The Weekly Carolina Era.

TRI-WEEKLY AND WEEKLY BY
The Era Publishing Company.

Rates of Subscription:
TRI-WEEKLY—One year, in advance, $3 00
6 months, in advance, 2 00
3 months, in advance, 1 00
1 month, in advance, 50
WEEKLY—One year, in advance, $1 00
Six months, in advance, 50

The Carolina Era.

Vol. 1. RALEIGH, N. C., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1871. No. 28.

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Rates of Advertising:
One square, one time, $1 00
" " two times, 1 50
" " three times, 2 00
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The President's Message.

It is an able, practical and well matured paper, one that will compare favorably with any similar document that has preceded it. It is all that we anticipated, and more. As we predicted, it has disappointed the fondest hopes of the Democracy, by removing the chief causes of dissension among Republican statesmen. It recommends all the needed and demanded reforms in the revenue system. It very wisely takes the ground that the present resources of the country should cease to be taxed for the rapid payment of the public debt. It is right and just, that the payment of the extraordinary sums necessary to defray the expenses of the government during the four years of the war, should be spread over many years of peace and prosperity. The rapid increase and development of the resources of this country is such that the debt will prove a light burden to the next generation.—The war was not waged for the good of the present people alone. It was waged for the purpose of securing the blessings of liberty and good government to our descendants as well as ourselves.—As the present generation was compelled to sustain all the physical suffering, and all the mental anxiety of a war that was waged as much for posterity as for us of the present age, it is but just that posterity should bear the larger portion of the lighter burden of paying the debt. The message, therefore, recommends a modification, both of the tariff and and internal tax laws. It recommends that all taxes from internal sources be abolished, except those collected from spirituous, vinous and malt liquors, and tobacco in its various forms, and from stamps. It makes some wise and practical suggestions in relation to the reduction of the tariff, which the reader will be enabled to see for himself in our next. On this subject it is confidently believed that the message will prove entirely satisfactory to the most advanced revenue reformers in the country.

On the subject of a reform in the civil service the message, though less explicit, will also prove satisfactory. It has been the aim of the administration to enforce honesty and efficiency in every branch of the civil service. Every public officer who has violated the trust placed in him, says the message, has been proceed against with all the rigor of the law. If bad men have secured places, it is declared to have been the fault of the system established by law and custom for making appointments, or the fault of those who recommended for government positions men who were unfitted for them. It calls for a civil service reform which can correct this abuse. And the suggestions made on this point are both wise and practical. A reformatory law is advised which will enforce the principle, that all endorsers of applicants for official positions, shall be held morally responsible for the integrity of their friends, and their capacity to discharge the trusts they seek. Such a reformatory law, it is believed, would ensure great caution in making recommendations. It seems to us, however, that the reformatory act might go one step further, and make such endorsers legally as well as morally responsible for any losses the government might sustain in consequence of the unfaithfulness or incapacity of officials. This would certainly have the desired effect of introducing both honesty and efficiency into every branch of the civil service; and this, we think, is what the message means.

On the subject of a general removal of political disabilities the message has realized our fondest hopes. Opposed from the beginning to large exclusions, we have all the time favored a general amnesty, and we cannot but rejoice at the wise and statesman like view of the message on this subject. And we must be permitted to say, that we rejoice at it much more in the interests of the country than in the interest of the Republican party. That it will advance the interest of the party very greatly we have not the slightest doubt; but we hail it with vastly more delight as a wise measure of pacification. The message does honor to the head and heart of the President in declaring: "That it will be a happy condition of the country, when the old citizens of the Southern States will take an interest in public affairs; promulgate ideas honestly entertained; vote for men representing their views, and tolerate the same freedom of expression and ballot in those entertaining different political convictions." This happy condition of the country, which all patriots are so anxious to see, will never come to pass until after a general amnesty shall be granted by Congress. And we now repeat the belief expressed on Monday, that this great measure of pacification will be passed *this winter*.

We have confined ourself in this article to the three most important subjects of the message, hoping to be able to recur to it again, with reference to others that are important to the country, and highly honorable to the administration. In conclusion we congratulate the country on the message. It secures unity, harmony and peace, and ensures the triumphant success of the Republican party in 1872. It dissipates the day dreams of Frank Blair and the Invisible Empire. Neither will longer hope or seek to overturn the work of reconstruction. The cry of "a white man's party" will cease to be heard. The Ku Klux, as an extensive organization, will languish, and die, and with it will die the Democracy. And then suspensions of the *habeas corpus* will cease, and smiling peace will once more bless the sunny South.

