Terms of Publication.

The Somerset Herald

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Somerset Printing Company,

JOHN I. SCULL,
Business Manager.

The Somerset Herald.

ESTABLISHED, 1827.

VOL. XXIII. SOMERSET, PA., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1874. NO. 26

Business Cards,

W. H. POSTLETHWAITE, ATTORNEY at Law, Somerset, Pa. Professional business respectfully solicited and punctually attended to.

F. J. KOOSER,
ATTORNEY AT LAW,
Somerset, Penna.

VALENTINE HAY, ATTORNEY AT LAW and dealer in real estate, Somerset, Pa., will attend to all business entrusted to his care with promptness and fidelity. aug. 12-1y.

WILLIAM H. KOONTZ, ATTORNEY AT Law, Somerset, Pa., will give prompt attention to business entrusted to his care in Somerset and the adjoining counties. Office in Printing House Row. jy 8-tf.

LAW NOTICE.—Alexander H. Coffroth has resumed the practice of law in Somerset and adjoining counties. Office in Mammoth Building. feb 25, '70.

JOHN H. UHL, ATTORNEY AT LAW, SOMerset, Pa., will promptly attend to all business entrusted to him. Money advanced on collection &c. Office in Mammoth Building. jan. 1, '70.

W. J. & H. L. BAER, ATTORNEYS AT LAW, Somerset, Pa., will practice in Somerset and adjoining counties. All business entrusted to them will be promptly attended to. aug. 12-1y

KIMMEL & COLBORN, ATTORNEYS AT LAW, Somerset, Pa. Office in Baer's Block. aug. 12-1y.

JOHN O. KIMMEL, ATTORNEY AT LAW, Somerset, Pa., will attend to all business entrusted to his care in Somerset and adjoining counties with promptness and fidelity. Office in Mammoth Block. feb. 18 70-1y

HENRY F. SCHELL, ATTORNEY AT LAW, and Bounty and Pension Agent, Somerset, Pa. Office in Mammoth Block. jan. 11-tf.

SAMUEL GAITHER. PAUL H. GAITHER.
GAITHER & GAITHER, Attorneys at Law, Somerset, Penn's. All professional business promptly attended to. Office in Baer's Block, up stairs. 1004-72.

A. H. COFFROTH. W. M. RUPPEL.
COFFROTH & RUPPEL, ATTORNEYS AT Law. All business entrusted to their care will be especially and punctually attended to.
OFFICE—Second floor of southern end of Mammoth Block. Entrance from Diamond. jan 16.

JAMES L. PUGH,
ATTORNEY AT LAW,
Somerset, Pa. Office, Mammoth Block, up stairs, Entrance Main Cross St. Collections made, estates settled, titles examined, and all legal business attended to with promptness and fidelity. jly15

J. G. OGLE
ATTORNEY AT LAW,
Somerset, Pa. Professional business entrusted to my care attended to with promptness and fidelity. mar17-73.

DR. A. G. MILLER, after twelve years' active practice in Shanksville, has now permanently located at Somerset for the practice of medicine, and tenders his professional services to the citizens of Somerset and vicinity.—Office in his Drug Store, opposite the Barnet House, where he can be consulted at all times unless professionally engaged.
☞Night calls promptly answered.
oct. 13, 71-1y.

PROFESSIONAL.

Dr. George B. Fundenberg, of Cumberland, Md., informs his friends that he has this day associated with himself in the practice of medicine and surgery, his son, Dr. Walter F. Fundenberg, late the resident surgeon of the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary.
Special attention will be paid to the diseases of the Eye and Ear. mar4

DR. E. M. KIMMEL will continue to practice Medicine, and tenders his professional services to the citizens of Somerset and surrounding county. Office at the old place, a few doors east of the Glade House. nov. 8, 71.

DR. H. BRUBAKER tenders his professional services to the citizens of Somerset and vicinity. Office in residence, one door west of the Barnet House. jan. 21, '70.

DR. J. K. MILLER has permanently located in Berlin for the practice of his profession.—Office opposite Charles Kristinger's store. apr. 22, '70-tf.

