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THE MESSAGE.

of the Senate and House of Representatives.
[The above is my own composition.]

Z. WASHINGTON, P. U. S.]

OPENING.
Again the inclination of the north pole, over the left, has brought our ocean-bound republic to the line of zero, and killed off the animalcule of nature. The seasons have followed each other like porpoises in the wake of a mackerel catcher, and Autumn, the nut-brown maiden, with her brows bonnet with golden grain and red leaves, has had a narrow squeak of it to escape the terrific cargo of blustering Winter in his four-nought, with his pocket full of hoar frost, and his nose glittering with icicles.—The harvests have been abundant. The heart of the husbandman rejoices. Plenty cocks up her heels before the cottage fire, and Luvary takes something hot from a silver porringer, in a wainscoted-parlor, hung round with French mirrors, and floored with Wilton rugs. Ceres calls her horn, bearing with fruits and flowers; and Enterprise, in a short shirt, breaks for the back streets with a foot shod with lightning, and a face as sharp as a sledge. The hyperborean bear sleeps in his hollow tree, sucking his paws for breakfast and growling for supper; and the wild geese have gone squawking to the South, in the shape of a harrow, pretty, tolerably cold and remarkably hungry.

The school-boy no longer plays truant in the woods, hunting for pawpaws and chestnuts, and the spotted treed song-troble no more to the double bass of the bull-frog in the slashes. Pinstreans now pass for twenty-five cents, and dimes are received as teyves from the Bay of Fundy to the bay of Tompiker.

While such blessings surround us, and while the prevalent, which we never cared a fig for on our own account, but only on account of those who came after us, has subsided, it behoves us as a nation of Christians, without regard to party, to return thanks for mercies received, and, like the poor boy in the work-house, to humbly ask for more.—[Composed by Perfect Bliss, A. D. C.]

STATE.
Our foreign relations, under the present golden administration, are the most favored of any relations we have. First, there is England, extremely sensitive of all our movements, North or South—always beyond measure to regulate our domestic affairs, and manufacture our underclothes and our morality at a price so low that it is ridiculous to mention it. With a love for dye-stuffs and musquitoes beyond the love of women, she has put her highest order (the garter) upon the neck of a baro- backed, woolly-headed king, and has set him, with a wooden sword, upon a throne of mahogany, to circumscribe the area of freedom, and keep the universal Yankee notion from paddling their own canoes in Lake Nicaragua. If he sits there long, he will stand a chance of getting dinged in a manner that will last him forever; and if the Mercies of the Ocean wants her lion licked into a lamb, and nicked into the bargain by the grizzly bear of the New World, she can just send him along to growl a few, by way of infirmité, in the Bay of Honduras. We never wear; but John Bull undertakes to play "Russia in Europe" on this side of the water, he will find a breakfast of moral earthquakes, and a dinner of liquid thunderbolts, ready pressed and piping hot, as old Clapp's wife said when she put him to bed with the warming-pan, and he d—d to him.

Then there is Spain, for whom we have manifested a tender interest—for whom we have called our own countrymen "vagrants," and blockaded them in our own shores, and, in return, have been kicked out of Cuba, and received the thanks of the indignation. Oh! how we love that aristocratic nation—the only people on earth that bow to etiquette, and live by domestic plunder. Every child that noble land is an Hidalgo; and if pride, fed upon christies and pickered by olives, is a national blessing, they have it by the hog-head. My sho is a thousand years; and may her shadow, if she has any, never be less! When our new minister finds his way there with his present passport, which he is not likely to do at present, we will make you a further communication. Until then, the land of Sancho Panza may be suffered to take her accustomed sleep.

Russia and ourselves are as thick as two thieves. We are the northern powers of the world; and while she gives the southern nations the "knout," we intend to give the rickety republics below us the "lazo." We have received her minister at a special audience, and have reciprocated the warmest sentiments of friendship and love. We have sworn upon the altar of nations not to rob each other; and if we cannot do better, we shall give her in a short time (oh, precious gift!) an Ewing for a Bodice. The black eagle and the bald eagle will make a rumpus in the sheepfold of the universe, when they go a-hunting together; and wherever they lay, we should like to see the nations that would dare to meddle with their eggs.—The two nations are now making great railroads round the earth in the northern temperate zone. Russia is training her iron horse over the Siberian wilds, and we are pushing ours along towards the Pacific sea.

"Where the wild Oregon rolls,
And hears no sound save his own dashing."
The present administration, with the permission of Col. Benton and the "Heroic Age," is ready to run off the track into Sleepy creek, or to streak it to immortality over this railroad. It cannot be said hereafter that we have no principles, for we have bread and butter at the nation's expense, and a railroad from Christiana creek to sunset.

