## ARTHUR'S MESSAGE.

What the President, in His First Communication Recommends to Congress.

MANY SUBJECTS DISCUSSED

The Panama Canal Matter and the Financial Situation Reviewed.

SOMETRING ABOUT THE STAR ROUTES

A Word in Relation to the Mormons-Civil Service Reform.

WASHINGTON, December 6.

The President's message, which was sent to Congress to-day, is a very voluminous document. In opening his message the President says:

An appalling calamity has befallen the American people since their choson representatives last met in the halls where you are now assembled. We might also recall, with unaltered content, the rare might also recall, with unaltered content, the rare prosperity with which, throughout the year, the nation has been blessed. Its harvests have been pleateens, its various industries have thriven, the health of the people has been preserved, it has maintained with foreign governments the undisturbed relations of smity and peace. For these manifestations of His favor we owe to Him who holds our destiny in His hands the tribute of our grateful devotion. To that mysterious exercise of His will which has taken from us the leved and flustrious eltiren who was but lately the head of the nation we bow in sorrow and submission. The institute of the second of the achievements and of his patriotic life will be treas-ured forever as a sacred possession of the whole peo-pie. The announcement of his death drew from for-den governments and peoples tributes of sympathy and sorrow, which history will record as signal tokens of the kinship of nations and the federation

The President next takes up our foreign relations and mentions the various nations of the earth with which we are at peace. In regard to the Panama Ca-The Pressonant near taxes up our foreign relations and mentions the various nations of the earth with which we are at peace. In regard to the Panama Canal he says. The questions growing out of the proposed intersecanic waterway across the Isthmus of Panama are of grave national importance. This government has not been unmindful of the solemn obligations imposed upon it by its compact of 1846 with Colombia as the independent and sovereign mistress of the territory crossed by the canal and has assight to render them effective by fresh engagements with the Colombian Republic looking to their practical execution. The negotiations to this end, after they had reached what appeared to be a mutually satisfactory solution here, were met in Colombia by a disavowal of the powers which its envey had assumed and by a proposal for renewed negotiation on a modified basis. Meanwhile this government learned that Colombia had proposed to the European powers to join in a guarantee of the neutrality of the proposed Panama Canal—a guarantee which would be in direct contravention of our obligation as the sole guaranter of the integrity of Colombian territory and of the neutrality of the canal itself. My lamented predecessor left it his duty to place before the European powers the reasons which make the prior guarantee of the United States indispensable and for which the interjection of any foreign guarantee might be regarded as a superfluous and unfriendly set. Foreseeing the probable reliance of the British government on the provisions of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty of 1850 as affording room for a share in the guarantee which the United States covenanted with Colombia four years before. I have not hesitated to supplement the sotion of my predecessor by proposing to her Majesty's government the modification of that instrument and the abrogation of such clauses thereof as do not comport with the obligations of the United States towards Colombia or with the vital news of the compact.

A sectal LENVOY.