S. S. GOOD,
PHYSICIAN & SURGEON,
SOMERSET, PA.
☞Office in Mammoth Block. jes'72

ARTIFICIAL TEETH!!
J. C. YUTZY.
DENTIST
DALE CITY, Somerset Co., Pa.,
Artificial Teeth, warranted to be of the very best quality. Life-like and handsome, inserted in the acrylic. Particular attention paid to the preservation of the natural teeth. Those wishing to call me by letter, can do so by enclosing stamp. Address as above. 3m22-72

DR. WM. COLLINS, DENTIST, Somerset, Pa. Office in Casebeer's Block, up stairs, where he can at all times be found prepared to do all kinds of work, such as filling, regulating, extracting &c. Artificial teeth of all kinds, and of the best material, inserted. All operations warranted. june 7, '70.

Mansion House,
LATE "BENFORD HOUSE,"
Corner of Franklin and Broad Streets,
JOHNSTOWN, PENNA.
Jos. Shoemaker, Prop'r,
Having lately taken charge of, refitted and furnished this large and commodious Hotel, I now invite my Somerset County friends to call on me, and hope by prompt attention to their wants and moderate charges, to merit their patronage. Table supplied with the best the market affords. The bar stocked with the choicest wines, liquors, &c.
JOSEPH SHOEMAKER.
N. B.—Best stabling in town. apr29

THE SOMERSET HOUSE.
Having leased this magnificent and well known Hotel property from Mrs. E. A. Flick, the undersigned takes pleasure in informing his friends and the public generally that he will spare neither time nor expense to make this house all that it should be desired. Accommodating clerks and obliging waiters will attend to the wants of customers, and the table will at all times be laden with the best the market affords. ☞Mr. C. H. Tayman may at all times be found in the office.
D. LAVAN.
jun29-tf

DIAMOND HOTEL,
STOYSTOWN PA.
SAMUEL CUSTER, Proprietor,
This popular and well known house is at all times a desirable stopping place for the traveling public. Table and Rooms first-class. Good stabling. Hacks leave daily for Johnstown and Somerset. mar11.

BARNET HOUSE.—
The undersigned respectfully informs the public that he has leased this well known hotel in the Borough of Somerset. It is his intention to keep it in a style which he hopes will give satisfaction to all who may favor him with their custom.
JOHN BULL.
Apr 16 '72

JOHN WILSON & SON,
WHOLESALE GROCERS,
297 Liberty Street,
PITTSBURGH.
nov 26, '72

BUTTER COMMISSION HOUSE,
D. T. Buzby & Co.,
No. 6 Exchange Place
BALTIMORE.
Special attention given BUTTER. GLADE

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JOHNSTOWN
SAVINGS BANK.
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JOHN LOWMAN,	CONRAD SUPPES,
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FRANK DIBERT, Treasurer,
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Deposits of ONE DOLLAR and upwards received, and interest allowed on all sums, payable twice a year. Interest if not drawn out, is added to the principal, thus COMPOUNDING TWICE A YEAR, without troubling the depositor to call or even to present his deposit book. Money can be withdrawn at any time after giving the bank certain notice by letter.

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Loans Secured by Real Estate.

Copies of the By-Laws, reports, rules of deposit, and special act of Legislature, relative to deposits of married women and minors, can be obtained at the Bank.

☞Banking hours daily from 9 to 3 o'clock; and on Wednesday and Saturday evenings from 6 to 7½ o'clock. april 22.

JOHN DIBERT. JOHN P. ROBERTS.
JOHN DIBERT & CO.,
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We sell Drafts negotiable in all parts of the United States and Canada, and in Foreign countries. Buy Gold, Coupons and Government Bonds at highest market prices. Loan money on approved security. Drafts and Checks on other banks cashed. Money received on deposit payable on demand

Interest at the rate of Six per cent. per Annum paid on Time Deposits.

Everything in the Banking Line receives our prompt attention.
Thankful to our friends and customers for their past patronage, we solicit a continuance of the same, and invite others who have business in our line to give us a trial, assuring all, that we shall at all times do all we can to give entire satisfaction.
JOHN DIBERT & CO.
Feb 21 7o

Cambria County
BANK,
M. W. KEIM & CO.,
No. 266 MAIN STREET,
JOHNSTOWN, PA.,
Henry Schnable's Brick Building.
A General Banking Business Transacted.
Drafts and Gold and Silver bought and sold.—Collections made in all parts of the United States and Canada. Interest allowed at the rate of six per cent. per annum, if left six months or longer. Special arrangements made with Guardians and others who hold moneys in trust.
april 15-73.

CARPETING.
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51 Fifth Avenue,
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Imports direct from Manufacturers,
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In every variety.
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Above Wood street.
marc6

Ursina Lime Kilns.
The undersigned are prepared to furnish
Prime Building Lime
By the Car Load.
Orders Respectfully Solicited.
R. J. BATZER & CO.
Ursina, June 18.