France, that beautiful republic that gets more liberty at a grab than all the rest of the world, and loses it all in three days, is a touchy creature upon the subject of tobacco. Like the stiver bodkin in the "Monastery," when held to the eye of Piercy Shafton, a plug of negro-head will throw her into convulsions. Her kings can be exiled, her thrones burnt in the Tuilleries, her queens can be slaughtered amid a band of fishermen, and her Directory can blot out the Sabbath; but never, oh never, can a pound of tobacco enter "La Belle nation," excepting through the Farmers General. The French nation is as changeable as an April day; but the French custom-house is but a familiar name for immortality.—We have lately had to dismiss her minister for insulting us about a chew of tobacco, and a little private matter about a disputed petition, in which somebody came off second-best. May she chew the end of reflection to the bitter end, and send us anything but a democrat again for an envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary! King Pepin and ourself—the Second Washington—are said to be very much alike; and if the former could kill a mud-bull with a blow of his bare hand, we think we could tackle a cock's head off at a pinch, if it did come from the chicken-coop of Charlemagne. France may be a republic, and her President may marry a red-haired princess, and by-and-by slip into his grandfather's bloody shoes, and stride over the world like a salamander on stilts; we shall not quarrel with her, so long as she chews Cavalierism, and lets our children and her children slide upon the cellar-door of the empire together.

Austria has again emerged from chaos, and looks about as fierce as a catamount let out of a bag. As she can't stretch us for want of a marine force, she may trash the Magyar until she is Hungary, and then satisfy her appetite with a slice of Turkey and a draught of the Suezian Porte.

Rome has had a new papa for a short time, but the legitimate head of her family has returned again; and now the din of arms has died away where Romulus and Remus suckled the wolf, and the cocked-hat and epaulettes

of a marshal of France have given way to the tiara forever. We trust she will not declare war against us, and get the Dutch navy to help her. If she does, farewell Liberty and the State Department! and pack up the documents. With Mexico we are pretty well agreed. We have let her see how easy we can knock her down and set her up; and we have no fear of her playing nine-pins, with iron balls with us any more. The Bey of Tunis, who has a sort of orange garden and jockassery on the coast Barbary, not long since pulled his beard at us saucily, and randerped the situation of our late consul there Paine-ful in the extreme; but we sent a ship of war, and a rum old commodore to anchor under his seraglio, and a midshipman or two to sing "Home sweet Home" to the dark-eyed ones behind the jalousies of the harem; and lo! the old bandy-legged tyrant sent us a bag of piasters as large as a coffee sack, and offered us another lion, if we would promise not to let him starve, as the one sent by the brother of the moon and seven stars—the king of Morocco—was suffering to do in the days of Andrew Jackson; but not caring for anything but horses and neat cattle, we declined the offer, and sent him our compliments in a *Itzap*. On the whole, therefore, taking a retrospective view backwards of what we have done by a labor of sixteen hours a day in office, and looking at our diplomacy through the lens end of a telescope, we think that we are well to do with the rest of the world, and able to take pot luck with the best of them.

The appointment of Monsieur Heudebert to Lyons, and of a gentleman who was once in the regular army to Viganis, is an evidence of our great desire to meet the wants and carry out the wishes of the American people. How *ayoyos* to send a French cook to teach the French of Lyons their trade, and to send a man of blood to Austria, who is now licking the Hungarian blood off of her guilty fingers, and rejoicing that the House of Hapsburg is again erect in the Holy Alliance, like Lucifer amid the little devils in his crimson dominions!

The late administration were blamed for annexing territory by conquest. We are never to be caught in such a scrape. We have, however, sent out a taking man to Central America, who is a fine judge of organic remains, to pick up and claim all the islands that he can find that have been formed by the wash and drift wood of the Mississippi. To enable him to do this business peaceably and legally, he had been furnished by this department with blank *fi fas*, signed by the Executive; and to make his service of the anno technically legal, he has been appointed United States constable abroad, with search-warrant powers. We think our E-Squire will do something to enlarge the area of freedom, which will hang down in imperishable green to glory.

