

It is not known that any seizure of fishing vessels carrying the flag of the United States has been made under this claim. So far as the claim is founded on the alleged construction of the convention of 1818, it cannot be acquired in by the United States. It is hoped that it will not be insisted on by Her Majesty's Government.

During the conference which preceded the negotiation of the convention of 1818, the British Commissioners proposed to exclude the fishermen of the United States from the privilege of carrying on trade with any of Her Majesty's subjects residing within the limits assigned for their use, and also that it should not be lawful for the vessels of the United States engaged in such fishery, to have on board any goods, wares, or merchandise, whatever, except such as may be necessary for the prosecution of their voyages to and from said fishing grounds, and any vessel of the United States, which shall contravene this regulation, may be seized, condemned and confiscated, with her cargo.

This proposition, which is identical with the construction put on the language of the Convention, was emphatically rejected by the American Commissioners, and thereupon was abandoned by the British Plenipotentiaries, and Article 1, as it stands in the Convention, was adopted. If, however, it be said that the claim is founded on provincial or colonial statutes, and not upon the Convention, this Government cannot but regard them as unfriendly, and a contravention of the spirit, if not the letter, of the treaty, for the faithful execution of which the Imperial Government is alone responsible.

FREE NAVIGATION ON THE ST. LAWRENCE.
Anticipating that an attempt may possibly be made by the Canadian authorities in the coming season to repeat their unneighborly act toward our fishermen, I recommend you to confer upon the Executive the power to suspend, by proclamation, the operation of the laws authorizing the transit of goods, wares, and merchandise, in bond, across the territory of the United States to Canada; and further, should such an extreme measure be necessary, to suspend the operation of any laws whereby the vessels of the Dominion of Canada are permitted to enter the waters of the United States.

A like unfriendly disposition has been manifested on the part of Canada in the maintenance of a claim of the right to exclude the citizens of the United States from the navigation of the St. Lawrence. This river constitutes a natural outlet to the ocean for eight millions of aggregate population, 17,600,000 inhabitants, and with an aggregate tonnage of 761,369 tons upon the waters which discharge into it. The foreign commerce of their ports on these waters is open to British competition, and the major part of it is done in British bottoms.

If American seamen be excluded from the natural avenue to the ocean, the monopoly of the direct commerce of the Lake ports with the Atlantic would be in foreign hands, their vessels on transatlantic voyages having an access to our lake ports, which would be denied to American vessels on similar voyages. To state such a proposition is to refute its justice. During the administration of John Quincy Adams, Mr. Clay unquestionably demonstrated the natural right of the citizens of the United States to the navigation of this river, claiming the act of the Congress of Vienna upon the Rhine and other rivers, and all nations to have the judgment of European jurists and statesmen, that the inhabitants of a country through which a navigable river passes, has a natural right to enjoy the navigation of that river to and into the sea, even though passing through the territory of another power.

The right does not exclude the equal right of the sovereign of passing the territory through which the river debauches into the sea to make such regulations, relative to the navigation, as may be reasonably necessary, but those regulations should be framed in a liberal spirit of comity, and should impose no needless burdens upon the commerce which has the right of transit. It has been found in practice more advantageous to arrange these regulations by mutual agreement. The United States are ready to make any reasonable arrangement as to the practice of the St. Lawrence, which may be suggested by Great Britain. If the claim made by Mr. Clay was just when the population of the States bordering on the shores of the river was only 3,000,000, how much greater notice and equity from the increased population, wealth, production and tonnage of the States on the Canadian frontier.

On the ground that she possessed a small domain, in which the Mississippi took its rise, she insisted on the right to navigate the entire volume of its water. On the ground that she possesses both banks of the St. Lawrence, where it disembogues itself into the sea, she denies the United States the right of navigation through about one-half the waters of Lakes Ontario, Erie, Huron, and Superior, and the whole of Lake Michigan, through which the river flows, though they are the property of the United States.

The whole nation is interested in securing cheap transportation from the Agricultural States of the West to the Atlantic seaboard. To the citizens of the States, it secures a greater return for the produce of the lands filled by them.

