

THE AMERICAN. SUNBURY.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1950.

H. B. MASSER, Editor and Proprietor.

eription and advertising at his office, in Philadelphia, New To ADVENTISERS.—The circulation of the Sunbury American among the different towns on the Susqu is not exceeded if equalled by any paper published in North

EDITOR'S TABLE.

Business Notices.

TREVORTOR RATLEGAD .- By an advertisement in our colums it will be seen, that proposals will be received until the 20th inst-for the Sills of this road.

We refer our readers to the advertisement of John A. Snyder, 'Administrator of Jacob Snyder, dec'd., for the sale of a valuable tract of land, in Lower Mahonov township.

CRLID: OR, NEW YORK ABOVE AND UNDER popular sketches of various persons and places propriate, if I avail myself of this opportunity sual interests. The characters are drawn from in regard to the policy which ought to be life, and the story is full of excitement. Mr Fos- pursued by the Government, both in its interer writes in a racy style, and is evidently well acquainted with the mysteries of New York .-Price 50 cents.

RELIGIOUS NOTICE.

The Rev. Mr. Craighead will preach in the Lutheran Church in this place, on to morrow (Sunday) afternoon, at 2½ o'clock.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

We lay before our readers President Fillmore's message. We have no room to say much on the subject of this important say much on the subject of this important document this week. It contains a plain that form of government which it may deem most conducive to the happiness and prosmost conducive to the happiness and prosmo unvarnished statement of facts. The President's views in regard to specific duties and home valuation, are such as must meet the managing its internal affairs according to its will cause that respect to be readily and approval of every honest and intelligent cinizen, whig or democrat.

IT In order to make room for the message of President Fillmore, we are compel-led to omit editorial and much other interesting matter, this week.

Bank of Northumberland will be closed on er; or to suppress the actual government Thursday the 12th inst., being thanksgiving itself. We instigate no revolutions, nor sufday and the directiors will meet on Wed- fer any hostile military expeditions to be nesday previous. By law notes coming due on thanksgiving day must be protested. The great law of morality ought to have a the day previous.

ternoon daily published in Philadelphia, rule of conduct between governments, instead ternoon daily published in Philadelphia, of mere power, self-interest, or the desire of appears in an entire new dress of type. The or constructing a ship can be between the two oceans, through the The Bulletin is one of the best conducted trality in foreign wars, to cultivate friendly

The Philadelphia Ledger is again and by the performance of which we best the guaranties which it offers will out in a new suit of type-the second this year. Rather extravagant. But its ram- enforce our own rights with justice and a bles are so extensive and numerous, (about clear conscience. a few months.

in less than 24 hours, and after the complehours. A can of oysters, such as we found at led with our name, and endorsed "none genuine without the signature of P. Shay" are not hard to take, even by an editor.

GODEYS LADY'S BOOK FOR JANUARY 1851.

cerity can we speak of Godeys Lady's Book in terms of the highest commendation. fess to have some little taste in engravings, and have utter contempt for those abortions that are sometimes palmed on the community for "fine engravings." In this respect alone, the Lady's Book has greatly surpas- ings. sed all its competitors.

Another important feature in the Lady's Book is, that it is a thoroughly American work. In getting up the book, Mr. Godey such others as may be necessary for carrying spect. employs no less than one hundred and fifty those powers into effect; and it is at all time females, some of whom have earned a an especial duty to guard against any infringehandsome competence through the employ- the objects and subjects intrusted to Congress. ment afforded by Mr. Godeys work, which its legislative authority is supreme. But here is in more sense than one, the Lady's Book. truly loves the Constitution, and desires the

22 engravings and 39 contributors.

"The Constant" and "The four Eras of Life" are most beautiful steel engravings. "The sylphs of the seasons" is most fastefully designed, and so is the fashion plate of the Union, and all reproach and criminaof "A merry Christmas and happy New

Published monthly at \$3 per annum. those who wish to subscribe, with the Ladys Book and the American, for one year, for \$3 75 in advance.

counts from Europe are warlike. There has already been a slight skirmish between the Prussian and Austrian troops, Prussia has now 400,000 men under arms. Austria is backed by Russia. England and France are endeavoring to prevent further hostilities.

