

gent and earnest efforts on the part of the prosecution.

A NATIONAL BANKRUPT LAW.
I trust this agreement may be reached which will speedily enable Congress, with the concurrence of the Executive, to afford the commercial community the benefits of a national bankrupt law.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS.
The report of the secretary of the interior, with its accompanying documents, presents a full statement of the varied operations of that department. In respect to Indian affairs, nothing has occurred which has changed or seriously modified the views to which I devoted much space in a former communication to Congress. I renew the recommendations therein contained as to extending to the Indian the protection of the law, allowing land in severalty to such as desire it, and making suitable provision for the education of youth. Such provision, as the secretary forcibly maintains, will prove unavailing unless it is broad enough to include all those who are able and willing to make use of it, and should not solely relate to intellectual training, but also to instruction in such manual labor and simple industrial arts as can be made practically available.

Among other important subjects which are included within the secretary's report, and which will doubtless furnish occasion for congressional action, may be mentioned the neglect of the railroad companies to which large grants of land were made by the acts of 1862 and 1864 to take title thereto, and their consequent inequitable exemption from local taxation.

ILLITERACY.
No survey of our material condition can be complete without a consideration of the intellectual progress of the people. The census returns disclose an alarming state of illiteracy in certain portions of the country where the provision for schools is grossly inadequate. It is a question of the highest importance to the decision of Congress whether immediate and substantial aid should not be extended by the general government for supplementing the efforts of private beneficence and of state and territorial legislation in behalf of education.

INTER-STATE COMMERCE.
The question of inter-state commerce has already been the subject of your deliberations. One of the incidents of the marvelous extension of the railway system of the country has been the mode by the acts of 1870 by the corporations which own or control the roads as has tended to impair the advantages of healthy competition, and to make harmful discriminations in the adjustment of freightage. These inequalities have been corrected in several of the States by appropriate legislation, the effect of which is necessarily restricted to the limits of their own territory. So far as such inequalities exist, however, in the States, or between any one of the States and a foreign country, they are subjects of national concern, and Congress alone can afford relief.

FOLIOVARY.
The results which have thus far attended the enforcement of the present statute for the suppression of polygamy in the Territories are reported by the secretary of the interior. It is not probable that any additional legislation in this regard will be deemed desirable, and the effect of existing laws shall be more closely observed and studied. I congratulate you that the commissioners under whose supervision those laws have been put in operation are encouraged to believe that the measures which are aimed may be suppressed without resort to such radical measures as in some quarters have been thought indispensable for success.

THE TERRITORIES.
The close relation of the general government to the Territories preparing to be great states may well engage your special attention. It is there that the Indian disturbances mainly occur and that polygamy has found room for its growth. I cannot doubt that a careful survey of territorial legislation would be of the highest utility. Life and property would be more secure, the liability of outbreaks between Indians and whites would be lessened; the public domain would be more securely guarded, and better progress be made in the instruction of the young.

Alaska is still without any form of civil government. If means were provided for the education of its people and for the protection of their lives and property, the immense resources of the region would be permanent settlements and open new fields for industry and enterprise.

