THE BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY
WHITEHEAD & MITCHELL.

Entered at the postoffice at Birmingham, Mich., as second class matter.

MICHIGAN MY MICHIGAN.

The Doings and Happening in Our Two Peninsulas Which are of Much Importance.

A Case of Supposed Kidnaping in Oceana County.--Suicides at Several Points.

Queer Railroad Wreck at Marquette--County Agents in Convention.--Farm Statistics.

Looks Like a Kidnaping.

Burton Ford, 10-year-old son of David C. Burton, of Crystal township, Oceana county, has been missing almost two weeks. On the night of the 4th he went to the barns on his round of evening chores and not returning in a reasonable time search was made. His lantern was found, but no trace of the boy. A terrible storm was raging but the family continued the search far into the night without success. The boy was quiet and well-behaved and had no cause to leave home, it was therefore agreed that he had been taken by force. By a queer coincidence Clifton Whiting, a 19-year-old boy of the neighborhood, was also missing, but as the boys were not companions it was not believed that young Ford had gone with Whiting of his own accord if at all. It was ascertained that Whiting stole $25 from his father before he left and it is generally supposed that Whiting enticed the younger boy away and turned him over to kidnapers who will hold him for a ransom. Detectives are working on the case.

Suicide--A Woman in the Case.

The dead body of R. K. Middleworth was found in the woods south of Grand Rapids, grasping a revolver in the right hand and with the marks of powder on his face. It was apparently a case of suicide. He was 26 years old and formerly traveled for a New York house, but lately for himself, selling on commission. In the dead man's pockets were found several letters, postmarked Muskegon and signed "Kate." The tone of the letters indicated an intimacy between them. The cause of the suicide is unknown. Kate Doyle, of Muskegon, arrived summoned by the announcement of Middleworth's suicide. She is a good looking young woman, but declined to say anything of the tragedy except to express her surprise and sorrow. She would not speak of her relations with the dead man.

Did He Commit Suicide.

Jay Barnes, a highly respected young man 22 years old, son of James Barnes, a well-known furniture dealer of Grand Haven is supposed to have committed suicide by jumping into Lake Michigan from the south pier. He returned to the city late on the evening of the 12th from a three days' visit with his sister at Grand Rapids. He did not go home, and as far as is known no one saw him after he left the train on which he returned. The boy that looks after Mr. Barnes' store found the window of the back end of the store broken, and young Jay's valise inside near the broken window. In the valise was found a letter to his mother. The contents have not been made public, except that he said he hoped she would forgive him, and that his body would be found at the south pier.

An Aged Suicide.

The body of William Deacon a well-known farmer, of Tuscola county, was found on the 14th hanging in the barn. It was clearly a case of suicide, as the old man had first cut one of his wrists deeply with a knife. He had then obtained a tie-strap, fastened it about his neck and around a joist, and with his knees bent had managed thus to end his life. The deceased was about 77 years old, and lived with his son, William. His wife died about 11 years ago, and since that time he has been more or less despondent. Mr. Deacon was a resident of Tuscola county for more than 30 years, an exemplary citizen and good neighbor. He leaves a large family to mourn his death.

State Corrective Agents.

The 10th annual meeting of the state board of corrections and charities and the association of county agents held a session at Ionia with 125 delegates in attendance. Rev. Dr. Gregg, of Chicago, agent for the children's home society, addressed the convention. Hon. G. J. Diekema, of Ottawa, read an interesting paper on "The Kindergarten as a Charity." Rev. M. F. Tupper, of Grand Rapids, read a paper on "How Much the Penal Machinery Lessens Our Number of Convicts." Both papers were freely discussed. The delegates visited the house of correction and the asylum for the criminal insane at Ionia.

Remarkable Wreck.

A railroad wreck and a fire caused the destruction of about $3,000 worth of property at Marquette. A special freight on the Duluth, South Shore & Atlantic broke apart on the heavy grade, just west of the town. The caboose and a freight car plunged down the grade into the city, where they leaped the track and crushed through two dwellings, the inmates barely escaping with their lives. Mrs. Patrick McCarthy escaped by a miracle, the crash of the cars throwing her out of her bed, but passed without injuring her in the least. The stove in the caboose set fire to the wreck, burning both cars and houses; partial insurance.

Figures for Farmers.

The farm statistics returned last spring have just been completed. They show that there are now 149,589 farms in this state, 8,895 more than last year. The area of improved land in farms is 8,257,185 acres, an increase of 276,577 over last year's figures. Farms average 87.74 acres each in this state, a decrease of three acres as compared with 1890. The total amount of unimproved land in Michigan is reported at 4,605,770 acres.

MICHIGAN STATE ITEMS.

Ionia is talking strongly of a young men's christian association.

Drilling for gas or oil has been commenced at Killmaster, Alcona county.

The Sixth Michigan cavalry will hold its fifth reunion in Hastings, Jan. 1 next.

The Presbyterian church of Saginaw has extended a call to Rev. C. D. Jacobs, of Ishpeming.

Two Saginaw boys 15 years old are under arrest for making criminal assaults upon two 10 year old girls.

T. W. Quinlan, of Ishpeming, succeeds Charles F. Moore, of Detroit, as bookkeeper in the state treasurer's office.

J. C. Williams, a graduate of Michigan university, hanged himself at Philadelphia, while in a fit of despondency.

The tug F. M. Merick is at Grand Haven and will attempt to keep the harbor channel open during the winter.

Michigan beekeepers' society will hold its twenty-sixth annual convention in Grand Rapids, December 31 and January 1 next.

Maurice Birdsall, an old resident of Maple Forest, Crawford Co., was found drowned in the East Branch, near his home last week.

Mrs. Chesley Wheeler, of Bay City, mother of ex-Congressman Wheeler, died from injuries received some time ago by falling down stairs.

The Union City flouring mills, owned by Albion college, are to be thoroughly refitted and repaired. The mills are among the college's gilt edged assets.

The Saginaw, Tuscola & Huron railroad company has filed a trust deed at Saginaw for $1,000,000, for money to broaden the gauge and thoroughly equip the road.

Thomas M. Wilson is on trial in the Ingham circuit court for appropriating moneys belonging to the state collected by him while acting as clerk of the board of state auditors.

Jack Kehoe, the Manistee murderer, who weighs about 220 pounds, is kept at work shoveling coal into a Jackson prison furnace where the thermometer registers from 110 to 160 degrees.

Matt Flink and Olaf Ericson, miners in the Tamarack mine, at Red Jacket, were instantly killed by an unexpected explosion at the tenth level. Flink was single, but Ericson leaves a widow and one child.

William Wright and Harry Wood, the latter of Jackson, were arrested at Kalamazoo, on suspicion of larceny. They had a quantity of ready-made clothing in there possession which they were offering for sale.

Burton Harden has been arrested at Pinconning for attempting to pass a forged check for $8,790. The check purported to have been drawn by M. H. French of West Branch. Harden was taken to Bay City for his examination.

