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Poetry.

INDIAN SUMMER.

(For the New Orleans Picayune.)

I.

Oh! the glorious Indian Summer,
With her glowing, golden sunset;—
With her forests so richly blended,
And her scarlet-throated songsters;—
With her sparkling, dashing waters,
And her gorgeous, flaming forests,
With the fingers of the sunlight
Twining garlands,
Weaving garlands
Day to crown her russet tresses,
With the red November berries,
And the dark, autumnal green.

II.

Oh! the joyful Indian Summer,
With her odors sweet and dowy,
With her song-birds bright and merry,
And her shadowy brooks of music;
With her rosy, dazzling sunrise,
And her gold and purple sundown,
With the fingers of the twilight
Painting pictures,
Mellow pictures,
To delight with my ely beauty,
To enchant with radiant glory
Indian summer's growing form!

III.

Oh! the dying, Indian Summer,
With her blooms and freshness flying,
With her trees, so lately gorgeous,
Now so sere and sad, bereaved moans;
With her song-birds sad and silent,
With her rose-cheeks drooping, pale,
And the King of the Storm approaching,
Hoarse and cold,
Fierce, and bold,
Oh! his foot falls on the Summer,
Pallid, waiting, in an Indian Summer,
Shiling to the grave.

IV.

Yet, in death, she is queenly in her mien,
With her pride, all depicted,
With her robes of flaming red,
With her diadem of golden rod,
With her bracelets of clematis,
Softly reclining on the grass,
And pillowed on the fragrant leaves
Fast asleep!
Through the dreary, cold, dark,
Through the storm and tempest,
Through the sleet and snow,
Through the years of the future,
Through the years of time,
Sleeping!

P. PENDEVIS.

New Orleans, November 24.

THE RAIN.

I.

The Rain, the Rain, the Beneficent Rain,
Falls on the Poor Man's Grave as on the Rich Man's Bed,
It rounds with green the Sunless Valleys of the Dead,
And to Life the Sweet Flowers in the Sunless Land.

II.

The Rain, the Rain, the Beneficent Rain,
It fills the Sedges to the Lone Fisher's Hand,
And the Reeds to the Reaper, the Reed and the Grain.

III.

The Rain, the Rain, the Beneficent Rain,
Falls on the Sea, the Great Sea of Death and Dole,
That name it as we will, by which we are compelled to sail
On the sad voyage from which there is no return.

IV.

The Rain, the Rain, the Beneficent Rain,
Falls on the Sea, the Sea of Life, the Sea of Life,
Which, like the ocean, is rocked by the winds and tossed
With hopes and fears, with joy and sorrow.

V.

For the Rain, the Rain, the Beneficent Rain,
Will wash the Pilgrim's Staff, will wash the Pilgrim's Cloak,
But, alas! never can it wash off the stain,
Stark, lying, death-cold, Sad Leonora to Wed.

VI.

Oh! the Rain, the Rain, the Beneficent Rain,
I bid you welcome from my heart, and blessed the
[illegible]
And, by God's grace, I will do my duty
Some [illegible] to do.

VII.

For the Rain, the Rain, the Beneficent Rain,
Falls on the Just and Unjust, falls on the Just and Unjust,
And unless we would be unjust, we must be content
Of the Lord's good pleasure.

D. F. MACCARTHY.

LEARN A LITTLE EVERY DAY.

Little rills make wide streamlets,
Streamlets swell the rivers' flow;
Rivers join the mighty billow
Where the ocean waves roll low.
Life is made of small fragments,
Subject to mistake, work and play;
So let us be patient, work and play,
Learn a little every day.

Tiny seeds make boundless forests,
Deeds of love compose the flower,
Words make up the mighty volume
Of the book of life, for hour
Following hour, we gather wisdom
From the minutes make the hours;
Let us hasten, then, as we journey
Through this life of ours and flowers,
And with Love's golden mantle
Learn a little every day.

Let not of sorrow's pinions
Pass a single one in shade;
Let us, as we journey onward,
Have a ray, and there is a sunbeam,
Cannot the humble, timid dove,
As onward its way it takes,
Which can fan the fevered brow,
Make some one happy?
Then let us, as we journey onward,
Learn a little every day.

SNOW FLAKES.

Out of the clouds of the night
Out of the cloud-fabricators of gloom,
Over the wood from north to south
Over the wood and the plain
Silent and soft and slow
Descends the snow.

Even as our souls at times
Are visited by strange
Sudden and sacred thoughts
That come like angels and depart no more,
In the night-time we commune
With these angelic guests
Who are our souls.

P. P. BISHOP.

Miscellaneous.

Talking Machines.

Mr. Faber's talking machine, which has only remained to have a palaver with the Irish saddle, is a very ingenious affair. As it does not talk actually, it does not, for in this, as in other matters, there is nothing new under the sun; it is rather in its way a link between ocean and, and it is what it professes to be.

