The President's Message. A Comprehensive, Able and Pointed Document.

The Congress of the United States: As you assemble for the discharge of the duties you have assumed as the representatives of a free and generous people, your meeting is marked by an interesting and impressive inci-

With the expiration of the present session of Congress, the first century of our Constitutional exist ence as a nation will be completed. Our survival for one hundred years is not sufficient to assure us that we no longer have dangers to fear in the maintainance, with all its promised blessings, of a government found ed upon the freedom of the people. The time rather admonishes us to soberly inquire whether in the past we have always closely kept in the course of safety, and whether we Lave before us a way plain and clear which leads to happiness and perpetuity. When the experiment of our government was undertaken, the chart adopted for our guidance was the Constitution. Departure from lines there laid down is failure. It is only by a strict adherence to the direction they undicate and by restraint within the limitations they fix that we can furnish proof to the world of the fitness of the American people for self-government. The equal and exact justice of which we boast as the underlying principle of our institutions should not be confined to the relations of our citizens to each other. The government itself is under bond to the American people, that in the exercise of its functions and powers it will deal with the body of our citizens in a manner scru pulously honest and fair and abso lutely just. It has agreed that American citizenship shall be the only credential necessary to justify the claim of equality before the law, and that no condition in life shall give rise to discrimination in the treatment of the people by their government.

The citizen of our republic in its early days rigidly insisted upon full compliance with the letter of this bond, and saw stretching out before him a clear field for individual entribute support of his government measured by the cost of its economical maintenance, and he was secure in the enjoyment of the remaining recompense of his steady and contented toil. In those days the frugality of the people was stamped upon their government, and was enforced by the free, thoughtful, and intelligent suffrage of the citizen. Combinations, monopolies and aggregations of capital were either avoided or strictly regulated and restrained. The pomp and glitter of governments less free offered no temptation and presented no delusion to the plain people, who, side by side, in friendly competition, wrought for the noblement and dignity of for the solution of the problem of free government and achievement of the grand destiny awaiting the land which God had given them. A century has passed. Our cities are the abiding places of wealth and luxury; our manufactories yield fortunes never dreamed of by the fathers of the republic; our business men are madly striving in the race for riches and immense aggregations of capital outrun the imagiundertakings.

We view with pride and satisfaction, this bright picture of our country's growth and prosperity, while only a closer scrutiny develops a sombre shading. Upon more careful inspection we find the wealth and luxury of our cities mingled with poverty and wretchedness and unremunerative toil. A crowded and constantly increasing urban population suggests the impoverishment of rural sections and discontent with agricultural pursuits. The farmer's son, not satisfied with his brother's the care and protection the governsimple and laborious life, joins the eager chase for easily-acquired wealth. We discover that the fortunes realized by our manufacturers are no longer solely the reward of sturdy industry and enlightened foresight; but that they result from the discriminating favor of the government and are found the terribly poor.

becoming the people's masters.

it is our duty as patriotic citizens to inquire, at the present can commerce. stage of our progress, how the bond

der the operation of tariff laws.

favored few, the government under the pretext of an exercise of its taxing power, enters gratuitously into partnership with these favorites to their advantage and to the injury of a vast majority of our people. This is not equality before the law. The existing situation is injurious to the health of our entire body politic. It stifles in those for whose benefit it is permitted all patriotic love of coun try and substitutes in its place selfsh greed and grasping avarice. Devotion to American citizenship for its own sake and for what it should accomplish as a motive to our nation's advancement and the happiness of all our people, is displaced by the assumption that the government in stead of being the embodiment of equality is but an instrumentality through which special individual ad vantages are to be gained. The ar rogance of this assumption is unconcealed. It appears in the disregard of all but personal interests; in the refusal to abate for the benefit of others one jot of the selfish advanvantages enjoyed, and in combinations to perpetuate such advantages through efforts to control legislation and improperly influence the suf-

frages of the people. PERILS TO THE GOVERNMENT.