27 Dr. WM. H. CRANDALL, who was tried at Bloomsburg last week for the murder of Miss Elizabeth Smith, by the administration of medicines for unlawful purpo-V. B. PALMER is our authorized agent to receive subses, has been found not guilty. The verdict was against public opinion generally.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE. Fellow Citizens of the Senate,

and of the House of Representatives : Being suddenly called, in the midst of the last session of Congress, by a painful dispensation of Divine Providence, to the responsi-ble station which I now hold, I contented myself with such communications to the Legislature as the exigency of the moment seemed to require. The country was shroud-ed in mourning for the loss of its venerated

Chief Magistrate, and all hearts were pene trated with grief. Neither the time nor the occasion appeared to require or to justify, on my part, any general expression of political ions, or any announcement of the principles which would govern me in the discharge GROUND, by G. G. Poster, Esq., author of New of the duties to the performance of which I York by Gas Light, Dewitt & Davenbert, pub- had been so unexpectedly called, I trust, lishers. The writer of this novel has given such therefore, that it may not be deemed inap popular sketches of various persons and places of the re-assembling of Congress to make in New York, that his fiction is a work of unu-

> agement and administration of internal af-Nations, like individuals in a state of nature, are equal and independent, possessing certain rights, and owing certain duties to each other, arising from their necessary and unavoidable relations; which rights and duties there is no common human authority to protect and enforce. Still, they are rights and duties, binding in morals, in conscience, and in honor, although there is no tribunal to which an injured party can appeal but the disinterested judgment of mankind, and ultimately the arbitrament of the sword.

course with foreign nations, and in its man-

Among the acknowledged rights of nations perity of its own citizens; or changing that orm, as circumstances may require; and of own will. The people of the United States | cheerfully paid. claim this right for themselves, and they readily concede it to others. Hence it benations; and, although we may sympathise principles forbid us from taking any part in such foreign contests. We make no wars to promote or to prevent succession to thrones; We are requested to state that the to maintain any theory of a balance of powwhich any country chooses to establish for fitted out in the United States to invade the territory or provinces of a friendly nation .national as well as a personal and individual On these points there is little doubt that the application. We should act towards other two governments will come to an understandnations as we wish them to act towards us; The Evening Bulletin, the only af- and justice and conscience should form the are the duties which we owe to other States,

In our domestic policy, the Constitution 40,000 daily) that a new dress wears out in will be our guide; and in questions of doubt, claims to territory in that quarter, should be cial decisions of that tribunal, which was | vor OYSTERS.—Who does not love good established to expound it, and to the usare of the Government, sanctioned by the ac, 1 'soysters? There are few indeed that are cence of the country. I regard all its pronot fond of these bivalve testaceous fish, visions as equally binding. In all its parts it We know some individuals who look upon is the will of the people, expressed in the most solemn form, and the constituted au- arising from distance and the difficulty of inthem as equal to half of all the other com- thorities, are but agents to carry that will inforts of life, and would deem existence almost a blank without them. How thankno pretence of utility, no honest conviction, ful therefore ought they to be to Mr. Shay even, of what might be expedient, can justify of Northumberland, for supplying this place the assumption of any power not granted.—
The powers conferred upon the Government and the neighboring towns, with this luxu- and their distribution to the several departry. They are brought daily from Baltimore ments, are as clearly expressed in that sacred instrument as the imperfection of human language will allow; and I deem it my duty, tion of the York and Cumberland Road, not to question its wisdom, add to its pro-

Upon you, fellow-citizens, as the representhe Post office, a few mornings since, label- latives of the States and the people, is wisely devolved the legislative power. I shall comply with my duty, in laying before you, from time to time, any information calculated to ergy, especially when that Government shall enable von to discharge your high and teenable you to discharge your high and tesponsible trust for the benefit of our common

My opinions will be frankly expressed Most heartily and with the utmost sin- upon the leading subjects of legislation; and if, which I do not anticipate, any act should pass the two Houses of Congress which should appear to me unconstitutional, or an encroach-The present number stands unequalled and ment on the just powers of other departments. or with provisions hastily adopted, and likely is undoubtedly the finest specimen of a pe- to produce consequences injurious and unforriodical ever got up in America. We pro- seen, I should not shrink from the duty of returning it to you, with my reasons, for your further consideration. Beyond the due perrmance of these constitutional obligations, both my respect for the legislature and my sense of propriety will restrain me from any attempt to control or influence your proceed-With you is the power, the hor the responsibility of the legislation of the country.