A SPECIAL ENVOY.
This government sees with great concern the oon inuance of the hostile relations between Chill, Bo-livia and Peru. An early peace between these Re-publics is much to be-desired, not only that they may themselves be spared further misery and bloodshed, themselves be spared further misery and bloodshed, but because their continued sutagonism threatens consequences which are in my judgment dangerous to the interests of republican government on this continuent, and calculated to destroy the best elements of our free and peaceful civilization. As in the present excited condition of popular feeling in these countries there has been aerious misapprochension of the position of the United States, and as separate diplomatic intercourse with each through independent Ministers is sometimes subject—swing to want of prompt reciprocal communication—to temporary manuferstanding. I have deemed it judicious at the present time to send a special envoy, accredited to all and each of them and furnished with general instructions, which will. I trust, enable him to bring these powers into triendly relations. The Pressitent, while still upon the subject of foreign relations, regrets that the commercial of foreign relations, regrets that the commercial of the posterior of the Postmaster General is a gralify-ing exhibit of the postal service. The receipts from the money order business were \$25, 281, 103, making a total of \$56, 785, 397, 97. The expenditure for the facal year was \$29, 251, 745. The deficit supplied out of the general interests of our foreign trade and the persons and property of our clitzens abroad; to maintenests of our foreign trade and the persons and property of our clitzens abroad; to maintenests of our foreign trade and the persons and property of our clitzens abroad; to maintenests of our foreign trade and the persons and property of our clitzens abroad; to maintenests of our foreign trade and the persons and property of our clitzens abroad; to maintenests of our foreign trade and the persons and property of our clitzens abroad; to maintenests of our foreign trade and the persons and property of our clitzens abroad; to maintenests of our foreign trade and the persons and property of our clitzens abroad agression; to protect the the function of our first persons relations. The President, while still upon the subject of foreign relations, regrets that the commercial interests between the United States and Brazil, from which great advantages were hoped a year ago, have suffered from the withdrawal of the American steamers. Regarding China and Japan he says: I renew the recommendation which has been heretolore urged by the Executive upon the attention of Congress, that after the reduction of such amount as may be found due to American citizens the balance of the indemnity funds heretolore obtained from China and Japan, and which are now in the hands of the State Department, be returned to the governments of those countries. The President recommends the restoration of missions in Greece and Ecuador, and invites the attention of Congress to the new code of international rules for the prevention of collisions on the high seas.

THE FINANCIAL SITUATION.

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THE PINANCIAL SITUATION.

The President says that the report of the Secretary of the Treasury represents in detail a highly satisfactory exhibit of the state of the finances and the condition of the various branches of the public service administered by that department. The increase of the revenues for 1881 over those of the previous year was \$29,352,901, 10. It is estimated that the receipts during the present fiscal year will reach \$400,000,000 and the expenditures \$270,000,000, leaving a surplus of \$130,000,000 applicable to the sinking fund and the redemption of the public debt. I approve the recommendation of the Secretary of the Treasury, that provision be made for the early retirement of silver certificates and that the act requiring their issue be repealed. They were issued in pursuance of the policy of the government to maintain silver at or near the gold standard, and were accordingly made receivable for all customs, taxes and public dues. About sixty-six millions are now outstanding. They form an unnecessary addition to the paper currency, a sufficient amount of which may be readily supplied by the national banks. In secondance with the act of February 28, 1878, the Treasury Department has mootibly caused at least two millions in value of silver buillion to be coined into standard silver dollars. One hundred and two millions of these dollars have been already coined, while only about thirty-four millions are in circulation. For the reasons which he specifies I concur in the Secretary's recommendation that the provision for coinage of a fixed amount each month be repealed, and that hereafter only so much be coined as shall be necessary to supply the demand. The Secretary advises that the issue of gold certificates should not for the present be resumed and suggests that the national banks may properly be forbidden by law to retire their currency except upon reasonable notice of their intention so to do. Such legi REFUNDING OPERATIONS.

President next speaks of the refunding opera-id says the reduction of the unnual interest on Regarding Mormonism, the President says that the public debt through these transactions is as follows: By reduction of interest to three and one-half per cent., \$10,473,502.25; by redemption of bonds, \$6,352,340; total, \$16,835,292.25. The three and one-half per centum bonds being payable at the pleasure of the government, are available for the investment of surplus revenue without the payment of premiums, the President says that the existing statute for the punishmen of polygamy, so revealing to the moral and religious sense of Christendom, has been persistently and contemptuously violated ever since its enactment. Your attention is called to a recent opinion of the Supreme Court of the United States explaining its judgment of reversal in the case of Miles, who had been convicted of bigamy in Utah. The Court refers to the fact that the secrecy attending the celebration of marriages in

agree with the Secretary of the Treasury that no legislation respecting them is desirable. It is a matter for congratulation that the business of the country has been so prosperous during the past year as to yield by taxation a large surplus of income to the government. If the revenue laws remain unchanged this surplus must year by year increase on account of the reduction of the public debt and its burden of interest, and because of the rapid increase or our population. In 1860, just prior to the institution of our internal revenue, our population but slightly exceeded 30,000,000. It is estimated that even if the annual receipts and expenditures should continue as at present the entire debt could be paid in ten years. In view, however, of the heavy load of taxation which our people have already borne, we may well consider whether it is not the part of wisdom to reduce the revenue, even if we delay a little the payment of the debt.

