The Star & Sentinel.

Friday, Dec. 11, 1868.

Advertisers and others interested will bear in mind that the regular circulation of the "STAR AND SENTINEL" is much larger than that of any other paper published in the County, being twice weekly by not less than 11,000 per one.

Advertisements, to secure insertion in that issue must be handed in on or before Thursday morning.

MEETING OF CONGRESS.

Congress met at noon on Monday last, with a large attendance of members in both Houses, with an evident disposition on the part of the Republican majority to consider only measures of the greatest importance. In the Senate, after considerable discussion, the credentials of Senator Joshua Hill (Republican), of Georgia, were laid on the table for the present. During the debate some of the Republican members denounced the course of the Democratic majority in the Legislature of Georgia in expelling from their seats all the legally elected colored members. Various amendments to the Constitution on the subject of universal suffrage were introduced. One offered by Senator Sumner is of a sweeping character. It gives the right to vote for President, members of Congress, State, county and city officers, to every citizen, without regard to race or color, and imposes severe penalties upon any election officer who interferes in any manner in the exercise of this suffrage. Messrs. Cragin and Pomery also offered amendments, differing from Mr. Sumner's, but looking to the same end.—Senators Frelinghuysen, Yates and Morrill, of Maine, introduced bills regarding the naturalization of foreigners, and to prevent a repetition of the disgraceful frauds that were practiced by the Democracy of New York, Philadelphia and other large cities, at the last election. Mr. Drake offered a resolution providing that no vacancy occurring in the grade of General or Admiral shall be filled without the authority of Congress; and if any vacancy occur in the grade of General his powers and duties shall devolve upon the Lieutenant General, or if there be a vacancy in that grade, upon such Major General as shall be designated by the President. Senator Sumner introduced resolutions expressive of sympathy with Spain, and appealing to the people of that country to emancipate their slaves. All these bills and resolutions were referred to appropriate committees.

In the House of Representatives Messrs. Boutwell and Kelly proposed articles looking to the amendment of the Constitution so as to prescribe who shall vote in all the States for Presidential electors and members of Congress. Messrs. Lynch and Pike of Maine, Mr. Spalding of Ohio, and Mr. Maynard of Tennessee, introduced bills looking to important changes in the present financial system. Mr. Wood offered a resolution inquiring what Reverdy Johnson's instructions were from the State Department, which was adopted. Mr. Morrell, of Pennsylvania, followed this with a resolution censuring Minister Johnson, recciting that his conduct in England has been prejudicial to the interests and dignity of the United States, and requesting the President to immediately recall him. After some debate, it was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs. Several bills changing the Naturalization laws were referred to the appropriate committee. Mr. Otis S. Buxton, of New York, was elected Doorkeeper in the place of General Lippincott, resigned, and the House adjourned until this morning.

The proceedings on Tuesday were not of special interest. In the House a bill restoring the control of the Bureau of Indian Affairs to the control of the War Department, after a short but spirited debate, passed by the decisive vote of 119 to 38. Mr. Butler offered a bill to repeal the Tenure-of-office act, which was referred.

The reading of the President's Message was the main feature in both Houses on Wednesday. In the Senate its reading was interrupted by a motion to suspend the further reading by reason of its offensive reference to Congressional legislation. Pending the discussion of the motion the Senate adjourned. The House permitted the Message to be read, but manifested its sense of its impertinent and offensive style by quietly ordering the usual number of copies to be printed, and then laying it on the table. In the House, Mr. Washburne gave notice of his intention to move a recess from Dec. 21 to Jan. 16, as none of the important Committees would be prepared before that date.

We surrender a good portion of today's issue to abstracts of the Message and the Department Reports, which will no doubt be read with interest. The President seems to have learned nothing from the popular verdict in November, and still harps on the same old tune of the despotic and unconstitutional legislation of Congress. He discusses the financial question at great length, but with an obscurity that makes it difficult to discover what he really means. It his last message, and hereafter the country will be relieved of the egotism, demagogueism, and inconsistencies which have characterized President Johnson's productions.

The farce of pretending to try JEFF. DAVIS for treason is rapidly coming to an end. DAVIS himself is in England apparently in no wise concerned about the trial. On Friday last, at Richmond, the case was called, and counsel for DAVIS moved to quash the indictment on the ground that the 14th Constitutional Amendment acted as an attainder. Mr. DANA, on behalf of the Government, resisting the motion, and Mr. O'CONNOR supporting it.—After conference, Chief Justice CHASE announced a division of the Court on the motion—he himself being in favor of quashing and Judge UNDERWOOD against. The case now goes to the Supreme Court of the United States, and that is probably the last that will be heard of it. We have not, for a year or more, thought there was any earnest purpose on the part of the Government to bring this arch-traitor to trial; but this shuffling policy is discreditable to all parties and should be brought to an end, either in a prompt trial or a prompt discharge.

