

THE SABBATH RECORDER

everybody. Every morning, noon and night, it is with them...

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

After a brief interval, the Congress of the United States resumes its annual session...

Published by GEORGE B. UTTER.

VOLUME XXII.—NO. 50.

"THE SEVENTH DAY IS THE SABBATH OF THE LORD THY GOD."

WESTERLY, R. I., FIFTH-DAY, DECEMBER 13, 1866.

TERMS—\$2 50 a Year, in advance.

WHOLE NO. 1142.

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 3, 1866.

The Sabbath Recorder.

Western, R. I., Fifth-day, Dec. 13, 1866. GEORGE B. UTTER, EDITOR.

Take Particular Notice.

The current volume of the Sabbath Recorder will end with the month of December. Bills to that time have been sent to those owing us, who are requested to give their early attention. These bills are made out at the rate of \$2 50 per year; but if not paid before the close of the volume, half a dollar per year must be added, according to our published terms. The justice and necessity of this will be apparent to those who consider that the cost of publishing a newspaper has increased more than fifty per cent. within the past five years, while only twenty-five per cent. has been added to our subscription price. We should be glad to have every bill paid before the end of the volume; and wish distinctly understood, that in all cases where they are not so paid, the addition will be made, unless special reasons exist for a different course.

SABBATH SCHOOLS—No. 3.

It has come to be a question of no small importance among Sabbath School teachers, how to present the Scriptures to their pupils so as to make them most attractive, and at the same time secure a thorough and systematic knowledge of the Sacred Word. There are two ways in which the Bible is studied in our Sabbath Schools—first, by course, commencing at a given place, and taking everything as it comes, chapter after chapter; second, by topics.

Every one familiar with the New Testament, is aware of the fact, that the writer of neither of the four Gospels has given a full and detailed account of the life and ministry of Christ. One has observed one order of events, another a different order; one dwells upon one point, another upon another. To commence at the first of Matthew, and go through the whole book, verse after verse, chapter after chapter, and so on through the other three books, is a long, if not a tedious process; and when done, the learner has, at best, but a confused idea of their contents. During this protracted study, also, changes of teachers and superintendents are likely to occur, thus adding to the confusion. The history of the early churches, contained in the Acts, is by this method seldom reached at all. Superintendents and teachers have long been embarrassed in view of these facts, and many have sought some means by which the embarrassment might be overcome.

The system of study by topics is the result of such inquiry. By this method, the principal events in the life of Christ, for example, may be grouped together in such a way as to make them exceedingly interesting, and present quite a complete history in a single year. These events may be taken from one or another of the Evangelists, according as their account is most complete. In this way, much may be learned that cannot be obtained from either of the Gospels, taking it by course. The same may be said of the Epistles, the five books of Moses, the Prophecies, &c.

But every teacher or superintendent has not the time or the ability to make a suitable selection and arrangement of such passages of Scripture as are here suggested, as this would be an undertaking requiring much careful study and protracted labor. This difficulty has, however, been fully met by some of the leading Sunday School men of New York, who have prepared a series of "Sunday School Lessons," that have been adopted with success by some of our schools. The series consists of four numbers.

- No. 1 embraces: "The four Gospels and the Acts."
No. 2 embraces: "From the birth of Christ to Pentecost."
No. 3 embraces: "The Period from Adam to Elijah."
No. 4 embraces: "The Period from Elijah to Christ."

Each No. consists of fifty-two lessons, printed on small sheets, containing the number of the lesson, the subject, and the chapter and verses where the lesson may be found. They may be obtained for fifty-five cents per hundred, by mail, on addressing "Orange Judd, editor American Agriculturist, 47 Park Row, New York city." A copy of the "Lessons" may thus be placed in the hand of every pupil at a mere nominal expense. If the experience of those who may try this method shall agree with that of those who have used it, the result will be truly gratifying.

COMMUNION SEASON.

Bro. J. Croft, whose health has declined of late more than usual, sent a request to the church of which he is a worthy member, that they would hold a meeting at his house in Brooklyn, and celebrate the Lord's Supper with him. Accordingly, on Sabbath, Dec. 1st, the brethren and sisters of the New York church met at his residence, at 5 o'clock in the afternoon. Bro. Nathan Rogers, and wife, also Deacon Daniel Rogers and Isaac S. Dunn, of Pleasant, N. J., were present. At this time was spent in conference, in which every person present took part, after which they proceeded to that most impressive ordinance, the Lord's Supper. It was well conducted, and the presence of the narrative of those meet-

ings of the early disciples, when they met together to break bread. Every one felt that it was a precious season. Our dear brother with whom we met, seemed to enjoy it very much. He felt that it might be the last time he should enjoy such a privilege with his brethren and sisters in this world; but he was happy in the blessed hope of immortality. It is soul-cheering to witness the victory which may be achieved by the spirit, even in our frail, sinking bodies; so that while our mortal frames are failing, our spirits may be gathering strength to take their departure for the spirit world.