The grievances of those not included within the circle of these kenefifallacies, that they are obliged to ac salaries and fixed incomes, will insist erection of new public buildings. cheapening the cost of necessaries been submitted for the amendment When to the selfishness of the benefrom such discrimination, we will realize the fact that the beneficent purof our people, are endangered. Communism is a hateful thing, and a viduals have been allowed. menace to peace and organized government, but the communism of combined wealth and capital, the outselfishness, which insidiously under free institutions, is not less dangerous than the communism of oppressed poverty and toil, which, exasperated by injustice and discontent, a tacks with wild dis-He mocks the people who proposes rich and that they in turn will care for the laboring poor. Any inter mediary between the people and their government, or the least delegation of

zenship a shameless imposition. TARIFF REVISION.

in the land makes the boast of free-

institutions a glittering delusion and

the pretended boon of American citi-

A just and sensible revision of our tariff laws should be made for the largely built upon undue exactions of relief of those of our countrymen our people. The gulf between employ- who suffer under present conditions. ers and the employed is constantly Such a revision should receive the widening, and classes are rapidly support of all who love that justice forming, one comprising the very rich and equality due to American citizenand powerful, while in another are ship; of all who realize that in this justice and equality our government As we view the achievements of finds its strength and its power to aggregated capital, we discover the protect the citizen and his property; existence of trusts, combinations and of all who believe that the contented monopolies, while the citizen is strug- competence and comfort of the many, gling far in the rear or is trampled to accord better with the spirit of our death beneath an iron heel. Corpor- institutions than colossal fortunes ations, which should be the carefully unfairly gathered in the hands of a few; of all who appreciate that a forthe servants of the people, are fast bearance and fraternity among our people, which recognize the value of Still, congratulating ourselves upon every American interest, are the the wealth and prosperity of our surest guaranty of our national procountry, and complacently contem gress, and of all who desire to see the plating every incident of change products of American skill and ininseparable from these conditions, genuity in every market of the world with a resulting restoration of Ameri-

of government made with the peo our revenue is so apparent as to be with unselfish purpose. ple has been kept and performed generally conceded. But the means Instead of limiting the tribute drawn by which this end shall be accom- Our mission among the nations of from our citizens to the necessities of its economical administration the benefit which shall result to our citi- plishing the work God has given the government persists in exacting from zens present a controversy of the American perple to do require of the substance of the people millions utmest importance. There should be those intrusted with the making and which, unapplied and useless, lie no scheme accepted as satisfactory by execution of our laws perfect devodormant in its treasury. This flag- which the burdens of the people are tion, above all other things, to the rant injustice and this breach of faith only apparently removed. Extrava- public good. and obligation add to extortion the gant appropriations of public money This devo ion will lead us to strongly danger attending the diversion of the with all their demoralizing consecurrency of the country from the quences should not be tolerated, legitimate channels of business either as a means of relieving the to persistently check the increasing Under the same laws, by which these treasury of its present surplus, or as tendence to extend the scope of Fedresults are produced the government furnishing a pretext for resisting a protection ato the domain of permits many millions more to be added to the cost of the living of our ing svils and injustice should be non-plea of subserving the public welfare. people and to be taken from our con- estly recognized, boldly met audef-

the profits of a small but powerful no cessation of the struggle until an The people must still be taxed for servative toward existing industries, the support of the government, un- but which will reduce the cost to the consumer of the necessaries of life. But to the extent that the mass of while it provides for our manufacour citizens are inordinately bur- turers the advantage of freer raw madened beyond any useful public pur terial and permits no injury to the poses, and for the benefit of interests of American labor. The cause for which the battle is waged is comprised within lines clearly and distinctly drawn. It should never be compromised. It is the people's cause. THE PATERNAL IDEA.

