society. I see no substitute for such a system except in placing all the Indians on large reservations as rapidly as can be done, and giving them absolute protection there as soon as they are fitted for it. They should be induced to take their lands in severalty and set up a territorial government for their own protection. For full details on this subject, I call your special attention to the report of the secretary of the interior and the commissioner of Indian affairs.

The report of the Secretary of War shows the expenditures for the year ending the 13th of June, 1869, to be $80,644,042, of which $23,382 310 was disbursed in the payment of debts contracted during the war, and is not chargeable to current army expenses. His estimate of $34,531,031 for the expenses of the army for the next fiscal year is as low as it is believed can be relied on. The estimates of bureau officers have been carefully scrutinized and reduced wherever it has been deemed practicable. If, however, the condition of the country should be such by the beginning of the next fiscal year as to admit of a greater concentration of troops, the appropriation asked for will not be expended. The appropriations estimated for river and harbor improvements and for fortifications are submitted separately. Whatever amount Congress may deem proper to appropriate for these purposes will be expended.

The recommendation of the General of the army that appropriations be made for the forts at Boston, Portland, New York. Philadelphia, New Orleans and San Francisco, is concurred in.

I also ask your special attention to the recommendation of the General commanding the military division of the Pacific for the sale of the seal islands of St. Paul and St. George, Alaska territory, and suggests that it either be complied with, or that legislation be had for the protection of the seal fisheries from which a revenue should be derived

The report of the Secretary of War contains a synopsis of the reports of the heads of bureaus, of the commanders of military divisions, and of the districts of Virginia, Mississippi and Texas, and the report of the general of the army in full. The recommendations therein contained have been well considered and are submitted for your action.

I, however, call special attention to the recommendation of the chief of ordinance, for the sale of arsenals and lands no longer of use to the government; also to the recommendation of the secretary of war, that the act of the 3d of March, 1869, prohibiting promotions and appointments on the staff corps of the army, be repealed. The extent of the country to be garrisoned, and the number of military posts to be occupied is the same with a reduced army as with a large one, and the number of staff officers required is more dependant on the latter than the former conditions.

The report of the Secretary of the Navy, accompanying this, shows the condition of the navy when this administration came into office, and the changes made since. Strenuous efforts have been made to place as many vessels in commission (or render them fit for service if required) as possible, and to substitute the sail for steam whilst cruising, thus materially reducing the expenses of the navy and adding greatly to its efficiency.

Looking to our future I recommend a liberal, though not extravagant policy towards this branch of the public service.

The report of the Postmaster General furnishes a clear and comprehensive exhibit of the operations of the postal service and of the financial condition of the Postoffice Department, ending the 30th of June, 1869. The ordinary postal revenues for the year ending the 30th of June, 1869, amounted to eighteen millions three hundred and forty-four thousand five hundred and ten dollars, and the expenditures to $23,698,131, showing an excess of expenditures over receipts of $5,353,620. The excess of expenditures over receipts for the previous year amounted to $6 437,992; the increase of revenues for 1869 over those of 1868 was $2,052,909, and the increase of expenditures was $967,538; the increased revenue in 1869 exceeded the increased revenue in 1868 by $906,336, and the increased expenditures in 1869 was $2,527,570 less than the increased expenditure in 1868, showing, by comparison, this gratifying feature of improvement, that while the increase of expenditure over the increase of receipts in 1868 was $2,439,535, the increase of receipts over the increase of expenditures in 1869 was $1,084,374.

Your attention is respectfully called to the recommendation made by the Postmaster General for authority to change the rate of compensation to the main trunk railroad lines for their services in carrying the mail; for having post route maps executed; for reorganizing and increasing the efficiency of the special agency service; for the increase of the mail service on the Pacific, and for establishing mail service under the flag of the Union on the Atlantic; and most especially do I call your attention to his recommendation for the total abolition of the franking privilege. This is an abuse from which no one receives commensurate advantage. It reduces the receipts for the postal service from twenty-five to thirty per cent., and largely increases the service to be performed. The method by which postage should be paid upon public matter is set forth fully in the report of the Postmaster General.

The report of the secretary of the interior shows, that the quantity of public lands disposed of during the year ending the 30th of June, 1869, was 7,666,152 acres, exceeding that of the preceding year by 1,010 407 acres; of this amount 2,899,544 acres were entered under the homestead laws, and the remainder was granted to aid in the construction of works of internal improvement approved to the state as swamp lands and located with warrants and scrip. The cash receipts from all sources were $4,472,885; exceeding those of the preceding year, $284,140.

