

subject of general interest. For complete and exact information regarding the finances, and the various branches of the public service connected therewith, I refer you to the report of the Secretary of the Treasury, from which it will appear that the amount of revenue during the last fiscal year from all sources, was seventy-three millions five hundred and forty-nine thousand seven hundred and five dollars; and that the public expenditures for the same period, exclusive of payments on account of the public debt, amounted to fifty-one million eight hundred and twenty-two thousand four hundred and eighty dollars. During the same period, the payments made in redemption of the public debt, including interest and premium, amounted to twenty-four million three hundred and thirty-six thousand three hundred and eighty dollars.

To the sum total of the receipts of that year is to be added a balance remaining in the Treasury at the commencement thereof, amounting to twenty-one millions nine hundred and forty-two thousand eight hundred and ninety-two dollars; and at the close of the same year, a corresponding balance amounting to twenty million one hundred and thirty-seven thousand nine hundred and sixty-seven dollars of receipts above expenditures, also remained in the Treasury. Although, in the opinion of the Secretary of the Treasury, the receipts of the current fiscal year are not likely to equal in amount those of the last, yet they will undoubtedly exceed the amount of expenditures by at least fifteen millions of dollars. I shall, therefore, continue to direct that the surplus revenue be applied, so far as it can be judiciously and economically done, to the reduction of the public debt, the amount of which, at the commencement of the last fiscal year, was sixty-seven millions three hundred and forty thousand six hundred and twenty-eight dollars; of which there had been paid on the twentieth day of November, 1854, the sum of twenty-two millions three hundred and sixty-five thousand one hundred and seventy-two dollars; leaving a balance of outstanding public debt of only forty-four million nine hundred and seventy-four thousand four hundred and fifty-six dollars, redeemable at different periods within fourteen years. There are also remains of other government stocks, most of which are already due, and on which the interest has ceased, but which have not yet been presented for payment, amounting to two hundred and thirty-three thousand one hundred and seventy-nine dollars.

This statement exhibits the fact, that the annual income of the government greatly exceeds the amount of its public debt, which later remains unpaid, only because the time of payment has not matured, and it cannot be discharged at once, except at the option of public creditors, who prefer to retain the securities of the United States; and the other fact, no less striking, that the annual revenue from all sources exceeds, by many millions of dollars, the amount needed for a prudent and economical administration of the government.

The estimates presented to Congress from the different Executive Departments, at the last session, amounted to thirty-eight million four hundred and six thousand five hundred and eighty-one dollars; and the appropriations made, to the sum of fifty-eight million one hundred and sixteen thousand nine hundred and fifty-eight dollars. Of this excess of appropriations over estimates, however, more than twenty millions was applicable to extraordinary objects, having no reference to the usual annual expenditures. Among these objects, was embraced ten millions to meet the third article of the treaty between the United States and Mexico; so that, in fact, for objects of ordinary expenditures, the appropriations were limited to considerable less than forty millions of dollars. I therefore, renew my recommendation for a reduction of the duties on imports. The report of the Secretary of the Treasury presents a series of tables, showing the operation of the revenue system for several successive years, and as the general principle of reduction of duties may now be regarded as the settled policy of the country, I trust that little difficulty will be encountered in settling the details of a measure to that effect.

In connection with this subject, I recommend a change in the laws, which recent experience has shown to be essential to the protection of the government. There is no express provision of law, requiring the records and papers of a public character, of the several officers of the government, to be left in their offices for the use of their successors, nor any provision declaring it felony on their part to make false entries in the books, or return false accounts. In the absence of such express provision by law, the out-going officers, in many instances, have claimed and received the right to take into their own possession, important books and papers, on the ground that these were their private property; and have placed them beyond the reach of the government. Conduct of this character, brought in several instances to the notice of the present Secretary of the Treasury, naturally awakened his suspicion, and resulted in the disclosure that, at four ports, namely, Oswego, Toledo, Sandusky, and Milwaukee, the treasury had, by false entries, been defrauded, within the four years next preceding March, 1853, of the sum of one hundred and ninety-eight thousand dollars. The great difficulty with which the detection of these frauds has been attended, in consequence of the abstraction of books and papers by the retiring officers, and the facility with which similar frauds in the public service may be perpetrated, render the necessity of new legal enactments, in the respects above referred to, quite obvious. For other material modifications of the revenue laws which seem to me desirable, I refer you to the report of the Secretary of the Treasury. That report, and the tables which accompany it, furnish ample proofs of the solid foundation on which the financial security of the country rests, and of the salutary influence of the independent treasury system on commerce and all monetary operations.