AGRICULTURE.
The report of the commissioner of agriculture presents an account of the labors of that department during the past year, and includes information of much interest to the general public. The condition of the forests of the country, and the wasteful manner in which their destruction is taking place, give cause for serious apprehension. Their action in protecting the earth's surface, in modifying the extremes of climate, and in regulating and sustaining the flow of springs and streams, is now well understood, and the importance in relation to the growth and prosperity of the country cannot be safely disregarded. They are fast disappearing before destructive fires and the legitimate requirements of our increasing population, and their total extinction cannot be long delayed unless better method than now prevail shall be adopted for their protection and cultivation. The attention of Congress is invited to the necessity of additional legislation to secure the preservation of the valuable forests still remaining on the public domains, especially in the extreme Western States and Territories, where the necessity for their preservation is greater than in less mountainous regions, and where the prevailing dryness of the climate renders their restoration, if they are once destroyed, well nigh impossible.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS.
The communication which I made to Congress at its first session in December last contained a somewhat full statement of my sentiments in relation to the principles and rules which ought to govern appointments to public service. Referring to the system of plans which had theretofore been the subject of discussion in the national legislature, plans which in the main were modeled upon the system which obtains in Great Britain, and which lacked certain of the prominent features which that system is distinguished, I felt bound to intimate my doubts whether they, or any of them, would afford adequate remedy for the evils which they aimed to correct. I declared, nevertheless, that if the measures should prove acceptable to Congress, they would receive the unhesitating support of the Executive. Since these suggestions were submitted for your consideration there has been no legislation upon the subject to which they relate; but there has meanwhile been an increase in the public interest in that subject, and the people of the country, apparently without distinction of party, have in various ways upon frequent occasions given expressions to their earnest wish for prompt and definite action. In my judgment such action should no longer be postponed. I may add that my own sense of its pressing importance, as expressed by observation of a practical phase of the matter, to which attention has more than once been called by my predecessors. The civil list now comprises about 100,000 persons, far the larger part of whom must, under the terms of the Constitution, be selected by the President, either directly or through his own appointees. In the early years of the administration of the government the personal direction of appointments to the civil service was not a burdensome task of the Executive; but now that the burden has increased fully a hundredfold, it has become greater than he could bear, and necessarily diverts his time and attention from the proper discharge of other duties no less delicate and responsible, and which in the very nature of things cannot be delegated to other hands.

In the judgment of not a few who have given study and reflection to this matter, the nation has outgrown the provisions which the Constitution has established for filling the minor offices in the public service. But whatever may be thought of the wisdom or

expediency of changing the fundamental law in this regard, it is certain that such relief may be afforded, not only to the President and to the heads of the departments, but to Senators and Representatives in Congress by direct legislation. They would be protected in a great measure by the bill now pending before the Senate, or by any other which should embody its important features, from the pressure of personal importunity and from the labor of examining conflicting claims and pretensions of candidates. I trust that before the close of the present session some decisive action may be taken for the correction of the evils which inhere in the present methods of appointment, and I assure you of my hearty co-operation in any measures which are likely to conduce to that end. As for the most appropriate terms and tenure of the official life of the subordinate employees of the government, it seems to be generally agreed that, whatever their extent or character, the one should be definite and the other stable, and that neither should be regulated by zeal in the service of party or fidelity to the fortunes of an individual. It matters little to the people at large what competent person is at the head of this department or of that, if they feel assured that the removal of one and the accession of another will not involve the retirement of honest and faithful subordinates, whose duties are purely administrative and have no legitimate connection with the triumph of any political principle or the success of any political party or faction. It is to this latter class of officers that the Senate bill to which I have already referred exclusively applies.

With neither that bill, nor any other prominent scheme for improving the civil service concerns the higher grade of officials, who are appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. I feel bound to correct a prevalent misapprehension as to the frequency with which the present Executive has displaced the incumbent of an office and appointed another in his stead. It has been repeatedly alleged that he has in this particular signally departed from the course which has been pursued under recent administrations of the government. The facts are as follows: The whole number of Executive appointments during the four years immediately preceding Mr. Garfield's accession to the presidency was 2,665. Of this number 244, or nine per cent., involved the removal of previous incumbents. The ratio of removals to the whole number of appointments was much the same during each of those four years. In the first year, with 730 appointments, there were seventy-four removals, or 9.3 per cent.; in the second, with 917 appointments, there were eighty-five removals, or 9.3 per cent. On the third, with 880 appointments, there were eighty-eight removals, or ten per cent.; on the fourth, with 439 appointments, there were thirty-seven removals, or 8.6 per cent. In the four months of President Garfield's administration there were 50 appointments, and eighty-nine removals, or 22.7 per cent. Precisely the same number of removals (eighty-nine) has taken place in the fourteen months which have since elapsed; but they constitute only 7.5 per cent. of the whole number of appointments (1,181) which that period and less than 2.6 per cent. of the entire list of officials (4,420) exclusive of the army and navy, which are filled by presidential appointments.