RELIEF FROM TAXATION.

RELIEF PROM TAXATION.

RELIEF FROM TAXATION.

It seems to me that the time has arrived when the people may justly demand some relief from their present onerous burden and that by due economy in the various branches of the public service this may readily be afforded. I therefore concur with the Secretary in recommending the abolition of all internal revenue taxes except those upon tobacco in its various forms and upon distilled spirits and formented liquors, and except also the assemble lay upon the ous forms and upon distilled spirits and fermented liquors, and except, also, the special tax upon the inanufacturers of and dealers in such articles. The retestion of the latter tax is desirable as affording the officers of the government a proper supervision of these articles for the prevention of fraud. I agree with the Secretary of the Treasury that the law imposing a stamp tax upon matches, proprietary articles, playing cards, cheeks and drafts may with propriety be repealed, and the law also by which banks and bankers are assessed upon their capital and deposits. There seems to be a general sentiment in favor of this course. In the present condition of our favor of this course. cards, cheeks and drafts may with propriety be repealed, and the law also by which banks and bankers are assessed upon their capital and deposits. There seems to be a general sentiment in favor of this course. In the present condition of our revenues the tax upon deposits is especially unjust. It was never imposed in this country intil it was demanded by the necessities of war, and was never exacted, I believe, in any other country, even in its greatest exigency. Banks are required to secure their circulation by pledging with the Treasurer of the United States bonds of the General Government. The interest upon these bonds, which at the time the lax was imposed was 6 per cent., is now in most instances 3/5 per cent. Besides, the entire circulation was originally limited by law and no increase was allowable.

THE TAX ON CIRCULATION. When the existing banks had practically a mo-nopoly of the business there was force in the sugges-tion that for the franchise to the favored grantees the government might very properly exact a tax on cir-culation; but for years the system has been free and government might very properly exact a tax on circulation; but for years the system has been free and the amount of circulation regulated by the public demand. The retontion of this tax has been suggested as a means of reimbursing the government for the expeuse of printing and furnishing the eleculating notes. If the tax should be repealed it would certainly seem proper to require the national banks to pay the amount of such expense to the Comprible of the Currency. It is, perhaps, doubtful whether the immediate reduction of the rate of laxation upon liquor and tobacco is advisable, especially in view of the drain upon the Treasury which must attend the payment of arrears of pensions. A comparison, however, of the amount of taxes collected under the varying rates of taxation which have at different times prevailed suggests the intimation that some reduction may soon to made without material diminution of the revenue. The tariff laws also need revision, but that a due regard may be paid to the conflicting interests of our citizens important changes should be made with caution. If a careful revision cannot be made at this session a commission, such as was lately approved by the Sensic and is now recommended by the Secretary of the Treasury, would doubtless lighten the labors of Congress whenever this subject shall be broug to its consideration.

gress whenever this subject shall be broug to its consideration.

THE ARMY AND NAVY.

