Physical troubles of a like nature coming from different causes are often a puzzle to those who suffer pain as to ther treatment and cure-as in the case of lumbago from cold or a strain in some way to the same muscles. The treatment of such need not differ one with the other. Both are bad enough and should have prompt attention, as nothing disables so much as a lame back. The use of St. Jacobs Oil will settle the question. Its efficacy is so sure in either case there is no difference in the treatment

Kangaroo tails for soup have been sent to London from Australia. shipment of 2,500 weight was sold at the rate of \$3 a dozen tails. In Australia they are considered a great delicacy.

REPUTATIONS MADE IN A DAY

Are precious scarce. Time tries the worth of are precious scarce. Time tries the worth of a man or medicine. Hostetter's Stomach Bitters is a forty-live years' growth, and like those hardy lichens that garnish the crevices of Alaska's rocks, it flourishes perennially, and its reputation has as firm a base as the rocks themselves. No medicine is more highly regarded as a remedy for fever and ague, blifous remittent, constipation, liver and kidney disorders, nervousness and rheumatism.

The longest straight railroad line in America is on the Lake Shore railway, beginning at a point three miles west of Toledo, Ohio, and running 69 miles without a curve.

# \$200000

If you use too much of Schilling's Best baking powder it don't spoil the cake.

But why not make your money go as far as it will by using just enough of Schilling's Best baking powder-one-third less than of the brand you are used to?

A Schilling & Company San Francisco An old English "Manners Book" says: "A lady should dip only the tips of her fingers in the sauce bowl, and

mouth on the tablecloth." AN OPEN LETTER TO MOTHERS.

We are asserting in the courts our right to the exclusive use of the word "CASTOKIA," and "PITCHER'S CASTORIA," as our Trade Mark. I, Dr. Samuel Pitcher, of Hyannis, Massachusetts, was the originator of "PITCHER'S CASTORIA," the same that has borne and does now bear the fac-simile signature of CHAS. H. FLETCHER on every wrapper. This is the original "PITCHER'S CASTORIA" which has been used in the homes of the mothers of America for over thirty years. Look Carefully at the wrapper and see that it is the kind you have always bought, and has the signature of CHAS. H. FLETCHER on the wrapper. No one has authority from me to use my name except The Centaur Company of which Chas. H. Fletcher is President.

March 8, 1897. SAMUEL PITCHER, M.D.

A New Hartford, Conn., man one day set over 1,000 tobacco plants, and the next morning found that the cutworms had destroyed every plant but

one over night. HOME PRODUCTS AND PURE FOOD.

All Eastern Syrup, so-called, usually very light colored and of heavy body, is made from glucose. "Tea Garden Dring" is made from Sugar Cane and is strictly pure. It is for saie by first-class grocers, in cause only. Manufactured by the Pacific Coaste Syrup Co. All conditions.

The legislature of Uruguay has conferred citizenship and the sum of \$10,-000 on Dr. Sanarelli as a recognition of his discovery of the yellow fever

"King Solomon's Treasure," only Aphrodisiacal Tonic known. (See Dictionary.) \$5.00 a hox, 3 weeks' treatment. Mason Chemical Co., P. O. Box 747, Philadelphia, Pa.

An international congress has been arranged at Paris for the discussion of the means of preventing fires in theaters and other places of public resort.

We will forfeit \$1,000 if any of our published testimonials are proven to be no genuine. The Piso Co., Warren, Pa. Try Schilling's Best tea and baking powder.

Russia has the most rapidly increasing population of any country in the world. The growth during the last 100 years has been a fraction less than 1.

000,000 annually. A Dutchman of Weert has found a way of spinning thread from peat, which is woven into clothing. The fabrics thus made are comparatively

cheap and intended for ordinary use. Nine hundred and fifty telegraph sub-marine cables are now in opera- gold all its outstanding currency and coin tion, most of them in Europe; their

total length is over 89,000 miles.

And consider that in addressing Mrs. Pinkham you are confiding your private ills to a woman-a woman whose experience in treating woman's diseases is greater than that of any living physician, male or female.

You can talk freely to a woman when it is revolting to relate your private troubles to a man: besides, a man does not understand, simply because he is a man.

## MRS. PINKHAM'S STANDING

INVITATION. Women suffering from any form of female weakness are invited to promptly communicate with Mrs. Pinkham, at Lynn, Mass. All letters are received, opened, read, and answered by women only. A woman can freely talk of her private illness to a woman. Thus has been established the eternal confidence between Mrs. Pinkham and the women of America which has never been broken. Out of the vast volume of experience which she has to draw from, it is more than possible that she has gained the very knowledge that will help your case. She asks nothing in return except your good will, and her advice has relieved thousands. Surely any woman, rich or poor, is very feolish if she does not take advantage of this generous offer of assistance.