The latest bar of the mouth of St. Joseph river is said to be formed by the dirt dredged from the Benton Harbor canal and the St. Joseph harbor, and that was dumped into the big lake. It was washed in by the heavy seas.

The Flynn family, consisting of nine persons, and residing a few miles out of West Bay City, came very near extinction on a recent night. The nine members ate potatoes fried in rancid lard and were poisoned. A doctor saved them.

Albert and Herman Schrem have brought suit against John A. Moloney, of Zilwaukee, claiming damages in the sum of $10,000. Some time ago Moloney caused the arrest of the young men on a charge of theft, but their trial ended in their acquittal.

As Alfred Petersen and two other miners were descending shaft No. 7, of the Lake Superior company's mine at Ishpeming last week, the bucket was overturned Petersen fell 100 feet to the bottom and was instantly killed. The other men clung to the rope and were saved.

Jas. J. Larmour, postoffice inspector, caused the arrest of Lester Payne, of Battle Creek, for using the United States mails for fraudulent purposes. His bail was fixed by United States Commissioner M. H. Joy at $1,000. The specific charge was made by the American varnish company, of Chicago.

John Johnson, woodsman near Menominee, was killed several days ago, and it was reported that a falling limb had struck him, inflicting fatal injuries. Matt Mattis is now under arrest, charged with his murder, and admits he struck Johnson on the head with a peavie. An investigation will be made.

A lamp exploded in the house of Wm. Burnham at Ludington, setting fire to the furniture and carpets, and before the fire department could reach the scene the flames had reached such headway that the residence and most of the contents were destroyed. The loss is $1,000, and the insurance $600.

The state board of corrections and charities closed its annual session at Ionia, after visiting the state reformatory. The county agents' association, which met with it, elected the following officers: President, John Hosmer, Detroit; secretary, H. A. Whitney, Battle Creek; treasurer, Jas. Snow, Muskegon.

The Benton Harbor city council has granted a franchise to Peter English to construct 10 miles of electric street railway, to be built and in running order within the coming year. Also a franchise to the Benton Harbor & St. Joseph street railway to operate their present line by electricity instead of horse power.

Three trainloads of freight that passed over the Wabash to Benton Harbor were taken to Grand Haven, to be loaded upon boats there for Milwaukee. The St. Joseph harbor is practically closed to heavy navigation by a big sandbar. The lake freight for the Wabash will be unloaded at Grand Haven during the winter.

The 779 convicts in the prison at Jackson, were treated to a scare on the 13th, by fire in one of the workshops. It was fully an hour that the fire burned before it could be controlled by the city fire department and prison fire brigade. The interior of the building was completely gutted. The building had been condemned some time ago, so the state mourns no loss.

James Kemp, a well-known laborer of Cheboygan, was missing for over a week, when on the 13th blood spots were discovered on spiles in the river, and on a small boat near by. The river was dragged and Kemp's body was found. Further investigation developed the fact that Kemp had been murdered and his body thrown in the river. A clue is being worked up against two men suspected of the crime. A coroner's jury is making a thorough investigation.

Dr. W. T. Yarnall, of Saginaw, has been appointed manager of the Keeley institute, about to be established in Northville by the Detroit syndicate, a member of which Dr. A. Waring was, in Saginaw, and departed with Dr. Yarnall for Dwight, Ill., to complete arrangements with Dr. Keeley, looked to the opening on the 20th inst. Dr. Waring stated that at a date to be announced hereafter, but just previous to the opening of the institute, Opie Reed and other noted men who have been to Dwight would speak at the Detroit opera house at Detroit, and Dr. Keeley would be present and outline the mode of treatment.

Smuggled $100,000 Worth of Silks.

Alfred C. Rutgers has been arrested in Hoboken, N. J., for smuggling and was taken before the United States commissioner. He had several trunks, but they were all passed out by the officers at the gate of the Bremen docks because they bore the inspector's landmarks. Rutgers had just arrived in the Noordland, and everything was all right until it was noticed that he had a very large amount of baggage. It had been taken away in a hack, but when it was learned that some more was in his cabin on the vessel, one of the inspectors went down and examined a handbag or two and found expensive laces. An alarm was sent out and the hack with his trunks was caught just as it was entering the ferryhouse. The trunks were crammed with costly silks and laces worth somewhere between $50,000 and $100,000.

Mrs. Cleveland Ill.

A special from Lakewood, N. J., says it is learned that Mrs. Cleveland has not, as was hoped, derived real benefit from her stay there. She is, in fact, hardly as well as when she arrived two weeks ago. A trained nurse is still on duty. Mrs. Cleveland takes massage daily and lives almost exclusively on milk and wine. When she and her distinguished husband drive out Mrs. Cleveland is muffled in furs, cloth leggings and wraps, and her husband's strong right arm is at her back for support. She looks like a ghost, colorless, blue-lipped, hollow-eyed and with sunken cheeks.

We've Got It Again.

Special dispatches from a number of the larger cities of the country, from New York to San Francisco, show that on account of the prevailing mild, damp weather, the grip is again prevalent. At some points it is quite severe, while at others, while epidemic, it is of a mild form. Governor-elect McKinley is suffering from an attack of the malady at Canton, Ohio. At Milwaukee Lemuel Richards, a long-time friend of Rev. Dr. Boring, of Evanston, who killed himself a few days ago, committed suicide while suffering from the grip.

Good Grit, but Not Enough of It.

J. C. Williams, a former student of Ann Arbor, taking a post graduate course at Cornell, was found dead in his room at Philadelphia, having hanged himself. Despondency, resulting from overstudy and work, caused the act. He was in poor circumstances, and was trying to pay his way with money earned by doing chores.

Memories of Rebellion.

The finance committee of the common council of Richmond, Va., are considering a resolution looking to the appropriation of $25,000 for the purchase of a residence for Mrs. Jefferson Davis, provided she will make Richmond her home.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

President Harrison's Third Annual Address to Congress on Affairs of National Interest.

The Michigan Electoral System and its Effects Discussed at Length. --Tariff and the Silver Problem.

Reciprocity, Behring Sea Dispute, the American Hog, Chili's Insult, Our Indians and Other Matters.

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

The reports of the heads of the several executive departments, required by law to be submitted to me, which are herewith transmitted, and the reports of the Secretary of the Treasury and the Attorney-General, made directly to Congress, furnish a comprehensive view of the administrative work of the last fiscal year relating to internal affairs.

RECIPROCITY.

The work of the State Department during the last year has been characterized by an unusual number of important negotiations and by diplomatic results of a notable and highly beneficial character. Among these are the reciprocal trade arrangements which have been concluded in the exercise of the powers conferred by section 3 of the tariff law with the Republic of Brazil, with Spain for its West India possessions and for San Domingo. Like negotiations with other countries have been much advanced, and it is hoped that before the close of the year further definite trade arrangements of great value will be concluded.

BEHRING SEA DISPUTE.