The experience of the last year furnishes additional reasons, I regret to say, of a painful character, for the recommendation heretofore made to provide for increasing the military force employed in the territory inhabited by the Indians. The settlers on the frontier have suffered much from the incursions of predatory bands, and large parties of emigrants to our Pacific possessions have been massacred with impunity. The recurrence of such scenes can only be prevented by teaching these wild tribes the power of, and their responsibility to the United States. From

the garrisons of our frontier posts, it is only possible to detach troops in small bodies; and though these have on all occasions displayed a gallantry and a stern devotion to duty, which on a larger field would have commanded universal admiration, they have usually suffered severely in these conflicts with superior numbers, and have sometimes been entirely sacrificed. All the disposable force of the army is already employed in this service; and it is known to be fully inadequate to the protection which should be afforded.

The public mind of the country has been recently shocked by savage atrocities committed upon defenceless emigrants and border settlements, and hardly less by the unnecessary destruction of valuable lives, where inadequate troops have undertaken to furnish the needed aid. Without increase of the military force, these scenes will be repeated, it is to be feared, on a larger scale, and with more disastrous consequences. Congress, I am sure, will perceive that the plainest duties and responsibilities of government are involved in this question, and I doubt not that prompt action be confidently anticipated when delay must be attended by such fearful hazards.

The bill of the last session, providing for an increase of the pay of the rank and file of the army has had beneficial results not only in facilitating enlistments, but in obvious improvement in the class of men who enter the service. I regret corresponding consideration was not bestowed on the officers, who, in view of their character and services, and the expenses to which they are necessarily subject receive at present what is in my judgment, inadequate compensation.

The valuable services constantly rendered by the Army, and its inestimable importance, as the nucleus around which the volunteer forces of the nation can promptly gather in the hour of danger, and sufficiently attest the wisdom of maintaining a military peace establishment; but the theory of our system and the wise practice under it, require that any proposed augmentation, in time of peace, be only commensurate with our extended limits and frontier relations. While scrupulously adhering to this principle, I find, in existing circumstances, a necessity for an increase of our military force, and it is to be believed that four new regiments, two of infantry, and two of mounted men, will be sufficient to meet the present exigency. If it were necessary to weigh the cost in a case of such urgency, it would be shown that the additional cost would be comparatively light.

With the increase of the numerical forces of our army should, I think, be combined certain measures of reform in its organic arrangement and administration. The present organization is the result of partial legislation often directed to special objects and interests; and laws regulating rank and command having been adopted many years ago, from the British code, are not always applicable to our service. It is not surprising therefore, that the system should be deficient in the symmetry and simplicity essential to the harmonious working of its several parts, and require a careful revision.

The present organization, by maintaining large staff corps, or departments separates many officers from that close connection with troops, and those active duties in the field, which are deemed requisite to qualify them for the varied responsibilities of high command. Were the duties of the army staff mainly discharged by officers detached from their regiments, it is believed that the special service would be equally well performed, and the discipline and instruction of the army be improved. While due regard to the security of officers, and the nice sense of honor which should be cultivated among them, would seem to exact compliance with the established rule of promotion in ordinary cases, still it can hardly be doubted that the range of promotion by selection, which is now practically confined to the grade of general officers, might be somewhat extended with benefit to the public service.

Observance of the rule of seniority sometimes leads, especially in time of peace, to the promotion of officers, who, after meritorious and even distinguished service, may have been rendered by age or infirmity, incapable of performing active duty, and whose advancement, therefore would tend to impair the efficiency of the army. Suitable provision for this class of officers by the creation of a retired list, would remedy the evil without wounding the just pride of men who, by past services have established a claim to high consideration. In again commending this measure to the favorable consideration of Congress, I would suggest that the power of placing officers on the retired list be limited to one year. The practical operation of the measure would thus be tested, and if, after the lapse of four years, there should be occasion to renew the provision, it can be reproduced with any improvements which experience may indicate.

