

Twenty million acres of the land of the United States are held by Englishmen.

The colony of Sierra Leone, Africa, is 103 years old, yet there is no machinery there except the sewing machine. The population is upward of 50,000, and not a sawmill or any other kind of a mill in operation.

Mr. Keith has contracted with the Costa Rican Government for the construction of a suspension bridge over the Reventazon River. As security Mr. Keith receives a concession of 800,000 acres of national territory.

Professor P. H. Carpenter, the deep-sea student, like Hugh Miller, the geologist, has taken his own life after a period of madness. What is there in the pursuit of science that drives some of its greatest votaries to insanity and suicide.

In Gray's Harbor, Washington, the pelican is a common sight. Captain Bergman, of the steamer Typhoon, shot two of the birds the other day, and in order to find out how much water the pouch of the bird would hold, he cut off the head of one of them and tied a string tightly about the neck. Water from a faucet was allowed to flow in, and when the pouch was full it contained six gallons.

In a letter written shortly before his death Historian James Parton illustrated his views on the financial side of authorship by saying: "An industrious writer, by the legitimate exercise of his calling—that is, never writing advertisements or trash for the sake of pay—can just exist, no more. By a compromise, not dishonorable, although exasperating, he can average during his best years \$7000 to \$8000 a year. But no man should enter the literary life unless he has a fortune or can live contentedly on \$2000 a year. The best way is to make a fortune first and write afterward."

It seems likely, notes the Chicago Herald, that electricity is to be called in to explain many of the celestial phenomena which have hitherto been ascribed to other agencies. That wonderful yet beautifully simple instrument, the spectroscope, which has revealed to us so much of the cosmos, still seems to be baffled in some directions where difficulty would scarcely be anticipated. Strangely enough, the phenomena which it fails to satisfactorily explain are either such as are known to be electrical in character or are at least strongly suspected of so being. From this and other facts, Stas has been led to suspect that the ordinary interpretation of the spectroscope are not to be relied on when it is applied to electrical phenomena.

G. W. Childs, in the Philadelphia Ledger, is authority for the statement that American gardeners are now producing as fine chrysanthemums as those of Japan, which, thinks the New York Post, will scarcely be credited by Sir Edwin Arnold, who has sojournd so long in that country and expatiated on its floral beauties. Probably the finest specimen of this flower to be found in America to-day is a product of the slip sent from Japan to Mrs. Alpheus Hardy of Boston, and named after that lady. The wonder is that Americans should excel in the cultivation of this flower after a comparatively few years of familiarity with it. The chrysanthemum did not become generally known here until 1862, when a number of varieties were introduced from Japan. We have now upward of 2000 of them. They have almost supplanted the rose in the favor of rich and poor alike.

The Breeder's Gazette says it recently visited the Union Stock Yards at Chicago, in company with a gentleman from England who is carefully studying American agriculture. His exclamations were not called forth by the magnitude of the yards and the multitude of animals gathered there, but to the ill-fattened or immature condition of nearly all the cattle in the pens. "We tried" continued the Gazette, "to interest him by calling attention to the characteristics of lots from widely different sections of the country, but the diversion was but brief, and he always came back to the same point of wonderment. 'Why do you Americans send such ill-fatted beasts as these to market when there are great maize fields on every hand?' We offered as an excuse overproduction, the partial failure of the last corn crop, and that growers were discouraged, but failed to quiet his mind. The well-matured animals—only a handful in number—were bringing from \$5.50 to \$6.20 per hundred pounds, while myriads, seemingly, ranged down, down, down, reaching \$1.50 per hundred pounds. Our English friend left shaking his head, puzzled that America should have maize fields of almost unlimited area, with scarcely a well-fatted animal in the Chicago stock yards."

The Hebrew population of New York city now numbers about \$50,000, according to the Jewish Messenger.

One of the first acts of the Japanese Parliament was to rescind the regulation prohibiting the presence of ladies at debates, and another was the rescinding of the regulation which forbade the attendance of members in Japanese dress.

The increase in the consumption of plate glass of late years has been enormous. The production in 1880, measuring 1,700,000 square feet, of which 1,042,000 square feet were polished and 377,287 feet sold rough—has risen to a capacity of 8,000,000 square feet.