In my last annual message I stated that the basis of arbitration proposed by her majesty's government for the adjustment of the long-pending controversy as to the seal fisheries was not acceptable. I am glad now to be able to announce that terms satisfactory to this government have been agreed upon and that an agreement as to the arbitrators is all that is necessary to the completion of the convention.

BOUNDARY DISPUTES.

Provision should be made for a joint demarcation of the frontier line between Canada and the United States wherever required by the increasing border settlements and especially for the exact location of the water boundary in the straits and rivers.

I should have been glad to announce some favorable disposition of the boundary dispute between Great Britain and Venezuela, touching the western frontier of British Guiana, but the friendly efforts of the United States in that direction have thus far been unavailing. This government will continue to express its concern at any appearance of foreign encroachment on territories long under the administrative control of American states.

THE AMERICAN HOG.

The law of the last Congress providing a system of inspection for our meats intended for export and clothing the President with power to exclude foreign products from our market in case the country sending them should perpetuate unjust discrimination against any product of the United States, placed this government in a position to effectively urge the removal of such discrimination against our meats. It is gratifying to state that Germany, Denmark, Italy, Austria and France, in the order named, have opened their ports to inspected American pork products. The removal of these restrictions in every instance was asked for and given solely upon the ground that we had now provided a meat inspection that should be accepted as adequate to the complete removal of the danger, real or fancied, which had been previously urged. The outlines of an agreement have been reached with Germany, looking to equitable trade concessions in consideration of the continued free importation of her sugars, but the time has not yet arrived when this correspondence can be submitted to Congress.

THE NEW ORLEANS LYNCHING.

The lynching at New Orleans in March last of eleven men of Italian nativity by a mob of citizens was a most deplorable and discreditable incident. It did not, however, have its origin in any general animosity to the Italian people nor any disrespect to the Government of Italy, with which our relations were of the most friendly character. It was once represented by the Italian Minister that several of those whose lives had been taken by the mob were Italian subjects, and a demand was made for the punishment of the participants and for an indemnity to the families of those who were killed. The views of this government as to its obligations to foreigners domiciled here were fully stated in the correspondence. The temporary absence of a Minister Plenipotentiary of Italy at this capital has retarded the further correspondence, but it is not doubted that a friendly conclusion is attainable.

Some suggestions growing out of this unhappy incident are worthy of attention of Congress. It would, I believe, be entirely competent for Congress to make offenses against the treaty rights of foreigners domiciled in the United States cognizable in the federal courts. This has not, however, been done, and the federal officers and courts have no power in such cases to intervene either for the protection of a foreign citizen or for the punishment of his slayers. It seems to me to follow, in this state of law, that the officers of the state charged with the police and judicial powers in such cases must in consideration of internal questions growing out of such incidents, be regarded in such sense as federal agents as to make this government answerable for their acts in cases where it should be answerable if the United States had used its constitutional power to define and punish crimes against treaty rights.

THE CIVIL WAR IN CHILI.

The civil war in Chili, which began in January last, was continued, but fortunately with infrequent and not important armed collisions, until August 28, when the Congressional forces landed near Valparaiso and after a bloody engagement captured that city. President Balmaceda at once recognized that his cause was lost, and a provisional government was speedily established by the victorious party. Our Minister was promptly directed to recognize and put himself in communication with this government so soon as it should have established its de facto character, which was done. During the pendency of this civil contest frequent indirect appeals were made to this government to extend belligerent rights to insurgents and to give audience to their representatives. This was declined and that policy was pursued throughout which this government, when wrenched by civil war, so strenuously insisted upon on the part of European nations.

During the progress of the war in Chili this government tendered its good offices to bring about a peaceful adjustment, and it was at one time hoped that a good result might be reached; but in this we were disappointed.

The instruction to our naval officers and to our Minister at Santiago, from first to the last of their struggle, enjoined upon them the most impartial treatment and absolute non-interference. I am satisfied that these instructions were observed and that our representatives were always watchful to use their influence impartially in the interest of humanity, and, on more than one occasion, did so effectively.

The collapse of the government of Balmaceda brought about a condition which is unfortunately too familiar in the history of the Central and South American States. With the overthrow of the Balmaceda Government, he and many of his councilors and officers became at once fugitives for their lives and appealed to the commanding officers of the foreign naval vessels in the harbor of Valparaiso and to the resident foreign Ministers at Santiago for asylum. This asylum was freely given, according to my information, by the naval vessels of several foreign powers and by several of the legislations at Santiago. The American Minister, as well as his colleagues, acting upon the impulses of humanity, extended asylum to political refugees whose lives were in peril. I have not been willing to direct the surrender of such of these persons as are still in the American legation without suitable conditions.

THE MASSACRE OF THE SAILORS.

On the 16th of October an event occurred in Valparaiso so serious and tragic in its circumstances and results as to excite the indignation of our people and to call for prompt and decided action on the part of this government. A considerable number of the sailors of the United States steamship Baltimore, then in the harbor of Valparaiso, being upon shore leave and unarmed, were assaulted by armed men nearly simultaneously in different localities in the city. One petty officer was killed outright and seven or eight seamen were seriously wounded, one of whom has since died.

So far as I have yet been able to learn, no other explanation of this bloody work has been suggested than that it had its origin in hostility to these men as sailors of the United States, wearing the uniform of their government and not in any individual act or personal animosity. The attention of the Chilian Government was at once called to this affair and a statement of the facts obtained by the investigation we had conducted was submitted and was accompanied by a request to be advised of any other or qualifying facts in the possession of the Chilian Government that might tend to relieve this affair of the appearance of an insult to this government. The Chilian Government was also advised that if such qualifying facts did not exist this government would confidently expect full and prompt reparation.

It is to be regretted that the reply of the Secretary for Foreign Affairs of the provisional government was couched in an offensive tone. To this no response has been made. This government is now awaiting the result of an investigation which has been conducted by the criminal court at Valparaiso. I will by a special message bring this matter again to the attention of Congress for such action as may be necessary. The entire correspondence with the Government of Chili will at an early day be submitted to Congress.

MEXICAN MATTERS.

Surveys for the connecting links of the projected Intercontinental Railway are in progress not only in Mexico, but at various points along the course mapped out. Three surveying parties are now in the field under the direction of the commission. Nearly 1,000 miles of the proposed road have been surveyed, including the most difficult part, that through Ecuador and the southern part of Columbia. The reports of the engineers are very satisfactory and show that no insurmountable obstacles have been met with.

CHINESE AFFAIRS.

The late outbreak against foreigners in various parts of the Chinese Empire has been a cause of deep concern in view of the numerous establishments of our citizens in the interior of that country. This government can do no less than insist upon a continuance of the protective and punitory measures which the Chinese Government has heretofore applied. No effort will be omitted to protect our citizens peaceably sojourning in China, but recent unofficial information indicates that what was at first regarded as an outbreak of mob violence against foreigners has assumed the larger form of an insurrection against public order.