FAHNESTOCK WHITE LEAD CO.,
Manufacturers of the Celebrated
FAHNESTOCK PURE WHITE LEAD,
Which has sustained such an enviable reputation for so many years. Dealers and Consumers should be particular to use none but our Pure White Lead, as there is so much inferior and adulterated Lead in the market.
We not only claim for our Lead STRICT PURITY, but that it possesses greater durability, covers more surface for same weight, and is superior in FINENESS and WHITENESS to any other brand. All orders should be addressed to
Fahnestock White Lead Co..
OR P. L. FAHNESTOCK & CO.,
No. 72 Wood St., Pittsburgh, Pa.
aug14

JOSEPH SHEETS & SON,
Undertakers, Berlin Pa., constantly keep on hand and take to order Coffins of all styles and prices, on the shortest notice possible. Having a hearse of the latest style in readiness, we are always prepared to take coffins to and bring corpses to the various cemeteries. april

LIME. LIME. LIME.
The undersigned having erected lime kilns at Marble Hill, three miles west of Confluence, on the Pittsburgh & Connellsville railroad, are now ready to ship to any point either burnt lime or raw limestone as may be required.
The lime is quarried from the Marble formation many feet below the owest coal vein, and of a very superior quality.
Orders for lime or raw stone can be sent to Confluence to Hogus & Weber, or to Judge McMillen, of New Lexington, Col. John Weber, of Gebhartsburg, Philip Wolfersperger, Jr., Mineral Point, George Weber, Meyersdale, Isaac Hogue, Somerset, and Wallace H. Weber, Connellsville, which will be promptly attended to.
oct7 HOGUS & WEBER.

Miscellaneous.

APPLETONS'
AMERICAN CYCLOPÆDIA
NEW REVISED EDITION.
Entirely rewritten by the ablest writers on every subject. Printed from new type, and illustrated with several thousand engravings and maps.
The work originally published under the title of THE NEW AMERICAN CYCLOPÆDIA was completed in 1863, since which time the wide circulation which it has attained in all parts of the United States, and the signal developments which have taken place in every branch of science, literature, and art, have induced the editors and publishers to submit to an exact and thorough revision, and to issue a new edition entitled THE AMERICAN CYCLOPÆDIA.
Within the last ten years the progress of discovery in every department of knowledge has made a new work of reference an imperative want.
The movement of political affairs has kept pace with the discoveries of science, and their fruitful application to the industrial and useful arts, and the convenience and refinement of social life.—Great wars and consequent revolutions have occurred, involving national changes of peculiar moment. The civil war of our own country, which was at its height when the last volume of the old work appeared, has happily been ended, and a new course of commercial and industrial activity has been commenced.
Large accessions to our geographical knowledge have been made by the indefatigable explorers of Africa.
The great political revolutions of the last decade, with the natural result of the lapse of time, have brought into view a multitude of new men, whose names are in every one's mouth, and of whose lives every one is curious to know the particulars. Great battles have been fought and important sieges maintained, of which the details are as yet preserved only in the newspapers or in the transient publications of the day, but which ought now to take their place in permanent and authentic history.
In preparing the present edition for the press, it has accordingly been the aim of the editors to bring down the information to the latest possible dates, and to furnish an accurate account of the most recent discoveries in science, of every fresh production in literature, and of the newest inventions in the practical arts, as well as to give a succinct and original record of the progress of political and historical events.
The work has been begun after long and careful preliminary labor, and with the most ample resources for carrying it on to a successful termination.
None of the original stereotype plates have been used, but every page has been printed on new type, forming in fact a new Cyclopædia, with the same plan and compass as its predecessor, but with a far greater pecuniary expenditure, and with such improvements in its composition as have been suggested by larger experience and enlarged knowledge.
The illustrations which are introduced for the first time in the present edition have been added not for the sake of pictorial effect, but to give facility and force to the explanations in the text. They embrace all branches of science and of natural history, and depict the most famous and remarkable features of scenery, architecture and art, as well as the various processes of mechanics and manufacturers. Although intended for instruction rather than entertainment, no pains have been spared to insure their artistic excellence; the cost of their execution is enormous, and it is believed they will find a welcome reception as an admirable feature of the Cyclopædia, and worthy of its high character.
This work is sold to subscribers only, payable on delivery of each volume. It will be completed in sixteen large octavo volumes, each containing about 800 pages, fully illustrated, with several thousand Wood Engravings, and with numerous colored Lithographic Maps.