The Freedman's Bureau, which is to be abolished on the 1st of January, has done an immense good. It has been a grand charity. It has literally given food to the hungry, drink to the thirsty, clothing to the naked, and shelter to the homeless. It has prevented cruelty to and the robbery of the ignorant and helpless; has made the lazy work, and in its charity has known no distinction whether white or suffering and destitute whether white or black.

THE report of General BEYNOLD'S, who has been in command in Texas, reveals a horrible state of affairs there. Speaking of the Ku Klux Klan the General states:—"The precise object of these organizations cannot be readily explained, but seems in this State to be to disarm, rob and in many cases murder Union men and negroes, and, as occasion may offer, murder *United States officers and soldiers; also to intimidate every one who knows anything of the organization but who will not join it.* The civil law east of the Trinity river is almost a dead letter.—In some counties the civil officers are all, or a portion of them, members of the Klan." At the political meetings in several counties "men have been indicated by name from the speaker's stand as those selected for murder.—*The men thus pointed out have no course left them but to leave their homes or be murdered on the first convenient opportunity.*" The murder of negroes is so common as to render it impossible to keep an accurate account of them.

THE Columbus *Crisis*, a leading Democratic paper in Ohio, has an article laying down the basis for the reconstruction of the Democratic party. It is to cancel the bonds, abolish the legal tenders, abolish the banks, make the currency gold and silver, abolish the tariff, abolish all internal revenue duties, and support the government by a direct tax levied on the property of the country. It declares the previous monetary and financial schemes of the Democratic party all wrong, and that the only way to restoration of the party is by coming back to these true Democratic principles. And in view of their advent it declares it the duty of the press of the country to warn the widows and orphans and poor people of the country to dispose of all the bonds in their possession, for "repudiation is inevitable."

The people can begin to see what the country escaped by defeating SEYMOUR AND BLAIR.

THERE was a tough pull between Massachusetts and Kentucky as to which would give the larger majority, the former for GRANT or the latter for SEYMOUR, with the following result:

Massachusetts, Grant	136,379
Massachusetts, Seymour	59,103
Majority for Grant	77,276
Kentucky, Seymour	115,889
Kentucky, Grant	39,569
Majority for Seymour	76,320
Massachusetts elected	256

Considerable money changed hands on this contest. But it should be borne in mind that half the Republican party in Kentucky are disfranchised by the persecuting Copperheads of that State. GRANT would have polled nearly 100,000 votes in Kentucky had all the Republicans been allowed to vote.

THE English Tories spent $60,000 in gold to beat the great Liberal (Republican) JOHN STUART MILL, for Parliament.

GENERAL NEWS.

GENERAL John A. Logan is quite ill in Washington.

NEWS of snow storms reach us from all sections of the country.

THE case of Jeff Davis has been continued over to May next.

E. A. Pollard, author of the "Lost Cause," has, it is said, been appointed to a clerkship in the New York Custom House.

THE presidency of the State Agricultural College has been tendered Hon. Thos. H. Burrows, of Lancaster.

THE friends of Hon. E. B. Washburne of Illinois confidently assert that he will be appointed Secretary of the Treasury by General Grant.

A BOY named O'Shaughnessy, while skating on a pond on Staten Island, on Friday, fell through the ice and was drowned.

GENERAL Cole, tried at Albany, New York, for the murder of Mr. Hiscock, for the seduction of his wife, has been acquitted.

HON. E. B. Washburne, of Illinois, succeeds the late Hon. Thaddeus Stevens as Chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations.

COMMISSIONER Rollins will again transmit his resignation to the President, to take effect at the close of the present year, unless his successor shall be sooner confirmed.

ADVICES from Cuba indicate that the opponents of Spanish rule there are making considerable headway, and that the Government troops have been severely punished at several points.

THE gas jets in A. T. Stewart's new store, are lighted simultaneously by an electric battery. The windows on the ground floor are of a single plate glass, each costing $600. The establishment covers more than two acres, and is twice as large as Morrison's, in London, the next largest dry goods store in the world.

EUROPEAN advices of Monday bring us intelligence of the foundering at sea, on the Irish coast, of the steamer Hibernian, from Glasgow for New York. The Captain and fifty-two passengers are reported as saved, and one boat, with thirty-three persons on board, was lost. The fate of two other boats and their crews is yet unknown.

FOUR bears—a female and three cubs—were found on one tree one night recently by some hunters in Miffin county, Pa., with their dogs, were out coon-hunting. All four were killed. The old bear weighed something over 200 pounds, and each of the cubs from 106 to 109. Bears and deer are remarkable plenty all through Pennsylvania this winter.

THE Pennsylvania Central Railroad has at last effected the actual consolidation with it of its two main western connecting routes. The Pittsburg, Fort Wayne and Chicago, and the Pittsburg, Cincinnati and St. Louis Roads thus become practically a part of the Pennsylvania Central, and over one thousand miles of railway, stretching from the seaboard to the great cities of the Mississippi Valley, pass under the control of a single corporation.