The Chinese government has declined to receive Mr. Blair as Minister of the United States on the ground that as a participant, while a Senator, in the enactment of the existing legislation against the introduction of Chinese laborers he has become unfriendly and objectionable to China. I have felt constrained to point out to the Chinese government the untenableness of this position, which seems to rest as much on the unacceptability of our legislation as on that of the person chosen, and which, if admitted, would practically debar the selection of any representative so long as the existing laws remain in force.

You will be called upon to consider the expediency of making special provision by law for the temporary admission of some Chinese artisans and laborers in connection with the exhibit of Chinese industries at the approaching Columbian Exposition. I regard it as desirable that the Chinese exhibit be facilitated in every proper way.

OUR RIGHTS IN THE CAROLINE ISLANDS.

A question has arisen with the government of Spain touching the rights of American citizens in the Caroline Islands. Our citizens there, long prior to the confirmation of Spain's claim to the islands, had secured by settlement and purchase certain rights, to the recognition and maintenance of which the faith of Spain was pledged. I have had reason within the past year very strongly to protest against the failure to carry out this pledge on the part of her majesty's Ministers, which has resulted in great injustice and injury to the American residents.

The government and people of Spain propose to celebrate the four-hundredth anniversary of the discovery of America by holding an exposition at Madrid which will open on the 12th of September, and continue until the 31st of December, 1892. A cordial invitation has been extended to the United States to take part in this commemoration, and, as Spain was one of the first nations to express the intention to participate in the World's Columbian Exposition at Chicago, it would be very appropriate for this government to give this invitation its friendly promotion.

THE AFRICAN SLAVE TRADE.

The adjournment of the Senate without action on the pending acts for the suppression of the slave traffic in Africa and for the reform of the revenue tariff of the independent State of the Congo left this government unable to exchange those acts on the date fixed, July 2, 1891. A modus vivendi has been concluded by which the power of the Congo State to levy duties on imports is left unimpaired and, by agreement of all of the signatories to the general slave trade act, the time for the exchange of ratifications on the part of the United States has been extended to February 2, 1892.

HAWAII.

The death of King Kalakauka afforded occasion to testify our friendship for Hawaii by conveying the king's body to his own land in a naval vessel with all due honors. The government of his successor, Queen Liliuokalani, is seeking to promote closer commercial relations with the United States. Surveys for the much needed submarine cable from our Pacific Coast to Honolulu are in progress and this enterprise should have the suitable promotion of the two governments. I strongly recommend that provision be made for improving the harbor of Pearl River and equipping it as a naval station.

RUSSIA'S PERSECUTION OF THE HEBREWS.

This government has found occasion to express, in a friendly spirit but with much earnestness, to the government of the Czar, its serious concern because of the harsh measures now being enforced against the Hebrews in Russia. By the revival of antisemitic laws, long in abeyance, great numbers of those unfortunate people have been constrained to abandon their homes and leave the empire by reason of the impossibility of finding subsistence within the pale to which it is sought to confine them. The immigration of these people to the United States—many other countries being closer to them—is largely increased and is likely to assume proportions which may make it difficult to find homes and employment for them here and to seriously affect the labor market. It is estimated that over one million will be forced from Russia within a few years. The sudden transfer of such a multitude, under conditions that tend to strip them of their small accumulations and to depress their energies and courage, is neither good for them nor for us.

NICARAGUA CANAL.

The annual report of the Maritime Canal Company, of Nicaragua, shows that much costly and necessary preparatory work has been done during the year in the construction of shops, railroad tracks and harbor piers and breakwaters, and that the work of canal construction has made some progress. I deem it to be a matter of the highest concern to the United States that this canal, connecting the waters of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans and giving to us a short water communication between our ports upon these two great seas, should be speedily constructed and at the smallest practicable limit of cost. I most sincerely hope that neither party nor sectional lines will be drawn upon this great American project, so full of interest to the people of all our states and so influential in its effects upon the prestige and prosperity of our common country.

THE ISLAND OF NAVASSA.

The Island of Navassa, in the West Indian group, has, under the provisions of title 72 of the revised statutes, been recognized by the President as appertaining to the United States. It contains guano deposits, is owned by the Navassa Phosphate Company and occupied solely by its employes. I recommend legislation that shall place labor contracts upon this and other islands having the relation that Navassa has to the United States under the supervision of a Court Commissioner, and that shall provide, at the expense of the owners, an officer to reside upon the islands with power to judge and adjust disputes and to enforce a just and humane treatment of the employe. It is inexcusable that American laborers should be left within our own jurisdiction without access to any government officer or tribunal for their protection and the redress of their wrongs.

INTERNATIONAL COPYRIGHT.

International copyright has been secured, in accordance with the conditions of the act of March 3, 1891, with Belgium, France, Great Britain and the British possessions and Switzerland, the laws of these countries permitting to our citizens the benefit of copyright on substantially the same basis as their own citizens or subjects. With Germany a special convention has been negotiated on the subject, which will bring that country within the reciprocal benefits of our legislation.

THE TARIFF.

The general interest in the operations of the Treasury Department have been much augmented during the last year by reason of the conflicting predictions, which accompanied and followed the tariff and other legislation of the last Congress affecting the revenues, as to the results of this legislation upon the treasury and upon the country. On the one hand it was contended that imports would so fall off as to leave the treasury bankrupt and that the prices of articles entering into the living of the people would be so enhanced as to disastrously affect their comfort and happiness, while on the other it was argued that the loss to revenue, largely the result of placing sugar on the free list, would be a direct gain to the people: that the prices of the necessaries of life, including those most highly protected, would not be enhanced: that labor would have a larger market and the products of the farm advanced prices; while the treasury surplus and receipts would be adequate to meet the appropriations, including the large exceptional expenditures for the refunding to the states of the direct tax and the redemption of the 4½ per cent bonds.

It is not my purpose to enter to any length into a discussion of the effects of the legislation to which I have referred; but a brief examination of the statistics of the treasury and a general glance at the state of business throughout the country will, I think, satisfy any impartial inquirer that its results have disappointed the evil prophesies of its opponents and in a large measure realized the hopeful predictions of its friends. Rarely, if ever before, in the history of the country has the time when the proceeds of one day's labor or the product of one farmed acre would purchase so large an amount of those things that enter into the living of the masses of the people. I believe that a full test will develop the fact that the tariff act of the Fifty-first Congress is very favorable in its average effect upon the prices of articles entering into common use.

During the twelve months from October 1, 1890, to September 30, 1891, the total value of our foreign commerce (imports and exports combined) was $1,747,806,406, which was the largest of any year in the history of the United States. The largest on any previous year was in 1890, when our commerce amounted to $1,647,139,093, and the last year exceeds this enormous aggregate by over $100,000,000. It is interesting, and to some will be surprising, to know that during the year ending September 30, 1891, our imports of merchandise amounted to $824,715,270, which was an increase of over $10,000,000 over the value of imports of the corresponding months of the preceding year, when the imports of merchandise were unusually large in anticipation of the tariff legislation then pending. The average annual value of the imports of merchandise for the ten years from 1881 to 1890 was $692,186,522, and during the year ending September 30, 1891, this annual average was exceeded by $132,528,-[illegible].