Since Mr. Clay advanced his argument in behalf of our right, the principle for which he contended has been frequently and by various nations recognized by law or by treaty, and has been extended to several other great rivers. By the treaty concluded at Mayence in 1832, the Rhine was declared free, from the point where it was first navigable, into the sea; by the convention between Spain and Portugal, concluded in 1817, the navigation of the Douro, throughout its whole extent, was made free for the subjects of both crowns; in 1853, the Argentine Confederation, by treaty, threw open the free navigation of the Parana and Uruguay to the merchant vessels of all nations; in 1856, the Vienna convention closed by a treaty, which provided for the free navigation of the Danube; in 1858, Bolivia, by treaty, declared it regarded the rivers Amazon and Laplatia, in accordance with fixed principles of international law, as highways or channels opened by Nature for the commerce of all nations; in 1859, the Paraguay was made free by treaty, and in December, 1868, the Emperor of Brazil, by imperial decree, declared the Amazon to be open, to all the frontier of Brazil, to the merchant ships of all nations.

The greatest living British authorities on this subject, while asserting the arbitrary right of the British claim, say it seems difficult to deny that Great Britain may ground her refusal upon strict law; but it is equally difficult to deny, first, that in so doing she exercises harshly an extreme and hard law; secondly, that her conduct with respect to the navigation of the St. Lawrence is in glaring and discreditable inconsistency with her conduct with respect to the navigation of the Mississippi on the ground that she possessed a small domain in which the Mississippi took its rise, she insisted on this right to navigate the entire volume of its waters; on the ground that she possesses both banks of the St. Lawrence, where it disembogues itself into the sea, she denies the United States the right of navigation, though about one-half the waters of Lakes

Ontario, Erie, Huron, and Superior, and the whole of Lake Michigan, through which the river flows, are the property of the United States.

The whole nation is interested in securing cheap transportation from the States of the West to the Atlantic. To the citizens of those States it secures a greater return for labor; to the inhabitants of the seaboard it offers cheaper food; to the nation an increase in the annual surplus of wealth.

It is hoped the Government of Great Britain will see the justice of abandoning the narrow and inconsistent claim to which her Canadian provinces have urged her adherence.

THE UNITED STATES MINT AND COINAGE.
Excluding redeposits, the amount of gold and silver deposited at the Mint and its several branches, during the last fiscal year, was \$30,408,788 10; the coinage for the year was \$24,636,011, and the value of gold and silver bars stamped was \$8,748,822 91.

I respectfully ask the attention of Congress to a bill prepared in this department and submitted at the last session, and to the accompanying report relative to the Mint and the coinage system of the country. The bill was prepared with care, and has since been revised.

CIVIL SERVICE REFORM.
Always favoring practical reforms, I would respectfully call your attention to an abuse of long standing, which I should like to see remedied by this Congress. It is a reform in the civil service of the country. I would have it go beyond the mere fixing of the tenure of offices of clerks and employes, who do not require the advice and consent of the Senate to make them complete. I would have it govern not the tenure, but the manner of making appointments. There is no duty which so much enhances the efficiency of the Executive Departments as that of appointments. There is no such arduous and thankless labor imposed on Senators and Representatives as that of finding places for their constituents.

The present system does not secure the best, and often not even fit men, for public places. The creation and partition of the civil service of the Government will be hailed with approval by the whole people of the United States.

THE NEW POLICY TOWARD THE INDIANS.

Reform in the management of the Indian affairs has received the special attention of the Administration from its inauguration to the present day. The experiment of making it a mission, as it were, and with a few Agencies given to the designation of Friends, and has been found to work most advantageously. All the Agencies and Superintendencies not so disposed of were given to officers of the army. The Act of Congress regarding the army regular army officers ineligible for civil positions; Indian Agencies being civil offices, I determined to give all the Agencies to such religious denominations as had heretofore established missionaries among the Indians, and perhaps to some other denominations who would undertake the work on the same plan as missionary work. The societies selected are allowed to name their own agents, subject to the approval of the Executive, and are expected to instruct and aid them as missionaries to Christianize and civilize the Indians, and train them in the arts of peace.

The Government watches over the official acts of these agents, and requires of them as strict an accountability as if they were appointed in any other manner. The confidence that the policy now pursued will, in a few years, bring all the Indians upon the reservations, and that they will live in houses, have schools and churches, will be pursuing peaceful and self-sustaining vocations, and where they may be visited by the law-abiding white man with the same impunity that he now visits the civilized white settlement. I call on the special attention to the report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs for full information on the subject.