A LITTLE child was buried in Lewistown, Pa., thirteen years ago. The grave was recently re-opened. The entire upper portion of the body from the little thighs had returned to the native "dust," nothing remaining to indicate the *form* of a human being, while from the thighs downward was the most perfect model of the plump, beautifully rounded limbs of a babe; everything delineated to perfection—perfect as in life—yet solid and white as Parian marble; even the little shoes preserved upon its feet as at the closing of the little coffin thirteen years ago!

TERRIBLE DISASTER.—A terrible disaster occurred on the Lehigh river, caused by the collision of two barges, the American and the United States, both small boats, on Friday night last. The collision is attributed to a mistake in giving the signals required by passing boats. The United States had a quantity of petroleum on deck, to which fire was in some way communicated, and in a few moments both boats were enveloped in flames, and finally entirely destroyed. The loss of life was terrible, the lowest estimate placing it at seventy-five, and others at over one hundred. On board the United States nearly all the female passengers were either burned to death or jumped overboard and then drowned.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

On Wednesday President JOHNSON sent in his last annual message, a copy of which we received yesterday afternoon. Its length, and the late hour at which it came to hand, precludes its publication entire. We must therefore, content ourselves with an abstract giving its essential parts, which probably will be more satisfactory to the mass of our readers than to be compelled to wade through some eight or ten columns.

The message opens with a sharp arraignment of the entire series of Congressional enactments bearing on the re-construction of the Rebel States, after the fashion of previous messages, of which the following paragraph may be taken as a sample:

"Upon the reassembling of Congress, it again becomes my duty to call your attention to the state of the Union, and to its continued disorganized condition under the various laws which have been passed upon the subject of reconstruction. It may be safely assumed, as an axiom in the government of States, that the greatest wrongs inflicted upon a people are caused by unjust and arbitrary legislation, or by the unrelenting decrees of despotic rulers, and that the timely revocation of injurious and oppressive measures is the greatest good that can be conferred upon a nation. The legislator or ruler who has the wisdom and magnanimity to retrace his steps, when convinced of error, will soon or later be rewarded with the respect and gratitude of an intelligent and patriotic people. Our own history—although embracing a period less than a century—affords abundant proof that most, if not all of our domestic troubles are directly traceable to violations of the organic law and excessive legislation. The most striking illustrations of this fact are furnished by the enactments of the past three years upon the question of reconstruction. After a fair trial, they have substantially failed and proved pernicious in their results, and there seems to be no good reason why they should longer remain upon upon the statute book. States to which the Constitution guarantees a republican form of government have been reduced to military dependencies, in each of which the people have been made subject to the arbitrary will of the Commanding General.

The entire series of acts are pronounced not only unconstitutional and despotic, but failures, and their repeal is urged. The continued outrages in the South are held to be the necessary result of these oppressive acts. Some people think the President's obstinate opposite to these enactments had much to do with exciting the insubordination and outrages which afflict many parts of the South, but Mr. Johnson carefully ignores all this. The repeal of the Civil Tenure Act and the Act of March 2, 1867, in regard to Army appointments, is urged, as being violations of Executive prerogatives and unconstitutional.

FINANCES.

The Message discusses the financial condition of the Government at considerable length, drawing strong contrasts between the expenditures in past periods and the present. Early in 1861 the war of the rebellion commenced, and from the first of July of that year to the 30th of June 1865, the public expenditures reached the enormous aggregate of thirty-three hundred millions. Three years of peace have intervened, and during that time the disbursements of the Government have successively been five hundred and twenty millions, three hundred and forty-six millions, and three hundred and ninety-three millions. Adding to these amounts three hundred and seventy-two millions, estimated as necessary for the fiscal year ending the 30th of June, 1869, we obtain a total expenditure of sixteen hundred millions of dollars during the four years immediately succeeding the war, or nearly as much as was expended during the seventy-two years that preceded the rebellion, and embraced the extraordinary expenditures already named. These facts clearly illustrate the necessity of retrenchment in all branches of the public service.

After referring to the public debt, the President urges a return to a specie basis as early as possible, as necessary to remove the anomaly that now presents itself in the Government having different classes of creditors, some payable in gold and others in paper currency. How this is to be done is not very clearly pointed out. He maintains that we are paying too large a rate of interest, and recommends a re-adjustment of the national loans by substituting loans bearing 3, 4 or 5 per cent. In reply to the argument that such a policy would smack strongly of repudiation, we have the statement that while our national credit should be sacredly observed, in making provision for our creditors we should not forget what is due to the masses of the people, and then comes a gentle reminder to the "bloated bondholder" in these words:

"The lessons of the past admonish the lender that it is not well to be over-anxious in exacting from the borrower rigid compliance with the letter of the bond.

The President favors an early payment of the entire debt, which he thinks could be paid in about 16 years, by changing the loans, and applying the revenue semi-annually to the discharge of the debt.