According to the New Orleans Times-Democrat the latest kink to defraud the coffee drinkers of the land is to exhaust the berries, which are afterward strained, and the residue used in making coffee extract. Under a microscopical examination no evidence of the oily globules in coffee berries could be found. Most of these spurious inventions come from Germany, and the Americans are by no means slow to learn.

The excess of women and girls over men and boys in Great Britain is 900,000, an increase of 200,000 in ten years. In Germany the number of females in excess of males is about 1,000,000. In Sweden and Norway the "weaker sex" is in the majority by about 250,000, in Austro-Hungary by 600,000, and in Denmark by 60,000. In the United States, Canada and Australia the males are in the majority. In this country there are about 1,000,000 more men than women.

The Chicago Tribune announces that the fair sex has achieved a fresh victory in Michigan, where the Supreme Court has delivered its decision that a woman may legally perform all the functions of a County Clerk. The case was that of Miss Marguerite Burr, of Flint, who, in the regular course of her duties, issued a writ of attachment. The legality of the act was questioned on the broad, general grounds that a woman cannot act as a County Clerk. The Supreme Court, however, holds that the choice of a deputy by a County Clerk is not limited by race, sex, color or age, as the office is wholly ministerial. Thus is lovely woman, in Michigan, at least, marching on from one triumph to another.

A puzzle to geologists is the Lost River of Idaho. It first appears in two threads of stream north of the Yellowstone Park. These streams come together forty miles above Idaho Falls City, and, forming a rapid river, flow along for two miles when the volume of water disappears suddenly in a subterranean passage. A theory generally entertained is that the Lost River comes to the surface again as a part of the Snake River, which supplies Idaho Falls City with its wonderful water power. The Snake River has its origin in a little lake in Yellowstone Park that does not hold enough water to be the source of a great river. Nevertheless the Snake is 1000 feet wide, a short distance east of the city, and in its limits pour a vast volume of water through a deeply cut gorge. Here the river is so deep that a plummet of nearly 400 feet has not touched bottom. As the Snake River is originally an insignificant stream the theory that the waters of the Lost River unite with it seems to be tenable, although geologists have been unable to demonstrate the fact.

Under the direction of Henry Elliott, the only artist who has ever drawn and painted the seal and walrus in their native haunts, an interesting exhibit for the World's Fair is being prepared by the Smithsonian Institution at Washington. This exhibit consists of models in papier mache representing the fur seal and walrus fisheries on the Alaskan coast. The animals to be represented, as well as the men who catch them, are being modeled in clay. One of the models shows a seal "drive." This model includes hundreds of mimic seals, which Aleuts are driving along to the killing grounds by waving cloths and shouting. Another illustrates a "rookery" on which the full grown seals, bellowing and pugnacious, have "hailed up" out of the surf upon the islands to breed. Another model will show a hauling ground of bachelor seals. The killing of seals will also be shown, a group of Aleuts being represented in the act of smashing their heads with clubs. There will also be represented a number of hair seals, which are not useful for their fur, but merely for food supply to the natives of that region. The walrus, now rapidly becoming extinct, are also to be reproduced in material that will give them a remarkably life-like appearance. Hundreds of models in clay are made of these animals, in order to represent the different species and sizes of each. They are to be cast in papier mache and painted.

GALE IN ENGLAND.

A Fearful Storm Sweeps Along the British Coast.

Many Vessels Wrecked and Scores of Lives Lost.

One of the most terrific gales experienced for years passed over the east and southeast coasts of England, causing considerable loss of life by shipwreck. The storm visited London in the afternoon, and hurled down chimney pots, ripped off slates, tore up trees and caused many accidents, but no loss of life.

A cablegram from London says: During the fearful storm which has raged around the British Isles at least twenty vessels have been wrecked and fifty men drowned.

No braver struggle for life has been witnessed on the Southern coast than that which resulted in the rescue of the remaining members of the British ship *Bienvenue*, of Glasgow.

All day since the terrible situation of the crew became known, the Hythe and Beaulieu lifeboats had been struggling to reach the doomed vessel through the dangerous breakers, which beat with a fury that seemed to make the existence even of a lifeboat impossible. While the crew clung to the masts, the people on shore tried to make their encouraging cheers heard above the roar of the storm.