The Government of the United States is a limited Government. It is confined to the exercise of powers expressly granted, and that authority ceases, and every citizen who The January Number contains 72 pages, continuance of its existence and its blessings, will resolutely and firmly resist any interter once in those domestic affairs, which the Constitution has clearly and unequivocally left to the exclusive authority of the States. And every such citizen will also deprecate aseless irritation among the several members tion tending to alienate one portion of the country from another. The beauty of our system of Government consists, and its safety and durability must consist, in avoiding mu-

> is revolving in its own distinct orbit. The Constitution has made it the duty of

WAR IN EUROPE .- The late ac- ours, in which all laws are passed by a majority of the representatives of the people, and these representatives are chosen for such short periods, that any injurious or obnexious law can very soon be repealed, it would appear unlikely that any great numbers should be found ready to resist the execution of the laws. But it must be borne in mind that the country is extensive, that there may be local interests or prejudices rendering a law odious in one part, which is not so in another, and that the thoughtless and inconsiderate, mis-led by their passions, or their imaginations, may be induced madly to resist such laws as they disapprove. Such persons should recollect that without law, there can be no real practical libery; that, when law is trampled der foot, tyranny roles, whether it appears in the form of a military despotism or of popular violence. The law is the only protection of the weak, and the only efficient restraint upon the strong. When impartially and faithfully administered, none are beneath its protection, not none above its control -You, gentlemen, and the country may be assured, that to the utmost of my ability, and to the extent of the power vested in me, I shall at all times, and in all places, take care that the laws be faithfully executed In the discharge of this duty, solemnly imposed upon me by the Constitution, and by my oath of office, I shall shrink from no responsibility, and shall endeavor to meet events as they may arise, with firmness, as well as with endence and discretion

The appointing power is one of the most licate with which the Executive is invested. I regard it as a sacred trust, to be exercised with the sole view of advancing the prosperity and happiness of the people. It be my effort to elevate the standard of official employment, by selecting for places of importance institutionals fitted for the posts o which they are assigned by their known megrity, talents and virtues. In so extensive a country, with so great a population and where few persons appointed to office can be known to the appointing power, mis-takes will sometimes unavoidably happen, and unfortunate appointments be made, withstanding the greatest care. In such cases, the power of removal may be properly and neglect of duty or malfeasance in office will be no more tolerated in individuals appointed by myself than in those appointed by others.

am happy in being able to say that no change in our foreign relations ntavorable has taken place since the message at the opening of the last session of Congress. We e at peace with all nations, and we enjoy in an eminent degree the blessings of that peace, in a prosperous and growing com-merce, and in all the forms of amicable national intercourse. The unexampled growth while it is trusted that its character for justice, and a regard to the rights of other States,

A convention was negotiated between the United States and Great Britain, in April last, comes an imperative duty not to interfere in for facilitating and protecting the construction the government or internal policy of other of a ship canal between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, and for other purposes. This tracting parties, the exchange of ratifications has been effected, and proclamation thereof

has been duly made. In addition to the stipulations contained in this convention, two other objects remain to be accomplished between the contracting powers.

First, the designation and establishment a free port at each end of the capal. Second, an agreement fixing the distance from the shore within which belligerent maratime operations shall not be carried on

The company of citizens of the United States who have acquired from the State of territory of that State, have made progress in and most interesting papers published in relations, to reciprocate every noble and gen-erous act, and to perform punctually and between the United States and Great Britain scrupulously every treaty of obligation-these of the 19th of April last, above referred to, being now in operation, it is to be hoped that entitle ourselves to like treatment from them; cient to secure the completion of the work or if that, in any case, be refused, we can with all practicable expedition. It is obvious that this result would be indefinitely postponed, if any other than peaceful measures, for the purpose of harmonizing conflicting I shall look for its interpretation to the judi- adopted. It will consequently be my endeato cause any further negotiations on the part of this Government, which may be requisite for this purpose, to be so conducted as to bring them to a speedy and successful

Some unavoidable delay has occurred, tercourse between this Government and that of Nicaragua, but, as intelligence has just been received of the appointment of an Entiary of that Government to reside at Washngton, whose arrival may soon be expected, it is hoped that no further impediments will he experienced in the prompt transaction of business between the two Governments.

Citizens of the United States have undertaken the connexion of the two oceans by means of a railroad across the Isthmus of time will be cut down to about 15 visions, evade its requirements, or nullify its Tehnantepec, under grants of the Mexican Government to a citizen of that Republic. It is understood that a thorough survey of the course of the communication is in preparation, and there is every reason to expect that it will be presecuted with characteristic en-Government of the United States as may be necessary to impart a feeling of security to those who embark their property in the enterprise. Negotiations are pending for the accomplishment of that object, and a hope is confidently entertained, that when the Govergment of Mexico shall become duly sensible of the advantages which that country cannot fail to derive from the work, and learn that the Government of the United States desires that the right of sovereignty of Mexico in the isthmus shall remain unimpaired, the stipulations referred to will be agreed to with

By the last advices from Mixico it would appear however, that that Government entertains strong objectious to some of the stipulations which the parties concerned in the project of the railroad deem necessary for their protection and security. Further consideration, it is to be hoped, or some modification of terms, may yet reconcile the diferences existing between the two Governments in this re-

to the Minister of the United States in en to the Minister of the United States in Mexico, who is prosecuting the subject with promptitude and ability.