Specie payments having been resumed by the Government and banks, all notes or bills of paper issued by either, of a less denomination than twenty dollars, should by law be excluded from circulation, so that the people may have the benefit and convenience of a gold and silver currency, which in all their business transactions will be uniform in value at home and abroad.

Reference is made to the statistics presented by the Reports of the Interior, Land, Patent, Post Office, and other departments, which, however, will be found in our abstracts thereof in another column.

On the 30th of June, 1868, one hundred and sixty-nine thousand six hundred and forty-three names were borne on the pension rolls, and during the year ending on that day the total amount paid for pensions, including the expenses of disbursement, was $24,010,962, being $5,891,025 greater than that expended for like purposes during the preceding year.

INDIAN TROUBLES.

Treaties with various Indian tribes have been concluded, and will be submitted to the Senate for constitutional action. The President cordially sanctions the stipulations which provide for reserving lands for the various tribes, where they may be encouraged to abandon their nomadic habits and engage in agricultural and industrial pursuits. This policy, inaugurated many years since, has met with signal success, whenever it has been pursued in good faith and with becoming liberality by the United States. The necessity for extending it as far as practicable in our relations with the aboriginal population is greater now than at any preceding period. Whilst we furnish subsistence and instruction to the Indians, and guarantee the undisturbed enjoyment of their treaty rights, we should habitually insist upon the faithful observance of their agreement to remain within their respective reservations. This is the only mode by which collisions with other tribes and with the whites can be avoided, and the safety of our frontier settlements secured.

PACIFIC RAILROAD.

The companies constructing the railway from Omaha to Sacramento have been most energetically engaged in prosecuting the work, and it is believed that the line will be completed before the expiration of the next fiscal year. The six per cent. bonds issued to these companies amounted, on the 5th instant, to $44,387,000, and additional work had been performed to the extent of $3,200,000.

FOREIGN RELATIONS.

No important question has occurred during the last year in our accustomed cordial and friendly interpourse with Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, San Salvador, France, Austria, Belgium, Switzerland, Portugal, the Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden and Norway, Rome, Greece, Turkey, Persia, Liberia, Morocco, Tripoli, Tunis, Japan, Siam, Borneo and Madagascar.

Cordial relations have also been maintained with the Argentine and the Oriental Republics. The expressed wish of Congress that the national good offices might be tended to those Republics, and also to Brazil and Paraguay, for bringing to an end the calamitous war which has so long been raging in the valley of the La Plata, has been assiduously complied with, and kindly acknowledged by all the belligerents. That important negotiation, however, has thus far been without result.

Charles A. Washburn, late United States Minister to Paraguay, having resigned, and being desirous to return to the United States, the Rear Admiral commanding the South Atlantic Squadron was early directed to send a ship-of-war to Asuncion, the Capital of Paraguay, to receive Mr. Washburn and his family, and remove them from a situation which was represented to be endangered by faction and foreign war. The Brazilian commander of the allied invading forces refused permission to the "Wasp" to pass through the blockading forces, and that vessel returned to its accustomed anchorage. Remonstrance having been made against this refusal, it was promptly overruled and the "Wasp" therefore resumed her crand, received Mr. Washburn and his family, and conveyed them to a safe and convenient seaport. In the meantime an excited controversy had arisen between the President of Paraguay and the late United States Minister, which it is understood grew out of his proceedings in giving asylum in the United States Legation to alleged enemies of that Republic. Mr. McMahon, the newly appointed Minister to Paraguay, having reached the La Plata, has been instructed to proceed, without delay, to Asuncion, there to investigate the whole subject. The Rear Admiral commanding the United States South Atlantic Squadron has been directed to attend the new Minister with a proper naval force to sustain such just demand as the occasion may require, and to vindicate the rights of the United States citizens referred to, and of any others who may be exposed to danger in the theatre of war.

Our relations during the past year with Bolivia, Equador, Peru, and Chili, have become especially friendly and cordial. Spain and the Republics of Peru, Bolivia, and Equador have expressed their willingness to accept the mediation of the United States for terminating the war upon the South Pacific coast. Chili has not finally declared upon the question.

The message makes no reference to the "Alabama" question, or the negotiations with Great Britain in regard thereto.

Our relations with Mexico during the year have been marked by an increasing growth of mutual confidence. The Mexican Government has not yet acted upon the three treaties celebrated here last summer for establishing the rights of naturalized citizens upon a liberal and just basis, for regulating consular powers, and for the adjustment of mutual claims.

Negotiations are pending with a view to the survey and construction of a ship canal across the Isthmus of Darien, under the auspices of the United States. I hope to be able to submit the results of that negotiation to the Senate during its present session.

In alluding to the discontented feeling in Hayti, St. Domingo, and the entire West Indies, and the contest between the friends of Republican and Monarchical systems, the President thinks we have not done our whole duty in lending moral support to the efforts making to secure Republican institutions, and makes another fling at Congress in these words:

It is indeed a question of grave consideration whether our recent and present example is not calculated to check the growth and expansion of free principles, and make those communities distrust, if not dread, a Government which at will consigns to military domination States that are integral parts of our Federal Union, and, while ready to resist any attempts by other nations to extend to this hemisphere the monarchical institutions of Europe, assumes to establish over a large portion of its own territory a rule more absolute, harsh and tyrannical than any existing in Christendom.