POLITICAL ASSESSMENTS.
I declare my approval of such legislation as may be found necessary for supplementing the provisions of law in relation to political assessments. In July last I authorized a public announcement that employees of the government should regard themselves at liberty to exercise their pleasure in making or refusing to make pecuniary contributions, and that their action in that regard would in no manner affect their official status. In this announcement I noted upon the view which I had at that time entertained, and still maintain, that a public officer should be an absolutely free citizen to give or to withhold a contribution for the aid of the political party of his choice. It has, however, been urged, and without any foundation in fact, that by solicitation of superiors and by other modes, such contributions have at times been obtained from persons whose only motive for giving has been the fear of what might befall them if they refused. It goes without saying that such contributions are not voluntary, and in my judgment the collection should be prohibited by law. A bill which will effectually suppress them will receive my cordial approval.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS.
I hope that however numerous and urgent may be the demands upon your attention, the interests of this district will not be forgotten. The denial of its residents the great right of suffrage in all its relation to national, State and municipal action imposes on Congress the duty of affording them the best administration which its wisdom can devise. The report of the District commissioners indicates certain measures whose adoption would seem to be very desirable. I instance in particular those which relate to arrears of taxes, to steam, railroads, and to assessments of real property.

THE PRESIDENTIAL VOICE.
Among the questions which have been the topic of recent debate in the halls of Congress none are of greater gravity than those relating to the ascertainment of the vote for Presidential electors and the amendment of the Constitution in its provisions for devolving Executive functions upon the Vice-President when the President suffers from inability to discharge the powers and duties of his office. I trust that no embarrassment may result from a failure to determine these questions before another national election.

NATIONAL BLESSINGS.
The closing year has been replete with blessings, for which we owe to the Giver of all Good our reverent acknowledgments. For the uninterrupted harmony of our foreign relations; for the decay of sectional animosities; for the exuberance of our harvests and the triumphs of our mining and manufacturing industries; for the prevalence of health; the spread of intelligence and the conservation of the public credit; for the growth of the country in all elements of national greatness;—for these and countless other blessings we are grateful and we glad. I trust, therefore, our councils may be harmonious, and that the dictates of prudence, patriotism, justice and economy may lead to the adoption of measures in which the Congress and the Executive may heartily unite.

CHESTER A. ARTUR.
Washington, December 4, 1882.

Mountains Diminishing.
A foreign journal presents a singular statement in regard to diminished altitudes—the Andes, it appears, showing a sensible decline. According to this statement Quito was founded by La Condamine in 1745, to be 9,566 feet above the sea; Humboldt, in 1803, could only make 9,750 feet of it, or twenty-six less; Boussingault, in 1831, was surprised to find the measurement show only 9,567 feet; Orton, in 1867, found it reduced to 9,250 feet, and Reuss and Stübel ascertained, as late as 1870, that it had actually shrunk to 9,356 feet. Quito, it seems, had shrunk 248 feet in 125 years, and Pichincha 218 feet in the same period. The remarkable fact appears from definite determinations, that its crater has sunk not less than 425 feet during the last twenty-six years, and Antisana 165 feet in sixty-four years.

Hawaiian coins to the amount of \$200,000, and corresponding in value and denomination with our silver coinage, are to be struck at the San Francisco mint.