The present organization of the artillery into regiments is liable to obvious objections. The services of artillery is that of batteries, and an organization of batteries into a corps of artillery would be more consistent with the nature of their duties. A large part of the troops now called artillery are, and have been, on duty, in infantry; the distinction between the two armies being merely nominal. This nominal artillery in our service is entirely disproportionate to the whole force, and greater than the wants of the country demand. I therefore command the discontinuance of a distinction which has no foundation in either the arms used or the character of the service expected to be performed.

In connection with the proposition for the increase of the army, I have presented these suggestions with regard to certain measures of reform, as the complement of a system, which would produce the happiest results from a given expenditure, and which I hope may attract the early attention, and be deemed worthy of the approbation of Congress.

The recommendation of the Secretary of the Navy, having reference to more ample provisions for the discipline and general improvement in the character of seamen, and for the re-organization and gradual increase of the navy, I deem eminent-ly worthy of your favorable consideration. The principles, which have controlled our policy in relation to the permanent military force, by sea and land, are sound, consistent with the policy of our system and should by no means be disregarded. But limiting the force to the objects particularly set forth in the preceding part of this message, we should not overlook the present magnitude and prospective extension of our commercial marine, and the fact that, besides the two thousand miles of Atlantic seaboard, we have a new Pacific coast, stretching from Mexico to the British possessions in the north, teeming with wealth and enterprise, and demanding the constant presence of ships-of-war.

The augmentation of the navy has not kept pace with the duties properly and profitably assigned to it in time of peace, and it is inadequate for the large field of its operations, not merely in the present but still more in the progressively increasing exigencies of the wealth and commerce of the United States. I cordially approve of the proposed apprentice system for our national vessels, recommended by the Secretary of the Navy.

The occurrence, during the last few months, of marine disasters of the most tragic nature, involving great loss of human life, has produced intense emotions of sympathy and sorrow throughout the country. It may be well doubted, whether all these calamitous events are wholly attributable to the necessary and inevitable dangers of the sea. The merchants, mariners, and ship-builders of the United States, are, it is true, unsurpassed in far-reaching enterprise, skill, intelligence and courage, by any others in the world. But with the increasing amount of our commercial tonnage in the aggregate, and the larger size and improved construction of the ships now constructed, a deficiency in the supply of reliable seamen begins to be very seriously felt. The inconvenience may, perhaps, be met, by due regulation for the introduction, into our merchant ships, of indentured apprentices; which, while it would afford useful and eligible employment to numerous young men, would have a tendency to raise the character of seamen as a class. And it is deserving of serious reflection, whether it may not be desirable to revise the existing laws for the maintenance of discipline at sea, upon which the security of life and property on the ocean must to a great extent depend. Although much attention has already been given by Congress to the proper construction and arrangement of steam vessels and all passenger ships, still it is believed that certain measures of science and mechanical skill in this direction, have not been exhausted.

No good reason exists for the marked distinction, which appears upon our statutes between the laws for protecting life and property at sea, and those for protecting them on land. In most of the states severe penalties are provided to punish the conduct of a trader, engineer, or other employed in the transportation of persons by railway, or by steamboats on rivers. Why should not the same principle be applied to acts of insubordination, cowardice, or other acts of misconduct on the part of masters and mariners, producing injury or death to passengers on the high seas, beyond the jurisdiction of any of the States, and where such delinquencies only can be reached by the power of Congress? The whole subject is earnestly commended to your consideration.

The report of the Postmaster General, to which you are referred for many interesting details in relation to this important and rapidly extending branch of the public service, shows that the expenditure of the year ending June 30, 1854, including \$132,458 in balance due to foreign agents, amounting to \$8,710,907.

The gross receipts during the same period, amounted to \$6,955,886; exhibiting an expenditure over income of \$1,755,021, and a diminution of deficiency, as compared with the last year, of \$361,756.