The President concurs in the recommendation of the Secretary of War that the army be raised to thirty thousand enlisted men. The report of the Secretary of the Navy, he says, presents valuable suggestions for its improvement. I call your especial attention, also, to the appended report of the Advisory Board, which he convened to devise suitable measures for increasing the efficiency of the navy, and particularly to the report as to the character and number of vessels necessary to place it upon a footing commensurate with the necessities of the government. I cannot too strongly urge upon you my conviction that every consideration of national safety, economy and honor imperatively demands a thorough rehabilitation of our navy. We have for many years maintained with foreign governments the relations of honorable peace, and that such relations may be permanent is desired by every patriotic citizen of the Republic; but it we heed the teachings of history, we shall not forget that in the life of every nation emergencies may arise when a resort to arms can alone save it from dishonor. No danger from abroad now threatens this people, nor have we any cause to distrust the friendly professions of other governments. But for avoiding as well as repolling dangers that may threaten us in the future we must be prepared to enforce any policy which we think wise to adopt. We must be ready to defend our harbors against aggression; to protect by the distribution of our ships of war over the highways of commerce the varied interests of our foreign trade and the persons and property of our citizens abroad; to maintain everywhere the honor of our flag and the distinguished position which we may rightfully claim among the nations of the world.

The report of the Postmaster General is a gratify-

eral Treasury was \$2,481,129.35, the amount expended. The receipts were \$3,462,518.63 in excess of those of the previous year, and \$4,575,the amount expended. The receipts were \$3,409,918.63 in excess of those of the previous year, and \$4,575, 397.97 in excess of the estimate made two years ago, before the present period of business prosperity had tairly begun. During the past year \$38 additional money offices have been established, making a total of \$499 in operation at the date of this report. During the year the domestic money orders aggregated in value \$105,075,769.35. A modification of the system is suggested, reducing the fees for money orders not exceeding \$5 from ten cents to five contrained making the maximum limit \$100 in place of \$30. Legislation for the disposition of unclaimed money orders in the possession of the Post Office Department is recommended, in view of the fact that their total value now exceeds one million dollars. The attention of Congress is again invited to the subject of establishing a system of savings depositaries in connection with the Post Office Department. The so-called Star routes have been decreased in length \$3.90 miles and in cost \$364,144. Most all the more expensive routes have been decreased in length \$3.90 miles and in cost \$364,144. Most all the more expensive routes have been supercreded by railroad service. The cost of the Star service must therefore rapidly decrease in the Western States and Territories. The investigations of the Department of Justice and the Post Office Department have resulted in the presentation of indictioninals against persons formerly connected with that service, accusing them of offenses against the United States. I have enjoined upon the efficials who are charged with the conduct of the cases on the part of the government, and upon the eminent counsel who, before my accession to the Presidency, were called to their assistance, the duty of prosecuting with the utmost rigor of the law all persons who may be found chargeable with frauds upon the postal service.

COWBOYS AND INDIANS. The President refers to the depredations of the "cowboys" in Arizons, and says that in the event of a request from the Territorial government for protection by the United States against domestic violence

a request from the Territorial government for protection by the United States against domestic violence this government would be poweriess to render assistance. The act of 1795, chapter 36, passed at a time when Territorial governments received little attention from Congress, enforced this duty of the United States only as to the State governments. But the act of 1807, chapter 39, applied also to the Territories. This law seems to have remained in force until the revision of the statutes, when the provision for the Territories was dropped. I am not advised whether this alteration was intentional or accidental, but as it seems to me the Territories should be offered the protection which is accorded to the States by the Constitution, I suggest legislation to that end. The President calls attention to the report of the Secretary of the Interior and says: Prominent among the matters which challenge the attention of Congress at its present session is the management of our Indian affairs. The President recommends that the Indian have the protection of the law. He should be allowed to maintain in court his rights of person and property. He also recommends land in severalty and a liberal appropriation for Indian schools.

THE MORMONS.

Regarding Mormonism, the President says that the

that Territory makes the proof of polygamy very difficult, and the propriety is suggested of modifying the law of evidence, which now makes a wife incompetent to testify against her husband. This suggestion is approved. I recommend also the passage of an act providing that in the Territories of the United States the fact that a woman has been married to a person charged with bigamy shall not disqualify her as a witness upon his trial for that offerse. I further recommend legislation by which any person solemnizing marriage in any of the Territories shall be required, under stringent penalties for neglect or refusal, to file a certificate of such marriage in the Supreme Court of the Territory. Doubties Congress may devise other practicable measures for obviating the difficulties which have hitherto attended the efforts to suppress this iniquity. I assure you of my determined purpose to co-operate with you in any lawful and discreet measure which may be proposed to that end.