THIRD ANNUAL

MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT

OF THE

UNITED STATES.

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

In addressing my third annual message to the law-making branch of the government, it is gratifying to be able to state that during the past year success has generally attended the effort to execute all laws found upon the statute books—the policy has been not to enquire into the wisdom of the laws already enacted, but to learn their spirit and intent, and to enforce them accordingly.

The past year has, under a wise Providence, been one of general prosperity to the nation. It has, however, been attended with more than usual chastisements in the loss of life and property by storm and fire. These disasters have served to call forth the best elements of human nature in our country, and to develop a friendship for us on the part of foreign nations which goes far towards alleviating the distress occasioned by these calamities. The benevolent, who have so generously shared their means with the victims of these misfortunes, will reap their reward in the consciousness of having performed a noble act, and in receiving the grateful thanks of men, women and children, whose sufferings they have relieved.

The relations of the United States with foreign powers continue to be friendly. The year has been an eventful one in witnessing two great nations, speaking one language and having one lineage, settling by peaceful arbitration disputes of long standing, and liable at any time to bring those nations into bloody and costly conflict. An example has thus been set which, if successful in its final issue, may be followed by other civilized nations, and finally be the means of returning to productive industry millions of men now maintained to settle the disputes of nations by the bayonet and the broadside. I transmit herewith a copy of the treaty alluded to, which has been concluded since the adjournment of Congress, with Her Brittanic Majesty, and a copy of the protocols of the conferences of the Commissioners by whom it was negotiated. This treaty provides methods for adjusting the questions pending between the two nations. Various questions are to be adjusted by arbitration. I recommend Congress at an early day to make the necessary provision for the tribunal at Geneva and for the several commissions on the part of the United States called for by the treaty. His Majesty, the King of Italy, the President of the Swiss Confederation, and his Majesty, the Emperor of Brazil, have each consented, on the joint request of the two Powers, to name an arbitrator for the tribunal at Geneva. I have caused my thanks to be suitably expressed for the readiness with which the joint request has been complied with, by the appointment of gentlemen of eminence and learning to these important positions. His Majesty, the Emperor of Germany, has been pleased to comply with the request of the two governments, and has consented to act as arbitrator of the disputed water boundary between the United States and Great Britain. The contracting parties in the treaty have undertaken to regard as between themselves certain principles of public law for which the United States have contended since the commencement of their history. They have also agreed to bring these principles to the knowledge of the other maratime powers, and to invite them to accede to them. Negotiations are going on as the form of the note by which the invitation is to be extended to the other Powers. I recommend the legislation necessary on the part of the United States to bring into operation the articles of the treaty relating to the fisheries and to other matters touching the relations of the United States toward the British North American possessions, to become operative as soon as the proper legislation shall be had on the part of Great Britain and its possessions. It is much to be desired that this legislation may become operative before the fishermen of the United States begin to make their arrangements for the coming season. I have addressed a communication, of which a copy is transmitted herewith, to the Governors of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois and Wisconsin, urging upon the governments of those States, respectively, the necessary action on their part to carry into effect the object of the article of the treaty which contemplates the use of the canals on either side connected with the navigation of the lakes and rivers forming the boundary on terms of equality by the inhabitants of both countries. It is hoped that the importance of the object and the benefits to flow therefrom will secure the speedy approval and legislative sanction of the States concerned.

I renew the recommendation for an appropriation for determining the true position of the forty ninth parallel of latitude where it forms the boundary between the United States and the British North American possessions between the lake of the Woods and the summit of the Rocky Mountains. The early action of Congress on this recommendation would put it in the power of the war department to place a force in the field during the next summer. The resumption of diplomatic relations between France and Germany have enabled me to give directions for the withdrawal of the protection extended to Germans in France by the diplomatic and consular representations of the United States in that country. It is just to add that the delicate duty of this protection has been performed by the minister and the consul general at Paris, and the various consuls in France, under the supervision of the latter, with great kindness, as well as with prudence and tact. Their course has received the commendation of the German government, and has wounded no susceptibility of the French. The government of the Emperor of Germany continues to manifest a friendly feeling towards the United States, and a desire to harmonize with the moderate and just policy which this government maintains in its relations with Asiatic powers, as well as with the South American republics. I have given assurance that the friendly feelings of that government are fully shared by the United States. The ratification of the consular and naturalization conventions with the Austro-Hungarian empire have been exchanged. I have been officially informed of the annexation of the States of the Church to the kingdom of Italy, and the removal of the capital of that kingdom of Rome.