MORE ANNEXATION.

The President is evidently strongly imbued with Mr. Seward's annexation mania. The acquisition of Alaska, he says, was made with the view of extending national jurisdiction and republican principles in the American hemisphere. Believing that a further step could be taken in the same direction, he last year entered into a treaty with the King of Denmark for the purchase of the islands of St. Thomas and St. John, on the best terms then attainable, and with the express consent of the people of islands. This treaty still remains under consideration in the Senate. A new convention has been entered into with Denmark, enlarging the time fixed for final ratification of the original treaty. The President thinks Cuba and St. Domingo should also be purchased, and thus argues:

Comprehensive national policy would seem to sanction the acquisition and incorporation into our Federal Union of the several adjacent continental and insular communities as speedily as it can be done peacefully, lawfully and without any violation of national justice, faith or honor.—Foreign possession or control of these communities has hitherto hindered the growth and impaired the influence of the United States. Chronic revolution and anarchy there would be equally injurious. Each one of them, when firmly established as an independent republic, or when incorporated into the United States, would be a new source of strength and power. Conforming my administration to those principles, I have on no occasion lent support or toleration to unlawful expeditions set on foot upon the plea of republican propagandism, or of national extension or aggradizement. The necessity, however, of repressing such unlawful movements clearly indicates the duty which rests upon us of adapting our legislative action to the new circumstances of a decline of European monarchical power and influence, and the increase of American republican ideas, interests, and sympathies.

It cannot be long before it will become necessary for this Government to lend some effective aid for the solution of the political and social problems which are continually kept before the world by the two republics of the Island of St. Domingo, and which are now disclosing themselves more distinctly than heretofore in the Island of Cuba. The subject is commended to your consideration with all the more earnestness because I am satisfied that the time has arrived when even so direct a proceeding as a proposition for annexation of the two republics of the Island of St. Domingo would not only receive the consent of the people interested, but would also give satisfaction to all other foreign nations.

How all this is to be accomplished, without a heavy increase of the national debt and consequence increased taxation, we are not informed, although in the beginning of the message national debts are held to be oppressive, and rigid economy is urged as essential to prevent national ruin.

THE TREATIES

Which were negotiated between the United States and North Germany and Bavaria, for the regulation of the rights of naturalized citizens, have been duly ratified and exchanged, and similar treaties have been entered into with the Kingdoms of Belgium and Wurtemberg, and with the Grand Duchies of Baden and Hesse-Darmstadt, while conventions of the same character now in the course of negotiation with the respective Governments of Spain, Italy and the Ottoman Empire.

Spain having recently undergone a revolution marked by extraordinary unanimity and preservation of order, the Provisional Government established at Madrid has been recognized and the friendly intercourse which has so long happily existed between the two countries remains unchanged.

The President renews the recommendation made in July last in favor of the following amendments to the Constitution:

1st. For an election of President and Vice President by a direct vote of the people, instead of through the agency of electors, and making them ineligible for re-election to a second term.

2d. For a distinct designation of the person who shall discharge the duties of President, in the event of a vacancy in that office by the death, resignation or removal of both the President and Vice President.

3d. For the election of Senators of the United States directly by the people of the several States, instead of by the Legislatures; and

4th. For the limitation to a period of years of the terms of Federal Judges.

THE DEPARTMENT REPORTS.

The Treasury.

The following is an abstract of Secretary McCulloch's annual report: The National finances are in good condition, and Mr. McCulloch believes that, with proper financial legislation, in the revision of the tariff and the modifications of certain portions of the Internal Revenue laws, the path to specie payments may be reached. The funding of the public debt he regards as one step toward resumption. The report shows that up to date, of the Seven-thirty bonds, $827,629,350 have been funded into Five-twenty six per cent. bonds; of the first series $299,565,700; second series $330,188,200; third series $197,875,450. This leaves on the first of December, of the outstanding Seven-thirty notes, but $2,363,150. The Compound Interest notes which became due between the 10th of June, 1867, and the 16th of October, 1868, have not all been redeemed; but many have been received in exchange for the per cent. certificates.

The Secretary estimates the expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 20, 1870, to be $250,000,000, though the War Department, in the event of an Indian war, will add many millions to this estimate. Last year the War Department asked for $25,000,000 for bounties, but its estimate this year is less than that amount, as no more appropriations for bounties are required. The report shows that the annual interest on the public debt is, in round numbers, $145,000,000, and the estimate for the next fiscal year is but little in excess of that amount. The estimates of the Navy Department are some $15,000,000 less than last year. The receipts show that the internal revenue for the present fiscal year will amount to $120,000,000.