The value of free imports during the twelve months ending September 30, 1891, was $118,-092,387 more than the value of free imports during the corresponding twelve months of the preceding year, and there was during the same period a decrease of $106,846,508 in the value of imports of dutiable merchandise. The percentage of merchandise admitted free of duty during the year to which I have referred, the first under the new tariff, was 48.18, while during the preceding twelve months, under the old tariff, the percentage was 34.27, an increase of 13.91 per cent. If we take the six months ending September 30 last, which covers the time during which sugars have been admitted free of duty, the per cent of value of merchandise imported free of duty is found to be 55.37, which is a larger percentage of free imports than during any prior fiscal year in the history of the government.

If we turn to exports of merchandise the statistics are full of gratification. The value of such exports of merchandise for the twelve months ending September 30, 1891, was $923,-091,136, while for the corresponding previous twelve months it was $860,177,115, an increase of $62,914,021, which is nearly three times the average annual increase of exports of merchandise during any year in the history of the government. The increase in the value of exports of agricultural products during the year referred to over the corresponding twelve months of the prior year was $45,846,197, while the increase in the value of exports of manufactured products was $16,838,240.

There is certainly nothing in the condition of trade, foreign or domestic, there is certainly nothing in the condition of our people of any class, to suggest that the existing tariff and revenue legislation bears oppressively upon the people or retards the commercial development of the nation. It may be argued that our condition would be better if our tariff legislation were upon a free trade basis; but it cannot be denied that all the conditions of prosperity and of general contentment are present in a larger degree than ever before in our history, and that, too, just when it was prophesied they would be in the worst state. Agitation for radical changes in tariff and financial legislation cannot help, but may seriously impede business, to the property of which some degree of stability in legislation is essential.

I think there are conclusive evidences that the new tariff has created several great industries which will, within a few years, give employment to several hundred thousand American workingmen and women. In view of the somewhat overcrowded condition of the labor market of the United States, every patriotic citizen should rejoice at such a result.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The report of the Secretary of the Treasury shows that the total receipts of the government, from all sources, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1891, were $458,544,233 03, while the expenditures for the same period were $421,-304,470 46, leaving a surplus of $37,239,762 57. The receipts of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1892, actual and estimated, are $433,000,000, and the expenditures $409,000,000. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1893, the estimated receipts are $455,336,350, and the expenditures $441,300,093.

THE SILVER QUESTION.

Under the law of July 14, 1890, the Secretary of the Treasury has purchased since August 13 during the fiscal year 48,393,113 ounces of silver bullion at an average cost of $1.045 per ounce. The highest price paid during the year was $1.2025, and the lowest $0.9636. In exchange for this silver bullion have been issued $50,-577,498 of the treasury notes authorized by the act. The lowest price of silver reached during the fiscal year was $0.9636 on April 22, 1891; but on November one the market price was only $0.96, which would give to the silver dollar a bullion value of seventy-four and one-fourth cents.

Before the influence of the prospective silver legislation was felt in the market silver was worth in New York about $0.955 per ounce. The ablest advocates of free coinage in the last Congress were most confident in their prediction that the purchases by the government required by the law would at once bring the price of silver to 1.2929 per ounce, which would make the bullion value of a dollar 100 cents and hold it there. The prophecies of the anti-silver men of disasters to result from the coinage of $2,000,000 per month were not wider of the mark. The friends of free silver are not agreed, I think, as to the causes that brought their hopeful predictions to naught. Some facts are known. The exports of silver from London to India during the first nine months of the calendar year fell off over 50 per cent, or $17,202,776, compared with the same months of the preceding year. The exports of domestic silver bullion from this country, which had averaged for the last ten years over $17,000,000, fell in the last fiscal to $13,797,391; while, for the first time in recent years, the imports of silver into this country exceeded the exports by the sum of $2,745,365. In the previous year the net exports of silver from the United States amounted to $8,545,455. The production of the United States increased from 50,000,000 ounces in 1889 to 54,500,000 in 1890. The government is now buying and putting aside annually 54,000,000 ounces, which, allowing for 7,140,000 ounces of new bullion used in the arts, is 6,640,000 more than our domestic product available for coinage.

I hope the depression in the price of silver is temporary and that a further trial of this legislation will more favorably affect it. That the increased volume of currency thus supplied for the use of the people was needed and that beneficial results upon trade and prices have followed this legislation I think must be very clear to every one; nor should it be forgotten that for every dollar of these notes issued a full dollar's worth of silver bullion is at the time deposited in the treasury as a security for its redemption.

Upon this subject, as upon the tariff, my recommendation is that the existing laws be given a full trial and that our business interests be spared the distressing influence which threats of radical changes always impart. Under existing legislation it is in the power of the Treasury Department to maintain that essential condition of national finance as well as of commercial prosperity—the parity in use of the coin dollars and their paper representatives. The assurance that these powers will be freely and unhesitatingly used has done much to produce and sustain the present favorable business conditions.

I am still of the opinion that the free coinage of silver under existing conditions would disastrously affect our business interests at home and abroad. We could not hope to maintain an equality in the purchasing power of the gold and silver dollar on our own markets, and in foreign trade the stamp gives no added value to the bullion contained in coins. The producers of the country—the farmers and laborers—have the highest interest that every dollar, paper or coin, issued by the government shall be as good as any other. If there is one less valuable than another its sure and constant errand will be to pay them for their toil and for their crops. The money-lender will protect himself by stipulating for payment in gold, but the laborer has never been able to do that. To place business men upon a silver basis would mean a sudden and severe contraction of the currency, by the withdrawal of gold and gold notes, and such an unsettling of all values as would produce a commercial panic. I cannot believe that a people so strong and prosperous as ours will promote such a policy.

The producers of silver are entitled to just consideration, but they should not forget that the government is now buying and putting out of the market what is the equivalent of the entire product of our silver mines. This is more than they themselves thought of asking two years ago. I believe it is the earnest desire of a great majority of the people, as it is mine, that a full coin use shall be made of silver just as soon as the co-operation of other nations can be secured and a basis fixed that will give circulation equally to gold and silver. The business of the world requires the use of both metals; but I do not see any prospect of gain, but much of loss, by giving up the present system, in which a full use is made of gold and a large use of silver for one in which silver alone will circulate. Such an event would be at once fatal to the further progress of the silver movement. Bimetallism is the desired end, and the true friends of silver will be careful not to overrun the goal and bring in silver monometallism, with its necessary attendants, the loss of our gold to Europe and the relief of the pressure there for a larger currency. I have endeavored by the use of official and unofficial agencies to keep a close observation of the state of public sentiment in Europe upon this question, and have not found it to be such as to justify me in proposing an international conference. There is, however, I am sure, a growing sentiment in Europe in favor of a larger use of silver, and I know of no more effectual way of promoting this sentiment than by accumulating gold here. A scarcity of gold in the European reserves will be the most persuasive argument for the use of silver.