In conformity with the established policy of the United States I have recognized this change. The ratifications of the new treaty of commerce between the United States and Italy have been exchanged. The two powers have agreed in this treaty that private party at sea shall be exempt from capture in case of war between the two powers. The United States have spared no opportunity of incorporating this rule into the obligation of nations. The forty-first Congress, at its third session, made an appropriation for the organization of a mixed commission for adjudicating upon the claims of citizens of the United States against Spain growing out of the insurrection in Cuba. That Commission has since been organized. I transmit herewith the correspondence relating to its formation and its jurisdiction. It is to be hoped that this Commission will afford the claimants a complete remedy for their injuries. It has been made the agreeable duty of the United States to preside over a Conference at Washington between the plenipotentiaries of Spain and the allied South American Republics which has resulted in an armistice with the reasonable assurance of a permanent peace.

The intimate friendly relations which have so long existed between the United States and Russia continue undisturbed. The visit of the third son of the Emperor is a proof that there is no desire on the part of his government to diminish the cordiality of those relations. The hospitable reception which has been given to the Grand Duke is a proof that on our side we have the best wishes of that government. The inexcusable course of the Russian Minister, at Washington, rendered it necessary to ask his recall, and to decline to longer receive that functionary as a diplomatic representative. It was impossible, with self respect, or with a just regard to the dignity of the country, to permit Mr. Catacazy to continue to hold intercourse with this government after his personal abuse of government officials, and during his persistent interference, through various means, with the relations between the United States and other powers.

In accordance with my wishes, the government has been relieved of further intercourse with Mr. Catacazy, and the management of the affairs of the Russian legation has passed into the hands of a gentleman entirely unobjectionable.

With Japan we continue to maintain intimate relations. The Cabinet of the Mixado has, since the close of the last session of Congress, selected citizens of the United States to serve in office of importance in several departments of government. I have reason to think that this selection is due to an appreciation of the disinterestedness of the policy which the United States have pursued towards Japan. It is our desire to continue to maintain this disinterested and just policy with China as well as Japan. The correspondence transmitted herewith shows that there is no disposition on the part of the government to swerve from its established course.

Prompted by a desire to put an end to the barbarous treatment of our shipwrecked sailors on the Corean coast, I instructed our Minister at Pekin to endeavor to conclude a convention with Corea for securing the safety and humane treatment of such marines. Admiral Rodgers was instructed to accompany him with a sufficient force to protect him in case of need. A small surveying party sent out, on reaching the coast, was treacherously attacked at a disadvantage. Ample opportunity was given for explanation and apology for the insult. Neither came. A force was then landed. After an arduous march over a rugged and difficult country, the forts from which the outrages were committed were reduced by a gallant assault and were destroyed. Having thus punished the criminals, and having vindicated the honor of the flag, the expedition returned Finding it impracticable, under the circumstances, to conclude the desired convention, I respectfully refer to the correspondence relating thereto, herewith submitted, and leave the subject for such action as Congress may see best to take.

The Republic of Mexico has not yet repealed the very objectionable laws establishing what is known as the "free zone," on the frontier of the United States. It is hoped that this may yet be done, and also that more stringent measures may be taken by that republic for restraining lawless persons on the frontiers. I hope that Mexico, by its action, will soon relieve this government of the difficulty experienced from these causes.

Our relations with the various Republics of Central and South America continue, with one exception, to be cordial and friendly.

I recommend some action of Congress regarding the overdue installments under the award of the Venezuelan Claims Commission of 1866. The internal dissensions of this government present no justification for the absence of effort to meet their solemn treaty of obligations.

The ratification of an extradition treaty with Nicaragua has been exchanged.

