

THE STATE RIGHTS DEMOCRAT.

VOL. II.

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STATE RIGHTS DEMOCRAT.

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BUSINESS CARDS.

I. LYONS,
JEWELER AND CLOCK AND WATCH REPAIRER. Shop in Grade's new brick State, Albany, Oregon. Oct 20 1867

CRANOR & HELM,
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELLORS AT LAW. 2nd Floor, Supreme Court Building up stairs. Albany, Oregon.

J. C. POWELL,
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR AT LAW AND SQUATTON INCARNARY. Albany, Oregon. Call on and convey message only attended to. Oct 20 1867

D. B. RICE, M. D.,
SURGEON, PHYSICIAN AND ACCOUCHER. Office in the various branches of the profession, on the streets of Albany and surrounding country. Office upstairs, in Finner's building. Albany, Oregon. Oct 20 1867

DR. HICKLIN,
PHYSICIAN SURGEON AND ACCOUCHER. Having opened in Brownsville Lane Albany, Oregon, would receive for advice the patients of the people of this vicinity. Oct 20 1867

WINTER & McHATTAN,
HOUSE SIGN, CARriage AND OXWHEEL PAINTERS, GRASSMANS AND GARDENERS. Also, Paper hanging and Calendering done with neatness and dispatch. Shop at the upper end of the street, in Cunningham's old stand. Albany, Oregon. Oct 20 1867

J. BARROWS & CO.,
GENERAL COMMISSION MERCHANTS. Dealers in Starch, Dry and Fancy Goods, Groceries, etc. Hardware, Cutlery, Crockery, Boots and Shoes, Albany, Oregon. Consignments solicited. Oct 20 1867

LAWRENCE & SEMPLE,
ATTORNEYS AND SOLICITORS. Portland, Oregon. Oct 20 1867

G. W. GRAY, D. D. S.,
SURGEON DENTIST, ALBANY, OGN. Performs all operations in the dental department in the most skillful and improved manner. Persons desiring artificial teeth will be glad to give him a call. Office upstairs at 2nd Street, Albany, Oregon. Oct 20 1867

I. O. O. F.,
ALBANY LODGE, NO. 4. The Regular Meetings of Albany Lodge, No. 4, I. O. O. F., are held at their Hall in New Cross Building, Albany, every WEDNESDAY EVENING, at 7 o'clock. Brethren in good standing are invited to attend. By order of the N. G. Oct 20 1867

NOTICE! MONEY TO LET.
PUSH TWENTIES left, to pay for good money. Highest cash price paid on delivery of good wheat at my warehouse, Albany, Oregon. R. CHADLER.

WANTED;
100,000 POUNDS OF WOOL. For which we will pay the highest market price. W. W. PARRISH & CO. Albany, January 27th, 1866.

SELLING OFF! SELLING OFF!
\$50,000 WORTH!
CHARLES BARRETT, Front Street, and No. 5 Washington Street, Portland.

The Largest, Most General, and Most Splendid Assortment of STATIONERY, BLANK BOOKS, LETTER PRESSES, & C., ON THE PACIFIC COAST, RICHLY BOUND.

Bibles, Prayer and Hymn Books. An Immense Assortment of SCHOOL BOOKS! Orders from the Interior. Filled with dispatch and care.

CHARLES BARRETT, Portland, November 14, 1865.

Notice to the Tax-Payers of Linn County.
HAVING COMPLETED THE CANVASS OF the precincts according to law, the books will all open at the Court House, in Albany, for 30 days from the date of this notice, where the same may be settled; after which, if not settled, your property will be sold to satisfy the amount assessed against you. HARRY SMITH, Tax Collector. Albany, Oregon, Nov. 28, 1866.—14w

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Fellow-Citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives:

After a brief interval the Congress of the United States resumes its annual legislative labors. An Alwise and merciful Providence has abated the pestilence which visited our shores leaving its calamitous traces upon some portions of our country. Peace, order, tranquillity and civility have been formally declared to exist throughout the United States. Civil authority has superseded the coercion of arms, and the people by their voluntary action are maintaining their government in full activity and complete operation. The enforcement of the laws is no longer obstructed in any place by combinations too powerful to be suppressed by the ordinary course of judicial proceedings. The animosities engendered by the war are rapidly yielding to the beneficent influences of our free institutions, and to their kindly efforts of unrestricted social and commercial intercourse. An exciting restoration of fraternal feeling must be the earnest wish of every patriotic heart, and we will have accomplished our grandest National achievement, when, forgetting the sad events of the past, and remembering only their instructive lessons, we resume our onward career as a free, prosperous and united people.