The increase of the revenue of the department, for the year ending June 30, 1854, over the preceding year, was \$970,399. No proportionate increase, however, can be anticipated for the current year, in consequence of the act of Congress of June 23, 1854, providing for increased compensation to all postmasters. From these statements, it is apparent that the Post Office Department, instead of defraying its expenses, according to the design at the time of its organization, now, under existing laws must continue to be, to a small extent, a charge upon the general treasury.

The cost of mail transportation, during the year ending June 30, 1854, exceeds the cost of the preceding year by \$195,074. I again call your attention to the subject of mail transportation by ocean steamers, and commend the suggestions of the Postmaster General to your early attention. During the year ending June 30, 1854, twenty thousand nine hundred and thirty-five acres of the public lands have been surveyed, and eight millions one hundred and ninety thousand seven acres brought into market. The number of acres sold is seven million thirty-five thousand seven hundred and thirty-five, and the amount received \$9,285,503. The aggregate amount of land sold under military sales, during the year, selected as swamp lands by States, and by locating under grants for roads, is upwards of 23,000,000 acres. The increase of lands sold, over the previous year, is about 6,000,000 acres; and the sales during the two first quarters of the current year present the extraordinary result of five and a half millions sold, exceeding by nearly four millions of acres the corresponding corresponding quarters of the last year, thus increasing to an extent unparalleled during any like period in our past history the amount of revenue provided from this source for the Federal Treasury.

The commendable policy of the government, in relation to setting apart public domain for those who have served our country in time of war, is illustrated by the fact, that since 1790 no less than thirty millions of acres have been applied to this object.

The suggestions which I submitted in my annual message of last year, in reference to many of the land in aid of the construction of railroads, were less full and explicit than the magnitude of the subject and subsequent developments would seem to render proper and desirable. On the soundness of the principle then asserted with regard to the limitation of the power of Congress, I entertain no doubt, but in its application it may be so modified that the value of lands in a particular locality may be enhanced; that, in fact, a larger amount of money may probably be received, in a given time, for all alternate sections than could have been realized for all the sections, without the impulse and influence of the proposed improvements. A prudent proprietor looks beyond limited sections of his domain, beyond present results, to the ultimate effect which a particular line of railway is likely to produce upon all his possessions and interests. The government, which is trustee, in this matter, for the people of the States, is bound to take the same wide and comprehensive view.

Prior to and during the last session of Congress, upwards of thirty millions of acres of land were withdrawn from public sale with a view to application for grants of this character pending before Congress. A careful review of the whole subject led me to direct that all such orders be abrogated, and the lands restored to market; and instructions were immediately given to that effect. The applications at the last session contemplated the construction of more than five thousand miles of road, and grants to the amount of nearly twenty millions of acres of the public domain. Even admitting the right on the part of Congress to be unquestionable, it is quite clear that the proposed grants would be productive of good, and not evil.

The different projects are confined for the present, to eleven States of the Union, and one Territory. The reasons assigned for the grants, show that it is proposed to pit the works speedily in process of construction. When we reflect, that since the commencement of the construction of railroads in the United States, stimulated as they have been by the large dividends realized from the earlier works-over the great thoroughfares, and between the most important points of commerce and population, encouraged by State legislation and pressed forward by the amazing energy of individual enterprise, only seventeen thousand miles have been completed in all the States in a quarter of a century—when we see the crippled condition of many works commenced and prosecuted upon what were deemed to be sound principles and safe calculations—when we contemplate the enormous absorption of capital withdrawn from the ordinary channels of business, the extravagant rates of interest at this moment paid to continue operations, the bankruptcies not merely in money, but in character, and the inevitable effect upon finances generally,—can it be doubted that the tendency is to run to excess in this matter? It is wise to augment these excesses by encouraging hopes of sud-

den wealth expected to flow from magnificent schemes dependent upon the action of Congress? Does the spirit which has produced such results, need to be stimulated or checked? Is it not the better rule to leave all these works to private enterprise, regulated, and when expedient, aided, by the co-operation of States? If constructed by private capital, the stimulant and the check go together, and furnish a salutary restraint against speculative schemes and extravagance. But it is manifest that, with the most effective guards, there is danger of going too fast and too far.