THE PUBLIC LANDS.
During the last fiscal year, 8,065,413 acres of public lands were disposed of; of this quantity, 3,499,410 acres were taken under the Homestead Law, and 4,566,003 acres were sold for cash. The remainder was treated with military warrants, college or Indian scrip, or applied in satisfaction of grants to railroads, or for other public uses. The entries under the Homestead law, during the last year, covered 801,245 acres more than those during the preceding year. Surveys have been vigorously prosecuted to the full extent of the means applicable to the purpose. The quantity of land in market will amply supply the present demand.

The claim of the settlers under the homestead or pre-emption law is not, however, limited to lands subject to sale; at private entry unappropriated surveyed public land may be acquired under the former laws, if the party entitled to enter under them will comply with the requirements they prescribe in regard to the residence on the land. The actual settlers' preference of right of purchase is even broader and extends to lands which were unsurveyed at the time of his settlement; his right was formerly confined within much narrower limits and at one period of our history was conferred only by special statute. They were enacted from time to time to legalize what was then regarded as an authorized intrusion upon the public domain. The opinion that the public land should be regarded chiefly as a source of revenue is no longer maintained, for rapid settlement and successful cultivation of them is now justly considered of more importance to our well-being than is the fund which the sale of them would produce. The remarkable growth and prosperity of our new States and Territories attest the wisdom of the legislation which invites the tiller of the soil to procure a permanent home on terms within the reach of all.

The pioneer who incurs the dangers and privations of a frontier life, and thus aids in the foundations of new commonwealths, renders a signal service to his country and is entitled to its special favor and protection. The laws secure that object and largely promote the general welfare; they should therefore be cherished as a permanent feature of our land system. Good faith requires us to give full effect to the existing grants.

The time-honored and beneficent policy of setting apart certain sections of public land for educational purposes in the new States, should be continued, when public provision shall have been made for the objects.

I submit, as a question worthy of serious consideration whether the residue of our National domain should not be totally disposed of under the provisions of the homestead and pre-emption laws.

In addition to the swamp and overflowed lands granted to the States in which they are situated, the lands taken under the Agricultural College Acts, and for internal improvement purposes, under the Act of September 18th and the Acts supplemental thereto, there had been conveyed up to the close of the last fiscal year, by patent or other equivalent, evidence of title to State and corporations, 2,783,625,713 acres. It is estimated that an additional quantity of 174,735,225 acres is still due under grants for like uses.

The policy of thus aiding the States in building works of internal improvement was inaugurated more than forty years

since, in the grants to Indiana and Illinois to aid those States in opening canals to connect the waters of the Wabash with those of Lake Erie, and the waters of Illinois with those of Lake Michigan; it was followed, with some modification, in the grant to Illinois of alternate sections of public land within certain limits of the Illinois Central Railroad.

Fourteen States and sundry corporations have received similar subsidies in connection with railroads completed, or in progress of construction. As the reserve sections are rated at the double minimum, the sale of them at the enhanced price has thus, in many instances, indemnified the Treasury for the granted lands. The construction of some of these thoroughfares has undoubtedly given a vigorous impetus to the development of our resources, and the settlement of the more distant portions of the country.

It may, however, be understood that much of our legislation in this regard has been characterized by indiscriminate and profuse liberality. The United States has of late years expended in aid of any enterprise undertaken by States or corporations, not grant lands in any instance, unless the projected work is of acknowledged national importance. I am strongly inclined to the opinion that it is inexpedient and unnecessary to bestow subsidies of either kind, but should Congress determine otherwise, I earnestly recommend that the rights of settlers and of the public be more effectually secured and protected by appropriate legislation.

THE PATENT OFFICE.

During the year ending September 30, 1870, there were filed in the Patent Office 19,411 applications for patents, 3,374 caveats, and 149 applications for the extension of patents. The greater part, including issues and designs, were issued; 110 extended, and 1,089 allowed, but not issued by reason of the non-payment of the final fees. The receipts of the office during the fiscal year were \$136,504 79 in excess of its expenditures.

THE CENSUS.

The work of the Census Bureau has been energetically prosecuted. The preliminary volumes, containing much information of special value and interest, will be ready for delivery during the present session; the remaining volumes will be completed with all the despatch consistent with perfect accuracy in arranging and classifying the returns. We shall, on that distant day, be furnished with an authentic record of our condition and resources. It will, I doubt not, attest the growing prosperity of the country, although, during the decade which has just closed, it was so severely tried by the great pestilence which depopulated its territory, and to secure and perpetuate our free institutions.