EXPORT OF GOLD.

The exports of gold to Europe, which began in February last and continued until the close of July, aggregated over $70,000,000. The net loss of gold during the fiscal year was nearly $68,000,000. That no serious monetary disturbance resulted was most gratifying, and gave to Europe fresh evidence of the strength and stability of our financial institutions. With the movement of crops the outflow of gold was speedily stopped, and a return set in. Up to December 1 we had recovered of our gold loss at the port of New York $27,854,000, and it is confidently believed that during the winter and spring this aggregate will be steadily and largely increased.

CASH SURPLUS IN THE TREASURY.

The presence of a large cash surplus in the treasury has for many years been the subject of much unfavorable criticism and has furnished an argument to those who have desired to place the tariff upon a purely revenue basis. It was agreed by all that the withdrawal from circulation of so large an amount of money was an embarrassment to the business of the country and made necessary the intervention of the department at frequent intervals to relieve threatened monetary panics. The surplus on March 1, 1889, was $183,827,190 29. The policy of applying this surplus to the redemption of the interest-bearing securities of the United States was thought to be preferable to that of depositing it without interest in selected national banks. There have been redeemed since the date last mentioned of interest-bearing securities $259,079,350, resulting in a reduction of the annual interest charge of $11,684,-675. The money which has been deposited in banks without interest has been gradually withdrawn and used in the redemption of bonds.

THE CIRCULATION.

The result of this policy, of the silver legislation and of the refunding of the 4½ per cent bonds has been a large increase of the money in circulation. At the date last named the circulation was $1,404,205,896, or $23 03 per capita, while on the 1st day of December, 1891, it had increased to $1,577,262,070, or $24 38 per capita. The offer of the Secretary of the Treasury to the holders of the 4½ per cent bonds to extend the time of redemption, at the option of the government, at an interest of 2 per cent, was accepted by the holders of about one-half the amount, and the unextended bonds are being redeemed on presentation.

THE WAR DEPARTMENT.

The report of the Secretary of War exhibits the results of an intelligent, progressive and business-like administration of a department which has been too much regarded as one of mere routine. The separation of Secretary Proctor from the department by reason of his appointment as a Senator from the State of Vermont is a source of great regret to me and to his colleagues in the Cabinet, as I am sure it will be to all those who have had business with the department while under his charge. In the administration of army affairs some especially good work has been accomplished.

THE CHINESE QUESTION.

The enforcement by the Treasury Department of the law prohibiting the coming of Chinese to the United States has been effective as to such as seek to land from vessels entering our ports. The result has been to divert the travel to vessels entering the ports of British Columbia, whence passage into the United States at obscure points along the Dominion boundary is easy. A very considerable number of Chinese laborers have, during the past year, entered the United States from Canada and Mexico.

The officers of the Treasury Department and of the Department of Justice have used every means at their command to intercept this immigration; but the impossibility of perfectly guarding our extended frontier is apparent. The Dominion government collects a head tax of $50 from every Chinaman entering Canada, and thus derives considerable revenue from those who only use its ports to reach a position of advantage to evade our exclusion laws. There seems to be satisfactory evidence that the business of passing Chinamen through Canada to the United States is organized and is quite active. The department of justice has construed the laws to require the return of any Chinaman found to be unlawfully in this country to China as the country from which he came, notwithstanding the fact that he came by way of Canada; but several of the district courts have, in cases brought before them, overruled this view of the law and decided that such persons must be returned to Canada. This construction robs the law of all effectiveness even if the decrees could be executed for the men returned can the next day recross our border. But the only appropriation made is for sending them back to China, and the Canadian officials refuse to allow them to re-enter Canada without the payment of the $50 head tax. I recommend such legislation as will remedy these defects in the law.

JURISDICTION OF UNITED STATES COURTS.

In previous messages I have called the attention of Congress to the necessity of so extending the jurisdiction of the United States courts as to make triable therein any felony committed while in the act of violating a law of the United States. These courts can not have that independence and effectiveness which the Constitution contemplates so long as the felonious killing of high court officers, jurors and witnesses in the discharge of their duties, or by reason of their acts as such, are only cognizable in the state courts. The work doing by the Attorney-General and the officers of his department under present inadequate legislation has produced some notable results in the interest of law and order.

THE POSTOFFICE DEPARTMENT.

In the report of the Postmaster-General some very gratifying results are exhibited and many betterments of the service suggested. A perusal of the report gives abundant evidence that the supervision and direction of the postal system have been characterized by an intelligent and conscientious desire to improve the service. The revenues of the department show an increase of over five millions of dollars, while the estimate for the year 1893 shows a surplus of receipts over expenditures. The Postmaster-General recommends, and I concur in the recommendation, that the free delivery system be at once extended to towns of 5,000 population. His discussion of the inadequate facilities extended under our present system to rural communities and his suggestions with a view to give these communities a fuller participation in the benefits of the postal service are worthy of your careful consideration.

OCEAN MAIL SERVICE.

In pursuance of the ocean mail law of March 30, 1891, and after a most careful study of the whole subject and frequent conferences with ship owners, boards of trade and others, advertisements were issued by the Postmaster-General for fifty-three lines of ocean mail service; ten to Great Britain and the continent, twenty-seven to South America, three to China and Japan, four to Australia and the Pacific Islands, seven to the West Indies, and two to Mexico. The policy of the department was to secure from the established lines an improvement of the service as a condition of giving to them the benefits of the law. This in all instances has been attained. The Postmaster-General estimates that an expenditure in American shipyards of about $10,000,000 will be necessary to enable the bidders to construct the ships called for by the service which they have accepted.

I do not think there is any reason for discouragement or for any turning back from the policy of this legislation. Indeed a good beginning has been made, and as the subject is still further considered and understood by capitalists and shipping people, new lines will be ready to meet future proposals, and we may date from the passage of this law the revival of American shipping interests and the recovery of a fair share of the carrying trade of the world. We were receiving for foreign postage nearly $2,000,000 under the old system and the outlay for ocean mail service did not exceed $600,000 per annum. It is estimated by the Postmaster-General that, if all the contracts proposed are completed, it will require $247,354 for this year, in addition to the appropriation for sea and inland postage already in the estimates, and that for the next fiscal year ending June 30, 1893, there would probably be needed about $560,000.

THE NAVY.

The report of the Secretary of the Navy shows a gratifying increase of new naval vessels in commission. The Newark, Concord, Bennington and Miantonomoh have been added during the year, with an aggregate of something more than 11,000 tons.

Twenty-four ships of all classes are now under construction in the navy yards and private shops, but while the work upon them is going forward satisfactorily, the completion of the more important vessels will yet require about a year's time. Some of the vessels now under construction, it is believed, will be triumphs of naval engineering.