UTILITY.

In addition to a love for the beautiful in nature which God has given us, He has endowed us with power to create forms of beauty. Hence the fine arts—Music, Painting, Sculpture, Poetry. The works of art possess intrinsic excellence; and in addition to this great utility, because of the influence which they exert in developing, chastening, and spiritualizing the sensibilities. It is not necessary to this end, that all should be poets, musical composers, sculptors, and professional painters; nor is it possible, for the higher achievements of art are the result of a sort of inspiration, or gift of God to a comparatively few. But it is essential, in order to feel their refining influence, that we learn to understand and appreciate the works of those whom God has commissioned by special gift to labor in this field for the general good. In order to this understanding and appreciation, it is desirable that the taste be cultured by some degree of practice as well as study of art. Music and painting are well adapted to secure such culture. It is thought by many, that these are the useless flourish of an education, suited only to drawing-room ladies and sentimental gentlemen. Never was there a greater mistake. As the mind and heart are the noblest part of man, so the time devoted to music and painting, and whatever else refines the tastes and enriches the sensibilities, is more usefully employed than much of the time which is spent in what are called practical pursuits. It may be objected, that most persons have not the necessary time to devote to the practice of these arts, nor the pecuniary means to gratify the demands of a cultivated taste. This objection is grounded in the notion that the object sought in those industrial pursuits in which men are mostly engaged, are more useful, and worthier the expenditure of time and means, than are the beauties and refinements of art, and that most of the time of the majority is required to secure the necessities of life. But I think it could be easily shown, that the time and money which are expended by most people in the useless gratification of appetites, and for physical conveniences and luxuries, would go far in the cultivation and gratification of taste. When people learn to live in a simple manner; when they cease to cultivate and spend money upon unnatural appetites; when they learn to subordinate the animal to the spiritual; they will have more time and means for higher pursuits and truer conceptions of utility.

Again, the great ambition of the majority is to accumulate wealth. They are not satisfied with the simple comforts of life, but seek to lay up riches for future enjoyment. But of all the mistakes made in this direction, none are worse in their effects than the accumulation of wealth for children; for it exerts a materializing influence upon both parents and children. While it provides for physical indulgences, it neglects the culture of the soul. As soul culture is the highest end in this life, so books, paintings, melodeons, and pianos, and whatever addresses itself to the intellect and sensibilities, are far more useful to children than that which is invested in real estate, railroad stocks, or government bonds.

More physical good cannot procure the highest happiness; it cannot reach the nobler affections and emotions, except indirectly, to debase them through the artificial appetites which it provokes, and its temptations to luxurious living.

Constant attention to business pursuits, a keen lookout for the main chance, may sharpen the intellect in a certain direction, but it exerts a materializing influence. It fails to round out the mind in harmonious proportions. But, on the other hand, whatever enlarges the intellect, and inspires it with grand and noble thoughts; whatever strengthens the will for high and holy resolves and fearless execution, lifts man above the earthly and the animal, and makes him more godlike. Whatever purifies the affections, and awakens unselfish desires; whatever widens, deepens, and enriches the sensibilities; and refines the taste, and leads to the consecration of the whole; prepares the soul to range with fullness of delight the fields of immortal beauty and glory. Blessed is he who in youth awakes to a consciousness of the dignity of his powers within him. Thrice blessed

is he who so uses the means of discipline as to get his soul attuned to vibrate in unison with all heavenly harmonies. C. A. B.

A WORD TO THE LOVERS OF THE LORD'S SABBATH.

I saw in the Recorder of Oct. 25th, a communication which interests me deeply, and which is doubtless as interesting to every lover of the Lord's Sabbath. Is not the circumstance related by Mr. Davis an indication that God is opening a way for us in the region where Dr. Gordon lives? And ought we to neglect such indications? We have neglected too many such, as we are beginning to find out. And if we go on in the old supine way, will not God take his work out of our hands, and his blessing from our poor efforts, and give them to others, who will not neglect his truth? I fear we do not truly realize how high, how holy our Sabbath work is. Many of us fall into a habit of thinking that our peculiar faith is merely a form, as so many distinguishing rites of different sects really are. We forget that our form of faith is based on a solemn command of God, and not on tradition or opinion. We hold our faith too loosely, and are too easily drawn from our anchorage, as is proved by the thousands now lost to us. The only remedy is to live our belief, and work for it. It is a shame to us, that the disciples of error—the observers of a purely traditional Sabbath—should be more zealous than we, who have the sure Word of God for our belief. I have heard some say, "O, it will all be right in God's own time; He will see that His law is honored and obeyed." So he will; but these easy-going Christians forget, that he always works by human agency, and that when his people are ready to do, he is always ready to help them, just as when the child is ready to walk, the mother is ready to watch and guide its feeble steps. God does his own work, not ours. He sends the pillar of fire before us, but we must do our part in following it, or we fail utterly. And now, if ever, is the time for us Sabbath-keepers to work. Error is slowly giving way before Truth, the world over. Old falsehoods, so old they are venerated for their age, are being crowded out of the way. Evils so strong, so daring, so bold, that we despaired of ever overcoming them, are vanishing as a mist. Superstitions, which have robbed themselves as angels of light, are flung into the darkness from which they came. Shall we despair of our cause, when we see Slavery lying dead; when, in the very stronghold of Papacy, that "mystery of iniquity" is receiving its death blow; when, all over the civilized world, man, as man, is struggling up to a recognition of his God-given rights; when the light of God's truth is brightening the lands that sit in darkness and the shadow of death? When God is doing such wonderful things for other truths, will he not do things as wonderful for his Sabbath? If we come up to his work with a perfect heart and a willing mind, he surely will. So, dear friends, let us begin now to work and pray for this great vital truth, determined "to fight it out on this line;" and in God's time, victory will crown our warfare.