We may well pause, before a proposition contemplating a simultaneous movement for the construction of railroads which, in extent, will equal, exclusive of the great Pacific road and all its branches, nearly one third of the entire length of such works, now completed, in the United States, and which cannot cost, with equipments, less than one hundred and fifty millions of dollars. The dangers likely to result from combinations of interests of this character, can hardly be over-estimated. But independently of these considerations, where is the accurate knowledge, the comprehensive intelligence which shall discriminate between the relative claims of these twenty-eight proposed roads, in eleven States and one Territory? Where will you begin and where end? If to enable these companies to execute their proposed works, it is necessary that the aid of the general government be primarily given, the policy will present a problem so comprehensive in its bearings, and so important to our political and social well being, as to calm in anticipation, the severest analysis. Entertaining these views, I recur with satisfaction to the experience and action of the last session of Congress, as furnishing assurance that the subject will not fail to elicit a careful examination and rigid scrutiny.

It was my intention to present on this occasion, some suggestions regarding internal improvements by the general government, which want of time at the close of the last session prevented my submitting on the return to the House of Representatives, with objections of the bill entitled, "an act making appropriations for the repair, preservation and completion of certain public works heretofore commenced under authority of law," but the space in this communication already occupied with other matter of immediate public exigency constrains me to reserve that subject for a special message, which will be transmitted to the two Houses of Congress at an early day.

The judicial establishment of the United States requires modification, and certain reforms in the manner of conducting the legal business of the government are also much needed; but as I have addressed you on both of these subjects at length before, I have only to call your attention to the suggestions then made.

My former recommendations in relation to suitable provisions of various objects of deep interest to the inhabitants of the District of Columbia, are ready for the consideration of the Senate, and are of a national character, and are important, independently of their relation to the prosperity of the only considerable organized community in the Union, entirely unrepresented by Congress.

I have thus presented suggestions on such subjects as appear to me to be of particular interest or importance, and therefore most worthy of consideration during the short remaining period allotted to the labors of the present Congress.

Our forefathers of the thirteen United Colonies, in acquiring their independence, and in founding this Republic, were ever anxious to secure the largest liberty of the individual citizen, with complete security of the public order; to render cheerful obedience to the laws of the land, to unite in enforcing their execution, and to frown indignantly on all combinations to resist them; to harmonize a sincere and ardent devotion to the institutions of religion, with the most universal religious toleration; to respect the rights of all by causing each to respect those of the other; to carry forward every social improvement to the utmost limits of human perfectibility, by the fronsation of mind upon mind, not by the intrusive intervention of miss applied force; to uphold the integrity and guard the limitations of our organic law; to preserve sacred from all touch of usurpation, as the very palladium of political safety, the reserved powers of the several States and of the people; to cherish, with loyal fealty and devoted affection, this Union, as the only sure foundation on which the hope of civil liberty rests; to administer government with vigilant integrity and rigid economy; to cultivate peace and friendship with foreign nations, and to demand and exact justice from all; but to reserve to the people the right of interfering with the national policy and the domestic respect of other governments, and repel it from our own never to shrink from war when the rights and honor of our country calls us to arms, but to cultivate in preference the arts of peace, seek enlargement of the rights of neutrality, and elevate and liberalize the intercourse of nations; and by such just and honorable means, and such only, whilst exalting the condition of the Republic, to assure to it the legitimate influence and the benign authority of a great example among all the powers of Christendom.

Under the solemnity of these convictions, the blessings of Almighty God is earnestly invoked to attend upon your deliberations, and upon all the counsels and acts of the government, to the end that, with common zeal and common efforts, we may, in humble submission to the Divine will, secure to the people the promotion of the supreme good of these United States.

FRANKLIN PIERCE.  
WASHINGTON, Dec. 4, 1854.