Although the negotiations with Portugal the payment of claims of citizens of the United States against that Government, have not yet resulted in a formal treaty yet a proposition made by the Government of Poor the final adjustment and payment of those claims has recently been accepted on the part of the United States. It gives me pleasure to say that Mr. Clay, to whom the negotiation on the part of the United States had been enrusted, discharged the duties of his an atment with ability and discretien, acting always within the instructions of his Govern

tual collisions, and encroachments, and in be immediately negotiated for carrying the An OFFER .- We will agree to furnish the regular separate action of all, while each agreement between the two Governments in

The commissioner appointed under the act the President to take care that the laws be of Congress for carrying into effect the confaithfully executed. In a government like vention with Brazil, of the 27th of January,

1849, has entered upon the performance of the duties imposed upon him by that act. It is hoped that those duties may be completed within the time which it prescribes. The documents, however, which the Imperial Government, by the third article of the convention stimular impositions, not discovered, to a large amount, have been successfully practised since the enactment of the law now in force. This state of things has already had a prejudicial influence upon those engations of the country are infested.

*Vigilance of the appraisers, leave no room to doubt that similar impositions, not discovered, to a large amount, have been successfully practised since the enactment of the law now in force. This state of things has already had a prejudicial influence upon those engative processions and always mounted, they overrung the country, devastating farms, destroying to the country, devastatin tion, stipulates to furnish to the Government of the United States, have not yet been received. As it is presumed that those documents will be essential for the correct disposition of the claims, it may become necessary for Congress to extend the period limited for the duration of the commission. The sum stipula-ted by the 4th article of the convention to be

paid to this Government has been received. The collection in the port of the United States of discriminating duties upon the vessels of Chili and their cargoes has been susfresh impolse to the commerce between the two countries, which, of late, and especially since our acquisition of California, has, to the mutual advantage of the parties been much

Peruvian guano has become so desirable an article to the agricultural interest of the United States, that it is the duty of the Government to employ all the means properly in its le price. Nothing will be omitted on my ment promote its own best interests, while it will afford a proof of a friendly disposition towards his country, which will be duly ap-

The treaty between the United States and His Majesty the King of the Hawaiian Islands, which have recently been made public, will, t is believed, have a beneficial effect upon

the relations between the two countries. The relations between those parts of the Island of St. Domingo, which were formerly colonies of Spain and France, respectively, are still in an unsettled condition. The proximity of that island to the United States, and the delicate question involved in the existing controversy there, render it desirable that i should be permanently and speedily adjusted. The interests of humanity and of general commerce also demand this; and, as intimations of the same sentiment have been received from other governments, it is hoped that some plan may soon be devised to effect the object in a magner likely to give general sat-

The Government of the United States will not fail, by the exercise of all proper friendly offices, to do all in its power to put an end to the destructive war which has raged between the different parts of the island, and to secure to them both the benefits of peace and com-

I refer you to the report of the Secretary of the Treasury for a detailed statement of the

The total receipts into the Treasury for the year ending 30th of June last, were forty seven million, four bondred and twenty-one hoosand seven hundred and forty-eight dollars and ninety cents, (\$47,421,748 90.)

The total expenditures during the sam period were forty-three millions two thousand me hundred and sixty-eight dollars and ninety cents, (\$43,002,198 90.)

public debt has been reduced, since the last annual report from the Treasury Department, four hundred and ninety-five thou-sand, two hundred and seventy-six dollars and seventy-nine cents, (\$495,276 79.)

By the 19th section of the act of 28th January, 1847, the proceeds of the sales of the pubic lands were pledged for the interest and principal of the public debt. The great amount of those lands subsequently granted by Congress for military bounties, will, it is believed, very nearly supply the public demand for several years to come, and but little eliance can, therefore, be placed on that hitherto fruitful source of revenue.

Aside from the permanent annual expenditures, which have necessary largely increased a portion of the public debt, amounting to eight millions seventy-five thousand nine hondred and eighty-six dollars and filty nine cents (\$8,075,986 59) must be provided within the next two fiscal years. It is most desirable that these accruing demands should be met without resorting to new loans.

All experience has demonstrated the wislom and policy of raising a large portion of revenue for the support of Government from duties on goods imported. The power to lay these duties is unquestionable, and its chief bject, of course, is to replemish the treasury. But if, in doing this, an incidental advantage may be gained by encouraging the industry of our own citizens, it is our duty to avail ourselves of that advantage.