It is a subject for congratulation that the great Empire of Brazil has taken the initiatory step towards the abolition of slavery. Our relations with that Empire, always cordial, will naturally be made more so by this act. It is not too much to hope that the government of Brazil may hereafter find it for its interest as well as intrinsically right to advance toward entire emancipation more rapidly than the present act contemplates.

The true prosperity and greatness of a nation is to be found in the elevation and education of its laborers. It is a subject for regret that the reforms in this direction, which were voluntarily promised by the statesmen of Spain, have not been carried out in its West India colonies. The laws and regulations for the apparent abolition of slavery in Cuba and Porto Rico, leave most of the laborers in bondage, with no hope of release, until their lives become a burden to their employers. I desire to direct your attention to the fact that citizens of the United States, or persons claiming to be citizens of the United States, are large holders in foreign lands of this species of property, forbidden by the fundamental law of their alleged country. I recommend to Congress to provide, by stringent legislation, a suitable remedy against the holding, owning or dealing in slaves, or being interested in slave property in foreign lands, either as owners, hirers or mortgagees, by citizens of the United States.

It is to be regretted that the disturbed condition of the Island of Cuba continues to be a source of annoyance and of anxiety. The existence of a protracted struggle in such close proximity to our own territory, without apparent prospect of an early termination, cannot be other than an object of concern to people who, while abstaining from interference in the affairs of other powers, naturally desire to see every country in the undisturbed enjoyment of peace, liberty and the blessings of free institutions. Our naval commanders in Cuban waters have been instructed, in case it should become necessary, to spare no effort to protect the lives and property of *bona fide* American citizens, and to maintain the dignity of the flag. It is hoped that all pending questions with Spain, growing out of the affairs of Cuba, may be adjusted in the spirit of peace and conciliation, which has hitherto guided the two powers in their treatment of such questions.

To give importance and to add to the efficiency of our diplomatic relations with Japan and China, and to further aid in retaining the good opinions of these people, and to secure to the United States its share of the commerce destined to flow between these nations and the balance of the commercial world, I earnestly recommend that an appropriation be made to support at least four American youths in each of those countries to serve as a part of the official family of our ministers there. Our representatives would not even then be placed upon an equality with the representatives of Great Britain and of some other powers. As now situated our representatives in Japan and China have to depend for interpreters and translators upon natives of those countries who know our language imperfectly, or procure for the occasion the services of employees of foreign business houses or the interpreters to other foreign ministers. I would also recommend liberal measures for the purpose of supporting the American lines of steamers now plying between San Francisco and Japan and China and the Australian line—almost our only remaining lines of ocean steamers—and of increasing their subsidies

The national debt has been reduced to the extent of eighty-six millions fifty-seven thousand one hundred and twenty-six dollars and eighty cents during the year, and by the negotiation of national bonds at a lower rate of interest the interest on the public debt has been so diminished that the sum to be raised for the interest account is nearly seventeeen million dollars less than on the 1st of March, 1869. It was highly desirable that this rapid diminution should take place both to strengthen the credit of the country and to convince its citizens of their entire ability to meet every dollar of liability without bankrupting them: but in view of the accomplishment of these desirable ends, of the rapid development of the resources of the country, its increasing ability to meet large demands and the amount already paid, it is not desirable that the present resources of the country should continue to be taxed in order to continue this rapid payment. I therefore recommend a modification of both the tariff and internal tax laws. I recommend that all taxes from internal sources be abolished, except those collected from spirituous, vinous, and malt liquors, tobacco in its various forms, and from stamps.

In re-adjusting the tariff, I suggest that a careful estimate be made of the amount of surplus revenue collected under the present laws, after providing for the current expenses of the government, the interest account, and a sinking fund, and that this surplus be reduced in such a manner as to afford the greatest relief to the greatest number. There are many articles not produced at home, but which enter largely into general consumption through articles which are manufactured at home, such as medicines compounded, &c., from which very little revenue is derived, but which enter into general use. All such articles I recommend to be placed on the "free list." Should a further reduction prove advisable, I would then recommend that it be made upon those articles which can best bear it without disturbing home production, or reducing the wages of American labor. I have not entered into figures, because to do so would be to repeat what will be laid before you in the report of the Secretary of the Treasury.