Sontag and Pozzolina—Suspicion of Poison.  
The New Orleans Picayune, in referring to the report of the neglect of Madame Sontag's remains at Vera Cruz, which we lately published, says:

We have obtained altogether from alluding to the reports as to the cause of the death of Sontag, which were rife at the time in Mexico, and that were not long in spreading throughout this country. The very day on which we received the news of the sad event, we also received through the post office an anonymous note, suggesting the most horrible suspicions, of which communication we took no notice at the time. On the subsequent arrival here from Mexico of several gentlemen who were in a position to form an opinion as to the circumstances, we made inquiries which resulted in impressing upon our minds the sickening fear that there might be some foundation for the suggestions of our anonymous correspondent.

We learned, too, from them, that all the facts connected with the death of Sontag, and with the equally inexplicable demise of poor Pozzolina, who dropped dead from his chair; whilst in apparently the most robust health, were sedulously hushed up by the authorities, and were not allowed to be published or commented on by the press of the city of Mexico, and that it was not permitted to hold a *post mortem* examination in either case. These circumstances together with some others we might mention, combine, we think, to give a deep and momentous interest to the question, the discussion of which we have heretofore eschewed, what was the cause of the deaths of young Pozzolina and Henrietta Sontag?



DEMOCRAT & SENTINEL.  
RICHARD WHITE, HENRY C. DEVINE.  
WHITE & DEVINE, Editors and Proprietors.  
EBENSBURG.  
THURSDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 14.

YOUTH'S CASSETTE.—We have received No. 1, of Vol. 4 of this interesting work. This is the first number that we have been favored with, and judging from its contents, the former numbers were equally as good as the present number. It is expressly designed for youth, and parents should subscribe for it and place it in the hands of their children. It is neatly executed, and embellished with numerous engravings.

GOODY'S LADY'S BOOK.—The January number for 1855 has made its appearance, and a capital number it is, being far ahead of any of the former numbers. The fine engraving, "John proclaiming the Messiah," is really beautiful, and worth the subscription alone. This number contains the latest fashions, with a number of engravings for crochet work and embroidery.

One copy, one year, \$3  
Two copies, one year, do do 5  
Five copies, one year, and an extra copy to the person sent the club, do do 10  
Eight copies, one year, do do 15  
Eleven copies, one year, do do 20  
Goody's Lady's Book and Arthur's Home Magazine will both be sent one year for \$3.50.

Address L. A. Goody, No. 113 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.

U. S. SENATOR.—We learn from the Kittanning papers that a meeting of the personal and political friends of ex-Governor Johnston, was held at the Court House in that place on Tuesday last, with a view of presenting the claims of that gentleman to the Legislature, as a candidate for U. S. Senator.

The excitement raised in the North for partisan purposes, against the Kansas and Nebraska bill, is perceptibly dying out. The opponents of the measure got the start of its friends by getting up a hue and cry that it was designed to propagate slavery, and to build up the South at the expense of the rights and interests of the North. The excitement was based upon an utter misapprehension of the provisions and principles of the Act of Congress known as the "Nebraska Bill." Instead of favoring the extension of slavery, it is next to impossible that slavery can ever be established in the territories to which the law applies. Instead of circumscribing, it will vastly extend the "area of Freedom." Instead of infringing upon popular rights, it expressly and solemnly re-affirms the doctrine of the right of "self government by the people," the very doctrine for which our fathers fought the battles of the revolution, and upon which the institutions they established were founded. Instead of exciting, it will tend to allay sectional agitation, or at least to render it harmless. It transfers the question of slavery from the halls of Congress to the people of the territories respectively, and thus relieves it of its sectional and threatening aspect. These are truths which cannot long be kept concealed from the public mind. The people are beginning to perceive them through all the misrepresentations, perversions, and falsehoods of sectional agitators and political demagogues. Slowly, but surely, a reaction is taking place in the Northern mind, and when that reaction comes in its full force, it will most certainly be the political death of all who delight to heap abuse upon the true friends of constitutional liberty, and who are now vainly attempting by a senseless and fanciful clamor to put down the great principle of Popular Sovereignty.