A distinction between the lower and the deeper in such constructions deserves to be noted. There have been so-called talking and singing machines, in which the talking and singing really came from human lips, under such circumstances as lead the audience to believe that mechanism produced the sounds. We know very little about Roger Bacon's speaking head; but there are reasons to believe that if the machine was ever produced at all the sounds emitted came from human lips. A famous exhibition, called the Invisible Girl, was a deception in which much ingenuity was displayed. In this machine there was a girl or lady concealed, and all the talking and singing and music was invisible to the audience; the deception consisted in leading the visitors to suppose that she was in a small glass suspended in midair. There were four upright posts, united at top by four horizontal rails, like the frame work of a bird's cage. Short wires, springing up from the posts, converged to an ornamental centre; and from these wires were suspended a hollow copper ball, with four trumpet-mouths on four sides. This was all the visitor saw. Any person wishing to propose a question, spoke it into one of the trumpet-mouths; and presently afterwards an appropriate answer came from all the four mouths. The voice was so soft that it seemed to come from a very young and diminutive being indeed—a fairy, an invisible girl. French and Italian were spoken by the voice as well as English; witty and lively remarks were made, as well as questions answered; and songs were beautifully sung in silvery tones. It was admitted on all hands to be an attractive exhibition; and as there were means of verifying the fact that the globe touched nothing whatever, except four ribbons by which it was suspended, the surprise felt was great. The facts of the case were these: One of the posts was hollow, as were two of the rails; and there were openings in the rails just opposite two of the trumpet mouths. In an adjoining room was a lady seated at a piano-forte; a very small opening in the partition between the two rooms enabled her to see what was going on; while a concealed tube was carried from a point near the level of her ear to the hollow part of the machine, beneath the floor. Sounds, as we know, travel very rapidly through tubes; and thus the questioning, the answering, the singing, and the pianoforte playing, were transferred from room to room.—When a spectator asked a question, speaking at one end of the trumpet-mouths, the sound was reflected from the trumpet back to the opening in the horizontal rail, which opening was neither seen nor suspected by the audience; it went down the rail, under the floor, and into the adjoining apartment, where the lady heard it; and the sounds in the opposite direction were similarly conveyed. The sounds became so altered in character and intensity by this process of transmission as really to seem to come from the ball; and when an answer was given to a question expressed in a whisper, the impression was very strong that the answers really came from the ball. Far less clever than this invisible Girl was the so-called Anthropoglossos, exhibited in London six or eight years ago. There was a colored bust suspended from the ceiling of a room, with some machinery inside, which purported to produce sounds; but the speaking and the comic singing really came from an adjoining apartment, through tubes laid with very little scientific skill.

But the more interesting contrivances are those in which the sounds are really produced by a mechanism of pipes, bellows, keys, vibrating reeds, &c. Musical instruments have in some cases been played with surprising success by such means, involving the expenditure of an almost incredible amount of time, patience and ingenuity in devising the requisite arrangements. Vaucanson's flute-player was a wonderful example of this kind. It was a life-size figure, dressed in the ordinary fashion of his day (about 1736), and standing on a pedestal; both figure and pedestal being full of delicate machinery, essential to the working of the machine. When wound up with a key, the figure played real music on a real flute. Air was projected from the mouth-hole of the flute, and the force of the current was varied to suit the loudness and softness of different passages, as well as the different pitch of their octaves; the opening between the lips being varied to assist in producing the desired effects. The fingers, made of some elastic material, stopped the holes in the proper order for producing the several notes. The machine was constructed to play a certain number of tunes, beyond which its powers did not extend. Soon afterwards the same clever mechanician produced his automaton flageolet-player. The flageolet had only three holes; and so diverse was the intensity of wind required to produce all the notes of a tune with such limited means, that the pressure varied from one ounce for the lowest note up to fifty-six pounds for the highest. Another of his productions was his automaton pipe and tambour-player; the figure of a shepherd, standing on a pedestal, played nearly twenty minutes and country dances on a shepherd's pipe, held in the left hand, at the same time playing on a tambour a kind of hybird between a tambourine and a small drum with a stick held in the right hand. Madame's automaton trumpeter, exhibited about sixty years ago, was quite a masterpiece of ingenuity. A figure, dressed in the uniform of a trumpeter of Austrian dragoons, when wound up by a key, played the Austrian Cavalry March, and a march and allegro by Weigl, on a trumpet, and was accompanied by an orchestra, the sounds of the trumpet being admirably produced. Then his drum being changed to that of a French trumpeter of the Guard, the figure played the French Cavalry March, all the signals, a march by Dussek, and an allegro by Pleyel. When we consider the numerous modifications of pressure with which the lips of a trumpeter touch the small end of the trumpet, the production of such results by machinery is certainly surprising. Soon after Maelzel's time, Maillardet produced an automaton pianoforte-player. The figure of a lady, seated at a pianoforte, played no less than eighteen tunes, keeping on for an hour when once wound up; the machinery was laid open at intervals in such a way as to show that it was really mechanism that played. The white keys or natural notes were pressed with fingers in the same way, but the flats and sharps were produced by pressing on pedals with the feet. The inventor succeeded in making this lady more graceful in her attitude and movements than is generally the case with automata. Somewhere about 1820 there was an exhibition of two automaton flute-players in London; the two figures played eighteen duets, which must have required a vast amount of interior mechanism.