In my message of the 4th of December, 1865, Congress was informed of the measures which had been instituted by the Executive with a view to the gradual but sure restoration of the States in which the late insurrection occurred, to their former relations with the General Government. Provisional Governors had been appointed, conventions called, governors elected, legislatures assembled, and Senators and Representatives chosen to the Congress of the United States; and courts had been opened for the enforcement of laws long in abeyance. The blockade had been removed, custom houses re-established, and the internal revenue laws put in force in order that the people might contribute to the national income. Postal operations had been renewed, and efforts were being made to restore them to their former condition and efficiency. The States themselves had been asked to take part in the high function of amending the Constitution, and of thus sanctifying the extinction of American slavery as one of the legitimate results of our struggle.

Having progressed thus far the Executive had found that it had accomplished nearly all that was within the scope of its Constitutional authority. One thing, however, yet remained to be done before the work of restoration could be completed and that was the admission to Congress of loyal Senators and Representatives from the States whose people had rebelled against the lawful authority of the General Government. This question devolved upon the respective Houses, which, by the election returns and qualifications of their own members, and its consideration at once engaged the attention of Congress. In the meantime the Executive plan, having been proposed by Congress, continued its efforts to perfect, as far as was practicable, the restoration of the proper relations between the citizens of the respective States, the States, and the Federal Government, extending from time to time what the public interests seemed to require to the judicial, revenue and postal systems of the country. With the advice and consent of the Senate the necessary officers were appointed, and appropriations were made by Congress for the payment of their salaries.

The proposition to amend the Federal Constitution so as to provide for the extinction of slavery within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction, was ratified by a sufficient number of States, and on the 18th day of November, 1865, it was officially declared to have become valid, and a part of the Constitution of the United States. All of the States in which the insurrection had existed promptly amended their constitutions so as to make them conform to the great change thus effected in the organic law of the land. They declared null and void all ordinances or laws of the States which had been enacted in violation of the provisions of the Federal Constitution, and they agreed to the ratification of the amendments to the Federal Constitution, and they agreed to the ratification of the amendments to the Federal Constitution, and they agreed to the ratification of the amendments to the Federal Constitution.

Congress, however, yet refused to admit any of these States to representation, and it was not until toward the close of eight months of the session that an exception was made in favor of Tennessee, by the admission of her Senators and Representatives. I deem it a subject of profound regret that Congress has thus far failed to admit to seats loyal Senators and Representatives from the other States whose inhabitants, with those of Tennessee, had engaged in the rebellion. Ten States—more than one-fourth of the whole number—remained without representation. The seats of fifty members in the House of Representatives and of twenty members in the Senate are yet vacant—not by their own consent; not by a faction of electors; but by the refusal of Congress to accept their credentials. Their admission, it is believed, would have accomplished much toward the renewal and strengthening of our relation as one people, and removed a serious cause for discontent on the part of the inhabitants of those States; it would have accorded with the great principles enunciated in the Declaration of American Independence, that no people ought to bear the burden of taxation, and yet be denied the right of representation. It would have been in consonance with the express provisions of the Constitution, that each State shall have at least one Representative, and that no State, without its consent, shall be deprived of its equal suffrage in the Senate. These provisions were intended to secure to every State

and to the people of every State, the right of representation in each House of Congress, and so important was it deemed by the framers of the Constitution, that the equality of the States should be preserved, that not even by an amendment of the Constitution can any State, without its consent, be denied a voice in that branch of the National Legislature. It is true, it has been assumed that the existence of the States as such, terminated by rebellion and the acts of their inhabitants, and that the insurrection having been suppressed, they were thereafter to be considered merely as conquered territory. The Legislative, Executive and Judicial departments of the Government have, however, with great distinctness, refused to sanction an assumption so incompatible with the nature of our Republican system and the professed object of the war.