A duty laid upon an article which cannot be produced in this country-such as tea or coffee-adds to the cost of the article, and is chiefly or wholly paid by the consumer .-But a duty laid upon an article which may be produced here, stimulates the skill and industry of our own country to produce the same article, which is brought into the market in competition with the foreign article, and the importer is thus impelled to reduce his price to that, at which the domestic article can sold, thereby throwing a part of the duty

upon the producer of the foreign article. The continuance of this process creates the skill, and invites the capital, which finally enables us to produce the article much cheaper than it could have been procured from abroad, thereby benefitting both the producer and the consumer at home. The quence of this is, that the artisan and the agiculturist are brought together, each affords a ready market for the produce of the other, the whole country becomes prosperous; and the ability to produce every necessary of life renders us independent in war as well as in

A high tariff can never be permanent. It will cause dissatisfaction and will be changed. It excludes competition, and thereby invites the investment of capital in manufactures to such excess, that when changed it brings dis tress, bankruptey, and rain, upon fall who have been misled by its faithless protection. What the manufacturer wants is uniformity and permanency, that he may feel a confi-dence that he is not to be rifined by sudden changes. But to make a tariff uniform and permanent, it is not only necessary that the aw should not fluctuate. To effect this, all duties should be specific, wherevar the nature of the article is such as to admit of it -Ad valorem duties fluctuate with the price, and offer strong temptations to fraud and

Specific duties, on the contrary, are equal and uniform in all ports, and at all times, and offer a strong inducement to the importer to bring the best article, as he pays no more duty upon that, than upon one of inferior quality. I therefore strongly recommend a modification of the present tariff, which has prostrated some of our most important and essary manufactures, and that specific duties be imposed sufficient to raise the requisite revenue, making such discrimination in favor of the industrial pursuits of our own mutry as to encourage home production, without excluding foreign competition. It is also important that an unfortunate provision in the present tariff, which imposes a much higher duty upon the raw material that enters into our manufacturers than upon the manufactured article, should be remedied.

The papers accompaning the report of the Secretary of the Treasury will disclose frands attempted upon the revenue, in variety and amount so great, as to justify the conclusion that it is impossible, under any system of ad valorem duties levied upon the foreign cost or value of the article, to secure an honest observance and an effectual administration of the laws. The fraudulent devices to evade the law, which have been detected by the

had a prejudicial influence upon those enga-ged in foreign commerce.

It has a tendency to drive the honest trader from the business of importing, and to throw that important branch of employment into the hands of unscrupulous and dishonest men, who are alike regardless of law and the obligations of an oath. By these means the plain intentions of Congress, as expressed in the law, are daily defeated. Every motive of policy and duty, therefore, impel me to ask the earnest attention of Congress to this subject. If Congress should deem it unwise to attempt any important changes in the system of levying duties at this session, it will bepended, pursuant to the provisions of the act of Congress of the 24th of May, 1828. It is to be hoped that this measure will impart a revenue that such remedies, as in the judg-

ment of Congress may mitigate the evils complained of, should be at once applied. As before stated, specific duties would, in my opinion, afford the most perfect remedy for this evil; but, if you should not concur in this view, then, as a partial remedy, the leave respectfully to recommend that, instead of taking the invoice of the article abroad as ation the suggestion contained in the last mentioned report, and in the letter of the mentioned report, and in the letter of the mentioned report, and in the letter of the stabilishment. this view, then, as a partial remedy, I beg power for the purpose of causing that article a means of determining its value here, the to be imported into the country at a reasona- correctness of which invoice it is in many cases impossible to verify, the law be so changpart towards accomplishing this desirable end. ed as to require a home valuation or appraisance part towards accomplishing this desirable end. ed as to require a home valuation or appraisance part towards accomplishing this desirable end. ed as to require a home valuation or appraisance part towards accomplishing this desirable end. et as to require a home valuation or appraisance part towards accomplishing this desirable end. It is bestitute soldiers. This subject appeals so the revenues of the Department. It is bestitute soldiers. This subject appeals so the revenues of the Department. It is bestitute soldiers. This subject appeals so the revenues of the Department. It is bestitute soldiers.

There being no mint in California, I am the proposed object.

The navy continues to give protection to nformed that the laborers in the mines are impelled to dispose of their gold dost at a employed in extracting this precious metal; nd I doubt not you will be disposed, at the distributed in six different squadrons. earliest period possible, to relieve them from it by the establishment of a mint.