PAPISO'S CURE FOR Bast Cough Syrup. Tustes Good. Use CONSUMPTION

The Important Features of the Chief Executives' Address to Congress.

To the Senate and House of Representa tives: It gives me pleasure to extend greeting to the 55th congress assembled in regular session at the seat of government, with many of whose senators and representatives I have been associated in the legislative service. The meeting occurs under felicitous conditions, justifying sincere congratulation and calling for our grateful acknowledgment to a beneficent providence which has so signally blessed and prospered us as a nation, Peace and good will with all the nations

of the earth continue unbroken.

A matter of genuine satisfaction is the growing feeling of fraternal regard and unification of all sections of our country, the incompleteness of which has too iong delayed realization of the highest blessings of the Union. The spirit or patriotism universal and is ever increasing in fervor The public questions which now most en-gross us are lifted far above either partisanship, prejudice or former sectional differences. They affect every part of our common country alike and permit of no division on ancient lines. Questions of foreign policy, of revenue, the soundness of the currency, the inviolability of national obligations, the improvement of the public service, appeal to the individual con-science of every earnest citizen, to whatever party he belongs, or in whatever section of the country he may reside.

The extra session of this congress which

closed during July last, enacted important legislation, and, while its full effects have not been realized, what it has already acomplished assures us of its timeliness and wisdom. To test its permanent value further time will be required, and the people, satisfied with its operation and re-sults thus far, are in no mind to withhold from it a fair trial.

THE CURRENCY QUESTION.

Secessity of Putting Our Finance

Upon a Sound Basis. Tariff legislation having been settled by the extra session of congress, the question next pressing for consideration is that of the currency. The work of putting our finances upon a sound basis, difficult as it may seem, will appear when we recall the financial operation of the government should not let food fall out of her since 1866. On the 30th day of June of that year, we had outstanding demand liabilities in the sum of \$728,868,447 41. On the 1st day of July, 1879, these liabilities had been reduced to \$443,889,495 88. Of our interest-bearing obligations, the figures are even more striking. On July 1, 1866, the principal of the interest-bearing debt of the government was \$2,332,331,208. On the 1st day of July, 1893, this sum had been reduced to \$585,007,100, or an aggregate reduction of \$1,747,294,108. The interst-bearing debt of the United States on the 1st day of December, 1897, was \$817,-385,620. The government money now outstanding (December 1) consists of \$346,-681,016 of United States notes; \$107,793,280 of treasury notes issued by authority of the act of 1890; \$384,963,504 of silver certificates and \$61,280,761 of standard silver

With the great resources of the government and with the time-honored example of the past before us, we should not hesitate to enter upon a currency revision which will make our demand obligations less onerous to the government and re-lieve our financial laws from ambiguity

and doubt. The brief review of what was accomplished from the close of the war until 1893 makes unreasonable and groundless any distrust either of our financial ability or soundness; while the situation from 1893 to 1897 must admonish congress of the immediate necessity for so legislating as to make the return of the conditions then

prevailing impossible.

There are many plans proposed as a remedy for the evil. Before we can find the true remedy we must appreciate the real evil. It is not that our currency of every kind is not good, for every dollar of it is good; good because the govern-ment's pledge is out to keep it so, and that pledge will not be broken. How-ever, the guaranty of our purpose to keep the pledge will be best shown by advanc-

ing toward 'ts fulfillment. Evil of the Present System. The evil of the present system is found in the great cost to the government of maintaining the parity of our different forms of money; that is, keeping all of them at par with gold. We surely cannot be longer heedless of the burden this imposes upon the people, given under fairly prosperous conditions, while the past four years have demonstrated that it is not only an expensive charge upon the government, but a dangerous menace to the

It is manifest that we must devise some

national credit.

plan to protect the government against bond issues for repeated redemptions. We must either curtail the opportunity for speculation, made easy by the multiplied redemptions of our demand obligations, or ncrease the gold reserve for their redemption. We have \$900,000,000 of currency which the government, by solemn enactment, has undertaken to keep at par with gold. Nobody is obliged to redeem in gold but the government. The banks are not required to redeem in gold. The government is obliged to keep equal obligations, while its receipts are not required to be paid in gold. They are paid in every kind of money but gold, and the It is no unusual thing for a vessel plying bewteen Japan and London to carry 1,000,000 fans of all kinds as a single item of its cargo.