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dec2

NEW STORE!
SCHELL & WILSON would inform their friends and the public generally, that they have opened a store at
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on the line of the P. W. & B. R. R., and now offer for sale a General Stock of Merchandise, consisting of
DRY GOODS,
CLOTHING,
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All of which will be sold cheap for CASH or exchanged for produce.
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Bacon, Grain of all kinds, Furs, Sheep-Pelts, and Beeswax, for which we will pay the highest prices in Cash or Goods.
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LATEST DESIGNS
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8—Construction most careful and finished. It is manufactured by the most skillful and experienced mechanics, at the celebrated Remington Armory, Ilion, N. Y. Pittsburgh Office, 10 Sixth St. apr29

MESSAGE

OF THE

President of the United States.

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

Since the convening of Congress one year ago, the nation has undergone a

PROSTRATION IN BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIES

Such as has not been witnessed with us for many years. Speculation as to the cause for this prostration might be indulged in without profit, because as many theories would be advanced as there would be independent writers among those who expressed their own views without borrowing upon the subject. Without indulging in theories as to the cause of this prostration, therefore, I will call your attention only to the fact, and to some plain questions as to which it would seem there should be no disagreement. During this prostration two essential elements of prosperity have been most abundant—labor and capital. Both have been largely unemployed. Where security has been undoubted, capital has been attainable at very moderate rates; where labor has been wanted, it has been found in abundance at very cheap rates, compared with what of the necessaries and comforts of life could be purchased with the wages demanded. Two great elements of prosperity, therefore, have not been denied us; a third might be added: our soil, unequalled within the limits of any contiguous territory under one nation for its variety of produce to feed and clothe a people, and in the amount of surplus to spare to feed less favored people. Therefore, with these facts in view, it seem that wise statesmanship at this session of Congress would dictate legislation ignoring the past, directing in the proper channel these great elements of prosperity to any people.

DEBT.

Debt abroad is the only element that can, with always a sound currency, enter into our affairs to cause any continued depression on the industries and prosperity of our people. A great conflict for national existence, made necessary, for temporary purposes, the raising of large sums of money from whatever source attainable. It seemed necessary in the wisdom of Congress,—and I do not doubt their wisdom in the premises, regarding the necessity of the times—to devise a system of national currency, which, it proved to be impossible to keep on a par with the recognized currency of the civilized world. This begot a spirit of speculation and extravagance and luxury not required for the happiness and prosperity of a people, and involving both directly and indirectly foreign indebtedness, the currency being of fluctuating value, and therefore unsafe to hold for legitimate transactions requiring money, because a subject of speculation in itself. These two causes however, have involved us in a foreign indebtedness contracted in good faith by the borrower and lender, which should be paid in coin and according to the bond agreed upon when the debt was contracted—gold or its equivalent. The good faith of the Government cannot be violated towards creditors without national disgrace; but our commerce should be encouraged, American ship building and carrying capacity increased, and foreign markets sought for the products of the soil and the manufactures, to the end that we may be able to pay these debts. Where a new market can be created for the sale of our products, either of the soil, the mine or the manufactory, a new means is discovered utilizing our idle capital and labor to the advantage of the whole people.

AN EARLY RETURN TO SPECIE PAYMENT URGED.

But, in my judgment, the first step towards accomplishing this object is to secure a currency good wherever civilization reigns—one which, whenever it becomes superabundant with one people, will find a market with some others—a currency which has as its basis the labor necessary to produce it, which will give to it its value. Gold and silver are now the recognized mediums of exchange the civilized world over, and to this we should return with the least practicable delay. In view of the pledges of the American Congress when our present legal tender system was adopted, there should be no delay, certainly no unnecessary delay in fixing by legislation a method by which we will return to specie. To the accomplishment of this end I invite your special attention. I believe firmly there can be no prosperous and permanent revival of business and industries until a policy is adopted, with legislation to carry it out, looking to a return to a specie basis. It is easy to conceive that the debtor and speculative classes may think it of value to them to make so-called money abundant, until they can throw a portion of their burdens on others; but even these, I believe, would be disappointed in the result, if a course should be pursued which will keep in doubt the value of the legal tender medium of exchange.

