of the indolent or incompetent clerk, but it does prevent supplying his place with the unfit party worker. Thus in both the phases is seen benefit to the public service, [illegible] having secured this statute will not relinquish its benefit without protest, nor are they unmindful of the fact that its full advantages can only be gained through the complete good faith of those having execution in charge and this they will insist upon. I recommend that the salaries of Civil Service Commissioner be increased to a sum more nearly commensurate to their important duties.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

The report of the Attorney General contains a history of the conduct of the Department of Justice during the last year and a number of valuable suggestions as to the needed legislation, and I invite your careful attention to the same. The condition of business in the courts of the United States is such that there seems to be an imperative necessity for remedial legislation on the subject. Some of these courts are so overburdened with pending cases that the delays in determining litigation amount often to a denial of justice. Among the plans suggested for relief is the one submitted by the Attorney General—its main features are the transfer of all the original jurisdiction of the Circuit Courts to the District Courts and an increase of Judges for the latter where necessary; an addition of Judges to the Circuit Courts and constituting them exclusively Courts of Appeal, and reasonably limiting appeals thereto.

Further restrictions of the right to remove cases from State to Federal courts, permitting appeals to the Supreme Court from the courts of the District of Columbia and the Territories, only in the courts as they are allowed from State courts, and guarding against an unnecessary number of appeals from the circuit courts. I approve the plan thus outlined and recommend the legislation necessary for its application to our judicial system.

The present mode of compensating United States Marshals and District Attorneys should, in my opinion, be changed. They are allowed to charge against the Government certain fees for service, their income being measured by the amount of such fees within a fixed limit as to their annual aggregate. This is a direct inducement for them to make fees in criminal cases as large as possible in an effort to reach the maximum sum permitted. As an entirely natural consequence, unscrupulous Marshals are found encouraging frivolous prosecutions, arresting people on charges of crime and transporting them to distant places for examination and trial, for the purpose of earning mileage and other fees. And District Attorneys uselessly attend criminal examinations, far from their places of residence, for the express purpose of swelling their account against the Government. Actual expenses incurred in these transactions are also charged against the Government. Thus the rights and freedom of our citizens are outraged and public expenditures increased, for the purpose of furnishing public officers pretexts for increasing the measure of their compensation. I think Marshals and District Attorneys should be paid salaries, adjusted by a rule which will make them commensurate with services fairly rendered.

PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION.

The present condition of the law relating to the succession to the Presidency in the event of the death, disability or removal of both the President and Vice President is such as to require amendment. This subject has repeatedly been considered by Congress, but no result has been reached. The recent lamentable death of the Vice President, and vacancies at the same time in all other offices, the incumbents of which might immediately exercise the functions of the Presidential office, has caused public anxiety and a just demand that a recurrence of such a condition of affairs should not be permitted.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, I would recommend to the wise care and thoughtful attention of Congress the needs, welfare and aspirations of an intelligent and generous nation, and not to subordinate these to the narrow advantages of partisanship, or the accomplishment of selfish aims, or to violate the people's trusts and betray the people's interests. But an individual sense of responsibility on the part of each of us, and a stern determination to perform our duty well will give us place among those who have added in their day and generation to the glory and prosperity of our beloved land. [Signed.] GROVER CLEVELAND.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8, 1885.

… W. H. … C. W. Ho… Mr. Maxwell … the acre. … Strayed or sto… a sow and five … head of sheep … wor… white Slater Bros. … C. … Brooks has pu… team … his new buggy. Beautiful weather and … Get your presents for your… Fred L… erty has been … in his family of late, but now … ing. C. E. Putnam's children … the sick list.

STILLWATER.

Some winter around this week. Was it windy enough for you D…? There was no damage done by the … neighborhood except scattering hay stacks and breaking corn off the stalks. School commenced Dec. 7 in district … with Mr. A. G. Dellt as teacher. Miss … McIntyre commenced a three months term of school December 7 in district No. 35. In your issue of December 3 you make … say, "The following questions were ably discussed by Rev. M. A. Gault, of Blanchard Iowa, … L. Morrison, of Guide Rock, Neb., vs Rev. S. Fulton of Beulah, Neb." It should have read "and W. S. Fulton," instead of "vs." L. M. Crabill was around here selling nu… stock.

REPORTER.

ELM CREEK.