of individual and private aid; that it may be expected to relieve with paternal care the distress of citizens and communities and that from the fullness of its treasury it should, upon the slightest possible pretext of promoting the general good, apply public funds to the benefit of localities and individuals. Nor can it be denied that there is a growing assumption that as against governmental aid in favor of private claims and interests the usual rules and limitations of business principles and just dealing should be waived. These ideas have been unhappily much encouraged by legislative acquiescence. Relief from contracts made with the government is too easily accorded in favor of the citizen: the failure to support claims against the government by proof, is often supplied by ciaries, when fully realized, will surely no better consideration than the arouse irritation and discontent. | wealth of the government and the Our farmers, long-suffering and pa- poverty of the claimant. Gratuities tient, struggling in the race of life in the form of pensions are granted with the hardest and most unremit- upon no other real ground than the ting toil, will not fail to see, in spite needy condition of the applicant, or of misrepresentation and misleading for reasons less valid, and large sums are expended for public buildings and cept such prices for their products as other improvements upon representaare fixed in foreign markets where tions scarcely claimed to be related they compete with the farmers of the to the public needs and necessities. world; that their lands are declining | The extent to which the consideration in value, while their debts increase : of such matters subordinate and postand that, without compensating favor, pone action upon subjects of great they are forced by the Government public importance, but involving to pay for the benefit of others such no special, private or partisan enhanced prices for the things they interest should arrest attention need that the scanty returns of their and lead to reformation. A leave no margin for accumulation. of this condition may be stated. The all delusions and no longer fright- the Supreme Court and the delay to performance of international good ened by the cry that their wages are suitors and denial of justice thereendangered by a just revision of our from has been strongly urged upon treaties of smity, commerce and retariff laws, will reasonably demand the attention of Congress with a plan through such revision steadier em- for the relief of the situation apployment, cheaper means of living in proved by those well able to judge of their homes, freedom for themselves its merits. While this subject reand their children from the doom of mains without effective consideration perpetual servitude and an open door | many laws have been passed providto their advancement beyond the lim | ing for the holding of terms of infeits of a laboring class. Others of our rior courts at places to suit the concitizens, whose comforts and expen- venience of localities, or to lay the ditures are measured by moderate foundation of au application for the

upon the fairness and justice of Repeated recommendations have for themselves and their families. and change of the laws relating to our public lands so that their spoliaficiaries of the unjust discrimination tion and diversion to other uses than under our laws there shall be added as homes for honest settlers might be the discontent of those who suffer prevented. While a measure to meet this conceded necessity of reform remains awaiting the action of Conposes of our government, dependent gress, many claims to the public upon the patriotism and contentment lands and applications for their donation in favor of States and indi-

A plan in aid of Indian management, recommended by those well informed as containing valuable feanation in the magnitude of their growth of overweening capidity and tures in furtherance of the solution of the Indian problem, has thus far mines the justice and integrity of failed of legislative sanction, while grants of doubtful expediency to railroad corporations, permitting them to pass through the Indian reservation, have greatly multiplied.

> The propriety and necessity of order the citadel of government. the erection of one or more prisons for the confinement of United States that the government shall protect the convicts and a postoffice building in the national capital are not disputed, but these needs yet remain unanswered, while scores of public buildings have been erected where their necessity for public purposes is not ment owes to the humblest citizens apparent.

A revision of our pension laws could easily be made which would rest upon just principles and provide for every worthy applicant, but while our general pension laws remain confused and imperfect, hundreds of private pension laws are annually passed which are the sources of unjust discrimination and popular demo alization.

Appropriation bills for the support of the government are defaced by items and provisions to meet private ends, and it is freely asserted by responsible and experienced parties that a bill appropriating no money for public internal improvements would fail to meet with favor unless it contained items more for local and private advantage than for public benefit. These statements can be much emphasized by an ascertainment of the proportion of federal legislation which either bears upon its face its private character or which, upon examination, develops such a motive power.

And yet the people wait and expect from their cuosen representatives such patriotic action as will advance the welfare of the entire country; and this expectation can only be answered The necessity of the reduction of by the performance of public duty

resist all attacks on the Constitution sumers] which unreasonably swell fectively remedied. There should be between the proper subjects of Fed-

of such importance under the Consti- on the 12th day of March, 1888, and government not yet due have been 2,219 for the last fiscal year tution, which is the law of our very which, having been confirmed by the existence, that no consideration of Senate, with certain amendments, was 30th day of November, 1888, amountexpediency or sentiment should tempt rejected by the Chinese government. ing to \$94,700,400, the premiums routes, and in the number of miles us to stray therefrom. We have undertaken to discover and proclaim the richest blessings of a free government, with the Constitution as our guide. Let us follow the way it points out: it will not mislead us. And surely no one who has taken upon bimself the solemn obligation to support and preserve the Constitution can find justification or solace It cannot be denied that the selfish and private interests which are so for disloyalty in the excuse that he persistently heard when efforts are has wandered and disobeyed in search of a better way to reach the public made to deal in a just and comprehensive manner with our tariff laws welfare than the Constitution offers. are related to, if they are not respon-What has been said is deemed not sible for, the sentiment largely preinappropriate at a time when, from vailing among the people, that the general government is the fountain a century's height, we view the way already tred by the American people and attempt to discover their future path. The seventh President of the United States, the soldier and states man and at all times the firm and brave friend of the people, in vindication of his course as the protector of popular rights and the champion of true American citizenship declared: The ambition which leads me on is an anxious desire and fixed determination to restore to the people, unimpaired, the sacred trust they have confided to my charge; to heal the wounds of the Constitution and preserve it from future violation; to persuade my countrymen so far as I may that it is not in a splendid government supported by powerful monopolies and aristocratical establishments that they will find happiness, or their liberties protection,