Bating a general dissatisfaction on the part of the clerks of this department, and some grumbling among the consuls and ministers, who drew their offices by lot out of an old hat in the ante-room of the White House, everything has been peaceful and quiet at home. No money will be required for the salaries of ministers abroad this year, as they do not go when appointed until the last moment, and then return by the first steamer. We shall want, however, a large sum for outfit and outfit, for none of them are in such a hurry as to *foget* to receive them, and about \$20,000,000 for contingencies. In concluding this account of our foreign relations, it is proper for us to observe that the North American newspaper, published at Philadelphia by McMichael & Harvey, is the best paper published in the world, and is very expensive.

[Composed by J. M. C. Premier.

TRAVEL.
The Department of finance has been managed with consummate skill and activity since the advent of this rough and tumble age: Opposed to prescription, and ignorant of the first principles of commerce and pecuniary jurisprudence, a goodly quantity of seed, in the shape of the blood of martyrs, has been added to the stock in trade of the democratic church. This department has had the credit of being anti-prescriptive, because it did not remove all the old clerks at Washington; but when we look at the folder of wrath that it has turned with its sub-soil plough through the length and breadth of the land, we must say that the chief of the woolstack, notwithstanding he is a Philadelphia lawyer, is as cunning as a coon, and as insinuating as a snake in a milk cellar. But a trace of compliments, and now for business.

We recommend the building of five hundred pink-stern revenue cutters, to be propelled by horse power, and to carry an ice cutter, four harpoons, and a long Tom each—shower balls may be omitted in the winter season by special despatch. These cutters would line our coast from the Bay of Fundy to Brazos St. Jago, at short intervals, and during the *lay-by* days, which would be six out of every seven, would catch fish enough for rattions; they being manned by but six men, a horse and a dog each—the business of the dog being to scent strange vessels as they draw near the coast. No 1 mackerel and fresh cod, imported with oels, halibut, and flounders, will, when properly cooked and masticated, fatten even the revenue services; and if Congress would only require every ship overhauled by them to pay them a *lacing* of a jug of whiskey, the spiritual condition of the revenue marine would be amply provided for; besides, would not the passing vessels be closely watched under such circumstances? We put it to the consideration of Congress, and await its further legislation.

The sub-treasury, though a hambug, is far better than any other hambug that can be devised for the public revenues, unless it is our *breches pocket*, and therefore, we must grin and bear it. Our late assistant Secretary of the Treasury, of Harrisburg memory, who knows all about banks—having voted for the bank of the United States when a democrat, against instructions, and contrary to his pledges—has thought much upon the subject, and considered that it would answer very well, provided Congress and the officers of the general government were permitted to speculate a little on private account, in buying up, *ad libitum*, State bank bills, payable in specie, with United States treasury notes, receivable for public dues and redeemable in forty years, at the seat of government in paper *due bills*, without interest. This would give them specie at once, and create a live funded debt that never could exceed the principal; would help the community at large by giving them an overhanging paper currency, without interest; and would enable the members of Congress and the officers of government, by an abundance of pocket money, to use more luxuries in their daily walks and conversations, and thus swell the revenue under the tariff of 1846. Specific duties are very desirable, but a yard of cloth may cost six-pence, and another yard may cost six dollars, and have a specific duty of one dollar per yard on each would be right, we cannot exactly see; but Commissioner Rockwell, who was a great financier in the days of Nicholas Biddle, and who knows all about it, is confident in the matter, and when he is confident, you might as well acquiesce and say no more in the premises, for he will always have the last word, if he dies for it. Those who want more information must consult Whittlesby on *millage*, or Edwards on the Mosaic dispensation.

As for coal and iron, the late election in Pennsylvania has rendered the protection of these articles of but little consequence to us. The propriety of turning the Treasury Department into a great insurance office, to insure the lives and property of the people of the United States, for a consideration, payable annually in specie, is worthy the attention of Congress; also the expediency of working all the gold mines of the Union with the powers of the country, upon the per centage system. The collection of the revenue in kind, and the establishment of large

United States groceries, in the principal cities of the Union, to dispose of the goods thus taken for duties at half price, for each, on the nail, would make a brisk business, would furnish the country with cheap goods, employ a great number of our most respectable wharf merchants, who want offices, and turn out ready cash for the treasury at a great rate. The weights and measures of the United States would, in such an event, want regulating. We should have weights and measures to receive by, and weights and measures to sell by. By clipping an ounce or two off the pound avoirdupois, and an inch or so off the yard-stick used by the government in selling, we think a fine fund might be raised for miscellaneous purposes, and save special and frequent applications to Congress, which you know are always unpleasant, as they give rise to protracted debates and require satisfactory explanations.