Another class of these ingenious contrivances comprises pieces of mechanism which imitate the cry of certain animals and the song of birds. This has been rather a favorite problem with clockmakers. The cathedral clock at Lyons, made by Lippius de Basle, and repaired by Nourisson in the seventeenth century, had a series of dial plates on which at the time of the year, the month, the week, the day, the hour, the minute of the clock shown. Besides these there were figures of angels, a dove and a cock; the hours were announced by the crowing of the cock, thrice repeated, after a preliminary flapping of wings, and when this crowing was done the dove descended, and the angels came forth from a recess and played a hymn on a set of bells. We speak of this clock in the past tense, not knowing whether Lyons still possesses such a curiosity. The marvelous clock in the beautiful cathedral of Strasbourg had at one time a complication of mechanism still more elaborate; but, regarded in a particular position, played three different tunes at three, seven and eleven o'clock every day; and a thanksgiving at Christmas, Easter and Whitsuntide; when this was finished, a cock, which stood on the top of the tower, stretched out his neck, crowed thrice, flapped his wings twice, and crowed twice. The bombardment may perchance have ruined the tower, but at any rate the many intricacies of the clock had become unmanageable long ago. Vaucanson's duck, constructed a hundred and thirty years ago, quacked like a real duck. Among the curiosities preserved at Versailles in the time of Louis the Fourteenth was a clock made by Martinot. At the completion of every hour two cocks crowed alternately, and flapped their wings; after which two little doors opened, two figures appeared bearing two symbols of power, and two sentinels beat on the symbols with clubs. Maillardet constructed an oval box about three inches in length, from which, when the lid was opened, a tiny bird flew out, fluttered its wings, opened its bill with a tremulous motion, warbled a little song, and then shut itself down again in its nest. Those who remember the little automaton called the Swiss Nightingale, at the International Exhibition eight years ago, will be prepared to understand that Maillardet has had many imitators.—Some years ago there was an exhibition in London comprising figures of a child, a monkey, a goat and a hare. The child said "Pa" and "Ma," and the goat bleated. In other automata we may sometimes meet with a bleating sheep; and there was one in which a dog barked whenever the door in a basket was touched by an intruder. *All the Year Around.*

A Remarkable Discovery.

By many it has been held as a theory that the Yuma desert was once an ocean bed. At intervals pools of salt water have stood for a while in the midst of the surrounding waste of sand, disappearing only to rise again in the same or other localities. A short time since one of these saline lakes disappeared, and a party of Indians reported the discovery of a "big ship" left by the receding waters. A party of Americans at once proceeded to the spot and found imbedded in the sands the wreck of a large vessel. Nearly one-third of the forward part of the ship or bark is plainly visible. The stump of the bowsprit remains, and portions of the timbers of teak are perfect. The wreck is located forty miles north of the San Bernardino and Fort Yuma road, and thirty miles west of Los Palmos, a well known watering place on the desert. The road across the desert has been traveled for more than one hundred years. The history of the ill-fated vessel can of course never be known, but the discovery of its decaying timbers, in the midst of what has long been a desert, will furnish savans with food for discussion, and may perhaps furnish important aid in the elucidation of questions of science.

Causes of Sudden Deaths.

Very few of the sudden deaths which are said to arise from "disease of the heart" do really arise from that cause. To ascertain the real origin of sudden deaths, experiments have been tried in Europe, and reported to a scientific congress held at Strasbourg. Sixty-six cases of sudden death were made the subject of a thorough post-mortem examination; in these cases only two were found who had died from disease of the heart. Nine out of the sixty-six had died from apoplexy, while there were forty-six cases of congestion of the lungs—that is, the lungs were so full of blood they could not work, there not being room enough for a sufficient quantity of air to enter to support life. The causes that produce congestion of the lungs are—cold feet, tight clothing, costive bowels, sitting still chilled after being warmed with labor or a rapid walk, going too suddenly from a close, heated room into the cold air, especially after speaking, and sudden depressing news operating on the blood. The causes of sudden death being known an avoidance of them may serve to lengthen many valuable lives, which would otherwise be lost under the verdict of "heart complaint." That disease is supposed to be inevitable and incurable; hence many may not take the pains they would to avoid sudden death, if they knew it lay in their power.