During the last fiscal year 23,196 names were added to the pension rolls, and 4,376 dropped therefrom, leaving at its close, 187,963. The amount paid to pensioners, including the compensation of disbursing agents, was $28,422,884, an increase of $4,411,903 on that of the previous year. The munificence of Congress has been conspicuously manifested in its legislation for soldiers and sailors who suffered in the recent struggle to maintain that unity of government which makes us one people. The additions to the pension rolls of each successive year since the conclusion of hostilities, result in a great degree from the defeated amendments of the act of July 14, 1862, which extended its provisions to cases not falling within its original scope. The large outlay which is thus occasioned is further increased by the more liberal allowance bestowed since that date upon those who in the line of duty were wholly or permanently disabled. Public opinion has given an emphatic sanction to these measures of Congress, and it will be conceded that no part of our public burden is more cheerfully borne than that which is imposed by this branch of the service. It necessitates, the next fiscal year, in addition to the amount justly chargeable to the naval pension fund, an appropriation of $30,000,000.

During the year 1869 the Patent Office issued 13,762 patents, and its receipts were $686,389, being $213,926 more than the expenditures. I would respectfully call your attention to the recommendation of the Secretary of the Interior for uniting the duties of supervising the education of freedmen with the other duties devolving upon the commissioner of education. If it is the desire of Congress to make the census, which must be taken during the year 1870, more complete than heretofore, I would suggest early action upon any plan that may be agreed upon. As Congress at its last session appointed a committee to take into consideration such measures as might be deemed proper in reference to the census and to report a plan, I desist from saying more.

I recommend to your favorable consideration the claims of the Agricultural bureau for liberal appropriations. In a country so diversified in climate and soil as ours, and with a population so largely dependent upon agriculture, the benefits that can be conferred by properly fostering the bureau are incalculable.

I desire respectfully to call the attention of Congress to the inadequate salaries of a number of the most important officers of the government in this message. I will not enumerate them, but will specify only the Justices of the Supreme Court. No change has been made in their salaries for fifteen years, and within that time the labors of the court have largely increased and the expenses of living have at least doubled during the same time. Congress has twice found it necessary to increase largely the compensation of its own members, and the duty which it owes to another department of government deserves, and will undoubtedly receive its due consideration.

There are many subjects not alluded to in this message which might with propriety be introduced, but I abstain, believing that your patriotism and statesmanship will suggest the topics of the legislation most conducive to the interests of the whole people. On my part I promise a rigid adherence to the laws and their strict enforcement.

U. S. GRANT.

REPORT

OF THE

GENERAL OF THE ARMY.

WASHINGTON, December 5.—General Sherman, in his report submitted to Congress to-day, opposes any further reduction of the army. He says the entire army is on duty, and he has constant calls for more troops, which cannot be granted. He calls the president's earnest attention to this matter, that Congress may be appealed to not to diminish the military establishment because of its great extent of country; the unsettled character of a large region measured north, south, east and west by thousands of miles; the acts of Indians who inhabit this region, and the growing necessities of affording greater protection to the roads that traverse this region, and the mining and agricultural interests therein. While the nation at large is at peace, a state of *quasi* war continues to exist over one-half its extent, and troops therein are exposed to labors, murders, fights and dangers that amount to war. Withdrawing or largely diminishing the troops in Texas, the Indian country, Arizona, New Mexico, Montana, Idaho or Alaska, as well as in some parts of the southern states, would, he believes, result in a state of things amounting to anarchy.

He refers to the labors and exposures of the officers and men, and hopes that they will receive the assurance to which they are fairly entitled that their labors are appreciated. Officers have been required to do the duties of Indian agents, sheriffs, etc., foreign to their military training, and have done this duty without murmur and with marked intelligence. Never, he says, has he known the army officers so poor, but they hope by the appreciation of the currency their compensation will soon become more satisfactory. Any diminution of their pay would result in the loss of the services of every good officer, to the extreme damage of the army.

General Sherman advises the adoption by Congress of the new army regulations as prepared by the special board of officers. In referring to army consolidation, he says there are five hundred unattached officers, of whom one hundred and fifty-six are awaiting orders. The number of retired officers is one hundred and seventy-seven. He urges that cavalry and artillery regiments be officered alike in regimental and company organizations, and asks for an extra lieutenant for cavalry companies. He argues that it is unjust that the reduction of the army should fall exclusively on the infantry arm of the service, and recommends that after congress has enacted the necessary laws, the President assemble a board of disinterested general officers, to whom shall be committed the whole matter of reduction and reorganization.