TRUE AMBITION.

Read before the West Edmeston Sabbath School, by Ira J. Ordway, and published by request of the School. Much has been said in regard to ambition, in the way of denunciation. False ambition has doubtless caused much misery, and been productive of evil consequences. Yet I doubt whether its evils are to be compared with those of slothfulness and want of zeal. Of itself, ambition is an element of character to be cultivated and governed, but not to be discarded. It is no more fair to condemn the element itself, because its abuses have sometimes made it odious, than it is to cut off all amusements, because they are sometimes sources of evil by excess and misuse. There is such a tendency to sin in every direction of human development, that spiritual teachers, in their zeal to combat the error, have driven nails into elements of character, and rightful sources of happiness and development, until the young mind has been taught that all the avenues of pleasure and greatness are highways that lead direct to perdition; and only self-sacrifice, continued sobriety, and a perfect resignation to be nothing, and accomplish nothing, are the sources of eternal reward. Whoever condemns on account of abuses, and overlooks the uses of either the fountains from which comforts and pleasures are derived, or the elements of character productive of them, brings sorrow into the world. Because some things are wrong, it does not follow that everything tends to evil. Many a young heart has been crushed by violating a misguided conscience in doing right things—has seen sins where innocence only dwelt, and been led to doubt whether any thing in the world, or about existence, could be lovely and acceptable, to that God who seemed to them to frown upon every thing. Aspirations to be good, even to excel in goodness—to be great, even powerful—and to be rich, even to vast wealth—are not always sinful; while an ambitious desire to be in any and all the vicissitudes of life worthy and useful, is an obligation not to be shunned, but cultivated, encouraged, and praised. Care but little for the estimation of your character among men, but everything for the character itself—yes, be ambitious that it be pure in the sight of God—and the world will not be likely to misjudge you. The person who complains and explains in regard to his character, finds fault that he is not appreciated, understood, and properly respected, is unnecessarily in trouble, and pursuing a course to injure his own fame, and destroy what good name has been attained. The most that you will accomplish will be through your own exertions. It may not be all that is aimed at; but unless the purpose is high, success will be meager indeed. Therefore, be ambitious, energetic, and constant, in all that pertains to your obligations in life. The duties that are assigned you to-day, do well, and to-morrow yours will be a wider sphere, and thus on through life cares and responsibilities will gather, while their discipline has brought you a better heart and a nobler life.

NOTES OF A TOURIST.

NUMBER XVI. ON THE WING, Dec. 1866. I am now on my way to DeRuyter, and find the land along the line of the railroad towards Rome to look rather hard for farming operations; and the crops, which are not all gathered, in consequence of the exceeding wet weather, which has prevailed for a long time, are rather slim in quantity, as well as apparently much damaged by the wet. But few indications of a high state of prosperity are seen north of Rome; a few habitations, and other fixtures of enterprise, remind the traveler that he is still in the land of civilization. In 1830 I was in Rome, which was then a mere village, of small pretensions, not much like its ancient namesake, seated on seven hills, claiming to be the metropolis of the world, through whose gates poured mighty legions of armed warriors, whose business it was to overrun, devastate, conquer, and subjugate all other countries to the imperial dominion of the great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. This Rome has greatly enlarged its dimensions since that period, and looks as if it might vie with old Rome in size, if nothing should hinder its rate of increase for some hundred years to come. Here we change for Chittenango, and run that distance in short time, and then stage the rest of the way. Oh, what tribulations fall to the lot of poor traveling mortals, when compelled to ride in a crowded stage, over a rough road, where every jolt brings up with a sharp quick jerk, that makes the spine fairly snap, like pulling out eye-teeth by the roots. Indeed, it requires a great share of long-visited patience to go through a twenty mile operation of the kind, and not lose one's equanimity, nor forget that man

