Literary Notices.

BOOKS sent to us for a Notice, will be duly attended to. Those from publishers in Philadelphia, New York, &c., may be left at our Philadelphia Office, 37 South 10th St., below Chestnut, in care of Joseph M. Wilson, Esq.

POWER FROM ON HIGH. A sermon delivered before the Religious Societies of Jefferson College, August 31, 1856. By *Rev. A. McElwain.*

STUDY; Its Aims, Themes, Results, and Rewards. A Discourse delivered before the Literary Societies of Jefferson College, August 5th, 1856. By *Rev. D. X. Junkin, D.D.*

These Discourses are part of the public exercises connected with the last Commencement at Jefferson. The subjects were well chosen, and beautifully and forcibly illustrated. When our young collegiates can appreciate productions of so elevated a moral tone, there is a fair promise for eminently useful citizens.

THE PRESBYTERIAN MAGAZINE for November.

This number maintains the family features, and may be read with great profit. It makes no apology for its late appearance.

THE LADIES' HOME MAGAZINE for January, possesses its usual attractions.

MUSIC. No Night There. A Duet. Published by *H. Kleber & Brother*, Pittsburgh.

HISTORY OF HENRY THE FOURTH, King of France and Navarre. By *John S. C. Abbott.* With illustrations. 18mo., pp. 335. New York: *Harper & Brothers*, Pearl Street, Franklin Square. 1856.

This is one of Abbott's Histories of remarkable personages. The series is a capital one. We have known an excellent lecture to be prepared for a popular audience, by reading one of these volumes. As condensations of the facts of history set forth in a popular style, these books deserve a wide circulation.

ABOUT COMMON THINGS. This is one of Harper's Picture Books for the Nursery. The series includes: Learning to Talk; Learning to Think; Learning to Read; Learning about Common Things; and Learning about Right and Wrong. The parts are complete in themselves, and may be had separately.

OLD WHITEY'S CETISTMAS TROT. A Story for the Holidays. By *A. Oakey Hall.* With sixteen illustrations, by Thwnites. Square, 8vo. pp. 287. New York: *Harper & Brothers.* 1857.

The matter of this little book is very attractive. It is of a higher order of merit than most story books, and will no doubt be read with advantage.

EASY LESSONS for the Little Ones at Home; and AUNT ROSE and her Little Nieces,

Are the titles of two neat little works in ornamental covers, just issued by the American Tract Society.

THE SABBATH, Sabbath Walks, and other Poems. By *James Grahame.* Illustrated by Birket Foster. Small 4to pp. 123. New York: *R. Carter & Brothers*, Broadway. 1857.

This is one of the most beautiful and appropriate gift books which we have ever seen. The merits of Graham as a religious poet, are well known. The edition before us, though published by the Messrs. Carters of New York, is from the celebrated press of the Messrs. Clark, of Edinburgh. The illustrations are numerous, and in the very highest style of art. The printing is done on tinted and highly glazed paper; and altogether, the binding, typology, and general appearance of the volume, when taken in connexion with its intrinsic worth, invest it with peculiar merits as a "remembrancer," at this season of the year.

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE HUMAN SOUL Six Lectures, delivered at the Brooklyn Institute. By *Richard S. Storrs, Jr., D.D.* 8vo., pp. 338. New York: *R. Carter & Brothers*, 530 Broadway. 1857.

This is the first series of the "Graham Lectures," a course on "The Wisdom, Power, and Goodness of God," which has been secured to the inhabitants of Brooklyn, through the munificence of the late Augustus Graham of that city. We are glad to find that a practice which has long obtained in England, of founding lectures, is beginning to be followed in our own country. By means of the Golden Lecture, the Bampton Lecture, the Hulsean Lecture, and many others, the interests of science and religion have been eminently promoted in Great Britain; and here we have the first fruits of a similar provision in Brooklyn, which we trust may be a fountain of blessings to the inhabitants of that city, and to the cause of religion and morality in the land. The work before us is not strictly metaphysical in its character, and yet it would require an educated mind to appreciate its lessons. Dr. Storrs treats of the Human Soul as endowed with personal life; with faculties for knowledge; for virtue; beneficent operation; for happiness and for immortal progress. Although the book is of a physiological character, still it will be found to give elevated views of the Divine goodness, and a thoughtful perusal of it will be productive of good in inciting to virtuous action.

KOBBOLTOZO; A Sequel to the Last of the Hugger Muggers. With illustrations, by Christopher Pearse Crauch. Square 8vo., pp. 95. Boston: *Phillips, Sampson & Co.* 1857.

Here we have materials to lead the juveniles to stare. The illustrations of the work are quite in character with the Dwarfs, Gnomes, and other wondrous characters whose deeds are chronicled in this exciting narrative.

RED BEARD'S STORIES FOR CHILDREN. Translated from the German. By *Cousin Fannie.* Small 4to, pp. 66. Boston: *Phillips, Sampson & Co.* 1856.