I commend to your favorable consideration the recommendations of the Secretary, who has, I am sure, given them the most conscientious study. There should be no hesitation in promptly completing a navy of the best modern type, large enough to enable this country to display its flag in all the seas for the protection of its citizens and of its extending commerce.

THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT.

The report of the Secretary of the Interior shows that a very gratifying progress has been made in all of the bureaus which make up that complex difficult department. The work in the Bureau of Indian Affairs was, perhaps, never so large as now by reason of the numerous negotiations which have been proceeding with the tribes for a reduction of the reservations, with the incident labor of making allotments, and was never more carefully conducted. It will be noticed from the report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs that already some contracts have been made with district schools for the education of Indian children. There is great advantage, I think, in bringing the Indian children into mixed schools. This process will be gradual, and in meantime the present educational provisions and arrangements, the result of the best experience of those who have been charged with this work, should be continued.

It seems to me to be inevitable that there shall be before long some organic changes in the relation of these people to the United States. What form these changes should take I do not think it desirable now to suggest, even if they were well defined in my own mind. They should certainly involve the acceptance of citizenship by the Indians and a Representative in Congress. These Indians should have opportunity to present their claims and grievances upon the floor rather than, as now, in the lobby.

INDIAN LANDS.

The good work of reducing the larger Indian reservations by allotments in severalty to the Indians, and the cession of the remaining lands to the United States for disposition under the homestead law, has been prosecuted during the year with energy and success. In September last I was enabled to open to settlement in the Territory of Oklahoma 900,-000 acres of land, all of which was taken up by settlers in a single day. The rush for these lands was accompanied by a great deal of excitement, but was happily free from incidents of violence.

It was a source of great regret that I was not able to open at the same time the surplus lands of the Cheyenne and Arapahoe reservation, amounting to about 3,000,000 acres, by reason of the insufficiency of the appropriation for making the allotments. Deserving and impatient settlers are waiting to occupy these lands, and I urgently recommend that a special deficiency appropriation be promptly made of the small amount needed, so that the allotments may be completed and the surplus lands opened in time to permit the settlers to get upon their homesteads in the early spring.

The negotiation for the release by the Cherokees of their claim to the Cherokee Strip has made no substantial progress, so far as the department is officially advised, but it is still hoped that the cession of this large and valuable tract may be secured.

Since March 4, 1889, about 23,000,000 acres have been separated from Indian reservations and added to the public domain, for the use of those who desired to secure free homes under our beneficent laws.

THE LAND OFFICE.

Early in this administration a special effort was begun to bring up the work of the General Land Office. By faithful work the arrearages have been rapidly reduced. At the end of the last fiscal year only 84,172 final agricultural entries remained undisposed of, and the Commissioner reports that, with the present force, the work can be fully brought up by the end of the next fiscal year.

THE PENSION BUREAU.

The administration of the Pension Bureau has been characterized during the year by great diligence. The total number of pensioners upon the roll on the 30th day of June, 1891, was 676,160. There were allowed during fiscal year ending at that time 250,565 cases. Of this number, 102,387 were allowed under the law of June 27, 1890. The issuing of certificates has been proceeding at the rate of about 30,000 per month, about 75 per cent of these being cases under the new law. The Commissioner expresses the opinion that he will be able to carefully adjudicate and allow 350,000 claims during the present fiscal year. The appropriation for the payment of pensions for 1890-1 was $127,685,793 89, and the amount expended $118,530,649 25, leaving an unexpected surplus of $9,155,144 64. The Commissioner is quite confident that there will be no call this year for a deficiency appropriation, notwithstanding the rapidity with which the work is being pushed. The mistake which has been made by many in their exaggerated estimates of the cost of pensions is in not taking account of the diminished value of first payments under the recent legislation. These payments under the general law, have been for many years very large, as the pensions, when allowed, dated from the time of filing the claim, and most of these claims have been pending for years. The first payments under the law of June, 1890, are relatively small, and, as the per cent of the cash increases and that of the old cash diminishes, the annual aggregate of first payments is largely reduced. The Commissioner, under date of November 13, furnishes me with the statement that during the last four months 113,175 certificates were issued, 27,893 under the general law and 85,282 under the act of June 27, 1890. The average first payment during these four months was $131 85, while the average first payment upon cash allowed during the year ending June 30, 1891, was $239 33, being a reduction in the average first payments during these four months of $107 48.

The estimate for pension expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1893, is $144,956,-000, which, after a careful examination of the subject, the Commissioner is of the opinion will be sufficient. While these disbursements to the disabled soldiers of the great civil war are large, they do not realize the exaggerated estimates of those who oppose this beneficent legislation. The Secretary of the Interior shows with great fullness the care that is taken to exclude fraudulent claims, and also the gratifying fact that the persons to whom these pensions are going are men who rendered not slight, but substantial, war service.

RAILROAD SUBSIDIES.

The report of the Commissioner of Railroads shows that the total debt of the subsidized railroads to the United States was December 31, 1890, $112,512,613 06. A large part of this debt is now fast approaching maturity, with no adequate provision for its payment. Some policy for dealing with this debt, with a view to its ultimate collection, should be at once adopted. It is very difficult, well nigh impossible for so large a body as the Congress to conduct the necessary negotiations and investigations. I therefore recommend that provision be made for the appointment of a commission to agree upon and report a plan for dealing with this debt.

THE CENSUS BUREAU.

The work of the Census Bureau is now far in advance, and the great bulk of the enormous labor involved completed. It will be more strictly a statistical exhibit and less incumbered by essays than its immediate predecessors. The methods pursued have been fair, careful and intelligent, and have secured the approval of the statisticians who have followed them with a scientific and non-partisan interest. The appropriations necessary to the early completion and publication of the authorized volumes should be given in time to secure against delays, which increase the cost and at the same time diminish the value of the work.

THE MORMON QUESTION.

The legislation of Congress for the repression of polygamy has after years of resistance on the part of the Mormons at last brought them to the conclusion that resistance is unprofitable and unavailing. The power of Congress over this subject should not be surrendered until we have satisfactory evidence that the people of the state to be created would exercise the exclusive power of the state over this subject in the same way. The question is not whether these people now obey the laws of Congress against polygamy, but rather would they make, enforce and maintain such laws themselves if absolutely free to regulate the subject? We cannot afford to experiment with this subject, for when a state is once constituted the act is final, and any mistake irretrievable. No compact in the enabling act could, in my opinion, be binding or effective.

ALASKA.

I recommend that provision be made for the organization of a simple form of town government in Alaska with power to regulate such matters as are usually in the states under municipal control.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

If the establishment of the Department of Agriculture was regarded by anyone as a mere concession to the unenlightened demand of a worthy class of people, that impression has been most effectually removed by the great results already attained. Its home influence has been very great in disseminating agricultural and horticultural information; in stimulating and directing a further diversification of crops; in detecting and eradicating diseases of domestic animals and, more than all, in the close and informal contact which it has established and maintains with the farmers and stock raisers of the whole country. Every request for information has had prompt attention and every suggestion merited consideration. The scientific corps of the department is of a high order and is pushing its investigations with method and enthusiasm.