Domestic Affairs of the Country.

Report of the Late Secretary of the Interior—Success of the New Indian Policy—The Pacific Railroads—District of Columbia Matters—Suggestions and Recommendations.

The annual report of the Secretary of the Interior, prepared by Secretary Cox, previous to his retirement, gives a history of the operations of the department for the past year, and contains a number of suggestions. We make the following extracts:

I take pleasure in bearing testimony to the zeal, fidelity and marked ability with which the Commissioner has discharged his arduous duties. The office is now in excellent working order. The examining corps, with very few exceptions, is composed of men who have been tested by severe competitive examinations, and who have shown peculiar fitness for the work on which they are engaged.

The standard for clerical appointments has been raised, and the efficiency of the service greatly improved.—Where vacancies occur among the examining clerks, they are filled by the appointment of such applicants as upon thorough examination give satisfactory evidence of their ability to perform the labor of second assistant examiners. That system, inaugurated with my sanction, has had a beneficial influence upon the *personnel* of the office. A spirit of emulation has been incited, and the occupants of inferior places are encouraged in the pursuit of those special duties which will ultimately enable them to fill with credit and efficiency the highest positions. It has also induced a sense of security, a trust in the tenure of their appointments, and fostered a feeling that ability and faithful service will be promptly recognized and justly rewarded.

On the subject of Indian affairs the Secretary says:

During the past year the department has habitually pursued that policy which was begun by your direction.—The results have proved most conclusively its wisdom, and shown that even under circumstances of more than ordinary irritation a peaceful policy appeals with great power even to the wildest savage. The labors of the unpaid commission of citizens who have been cooperating with the Indian agencies have been very valuable during the past year. They personally superintend the purchase of Indian goods, a work requiring more than a month of their time in the early summer. Subcommittees of the body were present at the payment of money to the civilized nations in the Indian Territory, and aided in the negotiation which has resulted in the final settlement of the Osage difficulty. They attended the conference in this city with the Sioux, and have since visited them, as well as the wild tribes in Wyoming and Dakota.

Their work of inspection has extended to Oregon and Washington Territory. They have shrunk from no self-sacrifice, toil, or danger, in endeavoring to make the policy you have adopted to work the Indians an entire success. The healthful effect of their influence and advice is cheerfully acknowledged by the department and Indian bureau and has inspired a just confidence in the honesty of the transactions which have been concluded under their supervision. The Friends of various agencies in Northern and Central superintendencies were originally assigned have most faithfully and industriously continued their beneficient work with a success even greater than could have been reasonably expected. Since the passage of the act of Congress making it impracticable to continue military officers in charge of Indian agencies, under your directions the field has been subdivided, and various missionary associations of the country have been invited to occupy the same relations to them as those which the Friends have to agencies under their control. The objections which would naturally arise to the cooperation of the religious bodies in governmental work have been obviated so far as possible by inviting the assistance of all missionary associations which have taken part in the work of civilizing the Indians. A preference of any denomination of sect has thus been avoided, and labors already performed are utilized to a greater extent than would otherwise be possible.

Whenever a mission school has been established, it has been understood that you would appoint an agent in sympathy with the mission, so that its influence for good might be increased by the whole force of government patronage. If the Indians are to be improved in condition, our policy must be essentially changed so that provisions for wants of the national treasury shall be treated merely as a temporary expedient, whilst the training of the children in the ways of civilization shall be a controlling and permanent feature of the system. On this point I will add that the commissioner of education is earnestly endeavoring to procure such information with regard to the proper and successful modes of Indian government as may enable his bureau to cooperate most thoroughly with the Indian Office. The estimated expenses of the Indian service for the coming fiscal year, including appropriations which have to be renewed annually to meet the interest on non-paying stocks held in trust, will be $5,050,000, against an appropriation $6,150,040 for the current year, showing a reduction of $1,090,000.

The preliminary report of the census is now printing, and will appear during the earlier part of the next session of Congress. The results so far obtained confirm the general statistics, exhibiting the population by aggregates and by classes of each county in the United States, from 1790 to 1870, inclusive.—Over 2,300 counties will appear. The table of small civil subdivisions embraces over 20,000 towns. The volumes containing agricultural, manufacturing, social and miscellaneous statistics will be ready by April. The organization of the bureau has afforded an opportunity of applying the principle of competitive examination. Those who desired clerical employment were sent before a commission, and required to answer in writing a series of written questions, and were credited accordingly. The clerical force employed has been as large as possible, in the belief that the statistics furnished by the census will lose much of their value unless they are presented to the country at as early a day as possible.