A revival of the productive industry is needed by all classes, by none more than the hollers of property of whatsoever sort, with debts to liquidate for realization upon its sale. But admitting that these two classes of citizens are to be benefited by expansion, would it be honest to give it? Would not the general loss be too great to justify such relief? Would it not be just as honest and prudent to authorize each debtor to issue his own legal tenders to the extent of his liabilities than to do this? Would it not be safer, for fear of over issues by unscrupulous creditors, to say that all debt obligations are obliterated in the United States, and now we commence anew, each possessing all that he has at the time free from encumbrance? These positions are too absurd to be entertained for a moment by thinking or honest people; yet every delay in preparation for final resumption partakes of this dishonesty, and is only less so as the hope is held out that a convenient time will at last arrive for the good work of redeeming our pledges to commence. It will never come, in my opinion, except by positive action by Congress, or by national disasters which will destroy for a time at least the credit of the individual and the state at large. A sound currency might be reached by total bankruptcy and discredit of the integrity of the nation and of individuals.

I believe it is the duty of Congress at this session to devise such legislation as will renew confidence, revive industries, start us on a career of prosperity to last for many years, and to save the credit of the nation and of the people. Steps toward the return to a specie basis are great requisites devoutly to be sought for, and there are others which I may touch upon hereafter. A nation dealing in a currency below that of specie in value labors under two great disadvantages: First, having no use for the world's acknowledged mediums of exchange, gold and silver, these are driven out of the country because there is no demand for their use: second, the medium of exchange in use being of a fluctuating value, for after all it is only worth just what it will purchase of gold and silver—metals having an intrinsic value just in proportion to the honest labor it takes to produce them.

A larger margin must be allowed for profit by the manufacturer and producer. It is months from the date of production to the date of realization. Interests upon capital must be charged, and risk of fluctuation in the value of that which is to be received in payment added, hence high prices acting as a protection to the foreign producer, who receives nothing in exchange for the products of his skill and labor except a currency good at a stable value the world over. It seems to me that nothing is clearer than that the greatest part of the burden of existing prostration, for the want of a sound financial system, falls upon the working man, who must, after all, produce the wealth, and the salaried man who superintends and conducts business. The burden falls upon them in two ways, by the deprivation of employment and by the decreased purchasing power of their salaries.

REPEAL OF THE LEGAL TENDER ACT RECOMMENDED.

It is the duty of Congress to devise the method of correcting the evils which are acknowledged to exist, and no more; but I will venture to suggest two or three things which seem to me as absolutely necessary to a return to specie payments, the first great requisite in a return to prosperity. The legal tender clause to the law authorizing the issue of currency by the National Government should be repealed, to take effect as to all contracts entered into after a day fixed in the repealing act, not to apply, however, to payment of salaries by Government or for other expenditures now provided by law to be paid in currency in the interval pending between repeal and final resumption. Provision should be made by which the Secretary of the Treasury can obtain gold as it may become necessary from time to time, from the date when specie redemption commences. To this might and should be added a revenue sufficiently in excess of expenses to insure an accumulation of gold in the Treasury to sustain redemption. I commend this subject to your careful consideration, believing that a favorable solution is attainable, and that if reached by this Congress, that the present and future generations will ever gratefully remember it as their deliverer from a thraldom of evil and disgrace.

FREE BANKING.

With resumption, free banking may be authorized with safety, giving the full protection to bill holders which they have under existing laws. Indeed, I would regard free banking as essential. It would give proper elasticity to the currencies; as more currency should be required for the transaction of legitimate business, new banks would be started, and in turn banks would wind up their business when it was found that there was a superabundance of currency. The experience and judgment of the people can best decide just how much currency is required for the transaction of the business of the country. It is unsafe to leave the settlement of this question to Congress, the Secretary of the Treasury or the Executive. Congress should make the regulation under which banks may exist, but should not make banking a monopoly by limiting the amount of redeemable paper currency that shall be authorized. Such importance do I attach to this subject, and so earnestly do I commend it to your attention, that I give it prominence by introducing it at the begining of this message.

CONTINUED FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH OTHER POWERS.