The present laws for collecting the revenue pay collectors of customs small salaries, but provide for moities, shares in all seizures, which at principal ports of entry, particularly, raise the compensation of these officials to a large sum. It has always seemed to me as if this system must at times work perniciously. It holds out an inducement to dishonest men, should such get possession of those offices, to be lax in their scrutiny of goods entered to enable them finally to make large seizures. Your attention is respectfully invited to this subject.

Continued fluctuations in the value of gold, as compared with the national currency, has a most damaging effect upon the increase and development of the country in keeping up prices of all articles necessary in every day life. It fosters a species of gambling prejudicial alike to national morals and the national finances. If the question can be met as how to give a fixed value to our currency, that value constantly and uniformly approaching par with specie, a very desirable end will be gained.

For the operations of the army for the past year, the expense of maintaining it, the estimate for the ensuing year, and for continuing sea coast and other improvements, conducted under the supervision of the War Department, I refer you to the accompanying report of the Secretary of War.

I call your attention to the provisions of the act of Congress approved March 3, 1869, which discontinues promotion in the staff corps of the army until provided for by law. I recommend that the number of officers in each grade in the staff corps be fixed, and that whenever the number in any one grade falls below the number so fixed that the vacancy may be filled by promotion from the grade below. I also recommend that when the office of chief of a corps becomes vacant the place may be filled by selection from the corps in which the vacancy exists.

The report of the Secretary of the Navy shows an improvement in the number and efficiency of the naval force, without material increase in the expense of supporting it. This is due to the policy which has been adopted, and is being extended as fast as our material will admit, of using smaller vessels as cruisers on the several stations. By this means we have been enabled to occupy at once a large extent of cruising ground, to visit more frequently the posts where the presence of our flag is desirable, and generally to discharge more efficiently the appropriate duties of the navy in time of peace, without exceeding the number of men or the expenditure authorized by law.

During the past year the navy has, in addition to its regular service, supplied the men and officers for the vessels of the coast survey, and has completed the surveys authorized by Congress of the Isthmus of Darien and Tehauntepec, and under like authority has sent out an expedition completely furnished and equipped to explore the unknown ocean of the North.

The suggestions of the report as to the necessity for increasing and improving the material of the navy and the plan recommended for reducing the *personnel* of the service to a peace standard, by the gradual abolition of certain grades of officers, the reduction of others, and the employment of some in the service of the commercial marine, as well considered and deserve the thoughtful attention of Congress.

I also recommend that all promotions in the navy above the rank of Captain, be of selection instead of by seniority. This course will secure in the higher grades greater efficiency and hold out an incentive to young officers to improve themselves in the knowledge of their profession. The present cost of maintaining the navy, its cost compared with that of the preceding year and the estimates for the ensuing year, are contained in the accompanying report of the Secretary of the Navy

The enlarged receipts of the Postoffice Department, as shown by the accompanying report of the Postmaster General, exhibits a gratifying increase in that branch of the public service. It is the index of the growth of education and of the prosperity of the people—elements highly conducive to the vigor and stability of republics.

With a vast territory like ours, much of it sparsely populated, but all requiring the services of the mail, it is not at present to be expected that this department can be made self-sustaining; but a gradual approach to this end, from year to year, is confidently relied on, and the day is not far distant when the Postoffice Department of the government will prove a much greater blessing to the whole people than it is now. The suggestions of the Postmaster General for improvements in the department presided over by him, are earnestly recommended to your special attention. Especially do I recommend favorable consideration of the plan for uniting the telegraphic system of the United States with the postal system.

It is believed that by such a course the cost of the telegraphing could be much reduced, and the service as well if not better rendered. It would secure the further advantage of extending the telegraph through portions of the country where private enterprise will not construct it. Commerce, trade, and above all, the efforts to bring a people widely separated into a community of interest, are always benefitted by a rapid inter communication. Education, the ground work of republican institutions, is encouraged by increasing the facilities to gather news from all parts of the country. The desire to reap the benefit of such improvement will stimulate education.

I refer you to the report of the Postmaster General for full details of the operations of last year, and for comparative statements of results with former years.