Throughout the recent session of Congress the undeniable fact makes itself apparent that the ten political communities are nothing less than States of this Union. At the very commencement of the rebellion, each House declared, with a unanimity as remarkable as it was significant, that the war was not waged upon our side in a partisan spirit of oppression, nor for any purpose of conquest or subjugation, nor for the purpose of overthrowing or interfering with the rights or established institutions of these States, but to defend and maintain the supremacy of the Constitution and all laws made in pursuance thereof, and to preserve the Union with all the dignity, equality and rights of the several States unimpaired; and that as soon as these objects were accomplished the war ought to cease. In some instances Senators were permitted to continue their legislative functions, while in other instances Representatives were elected and admitted to seats after their States had formally declared their right to withdraw from the Union, and were endeavoring to maintain that right by force of arms.

All of the States whose people were in insurrection as States, were included in the apportionment of a direct tax of twenty millions of dollars annually laid upon the United States by an act approved by the set of March 4th, 1862, and by the apportionment of representation thereunder, also recognized their presence as States in the Union, and they have for judicial purposes been divided into districts, as States alone can be divided. The same recognition appears in the recent legislation in relation to Tennessee, which evidently rests upon the fact that the functions of the State were not destroyed by the rebellion, but merely suspended, and that principle is of course applicable to those States which, like Tennessee, attempted to renounce their place in the Union.

The action of the Executive Department of the Government upon this subject has been equally definite and uniform, and the purpose of the war was stated in the proclamation issued by my predecessor on the 22d day of September, 1862. It was then solemnly declared and proclaimed that heretofore, as heretofore, the war will be prosecuted for the object of practically restoring the Constitutional relations between the United States and each of the States and the people thereof, in which States that relation is or may be suspended or disturbed.

The recognition of the States by the Judicial department of the Government has also been clear and conclusive in all its proceedings affecting them as States, and in the Supreme, Circuit and District Courts. In the admission of Senators and Representatives from any and all of the States, there can be no just grounds of objection that persons who are disqualified will be clothed with the powers of legislation; for this could not happen when the Constitution and the laws are controlled by a vigilant and faithful Congress. Each House is made the judge of the election returns and qualifications of its own members, and may, with the concurrence of two-thirds, expel a member. When a Senator or Representative presents his certificate of election, he may at once be admitted or rejected, or should there be any question as to his eligibility his credentials may be referred for investigation to the appropriate committee, and evidence satisfactory to the House of which he thus becomes a member, that he possesses the right Constitutional and legal qualifications. If refused admission as a member for want of due allegiance to the Government, and returned to his constituents, they are admonished that none but persons loyal to the United States will be allowed a voice in the legislative councils of the nation, and the political power and moral influence of Congress are thus effectively exerted in the interests of loyalty to the Government and fidelity to the Union.

Upon this question, so vitally affecting the restoration of the Union and the permanency of our present form of Government, my convictions heretofore expressed have undergone no change, but on the contrary their correctness has been confirmed by reflection and time. If the admission of loyal members to seats in the respective Houses of Congress was wise and expedient a year ago, it is no less wise and expedient now. If this anomalous condition is right now, and if, in the exact condition of these States at the present time it is lawful to exclude them from representation, I do not see that the question will be changed by the efflux of time ten years hence.

If these States remain as they are, the right of representation will be no weaker. The Constitution of the United States makes it the duty of the President to recommend to the consideration of Congress such measures as he shall judge necessary or expedient. I know of no measure more imperatively demanded by every consideration of National interest, sound policy and equal justice, than the admission of loyal members from the now