The Treasury Department.
We publish below the more important parts of Secretary Folger's annual report. The receipts from all sources for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1882, were \$465,226,225.28, of which \$225,410,739.23 were derived from the customs, and \$146,615,486.05 from internal revenue. The ordinary expenditures for the same period were \$237,921,479.57, and the amount applied to redemption of the public debt \$196,241,328.55. Of this latter amount \$30,767,024.84 was drawn from the cash balance in the treasury. The amount paid for interest on the public debt (included in the ordinary expenditures) was \$71,077,283.79. The net increase in the revenue for the year was \$127,304,745.71, and the net decrease in expenditures \$2,731,448.92. The net reduction of the interest charge on the public debt for the year has been \$6,650,544. STANDARD SILVER DOLLARS AND SILVER COIN.

There had been issued on November 1, 1882, under the act of February 25, 1878, of standard silver dollars, \$128,282,880. There were in the treasury at that date \$2,946,034. And in circulation \$35,383,736. There were in circulation November 1, 1881, about \$4,000,000.

Increase \$1,946,034.
The supply of silver dollars in the aggregate, and furnished yearly, is much more than the demand.

The secretary reports his recommendation of a law providing for the issue of a fixed amount of standard silver dollars each month to be repealed and the department authorized to coin only so much as will be necessary to supply the demand.

The recommendation is renewed for the repeal of the act requiring the issue of silver certificates, and for a law authorizing measures for their early retirement from circulation.

NATIONAL BANKS.
The national banks hold \$220,000,000 of United States bonds which are payable at the pleasure of the government. This is more than one-half of the whole amount outstanding of this class of bonds. If the public debt is to be paid as rapidly as it has been in the past, it is likely that all of these bonds will be paid during the next three years. Whenever they are called for payment the banks holding them, to keep up the circulation of their notes, must either deposit with the treasury the amount of the bonds in the aggregate to at least \$200,000,000, or purchase and deposit these United States bonds. The cheapest of those bonds are at a high premium in the market.

The interest-bearing funded debt of the United States bonds, notes and certificates of the taxation of the national banks, and again recommends a repeal of the tax upon capital and deposits, in which recommendation the secretary concurs. The capital invested in national banks is \$462,741,621. The taxes assessed upon them by the United States and the States for the year 1881 were \$17,189,080, being at the rate of three and seven-tenths per cent. The amount assessed by the United States is nearly one-half of the whole, and the States the remainder.

REDUCTION OF TAXATION.
Speaking of suggestions made of modes of freeing the treasury from the excess of assets, Secretary Folger says: "The radical cure for the evil, is in the reduction of taxation, so that no more will be taken from the people than is necessary to carry on the government with economy; to meet all its obligations that must be met from year to year; to pay off with reasonable celerity the part of the debt which it may pay at pleasure, and to provide through its sinking fund for the redemption of the remainder which will be paid by and by. The evil comes from the likelihood of the government holding from time to time a large surplus to be poured out in volume at uncertain and unforeseen times, and which will be expended in the course of the business of the country. There could not be that surplus, surely not so great a one, if the subjects of taxation were lessened and the rates made smaller upon these things."