General Sherman comments upon what he calls the absurdity of the staff of the army making the reports to the secretary of war. If this is continued, he says, we have the absurdity of the general commanding the army, with his chief staff officers reporting to somebody else. He hopes for legislation that will allow the officers of the army to call upon the general for troops instead of the president.

He advocates an increase of pay for the soldiers. He recommends that forts covering the cities of Portland, Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, New Orleans and San Francisco be completed as soon as possible. He calls attention to the earnest recommendations of General Thomas, that Sea island of Alaska, St. Paul and St. George be sold to the cheapest bidder. He is informed that parties in San Francisco are ready to bid several millions of dollars, which, he says, would go far towards indemnifying the government for this otherwise poor and costly country.

"But, father, you know love makes time fly," said an enthusiastic daughter, who was arguing in favor of a longer bridal trip than usual. "Yes, my dear, I know it does at first; but you will find that in the end time will make love fly."

REPORT

OF THE

SECRETARY OF WAR.

WASHINGTON, December 6.

The report of General Belknap, Secretary of War, which was submitted to Congress to-day, opens with a tribute to the memory of General Rawlins.

The Secretary then explains that few recommendations will be made at length, as the duties of the office were assumed but a few days prior to the date of this report—November 20. He, however, refers to the material matters of the reports presented to him. Referring to the report of the General of the Army, he says:

There are twelve departments and three districts, each under the command of a general officer, and the departments are formed into four military divisions, commanded by the four generals next in rank to the General of the Army. The regular army consists of five regiments of artillery, ten of cavalry, twenty-five of infantry, the battalion of engineers, and the corps of cadets. All the regiments are on duty.

The Secretary endorses a recommendation of General Sherman, that legislation be had enacting the rules and articles of war adopted by the board convened in conformity with the act of Congress of July 28, 1866, and approving the new regulations compiled in June, 1868. The Secretary then continues, still referring to General Sherman's report:

He indorses the recommendations of the Adjutant General of the army for the repeal of so much of section 6 of the act of March 3, 1869, as prohibits further appointments or promotions, leaving the organization of the Adjutant General's department as it was fixed by section 10 of the act of July 28, 1866. An increase to the number of Assistant Inspector Generals is recommended. With regard to the Bureau of Military Justice, the Secretary says:

The Judge Advocate General reports the number of records of military courts received, renewed, and registered to be 14,943.