It is no unusual thing for a vessel plying bewteen Japan and London to carry 1,000,000 fans of all kinds as a single item of its cargo.

It is no unusual thing for a vessel only means by which the government can, with certainty, get gold is by borrowing. It can get it in no other way when it most carry the carry the control of the c faithfully done, and which, under the authority now given, it will continue to do. The law which requires the government, after having redeemed its notes, to pay them out again as current funds demands a constant replenishment of the gold reserve. This is especially so in times of business panic and when the revenues are insufficient to meet the expenses of the government. At such times the govern-

ment has no other way to supply its def-icit and maintain redemption but through the increase of its bonded debt, as during the administration of my predecessor, when \$262,315,400 of 4½ per cent bonds were issued and sold and the proceeds used to pay the expenses of the govern-ment in excess of the revenues and sustain the gold reserve. While it is true that the greater part of the proceeds of these bonds were used to supply deficient revenues, a considerable portion was required to maintain the gold reserve.

Replenishing the Gold Reserve. With our revenues equal to our expenses, there would be no deficit requiring the is-suance of bonds. But if the gold reserve falls below \$100,000,000, how will it be relenished except by selling more bonds? Is there any other way practicable under existing law? The serious question then is, Shail we continue the policy that has been pursued in the past—that is, when the gold reserve reaches the point of danger, issue more bonds and supply the needed gold-or shall we provide other means to prevent these recurring drains upon the gold reserve? If no further legislation is had and the policy of selling bonds is to be continued, then congress should give the secretary of the treasury authority to sell bonds at long or short periods, bearing a less rate of interest than is now authorized by law. I earnestly recommend, as soon as the receipts of the government are quite sufficient to pay all the expenses of the government, that when any of the United States notes are presented for re-demption ingoid and are redecemed ingoid, such notes shall be kept and only paid out in exchange for gold. This is an obvious duty. If the holder of the United States note prefers gold from the government, he should not rec ive back from the government a United States note without paying gold in exchange for it. The reason for this is made all the more apparent when the gov-

to provide gold for the redemption of United States notes-a noninterest-bearing debt. Surely it should not pay them out again except on demand and for gold. If they are put out in any other way they may return again to be followed by another bond issue to redeem them—another interest-bearing debt to redeem a non-interest-bearing debt.

In my view, it is of the utmost importance that the government should be relieved from the business of providing for all the gold required for exchange or export. This responsibility is alone borne by the government without any of the usual and necessary banking powers to help itself. The banks do not feel the strain of the gold redemption. The whole strain rests upon the government, and the size of the gold reserve in the treasury has come to be, with or with out reason, the signal of danger or of se curity. This ought to be stopped. If we are to have an era of prosperity in the country with sufficient receipts for

the expenses of the government, we may feel no immediate embarrassment from our present currency; but the danger still exists, and will be ever present, menacing us as long as the existing system con-tinues. And, besides, it is in times of adequate revenues and business tranquillity that the government should prepare for the worst. We cannot avoid, without serious consequences, the wise consideration and prompt solution of this

Plan of Secretary Gage. The secretary of the treasury has out-Hned a plan in great letall for the purpose of removing threatened recurrence of a depleted gold reserve and saving us from future embarrassment on that account. To this plan I invite your careful consideration. I concur with the secretary of the treasury in his recommendation tion that national banks be allowed to issue rotes to the face value of the bonds which they deposited for circula-tion, and that the tax on circulating notes, secured by the deposit of such bonds, be reduced to one-half of one per cent per annum. I also join him in recommending that authority be given for the establishment of national banks with a minimum capital of \$25,000. This will enable the smaller villages and agricultural regions of the country to be plied with currency to meet their de mands. I recommend that the issue of national bank notes be restricted to the denomination of \$10 and upwards. If the suggestions I have herein made shall have the approval of congress, then I would recommend that national banks be required to redeem their notes in gold.

Attitude of the Administration in

the Present Rebellion. The most important problem with which this country is now called upon to dea that pertaining to its foreign reld tions, concerns its duty toward Spain and the Cuban insurrection. Problems and conditions more or less in common with those now existing have confronted this government at various times in the past. The story of Cuba for many years has been one of unrest; growing discontent; an effort toward the larger enjoyment of liberty and self-control; of organized resistance to the mother country; or oppression and warfare and of incorporate estimates. sion and warfare and of ineffectual setent to be followed by renewed reenfranchisement of the continental pos sessions of Spain in the Western conti-nent has the condition of Cuba or the policy of Spain toward Cuba not caused

concern to the United States.