Though very different in character, yet this volume will form an admirable accompaniment to the foregoing one. We believe that every page is furnished with an engraving; and as they are in black profile, they will be quite novel and attractive to youths. We do not remember ever to have seen such graphic pictures in this style, except in an early volume of the London *Punch.*

BRIGHT PICTURES From Child Life. Translated from the German. By *Cousin Fannie.* 12mo., pp. 176. Boston: *Phillips, Sampson & Co.* 1857.

As the title will indicate, this is a book for youth. The pictures in the letter press are as pleasing as the colored engravings with which the book is illustrated, and hence we doubt not but that it will be an acceptable gift to the young.

DAISY; or, The Fairy Spectacles. By the author of "Violet, a Fairy Story." 12mo., pp. 157. Boston: *Phillips, Sampson & Co.* 1857.

Like the foregoing volume, this is a book for juveniles. It is prettily illustrated with engravings on tinted paper, and neatly bound.

WORTH NOT WEALTH; and other Tales. By *Cousin Angie.* 12mo., pp. 174. Boston: *Phillips, Sampson & Co.* 1857.

The morals in this little volume are excellent; the authoress brings out her good points clearly and forcibly; the illustrations are appropriate, and the binding is tasteful. What more could young people desire!

THE NORTH BRITISH REVIEW. November, 1856. New York: *Leonard Scott & Co.*

We have noticed the leading article of this number elsewhere. The other papers, are Fraud's History of England—well written, and deservedly laudatory. The Workmen of Europe—condemnatory of a late French work. The Sight and How to See—a valuable article. Remusat's English Statesmen; Bolingbroke. Religious Novels. Cockburn's Memorials—the writer deals largely with Lord Brougham, whose jealousy is pointed out. Spain—a full and fair examination of the state of that distracted land.

THE LONDON QUARTERLY REVIEW. October, 1856. New York: *L. Scott & Co.*

This is a very excellent number of the old "Quarterly." Its contents are—Whateley's Edition of Bacon's Essays; French Algeria; Church Buildings; New Biographies of Montaigne; Ancient Rome; Physiognomy of the Human Form; The Nuns of Port Royal; and the Declining Efficiency of Parliament.

The paper on Church Building is very admirable. It should be reprinted in this country, for every sentence of it deserves to be pondered by all who are called on to expend funds raised for the cause of humanity or the Gospel.

We do not look so hopelessly on the efficiency of Parliament as the writer of the last article appears to do.

SCRIPTURE BIOGRAPHY FOR THE YOUNG; John and Paul, including Peter and the Times of the New Testament. 18mo., pp. 384. Published by *The American Tract Society.*

This little volume is one of Gallandet's series, which is continued by the Rev. H. Hooker, of Hartford, Conn. It contains a large amount of information, which may be read with profit by the young.

THE SPRING-TIME OF LIFE. By *Rev. David Magie, D. D.*, of Elizabethtown, N. J. 18mo., pp. —. Published by *The American Tract Society.*

We have on former occasions commended this excellent little volume, and now that it is to be circulated by the Tract Society, we doubt not but that a wide door of usefulness will be opened up before it.

A PLEA FOR DOMESTIC MISSIONS, a Discourse before the Synod of Iowa, by *Justus T. Umstead.*

THE FORMER DAYS AND THESE DAYS, a Discourse by *Charles P. Krauth*, on Thanksgiving Day, Pittsburgh.

A VINDICATION OF THE LECTURES ON ODD-FELLOWSHIP, by *Joseph T. Cooper*, Pittsburgh.

These are able productions of our brethren.

THE HAPPY HOME AND PARLOR MAGAZINE, for January, 1857.

This is a well conducted monthly, of fifty-six pages, with plates, published by C. Stone & Co., Boston, at two dollars a year, in advance.

THE NATIONAL BANK NOTE AND COMMERCIAL REPORTER, by *R. Wray, Jr.*, Pittsburgh, is a valuable periodical to all who handle money.

THE PILGRIM BOY. 18mo., pp. 144. Published by *The American Tract Society.*

This little volume, which it seems is a narrative of facts, contains an impressive history of a bad boy, who was afterwards visited by Divine grace. We have read the whole book with much interest, and can recommend it highly.

The Bible.

Chatechetical Exposition.

Romans i: 26—31.

Verse 26. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections; for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature.

Q. 1. For what cause did God give *them up unto vile affections?* A. Because they worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator.

Q. 2. When the Apostle begins to particularize, why does he mention the women first, and say, *even their women?* A. To show that the depravity was total, and that the public morals were sunk to the lowest condition.

Q. 3. How would this appear from the specification of *their women?* A. In this, that the most virtuous portion of the community was corrupted; and when women, as a class, become abandoned, regardless of virtue and modesty, it is evidence that society is then in the lowest stage of moral pollution.

Verse 27. And likewise, also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another, men with men, working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet.