Of the Quartermaster General, the report states that the clerical force of this office has been reduced so low, by late legislation, as to seriously retard the public business; and to provide for the settlement of accounts some increase in the force is necessary. A building capable of accommodating all the bureaus of the War Department, fire-proof and secure, is much needed. Military records of great value are exposed to destruction, and are so scattered as to impede and delay the public business. The monthly rental of buildings and lots occupied by buildings owned by the United States amounted to $4,264 19, being a yearly rental of $50,954 28. The railway companies to which the military railroad material of the Quartermaster's Department was sold on credit at the end of the war, incurred a debt originally of $7,591,406. Interest has increased this amount to $9,000,000 about one-half of which has been paid but some railroads being in default, and showing no disposition to meet their obligations, suit has been lately ordered to be brought against them. But few vessels have been owned by this department during the year. The railroads of the country having declined to adhere to the war rates of transportation, have been paid during the fiscal year their f general tariffs, with a classification o military supplies settled in conference at a convention of general freight agents. There have been paid for water transportation during the year, $1,424,222 82, and for railroad transportation, $2,253,304 30. Of this amount, $933,166 21 was paid to the Pacific railroads, one-half being paid in cash and the other half retained in the treasury to meet the interest on the bonds guaranteed by the United States. During the year 96,000 persons, 3,800 animals, and 62,000 tons of stores have been moved by water, and 60,000 persons, 14,000 animals, and 40,000 tons of stores by railroad; 27,000 tons of stores have been moved by contractors for wagon transportation. The Pacific railroad has occupied some of the principal routes of former wagon transportation, and has saved the government much money in supplying the posts along its line. By arrangements between the departments of War and the Interior, supplies for the Indian service are now transported by the Quartermaster's Department on routes in the Indian Territory, the actual cost under the contract being refunded to the War Department out of the appropriation of $2,000,000 for the pacification of the Indians, granted April 10, 1869. Although the amount of clothing and equipage on hand at the end of the war has been reduced by sales and issues, there still remains a stock valued at over $42,000,000. The general depots have been reduced to four, and at only two of them is there any large collection of material, viz: at the Schuylkill arsenal, on the Delaware, and at Jeffersonville, on the Ohio. The latter is being drawn upon constantly, but it still contains over $14,000,000 worth of war material. There are 72 national cemeteries, and 313 local post or private cemeteries in which soldiers lie buried. The titles of 71 of the national cemeteries have been approved as perfect by the Attorney General; 322,607 interments are reported, of which 171,946 have been identified. The expenditure on this work has been nearly $3,000,000 during the year; 5,855 animals were purchased, and 3,492 were sold. These latter produced the sum of $223,338. Subsistence supplies for the army have been mainly procured in the large market cities of the country. The average cost of the ration at these markets has been about 23c. Efforts to procure salt meats on the Pacific coast for troops stationed there have met with great success, supplies of excellent quality having been obtained at favorable prices. Tobacco, at an average monthly value of $19,000, has been furnished to the troops at cost prices, and the Freedmen's Bureau has been supplied with stores to the value of nearly $250,000, most of which has already been paid for, and the remainder is in progress of refunding at the Treasury. The issues to Indians at various points have amounted to more than $150,000, and at the request of the Interior Department, stores valued at $37,000 were issued to destitute Osages and others, to prevent starvation during the winter. Under an arrangement between the War Department and the Department of the Interior, the Indian Department is being furnished with food for the Indians on several reservation on the Missouri river and in the Indian Territory. The ration so furnished is prescribed or approved by the Interior Department, and its value is to be repaid from appropriations made by section 4 of the act of April 10, 1869. There has been paid $27,621 75 as commutation on rations to Union soldiers while prisoners of war. Claims for supplies furnished the army during the war, amounting to $2,899,806 13, have been received, of which $238,033 87 have been allowed, and $2,581,061 13 have been rejected. During the fiscal year 11,907 accounts and returns have been received, from various offices, of which 11,787 have been examined and referred to the Third Auditor for final settlement. A change in the army ration, by extending the variety of articles, and also in the manner of disposing of the savings of soldiers' messes and bakeries would be of advantage. A change in the law is recommended so as to allow officers of the line when acting as assistant commissioners of subsistence $20 per month in addition to their pay, instead of $20 less one ration per day, now allowed.

THE RIVER AND HARBOR WORKS

have progressed as rapidly as the means appropriated for their execution allowed. The appropriation in April last of $2,000,000 for these works was distributed in accordance with the law so as to subserve the interests of commerce. The survey of Northern and Northwestern lakes has progressed commensurately with the amounts appropriated for conducting it. The Lake Superior survey is drawing to completion. It has developed many new harbors of refuge, and made known dangers to navigation highly important to the commercial interests of the States dependent upon the water line of communication for the transportation of cereals and ores.

Reconnoissances and geographical and geological explorations and surveys have been continued during the year in the territory west of the Mississippi river, and the information thus obtained is supplied to the troops occupying that section of the country. The survey of the Colorado of the West has not for special reasons been resumed. Collateral surveys now in progress may furnish evidence of the necessity of the survey of the upper portions of the river and of the improvement of the lower portion as a line of military supply and of travel and transportation from the mines of Southern Nevada. The geological survey, just completed from Sierra Nevada to the Rocky mountains, is fruitful in valuable results, especially in relation to the mining regions and to the extent of the coal formation. It also furnishes other scientific data of great interest.

Liberty arsenal, Missouri, has been sold during the year, under authority of the act of July 28, 1868, and realized the sum of $8,012 50. The St. Louis arsenal will be sold under the same act as soon as it can be spared, but certain buildings thereat should be reserved from sale and devoted to general army purposes. The sale of the Harpers Ferry armory property will take place on November 30, 1869. The Rome arsenal, the Champlain arsenal, the Mount Vernon arsenal (Alabama), the Appalachicola arsenal and the North Carolina arsenal are recommended to be sold. It is advisable that this should be done, and that the captured lands in Shreveport, Louisiana, in Marshall and Jefferson, Texas, and in Marion and Davis counties, Texas, should be similarly disposed of. A principal arsenal of construction and deposit and a powder depot are recommended to be established on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts and in the valley of the Mississippi. The sale of some of the present eastern arsenals is suggested as a means to raise funds wherewith to establish the principal arsenal for the Pacific coast. Rock Island is the principal point for the principal arsenal for the valley of the Mississippi. Powder depots should be established on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. The army will probably be able to absorb the cadets as fast as they graduate, it being but two-fifths larger than the now authorized number, while the army has more than doubled in the meantime.

