ty arising from accidental defects of evidence, mode of investigating it, and secrecy of hearing. It is not wonderful that official malfeasance should become bold in proportion as delinquents learn to think themselves safe. I am entirely persuaded that under such a rule the President cannot perform the great duty assigned to him of seeing the laws faithfully executed, and that it disables him most especially from enforcing that rigid accountability which is necessary to the execution of the Revenue Laws. The Constitution invests the President with authority to *decide* whether a removal should be made in any given case. The act of Congress declares, in substance, that he shall only *accuse* such as he supposes to be unworthy of their trust. The Constitution makes him sole *judge* in the premises, but the statute takes away his jurisdiction, transfers it to the Senate, and leaves him nothing but the odious and sometimes impracticable duty of becoming a *prosecutor*. Prosecution is to be conducted before a tribunal whose members are not, like him, responsible to the whole people, but to separate constituent bodies, and who may hear his accusation with great disfavor. The Senate is absolutely without any known standard of decision applicable to such a case. Its judgment cannot be anticipated, for it is not governed by any rule. The law does not define what shall be deemed good cause for removal. It is impossible even to conjecture what may or may not be so considered by the Senate. The nature of the subject forbids clear proof. If the charge be incapacity, what evidence will support it? Fidelity to the Constitution may be understood or misunderstood in a thousand different ways, and by violent party men in violent party times, unfaithfulness to the Constitution may even come to be considered meritorious. If an officer be accused of dishonesty, how shall it be made out?—Will it be inferred from acts unconnected with public duty, from private history, or from general reputation; or must the President await the commission of an actual misdemeanor in office? Shall he, in the meantime, risk the character and interest of the nation in the hands of men to whom he cannot give his confidence? Must he forbear his complaint until the mischief is done and cannot be prevented? If his zeal in the public service should impel him to anticipate the overt act, must he move at the peril of being tried himself for the offence of slandering his subordinate? In the present circumstances of the country, some one must be held responsible for official delinquency of every kind. It is extremely difficult to say where that responsibility should be thrown if it is not left where it has been placed by the Constitution. But all just men will admit that the President ought to be entirely relieved from such responsibility, if he cannot meet it by reason of restrictions placed by law upon his action. Unrestricted power of removal from office is a very great one to be trusted even to a Magistrate chosen by the general suffrage of the whole people and accountable directly to them for his acts. It is undoubtedly liable to abuse, and at some periods of our history perhaps has been abused. If it be thought desirable and constitutional that it should be so limited as to make the President merely a common informer against other public agents, he should at least be permitted to act in that capacity before some open tribunal, independent of party politics, ready to investigate the merits of every case, furnished with the means of taking evidence, and bound to decide according to established rules. This would guarantee the safety of the accuser when he acts in good faith, and at the same time secure the rights of the other party. I speak, of course, with all proper respect for the present Senate; but it does not seem to me that any legislative body can be so constituted as to insure its fitness for these functions. It is not the theory of this Government that the public offices are the property of those who hold them. They are given merely as a trust for the public benefit, sometimes for a fixed period, sometimes during good behavior; but generally they are liable to be terminated at the pleasure of the appointing power, which represents the collective majesty and speaks the will of the people. The forced retention in office of a single dishonest person may work great injury to the public interest. Danger to the public service comes not from the power to remove but from the power to appoint; therefore it was that the framers of the Constitution left the power of removal unrestricted, while they gave the Senate the right to reject all appointments which, in its opinion, were not fit to be made. A little reflection on this subject will probably satisfy all who have the good of the country at heart that our best course is to take the Constitution for our guide, walk in the path marked out by the founders of the Republic, and obey the rules made sacred by the observance of our great predecessors.

FINANCIAL MATTERS.