unrepresented States. This would commend the work of restoration and exert a most salutary influence in the re-establishment of peace, harmony and fraternal feeling. It would tend greatly to restore the confidence of the American people in the vigor of their institutions. It would bind us more closely together as a nation, and enable us to show to the world the inherent and recuperative power of a government founded upon the will of the people, and established upon the principles of liberty, justice and intelligence. It would increase our strength and enhance our prosperity; it would irrefragably demonstrate the fallacy of the arguments against free institutions drawn from our recent National disorders by the enemies of republican governments. The admission of loyal members from the States now excluded from Congress, allaying doubt and apprehension, would turn capital now awaiting an opportunity for investment into the channels of trade and industry, and would stimulate the present troubled condition of these States, and by inducing emigration aid in the settlement of fertile regions now uncultivated, and lead to an increased production of those staples which have added so greatly to the wealth of the nation and commerce of the world. New fields of enterprise would be opened to our progressive people, and soon the devastations of war would be repaired, and all traces of our domestic differences effaced from the minds of our countrymen in our efforts to preserve the unity of the government which constitutes us one people, by restoring the States to the condition which they held prior to the rebellion. We should be cautious lest, having rescued our nation from the perils of disintegration, we turn to consolidate, and, in the end, finally absolute despotism as a reward for the recurrence of similar troubles. The war having terminated, and with it all occasion for the exercise of power of doubtful constitutionality, we should hasten to bring legislation within the boundaries prescribed by the Constitution, and return to the ancient landmarks established by our fathers, for the guidance of succeeding generations. The Constitution, which at any time exists unaltered by an explicit and authentic act of the whole people, is sacredly obligatory upon all.

If in the opinion of the people the distribution or the modification of the constitutional powers be in any particular wrong, let it be corrected by an amendment in the way in which the Constitution designates, but let there be no change by usurpation. Washington spoke those words to his countrymen, when, followed by their love and gratitude, he voluntarily retired from the care of public life: "Keep all things within the pale of our Constitutional powers, and cherish the general union as the only rock of safety." It was proclaimed by Jefferson as a rule of action to his countrymen. He enjoined them to study the true principles of their Constitution, and promote a union of sentiments and action equally auspicious to their happiness and safety. Jackson held that the action of the general government should always be strictly confined to the sphere of its appropriate duties, and justly and forcibly urged that our government is not to be maintained nor our Union preserved by the invasion of the rights and powers of the several States.

In thus attempting to make our General Government strong, we make it weak. It is true, strength consists in leaving individuals and States as much as possible to themselves in making itself felt, not in its protection; not in binding the States more closely to the center, but leaving each to move unobstructed in its proper constitutional orbit. Wise are teachings of men whose deeds and services have made them illustrious and long since withdrawn from the scenes of life; they have left to their country the rich legacy of their example, their wisdom and their patriotism. Receiving inspirations from their lessons, let us emulate them in love of country and respect for the Constitution and the laws.

THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT.
The report of the Secretary of the Treasury affords much information respecting the revenue and commerce of the country. His views upon the currency and with reference to a proper adjustment of our revenue system, internal as well as external, are commended to the careful consideration of Congress. In my last Annual Message, I expressed my general views upon these subjects. I need now only call attention to the necessity of carrying into every department of the Government a system of rigid accountability—retrenchment and wise economy with no exceptional or unusual expenditures. The oppressive burdens of taxation can be lessened by such a modification of our revenue tax as will be consistent with the public faith and the legitimate and necessary wants of the Government. The report presents a much more satisfactory condition of our finances, than one year ago the most sanguine could have anticipated.

During the fiscal year ending the 30th of June, 1865, the last year of the war, the public debt was increased \$941,902,537, and on the 31st of October, 1865, it amounted to \$2,740,854,750. On the 31st day of October, 1866, it had been reduced to \$2,551,310,000. The diminution during a period of 14 months commencing September 13th, 1865, and ending October 31st 1866 having been \$206,379,655. In the last annual report on this state of the finances, it was estimated that during the three-quarters of the fiscal year ending the 30th of June last, the debt would be increased \$112,194,947. During that period, however, it was reduced \$31,195,886, the receipts of the year having been \$89,905,905, more, and the expenditures \$200,529,235 less than the estimate. Nothing could more clearly indicate than these statements the extent and availability of the national resources, and the rapidity and safety with which under our form of Government, great military and naval establishments can be

disbursed, and expenses reduced from a war to a peace footing. During the fiscal year ending the 30th of June, 1866, the receipts were \$558,032,620, and the expenditures \$220,750,940, leaving an available surplus of \$327,281,680. It is estimated that the receipts for the fiscal year ending the 30th of June, 1867, will be \$475,061,386, and that the expenditures will reach the sum of \$16,428,978, leaving in the Treasury a surplus of \$158,632,408. For the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1868, it is estimated that the receipts will amount to \$436,000,000, and the expenditures will be \$350,267,644, showing an excess of \$85,732,356 in favor of the government. These estimated receipts may be reduced by a reduction of excess of import duties, but after all necessary reductions have been made the revenue of the present and of the following years will doubtless be sufficient to cover legitimate charges on the Treasury, and leave a large annual surplus to be applied to the payment of the principal of the debt. There seems now to be no good reason why taxes may not be reduced, and the country advanced in population, wealth, and its debts be extinguished within the next quarter of a century.