Upon the question of raising the standard of admission, he remarks that every addition to the list of preparatory qualifications necessarily restricts the circle from which can be drawn, and that the present list embraces all the attainments that can be obtained by a very large majority of the youth of the country.

Since the standard was raised by law in 1866, the rejections for want of the necessary educational requirements have increased from 15 per cent. to 27 per cent. As a substitute for the other recommendations of the Board, the Inspector proposes schools of application for the several arms, such as exist in Europe and have always been favored by military officers here, and the nucleus for two of which are to be found in the artillery school at Fortress Monroe and one of the three engineer depots already established. He gives various reasons for his proposition; principal among them the ready and economical application of facilities already at hand, and the depressing influence upon the cadets of a long residence amid unchanging scenes and unvarying modes of life, study and discipline. The estimates for the support of the academy during the coming fiscal year amount to $332,264 20, of which $212,019 20 is for pay and allowances of instructors and cadets.

The division commanded by Lieutenant General Sheridan embraces the Departments of Dakota, the Platte and the Missouri, commanded respectively by Major General W. S. Hancock, Brevet Major General Augur and Brevet Major General Schofield. These three departments cover a territory of great extent, in which most of the civilized, semi-civilized and wild Indians abide, and include the States of Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, and the Territories of Colorado, New Mexico, Wyoming, Utah, Dakota, Montana and the Indian. The administration of these departments has been ably and economically conducted, but the number of troops now on duty in them is deemed insufficient, with the present reduced strength of companies, to meet the wants of the service. Although there have been numerous depredations in this division, the condition of Indian affairs is very much better than last year. The policy of reservations adopted by the Indian Department is, in the judgment of Gen. Sheridan, the only policy that will put an end to Indian murders and depredations. Every effort is made to avoid the necessity of punishing the savages, with the strong hope that they may settle down on their reservations, and adopt a more peaceful and civilized life. The system of supplying the wild bands under the preseat Indian management is working well. The Indian receives all that the government intends he should, and can have no plea of bad faith to urge as an excuse for a return to his former habits.

The current expenditures of the Medical Department during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1869, were $233,561 21. The total expenditures of that department, including "war debts" and "refundments," was $708,305 36, and the available balance on hand at the close of the year was $1,792 050 73. The health of the troops has been good. The total number of cases on the sick list during the year was 104,235. The average number constantly on sick list report was 2,367, or about 5-42 per cent. The number of deaths was 548; of discharges for disability, 1,128. The number of commissioned medical officers for duty on June 30, 1869, was 161, being an average of one medical officer to 204 men. The number of posts was 239, besides detachments and outposts. There are now two vacancies of surgeons and forty-two of assistant surgeons in the medical corps The experience of the past three years has shown that the present organization of the medical staff is satisfactory, but that even were all the vacancies in it filled it would still be barely adequate to the demands made upon it.

The Paymaster General presents the following summary exhibit: Balance in the hands of paymasters at the beginning of the fiscal year, July 1, 1868, $5,981,578 14; received from Treasury during the fiscal year, $36,245,000; received by paymasters from other sources, exclusive of sums transferred among themselves, $238,193 06; total to be accounted for, $42,464,770 20. Accounted for as follows: Disbursements to the regular army, $18,678,250 61; disbursements to military academy, $181,258 78; disbursements to volunteers, back pay and bounties, $19,918,635 43; total disbursements, $38,782,144 82; amount refunded to Treasury, $48,948 37; balance in hands of paymasters June 30, 1869, $3,633,677 01; total $42 464,770 20. There remain now in service only sixty regular paymasters authorized by the act for the reorganization of the army passed July 28, 1866.

The disbursements for reconstruction purposes are $2,613,293 16, and the balance in hands of paymasters October 2, 1869, is $110,643 79. The total amount disbursed by the pay department for additional bounties, including those settled by the Second Auditor and paid by the department on treasury certificates from the beginning to the 30th June last, $57,220,150.

Some more buildings are required at Jefferson Barrick, and are recommended to be paid for out of the proceeds of the sale of the St. Louis Arsenal.