In the meantime, as an assayer's office it stablished there, I would respectfully subment of Government dues. I cannot cieve that the treasury would suffer any loss peaceful dispositions and just purposes of the by such provision, which will at once raise nation. llion to its par value, and thereby (if I am rightly informed) many millions of dollars to to convert this precious metal into available of the navy, to proceed to the Arctic seas,

More than three-fourths of our population tre engaged in the cultivation of the soil .--The commerical, manufacturing, and navigating interests are all, to a great extent, dependent on the agricultural. It is, therefore, the important interest of the nation, and has a just claim to the fostering care and protecion of the Government, so far as they can be extended consistently with the provisions of he Constitution. As this cannot be done by he ordinary modes of legislation, I respectully recommend the establishment of an Agicultural Bureau, to'be charged with the duty of giving to this leading branch of American industry the encouragement which it so well deserves.

In view of the immence mineral resource of our country, provision should also be made for the employment of a competent mineralogist and chemist, who should be required, under the direction of the head of the bureau, to collect specimens of the various minerals of our country, and to ascertain, by careful analysis, their elements and properties, and their adaptation to useful purposes should also be required to examine and report upon the qualities of different soils, and the annres best calculated to improve their prouctiveness. By publishing such experiments, with suitable explanations, and by the collection and distribution of rare seed and plants, with instructions as to the best system of cultivation, much may be done

to promote this great national interest.
In compliance with the act of Congress, passed on the 23d of May, 1850, providing, among other things, for taking the seventh all other measures adopted which were deemed necessary to ensure the prompt and faithful performance of that duty. The appropriation already made will, it is believed ficient to defray the whole expense of the work; but further legislation may be necesin regard to the compensation of some of the marshals of the Territories. It will also be proper to make provision by law, at an early day, for the publication of such abstracts of the returns as the public interest may require.

The unprecedented growth of our Territories on the Pacific in wealth and population, and the consequent increase of their and commercial relations with the Atlantic States, seem to render it the duty of the Government to use all its constitutional power improve the means of intercourse with The importance of opening "a line of communication, the best and most expedi-tions of which the nature of the country will idmit," between the valley of the Mississippi and the Pacific, was brought to your notice by my predecessor, in his annual message; and as the reasons which he presented in favor of the measure still exist in full force, I beg leave to call your attention to them, and to repeat the recommendations then made by

The uncertainty which exists in regard to he validity of land titles in Colifornia is object which demands your early consideraion. Large bodies of land in that State are claimed under grants said to have been made by authority of the Spanish and Mexican Governments. Many of these have net been perfected, others have been revoked, and me are believed to be fraudulent. But until they shall have been judicially investigated, they will continue to retard the settlement and improvement of the country. 1, therefore, respectfully recommend that provision be made by law, for the appointmen of commissioners to examine all such claims with a view to their final adjustment.

I also beg leave to call your attention to tions as may be necessary over the State of New Mexico The mineral lands of California will, of course, form an exception to any general system which may be adopted.— Various methods of disposing of them have been suggested. I was at first inclined favor the system of leasing, as it seemed to promise the largest revenue to the Government and to afford the best security against monopolies; but further reflection, and our experience in leasing the lead mines and ing lands upon credit, have brought my mind to the conclusion that there would be great difficulty in collecting the rents, and that the relation of debtor and creditor bethe citizens and the Government, would be attended with many mischievous insequences.

I therefore recommend that, instead of retaining the mineral lands under the permanent control of the Government, they be divided into small parcels and sold, under such restrictions, as to quantity and time, as will insure the best price, and guard most effect-ually against combinations of capitalists to obtain monopolies.

The annexation of Texas and the acquisi-

tion of California and New Mexico have given increased importance to our Indian relations. The various tribes brought under our jurisdiction by these enlargements of our boundaries, are estimated to embrace a popuation 124,000.

Texas and New Mexico are surrounded by powerful tribes of Indians, who are a source of constant terror and annovance to the inhabitants. Separating into small predatory

occasionally murdering the inhabitants or carrying them into captivity. The green roads leading into the country are infested with them, whereby travelling is rendered extremely dangerous, and immigration is

almost entirely arrested. The Mexican frontier, which, by the 11th article of the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, we are bound to protect against the Indians within our border, is exposed to these incursions equally with our own. The military force stationed in that country (although forming a large proportion of the army) is represented entirely inadequate to our own pro tection and the fulfilment of our treaty stipu-lations with Mexico. The principal deficiency is in cavalry, and I recommend that Conress should, at as early a period as practicable, provide for the raising of one or more regiments of mounted men.

For further suggestions on this subject, and other's connected with our domestic interests, and the defence of our frontier, I refer you to the Secretary of the Interior and of the Sec-

retary of War.