is born to trouble as the sparks fly upward, and that this is the portion of his inheritance, which is meted out to spice his life, else it become monotonous and stale. Now we are winding along the Chittenango valley, among hills, rugged, steep, and rocky, and wearing a forlorn aspect, as if nature had been laboring to make this portion of her handwork as diverse from any other, as possible, in order that finite man might have an impressive lesson on variety. Here we are winding up a narrow dug-way, excavated in the side-hill, while on our left is a deep, yawning cavern, frightful to look into, and it would seem as if in case a mishap should tumble us off, a general smash-up would be the consequence. But we are nearing the top, and doubling the head of the gulf, strike off into a more open country, and near the falls, which a lady passenger tells me are 169 feet in perpendicular height, though from our position we could not see them. We have some social companions on board—two young gentlemen in particular, who make themselves very free in denouncing "my policy," and one relates a humorous story of an old lady they call aunt Lecta, who speaks of the ex-rebel President as Brother Davis. Cazenovia comes in our way, but I have no chance for taking notes, except that a part of our company leave us, and more at Woodstock, so that one old lady remains to accompany me to DeRuyter, where we arrive late and weary, and hungry enough to eat a good supper. S. COOK.

LIBERAL DONATIONS OF BAPTISTS.

The New York Examiner enumerates several recent instances of liberality among Baptists in endowing literary institutions. The first named is that of Mathew Vassar, of Poughkeepsie, who has given nearly five hundred thousand dollars for the establishment of a college for young ladies. Gardner Colby, of Boston, has given fifty thousand dollars to Waterville College, Maine, securing also other donations of equal amount. He also gave half that sum towards the erection of a noble building for the theological seminary at Newton, Mass. Brown University is receiving an endowment of two or three hundred thousand, largely from Baptists in Rhode Island and elsewhere. Messrs. Colgate & Trevor, of New York, have given seventy-five thousand to Madison University. A gift of twenty-five thousand dollars by Tracy H. Harris, of New York, has secured to Rochester University a subscription of a hundred thousand, to which John F. Rathbone has added twenty-five thousand for the library, and this has been followed up by a subscription of one hundred thousand to the Rochester Theological Seminary. The brethren in Pennsylvania have just added one hundred thousand to the endowment of Lewisburg University. With a passing allusion to what has been done for the Douglas University at Chicago, and Shurtleff College at Alton, the Examiner adds:

"There are like good things in store. It is well understood that a much-needed building for a theological seminary is to issue from the liberality of a young New York merchant; and we could tell of departments in colleges, and general college endowments, destined to have similar origins, by the blessing of God, within brief periods. Nor let it surprise our churches, but only give new occasion for magnifying the grace of God, which puts such things into the hearts of his servants, if they see, at the central point where no such institution exists, a theological seminary arising, endowed with a degree of liberality corresponding in all respects to the wants of these times, and with no appeal whatever for aid in the accomplishment of that result—the whole the spontaneous offering of a family who desire to honor their Saviour, and promote his cause, by this consecration of the wealth which has been placed in their hands."

THE CHRISTIANS.

The Christian Connection has recently held a quadrennial conference at Marshall, Mich. From the report, says the Christian Register, we gather a few facts: It numbers 2,200 churches and ministers, and about 180,000 communicants. Thirty-eight conferences were represented by delegates. Rev. J. C. Goff of Illinois was elected president. A committee of three was appointed to raise funds for the establishment of a Biblical School, which will be located in the State of New York. The organs of the denomination, being three in number, (one a Sunday school paper,) were recommended to the attention of

whereby one of his legs was broken, owing, as alleged, to the carelessness and neglect of defendants' agent. The Judge decided that the plaintiff was not lawfully riding on the "Sabbath" in question, his mission not being one of necessity or charity, but only one of pleasure; and hence he would not be entitled to recover damages.

"FUTURE OF THE SABBATH."

"And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the Lord."—Isa. 66: 23. Here we see a prophecy that must and will be fulfilled, that not only monthly meetings, but Sabbath meetings for worship, will be universal. And the "Lord of the Sabbath-day," that said, "The Sabbath was made for man," said also, "Every plant which my Heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up;" and that it is "vain worship to lay aside the commandments of God, and teach for doctrine the commandments of men," which are all to perish with their using. He that was "born King," said, after he arose from the dead, (Mat. 28: 17), "All power is given unto me, in heaven and in earth." This agrees with Daniel 7: 14, "And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him," &c. Please compare Mat. 16: 28, Eph. 1: 20, 21, 1 Peter 3: 22, Rev. 17: 14, with 1 Tim. 6: 15.

Now, I would kindly ask my dear brother R. F. Cottrell if his article in the Recorder of Nov. 22d, is not rather more discouraging than otherwise, to those who labor for the true Sabbath, (like those who went to spy out the land.) And further, when it shall be seen that "the kingdoms of this world are to become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ," (Rev. 11: 15), "and the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom, under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions (rulers, in the magin) shall serve and obey him," (Dan. 7: 27), whether the government and people of this nation will not then keep the Seventh-day Sabbath of the Lord. B. CLARK.