The present condition of our finances and circulating medium is one to which your early consideration is invited. The proportion which the currency of any country should bear to the whole value of the annual produce circulated by its means is a question upon which political economists have not agreed; nor can it be controlled by legislation, but must be left to those irrevocable laws which everywhere regulate commerce and trade. The circulating medium will ever irresistibly flow to those points where it is in the greatest demand. The law of demand and supply is as unerring as that which regulates the tides of the ocean; and, indeed, currency, like the tides, has its ebbs and flows throughout the commercial world. At the beginning of the rebellion the bank note circulation of the country amounted to not much more than $200,000,000. Now the circulation of the National Bank notes, and those known as legal-tenders, is nearly $700,000,000. While it is urged by some that this amount should be increased, others contend that a decided reduction is absolutely essential to the best interests of the country. In view of these diverse opinions, it may be well to ascertain the real value of our paper issues, when compared with a metallic or convertible currency. For this purpose let us inquire how much gold and silver could be purchased by the $700,000,000 of paper money now in circulation. Probably not more than half the amount of the latter, showing that when our paper currency is compared with gold and silver, its commercial value is compressed into $350,000,000. This striking fact makes it the obvious duty of the Government, as early as may be consistent with the principles of sound political economy, to take such measures as will enable the holders of its notes and those of the National Banks to convert them without loss into specie or its equivalent. A reduction of our paper circulating medium need not necessarily follow. This, however, would depend upon the law of demand and supply; though it should be borne in mind that by making legal-tender and bank notes convertible into coin or its equivalent, their present specie value in the hands of their holders would be enhanced one hundred per cent. Legislation for the accomplishment of a result so desirable is demanded by the highest public considerations. The Constitution contemplates that the circulating medium of the country shall be uniform in quality and value. At the time of the formation of that instrument the country had just emerged from the war of the revolution, and was suffering from the effects of a redundant and worthless paper currency. The sages of that period were anxious to protect their posterity from the evils which they themselves had experienced. Hence in providing a circulating medium, they conferred upon Congress the power to coin money and regulate the value thereof, at the same time prohibiting the States from making anything but gold and silver a tender in payment of debts. The anomalous condition of our currency is in striking contrast with that which was originally designed. Our circulation now embraces, first, the notes of the National Banks, which are made receivable for all dues to Government, excluding imposts, and by all its creditors, excepting in payment of interest upon its bonds and securities themselves; second, legal-tender notes, issued by the United States, and which the law requires shall be received as well in payment of all debts between citizens, as of all Government dues, excepting imposts; and third, gold and silver coin. By the operation of our present system of finance, however, the metallic currency when collected is reserved only for one class of Government creditors, who, holding its bonds, semi-annually receive their interest in coin from the National Treasury. They are thus made to occupy an invidious position, which may be used to strengthen the arguments of those who would bring into disrepute the obligations of the nation. In the payment of all its debts the plighted faith of the Government should be inviolably maintained; but while it acts with fidelity towards the bondholder who loaned his money that the integrity of the Union might be preserved, it should at the same time observe good faith with the great masses of the people, who, having rescued the Union from the perils of rebellion, now bear the burdens of taxation that the Government may be able to fulfil its engagements. There is no reason which will be accepted as satisfactory by the people, why those who defend us on land and protect us on sea; the pensioners upon the gratitude of the nation, bearing scars and wounds received while in its service; the public servants in various departments of the Government; the farmers who supplied the soldiers of the army and sailors of the navy; the artizans who toil in the nation's workshops, or the mechanics and laborers who build its edifices and construct its forts and vessels of war, should, in payment of their just and hard-earned dues, receive depreciated paper, while another class of their countrymen, no more deserving, are paid in coin of gold and silver. Equal and exact justice requires that all the creditors of the Government should be paid in a currency possessing a uniform value. This can only be accomplished by the restoration of the currency to the standard established by the Constitution; and by this means we would remove a discrimination which may, if it has not already done so, create a prejudice that may become deep-rooted and wide-spread, and imperil the National credit. The feasibility of making our currency correspond with the Constitutional standard, may be seen by reference to a few facts derived from our commercial statistics. The production of precious metals in the United States from 1849 to 1857, inclusive, amounted to $579,000,000; from 1858 to 1860, inclusive, to $137,500,000; and from 1861 to 1867, inclusive, to $457,500,000; making a grand aggregate of the products since 1849 of $1,174,000,000. The amount of specie coined from 1849 to 1857, inclusive, was $439,000,000; from 1858 to 1860, inclusive, $125,000,000, and from 1861 to 1867, inclusive, $310,000,000; making total coinage since 1849, $874,000,000. From 1849 to 1857, inclusive, the net exports of specie amounted to $271,000,000; from 1858 to 1860, inclusive, to $148,000,000; and from 1861 to 1867, inclusive, to 322,000,000; making an aggregate of net exports since 1849, of $741,000,000. These figures show an excess of product over net exports of 433,000,000. There are in the Treasury $111,000,000 in coin, something more than $40,000,000 in circulation on the Pacific coast, and a few millions in National and other banks—in all about $160,000,000. This, however, taking into account the specie in the country prior to 1849, leaves more than $300,000,000 which have not been accounted for by exportation, and therefore may yet remain in the country. These are important facts and show how completely the inferior currency will supercede the better, forcing it from circulation among the masses, and causing it to be exported as a mere article of trade to add to the money capital of foreign lands. They show the necessity of retiring our paper money, that the return of gold and silver to the avenues of trade may be invited, and a demand created which will cause the retention at home of at least so much of the productions of our rich and inexhaustible gold bearing fields as may be sufficient for the purposes of circulation. It is unreasonable to expect a return to a sound currency so long as the Government, by continuing to issue irredeemable notes, fills the channels of circulation with depreciated paper. Notwithstanding a coinage by our mints since 1849, of $874,000,000, the people are now strangers to the currency which was designed for their use and benefit, and specimens of the precious metals bearing the national device are seldom seen except when produced to gratify the interest excited by their novelty. If depreciated paper is to be continued as the permanent currency of the country, and all our coin is to become a mere article of traffic and speculation, to the enhancement in price of all that is indispensable to the comfort of the people, it would be wise economy to abolish our mints, thus saving the nation the care and expense incident to such establishments, and let our precious metals be exported in bullion. The time has come, however, when the Government and National Banks should be required to take most efficient steps, and make all necessary arrangements for a resumption of specie payments at the earliest practicable period. Specie payments having been once resumed by the Government and banks, all notes or bills of paper issued by either of a less denomination than $20 should by law be excluded from circulation, so that the people may have the benefit and convenience of a gold and silver currency, which in all their business transactions will be uniform in value at home and abroad. "Every man of property or industry, every man who desires to preserve what he honestly possesses, or to obtain what he can honestly earn, has a direct interest in maintaining a safe circulating medium, such a medium as shall be real and substantial—not liable to vibrate with opinions, not subject to be blown up or blown down by breath of speculation, but to be made stable and secure. A disordered currency is one of the greatest political evils. It undermines the virtues necessary for the support of the social system, and encourages propensities destructive of its happiness. It wars against industry, frugality, and economy, and it fosters the evil spirits of extravagance and speculation." It has been asserted by one of our most profound and most gifted statesmen that "of all contrivances of cheating the laboring classes of mankind none has been more effectual than that which deludes them with paper money. This is the most effectual of inventions to fertilize the rich man's fields by the sweat of the poor man's brow. Ordinary tyranny, oppression, the excessive taxation, these bear lightly on the happiness of the mass of the community, compared with a fraudulent currency and the robberies committed by depreciated paper. Our own history has recorded for our instruction enough and more than enough of the demoralizing tendency, the injustice and the intolerable oppression on the virtuous and well-disposed of a degraded paper currency, authorized by law, or in any way countenanced by the Government." It is one of the most successful devices in times of peace or war, expansions or revulsions, to accomplish the transfer of all precious metals from the great mass of the people into the hands of the few, where they are hoarded in secret places or deposited in strong boxes under bolts and bars, while the people are left to endure all the inconvenience, sacrifice and demoralization resulting from the use of depreciated and worthless paper money.