About 4:30 in the afternoon the *Bienvenue* began to break up, but the masts, with the unfortunate clinging to the rigging, still held together.

About this time the multitude on shore were thrilled by the spectacle of a seaman's spring and desperate stroke for salvation of himself and his fellow-survivors. The sailor, a brave, sturdy fellow, looking every inch a British seaman, fastened a line around his waist, and leaped into the waters that beat with fearful force about the wreck. Clear upon cheer went up from the watching thousands.

The sailor struck out boldly for the shore. He was evidently a splendid swimmer, and for a few moments it seemed that the powerful sweep of his limbs would carry him through the enormous waves. But suddenly pursuing breakers burst upon him, and he was buried from sight. Breathless with anxiety, the crowd on shore and the remnant on the wreck awaited the man's reappearance. Even the storm seemed to hush. Then came an agonizing cry from hundreds of throats as the sailor appeared again, limp and lifeless, tossed on the crest and in the hollow of the waves. He was dead, and his fate seemed to foreshadow the doom of his late companions.

Not long afterward the corpse and that of another bold swimmer from the wreck were carried ashore. The storm abated somewhat as darkness grew and another attempt was made to launch the Sandgate lifeboat. Scores of volunteers assisted in the launching, and amid shouts from thousands, the lifeboat started. It seemed doubtful a while whether the task could be accomplished, but at length, after a tremendous struggle, the brave life-savers brought their boat up to the right position, and the rescue was effected every one that remained.

The poor fellows were almost unable to help themselves. They had clung mechanically for hours in their perilous positions and they were utterly exhausted. The *Beaulieu*, a French vessel bound for Bremen, was wrecked at the same time. Her crew of seventeen and five passengers remained in the rigging five hours, while the life-savers sent rocket after rocket, with line attached, to the rescue. Several rockets fell short, but at length a line reached the vessel. Thousands were assembled on shore, their sympathies more aroused by seeing a woman's form among the shipwrecked. A tremendous cheer went up when it was seen that the line was fastened. The crew behaved nobly, and the rescue was the first to be seen on the perilous journey to safety. Nearly half dead she was hauled ashore. Then followed two boys, and after them the men, the captain coming last. He was killed on a rock.

Two of the members of the Hythe life-saving crew were drowned in the accident to that boat while attempting to reach the *Bienvenue* early in the evening, others being rescued by the spectators. It appears that the *Beaulieu* was wrecked in the attempt to throw a line to that vessel.

Chain shot was discharged from cannon at a safe height, a cord being attached to the shot, with the hope that the cord would be carried over, and fall upon the wreck. Every cord that was thrown was saved by the men who immediately after the rescue were sent ashore, and brought around by a tug from Dover.

The number rescued from the *Bienvenue* is twenty-seven. The lost are Captain Moddell, of Liverpool, the crew were saved by the efforts of the life-savers, who were enabled to take off the rest of the crew. The captain refused to leave the vessel and his wife and son were saved from him, preferring drowning with the gallant sailor to being saved without him.

Beside these there have been almost numberless wrecks all along the coast, many boats having sunk in full view of the shore. The wind blew a heavy gale at Paris, France, all day. Many persons have been injured. Hundreds of chimneys have been demolished and an enormous amount of other damage has been done throughout France by the furious storm.

A great storm prevailed on the coast of Portugal. The wind blew with hurricane-like fury.

COMANCHE DEAD.

A Famous Horse That Uncle Sam Had Long Kept in His Honor.

Word has been received of the death of Comanche, the most celebrated horse in the United States cavalry service, at Fort Riley, Kan. He was forty-five years of age and the only living thing belonging to the United States service which crossed the heavy gate at the battle of Little Big Horn, where General Custer and his command were massacred. He was one of the original mount of the Seventh Cavalry, which regiment was organized in 1865, and had been in almost every battle with the Indian service.

After the battle of Little Big Horn he was found covered with wounds, riderless and saddled, some distance from the scene of the massacre. He was taken charge of by Captain Rowan and sent to Fort Riley, where for four years he has not been subject to bridle and has been in charge of the Seventh Cavalry. His death was due to old age. His skin will be stuffed and mounted and kept in the museum of the Kansas State University until the World's Fair at Chicago, where it will be taken for exhibition.