WAR DEPARTMENT.
The report of the Secretary of War furnishes valuable and important information in reference to operations of this department during the past year. Few volunteers now remain in service, and they are being discharged as rapidly as they can be replaced by regular troops. The army has been promptly paid, carefully provided with medical treatment, well sheltered and subsisted, and is to be furnished with breach-loading small arms. The military strength of the nation has been unimpaired by the discharge of volunteers. The disposition of unserviceable or perishable stores, retrenchment of expenditures, sufficient war material to meet any emergency, has been retained. The lately disbanded volunteers stand ready to respond directly to the Presidential call. Large numbers can be rapidly organized, equipped and concentrated. Fortifications, coasts and frontiers have received or are being prepared for more powerful armaments. Lake surveys and harbor and river improvements are in course of energetic prosecution. Preparations have been made for the payment of the additional bounties authorized during the recent session of Congress, under such regulations as will protect the Government from fraud, and secure to the honorably discharged soldiers the well earned reward of his faithfulness and gallantry. More than six hundred manual soldiers received artificial limbs or other surgical apparatus, and forty-one national cemeteries containing the remains of 103,526 Union soldiers, have already been established. The total amount of military appropriations is \$25,205,000.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.
It is stated in the report of the Secretary of the Navy that the naval force at this time consists of 278 vessels, armed with 2,551 guns, of these 115 vessels are divided among seven squadrons. The number of men in the service is 13,690. Great activity and energy have been displayed by all squadrons, and their movements have been judicious and efficiently arranged in such a manner as would best promote American commerce abroad. The vessels unemployable are undergoing repairs, or are laid up until their services may be required. Most of the iron-clad fleet is at League Island, in the vicinity of Philadelphia, which until decisive action shall be taken by Congress, was selected by the Secretary of the Navy as the most eligible location for that class of vessels. It is intended that these vessels shall be in proper condition for any emergency, and it is desirable that the bill accepting League Island for naval purposes, which passed the House at its last session, should receive its final action at an early period, in order that there may be a suitable public station for this class of vessels, as well as a navy yard of an area sufficient for the wants of the service of the Delaware River. The naval pension fund amounts to \$1,750,000, having been increased \$2,750,000 during the present year. The expenditures of this Department for the fiscal year ending 30th of June last were \$43,324,526, and the estimates for the coming year amount to \$23,508,436. Attention is directed to the condition of our seamen, and the importance of legislative measures for their improvement and relief. The suggestions in behalf of this deserving class of our fellow citizens are earnestly recommended to the favorable attention of Congress.

POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT.
The report of the Post Master General presents a most satisfactory condition of the postal services, and submits recommendations which deserve the consideration of Congress. The receipts of the Department for the year ending June 30th, 1866, were \$14,886,988 and the expenditures \$15,333,079, showing an excess of the latter of \$456,093. In anticipation of this deficiency, however, a special appropriation was made by Congress in the act approved July 28th, 1866, including the standing appropriation of 700,000 for free mail matter as a legitimate portion of Revenue yet remaining unexpended. The actual deficiency for the past year is only \$265,093—a sum which in \$51,141 of the amount estimated in the Annual Report of 1866. The decrease of the Revenue compared with the previous year, was one and one-fifth per cent, and the increase of expenditures on the same, principally, to the enlargement of the small service in the South was 12 per cent. On the 30th of June last, there were in operation 6,390 mail routes, with an aggregate length of 180,921 miles, with an aggregate annual transportation of 7,183,794. The length of railroad routes is 22,092 miles, and the annual transportation 3,000,967 miles. The length of steamboat routes is 143,460 miles, and the annual transportation