CIVIL SERVICE REPORM.

be proposed to that end.

CIVIL SERVICE REFORM.

The President speaks of the enormous sums which will be required for arrears in pensions, estimated at \$250,000,000 for first payments. The great temptation to the presentation of fictitious claims afforded by the fact that the average sum obtained upon each application is \$1,300, leads him to suggest the propriety of making some special appropriation for the prevention of fraud. He advises appropriations for such internal improvements as the wisdom of Congress may deem to be of public importance. After mentioning the necessity for improving the Mississippi river he takes up the subject of civil service reform and says: In my letter accepting the nomination for the Vice Presidency I stated that, in my judgment, "no man should be the incumbent of an office the duties of which he is for any cause unfit to perform, who is lacking in the ability, fidelity or integrity which a proper administration of such office demands." This sentiment would doubtless meet with general acquicescence, but opinion has been widely divided upon the wisdom and practicability of the various reformatory schemes which have been suggested and of certain proposed regulations governing appointments to public effice. The efficiency of such regulations has been districted mainly because they have seemed to exalt mere educational and abstract tests above general business capacity and even special fitness for the particular work in hand. It seems to me that the rules which should be applied to the management of the public service may properly conform in the main to such as regulate the conduct of successful private business. Original appointments should be based upon ascertained fitness. The tenure of office should be stable. Positions of responsibility should, so far as possible, be filled by the promotion of worthy and efficient officers. The investigation of all complaints and the pounsiment of all official miscondact should be prompt and thorough.

THE PRESIDENT'S PROMISE.

The views expressed in the foregoing letter are those which will govern my administration of the Executive office. They are doubtless shared by all intelligent and patriotic citizens, however divergent in their opinions as to the best methods of putting them into practical operation. For example, the assertion that "original appointments should be based upon ascertained fitness" is not open to dispute. But the question how in practice such fitness can be most effectually ascertained is one which has for years excited interest and discussion. The measure which, with slight variations in its details, has lately been presed upon the attention of Courters and the Freeners. ented interests and discussion. The measure which, with slight variations in its details, has lately been irged upon the attention of Congress and the Executive, has as its principal feature the scheme of competitive, has as its principal feature the scheme of competitive admission to the service only in its lowest grade, and would accordingly demand that all vacancies in higher positiones should be filled by promotion alone. In these particulars it is in conformity with the existing civil service system of Great Britain. And, indeed, the success which has attended that system in the country of its birth is the strongest argument which has been arged forits adoption here. The fact should not, however, he overlooked that there are certain features of the English system which have not generally been received with favor in this country, even among the foremost advocates of civil service reform. Among them are: First, a tenure of office which is substantially a life tenure second, a limitation of the maximum age at which an applicant can enter the service, whereby all men in middle life or older are, with some exceptions, rigidly excluded; third, a retiring allowance upon going out of office. These three elements are as important factors of the problem as any of the others. To eliminate them from the English system would effect a most radical change in list theory and practice. The avowed purpose of that system is to induce the educated young men of the country to devote their lives to public employment by an assurance that having once entered upon they need never leave it, and that upon voluntary retirement they shall be the recepicants of an annual pension. That this system as an entirety has proved very successful in Great Britain seems to be generally conceded, even by those who once opposed its adoption. To a statute which should incorporate all its sessitial features! I should feel bound to give my approval, but whether it would be for the best interest of the English system, but excludes or immediate of the of the English system, but excludes or ignores others of equal importance, may be seriously doubted even by those who are impressed, as I am myself, with the grave importance of extracting the evils which inhere in the present methods of appointment. If, for example, the English rule, which shuts out all persons above the age of twenty-five years from a large number of public employments, is not to be made an essential part of our system, it is questionable whether the attainment of the highest number of marks at a competitive examination should be the criterion by which all applications for appointment should be put to test. And under similar conditions it may also be questioned whether admission to the service should be strictly limited to its lowest ranks.