The condition of our finances and the operations of our revenue system are set forth and fully explained in the able and instructive report of the Secretary of the Treasury. On the 30th of June, 1866, the public debt amounted to $2,783,425,879; on the 30th of June last it was $2,692,190,215, showing a reduction during the fiscal year of $91,235,664. During the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1867, the receipts were $490,634,010, and expenditures $346,729,129, leaving an available surplus of $143,904,880. It is estimated that the receipts for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1868, will be $417,161,928, and that the expenditures will reach the sum of $393,269,226, leaving in the Treasury a surplus of $23,892,702. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1869, it is estimated that the receipts will amount to $381,000,000, and that the expenditures will be $372,000,000, showing an excess of $9,000,000 in favor of the Government.

THE REVENUE SERVICE.

The attention of Congress is earnestly invited to the necessity of a thorough revision of our revenue system. Our internal revenue laws and impost system should be so adjusted as to bear most heavily on articles of luxury, leaving the necessaries of life as free from taxation as may be consistent with the real wants of the Government, economically administered. Taxation would not then fall unduly on the man of moderate means, and while none would be entirely exempt from assessment, all in proportion to their pecuniary abilities would contribute toward the support of the State. A modification of the internal revenue system by a large reduction in the number of articles now subject to tax, would be followed by results equally advantageous to the citizen and the Government. It would render the execution of the law less expensive and more certain, remove obstructions to industry, lessen the temptations to evade the law, diminish violations and frauds perpetrated upon its provisions, make its operations less inquisitorial, and greatly reduce in numbers the army of tax-gatherers created by the system, who "take from the mouth of honest labor the bread it has earned." Retrenchment, reform, and economy should be carried into every branch of the public service, that the expenditures of the Government may be reduced and the people relieved from oppressive taxation; a sound currency should be restored, and the public faith in regard to the national debt sacredly observed. The accomplishment of these important results, together with the restoration of the Union of the States upon the principles of the Constitution, would inspire confidence at home and abroad in the stability of our institutions, and bring to the nation prosperity, peace, and good will.

WAR DEPARTMENT.