A Christian Chinese Wedding.
Mrs. J. B. Mateer, a missionary at Tungehoo, China, has written to friends in the United States: "A fortnight ago I went a day's journey into the country to attend a wedding. The bride graduated a year ago in the girl's school. The bridegroom was several years a pupil of ours. He left school a little before the end of his course because he could not get on with his mathematics. He is a good writer and speaker, and an earnest, active Christian. He has been engaged a year as an evangelist, and has done good service so far. According to Chinese custom the wedding ceremony takes place at the bridegroom's house. He invites the bridegroom's family, and all his relatives, and always married women. The bride chooses the groomsmen, who are always her near relatives, and may be of any age from ten to eighty. They escort her from her home to her husband's, then wait upon him through all the ceremonies and into the bridal chamber, and sent her on the bed, and then, with the assistance of the bridegroom, remove her veil. This was the first Christian wedding in all that region. The homes were seven or eight miles apart. The young man should have gone to her home in a red-curtained sedan chair, followed by another similar one in which to bring home his bride, but being a poor man he hired a mule trailer for her. As he could not afford two, and it would be a breach of propriety to ride with her, and not the thing to walk on that occasion, he staid at home and sent his cousin, who could very properly walk. At daybreak the litter started, and after breakfast the bride was put into it and all the curtains closely drawn, and the bridal party started. They were expected by noon. The dinner was ready and the bridegroom was dressed, and the two elders who were to perform the ceremony were robed in their long white gowns, and everything was ready. But it rained. We had heavy showers during the night and two during the forenoon, and there were several streams to cross, one quite large one, and all bridgeless. Eight men were sent to help the party over the last and longest one. Noon past, and the sun sank behind the western hills, and no bride came. From time to time a messenger came in, but the message always was, 'There is no shadow.' At 8 P. M. it was announced, 'The bride has come.' We all took our places in the room adjoining the bridal chamber. The bridegroom should have been calmly fanning himself and looking serenely through his chamber into distant vacancy awaiting his bride; but being an excitable young man, and, withal, much in love, he forgot his fan, and had to apply his handkerchief to the streaming perspiration. He could not cover with it his frequent and anxious glances over his shoulder into the open court. Presently a report came, 'The litter has fallen into the river and the bride is wet to the nose,' and then another, 'She is coming from the river on foot,' but almost immediately she ap-

peared led by her two bridemaids. Plainly no serious accident had befallen her. The ceremony passed off beautifully. We sang the marriage hymn; the couple were pronounced husband and wife, and we closed with the long water doxology."

The Internal Revenue Report.
The report of G. H. Raum, commissioner of internal revenue, states that the internal revenue receipts, since 1873, have increased year by year \$10,000,000 to \$12,000,000. In 1879 the receipts were \$118,000,000, in 1881 they were \$135,220,000, and in the fiscal year just ended they were \$146,615,486. The receipts for the current fiscal year will probably fall below last year's total, but are likely to reach \$145,000,000. If the present taxes are retained, the commissioner calls attention to the maxim that no more revenue should be raised than is needed to support the government economically, and to gradually reduce its debt, and also to the fact that at the present rate of paying the debt all bonds subject to call will be paid within three years, and the government will have to pay four and one-half and four per cent. bonds in the open market, which would probably advance their price twenty-five to thirty per cent. to pay which would be a waste of the people's money. The debt should be extinguished only at a rate to meet the requirements of the sinking fund, viz., about \$55,000,000 per annum. A reduction of \$69,000,000 to \$70,000,000 in our annual revenues is urgently called for. He offers the following suggestions:

"In revisiting taxation the relief should be as far as possible upon necessities of life. The great bulk of internal taxation is derived from liquors and tobacco. These are proper subjects for taxation. Public opinion seems to be strongly in favor of the retention of these taxes. The other objects of internal taxation, with the amount realized in the past year, are: Excise duties, \$2,272,238; patent medicines, etc., \$1,978,265.95; bank checks, \$2,318,554.14; bank deposits, \$4,007,701.93; savings bank deposits, \$88,000.75; local capital, \$1,181,304.85; savings bank capital, \$11,726,384; total, \$12,788,521.40. Add to this the taxes collected by the treasurer of the United States from national banks, and there is a total derived from these sources of \$18,748,224.77. These taxes should be repealed. The tax on savings bank deposits is a tax on thrift. The tax on patent medicines, etc., is vexatious, being levied upon innumerable articles. The taxes on bank capital, deposits and checks are not needed. The repeal of these taxes would greatly simplify the internal revenue system."

Mr. Raum advises a reduction of forty per cent. in the special taxes paid by dealers; also of \$1 per transaction on cigars. All the repealed taxes and reductions recommended above, if carried into effect, would reduce the internal revenue taxes \$28,752,128. He thinks it desirable to consider the possibility of gradually making a duty of sugar, which now yields a revenue of \$15,000,000 per annum.