The subscriptions to the stock of the Union Pacific Railroad Company amount to $35,783,000, of which $33,562,200 has been paid. The total receipts of the road for the year ending June 30, 1870, were $8,314,371 08; expenses, $5,649,573 45; net earnings, $2,664,797 63. The entire cost of the road at that date was $108,722,130; the amount of indebtedness of the company, $76,480,698 61, of which $27,236,512 were for United States bonds. A copy of the consolidation articles of the Central Pacific railroad has been filed in this department. Stock to the amount of $48,400,100 has been subscribed, and $48,378,740 paid. The receipts from the transportation of passengers and freight for the year ending June 30, 1870, were $6,070,172; expenses, $3,542,212; net earnings, $2,527,960. The indebtedness of this company amounts to $67,079,730, of which $27,851,000 was to the United States.

The stock subscription of the Central Branch of the Union Pacific railway is $1,000,000, of which $980,000 has been paid. The expenses on account of road and fixtures have been $3,723,700. Stock of the Kansas Pacific railway to the amount of $5,072,500, has been subscribed and paid in. The indebtedness of the company is $18,462,550, of which $5,303,000 was to the United States. The cost of the construction of 533 miles of main line is estimated at $26,000,000. The initial point of the Pacific railroad is near Springfield, Mo. Fifty miles are now completed at a cost of $2,760,840. The company has issued bonds secured by mortgage on its lands to the amount of $3,000,000. The amount of stock of the Sioux City and Pacific railroad already subscribed is $4,470,000 of which $1,788,000 has been paid. The cost of the road is $4,644,432; indebtedness, $5,044,320. At the close of the last fiscal year the amount of subscription stock of Southern Pacific railroad was $1,800,000, actually paid in $280,000. It has contracted for the purchase of the San Francisco and San Jose railroad for the sum of $2,770,000, gold, payment to be made and possession to be taken by the 31st of December next.

The Northern Pacific Railroad filed maps designating routes of road. Instructions were thereupon issued for the withdrawal in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Oregon of odd numbered sections of land, to which price adverse rights had not attached, within twenty miles, and in Washington Territory, south of Seattle, of such sections within forty miles each side of the road.

The Union Pacific Railroad Company, Southern Branch, now the Missouri, Kansas and Neoshoe Valley Railroad Company, and the Leavenworth, Lawrence and Fort Gibson Railroad Company were fully heard in the right of their respective companies to construct railroads from the southern boundary of Kansas through the Indian Territory. I also considered the objections of representatives of certain Indian tribes, through which lands the projected lines of road would pass. After a most careful examination I reached the conclusion that the existing laws and treaties authorized the construction of one railroad on certain conditions which neither company had then performed. On a subsequent hearing it was shown that the first-named company had completed its road to a designated point on that boundary, and I held that it was entitled to extend its line through said Territory.

PUBLIC LANDS.

During the last fiscal year 8,095,413 acres of public lands were disposed of as follows: Cash sales, 2,159,515.81; donations, 1,352,237; land warrants, 512,360; taken for homesteads, 3,698,910.05; located with college scrip, 192,648.21; grants to railroads, 996,683.28; grants to wagon roads, 36,628.01; approved to States as swamps, 484,638.31; Indian scrip locations, 16,827.36. This is a quantity equal to one-half more than disposed of the previous year. The quantity of land taken under the homestead act was greater by 961,545 acres than that of the preceding year. The area of public lands undisposed of is 1,357,732,207.84 acres, of which 1,307,115,148 are unsurveyed. The grants for educational purposes since the foundation of our government amount to 78,576,802 acres; for military services, 73,463,961 acres.

PATENTS.

During the year ending September 30, 1870, 13,622 patents, including reissues and designs, were issued, and 101 expired. On the first day of October, 1869, the unexpended balance of appropriations was $416,801 58. The appropriation asked for the next fiscal year is $576,520.

PENSIONS.

During the year there were added to the number of pensioners of all classes, 24,756, leaving on the rolls June 30, 1870, 198,686. The amount paid for pensions of all classes during the year, including the expenses of disbursement, was $25,780,811 81, being $642,072 27 less than was paid for the same purposes during the previous year. The actual expenditures by the Interior Department of July last. The board submit the estimates for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1872, footing up $99,240 37. The board have purchased 82 acres of Kendall Green property for $85,000, payable in four years, and the estimate (22,075) which they submit for the extension of grounds is for the first installment. They renew the offer to vest in the United States the title to all the property of the institution.

JAIL.

There are 123 prisoners in the custody of the warden of the District jail. During the year preceding the date of these reports 1,000 persons, of whom 162 were females. I alluded in my last report to the subject of a new District jail. The present one is a reproach to the age and to the country in which we live. It is not fit for the confinement of prisoners, whether their safe detention or their health and comfort be considered. Serious outbreaks have occurred. Difficulties exist in carrying into effect existing legislation, and I deem it advisable that Congress should amend it, so that the selection of a site for a new building should not be limited to one of the public reservations.