There has been imposed upon the Executive branch of Government the execution of the Act of Congress approved April 20, 1871, and commonly known as the Ku Klux law, in a portion of South Carolina. The necessity of the course pursued will be demonstrated by the report of the committee to investigate Southern outrages. Under the provisions of the above act, I issued a proclamation calling the attention of the people of the United States to the same, and declaring my reluctance to exercise any of the extraordinary powers thereby conferred upon me, except in case of imperative necessity, but making known my purpose to exercise such powers whenever it should become necessary to do so for the purpose of securing to all the citizens of the United States the peaceful enjoyment of the rights guaranteed to them by the constitution and the laws.

After the passage of this law, information was received from time to time that combinations of the character referred to in this law existed, and were powerful in many parts of the Southern States, particularly in certain counties of the State of South Carolina. Careful investigation was made, and it was ascertained that in nine counties in that State such combinations were active and powerful, embracing a sufficient portion of the citizens to control the local authority, and having, among other things, the object of depriving the emancipated class of the substantial benefits of freedom, and of preventing the free political action of those citizens who did not sympathize with their own views.—Among their operations were frequent scourgings and occasional assassinations, generally perpetrated at night by disguised persons,—the victims in almost all cases being citizens of different political sentiments from their own, or freed persons, who had shown a disposition to claim equal rights with other citizens. Thousands of inoffensive and well-disposed citizens were the sufferers by this lawless violence.

Thereupon, on the 12th of October, 1871, a proclamation was issued in terms of the law, calling upon the members of these combinations to disperse within five days, and to deliver to the Marshal or military officers of the United States all arms, ammunition, uniforms, disguises, and other means and implements used by them for carrying out their unlawful purposes. This warning not having been heeded, on the 17th of October another proclamation was issued suspending the privileges of the writ of *habeas corpus* in nine counties in that State.

Direction was given that within the counties so designated, persons supposed, upon creditable information, be members of such unlawful combinations, should be arrested by the military forces of the United States and delivered to the Marshal, to be dealt with according to law. In two of said counties (York and Spartanburg) many arrests have been made. At the last account the number of persons thus arrested was one hundred and sixty-eight. Several hundred, whose criminality was ascertained to be of an inferior degree, were released for the present.

These have generally made confession of their guilt. Great caution has been exercised in making these arrests, and notwithstanding the large number, it is believed that no innocent person is now in custody. The prisoners will be held for regular trial in the judicial tribunals of the United States.

As soon as it appeared that the authorities of the United States were about to take vigorous measures to enforce the law, many persons absconded, and there is good ground for supposing that all of such persons have violated the law. A full report of what has been done under this law will be submitted to Congress by the Attorney General.

In Utah there still remains a remnant of barbarism repugnant to civilization, to decency, and to the laws of the United States. Territorial officers, however, have been found who are willing to perform their duty in a spirit of equity and with a due sense of sustaining the majesty of the law. Neither polygamy nor any other violation of existing statutes will be permitted within the territory of the United States. It is not with the religion of the self-styled saints that we are now dealing, but with their practices. They will be protected in the worship of God according to the dictates of their consciences, but they will not be permitted to violate the laws under the cloak of religion. It may be advisable for Congress to consider what, in the execution of the laws against polygamy, is to be the status of plural wives and their offspring.

The propriety of Congress passing an enabling act authorizing the territorial legislature of Utah to legitimatize all children born prior to a time fixed in the act might be justified by its humanity to these innocent children. This is a suggestion only, and not a recommendation.

The policy pursued towards the Indians has resulted favorably, so far as can be judged from the limited time during which it has been in operation. Through the exertions of the various societies of Christians to whom has been entrusted the execution of the policy, and the board of commissioners authorized by the law of April 10, 1869, many tribes of Indians have been induced to settle upon reservations, to cultivate the soil, to perform productive labor of various kinds, and to partially accept civilization. They are being cared for in such a way, it is hoped, as to induce those still pursuing their old habits of life to embrace the only opportunity which is left them to avoid extermination. I recommend liberal appropriations to carry out the Indian peace policy, not alone because it is humane, Christian-like and economical, but because it is right.

I recommend to your favorable consideration also the policy of granting a territorial government to Indians in the Indian territoty west of Arkansas and Missouri, and south of Kansas. In doing so every right guaranteed to the Indians by treaty should be secured. Such a course might, in time, be the means of collecting most of the Indians now between the Missouri and the Pacific, and south of the British possessions, into one territory or one State. The Secretary of the Interior has treated upon the subject at length, and I commend to you his suggestions.