THE NEWS EPITOMIZED.

Eastern and Middle States.

Mrs. W. J. Williams, whose husband and son were killed in the mine accident at Nanticoke, Penn., died several days afterward of a broken heart.

MONCURE ROBINSON, one of the pioneers of the construction in this country, died a few days ago in Philadelphia, in his ninety-first year. His great work was the building of the Philadelphia and Reading road.

A new suit against John Hoey, ex-President, was begun by the Adams Express Company for stocks worth \$600,000.

THE Pennsylvania Senate adjourned sine die at Harrisburg, after declaring that it had no jurisdiction in the case of the Auditor-General and the State Treasurer, accused of complicity with Defaulter Bardsley, ex-Treasurer of Philadelphia. It confirmed the Governor's appointments and then ceased to do business.

The Connecticut Legislature met at Hartford and adjourned to January 6. Nothing else was done.

UNITED STATES TREASURY detectives have unearthed a system of smuggling opium into the Port of New York. Large firms in New York are said to be working in with the smugglers. Over 300 pounds of contraband opium have been seized.

THE steamship *Alliance*, of the United States and Brazil Mail Steamship Line, arrived at the Port of New York after a voyage from Santos, on which the ship's doctor and three men died. A what was supposed to have been yellow fever.

A MASS-MEETING at Chickering Hall, New York City, passed resolutions denouncing the Louisiana State Lottery; speeches were made by Seth Low, Father Elliott, Abram S. Hewitt, Bishop Potter and others.

F. H. SMITH & Co., ship brokers of New York City, have been called for nearly half a million dollars and their New York, Maine and New Brunswick Steamship Company passed into the hands of a receiver.

WORK has been suspended on the Government breakwater at Buffalo, N. Y., for lack of money.

South and West.

Two men and a boy were fatally hurt, three men seriously injured and many others suffered painful wounds as the result of a terrific explosion of dynamite at Hayward, Wis.

MANY persons in the suburbs of Nashville and of the Middle Tennessee are suffering from a water famine.

Mrs. J. W. KINGS, a widow, and her three children were murdered at their home, near Calverton, Va. After their murder the house was set on fire and their bodies were partly consumed by the flames.

THE General Assembly of the Knights of Labor was held at Toledo, Ohio, Mr. Powderly being present.

HENRY CURTIS, colored, who killed an old man named Waller near Tanner's Creek, September 5, 1889, was hanged for his crime in the Portsmouth (Va.) jail yard.

DISCHARGED soldiers are accused of robbing Postmaster Safford, of Port Clark, Tex., of \$300 with a pole and hook. One of the men has been arrested.

EURSTON KELLEY, colored, aged twenty-four, having a wife and a ten months old daughter, was hanged at Rogersville, Tenn., for the murder of Dan Carnichael at a country dance last Christmas.

A HEAVY rain fell over the entire State of Tennessee and ended the suffering for water. There will probably be a re-planting of crops. The sudden change is worth many thousands of dollars to the State.

THE South Dakota Farmers' Alliance held its annual session at Huron, with the smallest attendance in its history.

THE most marvelous performance of the year of phenomenal harness racing was the victory of Senator Stanford's two-year-old colt Orion over the Nit-shield track at Stockton, Cal. He trotted a mile without a single break or skip in 2:10 1/2, thus lowering his own record by 3/4 seconds, and proving him to be the most wonderful horse ever bred.

The official vote for Governor in Iowa is 62,214, the largest ever cast in the State. John Q. Butler is Western Alliance, got 11,918, and Gibson, Prohibition, 931.

FOUR masked men entered the store of the Farmers' Trading Company at Spokane Falls, Washington, and driving the clerks into a corner at the point of revolvers, robbed the store of sixteen gold and eight silver pieces worth about \$250 from the safe. They then mounted horses and departed.

The remnant of Big Foot's band of Indians, under Red Cloud, numbering sixty families, is in open revolt against the authority of the agent at Cheyenne Agency, Dakota.