I see by your correspondence from Garfield that the farmers are nearly through gathering corn now. Up here we raise so much corn that it takes all winter to gather it, and if that Guide Rock chap would come this way he would say that he never saw corn except in bin. The young ladies of Elm Creek gave a … corn social at the Elm Creek school house Saturday night. The smiling phiz of C. Aderson of the Times office was seen in our Sunday school last Sunday. Have you seen Wm. Thomas' new house? It is worth looking at. Ask H. F. L. how he got home last Sabbath. Lost—A young man; when last seen he was on his way to Red Cloud. We understand that two of Cowles' young men attended an entertainment at Elm Creek. Come again.

M. & N.

GUIDE ROCK.

Reports keep coming in of the damage done by the wind on Friday last. Haystacks, windmills, chimneys and roofs were damaged. The different firms of Guide Rock have a full line of goods for the holidays. No need to go elsewhere to purchase this year. The new grocer has put in a lunch counter where meals can be had at all times. There was a skating tournament at the rink last Saturday evening. A professional from Lincoln was present and added to the attractions. There was a social dance at the hall on last Saturday evening. Mr. McCorkle, west of town, had a house warming and dance Saturday evening. J. Marsh is a happy man, all on account of a girl that made her arrival on Friday last. A. Garber is down again with rheumatism. The schools seem to be getting along fine. A reading circle has been organized, and the young folks have a literary society which meets every two weeks. The new room will soon be ready.

TRIXIE.

WHEATLAND.

As we heard inquiries made after the Wheatland correspondent who has so long been absent from your columns we thought it time to report and let the world know that this part of the county still lives and The Chief reaches us as regularly as the sun.

Corn is about all gathered and has proved an abundant crop. Hogs are doing well and plenty of them, although prices are low.

There is now in progress a series of religious meetings conducted by the Rev. Smith. A deep interest is manifested and much good is anticipated. Bro. Smith is a zealous worker in the vineyard of the Lord.

One of the finest school houses in this section has recently been finished Sportville.

A severe blow from the north visited us last Friday which seriously damaged a number of windmills, unroofed stables, and threatened the destruction of the Catholic church at Laportville. Part of the roof was blown off the west end which had been taken out to enlarge the building.

Last Saturday a meeting was held in the school house in district 12, for the purpose of organizing a teachers' reading circle pursuant to a call of the county superintendent, but there was not as large an attendance as could be desired. The meeting was adjourned to meet December 19, at the school house in district 20, where a full attendance is earnestly desired by all the friends of the common school. Any steps in the direction of a higher and better qualification of teachers ought to be encouraged and sustained. The move inaugurated by the state superintendent is a good one in the right direction.

M.

WEST INAVALE.

Farmers are busy with their corn, and are well pleased with the amount and quality, just give us fair price and all is well.

Mr. George Delong of Colorado is here visiting with his brother F. M. Delong.

A gale past over this part of the county last Friday, tearing down all movable property that came in its way but no serious damage was done.

School has began in District No. 51 with Miss Carrie Cachran as teacher and we hope she may be successful in imparting to youthful minds the proper instructions and have … reason to believe that she will.

Peter Cochran jr. has been very sick for some time but we are glad to say that he is getting better.

F. M. Delong has bailed and shipped…

K… FE… H…

Alwa… Toys an… aged, s… for your … and hands… Everybody… the holiday… the only ho… general stoc… Christmas …

In all kinds of bind… appropriate present to …

For the children in en… lect fromin the city, and at …

TR…

Of every dicription that … young, and instructive to the o…

LA…

We have the finest stock of … qualities. A handsome thing fo… useful.

MEMEN…

Of all kines in every style and va…

IN F…

EVERYTHING

That is interesting instructive, usef… as amusing to all.

DON'T GET YOUR HOLI… you see my goods and get … will miss. Everybody invite… see…

…ND--East F…

C… CY--o… Cloud…

HOME, FARM AND GARDEN.

—Graham Pudding: Mix together a half cup of molasses, a fourth cup butter, one egg, a half cup milk, a half teaspoonful soda, two cups Graham flour, one cup raisins, spice to suit taste. Steam three hours, and serve with sauce.—*Boston Globe.*

—If you have an old grape-vine that yields poorly and has seen its best days, cut it entirely off close to the ground, manure heavily, and let it throw up two new leaders, and the following year you will see that it is as good as a young vine.—*Chicago Journal.*

—A correspondent of the *Farm and Garden* says: "My grapes were rotting badly. At one time I thought I would lose half of them. I showered them with a preparation made of sulphuric acid one-fourth ounce to [illegible] quarts. This was very effective and stopped the rotting at once."