It has been asserted by political economists, that the females of this country outnumber the males, and that unless something is done right speedily to curtail this alarming disparity, every man, rich or poor, sick or well, lame or blind, will soon be obliged by law to marry two wives, to satisfy the requirements of old Leviatics, and prevent a noisy and troublesome balance of maiden ladies of an uncertain age from continuing flat, stale, and unprofitable, in the midst of a stiff-necked and rebellious generation. In Turkey they keep the numbers equal by means of sneaks, bowstrings, and the Bosphorus; in England they keep them down by starvation and transportation; and in France they export them to the four quarters of the world as governesses, or turn them into hermaphrodite shopkeepers, with eyes as keen as wessels, and hearts that would make whetstones for cold blades. Perhaps if Congress would lay a tax on foreign females equal to a prohibitory duty, and require every male emigrant to marry here before naturalization, the evil would be remedied in a measure; and then, in the language of Mrs. Partington, "if the poor lone women of our land were not mothers in Israel in a jiffy, it would not be their fault, or the fault of Congress either." But this is a matter peculiarly appertaining to the Department of the Interior; and there we must leave it for the present.

We are informed by the Treasurer of the United States that a few more checks will be wanted; but as for *balances* none will be required, as the Mexican war has left a plenty of them on hand in every department.

On the whole, this is a great country; and it takes something to make the United States a suit of clothes and find them a breakfast. As to the other matters of the treasury, we have not yet become acquainted with them; when we do we will let you know; and until then we must mumble the woolstack and sit at the receipt of customs, which any one can see is not our accustomed seat.

[Composed by Mr. Wm. M. M., S. T.

INTERIOR.
The Department of the Interior, which occupies a position in the cabinet equal to that of the belly among the members, has been managed in a beautiful manner by the able General Harrison's administration. Considering that Congress made no provision for new offices, and no appropriations for contingencies, this department has shown itself equal to a full Committee of Ways and Means in both houses of Congress, a general appropriation bill, and a Supreme Court with a full bench. It takes the head of this department to manage difficult subjects, and what with upstating the Commissioner of Pensions and overhauling defunct Indian claims, it stands forth, like old Smith's queno in frosty weather, pre-eminently erect.

The Department of the Interior is the biggest child in the bundle bled by all odds; and but for a way it has of taking its place in the middle of the bed, another fellow might sleep with it with much pleasure. As it is however, none of the cabinet prefer sleeping on both sides of the western gird, and so he opposes, like Lieutenant Oxbelly in Midshipman Easy, solitary and alone. The subject of vaccination at the taking of the census in now before this department, and a committee of cow doctors are out hunting after healthy calves for the masses, at salaries varying from \$2,000 to \$1,800 per annum, payable in advance from the surplus fund, by covering warrants. The renovation of the wig of the republic has also received marked attention between meals and at odd times, and a public vessel has been despatched to Norway after a caravan of bears to make hair oil by the punchion. It is supposed that these animals, crossed with a sufficient number of healthy bears from Wall street, New York, might render all further importation unnecessary; and if properly baited by the government organ, might afford some fine sports for the cabinet and Congress on Sundays afternoon, in Commissioner Mudd's lawn, which every one knows reaches from the President's kitchen garden to the canal.

The culture of the grape is another important matter worthy of early attention—grape being used on board our vessels of war, and having been tried with great success at Buena Vista. The head of this department, who is ever ready to pioneer the way for the public good, is now trying all the foreign wines he can get hold of, allopatically and homoeopathically, so as to get a primo taste for the home manufactured article, when it is made in sufficient quantities for him to taste. Whiskey is as good here as it is in China; and why old port cannot be made out of grape skins here as good as that which comes from Liabon, is more than any one of the cabinet can tell us.

A corps of letter-writers, positioned by the government has been found exceedingly useful in feeling the pulse of the country in advance upon all important matters of doubtful policy. If the matters thus brought to the notice of the people take, and are generally approved of, then the Executive organ follows in their wake with its leaden leaders, and the matters are speedily arranged upon the plans proposed; but if on the contrary, as is generally the case, the people loathe them, then the irresponsible retailers of cabinet secrets are denounced as calumniators, and there the matter rests; for nobody is responsible for what nobody does or says, and the administration least of all. This is a great improvement upon the old system, and as the fellows are all fed by the same hand, and crammed from the same manger, a delightful uniformity of sentiment pervades the whole, and the same remarkable coincidence of language and thought appear in the country papers from the Aroostook to the Dell Norte.

The propriety of furnishing each department with a copy of Chesterfield and a Complete Letter-writer is also suggested. A United States spelling-school in the great room of the Patent Office would add much to the uniformity of the orthography of the government; and if a bureau of orthograph could be established, with a professorship on manners, the internal arrangements of this department would be complete.

