

—The Nation said recently, referring to returning boards in the Southern States: "We have heard no legislation changing their character or regulating their duty." A New Orleans correspondent of that paper informs that of the fact, widely published in the time of the law creating the returning board of Louisiana was repealed at the first session of the Nineteenth Legislature. The new election law of Louisiana is modeled after those of New York and Pennsylvania. It requires a strict registration and the counting of the votes actually cast, the actual count to be revised by no returning board, but to stand, unless overturned by contest in the courts. If the present law had been in operation in 1876, the electoral vote of Louisiana could not have been disputed by either party.

—According to the report of the Secretary of the Interior his policy of reform for the Indian service has been satisfactorily applied, and he believes it will work well in future. His report of the future of the service is the result of the failure of Congress to provide means for feeding and clothing that tribe of savages. The outbreak of the Cheyennes he thinks was entirely needless so far as the Government officials were concerned. He thinks the young warriors desired to go on a raid, and could not be restrained by their elders, nor agents. Indirectly, Mr. Schurz argues against the transfer of the Indian Bureau to the War Department, and declares that it is perfectly practicable to settle nearly all the Indian reservations south of their present boundaries on the basis of the present law. He thinks they can be kept together and gradually civilized with less trouble and diminishing cost each year under the system now in vogue.

—In the report to Congress from the War Department, the Secretary also states that the resolution providing the use of the military as a posse comitatus be repealed or modified so as to allow the President to use the regulars in aid of the civil authorities in certain cases, while the Secretary of the Navy informs us that the total fighting force of the navy may be reckoned as comprising fifty-one cruisers and fifteen torpedo boats, to which may be added two torpedo boats. In case of necessity, four double and one single torpedoes could be used on the ways could be readily completed. Of the permanent vessels there are now thirty-three. Many of these were built during their war and unseasoned timber, so that their decay has been rapid, and the Secretary says the majority of them should be sold or broken up. The bona fide expenditures during the fiscal year ending June 30, amounted to \$12,309,913, this being well within the appropriation, which allowed for over fourteen millions.

—In his report Secretary McCrary, of the War Department, contains many points of interest. His general account of the state of the army, and especially of its improvement in respect to the number of desertions, from the time when about one-third of the whole army deserted in a single year, is gratifying. By the way, we doubt if any larger proportion of deserters than that from the United States Army in 1873 was ever reported in the history of any army since that famous desertion in Egypt reported by Hierocotus. "Hard times" has changed that, for men hold on now to any place where they are sure of support, and "hard times" further has done some serious work as far as the army is concerned by putting within reach of the afflicted sergent men of a sort he never sees when industries flourish. Several excellent commendations are made in this report which is to be hoped may receive the favorable consideration of Congress. One is for a law under which a thousand scouts can be employed beyond the number of men to which the army is restricted, and another is for the modification of the law by which it is forbidden to use the army as a posse comitatus. That has been found a great evil in some frontier districts; and as the law was made for the supposed benefit of the people in the south, it would be well to modify it for other points. But the most noteworthy suggestion is for authority and means to print the documentary records of the history of the war now in possession of the government; these important contributions to the history of the war can thereby be made accessible to the people, and this suggestion will assuredly find favor if Congress is fairly representative of popular opinion.

—The Chicago Times gives the following reasons why the Democratic party has been unable to regain its once powerful position in the government of the country: For at least eighteen years the Republican party has lived through the most nervous and mental lability of the Democratic party, principally through the former's own policy, which the Democratic party had had the most violent and mental capacity to sustain on the side of freedom, justice, and liberty twenty-five years ago, and to stay on that side, the Republican party would never have lived at all. The Republican party was born, and has ever since lived, through the perverse propensity of the Democratic party to get on the wrong side of every important political question, and stay there. Its last performance was to get on the wrong side of the currency question, and make it self the party of dishonest public financing; and if reports from Washington are true, its managing spirits are determined to keep it on the wrong side of that question. The men who dictate Democratic party policy seem to be completely infatuated with the notion that the way for a party to win is to get on the wrong side of every important political question, and stay there. Its last performance was to get on the wrong side of the currency question, and make it self the party of dishonest public financing; and if reports from Washington are true, its managing spirits are determined to keep it on the wrong side of that question. The men who dictate Democratic party policy seem to be completely infatuated with the notion that the way for a party to win is to get on the wrong side of every important political question, and stay there.

—Two recent decisions of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania will show the necessity of mechanics who file liens against property "for work done and material furnished," that they must comply exactly with the requirements of the statute if they would have their claims sustained. In one case the lien "for plastering and furnishing materials as per contract" was declared fatally defective because the claim did not set forth the kind and amount of material furnished, and the time when the work done. In the other case the liens set forth the materials were furnished for the "erection and construction" of the building, whereas the evidence showed that they were for repairs of the building, and it was, therefore, disallowed. This is getting the law down to very fine points, but mechanics are warned by the decision that to make their liens good, they must be very exact in stating their claims.

—The public debt statement for November shows an increase of \$3,214,242. The increase is owing to the payment of the Halifax award.

—Rev. Dominic Young, a well-known Catholic clergyman, died in Washington Thursday, in the 68th year of his age. He was a native of Washington, but spent many years of his life in the construction of the

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Follow Citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives.

One hundred and eighty-two million people are at present in the United States. Our public credit has grown to a point where it is now the largest in the history of the world. The Government has accumulated a surplus of \$1,200,000,000. The National Debt is \$2,000,000,000. The Government has accumulated a surplus of \$1,200,000,000. The National Debt is \$2,000,000,000. The Government has accumulated a surplus of \$1,200,000,000. The National Debt is \$2,000,000,000.

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THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

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THE PUBLIC RELATIONS.

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COMMENCEMENT OF THE GRAND OPENING in Fall & Winter Dry Goods, Dress Goods, Carpets, Oil Cloths, BOOTS AND SHOES, Groceries and Provisions, At "THE ORIGINAL CHEAP CASH STORE" of J. T. NUSBAUM & SON. A cordial invitation is extended to all. [Oct. 5.]

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