but in a plain system, void of pompprotecting all and granting favors to for the assemblage at this capital none -dispensing its blessings like the dews of heaven unseen and unfelt save in the freshness and beauty they contribute to produce. It is such a government that the genius of our people requires; such a one only under which our States may remain for ages to come, united, prosperous and free. THE STATE OF THE UNION. In pursuance of a Constitutional provision requiring the President from time to time to give to the Congress information of the state of the Union. I have the satisfaction to announce that the close of the year finds the United States in the enjoyment of domestic tranquility and at peace with all naour foreign relations have been Our workingmen, enfranchised from crowded condition of the calendar of strengthened and improved by the

which I am deeply solicitous.

THE SACKVILLE INCIDENT.

With its a sorter street gentler come

labor fail to furnish their support, or few of the numerous illustrations tions. Since my last annual message sional authority, the maritime powers hands of the people. On the 30th amounting to \$552,021.08, ington in April next upon the practioffices and by new and renewed life and property at sea. ciprocal extradition of criminals. With the rapid increase of immi-Those international questions which ration to our shores and the facilistill await settlement are all reasonties of modern travel, the abuses of ably within the domain of amicable

the generous privileges afforded by negotiation and there is no existing our naturalization laws call for their subject of dispute between the Unicareful revision. ted States and any foreign power that . THE CONSULAR SERVICE.

is not susceptible of satisfactory ad-The reorganization of the consular justment by frank diplomatic treat

service is a matter of serious importance to our national interests. The Of the Fisheries treaty the President number of existing principal consular offices is believed to be greater than Having essayed in the discharge of is at all necessary for the conduct of my duty to procure by negotiation the business.

reception by the Chinese government.

the expressed wish of both govern-

ments, a cause of unkind feeling has

A seizure of vessels under the

American flag (in Hayti) has been re-

to prevent and redress any molesta-

tion of our innocent merchantmen

will be promoted. . . .

tual exchange of products can be

have been adopted. \*

with Honolulu.

been permanently removed.

the settlement of a long standing I repeat the recommenda ions here cause of dispute, and to remove a tofore made by me that the approconstant menace to the good relations priations for the maintenance of on of the two countries; and continuing diplomatic and consular service to be of the opinion that the treaty should be recast; that the so-called of February last, which failed to renotarial or unofficial fees, which our ceive the approval of the Senate, did representatives abroad are now persupply a satisfactory practical and mitted to treat as personal perquisites final adjustment upon a basis honshould be forbidden; that a system of orable and just to both parties of the consular inspection should be in difficult and vexed question to which troduced and that a limited num it related, and having subsequently and ber of secretaries of legation a unavailingly recommended other large should be authorized legislation to Congress which THE FINANCES.