Consul at Valparaiso.  
Geo. H. Melvin has been appointed U. S. Consul at Valparaiso, in place of ex-Governor Reuben Wood, resigned. Some three years ago the Consularship at that port was worth \$20,000 per year, but in consequence of the shipping trade having become centered in the hands of a few individuals and less of our trade with California going round the Horn, the receipts are supposed now to be scarcely one-fourth that amount.

Annual Report of the Secretary of the Interior.  
This is an able document, giving an interesting exhibit of the various matters entrusted to the care of the department, over which the Hon. R. McClelland presides. It necessarily however, embraces many facts of general interest given in other reports, particularly those of the General Land and Patent offices, already published.

The Secretary reiterates his recommendation that the officers connected with the survey and sale of the public lands be prohibited by law from becoming interested in its purchase. He also adverts to the irregularities and inequalities produced by the numerous and dissimilar existing pension laws, and recommends some important modifications with a view to uniformity, and also to restore the system somewhat to the original design of its projectors, and to increase its benefits and restrict its operation to those who are really and legitimately deserving objects of governmental favor and protection.

Heretofore his recommendation of a biennial examination of invalid pensioners, and cites the singular fact that while applications are numerous and constantly being presented for an increase of pension on account of alleged increase of disability, but two instances have occurred of a voluntary acknowledgment of a diminution of the disease or wound for which the pension was originally granted.

The Department has been eminently successful in ferretting out and bringing to punishment the perpetrators of frauds on the Pension Bureau. Up to the 30th of September last, and since the 4th of March, 1853, 30 persons have been indicted. Of these, 11 have been convicted; 9 have forfeited their recognizances and fled; 1 has died; 1 committed suicide; 2 have eluded the officers of the law, and 6 await trial.

On the 31st of March, 1813, the enormous sum of \$948,475 80 was in the hands of agents for paying pensions alone. The new financial system has enabled the Secretary of the Interior to call in this amount, so that on the 30th of June last these agents only had on hand the aggregate sum of \$308,801 20; an amount amply sufficient for the prompt payment of pensions liable to be called for until other advances are made.

Appropriations are urged for various improvements in the District of Columbia, and also the erection of fire proof buildings for the accommodation of the State, War, Navy, and Interior Departments, and suggests that a better application of a portion of the large amount now in the Treasury cannot be made. He also suggests the propriety of donating to the city authorities for educational purposes all the vacant city lots which may not be needed for public purposes.

The work on the Little Falls bridge, and likewise the Insane Asylum has been vigorously prosecuted under the able and accomplished officers respectively in charge of them. The latter will soon be ready to receive the patients for whose accommodation its erection has been authorized. The affairs of the penitentiary are noticed, and an appropriation asked to free it of an old indebtedness.

LOWELL, Dec. 12.—The entire Know Nothing Municipal ticket is elected. The vote for Mayor is: Lawrence, K. N., 3,651; all the others, 469.

Increase of the Army and Navy.  
The recommendations of the Secretaries of War and the Navy in favor of an increase of their respective arms of the public service and defence, seem to meet with general acceptance; and these, with the modification of the Tariff, it is thought, will be among the first measures of the present session.

### Commissioners to the Paris Exhibition.

Gov. Bigler has designated the following named citizens as Commissioners to represent the State of Pennsylvania, at the "Universal Exhibition of the Industry of all Nations," to be opened at Paris, in May next. The buildings of the Polytechnic College have been selected as the place where all articles intended for the exhibition will be received and forwarded. All communications on the subject will be addressed to Alfred S. Kennedy, Esq., at Philadelphia, Chairman of the Commission and President of said College.

Alfred S. Kennedy, Esq., Philadelphia.  
Hon. James K. McLaughlin, Chambersburg.  
Dr. James Swain, Philadelphia.  
Hon. W. L. Helfenstein, Northumberland co.  
C. L. Ward, Esq., Tonawanda.  
Hon. Jeremiah S. Black, Somerset.  
John M. Grier, Reading.  
Wm. H. Welch, Esq., York, Pa.  
Pierce Butler, Esq., Philadelphia.  
Frederick Fraily, Esq., Philadelphia.