THE ENGLISH SYSTEM.

The present English system is a growth of years, or legislative action. Its beginnings are found in an order in council promulgated in 1855, and it was after patient and cautious scrutiny of its workings that fif-teen years later it took its present shage. Five years after the issuance of the order in council, and at time when resort had been had to competitive examinations as an experiment much more extensively nations as an experiment much more extensively than has yet been the case in this country, a select committee of the House of Commons made a report to that House, which, declaring its approval of the competitive plan, deprecated, nevertheless, any precipitancy in its general adoption, as likely to endanger its ultimate success. During this tentative period the results of the two methods of pass examination and competitive examination were closely watcher and compared. It may be that before we confine ourselves upon this important question within the stringent bounds of statutory enactment we may proand compared. It may be that before we confine ourselves upon this important question within the stringent bounds of statutory enactment we may profitably await the result of further inouiry and experiment. The submission of a portion of the nominations to a central board of examiners selected solely for testing the qualifications of applicants may, perhaps, without resort to the competitive test, put an end to the mischiefs which attend the present system of appointment, and it may be feasible to vest in such a board a wide discretion to ascertain the characteristics and attainments of candidates in those particulars which I have already referred to as being no less important than mere intellectual attainments. If Congress should deem it advisable at the present session to establish competitive tests for admission to the service no doubts such as have been suggested shall deter me from giving the measure my earnest support, and I urgently recommend, should there be a failure to pass my other set upon this subject, that an appropriation of \$25,000 per year may be made for the enforcement of section 1,733 of the revised statutes. With the aid thus afforded me I shall strive to execute the provisions of that law according to its letter and spirit. I am unwilling, in justice to the present civil servants of the government, to dismiss this subject without declaring my dissent from the severe and almost indiscriminate censure with which they have been recently assailed. That they are as a class indolent, inefficient and corrupt is a statement which has been often made and widely credited; but when the extent, variety, delicacy and importance of their duties are considered, the great majority of the employes of the government are, in my judgment, deserving of high commendation.

The President recommends to Congress the subject of the decline of the merchant marine. He does not pretend to indicate the remedy for it, but regards immediate attention as important. He thinks that there would have been no decline if we had

our manufacturers.

The message concludes with a reference to the Presidential inability, as suggested by the situation which existed during most of the past summer, but he does not indicate what he thinks should be done.

What They Learned in America From the China Mail.

Two Chinese students, returning from Amer-

Why He Killed His Friend

"Yes, I have killed my man," remarked old John Bigelow when the conversation touched upon the shedding of human blood. "I killed one of my best friends," he continued, lighting his pipe and throwing the largest pair of feet in the company on to a chair, with an effort and subse quently twitching about the face, which very plainly told that the old man was suffering with rheumatism.

"What! killed your friend?" exclaimed

one of the company.
"Yes, as warm a friend as I had on earth."

"Accidentally, wasn't it?"

"No, sir, purposely. If you men ain't in a hurry I'll tell you the circumstance." Every one expressed a desire to hear the story, and the old man, after a mo-

ment's reflection, began:

"I was a your g feller, and had just come to Little Rock, when, one night while passing a saloon on the "levee, I was attacked by several rufflans. I fought desperately, knocking one of them down and I tell you I was a slick buck in those days-I was advancing on another when drew a horse pistol and leveled it at me. The moon was shining and I could see a flendish expression of delight on the face of the ruffian Just at that moment the pistol was knocked high in the air. The ruflians fled and I saw before me a tall young man. He asked me if I was hurt, and advancing, took me by the arm. Well we became friends. His name was George Wemick. Plenty of old people in this town remember him. God knows how well I do. You people seem to be growing restless. I'll cut the story short. George and I became room mates. An attachment—one of these here old time friendships—sprang up between us Poor fellow, he had one fau.t—whisky. When drunk he was the most dangerous man I eversaw. Many a time have I seen him walk into a crowd, slap someone's face, and then knock him down for resenting the insult. He used to say, John I am bilious, and you know that fighting is my only medicine. I must have medicine.