Frauds in the manufacture and sale of whisky and tobacco have become the exception rather than the rule, and taxes are collected with but little litigation. The granting of pensions to persons disabled while enforcing the revenue laws, or to their families if killed, is recommended. Thirty-one officers have been killed and sixty-four wounded in the line of duty, and 1,471 persons arrested and four killed.

The estimated expenses for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1881, are: Collectors, \$2,500,000; revenue agents, \$500,000; detection of fraud, \$75,000; salaries in office of commissioner, \$29,130. Total, \$3,274,130.

Six Kicking Mules.
A Standard reporter has heard the following from the lips of a well-known citizen: While in Guatemala recently I was traveling from Esquintla to the capital city over one of the most rugged and villainous roads to be found probably the wide world over. On nearing the summit of a wide range of hills, where a turn of the road revealed an immense ravine or chasm some five hundred feet deep, I overtook a Mexican riding a mule, with a string of five more attached to the leader. The custom of leading mules in that country is as follows: Their tails are tied in knots, with a bunch of grass or cornstalk leaves fastened to each as a bait. A strip of cowhide is firmly tied from the tail of the leading mule around the neck of the one following, and so on to the last. The rider mounts the leader and urges him on by a vigorous application of whip and spur, the baited tails enticing the rest to follow.

The leading mule stumbling over a boulder, the rider commenced to yell, whip and spur. This unlooked-for indignity made the mule lash out, reaching the head of No. 2 with a terrific whack. He aroused and insulted, did likewise, with like result to No. 3, who followed suit on to No. 4. Ditto from 4 to 5 and 5 to 6, who, being last, had to kick at vacancy. Here there were six mules all kicking behind, as mules never kicked before. The Mexican swore, spurred and whipped to his utmost. It was soon evident they were backing down the hill with the sheer force of kicking. It was the most ludicrous sight I ever saw. I expected every moment something would give way, but rider, mules, tails and cowhide held together.

At last the edge of the precipice was reached by the hind mule, who tumbled over, dragging the next after him—still kicking. He pulled the one preceding over, still kicking, and so on until the first was reached—all kicking. Looking down the ravine, I could dimly discern the mass of humanity all in a heap, still kicking, and, for aught I know, are still kicking there to this day, as a Guatemala mule never tires of kicking.—Portland (Oregon) Standard.

There are said to be 300 professional gunners residing at Havre-de-Grace, Md., who make a comfortable living by shooting red-head and canvassback ducks.

KILLED ON THE STAGE.
Shocking Occurrence Before an Audience in a Cincinnati Theatre.

The play of "Si Slocum" ended with a real tragedy at the end of the fourth act at the matinee in the Coliseum Theatre, Cincinnati, on Thanksgiving Day. Frank Frayne's company was playing, with Frayne as "Si Slocum," and Miss Annie Von Behren as "Mrs. Lucy Slocum." It being Thanksgiving Day, the people and the performers were in a good humor and in apparently full sympathy with each other. The audience appeared to be delighted and applauded generously, and the performers were stimulated to the top of their bent. Everything went off brilliantly till the end of the fourth act, when the villain Markham, who has captured Si Slocum, says, "I'll have you shoot the apple off your wife's head, and with the backward shot."

Miss Von Behren, who had been performing in that role since the death of Frank Frayne's own wife, some two years ago, was taking the character of Lucy. She stepped lightly to her post, where she stood with the apple on her head, looking the very personification of wifely trustfulness and confidence. Si Slocum adjusted his mirror slowly. The wife was thirty feet away. His aim was deliberate and slow and he was never more steady of nerve. Bang! went the rifle. The apple didn't fall, but the girl dropped full length backward with a dull, heavy thud on the floor and the apple rolled away toward the footlights. Her face was partly hidden behind a wing of the scenes. With the flash of his rifle Frayne himself sprang as if he had been shot, and turning toward the prostrate girl, ran in a wild, plunging, staggering sort of way, till he fell on the floor beside her, with one arm resting on her body. The curtain fell over all.