The Madera (Cal.) Bank and the California National Bank, San Diego, Cal., have suspended. W. F. Baird, until recently Vice-President and Manager of the Bank of Madera, is short in his accounts to the amount of nearly \$100,000.

WILLIAM SOMERSET was hanged at Marion Court House, Charleston, S. C., for the murder of K. M. Fore in 1888.

ARTHUR W. BOYNTON, Postmaster of Highland Park, Ill., has been arrested by United States Marshal Allen on a charge of embezzling \$2000 of the funds of the Postoffice Department. He admitted his guilt.

JOHN E. THORNTON, a jeweler, shot and killed his daughter, Laura Amonier, a Krebs, Indian Territory. The girl was eighteen years old, and had been married only six days. Thornton said she wrote a letter which displeased him.

Washington.

The Citizens' Executive Committee on the National Disarmament of the Grand Army of the Republic is to hold its Washington meeting next year, decided to recommend the set out week of October as the date for holding the encampment.

In the argument before the Supreme Court in Washington on the Sayward case, it was brought out that an agreement had been reached between the United States and British Governments, to submit the Behring Sea dispute to arbitration; it is in the form of a treaty to be verified by the Senate.

The National Council of Administration of the G. A. R. met at Washington. There were present General John Palmer, Commander-in-Chief, Adjutant-General Paul Physter, Colonel Raymond, Colonel R. F. Knapp, Colonel H. L. Luther, Colonel James R. Milner, Colonel William M. Olin and Colonel George W. Hloggett.

The cotton returns of the Department of Agriculture for November are not favorable for a high rate of yield.

The duties heretofore performed by the wrecked United States steamer *Dispatch* as a "dispatch vessel" will hereafter be allotted to the United States steamer *Dolphin*, lately returned from the China station, and now being repaired at the Norfolk Navy Yard.

The report of General Casey, in charge of coast defense and river and harbor improvements, was presented to the Secretary of War.

Grand Army of the Republic, held at the Ebbitt House, at which Commander-in-Chief Palmer presided, September 20, 1892, was the date fixed upon for the next annual meeting in Washington of the grand encampment.

In his annual report to the Secretary of the Navy, Colonel Heywood, commander of the Marine Corps, speaks of the severe strain put upon the marines at Navy Yards by the increased demand for sea service, resulting in dissatisfaction and the loss of many old soldiers. He urges an increase of the corps by twenty-five Sergeants, twenty-five Corporals and 350 privates.

INSPECTOR-GENERAL DUMONT, of the Steamboat Inspection Service, has made his annual report to the Secretary of the Treasury. There were thirty-three accidents to vessels during the year, resulting in the loss of 385 lives, an increase of ninety-three as compared with the previous year.

ORDERS were sent from the Navy Department to New York for the United States steamer *Concord* to sail at the earliest practicable day for the West Indies to join the Philadelphia and Kearsarge.

Foreign.

STARVING Russian peasants are now resorting to plunder. A woman at Chelabinsk killed her three children and hanged herself on the refusal of a rich neighbor to lend them money to prevent their starving.

FONSECA has compelled those newspapers of Rio Janeiro, Brazil, which do not fully support his dictatorship to suspend publication. The revolt in Rio Grande do Sul has become so serious that the Dictator has sent troops and war ships to that State.

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY persons have died of hunger in the one parish of Kagora, Russia.

THE Chilean Congress assembled. The Junta has been requested to hold over until Jorge Montt is installed as President of Chile. In an address to Congress the Junta announces that its mission has been accomplished.

The discovery of a large deposit of vanadium, a metal worth \$100 per ounce, and used in setting dyes, is reported from the province of Mendoza, in the Argentine Republic.

THE epidemic of typhus fever in the famine-stricken districts of Russia is spreading rapidly. The daily mortality already runs up to hundreds.

A FIRE has destroyed 130 houses in Hankow, China, and has rendered 13,000 people homeless. It was believed that a number of women and children lost their lives. Two days afterward 200 more houses were burned.

MARINE disasters were reported all along the Atlantic coast of Europe. Heavy gales and excessive rains again did great damage in Spain.

A CONSPIRACY has been discovered in Athens, Greece, to overthrow King George, and M. Trikoupi, formerly Prime Minister, is one of the conspirators.