With reference to the Freedmen's Bureau the Secretary repeats what has already been published in General Howard's report. The expenses of the bureau were met the first year with the proceeds of rents, sales of crops, school taxes and tuition, and sale of "Confederate States" property. The amount received from all these miscellaneous sources was $1,865,615 80, and from appropriations by Congress since July, 1866, $11,084,750, making a total of $12,850,395 80 received from all sources. The expenditures, including the accounts of the "Department of Negro Affairs," from June 1, 1865, to August 31, 1869, have been $11,194,028 10.

The Secretary recommends the reorganization of the West Point Military Academy on an enlarged basis, with an increased number of cadets, to be divided into two classes, one to pursue an ordinary course of military instruction and to be returned to the walks of civil life upon their graduation.

The cost of military reconstruction in the First District (Virginia) for the year ending September 30, 1869, was $146,902 86.

In the Fourth District, the cases of violence offered the regularly constituted authorities were not numerous.

In the Fifth military district, Indian raids during the year have been unusually bold, and it is believed commanded in most instances by white men. Heavy damages to the citizens in live stock and property have resulted, but the loss of life has been small, amounting to about twenty-six persons. The troops in the district could not be used in the protection of the citizens against the Indians on account of their being required to carry out reconstruction.

The number of cases tried by military commission, under section 3 of the act of March, 1867, from October 30, 1868, to September 38, 1869, is 59, of which 21 were convicted and 38 acquitted.

The number of murders and other crimes in Texas, has diminished during the past year.

The report closes with the following statement of appropriations, expenditures and estimates: There was carried to the surplus fund June 30, 1869, the sum of $58,239,174 93. The actual expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1869, were, including the Freedmen's Bureau, $56,761,732 16, to which must be added for old war debts paid the sum of $23 882,310 60, making the total expenditures $8,774,042 76. Of the above there was expended for reconstruction purposes $406,519 18. There was appropriated for the service of the War Department for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1870, $37,538,851 08. The estimated deficiencies are $2,940,000 00. The total estimate of military appropriations for the year ending June 30, 1869, is $34,431,031 39. In the foregoing estimate the amounts originally presented by the heads of bureaus have been materially reduced, and any appropriation smaller in amount than that asked for would fail to meet the necessary wants of the departments. The following estimates are submitted separately, and are given for the consideration of Congress, as presented by the Chief of Engineers: For fortifications, $4,196,300; for rivers and harbors, $7,961,900. Total, $12 158,300. As to the fortifications, I urge the appropriations asked for the forts near the larger cities named in the report of the General of the Army, to wit: Portland, Boston, New York, Philadelphia, New Orleans and San Francisco.

In the town of S——, Maine, lived some years ago a couple who had got tired of the jars and troubles of wedded life, and mutually resolved to end them. But being rather short of this world's goods, they hardly felt like paying out the money necessary to obtain a divorce. So they went to the old gentleman who joined them in the bonds of matrimony some years before, and desired him to untie the knot. The worthy old squire scratched his head and thought a moment, and told them there was no way but to go to court: "But hold," said he, "I have it. You promised to live together until death should you part. Come out into the yard." Then seizing a cat that sat in the doorway, he direted John to take her by the tail and Jane by the head and pull her apart. Then lifting a sharp axe, he said: "Now death doth you part." The axe fell and the couple were divorced.

TO CURE AND SMOKE BACON.—At this season of the year, all our farmers are preparing to salt their hams and bacon, so we propose to give them a receipt whereby salting and smoking can be done in one simple and short process. Many of our housewvies are forced to depend upon their neighbors for conveniences to smoke with. Those of us who own smoke houses know how difficult it is to smoke just right. By this process all trouble is avoided. Take a large sized butter-firkin, cask or barrel, according to the quantity of meat you desire to smoke. Place it over a fire of corn cobs with the corn on. Meat smoked in this way is higher flavored, the corn seeming to produce a better taste than cobs, or wood, or green walnuts. Let the tub smoke from five to six hours. To one hundred pounds of meat take eight pounds of salt, two pounds of coarse brown sugar, or three pints of molasses, and two ounces saltpetre. Rub a little fine salt into the hams and shoulders, then put the meat into the smoked tub, cover it with water, turn in the salt, sugar and saltpetre, cover closely, and set in a cool place where it will not freeze. If a scum rises on the brine turn it off, scald and add a little more salt. If desired to keep through the summer, in the early spring smoke the tub three hours longer, put back the meat and turn on the brine when cold.