The report of the Secretary of War *ad interim* exhibits the operations of the army and the several Bureaus of the War Department. The aggregate strength of our military force on the 30th September last was 56,315. The total estimate for military appropriations is $77,124,707, including a deficiency in last year's appropriation of $15,600,000. Payments at the Treasury on account of the service of the War Department from Jan. 1 to Oct. 29, 1867, a period of ten months, amounted to $109,807,000. The expenses of the military establishment, as well as the numbers of the army, are now three times as great as they have ever been in time of peace, while discretionary power is vested in the executive to add millions to the expenditure by an increase of the army to the maximum strength allowed by law.

THE INDIAN DIFFICULTIES.

The comprehensive report of the Secretary of the Interior furnishes interesting information in reference to important branches of public service connected with his department. The menacing attitude of some warlike bands of Indians inhabiting the districts of country between the Arkansas and Platte Rivers, and portions of Dacotah Territory, required the presence of a large military force in that region. Instigated by real or imaginary grievances, the Indians occasionally committed acts of barbarous violence upon emigrants and our frontier settlements. But a general Indian war has been providentially averted. The Commissioners, under the act of the 20th of July, 1867, were invested with full power to adjust existing difficulties negotiate treaties with disaffected bands, and select for them reservations remote from traveled routes between the Mississippi River and the Pacific. They entered without delay upon the execution of their trust, but have not yet made any official report of their proceedings. It is of vital importance that our distant Territories should be exempt from Indian outbreaks, and that the construction of the Pacific Railroad, an object of national importance, should not be interrupted by hostile tribes. These objects, as well as the material interests and the moral and intellectual improvement of the Indians, can be most effectually secured by concentraring them upon portions of the country set apart for their exclusive use and located at points remote from the highways and encroaching white settlements.

PACIFIC RAILROAD.

Since the commencement of the second session of the Thirty-ninth Congress, 510 miles of road have been constructed on the main line and branches of the Pacific Railway. The line from Omaha is rapidly approaching the eastern base of the Rocky Mountains, while the terminus of the last section of the constructed road in California, accepted by the Government on the 24th of October last, was but eleven miles distant from the summit of the Sierra Nevada. The remarkable energy evinced by the companies offers the strongest assurance that the completion of the road from Sacramento to Omaha will not long be deferred.

SALE OF PUBLIC LANDS.

During the last fiscal year 7,041,144 acres of public land wer disposed of, and cash receipts from sales and fees exceded one-half million dollars more than the sum realized from those sources during the preceding year.

PAYMENT OF PENSIONS.

The amount paid to pensioners, including the expenses of disbursements, was $18,619,956, and 36,482 names were added to to the rolls. The entire number of pensioners on the 20th of June last was 155,474.

ISSUES OF PATENTS.

Eleven thousand six hundred and fifty-five patents and designs were issued during the year ending September 30, 1867, and at that date the balance in the Treasury to the credit of the Patent fund was $286,607.

NAVAL AFFAIRS

The Report of the Secretary of the Navy states that we have seven squadrons actively and judiciously employed under efficient and able commanders in protecting the persons and property of American citizens, maintaining the dignity and power of the Government, and promoting the commerce and business interests of our countrymen in every part of the world—Of the 238 vessels composing the present navy of the United States, fifty-six, carrying five hundred and seven guns, are in squadron service. During the year the number of vessels in commission has been reduced 12, and there are thirteen less on squadron duty than there were at date of last report. A large number of vessels were commenced and in course of construction when the war terminated, and altho' Congress has made the necessary appropriations for their completion, the Department has either suspended work upon them, or limited the slow completion of the steam vessels, so as to meet contracts for machinery made with private establishments. The total expenditures of the Navy Department for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1867, were $31,034,011: No appropriations have been made or required since the close of the war for the construction and repair of vessels, for steam machinery, ordinance, provisions and clothing, fuel, hemp, &c., the balance under these several heads having been more than sufficient for current expenditures. It should also be stated to the credit of the Department that, besides asking no appropriations for the above objects for the last two years, the Secretary of the Navy, on the 30th of September last, in accordance with the act of May 1, 1820, requested the Secretary of the Treasury to carry to the surplus fund the sum of $65,000,000 being the amount received from sales of vessels and other war property, and remnants of former appropriations.

POSTAL AFFAIRS.