Q. 1. What is meant by *that which is unseemly?* A. It means lascivious indecency, or shameful lewdness.

Q. 2. How did they receive *a recompense of their error?* A. They brought upon themselves moral degradation, and great sufferings, both mental and corporeal, which were the consequence of their lewd practices; and the just penalty *of their error.*

Q. 3. What was their error? A. It was their wandering from God, and turning to the worship and service of idols and created things.

Q. 4. What was it which was *meet*, or suitable? A. It was the recompense which they received.

Q. 5. How did the moral degradation and physical sufferings, incurred by the prostitution of their bodies, be a suitable recompense of their abandonment of God? A. Because, inasmuch as they served the creature more than the Creator, it was suitable that their punishment should result from the service of the creature.

Q. 6. When it is said, they received *the recompense of their error which was meet*, does it mean that they received in this life, all the punishment which their sin's deserved? A. No; for it does not say that they received a recompense proportionate in *degree*, but only corresponding in *kind*, with the crimes committed.

Q. 7. Did the carnal passions of the Gentiles have any influence in leading them to forsake God, and turn to idolatry? A. There can be no doubt they had very great influence.

Q. 8. How does this appear? A. From the fact that their prevailing systems of idolatry were modeled in accordance with these carnal passions; and lewdness was prominent in the service of their idols.

Verse 28. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient.

Q. 1. What is the import of the words, *they did not like to retain God in their knowledge?* A. They did not like, or think fit to retain a knowledge of God; or, they did not think it worth while to allow God a place in the compass of their knowledge; that is, they considered their knowledge complete without any knowledge of God.

Q. 2. How were they punished for this? A. *God gave them over to a reprobate mind.*

Q. 3. How does the retributive justice of God appear in this? A. In the correspondence there is between the crime and its punishment.

Q. 4. Wherein does this correspondence appear? A. They considered their *mind* fully endowed and furnished, without any knowledge of God, and God gave them over to the control of a reprobate *mind.*

Q. 5. What is a reprobate mind? A. It is a mind worthless, rejected and worthy of condemnation.

Q. 6. To what does such a mind lead? A. *To do those things which are not convenient.*

Q. 7. What are meant by *things not convenient?* A. Things unsuitable to man as a rational and moral being; and hence, things destructive of his happiness.

Q. 8. Where do we find a specification of such things? A. In the three verses following.

Verse 29—31. Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousnes, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents; without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful.

Q. 1. What do these verses contain? A. An enumeration of such vices as are the natural growth of *a reprobate mind*, and with which the idolatrous heathen were *filled.*

Q. 2. What is the meaning of *being filled?* A. That these vices abounded to the exclusion of that which is good; that the practice of them was common and constant.

Q. 3. Is it not afearful thing to be given over to a reprobate mind? A. It is evidently a dreadful curse, when it leads men to the practice of all the wickedness here described.

Q. 4. Was it necessary that God should influence them to evil in order that this wickedness should abound? A. No; it was only necessary that he should leave them to themselves, or give them over to be led by their own reprobate minds.

Q. 5. Are not the minds of all, *reprobate* by nature? A. They are; and hence we see the necessity of obedience and prayer, so that God may not leave us to our own reprobate minds.

Verse 32. Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

Q. 1. Of whom is it said, that they knew the judgement of God? A. Of those described in the preceding verses.

Q. 2. What is meant by *the judgment of God?* A. His decision, decree, or law.

Q. 3. What was this law? A. That they which commit such things are worthy of death.

Q. 4. What is meant by *death?* A. The curse of God, with all the evils comprehended therein.

Q. 5. How did the Gentiles know this law? A. Their conscience proclaimed it to them; it was the law written in the very constitution of their nature; hence, they felt that such crimes deserved the vengeance of God.

Q. 6. What other aggravation of their guilt is mentioned? A. That they not only did *the same* things which they knew deserved death, but *took pleasure* in the *doers* of such things.

Q. 7. How does having pleasure in evil doers prove a man to be sunk to the lowest depth of depravity? A. It shows that he delights in iniquity, not through the power of temptation, but just from the love of sin itself.

Q. 8. What then is the nature of this last verse? A. It is the finishing stroke in the dark picture, drawn by the inspired Apostle, of the impiety and immorality of of the Gentile world.

Q. 9. What object had the Apostle in drawing this picture? A. To show that they were all exposed to the wrath of God, and no way of salvation for them, but through *the righteousness of God* revealed in the Gospel.

Q. 10. Is there any testimony concurring with what the Apostle has said of the awful wickedness of the Gentiles at that time? A. Testimony is very abundant in in the writings of the Gentiles themselves, both Greeks and Romans, verifying all the Apostle has said, as to the abominable practices prevalent among them.

Q. 11. Do any modern discoveries afford evidence of the same kind? A. Yes; the discoveries which have been made among the ruins of the Roman cities, Herculaneum and Pompeii, fully justify all the Apostle has said in relation to the practice of these filthy vices.