The estimated revenue for the next fiscal year from customs, internal revenue, lands and miscellaneous sources, is many millions in excess of the expenditures. This year the estimated excess was but $9,000,000. The Secretary's report shows that the public debt has been reduced during the year from November, 1, 1867 to November 1, 1868, $35,624,102 82. The report shows an expenditure on account of the public debt of $880,500,000, which includes redemptions, conversions, interest on public debt, &c.

The Navy.

The report of the Secretary of the Navy gives the following facts and figures with reference to the present condition of that branch of the military service:

"The number of vessels in squadron service as cruisers, storeships, and returning, is 42, carrying 411 guns, a reduction during the year of 14 vessels, carrying 96 guns. The number of vessels of all descriptions in use as cruisers, storeships, receiving ships, tugs, and the like, is 81, carrying 693 guns, a reduction from last year of 32 vessels, carrying 505 guns. The total number of vessels borne upon the navy list is 206, carrying 1,743 guns, a reduction during the year of 32 vessels, carrying 156 guns. The following figures exhibit the present employment and condition of the naval force:

Cruising vessels in squadron service, 35, 356 guns; vessels returning from squadron 3, 24 guns; storeships for squadrons, 4, 31 guns; special and lake service, 3, 19 guns; apprentice ship, 1, 11 guns; practice vessels, and in use at the Naval Academy, 10, 115 guns; receiving ships, 6, 92 guns; quarters for officers, League and Marine Barracks, Norfolk, 2, 27 guns; tugs at navy yard and stations, powder boats, &c., 17, 18 guns; total in use, 81, 683 guns. Iron-clad vessels laid up, 46, 107 guns; iron-clad vessels not completed, 5, 18 guns; steam sloops ships not classed, 16, 253 guns; line-of-battle ships laid up repairing, fitting for sea and for sale, 57, 592 guns; total number of vessels of all descriptions in use, building, repairing, refitting for sea, 206, 1,743 guns. The vessels of the navy are classified as follows: Vessels of the first rate, of 2,400 tons and upward, 35, 662 guns; vessels of the second rate, 1,200 to 2,400 tons, 37, 483 guns; vessels of the third rate, of 600 to 1,200 tons, 76, 414 guns; vessels of the fourth rate, under 600 tons, 38, 184 guns; total, 206 vessels, 1,743 guns. The following indicates the character of the vessels: Iron-clad vessels, 52, 129 guns; screw steamers, 95, 938 guns; paddle wheels, 28, 199 guns; sailing vessels, 31, 477 guns. Total, 206 vessels, 1,743 guns."

The Post-Office.

This report shows that the whole number of dead letters of all classes received during the year which ended 30th June last, by actual count, was 4,162,144, showing a decrease of 144,364 letters from the number estimated to have been received during the previous year. Of these letters, 3,995,066 were domestic letters; 167,078 were foreign, and were returned unopened to countries where they originated. The domestic letters received may be stated as follows: Ordinary dead letters, 3,029,461; drop and hotel letters, 522,677; unmailable, 363,898; fictitious addresses, 9,190; registered letters, 3,282; returned from foreign countries, 66,558. In the examination of domestic dead letters for disposition, 1,736,867 were found to be either not susceptible of being returned or of no importance, circulars, &c., and were destroyed; 253,000 more were destroyed after an effort to return them. The remainder were classified and returned to the owners as far as practicable. The whole number sent from the office was 2,228,199, of which 84 per cent. were delivered to owners, and 16 per cent. were returned to the Department; 18,340 letters contained $95,169.52, in sums of $1 and upward, of which 16,061 letters, containing $86,638.66 were delivered to owners, and 2,124, containing $7,892.36, were filed or held for disposition. 14,082 containing $8,436.68 in sums of less than $1, of which 12,513, containing $4,120.70 were delivered to owners; 17,750 containing drafts, deeds and other papers of value, representing the value of $3,609,271.80, of these 16,809 were restored to the owners, and 821 were returned and filed; 13,964 contained books, jewelry and other articles of property, of the estimated value of $8,500; of these 11,489 were forwarded for delivery, and 9,911 were delivered to their owners; 125,221 contained photographs, postage stamps, and articles of small value, of which 114,666 were delivered to owners; 2,068,842 without inclosures.

Prominent among the causes of the non-delivery of letters is the unmailable character of many of them, ascertained during the past year to be 373,898 letters, showing a decrease of 79,888 the previous year. Of these 290,448 were detained for non-payment of postage, 58,587 returned for misdirection or want of proper address, 18,470 were addressed to places for which no mail service had been established, and 1,593 had no address whatever. There were also returned 23,425 letters addressed to persons stopping temporarily at hotels, departures or non arrivals preventing delivery, and 9,190 letters found to be addressed to fictitious names. These are mostly cases where the causes of the non delivery appear from the letters themselves, and no effort was made to deliver them. The number of dead letters returned during the year to foreign countries was 184,188, and the number received from foreign countries was 66,558.—Out of 4,866,678 letters mailed to the United States through British, French and German mails, 126,866—or 2 86-100 per cent.—were returned to Europe as dead letters; and out of 5,401,986 letters forwarded from this country through these mails, 80,970—or 57 per cent.—were returned as dead letters.