One night he came into the room after su absence of several days. I saw that he was full and I tried to engage his attention on a serious subject, but failed. Finally he remarked that he was billious and had to have medicine. He went down, and several hours afterward returned with the end of a man's nose sticking on a knife-

"I got my medicine," he said. "It is time. The Steinway was sent to the not very polite to hand you a piece of manufactory and the men went to the hosmeat without a fork, but on this occasion pital. Terrible, wasn't it!" of emergency I'll have to use a knife. It was rather a hard matter to get the medicine. I had to look all around Finally a field!"
man came down the street. I told him that I was billious and had to have some the stranger solemnly. "On the an insult, and in my great need of medi-cine I knocked him down and cut off the Bird,' and the way that goat stood on his end of his nose. The people of this town ought to understand that when I get out to the music was just the second out I want the medicine of human flesh thing. I may say that it was actually and blood, anyway? It cadnot enter the amusing. It slipped upon a banana peel Kingdom of Heaven. John, if I hadn't once, and fell against a cigar sign." Kingdom of Heaven. John, if I hadn't found this fellow, I should have killed must have medicine!" "He threw the piece of human flesh on

the table and told me to 100a and drawing a ing." turned away in disgust and drawing a "Did the goat come?" the piece of nose in my mouth he would goat Perky for short—Perky took him in kill me. He cocked the pistol and I took the stomach, broke him clean in two, went sleeve. This satisfied him and he went to of the picnic, which was four squares long, bed. I went to the window and threw I think there were ninety-two killed and away the end of the unfortunate nose and eight hundred and six wounded. Pretty crept down stars. Next morning George good, when you consider the entire drivhis eyes implored my forgiveness. He beer; now, wasn't it? Now, it occured found the man who had suffered the loss to—" of a part of his nose and gave him \$400. every cent of money he had. For a long naling the staff to spit on their hands and time he remained sober and the circumstances of his last case of billious were almost forgotten. I had become more and to catch the goat when he got sober and more attached to him, for every day I was bring him down here for our benefit. You impressed with the nobility of his charac- have him now tied to a fire-plug around ter. One night, at the appointed hour, he the corner, and if we will only chip in failed to come home. Another triend of mine had come up to pass the evening with us: We were reading "Copperfield, and George, who was a splendid elocution ist, was going to read to us. We waited and waited. Determining that George would not come in until very late, I took up the book and began reading. Just as I rooms wondered at the number of fresh got to where Mr. Omar, the undertaker, blood stains on the stairs. was driving nails into coffins with a rat, tat, tat, George walked in.

"I am bilious!" he exclaimed, and then I saw he was drunk. "George," I asked, "are you not going

to read Copperfield for us?' "No," he exclaimed, "I have been reading a medical work, and I find that I

am bilious. John, I am going out to hunt for some human medicine, and if I don't find any I'll have to use you." "He went out and I explained to my

friend that if he did not find some one to fight he would come back and attack me I sat for a long and studied. My friend was silent. At length I heard footsteps on the stairs and instinctively I ran to my truck and took out a pistol. I had just time to again reach the table when George entered with two enormous horse pistols, one in each hand.

"Bilious," he exclaimed, and leveled one of the pistols. I dodged behind the table just as he fired. I had my pistol in my hand.

"I am bilious, I tell you," and he level-

ed the other pistol. "Quick as a flash I fired. George fell. I ran to him, and with the assistance of my other friend, put him to bed. In a few moments the room was crowded with peo-I was not arrested for I had acted in seif-defense. Next day I stood by George's bedside. He was sober and suffered great pain. My ball had passed through his

body.
"John," said he, "give me your hand."