The prospect from time to time that the weakness of Spain's hold upon the island and the political vicissitudes and embarrassments of the home government might lead to the transfer of Cuba to a continental power called forth, between 1823 and 1860, various emphatic declara-tions of the United States to permit no disturbance of Cuba's connection with Spain unless in the direction of independence or acquisition by the United States through purchase, nor has there been any change of this declared policy since upor

the part of this government. The revolution which began in 1868 lasted for 10 years, despite the strenu efforts of the successive peninsular governments to suppress it. Then, as now, the government of the United States tes-tified its grave concern and offered its aid overtures made by General Grant were refused, and the war dragged on, entailing great loss of life and treasure, and Firm in the conviction of a wholly perincreased injury to American interests. neutrality upon this government. In 1878, peace was brought about by the truce of Zanjon, obtained by negotiations be-tween the Spanish commander, Martinez de Campos, and the insurgent leaders.

Civilized Code of War Disregarded. The present insurrection broke out in February, 1895. It is not my purpose, at this time, to recall its remarkable increase or to charactemize its tenacious resistance against the enormous forces massed against it by Spain. The revolt and the efforts to subdue it carried destruction to every quarter of the island, developing wide proportions and defying the efforts of Spain for its suppression. The civilized code of war has been disregarded, no less so by the Spaniards than by the Cubans. The existing conditions cannot but fill this government and the Ameri can people with the gravest apprehen-sion. There is no desire on the part of our people to profit by the misfortunes of Spain. We have only the desire to see the Cubans prosperous and contented enjoying that measure of self-control which is the inalienable right of man, protected in their right to reap the benefit of the exhaustless treasures of their

country. offer made by my predecessor, in April, 1896, tendering the friendly offices of this government, falled, and media tion on our part was not accepted. In brief, the answer read: There is no ef-fectual way to pacify Cuba, unless it begins with the actual submission of the rebels to the mother country. Then only can Spain act in the promised direction of her own motion and after her own

Concentration Is Extermination. The cruel policy of concentration was initiated February 16, 1896. The productive districts controlled by the Spanish armies were depopulated and the agricultural inhabitants were herded in and about the garrison towns, their lands laid waste and their dwellings destroyed. This policy the late cabinet of Spain justified as a necessary measure of war and as a means of cutting off supplies from the insurgents.
It has utterly failed as a war measure

It was not civilized warfare. It was extermination. Against this abuse of the rights of war I have felt constrained, on repeated oc-casions, to enter the firm and earnest protest of this government. There was much of public condemnation of the treatment of American citizens by alleged illegal arrests and long imprisonment awaiting trial of pending protracted judicial pro-cedures. I felt it my first duty to make instant demand for the release or speedy trial of all American citizens under ar-Before the change of the Spanish cabinet, in October, 22 prisoners, citizens

of the United States, had been given their freedom.
For the relief of our own citizens fering because of the conflict, the aid of congress was sought in a special mes-sage, and under the appropriation of April 4, 1897, effective aid has been given to American citizens in Cuba, and many of

them, at their own request, have been returned to the United States. Instructions to Minister Woodford. The instructions given to our new minister to Spain, before his departure for his post, directed him to impress upon that government the sincere wish of the United States to lend its aid toward ending the war in Cuba, by reaching a peaceful and lasting result, just and honorable alike to Spain and the Cuban people. These instructions recited the character and duration of the contest, the wide-spread losses it entails, the burdens and restraint it imposes upon us, with con-stant disturbance of national interests and the injury resulting from an indefinite continuance of this state of things. It was stated that at this juncture our government was constrained to seriously inoulre if the time was not ripe when Spain, of her own volition, moved by her own in-terests and every sentiment of humanity, terests and every sentiment of humanity, should put a stop to this destructive war and make proposals of settlement honorable to herself and just to her Cuban love to herself and seizure of vessels and contraband of war under the herself and seizure of vessels and cargoes and contraband of war under the herself and seizure of vessels and cargoes and contraband of war under the herself and seizure of vessels and cargoes and contraband of war under the herself and seizure of vessels and cargoes and contraband of war under the herself and seizure of vessels and cargoes and contraband of war under the herself and seizure of vessels and cargoes and contraband of war under the herself and seizure of vessels and cargoes and contraband of war under the herself and seizure of vessels and cargoes and contraband of war under the herself and seizure of vessels and cargoes and contraband of war under the herself and the herself a ernment issues an interest-bearing debt

colony. It was urged that, as a neighboring nation with large interests in Cuba, we could be required to wait only a reasonable time for the mother coun-try to establish its authority and restore peace and order within the borders of the island; that we could not contemplate an indefinite period for the accomplishment

of these results.