I hoped would suffice to meet The report of the Secretary of th the exigency created by the Treasury exhibits in detail the condi rejection of the treaty, I now again tion of our national finances and the invoke the earnest and immediate operation of the several branches of attention of Congress to the condi- the government related to this detion of this important question as it partment. The total ordinary reve now stands before them and the nues of the government for the fiscal country and for the sett'ement of year ended January 30th, 1884. amounted to \$379, 266,074.76; of which \$219,091,173.63 were from cus-Near the close of the month of toms duties and \$124,296,871.98 from October last, occurrences of a deeply internal revenue taxes. The total reregrettable nature were brought to ceipts from all sources exceeded those my knowledge which made it my for the fiscal year ending June 30th, painful but imperative duty to obtain | 1887 by \$7,862,797.10. The ordinary with as little delay as possible a new expenditures of the government for person as the channel of diplomatic the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1888. intercourse in this coun ry with the were \$259,653 958 67, leaving a sur government of G eat Britain. The plus of \$119,612,116.09. correspondence in relation to this crease in these expenditures as comincident will in due course be laid pared with the fiscal before you and will disclose the un- ended June 30th, 1887, pardonable conduct of the official \$8,278,221.31, notwithstanding the referred to in his interference by ad- payment of more than \$5,000,000 for vice and counsel with the suffrages pensions in excess of what was paid of American citizens in the very crisis for that purpose in the latter menof the presidential election then near tioned years. The revenues of the at hand, and also in his subsequent government for the year ending June public declarations to justify his 30, 1889, ascertained for the quarter action super-adding impugament of ended Sept. 30, 1888, and estimated the Executive and Senate of the U. for the remainder of the term, amount S. in connection with important ques- to \$377,000,000, and the actual and tions now pending in controversy estimated ordinary expenditures for between the two governments. the same year are \$273,000,000, leav-The offense thus committed was most | ing an estimated surplus of \$104,000,year ending June 30, 1890 are \$377,account the sum necessary to be

grave, involving disastrous possibili 000. The estimated receipts for the ies to the good relations of the United States and Great Britain, con- 000,000 and the estimated ordinary stituting a gross breach of diplomatic expenses for the same time are privilege and an invasion of the \$275,867,488 32, showing a surplus of purely domestic affairs and essential \$101,232,511.66. The foregoing statesovereignty of the government to ments of surplus do not take into which the envoy was accredited. Having first fulfilled the just de- expended to meet the requirements mands of international comity, by af- of the sinking fund act, amounting to fording full opportunity for Her more than \$47,000,000 annually. The Majesty's government to act in relief cost of collecting the customs reveof the situation, I considered pronues for the last fiscal year longation of discussion to be unwarwas 244 per cent. For the ranted, and thereupon declined to year 1885 it was 3 77 per cent. further recognize the diplomatic char-The excess of internal revenue taxes acter of the person whose continuance collected during the last fiscal year in such function would destroy that over those collected for the year mutual confidence which is essential ended June 30, 1887, was \$5,489,. to the good understanding of the two 174 26 and the cost of collecting this governments and was inconsistent revenue decreased from 3 and 4 10 with the welfare and self-respect of per cent in 1887 to less than 3 and the government of the United States. 2 10 per cent for the last year. The usual interchange of communica- tax collected on oleomargarine was tion has since continued through Her \$723 998.04 for the year ending June Majesty's legation in this city. 80, 1887, and \$864,139 88 for the fol-THE CHINESE EXCLUSION BILL. lowing year. In a message accompanying my ap-

A resolution having been passed proval on the 1st day of October last by both houses of Congress removing of a bill for the exclusion of Chinese all doubt as to the executive authority, laborers I laid before Congress full daily purchases of bonds were cominformation and all correspondence menced on the 23d day of April, 1888. touching the negotiation of the treaty and have continued until the present

eral and local care and regulation is with China concluded at this Capital time. By this plan bonds of the This message contained a recommen- paid thereon amounting to \$17,508,- traveled per annum an increase of dation that a sum of money be ap- 613.08. propriated as compensation to Chinese

The premium added to the princi- of railroad service for the year was subjects who had suffered injuries at pal of these bonds represents an in- 6,000 miles, but the amount of new the pands of lawless men within our vestment yielding about 2 per cent railroad service actually put on was jurisdiction. Such appropriation hav- interest for the time they still had to 12,764 miles. ing been duly made, the fund awaits run; and the saving to the government represented by the difference It is sincerely hoped that by the ces. between the amount of interest at 2 sation of the influx of this class of per cent upon the sum paid for prin- the sum of upwards of \$143,000,000 Chinese subjects, in accordance with cipal and premium, and which it for the year. would have paid for interest at the rate specified in the bonds if they had run to their maturity, is about \$27,165,000. At first sight this would seem to be a profitable and sensible the Central and South American ported, and in consequence, measures transection on the part of the government.