THE REFORM SCHOOL

of the District of Columbia was opened last December. Up to the 5th instant 55 boys had been received and 9 discharged. Their ages range from 6 to 16 years, the largest number being 14 years. All but 8 were born in this District and the adjoining States. The board give a very favorable report of the behavior of the boys and their proficiency in their studies. The law provides that six months shall be the shortest term of commitment. The board express the opinion that it should not, in any case, be less than one year, in order that the reformatory discipline may have a fair trial. In view of the growing numbers in the schools, the board recommends an appropriation of $20,000 for other buildings, as those now occupied will not furnish accommodation for additional inmates.

METROPOLITAN POLICE.

The members of the Metropolitan police force were diligently and faithful in the performance of their duties during the past year 15,603 arrests were made, of which 2,637 were females. The detective force made 382 arrests, and recovered lost or stolen property to the amount of $239,322 06.

Dogs Socially Considered.

"I think," says Dr. John Brown, of Edinburgh, who of all prose writers has written with the most hearty and delightful appreciation of dogs. "I think every family should have a dog. It is like having a perpetual baby; it is the plaything and crony of the whole house; it keeps them all young; he tells no tales, betrays no secrets, never sulks, asks no troublesome questions, never get into debt, never comes down late to breakfast, is always ready for a bit of fun, lies in wait for it, and you may, if choleric, to your belief, kick him instead of some one else, who would not take it so meekly; and, moreover, would certainly not, as he does, ask your pardon for being kicked."

Next to a merry child, we do not know so good and healthful a companion for a melancholic man as a dog. He does not call over the roll of your ails, with a dolorous intonation, nursing and petting them by recital, nor does he anger you by combating your splenetic fancies. He just ignores them so innocently that you ignore them too.

The Army.

Report of General Sherman—The Military Discipline—Strength of the Regular Army—The New Tactics.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 25.—The following is the full text of the annual report of the General of the Army, to be submitted to Congress at the approaching session. It is important as showing the present location of officers and troops, the strength of the army in officers and men, the operation of the new law for the reduction of the army, the present condition of the investigation on the subject of small arms, and the opinions and recommendations of General Sherman and Major-General Halleck on the question, always more or less in doubt, as to the relation lawfully existing between the military and civil authorities:—

THE MILITARY DIVISIONS.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY, *Washington, D. C. Nov. 10, 1870.*

General:—Since my annual report of Nov. 20, 1869, several changes have occurred in the distribution of the army, incident to the restoration of the States of Virginia, Mississippi and Texas, and to the gradual reduction of the force.—The geographical territory of the United States is now divided into ten departments, and these are grouped into four military divisions.

The Military Division of the East is commanded by Major-General George G. Meade, and is composed of the Department of the East, Brigadier General I. McDowell; and the Department of the Lakes, Brigadier General P. St. George Cooke.

The Military Division of the South is commanded by Major General H. W. Halleck, and is composed of the Department of the South, Brigadier General A. H. Terry, and the Department of Texas, Col. J. J. Reynolds.

The Military Division of the Missouri is commanded by Lieutenant General P. H. Sheridan and is composed of the Department of Dakota, Major General W. S. Hancock; Department of the Platte, Brigadier General C. C. Augur; and the Department of the Missouri, Brigadier General Pope.

The Military Division of the Pacific is commanded by Major-General John M. Schofield, and is composed of the Department of the Columbia, Brigadier-General E. R. S. Canby; the Department of California, Brigadier-General E. O. C. Ord; and the Department of Arizona, Colonel Geo. Stoneman.

This sub-division of the country is found to be well adapted to the use of our military forces in the diversified service by the troops intrusted to their charge, and the general officers in command are all well qualified for their respective duties. I enclose herewith the annual report of all these commanders except of Gen. Sheridan, who is absent in Europe, and of Colonel Stoneman, who is in that remote territory, Arizona, with which our communication is difficult, and his report has not yet been received, but will be submitted as soon as possible. To those reports I must refer you for the actual distribution of the troops and the details of the year's work.

THE STRENGTH OF THE ARMY.

According to the latest returns, the regular army is composed of 2488 officers and 34,870 enlisted men. Under the operation of the act approved July 15th, 1870, the number of officers is rapidly decreasing, so that by the 1st of January, 1871, they will reach the legal standard, 2,277.