TRICHINA have been found in American pork at Solingen, Rhenish Prussia.

An explosion occurred in the Koenig Ludwig pit, near Essen, Germany, and seven men met their death through the accident.

The British bark *Gyffe*, Captain Wilson, from Quebec to Liverpool, loaded with timber, having a wife and a ten months old daughter, was wrecked at Macsherry Bay, near Kinsale, Cork, Ireland. Eight lives were lost. The captain and four men were saved.

THE Governor of the Brazilian Province of Rio Grande do Sul has been deposed, and a Provincial Government has been formed.

PROMINENT PEOPLE.

QUEEN VICTORIA is in robust health. GLADSTONE gets fifty cents a word for his magazine articles.

THE Queen of Denmark is seventy-four years old and still healthy.

THE Russian royal silver wedding was quietly celebrated at St. Petersburg.

DR. KEELY, the bi-chloride promoter, has 800 to 1000 patients and gets \$25 a week from each one.

LAWYER MCCURDY, of New York City, who won the case for the Tilden heirs, received \$400,000 for his fee.

ALBION CHARLES SWINBURNE, the English poet, is a shy little man with a very unimpressive appearance.

ERHAIM W. BULL, who developed the Concord grape nearly fifty years ago, is still living near Concord, Mass.

THE Bishop of Chichester, England, is eighty-six years old, but still performs his regular round of diocesan work.

EDWARD EVERETT HALE, the author, has developed a mild passion for the collection of odd stories and vagrant cats.

COLONEL ALEXANDER K. McCLEURE, the famous Philadelphia editor, is six feet three in height and has a superb physique.

The name of Her Hawaiian Majesty Liliuokalani is pronounced Lili-lee-woe-ka-lanny. It means literally Lily of the Sky.

DR. W. M. SALMON, of Cambridge, England, who was born in 1799, is the oldest surgeon and general practitioner in the world.

BARON ARTHUR ROTHSCHILD, a nephew of the head of the great financial house, is serving his twelve months in the French army as a private soldier.

EMPEROR WILLIAM of Germany, is fond of shooting, but because of his withered arm he is not an accurate marksman. It is with the greatest difficulty that he can shoulder his rifle.

PARNELL, at school, is described by the old lady who taught him, in a Derbyshire village, as a silent, solitary child, repelling the advances of a kindly sympathy with his early sorrows.

GEORGE KENNAN is said to have cleared \$75,000 from his writings and lectures on the Russian system. Last season he traveled over fifty thousand miles on his lecture tour and spoke 300 times.

ARCHDEUT JOHANN, of Austria, who calls himself plain John Orth, and who was supposed to have been drowned a year ago, is now said to be serving in the Chilean army under an assumed name.

MICHAEL MOORE, of Brooklyn, N. Y., is the oldest Second Lieutenant on the army list. He was for years a musician, was made a Lieutenant in 1869, and two years later was retired. He now draws three-fourths pay (\$105 a month), and is supposed to be not less than ninety-one years old.

UNCLE SAM'S FARM.

Annual Report of the Secretary of Agriculture.

The Enormous Valuation of This Year's Big Crops.

Secretary Rusk has presented to the President his annual report as Secretary of Agriculture. The Secretary estimates the probable increase in the value of agricultural products for 1891 over 1890 at not less than \$700,000,000.

Our exports in cereals alone have aggregated in value over \$76,000,000. The indications now are that the sales abroad of the surplus from our farms will during the present year largely exceed those of any previous year.

He notes the increase by some \$28,000,000 in the imports of agricultural products during the first ten months, though they are largely confined to articles not competing with the home products, such as sugar, tea, coffee, etc.

He also notes a decrease in tobacco from \$17,000,000 to \$6,000,000; a falling off in foreign barley of nearly \$2,500,000; in eggs, \$1,250,000; in horses a falling off of \$1,500,000; and a gradual decline in the imports of all live stock.

Referring to the import of hides, admitted free of duty, he states that this causes a great depreciation in prices realized for hides of home production, and earnestly recommends that the duty provided for in the reciprocity section of the new tariff law be imposed in all cases where the countries from which such hides are shipped have not granted equal concessions.