I renew my recommendation that the public lands be regarded as a heritage to our children, to be disposed of only as required for occupation, and to actual settlers. Those already granted have been in great part disposed of in such a way as to secure access to the balance by the hardy settler who may wish to avail himself of them.—But caution should be exercised even in attaining so desirable an object.

Educational interests may well be served by the grant of the proceeds of the sale of public lands to settlers. I do not wish to be understood as recommending, in the least degree, a curtailment of what is being done by the general government for the encouragement of education.

The report of the Secretary of the Interior, submitted with this, will give you all the information collected and prepared for publication in regard to the census taken during the year 1870, the operations of the Bureau of Education for the year, the Patent office, the Pension office, the Land office, and the Indian Bureau.

The report of the Commissioner of Agriculture gives the operations of his department for the year. As agriculture is the ground-work of our prosperity, too much importance cannot be attached to the labors of this department. It is in the hands of an able head, with able assistants, all zealously devoted to introducing into the agricultural production of the nation all useful products adapted to any of the various climates and soils of our vast territory, and to giving all useful information as to the method of cultivating the plants, cereals, and other products adapted to particular localities. Quietly but surely the Agricultural Bureau is working a great material good, and if liberally supported, the more widely its influence will be extended, and the less dependant we shall be upon the products of foreign countries.

The subject of compensation to the heads of Bureaus and officials holding positions of responsibility, and requiring ability and character to fill properly, is one to which your attention is invited. But few of the officials receive a compensation equal to the respectable support of a family, while their duties are such as to involve millions of interest. In private life services demand compensation equal to the services rendered, and wise economy would dictate the same rule in the government service. I have not given the estimate for the support of government for the ensuing year, nor the comparative statement between the expenditures for the year just passed and the one just preceding, because all these figures are contained in the accompanying reports, or in those presented directly to Congress. These estimates have my approval.

More than six years having elapsed since the last hostile gun was fired between the armies then arrayed against each other—one for the perpetuation, the other for the destruction of the Union—it may well be considered whether it is not now time that the disabilities imposed by the XIV amendment should be removed. That amendment does not exclude the ballot, but only imposes the disability to hold office upon certain classes. When the purity of the ballot is secure, majorities are sure to elect officers reflecting the views of the majority. I do not see the advantage or propriety of excluding men from office, merely because they were, before rebellion, of standing and character sufficient to be elected to positions requiring them to take oaths to support the constitution, and admitting to eligibility those entertaining precisely the same views, but of less standing in their communities.

It may be said that the former violated his oath, while the latter did not. The latter did not have it in their power to do so. If they had taken this oath, it cannot be doubted they would have broken it as did the former class. If there are any great criminals distinguished above all others, for the part they took in opposition to the government, they might, in the judgment of Congress, be excluded from such an amnesty. This subject is submitted for your careful consideration.

The condition of the southern States is unhappily not such as all true patriotic citizens would like to see. Social ostracism for opinion's sake, personal violence, or threats towards persons entertaining political views opposed to those entertained by the majority of the old citizens, prevents immigration and the flow of much needed capital into the States lately in rebellion. It will be a happy condition of the country when the old citizens of these States will take an interest in public affairs, promulgate ideas honestly entertained, vote for men representing their views and tolerate the same freedom of expression and ballot in those entertaining different political convictions.

Under the provisions of the act of Congress approved February 21st, 1871, a territorial government was organized in the District of Columbia. Its results have thus far fully realized the expectations of its advocates. Under the direction of the territorial officers a system of improvement has been inaugurated by means of which Washington is rapidly becoming a city worthy of the nation's capitol. The citizens of the District have voluntarily taxed themselves to a large amount for the purpose of contributing to the adornment of the seat of government. I recommend liberal appropriations on the part of Congress, in order that the government may bear its just share of the expense of carrying out a judicious system of improvement.

By the great fire in Chicago, the most important of the government buildings in that city were consumed. Those burned had already become inadequate to the wants of the government in that growing city, and, looking to the near future, were totally inadequate. I recommend, therefore, that an appropriation be made immediately to purchase the remainder of the square on which the burned buildings stood, provided it can be purchased at a fair valuation, or provided that the Legislature of Illinois will pass a law authorizing its condemnation for government purposes; and also an appropriation of as much money as can properly be expended towards the erection of new buildings during this fiscal year.