LONG PASTORATE.—The Rev. A. W. Burnham, D. D., of Rindge, N. H., completed the 45th year of his pastorate on Nov. 14th, and then retired from active ministerial labors, though the pastoral relation has not been dissolved in accordance with the wishes of Mr. Burnham. The occasion was celebrated by an assembly at the Town Hall, at which, says the Congregationalist, an address was made by Rev. Dr. Burnham, in which reminiscences of the past were feelingly interwoven with remarks bearing upon the mutual relation of pastor and people, and upon the peculiar interest attaching to these closing exercises of so long a ministerial service. Rev. Z. S. Barstow, D. D., of Keene, followed with appropriate remarks, and he, in turn, was followed by other speakers, among whom was Mr. Samuel Burnham, son of the retiring pastor, and editor of the Congregationalist, Boston. In the course of the exercises, Deacon O. D. Converse presented the pastor with a purse of nearly \$500, the gift of the people, accompanying it with very appropriate remarks. A bounteous supper was served in the evening adjoining the Town Hall, immediately after the close of the exercises.

AN HONORED AND LAMENTED PASTOR.—The Presbyterian Christian Herald, of Cincinnati, in speaking of the funeral of the Rev. Dr. Harrison, pastor of the English Lutheran church in that city, says:

"The church is large, but it could not hold half of the people who crowded thither with sad and sympathizing hearts. Nearly all the ministers in the city were in and around the pulpit. There was no formal sermon, but brethren of various churches spoke briefly, and with deep feeling, of the worth of the departed pastor, and of the loss which his church and the city had sustained. Besides the hired hacks there were scores of private carriages along the streets leading to the church, showing how many were expecting to join in the procession to the cemetery. As we gazed upon that scene we thought it is noble and blessed, after all, to be a Christian pastor. We have seen rich men borne to their burial through the streets of Cincinnati. The pageantry was imposing, but it was bought with a price; while the love which drew such crowds around our brother's coffin is priceless. The memory he has left is worth more than his stricken household, than millions of dollars, and great, we doubt not, is his reward in heaven."

"BIBLIOGRAPHICAL LINCOLNIANA."

Charles H. Hart, Esq., of Philadelphia, Corresponding Secretary of "The Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Philadelphia," is preparing a "Bibliographical Lincolniana," to comprise the complete title, viz, every word which appears on the title page, verbatim et literatim et punctuatum, the number of pages, the text, and the number of copies printed, of every sermon, eulogy, address, &c., occasioned by the death of President Lincoln. It is to be appended to the "Life of Lincoln," by Hon. William H. Herndon, and Mr. Hart is very desirous of having his work complete and perfect, and would feel indebted to authors and others knowing of anything they might deem of interest in the above line, to communicate with him. He would particularly ask the attention of the State and city governments that have published anything on this subject to this work.

RAID UPON RUM.—The Massachusetts officials made a raid on the liquor dealers last Friday, Dec. 7th.

Half a dozen places in Boston were visited and the whole stock of liquor emptied into the streets. In East Cambridge and Somerville, large quantities were destroyed, and in Gloucester every known dealer was visited, and his stock seized.

THE CHILDREN'S HOUR.—Mr. T. S. Arthur, of Philadelphia, the well-known author, whose writings are exerting such a happy moral and religious influence upon the community, has commenced the publication of a new "Magazine for the Little Ones," under the above title. We have read the first number with great pleasure. It is lively and engaging in its style, varied in its contents, Christian in its character, and attractive in appearance. It will be very popular and useful among the little ones.

A MODEL PAPER.—The Watchman & Reflector, of Boston, has an enviable reputation for ability and enterprise. It has not been surpassed in merit by any religious journal in the country. But it aspires to higher excellence, and proposes to become, with the opening of the New Year, one of the most comprehensive family papers in the world. It will be greatly enlarged, and published on a double sheet; one sheet devoted, as hitherto, to religious matter; the other to literary, social, monetary and agricultural articles. The latter department will be new and peculiar, with a rich variety of contents, embracing articles on current moral, social and political questions; in the leading men of the age in thought and action; reviews of important books; tales for the family circle; agricultural and gardening matters for farmers; and monetary articles and reports of the markets for business men.

No Journal in the world certainly has a more comprehensive plan to meet the wants of all families, and of all the members in a family; and as the editorial staff will consist of nine men, all able and experienced in the several departments, who will be assisted by thirty contributors, many of them having a national reputation, the Watchman & Reflector must become a model family paper, unequalled in merit and in circulation. Its enterprising conductors deserve the largest success. We refer our readers to advertisement in another column.

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

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Rev. Mr. Spurgeon's church in London numbers 3500 members.

PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS.