PENSIONERS.
During the last fiscal year, the sum paid to pensioners, including the costs of discharge, was \$27,750,811 11, and 1,758 bounty land warrants were issued. At its close 198,683 names were on the pension rolls. The laborers of the Pension Office have been directed to the severe scrutiny of the evidence submitted in favor of new claims; to the discovery of fictitious claims, and to the more vigilant supervision of the propriety for the employment of special agents for the investigation of frauds, has been judiciously used, and the results of it have been of unquestionable benefit to the service.

AGRICULTURE AND EDUCATION.

The subjects of Education and Agriculture are of great interest to the success of our Republic institutions, and our happiness and grandeur as a nation. In the interests of one, a bureau has been established in the Interior Department—the Bureau of Education—and in the interest of the other a separate department, that of Agriculture, I believe great good is to flow from the operations of both these bureaus, if properly fostered. I cannot commend to your careful consideration too highly the reports of the Commissioners of Education and of Agriculture, nor urge too strongly liberal legislation as to secure their efficiency.

In conclusion, I would sum up the policy of the Administration to be a thorough enforcement of every law, a faithful collection of taxes provided for, economy in the disbursement of the same, a prompt payment of the National debt, a reduction of taxes as rapidly as the requirements of the country will admit, reduction of taxation and a tariff to be so arranged as to afford the greatest good to the greatest number, honest and fair dealings with all other people, and to every man, with all its consequences, may be avoided, but without surrendering any right or obligation due to us; a reform in the treatment of the Indians, and in the whole civil service of the country, and, finally, in securing a sure, untrammelled ballot, when every man shall be permitted to vote as often as he chooses, without fear of molestation or proscription on account of his political faith, nativity or color.

U. S. GRANT,
Executive Mansion, Washington, D. C.,
December 5th, 1870.

One Wife too Many.

[From the New York World.]

A curious case of marital entanglement has just come to light in Brooklyn. It appears that about four years ago Louis Patten entered into the bonds of matrimony at Baltimore, Md., with a lady of that place. The couple lived together until she died, but without surrendering any right or obligation due to us; a reform in the treatment of the Indians, and in the whole civil service of the country, and, finally, in securing a sure, untrammelled ballot, when every man shall be permitted to vote as often as he chooses, without fear of molestation or proscription on account of his political faith, nativity or color.

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Gunpowder and Guns in Olden Times.

[Chamber's Journal.]

Gunpowder was at first always placed in guns loose, by means of long ladles; and, in spite of the inconvenience and danger of the practice, it was 300 years before any attempt was made to place it in cartridges. These were at first only used when rapid firing was necessary, and their employment did not become general, owing to the danger in serving the guns with them. Being made of parchment, paper, canvas or linen, they were more or less combustible, and left burning fragments in the bore, which had to be carefully removed before a fresh charge was put in. The vents of the gun were frequently choked, and the pieces rendered unserviceable by fragments of the cartridge-bag being forced into them. It was not till 1778 that Sir Charles Douglas, then Captain of H. M. S. Duke, suggested serge as a proper material for cartridges; and when his proposals were not received with the attention they merited, he placed the whole ammunition of his ship in proper cartridges, at his own expense. The advantage of serge as a material for cartridges, the principle which its total consumption by the flame of the powder, are so great that its use soon became universal.

From instructions laid down for the service of the great guns of the fifteenth century, it appears that they must have been nearly as formidable as they are to us. The actual damage they inflicted on the enemy probably bore little relation to the moral effect they produced; while on the other hand, the charges of loose powder carried about in "spoons," and fired by means of red-hot spikes, heated in a charcoal fire with a pair of bellows, must have been a frequent cause of accident on the field. At first the heated spikes seem to have been actually thrust into the vents of the guns, until the safer expedient of laying a train of priming-powder was thought of. This, in its turn, was superseded by a piece of quick-match placed in the vents, and it was soon discovered that the action of the match was much increased by placing it in a small tube of paper. This led to the invention of the "stubs," by which all guns are fired at the present day.

Steamboats Versus Railroads.