During the past year nothing has occurred to disturb the general friendly and cordial relations of the United States with other powers. The correspondence submitted herewith between the Government and its diplomatic representatives, as also with the representatives of other countries, shows a satisfactory condition of all questions between the United States and the most of those countries, and, with few exceptions, to which reference is hereafter made, the absence of any points of difference to be adjusted. The notice directed by the resolution of Congress of June 17, 1874, to be given to terminate the convention of July 17, 1858, between the United States and Belgium, has been given and treaty will accordingly terminate on the 1st day of July, 1875. This convention secured to certain Belgian vessels entering the ports of the United States exceptional privileges which are not accorded to our own vessels. Other features of the convention have proved satisfactory, and have tended to the cultivation of mutually beneficial commercial intercourse and friendly relations between the two countries. I hope that negotiations which have been invited will result in the celebration of another treaty which may tend to the interests of both countries.

Our relations with China continue to be friendly. During the past year the fear of hostilities between China and Japan, growing out of the landing of an armed force upon the Island of Formosa by the latter, has occasioned uneasiness. It is earnestly hoped, however, that the difficulties arising from this cause will be adjusted, and that the advance of civilization in these empires may not be retarded by a state of war. In consequence of the part taken by certain citizens of the United States in this expedition, our representatives in those countries have been instructed to impress upon the Government of China and Japan the firm intention of this country to maintain strict neutrality in the event of hostilities, and to carefully prevent any infraction of law on the part of our citizens.

CHINESE IMMIGRATION AND ITS CHARACTERISTICS.

In connection with this subject I call the attention of Congress to a generally conceded fact, that the great proportion of the Chinese immigrants who have come to our shores do not come voluntarily to make their homes with us and their labor productive of general prosperity, but come under contract with head men, who own them almost absolutely. In a worst form does this apply to Chinese women. Hardly a perceptible percentage of them perform any honorable labor, but they are brought for shameful purposes, to the disgrace of the communities where settled and the great demoralization of the youth of those localities. If this evil practice can be legislated against, it will be my pleasure as well as duty to enforce any regulation to secure so desirable an end.

CLOSER RELATIONS WITH JAPAN.

It is hoped that negotiations between the Government of Japan and the treaty powers, looking to the further opening of the empire and to the removal of various restrictions upon trade and travel, may soon produce the results desired, which cannot fail to inure to the benefit of all parties. Having on previous occasions submitted to the consideration of Congress the propriety of the release of the Japanese Government from the further payment of the indemnity under the convention of October 22, 1864, and as no action had been taken thereon, it became my duty to regard the obligations of the convention as in force, and as the other powers interested had received their proportion of the indemnity in full, the Minister of the United States has on behalf of this Government, received the remainder of the amount due the United States under the convention of Simonoseki. I submit the propriety of applying the income of a part, if not of the whole, of this fund to the education in the Japanese language of a number of young men to be under obligations to serve the Government for a specified term as interpreters at the legations and consulates in Japan. A limited number of Japanese youths might, at the same time, be educated in our own vernacular, and mutual benefits would result to both Governments. The importance of having our own citizens competent and familiar with the language of Japan, and act as interpreters and in other capacities connected with the legation and consulates in that country, cannot be overestimated.

CLAIMS OF BRITISH SUBJECTS PAID.

The amount awarded to the Government of Great Britain by the mixed commission organized under the provisions of the treaty of Washington in settlement of the claims of British subjects arising from acts committed between April 13, 1861, and April 9, 1865, became payable under the terms of the treaty within the past year, and was paid upon the 21st day of September, 1874. In this connection I renew my recommendation, made at the opening of the last session of Congress, that a special court be created to hear and determine all claims of aliens against the United States arising from acts committed against their persons and property during the insurrection. It appears equitable that opportunity should be offered to citizens of other States to present their claims, as well as to those British subjects whose claims not admissible under the late commission, to the early decision of some competent tribunal. To this end I recommend the necessary legislation to organize a court to dispose of all claims of aliens of the nature referred to in an equitable and satisfactory manner and to relieve Congress and the departments from the consideration of these questions.

NEWFOUNDLAND PROCLAMATION.

The legislation necessary to extend to the colony of New Foundland certain articles of the treaty of Washington of the 8th day of May 1874, having been had, a protocol to that effect was signed in behalf of the United States and of Great Britain on the 28th day of May, last, and was duly proclaimed on the following day. A copy of the proclamation is submitted herewith.

THE NORTHWESTERN BOUNDARY.

A copy of the report of the Commission appointed under the act of March 19, 1872, for surveying and making the boundary between the United States and the British possessions from the Lake of the Woods to the summit of the Rocky Mountains, is herewith transmitted. I am happy to announce that the field work of the Commission has been completed, and the entire line from the northwest corner of the Lake of the Woods to the summit of the Rocky Mountains has been run and marked upon the surface of the earth. It is believed that the amount remaining unexpended of the appropriation made at the last session of Congress will be sufficient to complete the office work. I recommend that the authority of Congress be given to the use of the unexpended balance of the appropriation in the completion of the work of the Commission in making up and preparing the necessary maps.