The number of immigrants, ignorant of our laws, habits, &c., coming into our country annually has become so great, and the impositions practiced upon them so numerous and flagrant, that I suggest congressional action for their protection. It seems to me a fair subject of legislation by Congress. I cannot now state as fully as I desire the nature of the complaints made by immigrants of the treatment they receive, but will endeavor to do so during the session of Congress, particularly if the subject should receive your attention.

It has been the aim of the administration to enforce honesty and efficiency in all public officers. Every public servant who has violated the trust placed in him, has been proceeded against with all the rigor of the law. If bad men have secured places, it has been the fault of the system established by law and custom for making appointments, or the fault of those who recommend for government positions persons not sufficiently well known to them personally, or who give letters endorsing the characters of office-seekers, without a proper sense of the grave responsibility which such a course devolves upon them. A civil service reform, which can correct this abuse, is much desired. In mercantile pursuits the business man who gives a letter of recommendation to a friend to enable him to obtain credit from a stranger, is regarded as morally responsible for the integrity of his friend and his ability to meet his obligations. A reformatory law which would enforce this principle against all endorsers of persons for public place would insure great caution in making recommendations. A salutary lesson has been taught the careless and the dishonest public servant in the great number of prosecutions and convictions of the last two years.

It is gratifying to notice the favorable change which is taking place throughout the country in bringing to punishment those who have proven recreant to the trusts confided to them, and in elevating to public office none but those who possess the confidence of the honest and the virtuous, who it will always be found comprise the majority of the community in which they live.

In my message to Congress one year ago, I urgently recommended a reform in the civil service of the country. In conformity with that recommendation, Congress, in the ninth section of "an act making appropriations for sundry civil expenses of the government, and for other purposes," approved March 3d, 1871, gave the necessary authority to the Executive to inaugurate a civil service reform, and placed upon him the responsibility of doing so. Under the authority of said act, I convened a board of gentlemen, eminently qualified for the work, to devise rules and regulations to effect the needed reform. Their labors are not yet complete, but it is believed that they will succeed in devising a plan which can be adopted to the great relief of the Executive, the heads of departments and members of Congress, and which will redound to the true interest of the public service. At all events the experiment shall have a fair trial.

I have thus hastily summed up the operations of the government during the last year, and made such suggestions as occur to me to be proper for your consideration. I submit them with a confidence that your combined action will be wise, statesmanlike, and in the best interest of the whole country.

U. S. GRANT.

Executive Mansion, December 4th, 1871.

WE have received information from an officer of the United States army, whose statements are entirely reliable, that in one of the counties of North Carolina—Samson—about one hundred arrests of Ku Klux have been made, and that many of the gang are coming in and making confession. Some of them, badly frightened, are confessing themselves *innocent*—that is, they belonged to the order, but did no harm, This is a pretty story. The officer is of opinion that if the troops had not reached the county referred to at the time they did, the United States Commissioner and a deputy marshal, who were there, would have been murdered.

The oath of the Ku Klux in this county, a copy of which the officer has sent us, is one of the most horrible of all these oaths. From confessions made it seems this oath was taken with one hand on the Bible and one on a human skull. In one of these Dens—and we presume they are all alike—there was a vial of blood, the skull of a colored man, and the skull of a white man.—That of the white man was one of Sherman's men, which was dug up, boiled, scraped, and prepared for this use.—*Washington Chronicle.*

Lieutenant-Governor Powers, of Mississippi, assumed the duties of Governor Friday last, on the departure of Ex-Governor. Alcorn for Washington.

One more! Mr. John Quincy Adams pronounces for the "passive policy." As Mr. Adams stands no chance, since the Massachusetts election, of a nomination in any event, it is a matter of very little consequence to him whether the policy be passive or otherwise.

The Memphis Avalanche thinks that General Frank Blair has not been very useful to the Democratic party; that "he undoubtedly regards it his mission to break up that party," and that if such blunderers as he are to control its action "the masses will hail any break up as for the better."

We agree with *The Charlotte Democrat* that a Deputy U. S. Marshal has no more right to violate the law than a Ku Klux. And with *The Democrat* we favor the punishment of all law-breakers alike. If we made any distinction it would be to visit severer punishment upon the officials than the private citizen, who should be convicted of a violation of the laws.