No solution was proposed to which the slightest idea of humiliation to Spain could attach. All that was asked or excould attach. could attach. All that was asked or ex-pected was that some safe way might be speedily provided and permanent peace restored. It so chanced that the consid-eration of this offer, addressed to the Scenick advised to Spanish administration, which had de-clined the tenders of my predecessor and which for more than two years had poured more treasure into Cuba in the fruitless effort to suppress the revolt, fell to oth-ers. Between the departure of General Woodford, the new envoy, and his arrival in Spain, the statesman who had shaped the policy of his country fell by the hand of an assassin, and although the cabinet of the late premier still held office and re-ceived from our envoy the proposals he bore, that cabinet gave place, within a few days thereafter, to a new administra-tion under the leadership of Sagasta. Spain's Friendly Reply.

reply to our note was received on the 23d day of October. It is in the direc-tion of a better understanding. It appre-ciates the friendly proposals of this gov-ernment. It admits that our country is eeply affected by the war in Cuba and that our desires for peace are just. It de-clares that the present Spanish govern-ment is bound by every consideration to a change of policy that should satisfy the United States and pacify Cuba within a reasonable time. To this end, Spain has decided to put into effect the political reforms heretofore advocated by the pres-ent premier, without halting for any consideration in the path which, in its judg-

ment, leads to peace.

The military operations, it is said, will continue, but will be humane and conducted with all regard for private rights, being accompanied by political action leading to the autonomy of Cuba, while guarding Spanish sovereignty. This, it is claimed, will result in investing Cuba with a distinct personality, the island to be governed by an executive and by a council or chamber, reserving to Spain the control of the foreign relations, the army and navy and the judicial adminis-

To accomplish this, the present government proposes to modify existing legis-lation by decree, leaving the Spanish cortes, with the aid of Cuban senators and deputies, to solve the economic prob-lems and properly distribute the existing

Give Spain a Chance.

In the absence of a declaration of the measures that this government proposes to take in carrying out its proffer of good offices, it suggests that Spain be left free to conduct military operations and grant political reforms, while the United States. for its part, shall enforce its neutral obli gations, and cut off the assistance which is asserted, the insurgents receive from this country. The supposition of an in-definite prolongation of the war is denied. It is asserted that the Western provinces are already well-nigh reclaimed; that the planting of cane and obacco therein has been resumed, and that by force of arms and new and ample reforms very early and complete pacification is hoped for.

The immediate amelioration of existing conditions under the new administration of Cuban affairs is predicted, and there-

withal the disturbance and all occasion for any change of attitude on the part of the United States.

Discussion of the question of international duties and responsibilities of the United States as Spain understands them, presented with an apparent disposition charge us with failure in this regard This charge is without any basis in fact, could not have been made if Spain had een cognizant of the constant effort this government has made, at the cost of millions and by the employment of the ad-ministrative machinery at the national command, to perform its full duty according to the law of nations. That it has successfully prevented the departure of a single military expedition or armed vessel uld seem to be a sufficient formed obligation, due response to this charge has been made in diplomatic is-sues. Throughout all these herrors and dangers to our own peace, this govern ment has never in any way abrogated its sovereign prerogative of reserving to itself the determination of its policy and course, according to its own high sense of right and in consonance with the dearest interests and convictions of our own people, should the prolongation of the strife so demand.

Of the untried measures there remain "Recognition of the insurgents as belligerents; recognition of the independence of Cuba; neutral intervention to end the war by imposing a rational compromise be-

tween the contestants, and intervention in favor of one or the other party."

Not a Question of Annexation.

I speak not of forcible annexation, for

that cannot be thought of. That, by our code of morality, would be criminal aggression. Recognition of the belligerency of the Cuban insurgents has often been canvassed as a possible if not inevitable step, both in regard to the previous 10 years' struggle and during the present war. I am not unmindful that the two houses of congress, in the spring of 1896. expressed the opinion, by concurrent resolution, that a condition of public war ex-isted requiring or justifying the recognition of a state of belligerency in Cuba, and during the extra session the senate voted a joint resolution of like import

which, however, was not brought to vote in the house. In the presence these significant expressions of the sentiment of the legislative branch, it behooves the executive soberly to consider the con-ditions under which so important a measure must needs rest for justification It is to be seriously considered whether the Cuban insurrection possesses, beyond dispute, the attributes of statehood which alone can demand the recognition of bel-ligerency in its favor. Possession short of the essential qualifications of sovereignty by the insurgents, and the conduct of the war by them according to the recognized code of war, are no less important factors toward the determination of the problem of belligerency than are the influences and consequences of the struggle upon the internal policy of the recogniz-ing nation. The utterances of President Grant in his memorable message of 1875 are signally relevant to the present situa-tion in Cuba, and it may be wholesome now to recall them. At that time a serious conflict had for seven years wasted the neighboring island. During all those years an utter disregard of the laws of civilized warfare and of the just demands of humanity, which called forth expres-sions of condemnation from the nations of Christendom, continued unabated, Desolation and ruin pervaded that pro ductive region, enormously affecting the ommerce of all commercial nations, but