I command also to your favorable considerof an asylum for the relief of disabled and superfluous in me to say anything more, than already accumulated shall be exhausted, barely to express my cordial approbation of

our commerce and other national interests free matter through the mails, or by paying arge discount. This appears to me to be a in the different quarters of the globe' and, neavy and unjust tax upon the labor of those with the exception of a single steamer on the Northern lakes, the vessels in commission are

The report of the head of that Department will exhibit the service of these squadrons, and of the several vessels employed in each during the past year. It is a source of gratimit for your consideration the propriety of authorizing gold bullion, which has been as- ly prepared for any hostile emergency. they fication that, while they bave been constant- cessary so inconsiderable as to form no obsaved and stamped, to be received in pay- have everywhere met with the respect and courtesy, due as well to the dignity as to the

The two brigantines accepted by the Government from a generous citizen of New York, he laborers which are now paid in brokerage and placed under the command of an officer funds This discount upon their hard earn- quest of the British commander Sir John ngs is a heavy tax, and every effort should Franklin, and his companions, in compliance be made by the Government to relieve them with the act of Congress, approved in May last, had, when last heard from, penetrated into a high northern lattitude; but the sucyet uncertain.

presented in the report of the Secretary of suggestions therein made the Navy, and the for its improvement, together with the naval policy recommended for the security of our Our facilities for a larger participation in the trade of the East, by means of our recent settlements on the shores of the Pacific, are too abvious to be overtooked or disregarded.

The questions in relation to rank in the army and navy, and relative rank between officers of the two branches of the service, presented to the Executive by certain resoutions of the House of Representatives, at the last session of Congress, have been submitted to a board of officers in each branch of the service, and their report may be executed at an early day.

I also earnestly recommend the enactment of a law authorizing officers of the army and navy to be retired from the service, when incompetent for its vigorous and active duties, taking care to make suitable provision for those who have faithfully served their country, and awarding distinction by retaining in propriate commands those who have been particularly conspicuous for gallantry and good conduct. While the obligation of the country to maintain and honor those who, to the exclusion of other pursuits, have devoted themselves to its atluous service, this obligation should not be permitted to interfere with the efficiency of the service itself.

I am gratified in being able to state, that the estimates of expenditure for the navy in the ensuing year are less, by more than one million of dollars, than those of the present, excepting the appropriation which may become necessary for the construction of a dock on the coast of the Pacific, propositions for which are now being considered, and on which a special report may be expected early in your present session.

There is an evident justness in the suggestion of the same report, that appropriations for the naval service proper should be separated from those for fixed and permanent objects, such as building docks and navy yards, and the fixtures attached; and from the extraordinary objects under the care of the Department, which, however important, are not essentially naval.

A revision of the code for the government of the navy seem to require the immediate consideration of Congress. Its system of crimes and punishments had undergone no change for half a century, until the last session, and the abolition of a particular species of corporal punishment, which then took place, without providing any substitute, has left the service in a state of de-

I therefore recommend that the whole subject be revised without delay, and such a system established for the enforcement of discipline as shall be at once humane and effectual.

The accompaning report of the Postmasthe propriety of extending, at an early day, ter General presents a satisfactory view of the operations and condition of that Department.

At the close of the last fiscal year the length of the inland mail routes in the United States (not embracing the service in Oregon and California, was one hundred and seventy-eight thousand six hundred and seventy-two miles; the annual transportation thereon forty-six millions five hundred and forty-one thousand four hundred and twenty-three miles; and the annual cost of such transportation two millions seven hundred and twenty four-thousand four hundred and twenty-six dollars.

The increase of the annual transportation over that of the preceding year, was three million nine hundred and ninety-seven thousand three hundred and fifty-lour miles; and the increase in cost was three hundred and forty-two thousand four hundred and forty dollars.

The number of post offices in the United teen-being an increase of sixteen hundred and seventy during the preceding year.

The gross revenues of the Department amounted to five millions five hundred and great that many claimants must despair fifty-two thousand nine hundred and seven. ever being able to obtain a hearing.

thousand nine hundred and fifty-three dollars and forty-three cents-leaving a ballance of revenue over expenditures of three hundred and forty thousand and eighteen dollars and five cents.

I am happy to find that the fiscal condi-tion of the Department is such as to justify the Postmaster General in recommending the reduction of our inland letter postage to three cents the single letter when prepaid, and five cents when not prepaid. He also recommends that the prepaid rates shall be reduced to two cents whenever the revenues of the Department, after the reduction, shall exceed its expenditures by more than five per cent, for two consecutive years; that the postage upon California and other letters sent by our ocean steamers shall be much reduced : and that the postage on newspapers, pamphlets, periodicals, and other printed matter shall be modified. and some reduction thereon made.