A spirited contest took place in the Cincinnati Commercial Convention, last summer, on the third day of the session, upon the subject of erecting railroad bridges across navigable rivers. There were evidently two opposing interests in the convention, each fortified with reasons why their respective views should prevail. The steamboat men claimed their right, as an axiom of law, to the free navigation of American rivers, while the railroad men every where insisted on declaring their right of way across the rivers. A resolution was finally adopted denying the correctness of the position that navigable rivers may be obstructed under any circumstances. The effect of this policy, if carried out, will be to compel the erection of railroad bridges at every navigable river, and interfere with passing steamers, or furnishing each bridge with a draw, to be raised as occasion may require. This conflict between steamboat men and railroad men is of many years' standing. The bridge across the Ohio at Wheeling, and the one across the Mississippi at Rock Island, have cost big gains enough in law charges to have raised the obstructions complained of out of the reach of the tallest mast that carries our flag across the ocean. And if an understanding is not reached, as a rule established which will settle the question by means of this action of the convention, we shall consider it a result sufficiently satisfactory to compensate for the trouble of holding the convention. Heretofore but little has been accomplished by these assemblies, and I fear that the same may be usually recommended measures which the members are unwilling to urge by means of their local influences and at their pecuniary cost; but as no great results were expected there was little or no comment.

The Demi Monde.

Truly, New York is not to be outdone this winter. An enterprising Frenchman has started a "Grand Duchess" assembly saloon, where nightly crowds gather and do such exercises as only used to be done in the "Closier de L'aise" or the "Jardin de la Madeleine." But Paris has been translated, and grows the ranker for the change of soil and climate.

Never in this country have the demi monde appeared so splendidly equipped as now; most of them keep carriages or hire them by the month, and every hour of the day or night one hears or sees them. The ugliest creatures one can well imagine, terribly painted, costumed with the extravagance and magnificence of Eastern princes, roll by in their carriages—such temptations to the poor, pretty-faced, hard-working girls who come up to the city, and think the possession of these fine trappings worth all the world. There is no manner of doubt in any well-informed mind here in this city as to where all this rioting and revelry comes from. Were all the grasping, fleebing plebeian hands that now dip into the treasury to find their occupation gone, the \$1,000 robes of Madame Harris and Monsieur Stewart would lie longer on their lay figures. But not a prominent politician exists in this city whose *chevre* cannot be mentioned among the "Com Peasants" of New York, while some of them out-brigam old Brig. himself.

The Washington correspondent of the Chicago *Republican* tells the following story of an interview he had with Senator Sumner of Massachusetts. Grant, and the San Domingo treaty being alluded to, Sumner said:

"That was a good illustration of what he had been saying. Those young military men whom the President had gathered around him or in his actual Cabinet, by whose warrants I was invited to sign, had taken a notion that there was a good speculation in that quarter, and Grant had, honestly enough, been persuaded into their scheme. Why, a friend of mine who has been down there, says that the whole coast of the Bay of Samana is staked off into lots, and marked 'Cazno,' and 'Babeock,' and 'Baez,' and that one of the particularly large ones is marked 'Grant.'"

The tide of commerce, so long running against us, seems at length turning in our favor. During the eight months ending August 31, 1870, our imports exceeded our exports more than \$90,000,000, while during the eight months ending on the same date of this year, the excess of imports over exports is only \$9,750,564. Of the total imports during the last named period, \$314,383,344 consisted of merchandise, and \$17,994,000 of gold and silver; \$13,287,817 was free, and \$304,254,525 dutiable. Of the total domestic exports for the same period, \$250,301,326 was merchandise (gold value), and \$50,979,240 gold and silver coin and bullion.

A farmer near Landonville, Ohio, recently found a monstrous yellow rattlesnake, seven feet in length, twenty inches in circumference, and with thirty-seven rattles.

In consequence of the late flood and destruction in crops in Texas, corn has risen to a dollar a bushel on the Guadalupe.

"TWENTY YEARS AGO."

Five hundreded by the village, Tom,
Pre at school, the tree,
Upon the school-house playground,
That sheltered you and me;
But now are left to grow,
And few are left to know,
That played with us in green
Just twenty years ago!

The grass is just as green, dear Tom,
As when you were a boy;
Are sporting just as we were then,
With spirits just as gay;
But the master sleeps upon the hill,
Where once we used to slide, dear Tom,
Just twenty years ago!

My lids have long been dry, dear Tom,
But tears came to my eyes;
I thought of you I loved so well—
Those early broken ties—
I went again to the old church-yard
And took some flowers to strew
Upon the graves of those we loved,
Just twenty years ago!

And some are in the church-yard laid,
Some sleep beneath the sea,
Excepting you and me,
And when our time shall come, dear Tom,
And now are left to go,
I hope they'll lay where we played
Just twenty years ago!

Statistical.

It will cost the government nearly \$2,000,000 to take the census.