Monday, Dec. 8. The Senate met at 12 o'clock on Monday, and was opened with prayer by the Chaplain, Rev. Dr. Gray. Credentials were presented for, and the oath of office taken by, Messrs. Poland and Edmonds, Cattel and Frelinghuysen, and Geo. G. Fogg. The credentials of David G. Burnett and O. M. Roberts, Senators elect from Texas, were presented, and laid on the table. An attempt was made to pass an act discussed in the Senate last year, to regulate the elective franchise in the District of Columbia; but it was decided to be out of order. A Committee was appointed to wait on the President, and at 4 o'clock the President's Message was presented, and read.

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meeting of Congress came up as the special order. Mr. Schenck explained and advocated it. After an extended discussion on the amendment...

Dec. 6th, says: "Both houses will get fairly at work next week. It is expected the Senate will pass a bill for the District in the course of the week; also, the House will stop all Presidential pardons of rebels who have not been pardoned."

ABSTRACTS OF PUBLIC DOCUMENTS.

WAR REPORTS: The Annual Report of the Secretary of War presents an epitome of what has been done during the past year in reference to the disbanding of our great armies, the disposal of our military stores, the establishment of frontier and sea-board defenses, experiments with new warlike inventions, and the administration of the laws relating to refugees, freedmen, and abandoned lands.

Since the date of the last Report, Nov. 15, 1865, 222,058 volunteers, including 75,024 colored troops, have been mustered out, leaving 11,043 still in service, about 10,000 of whom, constituting a regiment of artillery and 13 of infantry, are colored.

Great quantities of material of war have been sold at advantageous rates. From May 1, 1865, to August 2, 1866, over 207,000 horses and mules were sold for \$15,269,075 54; 4,400 barrels of hospitals, and other building materials have been sold for \$447,873 14; the sale of irregular or damaged clothing in store has produced \$902,470 45. The immense fleet of ocean transports has been almost wholly discharged; the river transports have all been disposed of; and the military railroads and telegraphs have all been sold, or transferred to companies, or discontinued.

Thus the war expenses have been reduced to a moderate peace footing, leaving us still prepared, however, for any emergency which can possibly arise. The present strength of the Regular Army is fixed at the nominal figure of 45,000 men. Recruiting, however, is going on briskly. Orders have been given to supply all the regular troops with breech-loading arms, and the Springfield rifle musket has been altered so successfully as to render it superior in all respects to the famous Prussian needle-gun.

The permanent defenses of the country have been strengthened, and they are still being improved. The work has been actively continued in the surveys and river and harbor improvements. The disbursements of the pay department during the last fiscal year amounted to \$259,374,817, and the appropriation required for the same during the next year is estimated at \$17,728,560.

The information contained in the report respecting the working of the bureau of refugees, freedmen, and abandoned lands, is meagre. About 150,000 freedmen and their children are now attending school in the Southern States, and schools for freed white children are also established. The only States in which Freedmen courts are still in existence are Virginia, Louisiana, and Texas.

On June 1, 1865, to Sept. 1, 1866, 412,273 rations were issued to destitute persons, and this average number per day to refugees and freedmen was \$10,910. The amount of land now in possession of the Freedmen is 272,231 acres, beside 928 tracts in Florida, of which the number of acres has not been reported.

The Report of General Grant on the military operations of the year is little more than a formal transmission of the reports of his subordinates. Gen. Sherman, in view of the repeated depredations of the wandering Sioux, Apaches, Cheyennes, Kiowas, and Comanches, proposes to confine those tribes for the future within certain territorial limits, leaving to the whites the exclusive use of the wide belt, east and west, between the Platte and the Arkansas, through which passes a stream of travel to the mountain territories. This, he contends, is the best way to keep the route safe. Gen. Pope in New Mexico, Gen. Stearns in Oregon and Washington Territory, and Gen. McDowell in California, have been in frequent conflict with the savages.

Gen. Sheridan's report speaks warmly of the state of civil affairs in Texas, where he declares it to be his opinion "that the trial of a white man for the murder of a freedman would be a farce." His account of the New Orleans massacre is exceedingly brief, and he says nothing whatever as to the responsibility for the outrage. He is not so reticent respecting the French invasion of Mexico, which he calls "a part of the rebellion," and he regrets that our Government did not long ago compel the Imperial troops to evacuate the country.

Touching the condition of the freedmen, the re-establishment of order, and the working of the free-labor system, Gen. Wood in Mississippi, and Gen. Sickles in the District of the South, speak pleasantly, but the latter officer qualifies his statements by a narrative of numerous lawless proceedings in South Carolina. The class of persons, however, in the South, who will acknowledge no law but force, has proved, says Gen. Grant, "to be much smaller than could have been expected after such a conflict."