The propriety of building private residences out of the public revenues for the cabinet has been forcibly impressed upon our minds since the difficulty which the head of this department has had in procuring suitable lodgings for himself at a reasonable charge. If Congress should sanction this plan, perhaps it would be well to have a green-house attached to each residence, and a public gardener appointed to superintend the whole. This would enable the Executive to provide for one of the descendants of the "bleeding heart," without disturbing the present public gardener, who has brought his science to such a pitch, that he can trim trees at both ends, and make them more thrifty by the operation.

The public lands contain pretty much where they were when the Great Architect of the universe placed them; but the Indians are gradually going away from them; before peaceable means of the government, to wit: detachments of dragoon and infantry. A few more talks, with them, by the help of cast-iron interpreters, loaded to the

muzzles with grape and canister, will soon clear the premises; and leave a clear field for posterity.

The useful arts are in a fair way of being encouraged, since we have put at the head of the Patent Office one of the best writers upon hydraulics and other water-works that could be found abroad. The forests of the old States are in danger of being consumed for fuel and houses.—It is thought advisable to recommend that every citizen of the United States, whenever he leaves his residence, should fill his pockets with chestnuts and acorns, and should plant one of them wherever and wherever he stopped; for any purpose, in the course of the day. We think that, if this rule was adopted during the session of Congress, Maryland avenue and Four-and-a-half street would, in a short time, be a perfect tursney, without further appropriations.

The coast survey is progressing with great rapidity; and when all the base lines and angles are run along the coast, turnpike roads and bridges sufficient for the inhabitants will have been built out of the public treasury, without raising the question of internal improvements for the annulment of strict constructionists. The electric telegraph, which is the most gigantic of all the agents employed by this department, has been made 19 paces upon sundays, and lighter airs of the other days of the week. When our messages can be carried everywhere for *seapeace*, and a song into the bargain, it seems to us that the millennium may be considered as near at hand. Trusting that we may be pardoned for all sins of omission and commission, and that congress will pass no laws against nepotism and ask no awkward questions about scrip long since disposed of, we shall leave the civil and proceeded to the military affairs of this republic, where every man is a soldier, and every hearthstone a fortress.

[Composed by T. E., S. I. H. D.,

WAR.
War wears his wrinkled frock no more. Peace broods with silver wings over the gentle Gandalquivir and upon the salt-washed banks of the Burampoeter. Austerlitz and Marengo have become insignificant villages, while the city of Hitt, in Boston harbor, is alone crazy for favor, position, and fame. Liberty, with a gill of whiskey a day, leans fit West Point upon a broken spear, and Cupid twines wreaths of roses around the rusty breeches of the silent cannon. An expedition, half military and half civil, has been sent out in wagons, with spring seats, by the Department of the Interior, to the California diggings, but for what good purpose, the Department of War remains in a reasonable and, we may say, not an unnatural state of *dehensivity*.

The personnel of the army has been improved by education, and the materiel has been perfected by keeping in a dry place and drinking good liquor. Taking every thing into consideration, we consider the standing army of a republic a good thing, especially about large cities in times of elections, mobs, and other terrible excitements. France is of the same opinion, and keeps her army only 300,000 men, besides camp-women and waiters. We think we are as well able as France to keep up half that number. The practice of wearing whiskers in the military service of the United States is not to be defended by any principle of law or equity. Some officers cannot turn out a respectable pair, to save their souls; and why hair should be required by regulation to grow where hair declines to grow, is a matter which we cannot fathom.—It is repugnant to liberty, and contrary to nature both foreign and domestic. We therefore recommend that Congress should cut off every whisker in the army by means of the previous question. Much time and *pointum* would thus be saved, and glory would find something else to crown, besides sandy whiskers and bald heads, when she descends upon her errand of immortality. Raising such a crop around the muzzle weakens the roots of the upland grunion. There is too much sulphur and sulphur put in our gunpowder in these piping times of peace. A great saving in these articles might be made, if it only requisite for the powder in time of peace to carry itself as strong as when it was required to carry out 42-pound balls, in addition to its own weight! We presume Congress will legislate understandingly in this matter, and give the War Department, in the shape of a clerical fund what it saves off of the powder. Besides, at this time, sulphur and charcoal are wanted for the "prevalent," and sulphur is in great demand for pork.