Forty wholesale stores of Indianapolis, Ind., sell \$6,000,000 worth of liquor annually.

There are 940 tobacco and snuff and 16,827 cigar manufacturers in the United States.

The Egyptians 2,000 years ago, could make fine linen cloth of a quality equal to any that is now worn.

Chicago invested about \$7,000 in tickets of the San Francisco Mercantile Lottery, and drew \$17,200 in prizes.

There has been 50,000 tons loss of wheat received at San Francisco this year than during last season up to the present time. Charge Vallejo and Oakland with the difference.

The Chicago and Alton Railroad Company are building, at the crossing of the Illinois river, by their Louisiana division, near Grand Pass landing, a truss iron bridge, 1,170 feet in length.

The total of the losses and damages to Strasburg during the siege is estimated to amount to \$7,575,000. Of the 3,598 houses in the city, 448 have been completely destroyed, and from 2,600 to 3,000 damaged.

Sidney B. Morris bought seven acres of water lots in Boston fifteen years ago for a mere nothing, and has just leased the property for \$25,000 a year. He cast his bread upon the waters, and it returned with interest.

There are probably 50,000,000 acres of sterile plains between the Mississippi river and the Rocky Mountains. Some of these are too barren to produce anything, while some could be made productive by irrigation.

As an evidence of the value of the new invention for consuming sparks and cinders on railroads, we are informed that on a recent trip of forty-five miles in Massachusetts, fourteen bushels of this stuff was accumulated.

The Salem *Mercury* asserts that "remarkable as it may appear, the Willamette Woolen Manufacturing Company ships large quantities of their produce to British Columbia, paying a duty to the Crown of fifteen per cent. *ad valorem*. Nothing but the absolute superiority of the goods of this manufacture would enable this company to compete with the "pauper labor of Europe," and pay fifteen per cent. for the privilege.

The Hide Dealer's Sign.

The proprietor of a tannery adjacent to a certain town in Virginia, concluded to build a stand, or sort of store, on one of the main streets, for the purpose of vending his leather, buying raw hides, and the like. After completing his building, he began to consider what sort of a sign it would be best to put up for the purpose of attracting attention to his new establishment; and for days and weeks he was sorely puzzled on this subject. Several devices were, one after another, adopted, and, on further consideration, rejected.

At last a happy idea struck him. He bored an auger hole through the door post, and stuck a calf's tail into it, with bushy end flaunting out. After a while, he noticed a grave looking personage standing near the door with his spectacles on, gazing intently on the sign. And there he continued to stand, dumbly absorbed, gazing and gazing, until the curiosity of the hide dealer was greatly excited in turn. He stepped out and addressed the individual: "Good morning," said he.

"Morning," said the other, without moving his eyes from the sign.

"Do you want to buy leather?" inquired the dealer.

"No."

"Do you want to sell hides?"

"No."

"Perhaps you are a farmer?"

"No."

"A merchant, may he be?"

"No."

"Are you a doctor?"

"No."

"What are you, then?"

"I am a philosopher. I have been standing here for an hour, trying to ascertain how that calf got through that auger hole!"

A full count of the vote on the proposed constitutional amendments in Michigan has not yet been made, but the returns so far received indicate the defeat of most of the articles. Notwithstanding the State gives an aggregate Radical majority in the Congressional vote of over twenty-five thousand, it is probable the article striking out the word "white" wherever "citizen" is referred to, is defeated by a small majority. This is accounted for by the fact that while nearly the whole Democratic vote was cast against it, the Radicals abstained from voting upon it.

There is a project on foot to establish a line of steamers between Philadelphia and Liverpool, England. The proposed company intend to start with \$700,000 in cash, of which the Pennsylvania Railroad Company will subscribe \$400,000, leaving \$300,000 for those who lay claim to the title of Philadelphia merchants. It is likewise intended to issue \$1,500,000 in bonds, free from taxation, having twenty-five years to run, and bearing interest at the rate of five per cent. per annum, payable in gold.

We notice that the Commissioner of Customs alleges in his annual report that the cost of collecting the customs has been increased, and that there will be a deficiency in the appropriation to that object. This statement is accompanied by the usual saving clause, that the cost of collecting the customs might be reduced from ten to twelve per cent. But, if so, why has not this been done before.

There is a ludicrous contrast between the belligerent attitude of Butler now, and the one which he occupied during the war, when he was safely bottled up at Bermuda Hundred.