As suggested by the Secretary of

No feature presents stronger refor the purchase of bonds was money commendations for Congressional drawn from the people in excess of action than the establishment of comany actual need of the government, munication by sub marine telegraph and was so expended rather than allow it to remain idle in the treasury. The wisdom of commercial reci- If this surplus under the operation procity with Mexico has been heretoof just and equitable laws had been fore stated in my message to Conleft in the hands of the people it grees and the lapse of time and would have been worth in their busigrowth of commerce with that close ness at leas sixt per cent per anneighbor Republic confirm the judg. num. Deducting from the amount ment so expressed. \* \* A comof interest on the principal and preprehensive treaty of amity and commium of these bonds for the time merce with Peru was proclaimed on they had to run at the rate of six November 7th last, and it is expected per cent, the saving of two per "cent, that under its operations mutual made for the people by the prosperity and good understanding purchase of such bonds, the loss would appear to be \$55,760,000. As authorized by the Congress, This would seem to demonstrate that preliminary steps have been taken if excessive and unnecessary taxation is continued and the government is during the coming year of the repreforced to pursue this policy of pursentatives of the South and Central chasing its own bonds at the premi-American States together with those ums which it will be necessary to pay of Mexico, Hayti and San Domingo the loss of the people will be hun-

to discuss sundry important topics. dreds of millions of dollars. \* \* It is believed that com- Notwithstanding the large sum mercial policies inducing freer mu paid out in the purchase of bonds, the surplus in the treasury on the 30th most advantageously arranged by in- day of November, 1888, was \$52,234,dependent but co-operative legisla- 610.01, after deducting about \$20,- June 30, 1888, are contained in the tion. In the mode last mentioned 000,000 just drawn out for the pay- report of the Attorney General as the control of our taxation for reve- ment of pensions. At the close of well as a number of valuable recomque will be always retained in our the fiscal year ended June 30th, own hands unrestricted by conven- 1887, there had been coined tional agreements with other govern- under the compulsory silver and ought to receive recognition. coinage act \$266,980,280 in silver dol- It is stated in this report that In conformity also with Congres- lars, \$55,504,310 of which were in the though judgments in civil suits have been invited to confer in Wash- day of June, 1888, there had been covered in favor of the government coined \$299,708,790; and of this \$55,- during the year, only the sum of cability of devising uniform rules and 829,303 was in circulation in coin, and \$132, 934 was collected thereon, and messures for the greater security of \$200,387,376 in silver coin certificates, that though fines, penalties and forfor the redemption of which silver feitures were imposed amounting to dollars to that amount were held by \$541,808.43, only \$109,648.42 of that the government.

On the 30th day of November, 1888, \$312,590,990 had been coined; \$60,970,990 of the silver dollars were actually in circulation, and \$237,418,-346 in certificates. The Secretary of citizen. \* \* the Treasury recommends the suppression of the further coinage of silver, and in such recommendation I earnestly concur.

The Secretary of War reports that the army, at the date of the last consolidated returns, consisted of 2,189 officers and 25,540 enlisted men The actual expenditures of the War Department for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1888, amounted to \$41,165,-107.07, of which sum \$9,158,516.63 was expended for public works, in-

I earnestly request that the recommendations contained in the Secreta- come her untrammelled gift to a ry's report, which are, in my opinion, people civilized and free, upon which calculated to increase the usefulness should rest in well distributed ownerand discipline of the army, may re ship the numerous homes of enreceive the consideration of the Con- lightened, equal and fraternal citigress. Among these the proposal zens. that there should be provided a place for the examination of officers to test | thing has been done at last to redress their fitness for promotion is of the the injuries to our people and check

utmost importance. August last was a national affliction. million acres have been arrested from The army then lost the greatest of its | illegal usurpation, improvident grants chiefs. \* \* Those who in any man- and fraudulent entries and claims, to ner came within the range of his per be taken for the homesteads of the sonal association will never fail to honest industrious-although less pay deserved and willing homage to than the greater areas thus unjustly