TREASURY: The Report of the Secretary of the Treasury contains suggestions well calculated to reduce the national finances to order, and to place the business of the country upon a solid basis. He declares the national debt to be anything but a blessing, but while satisfied that it should be paid by the generation which created it, does not see the way to continue the liquidation by surplus income, other than six or seven millions per month prior to 1868. He is of opinion that "the honor of the Government requires an early withdrawal of the legal tender notes, leaving the National Banks to supply the currency of the country. He urges the system of redemption by the banks at the Atlantic cities, or at one city, New York. He acknowledges the financial wants of the South as far as currency is concerned, but is of opinion that their needs should be supplied by curtailing the issues of the Northern banks. He advocates a reduction of the currency, and such a revision of the tariff as will give more vigor to productive industry throughout the Union. He urges the issue of bonds at 4-1/2 or 5 per cent interest, payable in Europe, to be exchanged for United States bonds now held in Europe, as well as to supply the future demand for Federal stocks in Europe. Upon the question of contraction of the currency, his language is very clear; indeed, without contraction, he is confident that wide-spread disaster must be experienced. In regard to resumption, he is of opinion that it can take place by July, 1868, and may be brought about earlier.

INTERNAL REVENUE: The figures of the Report of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue present the strongest possible proof of the ability of the country to sustain and pay its present debt. The total amount raised from this source of taxation is \$310,906,984 17, an amount, the Commissioner informs us, within twenty-two millions of the total revenue of the British Empire, and far in excess of the amount raised from similar taxes in that country. This is an increase over the proceeds of the last fiscal year of nearly ninety millions. An analysis of this amount presents no less cause of rejoicing. The tax on Iron and Steel, notwithstanding its reduction, has produced \$13,728,133 36, an increase of four and a half millions over last year. Petroleum pays \$5,917,386, an increase of nearly two and a quarter millions; tobacco and cigars nearly six millions; while spirits, notwithstanding the evasions of the law, of which the Commissioner complains, and almost despaired, unless self-regulating itself be invented, produces \$29,198,578 15, an increase of over thirteen millions; and the three months that have elapsed since the close of the fiscal year show a more than corresponding increase in the tax arising from this article. A yet more remarkable increase is seen in the growth of the returns of income tax, from \$20,567,350 to \$60,894,135 85, and though a portion of these returns arises in each year from the incomes of previous years, the continued progress of this item from eleven to twenty and thence to sixty millions cannot fail to be taken as a mark of continued prosperity. The Commissioner, among his recommendations at the conclusion of the Report, suggests the increase of the amount exempted from this tax to \$1,000.

Other sources from which this great sum is derived are the Banks and Insurance Companies, paying over nine millions; the Railroads, giving nearly three and a half millions in capital and mortgage dividends; fifteen millions from stamps; eighteen millions from licenses, over five millions from fermented liquors; while cotton, clothing, legacies, leather, pianos, patent medicines, and a host of minor articles, swell the list. The cost of collecting this revenue has been something over seven millions, being less than two-and-one-half per cent on the total amount collected.

REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL: The Revenues were \$14,836,986 21; expenditures, \$15,352,079 30; the decrease, compared with last year, is 1-1/5 per cent. Increase of expenditures, 12 per cent. Number of stamps issued, \$47,734,925; stamped envelopes, 30,386,200. The sales of these in excess of last year is \$360,765. The increased demand for envelopes with printed cards is 66-2/3 per cent. There are 6,009 contractors; mail routes, 6,930; miles, 71,837,914; cost, \$7,630,474; by rail, 32,092 miles; steamboats, 13,846 miles.

The overland mail to California has been to St. Louis, now it is to Chicago and Omaha; the shortest time between San Francisco and New York was 19 days.

The amount of postage for foreign countries is \$2,289,219 30, an increase of over \$400,000. Arrangements are nearly perfected with Great Britain to reduce the postage from 24 to 12 cents, and to admit matter of every kind, including samples of goods; also, the right to transmit, in closed bags or in ordinary mails, to other countries, with the rates of those countries.

The Pacific Mail Steamship Company has a contract for mail service from San Francisco to China and Japan once a month, via Sandwich Islands, but it is thought a great loss of time that in returning they should not come direct.

There is a large delivery in forty-six cities. It grows in favor, increases letters, saves time, trouble, and dead letters.

The number of dead letters was about 450,000; 600,000 were unavailable for want of stamps or address; they increased 224,589 90; of which \$21,066 19 were delivered; 1514 were killed in action, and 2844 were reported after engagements as missing.

A case of prolonged lethargy has occurred near Yvetot, in France. A young man aged twenty has now been sleeping for about three weeks. Gruel and a small quantity of wine are passed down his throat every day. His respiration and pulse are regular. He is said to have lain so in a similar state for a fortnight three years back.

Judge Durell, of the United States District Court in Louisiana, has expressed the opinion that under the fourteenth section of the Freedmen's Bureau Bill the agents of the Bureau have the right to arrest parties for maltreating or defrauding freedmen, when the civil courts refuse to act.