The grain crop of this year was the largest in our history, 50 per cent greater than that of last year, and yet the new markets that have been opened and the larger demand resulting from short crops in Europe have sustained prices to such an extent that the enormous surplus of meats and breadstuffs will be marketed at good prices, bringing relief and prosperity to an industry that was much depressed. The value of the grain crop of the United States is estimated by the Secretary to be this year $500,000,000 more than last; of meats $150,-000,000 more, and of all products of the farm, $700,000,000 more. It is not inappropriate, I think, here to suggest that our satisfaction in the contemplation of this marvelous addition to the national wealth is unclouded by any suspicion of the currency by which it is measured and in which the farmer is paid for the product of his fields.

THE CIVIL SERVICE.

The report of the Civil Service Commission should receive the careful attention of the opponents as well as the friends of this reform. The commission invites a personal inspection by Senators and Representatives of its records and methods, and every fair critic will feel that such an examination should precede a judgment of condemnation, either of the system or its administration. It is not claimed that either is perfect, but I believe that the law is being executed with impartiality, and that the system is incomparably better and fairer than that of appointments upon favor. I have during the past year extended the classified service to include superintendents, teachers, matrons and physicians in the Indian service. This branch of the service is largely related to educational and philanthropic work and will obviously be the better for the change.

PROTECTION OF RAILROAD EMPLOYES.

I have twice before urgently called the attention of Congress to the necessity of legislation for the protection of the lives of railroad employes, but nothing has yet been done. During the year ending June 30, 1890, 369 brakemen were killed and 7,471 maimed while engaged in coupling cars. The total number of railroad employes killed during the year was 2,451 and the number injured 22,390. This is a cruel and largely a needless sacrifice. The government is spending nearly one million dollars annually to save the lives of shipwrecked seamen; every steam vessel is rigidly inspected and required to adopt the most approved safety appliances. All this is good; but how shall we excuse the lack of interest and effort in behalf of this army of brave young men who in our land commerce are being sacrificed every year by the continued use of antiquated and dangerous appliances? A law requiring of every railroad engaged in interstate commerce equipment each year of a given percent of its freight cars with automatic couplers and air brakes, to be used, would very soon and very greatly reduce the present fearful death rate among railroad employes.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS.

The method of appointment by the states of electors of President and Vice-President has recently attracted renewed interest by reason of a departure by the State of Michigan from the method which had become uniform in all the states. Prior to 1832, various methods had been used by the different states and even in the same state. In some the choice was made by the Legislatures; in others, [illegible]

[illegible] sponsibility upon the opposite party, rather than in efforts to make such practices impossible by either party.

Is it not possible now to adjourn that interminable and inconclusive debate while we take, by consent, one step in the direction of reform by eliminating the gerrymander which has been denounced by all parties as an influence in the election of electors of President and members of Congress? All the states have, acting freely and separately, determined that the choice of electors by a general ticket is the safest method and it would seem there could be no objection to a constitutional amendment making that method permanent. If a Legislature chosen in one year upon purely local questions should, pending a presidential contest, meet, rescind the law for a choice upon a general ticket, and provide for the choice of electors by the Legislature, and this trick should determine the result, it is not too much to say that the public peace might be seriously and widely endangered.

I have alluded to the "gerrymander" as affecting the method of selecting electors of President by congressional districts, but the primary intent and effect of this form of political robbery have relation to the selection of members of the House of Representatives. The power of Congress is ample to deal with this threatening and intolerable abuse. The unfailing test of sincerity in election reform will be found in a willingness to confer as to remedies and to put into force such measures as will most effectually preserve the right of the people to free and equal representation.

While the policies of the general government upon the tariff, upon the restoration of our merchant marine, upon river and harbor improvements and other such matters of grave and general concern are liable to be turned this way or that by the results of congressional elections and administrative policies, sometimes involving issues that tend to peace or war, to be turned this way or that by the results of a presidential election, there is a rightful interest in all the states and in every congressional district that will not be deceived or silenced by the audacious pretense that the question of the right of any body of legal voters in any state or in any congressional district to give their suffrages freely upon these general questions is a matter only of local concern or control. The demand that the limitations of suffrage shall be found in the law, and only there, is a just demand, and no just man should resent or resist it. My appeal is, and must continue to be, for a consultation that shall "proceed with candor, calmness and patience upon the lines of justice and humanity, not of prejudice and cruelty."

To the consideration of these very grave questions I invite not only the attention of Congress, but that of all patriotic citizens. We must not entertain the delusion that our people have ceased to regard a free ballot and equal representation as the price of their allegiance to laws and to civil magistrates.

I have been greatly rejoiced to notice many evidences of the increased unification of our people and of a revived national spirit. The vista that now opens to us is wider and more glorious than ever before. Gratification and amazement struggle for supremacy as we contemplate the population, wealth and moral strength of our country. A trust, momentous in its influence upon our people and upon the world is for a brief time committed to us and we must not be faithless to its first condition—the defense of the free and equal influence of the people in the choice of public officers and in the control of public affairs.

BENJAMIN HARRISON.

Executive Mansion, December 9, 1891.

FEMININITIES.

A loving maiden grows unconsciously more bold.

Julia Ward Howe said that the society of good people is always good society.

A very little thing will often discourage a man, especially when its mother has gone to a sewing society.

The kernel of a peanut in the left lung of William Barry's 2-year-old child, in Providence, R. I., caused death in about four hours.

The British parliament allows to each of the daughters of the queen an income of $30,000 a year. The younger sons of the queen receive $125,000 each year.

Jack: "Did you hear about the trouble that Miss Summergirl got into?" Tom: "No." "She threw a kiss at Harry and it fell on the piazza and set it on fire."

The fact that the accordion skirt was worn by the ancient Egyptian girls is another bit of evidence to support the allegation that there is nothing new under the sun.

Faggot parties are the latest social craze at Valparaiso. The party gathers around an old-fashioned fire-place, into which in turn faggots are cast, the contributor reciting a harrowing tale while the same are burning.

Ethel, fishing for a compliment: "I wonder what he saw in me to fall in love with!" Clarissa: That's what everybody says. But men are curious creatures, dear!"

Mrs. Instyle: "I see, dear, that you have changed your reception days from Tuesday to Thursday." Mrs. Fashion: "Yes, my new cook wanted Thursday for her day out, so I had to."

A Georgia lady one day recently, noticed that her cat acted peculiarly whenever it approached the bureau. At length the lady made an investigation, and found a large rattlesnake coiled up in a drawer therein fast asleep.

Confirmed Bachelor: "How time does fly, Miss Seaside! Why, it was ten years ago that you refused me on this spot." Miss Seaside, who wishes she hadn't: [illegible]

[illegible]

LITTLE JOCULARITIES.

[illegible]

GRAINS OF GOLD.

[illegible]