Total number of domestic letters received during the fiscal year ending June 31, 3,995,066; foreign letters received, 167,078.—Whole number of letters received, 4,162,144. Number of original letters destroyed, 1,756,867; number of return letters destroyed, 333,286; whole number destroyed, 2,070,153. Letters returned to writers, 2,210,620; "return" letters received and destroyed, 333,286. Total delivered to writers, 1,877,334.

Mr. Randall states that the postal revenue for the last was $16,292,600, and the expenditures $22, 730,592, being an excess over receipts of $6,437,991. The estimates for the next year are fixed at $24,540,413 for expenses, and $17,800,000 for receipts, leaving a deficit to be supplied by appropriation of $6,740,413. 383,470,500 postage stamps were sold at $11,751,024, and 44,552,300 stamped envelopes at $1,285,218. There were in the employ of the department on the 30th of June, 1868, 5,891 contractors, occupying 8, 226 routes, whose aggregate length is 216,928 miles, with an annual transportation of 84, 224,325 miles, at a cost of $10,266.056. There are 26,481 post offices in operation in the United States, of which 2,167 were established during the year and 849 were discontinued.

The large excess of expenditures over receipts is occasioned by opening new mail routes in the South and West, where in consequence of sparse population, the receipts are light. In the Northern States, the receipts are in excess of the expenses. Mr. Randall objects to making the Post office Department self sustaining, and regards the large excess of expenditures over receipts rather as an encouraging feature of progress, arising as it does from an extension of postal facilities to remote sections of the Republic. Attention is called to the gross abuse of the franking privilege.

The War Department.

Secretary Schofield, in his annual report, says the strength of the army on September 30th was 48,081, which by January will be reduced by expiration of term of service alone to about 43,000. No recruiting is in operation except for the cavalry service. All volunteer officers except one have been mustered out of service. At the suggestion of General Sherman authority was given on October 6th for the muster in of one regiment of volunteer cavalry from Kansas, whose service is not expected to exceed six months, for service against the Indians. It may, the Secretary says, be reasonably expected that a considerable reduction of the army may be made within the next year. He recommends such reduction be authorized by law to be made gradually by ordinary casualties, by discharge of incompetent officers and by consolidation of regiments. The Secretary also recommends that the four regiments of veteran reserves be disbanded, officers unfit for service to be retired and others to be transferred to active regiments. The term of enlistment ought to be increased to five years. The disbursements of the pay department during the last fiscal year amount to $60,000,000. The disbursements for reconstruction have been $2,500,000. Bounty claims to the extent of $25,000,000 have been paid. It is estimated that $65,682,388,75 will be required for the War Department for the next fiscal year. The estimated deficiencies for the current year are, however, $13,075,000. In speaking of the Indian war, Secretary Schofield says it is proved beyond dispute that it was begun by the Indians without any provocation whatever. Its object is supposed to be the abandonment of the Smoky Hill route, which are the best hunting grounds in America, and the Secretary endorses General Sherman's remedy to secure peace—namely, coercion.

Interior Department

The annual report of the Interior, in his annual report, says that the quantity of public lands undisposed of is 1,405,366,668 acres. The amount disposed of during the past year was 11,692,320 acres. The Secretary devotes a good portion of his report to the Pacific Railroads, and on the whole speaks of them in excellent terms.

Commissioner of Internal Revenue.

The annual report of Hon. E. A. Rollins, Commissioner of Internal Revenue, on the operations of his Department, is a very interesting and exhaustive document, covering thirty-two printed pages. The crowded condition of our columns renders it impossible for us to give more than the following synopsis of its contents:

The largest receipts of internal revenue were during the fiscal year 1866, when taxation had reached its highest limits. The estimates of the reductions since that period, made from time to time, with reference to proposed legislation, were—

By status of July 15, 1866	Annually. $64,000,000
By status of March 2, 1867	40,000,000
By status of February 3, 1868	23,000,000
By status of March 31, 1868	45,000,000
By status of July 20, 1868	
Total	172,000,000

The aggregate receipts of internal revenue, exclusive of the direct tax upon lands and the duty upon the circulation and deposits of National Banks, were for the year—

1866	$310,906,084.17
1867	265,920,474.75
1868	188,782,249.46

The following is a summary of the items composing the gross sum of nearly $200,000,000, received during the year 1868:

Banks, Trust Companies, &c.	$3,489,752.65
Railroads	1,023,967.07
Insurance Companies	1,831,235.57
Telegraph Companies	214,599.18
Express Companies	671,949.92
Revenue Stamps	14,862,252.82
Legacies and Succession	1,813,27.37
Income Taxes	32,627,610.78
Articles in Schedule A	1,742,025.83
Special Taxes	15,566,313.20
Cotton	22,800,947.77
Cigars, Cigarettes and Cheroots	2,961,675.26
Chewing and Smoking Tobacco	14,947,107.53
Fermented Liquors	5,864,563.70
Brandy	871,63-24
Distilled Spirits	13,419,992.74

There is a falling off in the receipts from distilled spirits for the year ending July, 1868, as compared with the preceding year, of about $15,000,000.