It cannot be doubted that the proposed reductions will, for the present, diminish may be almost wholly met, either by abolishing the existing priviliges of sending out of the Treasury to the Post Office Department a sum equivalent to the postage of which it is deprived by such priviliges. The last is supposed to be the preferable mode, and will, if not entirely, so nearly supply that deficiency as to make any further appropriation that may be found nestacle to the proposed reductions.

I entertain no doubt of the authority of Congress to make appropriations for leading objects in that class of public works comprising what are usually called works of internal improvements. This authority I suppose to be derived chiefly from the power of regulating commerce with foreign nations, and among the States, and the power'of laying and collecting imposts. Where commerce is to be carried on, and imposts collected, there must be ports and harbors, cess of this noble and humane enterprise is as well as wharfs and custom houses. If ships, laden with valuable cargoes, approach I invite your attention to the view of our the shore, or sail along the coast, light-hou. present naval establishment and resources ses are necessary at suitable points for the protection of life and property. Other facilitties and securities for commerce and and navigation are hardly less important: Pacific Coast, and the protection and exten- and those clauses of the Constitution, theresion of our commerce with Eastern Asia. fore, to which I have referred, have receired from the origin of the Government a liberal and beneficial construction.

Not only have lighthouses, buovs, and beacons been established, and floating lights maintained, but harbors have been cleared and improved, piers constructed, and even breakwaters for the safety of shipping, and sea walls to protect harbors from being filled up, and rendered useless, by the action of the ocean, have been erected at a very great expense. And this construction o the Constitution appears the more reasonable from the consideration that if these works, of such evident importance and utility, are not to be accomplished by Congress they cannot be accomplished at all. the adoption of the Constitution the several States voluntarily parted with the power of collecting duties of imposts in their own ports; and it is not to be expected that they should raise money, by internal taxation, direct or indirect, for the benefit of that commerce, the revenues derived from which do not, either in whole or in part, go into their own treasuries.

Nor do I perceive any difference between the power of Congress to make appropriations for objects of this kind on the ocean and the power to make appropriations for similar objects on the lakes and rivers, wherever they are large enough to bear on their waters and extensive traffic. The magnificent Mississippi and its tributaries, and the vast lakes of the north and the northwest, appear to me to fall within the exercise of the power, as justly and as clearly as the Ocean and the Gult of Mexico .-It is a mistake to regard expenditures judiciously made for these objects as expenditures for local purposes. The position, or site of the work, is necessarily local; but its utility is general.

A ship canal around the falls of St. Mary of less than a mile in length, though all cal in its constrution, would yet be national in its purpose and in its benefits, as it would remove the only obstructions to a navigation of more than a thousand miles, affecting several States, as well as our commercial relations with Canada. So, too, the Breakwater at the mouth of the Delaware is erected, not for the exclusive benefit of the States bordering on the bay and river of that name, but for that of the whole coastwise navigation of the United States, and, to a considerable extent also, of foreign fectiveness which calls for prompt correctiveness which calls for prom commerce. If a ship be lost in the bar at sufficient depth of water, it is very likely to be a northern ship; and if a steamboat be sunk in any part of the Mississippi, on account of its channel not having been properly cleared of obstructions, in may be a boat belonging to either eight or ten States. I may add, as somewhat remarkable, that among all the thirty-one States, there is none that is not, to a greater or less extent, bounded on the ocean, or the Gult of Mexico, or one of the great lakes, or some navigable river.

In fulfilling our constitutional duties, fellow-citizens, on this subject, as in carrying into effect all other powers conferred by the Constitution, we should consider ourselves as deliberating and acting for one and the same country, and bear constantly in mind, that our regard and our duty are due, not

to a particular part only, but to the whole. I therefore recommend that appropriations be made for completing such works as have been already begun, and for commencing such others as may seem to the wisdom of Congress to be of public and general importance.

The difficulties and delays, incident to the settlement of private claims by Congress, amount in many cases to a denial of justice. There is reason to apprehend that States, on the first day of July last, was eighteen thousand four bundred and sevenment have thereby been unavoidably ruined. Congress has so much business of a public character, that it is impossible is

should give much attention to more private. for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1850, claims, and their accumulation is now so ty-one dollars and forty-eight cents, inclu. may well be doubted whether Congress. ding the annual appropriation of two hun. from the nature of its organization, is prop-dred thousand dollars for the franked mat, erly constituted to decide upon such cases.