other, by reason of proximity and larger trade and intercourse Not a Time for Recognition. Turning to the practical aspects of a recognition of belligerency and reviewing its inconveniences and possible danger, further pertinent considerations appear. In the code of nations, there is no such thing as a naked recognition of belligerency unaccompanied by the assumption of national neutrality. Such recognition without neutrality will not confer upon either party to a domestic conflict a status not therefore actually possessed, or affect the relation of either party to other states. The act of recognition usually takes the form of a solemn proclamation of neutrality which recites the de facto condition of belligerency as its motive. It announces a domestic law of neutrality in the declaring state. It assumes the international obligation of a neutral in the presence of a public state of war. It warns all citizens and others within the jurisdiction of the claimant that they violate those rigorous obligations at their own peril and cannot expect to be shield-ed from the consequence. The right of

ency. While according equal belligerent rights, defined by public law, to each party in our ports, disfavor would be impossible to both, which, while nominally equal, would weigh heavily in behalf of Spain herself. Possessing a navy and claiming the ports of Cuba, her maritime

rights could be asserted, not only for the military investment of the Island, but up to the margin of our own terri-torial waters, and a condition of things would exist for which the Cubans could not hope to create a parallel; while aid from within our domain would be even more impossible than now, with the additional bligation of international neutrality which we would perforce assum-Will Intervene When Necessary. Sure of the right, keeping free from all

offense ourselves, actuated only by up-right and patriotic considerations, moved neither by passion nor selfishness, the government will continue its watchful care over the rights and property of American citizens and will abate none of its efforts to bring about by peaceful agencies a peace which shall be h and enduring. If it shall hereafter be a duty imposed by our obligations to ourselves, to civilization and humanity to intervene with force, it shall be without fault on our part, and only because the necessity for such action will be so clear as to command the support and approval of the civilized world.

ANNEXATION OF HAWAIL

orges the Senate to Accomplish the Union. By a special message dated the 16th day

of June last, I laid before the senate of the United States a treaty, signed that day by the plenipotentiaries of the United States and of the republic of Hawaii, having for its purpose the incorporation of the Hawaiian islands as an integral part of the United States and under its sov ereignty. The senate having removed the injunction of secrecy, although the treaty is still pending before that body, subject may be properly referred to in this message, as the necessary action of congress is required to determine by legislation many details of the eventual union, should the fact of annexation be accomplished, as I believe it should be While consistently disavowing from a very early period any aggressive policy of absorption in regard to the Hawaiian group, a long series of discussion through three-quarters of a century has p claimed the vital interest of the Uni States in the independent life of islands and their intimate com pendency upon this country. At the same time it has been repeatedly asserted that in no event could the entity of Hawaiian statehood cease by the passage of the islands under the domination or influence of another power than the United States. Under these circumstances the logic of events required that annexation, before but declined, should, in the ness of time, come about as the natural result of strengthening the ties that bind as to those islands and be released by the free will of the Hawaiian state.

That treaty was unanimously ratified without amendment by the senate and president of the republic of Hawaii on the 10th of September last, and only awaits the favorable action of the American senate to effect the complete absorption of the islands into the domains of the United States. What the conditions of such a union shall be, the political relation thereof to the United States, the character of the local administration, the quality and degree of the elective franchise of the in-habitants, the extension of the federal laws to the territory or the enactment of special laws to fit the peculiar condition thereof, the regulation and needs of labor therein, the treaty has wisely relegated to

congress. If the treaty is confirmed, as every consideration of dignity and honor requires, the wisdom of congress will see to it that, avoiding abrupt assimilation of elements perhaps hardly yet fitted to share in the highest franchises of citizenship, and hav-ing due regard to the geographical conditions, the just provisions for self-rule in local matters with the largest political liberties as an integral part of our nation will be accorded to the Hawalians. No less is due to a people who after nearly five years of demonstrated capacity to fulfill the obligations of self-governing statehood, come of their free will to merge their destinies in our body politic.

CENTRAL AMERICAN STATES. Representation of Our Government in the Greater Republic.