Q. 12. What other evidence is there that the actual condition of heathen nations is here described? A. The heathen have charged the missionaries with forging this part of the first chapter, because it is such a faithful picture of the state of morals among themselves.

Q 13. To what does all this testimony tend? A. To show that the Apostle's delineation of the deep depravity of the heathen world is in strict accordance with truth.

Q. 14. And in the picture which is drawn, is there not enough to awaken serious meditation? A. It is surely alarming to look at the evidence of the awful depravity of the heart of man, and the fearful depths of iniquity and pollution into which it will fall, when God withholds his restraints, and just leaves it to its own native tendency.

Q. 15. Are not civilization and science sufficient to save men from these depths of depravity? A. By no means; for we find that those nations which had made the greatest advances in civilization, literature and science, were the most besotted and demoralized, both in their systems of idolatry and practice of depravity; witness Egypt, Greece, and Rome. These were they, of the civilized nations, who especially "professed themselves to be wise," and who emphatically "became fools." There is no remedy for man's depravity, but *the righteousness of God* revealed in the Gospel.

The mode of using the Exposition would be—Let the scholar study the lesson in the Exposition; and at recitation let only the teacher have it, and the scholar his Bible, and with his eye upon the verse, answer the questions put from the Exposition.

Report of the Secretary of War.

The Report of the Secretary of War is voluminous and interesting.

The authorized strength of the Army is 17 894; the actual strength, on the first of July, was 15.562. The number of enlistments during the twelve months ending Sept. 30th, was 4.440; the number of persons offering to enlist, but who were rejected for minority or unfitness, was 5.594. The number of casualties during the last fiscal year, by deaths, discharges, and desertions, was 6,096, of which 3,223 were by desertion.

The movements of troops for the last year are related briefly.

The Indian difficulties on the Western plains have been successfully terminated, except with the Cheyennes. In Texas, though the military force has been reduced during the last year, there has been a considerable decrease of Indian disturbances. It suggests the propriety of removing the fragmentary tribes of Indians in Texas to reservations on the United States lands North of the Red River, which would greatly reduce the expenditures for keeping them in subjection, by rendering the maintenance of so many military posts unnecessary.

The Indian war on the Pacific is ended. The possessory rights of the Hudson's Bay and Puget's Sound Companies are held by persons who owe no allegiance to us, but whose influence for evil is unbounded with the Indians. The Report suggests the extinguishment of these rights.

The expense and embarrassment to the service, resulting from the present policy of locating military posts in advance of settlement, and along emigrant routes across the continent, continue to be seriously felt. They are manifested in the large amounts required for transportation, and in the small garrisons found at most of the posts. The condition of things which led to the adoption of this policy originally, has entirely changed. It began when the settlers were rapidly pushing their way to the fertile regions in the Valley of the Mississippi. The reports of reconnoissances submitted by the War Department during the last few years, show that, with few exceptions, the country lying between the hundredth meridian of longitude, and the coast range of mountains overlooking the Pacific, is not susceptible of cultivation with the aid of artificial means, and that it can never be covered by an agricultural population. The limit, therefore, has been reached, beyond which civilization has ceased to flow in the train of advancing military posts. A new post established in this desert region, does not become the nucleus of settlement, from which, in a short time, provisions and forage can be drawn, and the expense of transportation be thus reduced to a necessary supply of groceries, implements, and munitions of war; but all the heavy articles of subsistence must be procured from a remote market, transported not by water, but over roads made by the United States.

The settlement of New Mexico was begun long anterior to that of large portions of many populous districts in the States, yet to this day cultivation has extended little beyond the Rio Bravo; and though Forts Laramie and Kearney, on the Oregon route, have been long established, there are no agricultural settlements about them. Though we have been in the habit of believing that the great basin of Utah presented a fertile oasis, recent events furnish much reason to doubt its capability to sustain any considerable population, depending on its own resources year after year.

In view of these considerations, instead of dispersing the troops, to form small garrisons at numerous posts, where we only exhibit our weakness to the savage foe, the Secretary suggests, that within the fertile regions, a few points accessible by steamboats or railways should be selected, at which large garrisons should be maintained, and from which strong detachments should annually be sent out into the Indian country during the season when grass will suffice for the support of draft and burden. These detachments would be available both to hunt up and chastise those tribes which had committed depredations, and to give needful protection to emigrants to or from the Pacific slope, during the traveling season.

Experience has shown, that small posts are nearly powerless beyond their own limits. Some of the most flagrant depredations have been committed on parties in the vicinity of such military posts; and the inability to pursue and punish the offenders has tended to bring into disrepute the power and energy of the United States, whose citizens are the victims of predatory attacks. In fact, these posts being fixed points in the route of emigrants, afford the Indians opportunity of observing each train which passes, and thus determine upon their future operations.