3,411,932 miles. The mail service is rapidly increasing throughout the whole country, and its steady extension in the Southern States indicates their constantly improving condition. The great importance of the foreign service also merits attention. The Postoffice Department of Great Britain and our own country have agreed upon a preliminary basis for a postal convention which it is believed will prove eminently beneficial to the commercial interests of the United States, inasmuch as it contemplates a reduction of the international letter postage of one half the existing rates; a reduction of postage with all other countries to and from which correspondence is transmitted in the British mails, or in mails through the United Kingdom; the establishment of a uniform and reasonable charge for these, and territorial transit of correspondence enclosed, and an allowance to each Postoffice Department of the right to use all mail communication established under authority of the other for the dispatch of correspondence, either in open or closed mail, on the same terms as those applicable to the inhabitants of the country providing the means of transportation. The Report of the Secretary of the Interior exhibits the condition of these branches of the public service which are committed to his supervision.

PUBLIC LANDS.
During the last fiscal year 4,629,312 acres of the public lands were disposed of, 1,892,516 acres of which were entered under the homestead act. The policy originally adopted relative to the public lands has undergone essential modifications. Immediate revenue and not rapid settlement was the cardinal feature of our land system. Long experience and careful discussion have resulted in the conviction that the development of our agricultural resources, and the diffusion of an energetic population over our vast territory, are objects of far greater importance to the national growth and prosperity than the proceeds of the sale of the lands to the highest bidder in open market. The pre-emption laws confer upon the pioneer who complies with the terms they impose, the privilege of purchasing a limited portion of offered lands at the minimum price. The homestead enactment relieves the settler from the payment of the purchase money, and secures to him a permanent home upon condition of residence for a term of years. This liberal policy invites emigration from the old and from the more crowded portions of the new world. Its propitious results are undoubted, and will be more signally manifested when time shall have given to it a wiler development. Congress has made liberal grants of public lands to corporations, in aid of the construction of railroads and other internal improvements. Should this policy hereafter prevail, more stringent provisions will be required to secure a faithful application of the bonds. The title to the lands should not pass by patent or otherwise, but remain in the government, and subject to its control until some portion of the road has been actually built. Portions of them might, from time to time, be conveyed to the corporation, but never in a greater ratio to the whole quantity embraced in the grants than the completed parts bear to the entire length of the projected improvement. This restriction would not operate to the prejudice of any undertaking conceived in good faith and executed with reasonable energy. It is the settled practice to withdraw from the market the lands falling within the operations of such grants, and thus to exclude the inception of subsequent subversive rights. A breach of conditions for which Congress may deem it proper to impose upon such works a forfeiture of claim to the land so withdrawn un conveyed and of title to the lands conveyed, which remain unsold. Operations on the several lines of the Pacific Railroad have been prosecuted with unexampled vigor and success. Should no unforeseen cause of delay occur, it is confidently anticipated that this great thoroughfare will be completed before the expiration of the period designated by Congress. During the last fiscal year, the amount paid to pensioners, including the expense of disbursement, was \$12,459,976 and 50,177 names were added to the pension rolls. The entire number of pensioners on June 30, 1866, was 126,722. These acts furnish a melancholy and striking proof of the sacrifices made to vindicate the Constitutional authority of the Federal Government, and maintain inviolate the integrity of the Union. They impose upon us corresponding obligations. It is estimated that thirty-three million dollars will be required to meet the exigencies of this portion of the service during the next fiscal year.

INDIAN TREATIES.
Treaties have been concluded with the Indians who were entered into armed opposition to our Government at the outbreak of the rebellion, and have conditionally submitted to our authority and manifested a desire for the renewal of friendly relations.