THE ALABAMA CLAIMS COURT.

The court known as the Court of Commissioners of Alabama Claims, created by an act of Congress of the last session, has organized and commenced its work, and it is to be hoped that the claims admissible under the provisions of the act may be speedily ascertained and paid.

CONCESSIONS FROM TURKEY.

It has been deemed advisable to exercise the discretion conferred upon the Executive at the last session, by accepting the conditions required by the Government of Turkey for the privilege of allowing citizens of the United States to hold real estate in the former country, and by assenting to a certain change of jurisdiction of court in question. A copy of the proclamation on these subjects is here with communicated.

MEXICAN OUTRAGES ON THE TEXAS BORDER.

There has been no material change in our relations with the Independent States of this hemisphere, which were formerly under the dominion of Spain. Marauding on the frontiers between Mexico and Texas still frequently takes place, despite the vigilance of the civil and military authorities in that quarter. The difficulty of checking such trespasses along the course of a river of such length as the Rio Grande, and so often fordable, is obvious. It is hoped that the efforts of the Government will be seconded by those of Mexico to the effectual suppression of the acts of wrong.

MEXICAN CLAIMS COMMISSION.

From a report upon the condition of the business before the American and Mexican Joint Claims Commission, made by the agent on the part of the United States and dated October 28th 1874, it appears that of the 1,017 claims filed on the part of the United States, 483 had been finally decided, and 75 were in the hands of the umpire, leaving 462 to be disposed of; and of the 998 claims filed against the United States 726 had been finally decided, one was before the umpire, and 171, remained to be disposed of. Since the date of such report, other claims have been disposed of, reducing somewhat the number still pending, and others have been passed upon by the arbitrators. It has become apparent, in view of these figures and of the fact that the work devolving on the umpire is particularly laborious, that the Commission would be unable to dispose of the entire number of claims pending prior to the first day of February, 1875, the date fixed for its expiration. Negotiations are pending looking to the securing of the results of the decisions which have been reached, and to the further extension of the Commission for a limited time, which it is confidently hoped will suffice to bring all the business now before it to a final close.

THE STRIFE IN THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC

Is to be deplored, both on account of the parties thereto and from the probable effects on the interests of those engaged in the trade to that quarter, of whom the United States are among the principal. As yet, so far as I am aware, there has been no violation of our neutrality rights, which, as well as our duties in that respect, it shall be my endeavor to maintain and observe.

RECALCITRANT VENEZUELA.

It is with regret I announce that no further payment has been received from the Government of Venezuela on account of awards in favor of citizens of the United States. Hopes have been entertained that if that Republic could escape both foreign and civil war for a few years, its great natural resources would enable it to honor its obligations. Though it is now understood to be at peace with other countries, a serious insurrection is reported to be in progress in an important region of that republic. This may be taken advantage of as another reason to delay the payment of the dues of our citizens.

THE DEPLORABLE STRIFE IN CUBA

Continues without any marked change in the relative advantages of the contending forces. The insurrection continues, but Spain has gained no superiority. Six years of strife give the insurrection a significance which cannot be denied. Its duration and the tenacity of its advance, together with the absence of manifested power of suppression on the part of Spain, cannot be controverted, and may make some positive steps on the part of other powers a matter of self-necessity.

OUR RELATIONS WITH SPAIN.

I had confidently hoped at this time to be able to announce the arrangement of some of the important questions between this Government and that of Spain, but the negotiations have been protracted, the unhappy intestine dissensions of Spain command our profound sympathy, and must be accepted as perhaps a cause of some delay. An early settlement, in part at least, of the question between the Governments is hoped. In the meantime, awaiting the results of immediately pending negotiations, I defer a further and fuller communication on the subject of the relations of this country and Spain.

CHANGES NECESSARY IN THE LAWS RELATING TO EXPATRIATION.