Immediately the manager came out and announced that a slight accident had occurred and it was thought best not to give the fifth act, for which reason the play would now end. The audience had up to this time suspected this was a surprise introduced into the play, and that it was mere feigning. Some had applauded. Many, however, suspected an accident, but none seemed to have known it. Up to this time not a moan or a cry had been uttered on the stage.

"Mrs. Slocum" fell without a moan and lay motionless. "Si Slocum" lay in a swoon behind her. The actors were discreetly silent. As soon as the curtain fell Miss Von Behren was carefully borne to her stateroom. A surgeon arrived immediately. It was of no use; she never moaned or spoke and scarcely moved. In fifteen minutes after the bullet struck her she was a corpse. Frayne was also carried to a stateroom. As soon as he recovered sufficiently he came and knelt by the side of the almost lifeless girl and pleaded with her to speak. She heard nothing and gave no sign of consciousness. That stage was a chamber of death with all its accompaniments. The actors rushed to their rooms after the death scene and gave way to overwhelming grief.

Frank Frayne was taken to the station and looked up on a charge of murder. When taken there he said to the officers:—"Make the charge as severe as you can. Make it the worst."

The ball entered Miss Von Behren's forehead two inches above the left eye and half an inch to the left of the median line. The apple on her head rested on a hat and the bottom of the apple was four inches above the top of the girl's head, though with the make-up of her hair and hat it appeared much nearer. The distance was thirty feet, the width of the little stage. The shot was Frayne's usual back shot, using the mirror. The place where the ball struck the girl's forehead was directly in a plumb line below the centre of the apple. The rifle used was a 32-calibre breechloading cartridge rifle, made for Frank Frayne and used by him six years in this act.

Frayne says the spring catch near the breech of the barrel, which holds it down after loading, broke or failed, and that the stroke of the hammer on the cartridge threw the breech up and depressed the muzzle at the moment of firing so as to throw the ball downward. He also says that the apple placed as it was a fairly good shot would never miss it except by some such accident as this.

WHAT WE ARE THANKFUL FOR.
Some Interesting Statistics from the Bureau at Washington.

Mr. Nimmo, chief of the Bureau of Statistics of the Treasury Department, in a Thanksgiving letter, says: "The Department of Agriculture estimates the corn crop of this year at 1,660,000,000 bushels, as against 1,194,916,000 in 1881. The latest estimate of the wheat crop of the season of 1882 is 500,000,000, as against 389,280,000 bushels in 1881. The value of our domestic exports during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1882, was \$739,289,732, as against \$893,925,647 during 1881, a falling off of \$150,636,215. This, however, was due almost entirely to the failure of the crops of the season of 1881, a result attributable to the drought.

The value of our exports of bread and breadstuffs during the year ended June 30, 1882, the same being the product of the crop of 1881, amounted to \$182,670,528. The value of our exports of cotton was \$199,812,644.

The quantity of coal marketed during the year 1881, the latest year for which we have statistics, amounted to 79,905,000 tons, as against 69,290,934 tons during the preceding year.

The railroad mileage of the United States on the 1st of January, 1882, was 104,813 miles. There were built in the United States during the year 1881, 9,386 miles of main line, or nearly twenty-six miles of railroad per day.

The number of pupils enrolled in the public schools in 1880 was 9,781,520, constituting sixty-three per cent. of the total school population of the United States in 1880. The total number of pupils enrolled in colored public schools in the recent Slave States in 1880 was 784,709, and constituted 44 per cent. of the total colored school population in those States.

The population of the United States was in 1870, 38,558,371, and in 1880, 50,153,783—an increase of 11,595,412. Since the world began there has not been seen in any other country a material development so grandly compliant with the Divine edict—"Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth and subdue it."