PATENTS.
During the year ending Sept. 30th, 1866, 8,756 patents for useful inventions and designs were issued. At that date the balance in the Treasury to the credit of the patent fund, was \$228,297. As a subject upon which depends an immense amount of the productive commerce of the country, I recommend to Congress such legislation as may be necessary for the preservation of the Mississippi river. It is a matter of national importance, that every step should be taken—not only to add to the efficiency of those barriers against destructive inundations—but for the removal of all obstructions to the free and safe navigation of that great channel of trade and commerce.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.
The District of Columbia, under existing laws, is not entitled to that representation in the National Councils, which, from our earliest history has been uniformly accorded to each other and to each territory established from time to time within our limits. It maintains a peculiar relation to Congress, to whom the Constitution has granted the power of exercising exclusive legislation over the seat of Government. Our fellow-citizens residing in the District, whose interests are thus confined to the real guardianship of Congress, exceed in number the population of several of our territories, and no just reason is conceived why a delegate of their choice should not be admitted to take a seat in the House. No mode seems so appropriate and effectual of enabling them to make known their peculiar condition and wants, and of securing the local legislation adapted to them. I therefore recommend the passage of such a law as will allow the electors of the District of Columbia to choose a delegate, to be allowed the same rights and privileges as a delegate representing a territory. The increasing enterprise and rapid progress of improvements in the District of Columbia are highly gratifying, and I trust that the efforts of the municipal authorities to promote the prosperity of the National Metropolis will secure the encouragement and generous co-operation of Congress.

AGRICULTURE.
The report of the Commissioner of the Agricultural Bureau shows the operation of this department during the past year, and asks the aid of Congress in its efforts to encourage those States which were scourged by the war and are now earnestly engaged in the reorganization of domestic industry. It is a subject of congratulation that no further combinations against our domestic peace and safety, or our legitimate influence among the nations, have been formed or attempted, while sentiments of reconciliation, loyalty and patriotism have increased at home, and a more just consideration of our national character and rights has been manifested by foreign nations.

THE ATLANTIC CABLE.
The entire success of the Atlantic Telegraph Cable between the coast of Ireland and the Province of Newfoundland, is an achievement which has been justly greeted in both hemispheres as the opening of an era in the progress of civilization. There is reason to expect that equal success will attend, and even greater results follow the enterprise for connecting the continents through the Pacific Ocean, by the projected line of telegraph between Kamtschatka and the Russian Possessions in America.

FOREIGN CONVICTS.
The resolutions of Congress protesting against the pardon of foreign convicts of persons convicted of infamous offenses on condition of emigration to our country, has been communicated to the governments with which we maintain intercourse, and the practice so justly the subject of complaint on our part has not been renewed.

ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF THE KING OF RUSSIA.
The congratulations of Congress to the Emperor of Russia, upon his escape from an attempted assassination, have been presented to that humane and enlightened ruler, and were received by him with expressions of grateful appreciation.

OUR SPANISH-AMERICAN AFFAIRS.
The Executive has been warned of an attempt by certain Spanish American adventurers to induce emigration of freedmen to the United States to a foreign country. He protested against the project as one which, if consummated, would reduce them to bondage more oppressive than that from which they had just been released. Assurances have been received from the government of the States in which the plan was matured that the proceedings will not meet with its encouragement or approval. It is a question worthy of your consideration whether our laws upon this subject are adequate to the prevention or punishment of the crime thus meditated.

FRANCE AND MEXICO.
In the month of April, as Congress is aware, a friendly arrangement was made between the Emperor of France and the President of the United States; for the withdrawal from Mexico of the French expeditionary military forces. The withdrawal was to be effected in three detachments. The first, it was understood, would leave Mexico in November; the second in March, and the third and last in November, 1867. Immediately upon the completion of the evacuation, the French Government was to assume the same attitude of non-interference in regard to Mexico as is held by the Government of the United States. Repeated assurances have been given by the Emperor since that agreement, that he would complete the promised evacuation within the period mentioned, or sooner. It was reasonably expected that the proceedings thus contemplated would produce a crisis of great political interest in the Republic of Mexico.

The newly appointed Minister of the United States, Mr. Campbell, was therefore sent forward on the 9th day of November last to assume his proper functions as Minister. Plenipotentiary of the United States to that Republic. It was also thought expedient that he should be attended in the vicinity of Mexico by the Lt. General of the Army of the United States, with a view of obtaining such information as might be important to determine the course to be pursued by the United States, in re-establishing and maintaining necessary and proper intercourse with the Republic of Mexico. Deeply interested in the cause of liberty and humanity, in seemed an obvious duty on our part to exercise whatever influence we possessed for the restoration and permanent establishment in that country of a democratic and republican form of Government. Such was the condition of affairs in regard to Mexico, when on the 22d day of November official information was received from Paris that the Emperor

See next page.