The Report of the Postmaster General shows the business of the Postoffice Department and the condition of the postal service in a very favorable light, and the attention of Congress is called to its practical recommendations. The receipts of the Department for the year ending June 30, 1867, including all special appropriations for sea and land service and for free mail matter, were $19,978,693. The expenditures for all purposes were $19,235,483, leaving an unexpended balance in favor of the Department of $743,210, which can be applied toward the expenses of the Department for the current year. The increase of postal revenue, independent of specific appropriations for the year 1867 over that of 1866, $850,040. The increase of revenue from the sale of stamps and stamped envelopes was $783,404. The increase of expenditures of 1867 over those of the previous year was owing chiefly to the extensive land and ocean mail service. During the past year new postal conventions have been ratified and exchanged with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Belgium, the Netherlands, Switzerland, the North German Union, Italy, and the Colonial Government at Hong Kong, reducing very largely the rates of ocean and land postages to and from and within those countries.

THE AGRICULTURAL BUREAU.

The Report of the Acting Commissioner of Agriculture concisely presents the condition, wants, and progress of an interest eminently worthy the fostering care of Congress, and exhibits a large measure of useful results achieved during the year to which it refers.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

The re-establishment of peace at home, and the resumption of extended trade, travel, and commerce abroad, have served to increase the number and variety of questions in the Department for Foreign Affairs. None of these questions, however, have seriously disturbed our relations with other States. The Republic of Mexico, having been relieved from foreign intervention, is earnestly engaged in efforts to re establish her constitutional system of government. A good understanding continues to exist between our Government and the Republics of Hayti and San Domingo, and our cordial relations with the Central and South American States remain unchanged. The tender made, in conformity with a resolution of Congress, of the good offices of the Government, with a view to an amicable adjustment of peace between Brazil and her allies on the one side and Paraguay on the other, and between Chili and her allies on one side and Spain on the other, though kindly received has in neither case been fully accepted by the beligerents. The war in the valley of the Parana is still vigorously maintained. On the other hand, actual hostilities between the Pacific States and Spain have been more than a year suspended. I shall on any proper occasion that may occur renew the conciliatory recommendations which have been already made. Brazil, with enlightened sagacity and comprehensive statesmanship, has opened the great channels of the Amazon and its tributaries to universal commerce. One thing more seemed needful to assume a rapid and cheering progress in South America. I refer to those peaceful habits without which States and nations cannot in this age well expect material prosperity or social advancement.

THE PARIS EXPOSITION.

The Exposition of Universal Industry at Paris has passed, and seems to have fully realized the high expectations of the French Government. If due allowance be made for the recent political derangement of industry here, the part which the United States has borne in this exhibition of invention and art may be regarded with very high satisfaction.

STANDARD COIN.

During the Exposition a conference was held of delegates from several nations, the United States being one, in which the inconvenience of commercial and social intercourse resulting from the diverse standards of money value were fully discussed, and plans were developed for establishing by universal consent a common principle for the coinage of gold. These conferences are expected to be renewed, with the attendance of many foreign States not hitherto represented. A report of these interesting proceedings will be submitted to Congress, which will, no doubt, justly appreciate this great object, and be ready to adopt any measure which may tend to facilitate its ultimate accomplishments.

LEGAL TENDERS.

On the 25th of February, 1862, Congress declared by law that Treasury notes without interest, authorized by that act, should be legal-tender in payment of all debts, public and private, within the United States. An annual remittance of $30,000, less stipulated expenses, accrues to claimants under the Convention made with Spain in 1834. These remittances since the passage of that act have been paid in such notes. The claimants insist that the Government ought to require payment in coin. The subject may be deemed worthy of your attention.

THE ALABAMA CLAIMS.

No arrangement has yet been reached for the settlement of our claims for British depredations upon the commerce of the United States. I have felt it my duty to decline the proposition of arbitration made by Her Majesty's government, because it has hitherto been accompanied by reservations and limitations incompatible with the rights, interest, and honor of our country. It is not to be apprehended that Great Britain will persist in her refusal to satisfy these just and reasonable claims, which involve the sacred principle of non-intervention—a principle henceforth not more important to the United States than to all other commercial nations.

THE WEST INDIES.