Of enlisted men the present number is made up as follows:—Ten regiments of cavalry, 5952; five regiments of artillery, 4300; 25 regiments of infantry, 16,725; total troops of the line, 31,178. In addition to which are five companies of engineer troops, 560; permanent recruiting parties and recruits, 1629 enlisted men of ordinance, 706; West Point detachment, 261; signal detachment, 82; hospital stewards, 333; ordinance sergeants, 121—3,692; making a grand total of 34,870. By the same act this number will be reduced by the 1st of July, 1871, to the limit of 30,000. As a matter of course, I desire that the reduction should fall as lightly as possible on the troops of the line, for if the companies of cavalry and infantry, which occupy the frontier posts, are too small, department commanders will be forced to break up many of the smaller posts, and to use two companies where one now suffices. If the non-combatant class be kept to the present standard of 3692 men, there will be left for the line only 26,308, which, divided among the 45 companies of which consist the present organization, will allow but 60 men to a company. The universal experience is, that the constant loss by death, discharge, desertion, etc., especially in the more remote and dangerous districts, will reduce the actual number present for duty to about two thirds of the prescribed limit, or will bring the companies down to about 40 men, which is too small for efficient service. I believe that on a fair representation Congress will make direct provision for the engineers, ordnance, signal detachment, and hospital stewards, leaving the line to the limit of 30,000 to apply only to the troops of the line, and their necessary recruiting parties.

RELATIONS OF THE CIVIL AND MILITARY AUTHORITIES.

In the examination of the reports herewith inclosed I invite your attention to that contained in the letter of General Halleck which refers to the use of troops in assisting the civil authorities in maintaining peace, collecting the revenue, etc., which has become so common of late. The duties of the soldiery in this connection are not prescribed so clearly by statute that the officers can always stand within the circle of duties, and the civil agents and authorities often expect more than can be rightly or lawfully done. I think the soldiers ought not to be expected to make individual arrests, or to do any sort of violence, except in their organized capacity as a *posse comitatus*, duly summoned by the United States Marshal, and acting in his personal presence. Yet if it is deemed lawful and proper that the soldiers should do more than this, I concur with General Halleck that Congress should so enact in clear and distinct terms.

INSUBORDINATE OFFICERS AND TROOPS.

During the past year, the department commanders have given great attention to the instruction and discipline of their troops, and as our force becomes less and less I deem it important that they should receive every encouragement, for we know that the volunteers, when called into active service, expect to learn the routine of service from the regular army. In this connection, Colonel J. J. Reynolds, in Texas, objects, and with good reason, that he is forced to use his men a great portion of time as laborers on public buildings, roads, and at other work which disqualifies them as soldiers, besides preventing them from scouting on the frontier as much as would otherwise be the case. As a matter of course, soldiers must labor in taking care of themselves, and of their necessary supplies, but to build permanent works or roads, in which they have but a partial interest, is a kind of labor that ought not to be imposed on our reduced establishment. I would advise the Secretary of War to prescribe some plain rule, drawing a clear distinction between these two kinds of labor, ask to publish it to the army in orders or regulations, so that it would enter into the contract of enlistment, and soldiers would not, as they frequently do, plead this cause as a justification of desertion. During the past year the troops have been well supplied in all respects, and have been paid regularly every two months. Gen. Augur's recommendation that the troops be paid at shorter intervals is worthy of every consideration, for it is known that pay-day, coming so seldom, is apt to be considered a sort of holiday, and not unfrequently results in disorders, such as recently occurred at Provo City, which reflect upon the usual good fame of the army.

SMALL ARMS—THE NEW TACTICS.

The Board of Officers assembled at St. Louis, Mo., (by virtue of General Orders Nos. 60 and 72 of 1869), has reported that their labors have been substantially concluded, and although not yet in possession of the text, I desire to express my opinion of the importance of their work. This board, composed of officers of great experience, was required to report on the best small arms and equipments for the army, and also to prepare a system of tactics for all arms of service. Their conclusion on the first branch of the subject has heretofore been laid before the Secretary of War, who has ordered a supply of the arms recommended by the board to be distributed to the army for further practical tests; but I observe that the Chief of Ordnance, in his annual report, advises that another 50,000 of the Springfield musket should be altered according to the ordnance pattern, the one now in general use by our infantry. This would imply a selection of that form of musket, before the practical tests already in progress are completed. The recommendation of the board was strongly in favor of the Remington system, and I concur with it entirely, and therefore suggest to the Secretary that he await the result of the tests he has already ordered before incurring the expense of the alteration of the second 50,000. All officers agree that the present musket is an admirable weapon, but the breech block is not suited to a carbine, and it is entirely out of the question for the pistol, whereas the Remington system is equally suited to all, so that we could have identically the same caliber and cartridge for all arms, a matter of infinite importance in action, and especially so for our troops, who are often detached from their own baggage for months, and come in for a resupply of ammunition at posts where they often find no cartridges suited to their special weapons. The Remington is already adopted by the navy, and this is an additional reason for its adoption in the army, for in combined operations both arms and ammunition could be mutually interchanged.