In a month after pickling, the hams will be ready for use. They can be kept in the brine all summer, and if a ham is cut, return it to the tub for further use.

Beef and tongues can be kept in the same manner, and there is no danger from insects. In six or seven weeks the beef is packed and smoked enough to dry. This is the surest and most expeditious way of salting and smoking pork and beef, and if once tried will always be adopted.

DISTANCES AT ORCHARDS.—Much discussion has taken place in relation to the proper distances apart to set apple trees in orchards. Many western farmers prefer placing them near together as a protection from cold winds, and fifteen and twenty feet have been recommended. This close planting has proved the value of shelter, and while the trees are young a larger amount of fruit is obtained from an acre. But when the trees become larger and older these advantages in a great measure disappear. It is therefore proposed to thin them out by successively removing the supernumeraries, until double distance is obtained. Thus the shelter and larger crops are obtained in the earlier years of the orchard, and more space and light when it becomes older. The disadvantages are, the greater difficulty of cultivating, and greater exhaustion of the soil. We observe a statement of J. Pennington, of Macon, Michigan, in the *Western Rural*, that he has orchards set out twenty years ago, which have so crowded each other that the fruit has become small and stunted, and he is thinning the trees out. But they are not so good in form, nor will they probably become nearly so perfect and symmetrical as if set out thirty or thirty-five feet apart and allowed to grow and develop under full exposure to light and air. But where shelter is a necessity, it may nevertheless be best to set thick at first unless timber belts are employed to screen the young trees from fierce winds.—*Country Gentleman.*

COMPOST HEAPS.—It is often recommended that when manure is thrown into heaps in a field it should be covered with a layer of earth to prevent the escape of the ammonia. The experiments of Dr. Voeleker, at the royal agricultural college at Cirencestel, in England, have established the fact that the evaporation of ammonia from large heaps of manure, goes on but slightly; for the reason that during the composition of manure, certain organic acids are formed at the same time the ammonia is evolved and then immediately unite with the ammonia, forming non-volatile compounds. There is an active escape of ammonia from the interior of large heaps, where the heat is too great for the chemical changes above referred to; but as it approaches the exterior parts of the heaps, where the heat is very much less, the ammonia is completely taken up by the organic acids and retained. There will be but a trifling escape of ammonia while there is sufficient moisture to retain it, for water absorbs and retains many hundred times the bulk of ammonia gas at the ordinary temperatures. These non-volatile compounds, from being highly soluble in water, are liable to be washed away by every rain storm, giving the well-known brown color to the drainings of manure heaps.—*American Agriculturist.*

WHAT FOWLS TO KEEP.—The choice of breeds is so much a matter of fancy, that one can hardly advise another about them without a long dissertation. Brahmas are good layers, sitters and mothers and are great favorites; heavy fowls, active, but will not fly; flesh good. Light Brahmas are not very expensive; dark now, are quite so. White Leghorns are presistent layers, do not sit, fly like pigeons; very pretty, nice, economical fowls. Of French fowls, select Houdans, which are good sized, speckled, homely fowls, presistent layers, and hardy; excellent for the table. If you must be economical, buy two trios of the breed you prefer, and a lot of common fowls, selecting light colored, large bodied, feather-legged pullets, next spring save the your pure pullets, and you will stock your yard with forty or fifty fowls with little expense. Should you wish a breed of more fancy fowls, you have your choice among Polands of various colors, Hamburgs, etc., which are great layers; Cochins, which are not superior to Brahmas; Black Spanish, which lay the handsomest eggs laid by any fowl, and many of them, are very beautiful, but delicate, as are also the Creve Cœurs and La Fleche breeds, which excel most others as layers and table fowl.—*American Agriculturist.*

A little girl got to school in Danbury, Connecticut, the other morning just as it commenced, and her teacher said: "You are just in time, Sussie." Then, turning to the other schollars, she asked, "In time for what children?" A hand went up, and an intelligent boy thus signified he had solved the problem. "Well, Thomas, just in time for what?" "Lanigan's ball!" shouted the promising youth.

A lady made a call upon a friend who had recently been married. When her husband came to dinner she said: "I have been to see Mrs. ——." "Well," replied the husband, "I suppose she is very happy." "Happy! Well, I should think she ought to be; she has a camel's-hair shawl, two-thirds border."