The propriety of disposing with *longevity* rations in the army is suggested. How an officer can want to eat more pork and other components every year that he continues in service, when he has lost his teeth, and is only fit food for gunpowder, and hardly for that, is a chinkinik beyond our philosophy. An old soldier does not draw or eat any more than a raw recruit. Why, then, should the old officer eat more than the young one? The Commissary of Subsistence will soon find the pork crop exhausted, if we go on feeding abstractors at this rate.

A merchant navy has been suggested by a distinguished naval officer of our country, in lieu of the present one, would it not be well to have a merchant army?—This could be done as easily as the former, and war then could be carried on by contract. We think so much should be paid for conveying a foe by the lump. If this idea should prevail, and a fuss should be kicked up about tobacco, grizettes, dyo-stuffs, and other groceries, between France, and England, and our republic, about the nearest and quickest job of work in the cutting and slashing line would be done in the vicinity of this hemisphere that has ever been recorded by mortal pen.

The propriety of adding onions to the army rations, instead of whiskey, has been suggested, and has received serious attention. Onions are strong, and will keep off the scrovy; they are also capital for a bad breath; and the man of war wants such food; besides, like damp gunpowder, though they smell rank, they never add the brains of the *file*, which is more than can be said of whiskey. The ordinance of the United States are all too heavy for quick marches. A light gun, which is loaded at the breech, and which, in the language of the inventor never *preceits*, unless it does a little *furrada*, is highly recommended for field work. This gun is to be slung under a horse's belly lengthways, and is to be fired from the rear. Thus, when it rebounds, it will propel the horse forward, and by this means will render it impossible for the enemy ever to capture the light artillery. Heavy fortifications, since the capture of Vera Cruz, are deemed unnecessary in the United States, excepting at the island at the mouth of the Washington canal. There a field-work should be raised to protect the Washington Monument from fire, and the woodboats that come up the majestic Potomac, from the attack of the remorseless enemy; besides repelling freshets in the fall of each year, would be of great practical utility, and the garrison in their leisure moments could improve in target shooting, by firing at the fisherman's boats that constantly pass and re-pass on the liquid highway to Arlington. An inch is hereafter to be taken off of the cocked hats of the army, by way of economy, and carried to the reserve fund; and as every body wears two epaulettes, it has been suggested that brigado and division officers shall wear four epaulettes—two on each pocket flap, as well as on each shoulder. This would enable a soldier to tell a colonel from the commander-in-chief at any time, anywhere, and would prevent many laughable mistakes in the army that are of almost daily occurrence. Almost every man in the United States has invented a new gun, which has neither stock, lock, barrel, nor touch-hole, and which, in an enemy's country, goes off of itself without being loaded, provided it is only aimed right; and each inventor knows that, with his gun war will be died up, like a picked blister, or graduated like a punctured pimple upon the face of Howland's Kaly-dor. For our part, we are sick of guns and gunpowder;

but we do say that a gun without a vent is a whim affair for a Caesar, and is only fit to shoot a hen that has the pip.

A board of officers will be required to sit at the seat of government for the next five years, to purge the service of its foreign affinities and innovations. The military language of the text-books is bastard French and Norman Latin. What do we know of eprouvettes, epaulettes, eslavettes, or videttes—of cellochons, cheverons, contravellons, pompoms, demijohns, or catholicons? The fact is, an American citizen has to become a Frenchman before he can know the regulations of his own army; or steer clear of three courts martial per week; and we have no doubt that many a good American has been shot in the service for being a poor imitation of a foreigner.

Our opinion of West Point since our circular to the cadets, which has been printed on extra and framed by our confidential Fides, has changed entirely since we visited it. We think it is a capital military school for civil engineers; and as railroad companies increase rapidly, an addition should be built to the institution, to enable the United States to educate young gentlemen for such corporations as fast as they are required by them, at the government expense. Why the commander of this school should ride four horses and eat the rations of forty men daily, is a problem to be solved by the military bureaus.

In concluding our views upon the right arm of the national defence, we can only say that Europe is at war, Asia at peace, Australia in a fog, and the United States of America as comfortable as could be expected under the circumstances. "Attention, the universe!"—"eyes right!"—"rest!"—[Composed by W. H. C., S. W.

NAVY.
The naval affairs of the republic, like all other affairs, well enough, have gradually increased until they have become pretty much all the affairs we have got on the seaboard. Upon examining the personnel, and the materiel, and the etherial of the navy—for they get by wind and steam, as well as by water—we find much to censure. Our officers are frequently found "running down the trades"—a matter which is calculated to injure the commercial world, if longer suffered; also, "beating to quarters," as though our men would not fight without being beaten to their guns; besides, they are constantly "missing staves" and "losing banners off of the jibs." Why they have these articles on board, we know not, for no female is permitted to go to sea in a vessel of-war without a written permission from this department, and no such permission has been given since the advent of the "Heroic Age."