I grasped his hand and stood gazing into his eyes. His face was changed.
"John, I will never be bilious again,"

and with one great gasp be died. "Gentlemen, this is why people-say that I have killed my man," and the old man

wiped tears from his eyes and knocked the ashes from his pipe.

A Frisky Goat.

A tall, thin man, with a red nose, gray ide whiskers, and a melancholy expression drifted into the office of the Post, San Francisco, and asked, in a subdued voice, if there was an unemployed reporter on the

"Because," said the stranger, "a very peculiar thing happened up our way—I live at riayes Valley—this morning, and which perhaps you might work up into a sort of item, somehow."

What sort of a thing I" said the manag-

ing editor winking to the fighting editor to get his club ready in case the sad man pulled out a poem or any other dangerous contrivance.

"Well, in the first place," said the stranger, abstractedly, "do you happen to know the effect of beer on animals?" "l'an't say I do."

"It's exactly the reverse of what'st is on me. Instead of soothing 'em it excites their nervous organization to the highest pitch. Actually makes 'em insane.'

"Does, eh?" "Yes, sir; and this morning, as it was rather sultry, I sent my youngest boy for a gallon of beer. He stopped on the way and put the can down to play marbles. McGin-

ty's old black billy-goat came along and drank up the beer—every drop of it." "Great Cæsar!" said the court reporter,

smacking his lips, regretfully.

"He drank every drop of it, and nearly choked to death on the can. He stood blinking around a little for awhile; then he started for a street-car, with all colors He hit the horse square amid-ships,

and it foundered at once."

"Wrecked, I suppose?" said the editor.

"Precisely. The goat then glanced off, killed the driver and telescoped the car. I was sitting at the window all this time, and my attention was attracted by Go-vernor Perkins going down the street hell

bent on the election. "Governor Perkins?" "That's the goat's name you see. McGiny is a strong Republican. - There were four men getting a piano out of a wagon across the street when the Governor went through 'em like a pile-dayer behind

"Is this ghost story in one act?" asked

"In one scene and nine tableaux," said medicine, but mistaking my meaning, he block the Governor came scross a Dutch told me to go to a drug store. This was picnic, headed by a brass band. The Teohind legs and waltzed around the pavement ought to understand that when I get bili- to the music was just too funny for any-

found this fellow, I should have killed you. Hang it, you ought to know that I tor, motioning the devil to call in six of the healthiest compositors.

"Well pretty soon the band changed off the table and told me to look at it. I into Come Where My Love Lies Dream-

with a wild how he told me that he needed more medicine, and that if I didn't put the drum major knew Perky—we call the up the piece of flesh, and, pretending to through the rest of the band, including the put it in my mouth, dropped it down my big drum, and so on clear down to the end

> "Just one minute," said the editor, siglimber up for action. "Allow me to ex-plain what occured to you. You concluded about four bits for beer, you will get the animal started and we can watch the fun."

> "Exactly," said the stranger, warmly; "that is precisely my idea. I will now take up a col—" That afternoon such of the customers of the Post as teiled up into the editorial

The Code.

An old tradesman in a French country town sent his nephew Alfred to study law at Paris. He gave him an old code annotated by a leading member of the country bar, and said:

"I will pay you a visit in March, and, if am pleased with your progress, I will give you such a tip as will make glad your heart and cause your face to shine

In March the old gentleman called on his nephew. "Well, Alfred, hard at work, I see!

Made good progress with your code? Pretty well through it by this time, I exrect f "Yes, respected sir, my life has been

one continual grind. Your venerable friend marginal notes I found of great service while laboring at the code."

"Good boy-excellent young man! You got my draft, of course! It is pleasure to me to reflect that my bounty was not all-bestowed.

"Your draft, uncle? No. I never receivod it."

"Show me that code

The old man opened the book and showed his stupefied nephew a draft for two thousand francs, dated five months before, which had all the time been reposing be tween the first two leaves of the code.

Ir a man really wents to know of how little importance he is, let him go with his wife to the dress-maker's