career. The Apache Indians, whose removal from the reservations in Arizona followed the capture of those of their to the rolls during the fiscal year number who organized in a bloody ended June 30, 1888, is 60,252; and and murderous raid during part of an increase of pension was granted the years 1885 and 1886, are now in 45,716 cases. The names of 15,730 held as prisoners of war at Mount pensioners were dropped tom the Vernon barracks in the State of Ala- rolls during the year 1 7 various bama. The commanding officer states causes and at the close of the year that they are in good health and con- the number of persons of all classes tented and that they are kept receiving pensions was 452,557. Of employed as fully as is possible. these were 14,806 survivors of the war These persons should be treated of 1812, 10,787 widows of those who kindly and kept in rest far from the served in that war, 16,060 soldiers of locality of their former reservations. They should be subjected to efforts of said soldiers. calculated to tend to their improvement and the softening of their rates of pensions are paid to these savage and cruel instincts, but their beneficiaries, ranging from \$2 to return to their homes should be per- \$416.66 per month. The amount sistently resisted. The Secretary in paid for pensions during the fiscal his report gives a graphic history of year was \$78,775,861.92, being an inthese Indians and recites with pain- crease over the previous year of \$5,ful vividness their bloody deeds and 308,280.20. the unhappy failure of the govern- The expenses attending the mainment to manage them by peaceful tenance and operation of the Pension means. It will be amszing if a pe- Bureau during that period \$326,252,rusal of their history will allow the 467, making the entire expenditures survival of a desire for the return of of the bureau \$82,038,386.57, being these persons to their reservation on 211 per cent. of the gross income,

THE NAVY. The report of the Secretary of the ing the year. Navy demonstrates very intelligent | I am thoroughly convinced that our management in that important de- government pension laws should be partment and discloses the most satis- revised and adjusted to meet, as far factory progress in the work of re- as possible, in the light of our expeconstructing the navy made during rience, all meritorious cases. The fact the past year. . \*

standing the large expenditures for my opinion, be made consistent with new construction and the additional justice to pensioners or to the govlabor they involve, the total ordinary erument; and the numerous private or current expenditures of the depart- pension bills that are passed, prediment for the three years ended June cated upon the imperfection of our 30th, 1888, are less by more than 20 general laws, while they increase in per cent than such expenditures for many cases the existing inequality the three years ending June 30, 1884. THE POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

The report of the Postmaster Gen- the general laws on this subject. eral shows a marked increase of busi. The laxity of ideas prevailing ness in every branch of the postoffice among a large number of our people service. The number of postoffices regarding pensions is becoming every

crease of 6,124 in three years, and of 15,795,917. The estimated increase

The volume of business in the Money Order Division, including transactions in postal notes, reached

The increase of correspondence with foreign countries during the rast three years is gratifying. It is especially notable and exceptional with States and with Mexico. As the greater part of mail matter exchanged with these countries is commercial in the Treasury, the surplus expended its character this increase is evidence of the improved business relations with them.

A department whose revenues have increased from \$19,772,000 in 1870 to \$52,700,000 in 1888, despite reductions of postage which have enormously reduced the rates of revenue. while greatly increasing its business. demands the careful consideration of the Congress as to all matters suggested by those familiar with its operations, and which are calculated to increase its efficiency and usefulness.

It is gratifying to note from the carefully prepared statistics accompanying the Postmaster General's report that notwithstanding the great expansion of the service the rate of expenditure has been lessened and efficiency has been improved in every branch; that fraud and crime have decreased; that losses from the mails have been reduced and that the num. ber of complaints of the service made to postmasters and to the Department are far less than ever before. THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

The transactions of the Department

of Justice for the fiscal year ended

mendations, the most of which are repetitions of those previously made. sum was paid thereof. These facts may furnish an illustration of the sentiment, which extensively prevails. that debt due to the government should cause no inconvenience to the

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR. In the report of the Secretary of the Interior, which will be laid before you, the condition of the various branches of our domestic affairs connected with that department and its operations during the past year are fully exhibited. . . I cannot too strenuously insist upon the importance of proper measures to insure a right disposition of our public lands; not only as a matter of prompt present justice, but in forecast of the consequences to cluding river and harbor improve- future generations. The broad, rich acres of our agricultural plains have been long preserved by nature to be-

It is gratifying to know that somethe tendency of the reckless waste of The death of General Sheridan in the national domain. That over eighty his greatness and the glory of his lost-must afford a profound gratification to right-feeling citizens. BUSINESS AND PENSIONS.

The number of pensioners added the Mexican war and 5,104 widows

One hundred and two different

sentimental or any other grounds. and nearly 31 per cent. of the total expenditures of the government dur-

that one hundred and two different The report shows that notwith- rates of pension are paid cannot, in and injustice, lend additional force to the recommendation for a revision of

on July 1, 1888, was 57,376, an in- day more marked. The principles