Mr. Christopher Hoxie, of Little Compton, has slaughtered a pig 9 months and 9 days old weighing 441 pounds, and Mr. John Hoxie also killed one of the same litter weighing 404 pounds.

of land, or more than 100 to the square mile, corresponding with the densest population in Europe. The report contains one chapter giving a historical summary of our acquisitions of foreign territory, and the principles upon which the rights of its inhabitants have been scrupulously respected by the Government. Interesting statements are given on the progress of the surveys in each Territory. The surveyed lands now comprise a total of 1,465,468,800 acres. Of this a comparatively very small part lies east of the Mississippi; 991,508,249 acres remain unsurveyed, or more than two-thirds. There were surveyed during the last fiscal year in

Wisconsin.....1,178,123 acres
Minnesota.....773,139 acres
Kansas.....699,748 acres
California.....477,652 acres
Colorado.....414,569 acres
Oregon.....390,000 acres
Nevada.....318,903 acres
Washington.....181,074 acres
Kootenai.....113,108 acres
Oregon.....1,055 acres

At Mill Creek Hundred, Del., Sunday evening, 25th ult., Mrs. White was filling a lighted coal-oil lamp when it exploded, set her on fire, and burned her and a little over two years old so that they both died soon after.

A hotel proprietor of San Francisco has added a large reading room to his establishment, containing five hundred volumes of standard works, which is entirely for the use of his patrons.

The city of Portland has received a present of a fine male deer, which was picked up swimming at sea by a light-house steamer, and he will have a domicile in the new park.

A monument in commemoration of the great fire is talked of in Portland. The style proposed is that of a shaft in London, surmounted by a gilded pyramid of flame.

Among the freaks of electricity may be mentioned the Associated Press Cable lightning, dated London, at noon, received at New York shortly after ten the same forenoon.

In 1850 there were but eighty sheep in Minnesota; now there are over five hundred thousand. The State is admirably adapted to sheep raising.

The Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer of the United States now hold in their possession \$307,000,000 of gold, \$22,000,000 of which is represented by gold certificates.

Henry Curtis, of Saratoga Springs, who is ninety-nine years old, raised a crop of about thirty bushels of onions during the past season, doing all the work himself.

Cable dispatches report still further movements of troops and naval vessels. Ironclads, even from England, to repress the anticipated Fenian uprising in Ireland.

Mary Woodward was discharged from Blackwell's Island the other day for the ninety-seventh time, having spent a period of nearly forty years in prison.

The liberation of the Fenian prisoners in Toronto may be accepted as an earnest of mercy from the British Government to those condemned to death.

Health Journal of Health expresses the opinion, that buckwheat cakes contain more nourishment for less money than any other article of food.

A dispatch dated Louisville, Dec. 5, says five persons have died at Crab Orchard from eating fresh killed pork, supposed to have been affected with hog cholera.

Orders have been telegraphed to bring home John H. Surratt from the Mediterranean in a naval vessel, to be detached from Gen. Goldsborough's fleet.

A letter received in Washington from Switzerland, states that Gen. McClellan and wife were at the baths of St. Moritz, while the health of Mrs. McClellan had been improved.

Government has rejected as failures the machinery built under the direction of E. N. Dickerson for the Idaho and Oregon.

It is estimated that the cost of public instruction in New York city the ensuing year will amount to \$2,522,000.

Hon. Cave Johnson, Postmaster General under President Polk, died recently, at his residence of Clarksville, Tenn., aged 72 years.

During the past year, the postal service in the eleven seeded States has paid for itself, and netted \$201,000 profit.

John S. Rook, who died at Boston on the 3d, was the first colored man admitted to practice law in the United States Supreme Court.

The Atlantic Telegraph reports that the Canadian insurgents have blown up two thousand Turks in a convent.

No less than two thousand men are digging for the newly discovered gold mines near Pino Alto, New Mexico, and are said to be well paid.

The Legislature of Alabama has rejected the Constitutional amendment by a vote of 37 to 2 in the Senate, and 68 to 8 in the House.

Benjamin Hill, Esq., of Georgia, recently received a fee of \$150,000 as counsel in a great cotton case.

John S. Rook, the celebrated colored lawyer, died of consumption on Monday, Dec. 3d.

A steel corset saved the life of a lady in Louisville, who was accidentally shot by her son.

The Tennessee House of Representatives has killed a bill to establish free schools.

More than twenty-five ships are now on their way to Boston from the East Indies.

The purchase of Lower California has been formally confirmed by the Juarez Government, and the title is settled beyond reasonable doubt. It is the largest purchase by private persons in modern times. It covers 46,800 square miles, extending from gulf to ocean, between the parallels of 24 degrees and 20 minutes, and 30 degrees of north latitude.

A new way of "bleeding" candidates for office in New York is to compel them by threats of loss of votes to buy packages of ball tickets. Some of the initiated make money by getting up association balls just before election. One of the candidates for Comptroller last week, said he had two bushel baskets full of tickets.

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