Cavalry cannot be sustained in a state of efficiency during the Winter; and without stables, *grain*, and *hay*, which are almost impossible to procure, and then only at enormous cost. Infantry garrisons are less expensive, because less forage is required.

If such garrisons were kept at all the posts now established for the purpose of making expeditions at any time among the neighboring tribes, it is not believed they would be equally effective with marching detachments of the same numerical strength. Their position would be known, their preparations for taking the field observed, and a considerable force, if necessary, could be left behind, for the protection of the public property at each post. The instruction and discipline in quarters would be inferior to that of large garrisons; and the capacity of troops suddenly emerging from quarters, to begin forced marches of pursuit, would be less than that of men inured by long marches and frequent bivouacs, to bear fatigue and protect themselves against exposure incident to service in the field.

The present policy of distribution also involves the frequent construction and abandonment of posts, and the employment of all the troops, much of the time, at constant labor, alike injurious to military instruction, and the contentment of the men. It also involves the continual abandonment of a position soon after it has been made comfortable, which leaves the soldier without inducement for the sacrifices he may be called upon to make, and tends to increase the number of desertions.

Under the new policy suggested, the troops would be comfortably quartered in the midst of civilization. Their Summer campaign would be the field practice of their profession, the temporary dangers and toils of which would give zest to the soldier's life, with a prospect of return to the comforts, association, and means of instruction of a large garrison, at a well-established post, at a given time.

It is believed that such an arrangement would make the service attractive to persons of military spirit, and that the efficiency of the troops would be increased proportionately, as the expense of supporting them would be diminished.

The occupation of Algeria by the French is cited as a case parallel to our frontier service, affording an instance of the practical working of a system similar to this proposed. A critical examination of this proposed radical change in our Army distributions is invited, and legislation to carry it into effect is suggested.

The sea coast fortifications are progressing; but there is much yet to be done before many of the most important will be efficient. The fortifications for harbor defence are held to be most efficient, and reference is made to the failure of formidable naval armaments against fortified places in the Black Sea and the Baltic, as showing conclusively, that properly-constructed fortifications are a sure reliance against the most formidable fleets. The Report urges the importance of completing the fortifications in progress, and of making liberal appropriations for new ones. Time is necessary to make them efficient; and it ought to be done while the country is in a state of peace, because it cannot be done hastily, except at increased expense, and then not reliably.

The Secretary asks a law for liberal appropriations for armaments, for new forts, improvements in small arms, and the accumulation of supplies of ammunition. At the present rate of appropriations by Congress, it would require forty years to supply each mounted piece at the forts with a hundred pounds of ammunition; but, as many needed fortifications will, doubtless, be built within that period, at its end our armament, probably, would not be more complete than now.

It requires no argument to show that fortifications, without guns, are worse than useless.

The Report recommends the substitution of wrought-iron for wooden gun carriages; asks for an appropriation for experiments to determine the expediency of mounting, in certain positions covering channels, guns of large calibre, to throw hollow projectiles of great diameter and weight, containing sufficient charges of powder to render a single one destructive of any vessel which it may penetrate.

In order to simplify our field artillery, and increase the range and power of that arm, preparations are in progress for a trial by the light artillery companies of four batteries of light twelve-pounders, to be substituted for the present six-pound batteries.

The Secretary reviews his recommendation for the establishment of a national foundry for casting guns.

The operations of the national armories have been restricted to the completion of new models for small arms, and the alteration of old models to the long-ranged rifled arms, and to the preparation requisite for the exclusive manufacture of the adopted new model, which is a rifled arm, such as is commonly called the Minie rifle, with an improvement of the lock after Maynard's plan, which attention of the common flint lock to the self priming, has been effected to a limited extent. The Report recommends the alteration to this model of all the old arms of the United States, including those distributed to the States. There are, altogether, upwards of half a million, and the alteration recommended is absolutely necessary, to prepare the country to meet any sudden emergency. It also recommends a law providing for a better system of accountability for arms furnished by the General Government to the States.

The Department has not yet been able to determine which, if any, breech-loading rifle is best to adopt in the service.

The arsenals at Watervliet, New York, and Fayetteville, North Carolina, are recommended to be used for arsenals of construction, for which an extension of the buildings is required.

The movements of the Military Commission sent to Europe during the late war, are briefly detailed, and the courtesy with which they were treated by Russia and England, acknowledged. In regard to France on this point, the Secretary maintains a significant silence.

Increased pay to the officers is earnestly urged. The increased number of resignations, last year, is evidently the consequence of the insufficiency of the present pay. The Secretary says there is surely no economy in a practice which must in the end drive the more active and intelligent from a service to which they adorn, and in which their country especially requires them, to seek competent support in some other pursuit. As little does it accord with generosity or justice, to ask at their hands the sacrifice so many of them make to professional pride and love for their country's service and flag.