We find, also, that holy stones are common articles on board all vessels-of-war. Whether they are used in slinging the culprits who are guilty of "lying to" and other offences under the Levitical law, or are superstitious relics, such as the barley stone of Kilkenny, the black stone at Mecca, the Rosetta stone of Egypt, the royal stone of Scrone, or the blue stone of medicine, we have not yet been able to ascertain; but no matter what they are, or what they are for, we have ordered the confounded things to be thrown overboard as relics of barbarous ages, which science, when she desires to complete her cabinet, will readily find by dredging the Atlantic. We agree with the Irish philosopher that a thing cannot be lost when you know where it is.

Then, again, our ships are often half seas over, and frequently stagger under puffing sails, which is setting a very bad example to the temperance parties of the world. The practice of permitting the pursuit to keep a "hall" on ship-board, when the first lieutenant even is not permitted to have a cat, except a cat of nine tails, is a matter worthy of consideration. "Dead horses" are frequently carried to sea, and worked out on a crane by all hands; and as they are a nuisance of ancient origin, we cannot throw the things overboard, but as they must be, without a special act of Congress. We are glad to learn, however, that the seaman are always ready to work; after the most severe exertions, in saving even the ship from destruction. We never heard yet of their refusing to "splice the main brace" at midnight, and in a gale of wind. By the way, that brace must be a terrible rotten thing, for it wants splicing sometimes twice a day in the horse-and-s-e latitudes, the winds there having very bad colds accompanying them. Many diseases are also found connected with the navy; such as extensive issues, stoppages, leakages, wind shakes, and carbuncles. They have many idlers on board, and sky-riding prevails to a great extent. They have many highly improper names for ropes and blocks, which need not be repeated here, but which Congress can readily ascertain from the first old salt they catch on a cruise on shore, with the weather-leech of his foretop-gallant sail a little lidded.

Many stores are kept on board each vessel in commission, when, in our opinion, one good grocery, properly managed, would answer for all. The whole service is full of British rules and British customs. They teach their hats to an abstract king when they come on deck, thereby wearing out the front part of every hat in the service. Naval hats can always be told by the king's mark on the front brim. This custom is derogatory to the people of a free republic, and, with cobbing and *padding*, should be read out of the service with short prayers. Sailors are extravagant dogs; when they can't waste flour enough in any other way, they padding the anchor, and often indulge in pickled cats and tarred rope-yarn. They have a curious way in the service of telling everything to the marines before communicating it to the department; which is a serious evil, and should be remedied at once.

The idea of building *balance dry-docks*, or any other dry-docks, is a nonsensical one, and should be repudiated by the present enlightened age. Dancing-masters and circus-riders may balance as much as they please; but who could dream of balancing a 74 on a *pale*? As to dry-docks that are always half full of water, they are nothing but *absorbans marinus*, as they say in the law school at Accome, and should never be depended upon by a Christian people who go a clammung at high water. It is suggested, that a vessel might be saved from foundering at sea by boring holes in her hull, and putting in taps. Thus, when the vessel leans to one side, and exposes her bottom, the taps on the exposed side are to be drawn out at the top of the drum, and the sea that she ships out the bulwarks will go down the hatches and pass through her like Drandrell's pills, by daylight. Clapping in the taps, then, before she rights, will finish her business on one side in a jiffy, and leave her when she comes on the other tack sweet and dry. By repeating the experiment on the other side, the whole ship will be as good as new, and no sickness, but the dumb ague and chills will ever be heard of in that craft; to be sure, this would be taking the disadvantage of a gale of wind, but we believe that that is ruleable, if it is done in a respectful manner, even on board of a man-of-war.

It would require careful hands at the taps, though; and for that purpose it is respectfully suggested that reformed drunkards, who have been used to drawing beer and whiskey in the dark, should alone be enlisted for the captains of the hold and hollop and the rear ranks of the after-guard. The captain of the hold, owing to his peculiar duties, might be suffered to liquor as much as he pleased, provided he did not go to sleep on the water-ways. The present age is an age of vapor and steam; every thing steams it, from the incipient admiral down to the anchor boy. It is all puff and paddle, and smoke and fuss, from Mount Desert to the Bahamas. Satan's realm, in broken doses, is in cart on runners, shipped in a crate in the shape of a cutabum sp'it in two, with side wheels, pieces about the best composition this department can offer of Butler King's militia navy.