The Secretary in speaking of the withdrawal by the Governments of Germany, Denmark and Italy of the prohibition of American pork, expresses his high appreciation of the President's personal interest in the matter, without which, he says, "this grand result could never have been attained."

He reviews the subject of meat inspection, stating that it was not only demanded in order to keep our foreign markets and develop them, but that there was a very general demand for some inspection by the people of our own country.

He points out the fact that for more than a year there has been no well authenticated case of transmission to foreign countries of a single case of pleuro-pneumonia in American cattle. He says he has no more justification for the exclusion from the United States of all animals coming from Great Britain and its dependencies than they have for the interposition of any obstacles to cattle exports from the United States.

The Secretary devotes a paragraph to the middleman, and the extent to which he is enabled by various conditions, especially prevalent in America, to absorb a large proportion of the price paid by the consumers for farm products, thus unduly limiting the profits of the farmer.

Admitting the difficulty of remedying this evil, he points out that a partial remedy, to provide which is the duty of his department, is to keep the farmer fully informed in regard to the market values of his wares.

Touching the expenditure in producing rain, he states briefly that they have been made, but that he has no data yet at hand which would justify him in expressing any conclusion on the subject.

The Secretary concludes his report by making some suggestions as to the best means of maintaining the usefulness of the department and still further developing its opportunities. He points out that to fully carry out his views will unquestionably involve a large expenditure, but he says that within twenty years the efforts of this department on such lines as he has laid down will have increased the value of our annual agricultural products from between three and four thousand million dollars to at least twice that enormous sum.

NATIONAL THANKSGIVING.

The Annual Proclamation by the President Regarding the Day.

President Harrison has issued from Washington the annual Thanksgiving Proclamation, which is as follows: By the President of the United States—a Proclamation. It is a very glad incident of the marvelous prosperity which has crowned the year now drawing to a close that its helping and reassuring touch has been felt by all our people. It has been as wide as our country, and so special that every home has felt its comforting influence. It is too great to be the work of man's power and too particular to be the device of his mind. To God, the Beneficent and the All-wise, who makes the labors of men to be fruitful, redoubles their losses by His grace, and the measure of whose giving is as much beyond the thoughts of men as it is beyond his deserts, the praise and gratitude of the people of this favored Nation are justly due.

Now, therefore, I, Benjamin Harrison, President of the United States of America, do hereby appoint Thursday, the 25th day of November present, to be a day of joyful thanksgiving to God for the bounties of His providence, for the peace in which we are permitted to enjoy them, and for the preservation of those institutions of civil and religious liberty which He gave our fathers the wisdom to devise and establish and us the courage to preserve. Among the appropriate observances of the day are rest from toil, worship in public congregation, the renewal of family ties about our American firesides, and thoughtful helpfulness towards those who suffer lack of the body or of the spirit.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington this 13th day of November, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-one, and of the independence of the United States, the one hundred and sixteenth.

BENJAMIN HARRISON.

By the President: JAMES G. BLAINE, Secretary of State.

FAMILY CREMATED.

Five Persons Burned to Death at Columbus, Ohio.

Flames burst through the roof of a row of tenement houses on North High street, Columbus, Ohio, at 4 o'clock a few mornings since. The row was destroyed, and every person was supposed to have escaped. It was nearly 4 o'clock next afternoon when a little girl living in the neighborhood managed through the ruins and found a naked man, which led to a search and the discovery of five bodies buried beyond recognition.

The entire family of Charles Bethers was destroyed while sleeping in a little eight by twelve feet room in the second story. They were Charles Bethers, aged thirty; Elizabeth, his wife, twenty-eight; Carrie, nine; Myrtle, six, and James, three years. The firemen made no search at first. On their second search they found the father near the door, with the infant clasped in his arms. It was evident that he had started out, but was overcome by the heat. The mother, kneeling near the head of the bed, was half buried beneath the falling roof. The two girls slept, as they had retired in their coat. The room was only ten feet from the ground and the entire family might have been rescued. There were three beds, a stove, and a bureau in the room.

CAPTAIN CROWDER, Judge Advocate of the Department of the Platte, says that deep rooted superstition interferes with their usefulness.