I have again to call the attention of Congress to the unsatisfactory condition of the existing laws with reference to expatriation and the election of nationality. Formerly amid conflicting opinions and decisions, it was difficult to exactly determine how far the doctrine of perpetual allegiance was applicable to citizens of the United States. Congress, by the act of the 27th of July, 1868, asserted the abstract right of expatriation as a fundamental principle of this Government, notwithstanding which assertion and the necessity of formal application of the principle, no legislation has been had defining what acts or formalities shall work expatriation, or when a citizen shall be deemed to have renounced or to have lost his citizenship. The importance of such definition is obvious. The representatives of the United States in foreign countries are continually called upon to lend their aid and the protection of the United States to persons concerning the good faith or the reality of whose citizenship there is at least question. In some cases the provisions of the treaties furnish some guide; in others it seems left to the persons claiming the benefit of citizenship while living in a foreign country, contributing in no manner to the performance of the duties of a citizen of the United States, and without intention at any time to return and undertake those duties, to use the claims of citizenship of the United States simply as a shield from the performance of the obligations of a citizen elsewhere. The status of children born of American parents residing in a foreign country, of American women who have been married to aliens, of American citizens residing abroad, where such question is not regulated by treaty, are all questions of frequent difficulty and discussion. Legislation on these and similar questions, and particularly defining when and under what circumstances expatriation can be accomplished, it is to be presumed, is especially needed.

FRAUDULENT NATURALIZATION.

In this connection I earnestly call the attention of Congress to the difficulties arising from fraudulent naturalization. The United States wisely, freely and liberally offers its citizenship to all who may come in good faith to reside within its limits, on their complying with certain prescribed reasonable and simple formalities and conditions. Among the highest duties of the Government is that to afford warm, efficient and equal protection to all its citizens, whether native born or naturalized. Care should be taken that a right carrying with it such support from the Government should not be fraudulently obtained, and should be bestowed only upon full proof of a compliance with the law; and yet there are frequent instances of illegal and fraudulent naturalization and of the unauthorized use of certificates thus improperly obtained. In some cases the fraudulent character of the naturalization has appeared upon the face of the certificate itself; in others examination discloses that the holder had not complied with the law, and in others certificates have been obtained where the persons holding them not only were not entitled to be naturalized, but had not even been within the United States at the time of the pretended naturalization. Instances of each of these classes of fraud are discovered at our legations, where the certificates of naturalization are presented either for the purpose of obtaining passports or in demanding the protection of the legation. When the fraud is apparent on the face of such certificates, they are taken up by the representatives of the Government and forwarded to the Department of State; but even the record of the court in which the fraudulent naturalization occured remains and duplicate certificates are readily obtainable. Upon the presentation of these for the issue of passports, or in demanding protection of the government, the fraud sometimes escapes notice, and such certificates are not infrequently used in transaction of business to the deception and injury of innocent parties. Without placing any additional obstacles in the way of the obtainment of citizenship by the worthy and well intentioned foreigner who comes in good faith to cast his lot with ours, I earnestly recommend further legislation to punish fraudulent naturalization, and to secure the ready cancellation of the record of naturalization made in fraud.

TREATIES RATIFIED.

Since my last annual message the exchange has been made of the ratification of treaties of extradition with Belgium, Equador, Peru and Salvador; also a treaty of commerce and navigation with Peru, and one of commerce and consular privileges with Salvador, all of which have been duly proclaimed, as has also a declaration with Russia with reference to trade marks.

GOVERNMENT RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES.

The report of the Secretary of the Treasury, which is made directly to Congress, and forms no part of this message, will show the receipts and expenditures of the Government for the last fiscal year, the amount received from each source of revenue, and the amount paid out for each of the departments of the Government. It will be observed from the report that the amount of receipts over expenditures has been but $2,344,882, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1874, and that for the current fiscal year the estimated receipts over expenditures will not much exceed nine millions of dollars. In view of the large national debt existing, and the obligations to add one per cent. per annum to the sinking fund, a sum amounting to now over $300,000 per annum, I submit whether revenue should not be increased or expenditures diminished to meet this amount of surplus. Not to provide for the sinking fund is a partial failure to comply with the contracts and obligations of the Government.

At the last session of Congress a very considerable reduction was made in the rates of taxation and in the number of articles submitted to taxation. The question may well be asked whether or not, in some instances it is unwise. In connection with this subject I too am of the opinion that the means of collecting the revenue, especially from imports, have been so embarrassed by legislation as to make it questionable whether or not large amounts are not lost by failure to collect, to the direct loss of the Treasury and to the prejudice of the interests of honest importers and taxpayers. The Secretary of the Treasury, in his report, favors legislation looking to an early return to specie payments, thus supporting the views previously expressed in this message. He also recommends economy in approp