### Annexation of the Sandwich Islands.

We hear from the Sandwich Islands that the treaty of Annexation is on the point of being signed by the Royal Government, and will soon reach the United States. Though the facts stated by our present report with regard to the state of the negotiations are essentially the same as we had some months ago, the general publicity they have now attained at Honolulu shows that the matter has nearly reached its conclusion, and that in a few weeks the question will probably be brought before Congress for final settlement.

### President of the Senate.

The U. S. Senate, on Tuesday proceeded to elect a President *pro tem.* the office being vacant by Mr. Atchison's resignation. The result was the election of Mr. Bright, of Indiana. The following is the vote:

Hon. Jesse D. Bright received	24 votes.
Hon. Salmon P. Chase	6 "
Hon. William C. Dawson	2 "
Hon. Solomon Foot	2 "
Hon. George E. Badger	1 "

### Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court of the United States, commenced its term, on the 4th inst., at Washington—all the members in attendance. The Court is composed as follows:

Roger B. Taney, Chief Justice.  
John McLean, Associate do.  
James M. Wayne, "  
John Catron, "  
Peter V. Daniel, "  
Samuel Nelson, "  
Robert C. Grier, "  
Benjamin R. Curtis, "  
John A. Campbell, "

### Consul at Valparaiso.

Geo. H. Melvin has been appointed U. S. Consul at Valparaiso, in place of ex-Governor Reuben Wood, resigned. Some three years ago the Consularship at that port was worth \$20,000 per year, but in consequence of the shipping trade having become centered in the hands of a few individuals and less of our trade with California going round the Horn, the receipts are supposed now to be scarcely one-fourth that amount.

### Annual Report of the Secretary of the Interior.

This is an able document, giving an interesting exhibit of the various matters entrusted to the care of the department, over which the Hon. R. McClelland presides. It necessarily however, embraces many facts of general interest given in other reports, particularly those of the General Land and Patent offices, already published.

The Secretary reiterates his recommendation that the officers connected with the survey and sale of the public lands be prohibited by law from becoming interested in its purchase. He also adverts to the irregularities and inequalities produced by the numerous and dissimilar existing pension laws, and recommends some important modifications with a view to uniformity, and also to restore the system somewhat to the original design of its projectors, and to increase its benefits and restrict its operation to those who are really and legitimately deserving objects of governmental favor and protection.

Heretofore his recommendation of a biennial examination of invalid pensioners, and cites the singular fact that while applications are numerous and constantly being presented for an increase of pension on account of alleged increase of disability, but two instances have occurred of a voluntary acknowledgment of a diminution of the disease or wound for which the pension was originally granted.

The Department has been eminently successful in ferretting out and bringing to punishment the perpetrators of frauds on the Pension Bureau. Up to the 30th of September last, and since the 4th of March, 1853, 30 persons have been indicted. Of these, 11 have been convicted; 9 have forfeited their recognizances and fled; 1 has died; 1 committed suicide; 2 have eluded the officers of the law, and 6 await trial.

On the 31st of March, 1813, the enormous sum of \$948,475 80 was in the hands of agents for paying pensions alone. The new financial system has enabled the Secretary of the Interior to call in this amount, so that on the 30th of June last these agents only had on hand the aggregate sum of \$308,801 20; an amount amply sufficient for the prompt payment of pensions liable to be called for until other advances are made.

Appropriations are urged for various improvements in the District of Columbia, and also the erection of fire proof buildings for the accommodation of the State, War, Navy, and Interior Departments, and suggests that a better application of a portion of the large amount now in the Treasury cannot be made. He also suggests the propriety of donating to the city authorities for educational purposes all the vacant city lots which may not be needed for public purposes.

The work on the Little Falls bridge, and likewise the Insane Asylum has been vigorously prosecuted under the able and accomplished officers respectively in charge of them. The latter will soon be ready to receive the patients for whose accommodation its erection has been authorized. The affairs of the penitentiary are noticed, and an appropriation asked to free it of an old indebtedness.

LOWELL, Dec. 12.—The entire Know Nothing Municipal ticket is elected. The vote for Mayor is: Lawrence, K. N., 3,651; all the others, 469.