The Secretary renews his recommendation for a retired list of disabled officers, as indispensable to the efficiency of the service. He also renews his recommendation that the Legislature establish definite rules for the determination of rank and command, and for a legislative remedy for the continual frauds upon the service by the enlistment of minors, representing themselves of mature age.

The new military roads for which appropriations have been made are rapidly progressing, and money is asked to complete them.

The Report recommends that pensions be provided for the widows and orphans of officers and soldiers of the Army, the same as the Navy, and suggests legislation to improve and simplify the system of Army accounts. It details the manner in which the River and Harbor appropriations have been expended; presents a somewhat detailed account of the progress of the Capitol extension, and other public buildings; narrates the Army movements in connexion with the Kansas difficulties, in aid of the civil authorities; and concurs in the high commendation which the Commanding General of the Department of the West bestows on Lieut. Col. Cook, and the officers and men who have so satisfactorily performed the duty imposed on them in Kansas.

Report of the Secretary of the Navy.

The Report of the Secretary of the Navy is an interesting and well-written paper. It details the operations of the squadrons during the last year. He suggests that there should be two squadrons in the Pacific instead of one. The rapid increase of our commerce there, the importance of Central America and the islands scattered in that sea, and the extent of California and Oregon, are given as reasons.

Lieut Berryman's survey of the bottom of the sea between Newfoundland and Ireland, with a view to telegraph communication with Europe, is referred to at length. The route is one thousand six hundred miles long; the greatest depth two and a half miles. The practicability of laying the wires is established.

He urges the importance of ordnance and practical gunnery. The British service has gunnery-practice ships. We therefore have relied, in making selections for captains of guns, on men from the crew found best fitted for the station. An effort is now making to establish a system for training men especially for this duty. The sloop of-war *Plymouth*, now lying at the Washington Navy-Yard, is being fitted out as a gunnery-practice ship, with an experimental battery of a few light and heavy guns. It is confidently believed that this practice-ship will annually turn off a number of seamen thoroughly trained to the management of heavy ordnance in storm and calm, and that our men-of-war will be supplied soon with officers and men familiarized with all the appliances of these great engines of destruction.

He gives reasons for the recent change in the armament of our national ships. The former success of the American Navy has been owing much to the superiority of the calibre of our guns; and the Secretary recommends that we not only keep pace with, but if possible be in advance of others in the character of our engines of war.

Our new steam frigates are all afloat, and the most sanguine expectations of the Department relative to their speed have been realized. The speed of those tested is greater than usual in auxiliary steamers, in which steam is by no means the chief motive power. The *Niagara* will carry twelve eleven-inch guns, each throwing shells of one hundred and thirty-five pounds.

There is no reason for withholding the former recommendations for the building and equipment of additional sloops-of-war, carrying a battery of fifteen or twenty guns, of light draft, so that they can enter the harbors of Charleston, Savannah and New Orleans, as well as New York and Boston. The arguments for a steady and gradual increase of the Navy have lost none of their force. Even the construction of the sloops recommended would add little actual increase, as many of the old vessels are unworthy of repair.

The establishments for building and repairing machinery at New York and Norfolk will be completed next year. The foundry at Boston will be delayed, on account of the difficulty of obtaining a safe foundation. When these establishments are completed, Government can build and repair its own machinery. The entire machinery of the *Minnesota* was built at the Washington yard, and gives entire satisfaction.

It is important that such a policy should be adopted toward seamen as will insure a full supply, and promote the enlistment of Americans. Increased pay, honorable discharges, a superior quality of clothing and provision, a superior quality of medicines, care bestowed by skillful surgeons upon the sick, and improvements in berthing the men, are all incentives held out to invite enlistments. To hold out further encouragement to enlist, and to prevent any cause of complaint for being unnecessarily detained beyond three years, the Department recommends that the length of the cruise should be two, instead of three years, and has directed that hereafter it shall constitute a part of the sailing instructions to commanders of squadrons, that when the term of enlistment of a majority of the crew of any vessel has expired, the vessel shall be sent home.

A fostering care of the apprentice system, and its gradual enlargement, are the surest methods of making a radical improvement, and securing a fair proportion of Americans. Several hundred American boys are now enlisted, and in active service in the various squadrons. There was no difficulty in procuring their enlistment. While the great consideration in admitting apprentices is to secure American sailors, it might encourage the youths if the President were authorised by law to appoint ten as midshipmen. Such a law is recommended

Attention is called to several vacancies in different grades in the Navy, caused by deaths and resignations, some of which occurred more than a year ago. It is recommended that they be filled by regular promotions, or by nominating for restoration to the active list, any reserved or dropped officer who may be adjudged by the President to be entitled to such Executive interposition.

The Secretary refers to the report of the Bureau of Provisions and Clothing, in which he suggests that a small corps of Assistant Pursers, with moderate salaries, be established. Storeships and vessels on special service are not furnished with Pursers, and their duty devolves on the commanding officers, who, ignorant of accounts, frequently suffer pecuniary losses.