Prior to our civil war we naturally looked for a system of tactics to the experience of European armies, but, as fortunately occurred, we had the infantry tactics of one nation, cavalry of another, and artillery of a mixed sort, so that there was no just harmony between them. There is no good reason why the same general rules of command and evolutions should not be uniform for all arms. I hope this Board has proceeded on this theory. Until the text is received, properly corrected and ready for the printer, I shall forbear any comments, further than to say that the time is most opportune for the adoption of an improved system of tactics for all arms of the service, and, before any steps are taken for their adoption, I recommend that some compensation be given to General Upton for the use that has been made of his system of infantry tactics that has been heretofore adopted and used by the infantry.

In conclusion, I would merely renew a former recommendation, that reasonable annual appropriations be asked for barracks, both to replace the unhealthy casemates of our sea-coast forts and to shelter from the weather the men whom the national necessities force us to station in the dreary and inhospitable regions of the interior of the continent.

I am, with great respect, your obedient servant,

W. T. SHERMAN, General.

General W. W. Belknap, Secretary of War.

Annual Report of the Postmaster General

The following synopsis contains all the important matter of the annual report of Postmaster General Creswell, which he has furnished to the press of the country:

The ordinary revenues of the department for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1870, were $19,772,820, and the expenditures of all kinds $25,998,837. For the year ended June 30th, 1869, the ordinary revenues were $18,344,510, and the expenditures $25,384,131. The increase of revenue for the year 1870 over the year 1869 was $1,427,322, or 7.78 per cent, and the increase of expenditures $300,706, showing a net increase in revenue of $1,127,065. The increase of revenue for the year 1870 over the year 1868 was $3,479,619, and the increase of expenditures for 1870 over 1868 was $1,268,244. The increase in revenue for 1870, as compared with 1869, was less than the previous year, as compared with 1868, by $624,109; and the increase in expenditures for 1870, compared with 1869, was less than the increase for 1869, compared with 1868, by $666,852. In addition to the ordinary revenues, the department be credited with $700,000, appropriated for free matter and the amounts drawn and expended for mail slides to steamship lines, which are paid out of the general treasury for the year 1870 is $2,814,116, as against $3,970,287 for the year 1869.

The attention of Congress is again called to the necessity of a revision of the rates of compensation of postmasters established by law for the transportation of mails on railroad routes. The managers of railroads insist that the pay awarded them under the act of March 3, 1869, of 4-10 of 1 cent per mile, is inadequate to the service required, and many of them have resigned, and still refuse, to enter into contract with the department, alleging that they can find other employments at permanent arrangement at the present prices. The Postmaster General says he does not believe the compensation fixed by law is a fair return for the service required by railroad companies.

The amount of fines imposed on contractors and deductions made from their pay on account of failure and other delinquencies during the past year was $104,752, as against $426,000 for the same period, $28,753.25, leaving the net amount $74,622.67. This shows an increase in the net amount of fines and deductions over the year 1869 of $21,879.25, and a decrease in the amount of remissions of $145,247.74.

During the past year 3,071 cases of loss by mail depredations, of which 1,574 were of registered letters, were reported to the department, increasing the number of thefts of the direct tax upon lands and the duty upon the circulation and deposits of National banks for the fiscal year 1870, has been more than realized. That estimate was $17,000,000, the aggregate receipts under the then existing laws are shown to be $18,235,876.97, an excess of $10,235,876.97. Beyond the estimate, this aggregate includes the sums refunded for taxes illegally assessed and collected, amounting to $196,869.81, as well as the amount of commissions of collectors. Drawbacks have only been allowed on general merchandise under section 171, act approved March 3, 1869, and on March 31, 1869, to ale and patent medicines, amounting to $5,588.55. The amount allowed for the same for 1869 was $477,411.34. The drawback on rum and alcohol is not considered in this statement. The total receipts for the fiscal year 1870 are $185,235,967.97. The total receipts for the fiscal year 1869 were $160,039,341.29, showing a net gain of $25,196,625.68. The receipts for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1870, were 19,012,529 pounds; withdrawn for exportation, 8,296,097 pounds; withdrawn upon payment of tax, 12,005,312 pounds. The stock on hand only about two fifths of the goods bonded are actually exported. Nearly all of these are exported from New York and Boston. It is a fact that a large proportion of the goods stored in these warehouses were never intended for exportation. The goods themselves are unsuited for foreign markets, and are shipped by the manufacturer in bond, and, when stored, are consigned to the wholesale dealers and jobbers, thus enabling the latter the advantage of placing the goods upon the market without the prepayment of the tax, as the law requires in all other cases, before the removal of goods from the place of manufacture. By shipping these goods in bond, the dealers and jobbers receive on an average from four to five months' credit, and that this privilege can only be enjoyed by dealers and jobbers in staple goods, whose, by law, these warehouses are authorized to be established, it creates an inequality in the trade, and is the source of much complaint. To remedy this, and correct the defects in this system, I would recommend that the law be so