As to the representative of this government to Nicaragua, Salvador and Costa Rica, I have concluded that Mr. William L. Merry, confirmed as minister of the United States to the states of Nicaragua, Salvador and Costa Rica, shall proceed to San Jose, Costa Rica, and there temporarily establish the headquarters of the United States to those three states. I took this action for what I regarded as the paramount interests of this country. It was developed, upon an investigation by the secretary of state, that the government of Nicaragua, while not unwilling to re-ceive Mr. Merry in his diplomatic capacity, was unable to do so on account of the Honduras, forming what is known as the Greater Republic of Central America, had surrendered, to the representative diet credit him to that body because the appro-priation law of congress did not permit. selves. Numerous towns have be a, has been directed to present his

letters of recall. Mr. Godfrey Hunter has likewise been mala and Honduras, the same as his predecessor. Guatemala is not a member of the Greater Republic of Central America, but Honduras is. Should this latter government decline to receive him, he has been instructed to report this fact to his government and await its further instruc-

route, feasibility and cost of construction of the Nicaragua canal, with a view of making complete plans for the entire work of construction of such canal," is now employed in the undertaking. In the future I shall take occasion to transmit to congress the report of this commission, making at the same time such further suggestions as may then seem advisable

THE BIMETALLIC COMMISSION. Failure of the Mission of the Special Silver Envoys.

Under the provisions of the act of congress approved March 3, 1897, for the promotion of an international agreement re-specting bimetalism, I appointed, on April 14, 1897, Hon. Edward O. Wolcott, of Colorado; Hon. Adlai E. Stevenson, of Illinois, and Hon. Charles J. Payne, of Massachusetts, as special envoys to represent the United States. They have been diligent in their effort to secure the concurrence and co-operation of Euro-pean countries in the international settlement of the question, but up to this time have not been able to secure an agreement contemplated by their missio The gratifying action of our great sister republic of France in joining this country in the attempt to bring about the agreement between the principal com-mercial nations of Europe, whereby a fixed and relative value between gold and silver shall be secured, furnishes assur-

larger nations of the world in realizing the international character of the prob-lem and in the desire of reaching some wise and practical solution of it. The British government has published a resume of the steps taken jointly by the French ambassador in London and the special envoys of the United States, with whom our ambassador in London actively lic service. It is a commanding duty to co-operated in the presentation of this keep the appropriations within the re-

consequence of a proclamation of belliger- as further negotiations between the representatives of this government and the governments of other countries are pend-ing and in contemplation. They believe that the doubts which have been raised in certain quarters respecting the possi-bility of maintaining the stability of the parity between the metals and kindred questions may yet be solved by further questions may yet be solved by further negotiations

Meanwhile, it gives me satisfaction to state that the special envoys have al-ready demonstrated their ability and fitness to deal with the subject, and it is to be earnestly hoped that their labors may result in an international agreement which will bring about recognition of both gold and silver as money upon such terms and with such safeguards as will secure the use of both metals upon a basis which shall work no injuries to

NEEDS OF ALASKA.

Existing Conditions Demand Change in the Laws.

The territory of Alaska requires the compt and early attention of congr-The conditions now existing demand a material change in the laws relating to the territory. The great influx of popula-tion during the past summer and fall and the prospect of a still larger immigration in the spring will not permit us to longer neglect the extension of civil au-thority within the territory or pos-pone the establishment of a more thorough government. A general system of publi surveys has not yet been extended to Alaska, and all entries thus far made in that district are upon special surveys. The act of congress extending to Alaska the mining laws of the United States con-tained the reservation that it should not be construed to put in force the general land laws of the country.

By an act approved March 3, 1891, au

thority was given for entry of lands for townsite purposes, and also for the pur-chase of not exceeding 160 acres then or thereafter occupied for purposes of trade and manufacture. The pur-pose of congress, as thus far expressed, has been that only such rights should apply to the territor as should be specifically named. It will be seen how much remains to be done for that vast, remote, and yet promising por

tion of our country.

Special authority was given to the president by the act approved July 24, 1897, to divide that territory into two land districts, and to designate the boundaries thereof, and to appoint registers and re-ceivers of said land offices, and the presi-dent was also authorized to appoint a surveyor-general for the entire district. Pursuant to this authority, a surveyor general and receiver have been appoint ed, with offices at Sitka. If in the ensuing year the conditions justify it, the additional land district authorized by law will be established with an office at son point in the Yukon valley. No appropria-tion, however, was made for this pur-pose, and that is now necessary to be

The Military Post.