The Chief of the Bureau of Medicine recommends that the Hospital Fund be paid the value of the land recently conveyed to the Treasury Department for the purposes of a Marine Hospital.

The Department, though opposed to an increase of bureaus or officers, cannot refrain from recommending the creation of an additional office—that of Judge Advocate. The careful enforcement of the law authorizing courts-martial renders it necessary.

It is recommended that the Nautical Almanac be placed under the charge of a naval professor of mathematics.

The Naval Academy continues to prosper. The Secretary recommends, in addition to the Naval Board of Examiners, a Naval Board of Visitors, composed of civilians, and appointed annually.

The Naval Observatory continues to sustain its high reputation.

The expressions in regard to the usefulness of the Marine Corps are renewed. The Secretary has so often recommended the appointment of officers of military education, that he will now only refer to his former reports.

Notice has been given to E. K. Collins of a discontinuance of his extra appropriation.

The Report recommends an increase of the pay of a portion of the grades of Naval officers, but does not say which.

The estimates for the support of the Navy and Marine Corps for the next year amount to $8,912,979.

Report of the Secretary of the Interior.

To the Department of the Interior, by the organic Act, is confided the supervision of the Patent Office, the General Land Office, the Pension Office, the Commissioner of Public Buildings, the Board of Inspectors and Warden of the Penitentiary of the District of Columbia, the Census, and the accounts of the Marshal, Clerks and other officers of the United States Courts, embracing those of the District of Columbia, and to these have since been added the Insane Asylum, the Mexican Boundary Survey, and the construction of several territorial roads. The Report by the Secretary of the Interior holds that the labor here imposed upon the Department is quite sufficient, and that no more burdens should be laid upon it.

The survey of public lands has progressed rapidly—the quantity, exclusive of school sections, surveyed since the last Report and up to the 30th of September, being 16,873,699 acres. In the execution of the graduation Act, many grave questions have arisen; some of which cannot be satisfactorily settled without the interposition of Congress. The looseness with which it has been, in many respects, drafted, is particularly complained of. The quantity of land sold for cash during the last fiscal year is 9,227,378 acres, for which the sum of $8,821,414 was received; the quantity located with military scrip and land warrants is 8 382,480; for swamp lands approved to the States, 6,036,874; that granted for railroad purposes, 15,680,875; making a total of 39,322,108 acres. The Secretary remarks that the difficulties in executing satisfactorily the swamp-land grants still exist. In reviewing the land system for the past four years, the report states that it has been extended with entire success and unprecedented rapidity along the whole Pacific slope, embracing California, Oregon and Washington Territories, and into Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico and Utah. This immense geographical surface is organized into six new surveying departments. During this period there have been sold for cash 30,955,174 acres, for which there has been received $27,940,151; located for military bounties, 15,806,260; approved under swamp-land grants, 30,199,056; and granted for railroads, 17,036,282; making the aggregate of 93,976,772 acres, disposed of in part for farms by direct grants. As one illustration of the great labor incident to the accomplishment of these operations, it is mentioned that the records of correspondence cover *ninety thousand folio pages.* Eight thousand accounts have been adjusted, and four hundred thousand land patents have been issued by the General Government.

The discontinuance of four offices of Surveyors-General is recommended, and initiatory steps have been taken to that end. The number of applications under the recently enacted bounty land laws, to the 25th of November, was 265,205; these embrace 29,726,000 acres, of which 182 070 have been allowed, and warrants issued covering 22,003,290 acres; 57,656 have been suspended or rejected, leaving 25,542 original cases not yet examined. The report recommends that further power be given to the Commissioner of Pensions to suspend, diminish, or discontinue pensions when the reason for granting them has partially or totally ceased, and the Secretary is convinced from experience and reflection that the only true principle upon which to base pensions is that of indigence. In the opinion of the Secretary, there are distinctions and discriminations between army and navy pensions which are unreasonable, and should not be permitted longer to exist. On the 30th of June last there were 13,932 pensioners, and the amount disbursed for their benefit during the fiscal year was $1,360,694. The continued perpetration of frauds in connexion with pensions is noted. Particulars of the applications for pensions, and the warrants issued, are also given.

The field-work of the Mexican Boundary Commission has been all accomplished, as stated in the last report. The Mexican Commissioner, according to agreement with the American Commissioner, repaired to Washington about the 1st of July last, for the purpose of constructing the maps required by the treaty to show the boundary, and three maps will be furnished by the 1st of March next. The first part of the report is already in the hands of the printer, and nothing retards its publication but the necessary delays in engraving the maps.

Since the 1st of January last the Patent Office has issued 2,255 patents, and within the year the number will probably be increased to some 2,500. The income of the office this year will be about $200,000. This branch of the department receives a lengthened notice from the Secretary.

The report again calls attention to the extraordinary expenses of the judiciary, and urges the absolute necessity for a radical change or modification of such of the laws as relate thereto.