The expenses for collecting the revenue, including the compensation and expenses of the whole Bureau for the year 1868, was $9,327,301,74.

The estimated receipts for the present year, under the new Tax bill, the Commissioner confidently believes will reach the sum of $145,000,000.

The number of indictments found and filed in United States Courts for violation of the revenue acts was 1,981. The number of convictions was 749, and the number of suits decided in favor of the Government was 2,532, the financial result of which was as follows: Judgments recovered in suits *in personam*, $741,797,47; collected from judgments and paid into courts, $127,810,94; forfeitures paid into courts, $1,136,150,73.

The report then proceeds to review the operations of the new law, of which the Commissioner says:

The statute now in operation contains many improvements upon that of 1866, is fuller and more definite in its exactions, places the distilleries and their operations more completely in the hands of the Government, and is more rigorous in its punishment of offenders, but its successful operation after all must depend upon the vigilance and fidelity of the local officers. The corruption of storekeepers, gaugers and assistant assessors, even when assessors and collectors are above suspicion, will always open sources of ruin to honest tax-payers and loss to the Treasury, which neither the wisest legislation nor the most stringent regulations of the Department can close.

The uncollected tax of the insurrectionary States, amounts to nearly $3,000,000, which is a lien upon the real estate upon which it is assessed.

Mr. Rollins repeats his recommendations of last year in favor of Mr. Jenckes' Civil Service bill.

The Report recommends the adoption of the bill reported by the Committee of Ways and Means at the last session, to make a separate Department of Internal Revenue, with the Commissioner at its head distinct from the Treasury Department.

LITERARY NOTICES.

THE GALAXY.—The enterprising publishers of this excellent monthly seem to be determined to make it a success. The January number will commence the seventh volume, and with unusually attractive features. They have secured the advance sheets of a serial story by the popular English author, Charles Reade, for which it is said he is to receive $50,000 from his English and American publishers. The publishers have also secured the advanced sheets of a new story by Mrs. Edwards, another popular English writer, author of "Steven Lawrence, Yeoman," and "Archie Lovell." Both these serials will appear in the *Galaxy* for 1869. Besides these, Scientific, Social, Literary, Practical, and Economical Articles are promised by Richard Grant White, Dr. W. A. Hanimond, Eugene Benson, Prof. E. L. Youmans, H. T. Tuckerman, Edmund C. Stedman, Schele de Vere, Justin McCarthy (the editor of the London *Morning Star*, now visiting this country,) Wm. R. Alger, John Meredith Read, Jr., and other well-known writers. From Mark Twain, humorous articles may be expected. From Henry James, Jr., Harriet Prescott Spofford, Caroline Chesebro, Jane G. Austin, John Esten Cooke, and others, Short Stories and Sketches. Taking *The Galaxy's* prospectus for 1869, altogether, it offers one of the most tempting bills of fare to magazine readers ever set before an American public. $4 a year. Address, Sheldon & Co., publishers, 498 and 500 Broadway, N. Y.

AN OLD FRIEND IN A NEW DRESS.—We are pleased to announce that *The Sunday-School Times* of Philadelphia, so well known during the past ten years among earnest Sabbath-school workers of all denominations, is to appear the first of January in a new and greatly improved form. Every subject connected with the most successful management of the Sunday-School, in all its varied departments, with intelligence on the subject from different parts of the world, are found in its columns. We advise ever superintendent, teacher, and parent, interested in the religious instruction of the young, to send to the publishers for a sample copy, which can be obtained free on application. J. C. Garrigues & Co., Publishers, 608 Arch street, Philadelphia.

ANOTHER NOTICE.—There is considerable amount of money due me on the books of the late "*Adams Sentinel*"—the non-payment of which subjects me to great inconvenience, as I am mainly dependent upon this as a means of support for my family, and the liquidation of debts. I trust, therefore, that this will be the only notice required to induce those who owe me to pay their indebtness AT ONCE.

R. G. HARPER.

Special Notices.

A CARD.

A Clergyman, while residing in South America as a missionary, discovered a safe and simple remedy for the Cure of Nervous Weakness, Early Decay, Diseases of the Urinary and Seminal Organs, and the whole train of disorders resulting from the baneful and vicious habits. Great numbers have been cured by this noble remedy. Prompted by a desire to benefit the afflicted and unfortunate, I will send the recipe for preparing and using this medicine, in a sealed envelope, to any one who needs it, *free of charge*. Address

JOSEPH T. INMAN,
Station D, Bible House, New City.

Sept.