I concur with the secretary of war in his suggestions as to the necessity, for a military force in the territory of Alaska for the protection of persons and property. Already a small force consisting of 25 men and two officers, under com-mand of Lieutenant-Colonel Randall, of the Eighth infantry, has been sent to St. Michaels to establish a milliary post As it is to the interest of the governmen to encourage the development of the coun try and its duty to follow up its citizen there with the benefits of legal machin-ery, I earnestly urge upon congress the establishment of a system of government of such flexibility as will entible it to adjust itself in the future to the needs attendant upon a greater population.

Relief for Starving Klondikers.

The startling though possibly exag-gerated reports from the Yukon river ountry of the probable shortage of food for the large number of people who are wintering there without the means of leaving the country, are confirmed in such measure as to justify bringing the matter to the attention of congress. Access to Access to that country this winter can be had only by the passes from Dyea and vicinity, which is a most difficult and perhaps impossible task. However, should these reports of the suffering of our fellow-citizens be further verified, every effort at any cost should be made to carry them relief.

INDIAN AFFAIRS.

New Regulations for Five Civilized Tribes Are Imperative. For a number of years it has been ap parent that the condition of the five civil ized tribes in the Indian territory under treaty provisions with the United States, with the right of self-government and the exclusion of all white persons from within their borders, have undergone so complete a change as to render the contin uance of the system thus inaugurated practically impossible. The total number of the five civilized tribes, as shown by the last census, is 45,484, and this number has not materially increased, while the compact concluded June 20, 1895, whereby that republic and those of Saivador and Honduras, forming what is known as the the Indian government, has settled in the Indian government. territory. The present area of the Indian surrendered to the representative diet territory is 25,564,546 acres, much of which thereof their right to receive and send is very fertile land. The United States citizens residing in the territory, most of ing to accept him because he was not accredited to that body. I could not accredit him to that body because the appro-Mr. Baker, the present minister at Man- in which from 1000 to 5000 white people now reside.

> THE CIVIL SERVICE. Which Will Be Made.

The important branch of our govern ment known as the civil service, the prac-tical improvement of which has long been a subject of earnest discussion, has of late years received increased legislative The Nicaragua Canal.

A subject of large importance to our country and increasing appreciation on the ods and personal merit. While the right part of the people is the completion of the great highway of trade between the Atlantic and Pacific known as the Nicaragua canal. Its value to American compared is universally admitted. The compared is universally admitted. The compared and at the same time rendered and at th last "to continue the surveys and examinations authorized by the act approved distinct advance has been made by giving March 2, 1885, in regard to the proper a hearing before dismissal upon all cases where incompetency is charged or mand is made for removal of offic als in any of the departments, This order has been made to give the ac-

cused his right to be heard without in any way impairing the power of removal, which should always be exercised in cases of inefficiency or incompetency, and which is one of the safeguards of the civil survice reform system, preventing stagnation and deadwood and keeping every employe keenly alive to the fact that security of tenure despress and on confirm curity of tenure depends not on favor. but on his own tested and carefully watched record of service. Much, of course, still remains to be accomplished before the system can be made reasonably perfect for our needs. There are places now in the classified service which ought to be exempted and others unclassified may properly be included. I shall not hesitate to exempt cases which I think have been improperly included in the classified service or include those which, in my judgment, will best promote the public ser-vice. The system has the approval of the people and it will be my endeavor to up-hold and extend it.

I am forced by the length of this megsage to omit many important references to affairs of the government with which congress will have to deal at the present session. They are fully discussed departmental reports, to all of which I invite your earnest attention,

The estimates of the expenses of the ance that we are not alone among the government by the several departments should have your careful scrutiny. While congress may find it an easy task to duce the expenses of the government, it should not encourage their increase These expenses will, in my judgment, ad-mit of a decrease in many branches of the government without injury to the pubsubject to her majesty's government. This will be laid before congress. Our special envoys have not made their final report.

Ceipts of the government and thus prevent a deficit. WILLIAM McKINLEY. Executive Mansion, Dec. 6, 1897.

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At a recent meeting of the Institution of Civil Engineers in London, the opinon was expressed that the coming material for ship-building is nickel steel, but that before it can be extensivley used, further deposits of nickel must be discovered.

The psaltery of Spain is supposed to have been introduced into that country by the Moors. It is still in common use among the peasants.

Among the numerous superstitions of the Cossacks there is none stronger than the belief that they will enter heaven in a better state if they are personally clean at the time they are killed.

The kanoon is the favorite instrument among the ladies in Turkey. Its shape resembles that of a parp laid flat. It has 72 strings, in sets of three, and is played with small plectrum.

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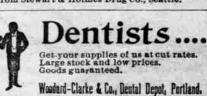
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