In regard to the Insane Asylum, the report says that on the 30th of June, 1855, there were within the same, sixty patients, and during the fiscal year there were received forty-seven; eight died, six were discharged, and there were left on the 30th of June, 1856, ninety-three patients. The institution is in a flourishing condition, and bids fair to be the first in the country.

The Penitentiary and proposed new Jail in the city of Washington are noticed in the report. It also draws attention to the want of suitable accommodation for the Criminal Court of the District of Columbia. The Bridge across the Potomac will not be finished this Winter, but a full report on the progress made may be expected in February. The report notices that the improvement of the grounds South of the Executive Mansion has been completed; and, though all that is required has not been done, yet the public grounds in the city of Washington have been considerably improved.

The Indian lands in the Territory of Kansas, which were to be sold, and the proceeds applied to the use of the Indians, are in a state of preparation for sale. A portion of the Delaware lands were advertised to be sold on the 17th of November, and every possible effort will be made to secure fairness. During the present Administration there have been negotiated fifty-two Indian treaties, and of these, thirty-two were ratified by the Senate, and twenty remain to be acted on. By these treaties the Indian title has been extinguished to lands amounting to 174,184,710 acres, of which about 52 000,000 are included in the ratified treaties, and about 122,000 000 acres are secured by those now before the Senate, besides 19,343,801 acres reserved for Indian purposes. The aggregate money consideration involved is $11,184,203. The report enters into some interesting statistics respecting negotiations and dealings with the Indians, and closes with bearing testimony to the able manner in which the Chiefs of Bureaus and the employees of the Department have discharged their official duties.

Report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

The Report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs is an exceedingly interesting document. The improvement in the condition of New York Indians is very perceptible; the farms, buildings, crops, and stock, and the substantial comforts surrounding the homes of many of the Oneidas, Onondagas, Tuscaroras, Tonawandas, Cattaraugus and Allegheny Senecas, evidence in them a uniform advancement. Churches, and religious influences, and schools are well sustained among them. The Ottawas, and Chippewas, and the Chippewas of Saginaw, Swan Creek and Black River, all within the State of Michigan, continue to increase, and from present indications, seem to justify the hope, that they will soon attain a much higher state of civilization. The Chippewas and the Menomonees have been afflicted with a liberal supply of farming implements and household furniture, the effect of which policy has been most salutary, and has stimulated many to erect new houses. Schools are now maintained at different points, and another agent was appointed, (the business being too extensive for one,) much further good may yet be accomplished. The condition of the Oneidas, of Wisconsin, has changed but little since last year; and no event of importance has occurred among them, except the murder of one of the chiefs by a member of the tribe. Under the operations of the treaty of Feb. 15, 1855, between the Stockbridge and Munsee Indians and the Government, it is to be expected that the Stockbridge difficulties, which for a number of years past have been sources of trouble and vexation, will soon be terminated. The Commissioner says that the necessities of the case, and the interests of the Indians, require that they should remove from their present location without delay. The advancement of the Menomonees is constant and steady. In the Southern part of Minnesota, the Winnebagoes have assigned to them, under the treaty of February, 1855, an excellent tract of land, and laudable efforts are now being made to correct the vicious habits of these Indians. In regard to the Medawakanton, Wahpakhoota, Sissitoan, and Wahpatoan Sioux, the Commissioners say that they have wasted their means without improving, but that all the power of the Department will be exerted to require these Indians to abandon their roving, vicious, and intemperate habits. With respect to the Chippewas of the Mississippi, and the Pillager and Lake Winnebigoshish bands, their wars with the Sioux, and their use of ardent spirits, have done much to retard their progress; and it is hoped that some arrangement may be made by which the deadly strife between the Chippewas and the Sioux will be brought to an end. With the Red Lake, and other scattered bands, next to the British possessions, and in the valley of the Red River, we have no treaty arrangements. They are said to be extremely poor. The matter of disposing, according to the law of Congress of July, 1854, of the interest of the half-breed Sioux, in the Lake Pepin Reserve, set apart for them by the treaty of July, 1830, it is confidently expected will now soon be brought to a final decision.

Reviewing the tribes embraced within the limits of the Central Superintendency, it is remarked that the Blackfeet, Flat Heads, Nez Percés, and other tribes, parties to the treaty of Judith, residing near the head waters of the Missouri, have, since the treaty of October, 1855, remained at peace. After briefly reviewing numerous minor tribes on both banks of the Missouri, the Report alludes to recent massacres in the region of Fort Laramie, and suggests that, in all such cases, the law should be regarded as the sole rule of action. The Commissioner here introduces remarks, that the Missouri River is navigable for boats, drawing thirty-four inches, from a point twenty-five miles below its falls to its mouth—a distance of more than two thousand nine hundred miles—and when the fact becomes more generally known, it will be the thoroughfare to Utah, Oregon, and Washington Territories. The Omahas are represented as improving, and their reservation is highly spoken of. The Sacs and Foxes,