—In starting a blackberry plantation, according to the conclusion reached at a recent meeting of the Grand River Valley Horticultural Society, of Michigan, it is the best economy to buy rooted cuttings rather than to use suckers, though the former course is more expensive at the outset.—*Chicago Times.*

—Apple Fritters: Pare, core and cut the apples in slices evenly; dip them in the batter and drop them in a liberal quantity of very hot fat, fry to about the color of doughnuts. Prepare the batter as follows: Beat the yolks of three eggs, add a gill of milk, a salt spoonful of salt and four heaping tablespoonfuls of flour; mix. Some flour may require more liquid to make the batter the proper consistency.—*The Cook.*

—A Breakfast Dish: Take some slices of cold beef or lamb; season them with pepper and salt, and broil them; take some raw potatoes and, after peeling off the skin, pare them or slice them as you would pare an apple; dip these parings into a batter made of flour and milk, then fry them a delicate brown in a good liberal allowance of very hot lard. This is served on a platter, the meat put on first and the potatoes laid over it.—*Boston Budget.*

—The question that each man must decide for himself is the expense to be put in his barn, stables and [illegible]. This is a matter of [illegible]. But the question of warmth is one of economy. The animal heat must be kept up either by increased food or by conservation of heat in the stable, which may be accomplished by tight walls if in connection with perfect ventilation. The bodies of animals throw off constantly a large amount of heat. The breath and the odor of the excrement [illegible] are objectionable.—*Rural New Yorker.*

—The following from a writer in *Gardening Illustrated* will be of interest to many. He says: "[illegible] tried the following recipe for preserving flower buds, so that they will bloom one or two months after being picked? Gather the buds when nearly ready to open, seal up the end of the stalk with sealing-wax; wrap the bud in tissue-paper and put in a box perfectly air-tight. When the bud is wanted to open, cut off the sealing wax and immerse the stalk in water in which a little saltpeter has been added. I was very skeptical of the success of this plan when first told of it. I have tried it with rose-buds, however, and succeeded perfectly."

A HOUSEHOLD RECIPE.

Directions for Cooking Husbands With Wife's Satisfaction.

Miss Corson said at the Baltimore Cooking School that a Baltimore lady had written a recipe for "cooking husbands so as to make them tender and good." It is as follows: A good many husbands are utterly spoiled by mismanagement. Some women go about it as if their husbands were bladders and blow them up. Others keep them constantly in hot water; others let them freeze by their carelessness and indifference. Some keep them in a stew by irritating ways and words. Others roast them. Some keep them in pickle all their lives. It can not be supposed that any husband will be tender and good managed in this way, but they are really delicious when properly treated. In selecting your husband you should not be guided by the silvery appearance, as in buying mackerel, nor by the golden tint, as if you wanted salmon. Be sure to select him yourself, as tastes differ. Do not go to market for him, as the best are always brought to your door. It is far better to have none unless you will patiently learn how to cook him. A preserving kettle of the finest porcelain is best, but if you have nothing but an earthenware pipkin, it will do, with care. See that the linen in which you wrap him is nicely washed and mended, with the required number of buttons and strings, nicely sewed on. Tie him in the kettle by a strong silk cord called comfort, as the one called duty is apt to be weak. They are apt to fly out of the kettle and be burned and crusty on the edges, since, like crabs and lobsters, you have to cook them while alive. Make a clear, steady fire out of love, neatness and cheerfulness. Set him as near this as seems to agree with him. If he sputters and fizzes, do not be anxious; some husbands do this till they are quite done. Add a little sugar in the form of what confectioners call kisses, but no vinegar or pepper on any account. A little spice improves them, but it must be used with judgment. Do not stick any sharp instrument into him to see if he is becoming tender. Stir him gently; watch, the while, lest he lie too flat and close to the kettle, and so become useless. You can not fail to know when he is done. If thus treated, you will find him very digestible, agreeing nicely with you and the children, and he will keep as long as you want, unless you become careless and set him in too cold a place.—*Chicago Tribune.*

Value of Mulching.

The object of mulching is to maintain a more equable temperature and condition of moisture. While mulching is considered of importance, and is practiced in summer, it is perhaps little less so for winter. In winter the advantage of mulching comes chiefly from its maintaining a uniform condition of the soil. The simple condition of freezing does not cause injury to plants, it is the alternate freezing and thawing of the surface which tends to lacerate and destroy the tender roots. One great object of winter mulching is to prevent this, and for this reason the mulch may not be applied until the ground is frozen so as to hold it in that condition as much as can be. There is an advantage in mulching in this manner newly set trees or small fruits. For trees there is probably nothing better than sawdust firmly pressed around the trees. Hemlock or other evergreen boughs furnish the best kind of protection for strawberry plants.—*N. Y. Herald.*