The West India islands were settled and colonized by European States simultaneously with the settlement and colonization of the American Continent. Most of the colonies planted here became independent nations in the close of the last and the beginning of the present century. Our own country embraces communities which at one period were colonies of Great Britain, France, Spain, Holland, Sweden and Russia. The people in the West Indies, with the exception of those of the Island of Hayti, have neither attained nor aspired to independence, nor have they become prepared for self-defence. Although possessing considerable commercial value, they have been held by the several European States which colonized or at some time conquered them, chiefly for purposes of military and naval strategy, in carrying out European policy and designs in regard to this continent. In our revolutionary war, ports and harbors in the West India Islands were used by our enemy, to the great injury and embarrassment of the United States. We had the same experience in our second war with Great Britain. The same European policy for a long time excluded us even from trade with the West Indies, while we were at peace with all nations. In our recent civil war the rebels, and their piratical and blockade-breaking allies, found facilities in the same ports for the work which they too successfully accomplised, of injuring and devastating the commerce which we are now engaged in rebuilding. We labored especially under this disadvantage—that European steam vessels, employed by our enemies, found friendly shelter, protection and supplies in West Indian ports, while our own naval operations were necessarily carried on from our own distant shores. There was then a universal feeling of the want of an advanced naval outpost, between the Atlantic coast and Europe. The duty of obtaining such an outpost, peacefully and lawfully, while neither doing nor menacing injury to other States, earnestly engaged the attention of the Executive Department before the close of the war, and it has not been lost sight of since that time. A not entirely dissimilar naval want revealed itself during the same period on the Pacific coast. The required foothold there was fortunately secured by our late treaty with the Emperor of Russia, and it now seems imperative that the more obvious necessities of the Atlantic coast should not be less carefully provided for. A good and convenient port and harbor, capable of easy defence, will supply that want. With possession of such a station by the United States, neither we nor any other American nation need longer apprehend injury or offence from any trans Atlantic enemy. I agree with our early statesmen that the West Indies naturally gravitate to and may be expected ultimately to be absorbed by the Continental States, including our own. I agree with them, also, that it is wise to leave the question of such absorption to this process of natural political gravitation. The islands of St. Thomas and St. John, which constitute a part of the group called the Virgin Islands, seemed to offer us advantages immediately desirable, while their acquisition could be secured in harmony with the principles to which I have alluded. A treaty has therefore been concluded with the King of Denmark for the cession of those Islands, and will be submitted to the Senate for consideration.

THE PURCHASE OF ALASKA.

It will hardly be necessary to call the attention of Congress to the subject of provibing for the payment to Russia of the sum stipulated in treaty for the cession of Alaska. Possession having been formally delivered to our Commissioner, the territory remains for the present in the care of a military force, awaiting such civil organization as shall be directed by Congress.

NATURALIZED CITIZENS.

The annexation of many small German States to Prussia, and the reorganization of that country under a new and liberal constitution, have induced me to renew the effort to obtain a just and prompt settlement of the long vexed question concerning the claims of foreign States for military service from their subjects naturalized in the United States.

In connection with this subject the attention of Congress is respectfully called to a singular and embarrassing conflict of laws. The Executive Department of this Government has hitherto uniformly held, as it now holds, that naturalization in conformity with the Constitution and laws of the United States absolves the recipient from his native allegiance. The Courts of Great Britain hold that allegiance to the British Crown is indefeasible, and is not absolved by our laws of naturalization. British Judges cite Court and law authorities of the United States in suppot of that theory against the position held by the Executive authority of the United States. This conflict perplexes the public mind concerning the rights of naturalized citizens, and impairs the national authorty abroad. I called attention to this subject in my last annual message, and now again respectfully appeal to Congress to declare the national will unmistakably upon this important question.

THE SLAVE TRADE.

The abuse of our laws by the clandestine prosecution of the African slavetrade from American ports, or by American citizens, has altogether ceased, and under existing circumstances no apprehensions of its renewal in this part of the world are entertained. Under these circumstances, it becomes a question whether we shall not propose to Her Majesty's Government a suspension or discontinuance of the stipulations for maintaining a naval force for the suppression of that trade.

[Signed,] ANDREW JOHNSON.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3, 1867.

New York City Municipal Election of Dec. 3, 1867.

John T. Hoffman was re-elected Mayor by 21,590 majority over both the opposing candidates. The whole vote polled was 104,132, a reduction of about 8,000 from the vote at the election last month, and 31,000 less than the registered vote of the city. All of the Aldermen elected are Democrats. All but three were the nominees of Tammany Hall. The councilmen elected were all Tammany nominees. Of the seven Schools Commissioners elected three are Republicans.

☞ The Impeachment reports, printed at the government printing office, by Superintendent Defrees, will make a volume of 250 pages. The additional evidence taken since the Judiciary Committee met this fall, which will make from 75 to 100 pages, is also being printed. In this additional evidence Impeacher Ashley testifies that the published letters with his name attached, and addressed to the perjurer, Sanford Conover, were gneuine, and written by him (Ashley.) This volume will be important in the future, as furnishing evidence of the mental and legal capacity of the leading members of the Committee.

☞ H. Ward Beecher, in his political sermon on Thanksgiving day at Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, made use of the following language:

"The desperate condition of the South the antagonism between the whites and blacks, the revolution that will follow the return of the Southern States to the Union, leads me to think that we shall not have reconstructed this nation when reconstruction is completed. That was as sure as the fact that the powerful party that carried the country through the war were unable to administer to its wants at the close."