The only balances that this department takes any interest in are balances due from locofoco disbursing officers to the United States. Having assumed the functions of the Fourth Auditor, we have found several pursers who owed three ninetees a piece for fractions to the United States, and six navy agents who charged five cents a piece for letter postage in their accounts against the strict rule of this department, and have dismissed them all as defaulters, and put in their places good men and true, who never cast a glance from their constitutional want of knowledge.

The practice of sailing ships of war on the Sabbath is contrary to the wishes of this department and against the spirit of the age. We therefore have ordered all ships of war on soundings to furl their sails, and anchor from sunset on Saturday to sunrise on Monday; and these off soundings have also been ordered to furl their sails, and to sink an iron pot, with a cable bent on to it, so as to go through the motions of being still, if nothing else; if they drift away under those circumstances, it will be their fault and not ours. We think that dried beef would be a capital substitute for the rusty pork and moughany used in the navy; and by taking a flock of sheep in the hold, and a thousand or two of chickens in the tops, at every port, a fine table d'hote might be kept on the lower gun deck of each vessel in active service, which would fatten the men and make the enemy on all occasions desire to be taken prisoners by us for the rations they would be served to get. Besides, a cock crowed in the mizen rigging when Macdonough captured the village of Lake Champlain; and why shouldn't a cock crow in our mizen rigging on our illustrious days? The tops of our vessels would be rendered of great value from the guano which would necessarily be deposited there; and if our Virginia commodore didn't want it all for his model farm in Fairfax county, a generous donation might be made to the United States tannery at Prattville, New York.

Upon a careful examination of all the public vessels, we find them *hol'we*, and that the man who blows the whistle is nobody but a boatwain, facts which will undoubtedly astound Congress as much as they astonished us. The court-martial ordered upon the commander of one of our steamers, who was ordered, during our grand tour, to come round in this vessel to Lancaster and take us to Bedford Springs, has been countermanded, it having been made to appear that Lancaster was not a port, and Bedford Springs nothing but a small watering place, where a dinner-pot even could not float.

"Stand by to handspike the jib!"
Let her quit—Bin!

[Composed by me, W. D. P., S. N.,

POST OFFICE.

The mails of the United States for the last nine months have been carried with a safety, celerity, and regularity, that is surprising, considering that the postmasters have all been turned out, and the names of all the offices have been changed. Great complaints, it was expected, would arise, and greater causes of complaint were expected to exist; but owing to the inimitable tact of the Second Assistant Postmaster General, which was developed in Iowa before he came here, and, of course, after he left Massachusetts, for Massachusetts' good, in a hurry, the system has been made to work admirably. This has been mainly owing to the new manner of making up the mails in a lump. That is, having ascertained the weight of each mail, matter that is usually sent to each office from each office, the postmasters all around the compass have been instructed, without regard to the supercriptions on the letters, to throw the whole contents of the mails upon their distributing tables, and there weigh out, hap-hazard, the proper weight of *matter* for each office in connection therewith. By this arrangement, it is true, many letters go wrong; but as they finally come to the *Dead Letter Office* at Washington, it occasions only a quarter's delay, which is a trifling matter in these heroic days. By this means, it has been deemed a difficult matter to rob the mail understandingly; for no one knows when he opens a bag what will be in it, or how much will be in it, and so he lets them pass unopened and unspoiled.

An express mail by camels across the American continent, with a telegraph wire attached to the tail of each animal, would be a magnificent affair, and would insure not only a safe but a constant communication with the gold regions; for every day a despatch could be sent by the mysterious fluid, and as the operator in the telegraph office rapped out the words, the mail-ride on the desert could toll by the vibrations of his camel's tail the purport of the same, and like Captain Cuttle, make a note of it. The first despatch sent in that manner would be experimental, and might therefore be called "Nazi." The practice of making contracts with individuals for transporting the mails is often very exclusive, and savors strongly of monopoly. We recommend the mail contracts to be all annulled, and that every body—black, white and gray—be authorized to carry letters from one end of the country to the other, paying the highest rate of postage (two cents) to the ones that arrive at the post office first, and the lowest rate (half a cent) to the fellow that comes in last; no postage to be prepaid, and all letters to be taken out of the post office, by the ones who bid the highest for them, *notis solus*, and no questions asked.

A very great loss arises every year from the free use of toothpaste in making up packages. It is calculated that over one-third of the large packages are eaten up by the rats in each office per annum. This is peculiar to money letters; and as nobility steals money now in the post offices, we know that the