The names of Governor English, Ex-Governors Hawley and Buckingham, and of eighteen other prominent citizens of Connecticut, are attached to a published appeal of the Christian women of the State in behalf of its indigent, vagrant and vicious girls. These gentlemen and their associates propose to raise a subscription of $25,000 with which to commence and endow a girl's industrial school There are now in the State five hundred girls, destitute of parents, property, home or friends.

Rob't J. Walker on our National Finances.

The Hon. Robert J. Walker has written a long and able letter on the subject of ovr national finances, looking to the resumption of specie payments. He opposes the present system of the secretary of the treasury, and advocates a foreign loan of $250,000,000. He contends that this loan would be readily taken in Germany, as was that of 1863-4—that Count Bismarck will aid the measure, as he is a great friend of American unity, and that the German Bankers, having studied our resources, will readily take it at less rates of interest than it could possibly be sold for here. He opposes any considerable payments at present on the national debt, and contends that the resumption of specie payments would restore the prosperity of the country, and cause an immediate and immense reduction in taxation. This however, will be secured only by rigid economy our national expenses. With this economy our national expenditures could be reduced to $244,000,000, which he proposes to derive from three sources:

This revenue of $244,000,000 a year as a maxim, I would derive from three sources alone:

"1. By a tariff by revenue.

"2. By an excise on wines, malt, and spiritous liquors and tobacco; abolishing all other internal taxation.

"3. By a tax on our national banks, based upon just and fair equivolents, remembering how essential they are to the prosperity of the country, and that we must not drive them into liquidation by unfair and unusual taxation, and thus revive the wretched State bank system."

The Democrat.

HARVEY SICKLER, Editor.

TUNKHANNOCK, PA.

Wednesday, Dec. 11, 1867.

☞ ADVERTISING AGENTS, EXCHANGES, and all others interested, will please note the CHANGE of TITLE, of this paper, from THE NORTH BRANCH DEMOCRAT to WYOMING DEMOCRAT.

IMPEACHMENT.—The Presidential impeachment business has turned out most disastrously to its authors. The vote in the House being for impeachment 57—against 108. In their unjust attempt to degrade the President, the red-mouthed rads have brought contempt and eventual ruin upon themselves, verifying the old adage—"Give a rascal rope enough, and he will hang himself."

THE MESSAGE.—We make no apology for the amount of space given in to-day's paper to the President's message. None will be required by those who read it, and every man, woman and child should do so. It gives the finishing blow to the same old radical coon, which was so effectually brought down from the tree, by the Autumn elections.

REPUDIATION.—Gen. Carey, a conservative Republican, elected to Congress from the Cincinnati district, made a speech, after the election, in which he said:

"I am in favor of paying the United States bonds as we have agreed to pay them, and in no other way, that is in lawful money, which is greenbacks. So long as the laborer has to take greenbacks as lawful money, the bondholder should do the same. The capitalists of the country ought to pay their share of the war debt."

☞ The Radicals admit the cost of voting the negroes in the South will not be less than $75,000,000 for the present year. Let the workingmen of the North think of that. Every dollar of it is wrung from their toil. $75,000,000 a year to keep ten States impoverished and subject to negro rule. How do you like it fellow working men?

Tunkhannock Wholesale and Retail Produce Market.

Corrected Weekly by BUNNELL & BANNATYNE, at Samuel Stark's old stand, two doors below Woming National Bank.

Wheat, per bushel	$2 30@$2 40
Rye, " "	1 30
Corn, " "	1 25
Oats, " "	75
Buckwheat, "	80
Beans, "	2 00
Potatoes "	75
Butter, lb	35@40
Eggs, per dozen,	30
Lard, lb	14
Tallow, lb	12½
Dried Apples, per bushel	2 50
Rags per lb	03
Hay per ton,	15 00
Wheat Flour per bbl	13 00@14 00
Rye Flour per bbl	
Corn Meal per 100lb	3 00
Chop per 100lb	2 50
Salt per bbl	3 25
Buckwheat Flour per 100lb	3 50@4 00
Hogs, dressed, per lb	7c@8
Mess Pork, per bbl	28 00
Mess Perk, per lb	15

The above named firm are dealers in Dry Goods, Groceries and Provisions, Hardware, Hats and Caps, Boots and Shoes, Notions, &c., &c., and will sell at the lowest cash price ruling at date of sale. v7n1

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

In the matter of William H. Cortright, Bankrupt.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

To whom it may concern: The undersigned hereby gives notice of his appointment as assignee of William H. Cortright of Meshoppen, in the county of Wyoming and State of Pennsylvania, within said District, who has been adjudged a Bankrupt upon his own petition by the District Court of said District.

Dated at Meshoppen this 2d day of December, A. D. 1867.

v7n18w3 H. P. CARTER.

AUDITOR'S NOTICE.

THE undersigned having been appointed by the Court of Common Pleas of Wyoming county an Auditor to distribute the fund arising from the Sheriff's sale of the real estate of Stephen B. Hunt; will attend to the duties of his appointment at his office in Tunkhannock Borough on Thursday, December 26th, 1867, at 10 o'clock A. M., at which time and place all persons interested in said distribution are requested to present their claims or be debarred from coming in for a share of said fund.

HARVEY SICKLER, Auditor.

Tunkhannock, Dec. 3, 1867. v7n18w4

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE.

Letters of administration having been granted to the undersigned, upon the estate of Abraham Casterline, late of Nicholson Tp., Wyoming Co. Pa. dec'd. All persons indebted to said estate are notified to make immediate payments, and those having claims against the same are requested to present them duly authenticated for settlement to

JOATHAM H CASTERLINE,

Administrator, or to his Attorney, T. J. CHASE.

Nicholson, Pa. Nov. 21, '67. v7n17-6w.

DISSOLUTION NOTICE.

THE Copartnership heretofore existing between Crane & Lull, of the Borough of Tunkhannock, has this day been dissolved by mutual consent. The business will be continued at the old stand by F. M. Crane, to whom the partnership accounts have been assigned, and with whom all settlements must be made.

F. M. CRANE,
GEO. M LULL.

Tunkhannock, Nov. 5, 1867.

All persons indebted to the above firm, by note, book account or otherwise, are requested to make immediate settlement of the same.

F. M. CRANE.

Nov. 5, 1867

ESTRAY.

Came to the enclosure of the subscriber in Nicholson, Wyoming County, Pa. on or about the 13th inst Two Red Bull Calves. The owner is requested to come forward, prove property, pay charges and take them away, otherwise they will be disposed of according to law

JOHN S. CAMP.

Nicholson, November 22, '67-v7n17-3

SHERMAN & LATHROP'S COLUMN.

TO THE PEOPLE OF WYOMING COUNTY GREETING:

—:o:—

THE UNDERSIGNED HAVE JUST OPENED AT THEIR STAND,

(First door below WALL'S HOTEL, in Tunkhannock)

THE LARGEST AND MOST TASTEFULLY SELECTED STOCK OF GOODS IN THEIR LINE EVER BROUGHT INTO THIS MARKET;

Comprising in part the following:

SILKS.

BROWN, BLUE, BISMARCK, MEXICAN BLUE, AND MARIA LOUISA BLUE, BLACK and BROCADE SILKS, of all grades.

—.o:—

FRENCH and IRISH, and NEW STYLE, PLAID POPLINS.

—:o:—

ORIENTAL LUSTRES.

MOHAIRS. COBURGS. EMPRESS CLOTH, FRENCH MERINOES and ALPACCAS, of all Shades. An endless variety of TRIMMINGS to match the above. ZEPHYR GOODS of all kinds. Knit and Woven.

—:o:—

SACKS AND CLOAKS,

COMPRISING BEAUTY and ELEGANCE. THIBIT, BROCHEA, and WOOL SHAWLS.

BALMORAL SKIRTS.

A Full and Elaborate Stock of Embroidered Goods.

White Goods of all descriptions, Table and Towel Diaper, Domestics, Delaines, Prints, Ginghams, &c.

Alexander's KID GLOVES, of all shades, Gents and Ladies.

A Large Stock of Traveling Trunks—Ladies' Reticules, Gents' Traveling Valises, &c., &c.

FURS of all kinds for Ladies and Gentlemen.

Carpets---Wool, Two and Three Ply, and Brussels, Stair Carpets, Matting, Oil Cloth and Drugget.

Rugs, Mats and Hassocks, Ladies' and Gents' Hosiery.

A large stock of FURNISHING GOODS.

SHIRTS of the finest and most durable quality, UNDERSHIRTS, DRAWERS, Cravats, Collars, &c., &c.

SHOES—Woman's, Misses, and Children's.

BEDDING—Counterpanes, Coverlaids, Whitney Blankets, German Blankets, &c., &c.

YANKEE NOTIONS, of all kinds.

Our Stock of CLOTHING is complete, and not equalled in this, nor surpassed in the best New York and Philadelphia merchant Tailoring Establishments. Suits made to order in the latest and best style.

We have purchased our stock since the last reduction in the prices of our goods. We have purchased largely, and are determined to sell at less prices than the same kind and quality of goods can be bought at any other establishment in this or adjoining counties. We bought them to sell, and all who call to see us will readily be convinced that we are bound to dispose of them.

All goods cheerfully exhibited without scolding if you do not buy.

Call and see us.

SHERMAN & LATHROP.

Tunkhannock, Nov. 5th, 1867.