

the time of plowing and seeding comes; in cold weather he argues that the manure is frozen, or, in the autumn, that it has not rotted sufficiently. Instead of such lame excuses he could, when it is frozen, chop it out in large pieces and haul it onto the ground, or, in the fall, get a scraper into the corners and bring it into a heap in the center of the yard, load it upon the wagon and convey it to the field, where it can be spread as wanted or piled up in a convenient place till spring.

Those are foresighted and forebanded farmers who have seen, or do see to it, that all the ground for use next spring has been or will be plowed in the fall. A little bookkeeping, too, is not a useless part of the autumn work. When it has been decided which portion of the farm shall be sown to wheat or oats, and which planted in potatoes and other vegetables, this might be noted in a book, so that when spring comes, not only the farmer but his hands can know exactly what is going to be planted and where it is going to be planted, and what place will be kept for pasture. If he reads the newspapers he will also have studied which will be the best-paying crop for his locality, and he will make it his business to raise something that his neighbor does not, and not glut his local market with one kind and only one kind of produce.

Then in this country, where we have to depend so much upon irrigation, the fall is the proper time to look after irrigating ditches and get them cleared of weeds that have choked them up and rocks that have obstructed the water's flow, fixing up also the head-gates that have gone to decay and that need a "little bracing up." It is quite a comfort to the busy farmer when the first irrigation is at hand to have all his ditches ready for the big streams that come early in the season.

Then as to seed: Whenever possible this, if it has to be ordered at all, should be ordered in the winter so as to have it on hand; for it is a fact that the seedmen send out their best seeds first, leaving till last the poorest and those they may have left over from the preceding year. They know that their reputation comes from thrifty, intelligent farmers and gardeners, and not from those who are careless, the sluggards who order late and plant about the time others are thinking of reaping. Those who have home-raised seed should now take time carefully to clean it and keep it in proper condition, duly labeled.

During fine spells in winter the machinery may be looked after; broken or worn-out bolts replaced with new ones; knives in the reapers and mowers sharpened; bits of fencing fixed up; trees trimmed; and a dozen and one things which must be done before the work can begin properly next season. The farmer's life is a truly independent one—he is no man's servant, but is lord of the soil. But in ruling his domain successfully, he must drive his work instead of allowing his work to drive him; he must plan to have as few hours as possible of enforced idleness; he must use brains as well as main strength, mind as well as matter; he must dispel the too popular notion that it is his privilege to hibernate all winter like a bear, and come out in the spring lean,

lank, cross and unprepared for the multitude of duties that the new season has in store.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

The message of the President to Congress is long enough to suit those who love a good solid hour of reading, and ponderous enough for those who dearly insist that in politics, press and people there is too much of a tendency to light-mindedness and frivolity. As for the rest of mankind outside of these two classes, there are few, we fancy, who will like all parts of the document, and perhaps still fewer who will like none of it. To Mr. Cleveland's own party it will doubtless give reasonable satisfaction throughout; and the more thoughtful of the opposing party will have to admit that to break its logic and force, something more will be needed than mere criticism of its literary style and of the aggressive self-importance of its author. On the whole it bears many evidences of soundness, sagacity, statesmanship and courage; weakened, however, by prolixity of detail, and by sundry flings at a policy with which the writer had no need to say he was not in accord. There are some things which even a President may safely leave to the intelligence of his less exalted fellow-citizens.

The opinion that the statistical and tedious details of departmental work could have been as well reserved for the departmental reports, emboldens one to the criticism that the message would have been better if it had been shorter. Western readers would have been more pleased, too, if there had been less about the navy, say—and a small paragraph urging a compliance with the plank of the party platform as to statehood for the territories. Whoever expected any signs of the administration's conversion to a friendship for silver, will have received such disappointment as he deserved: eastern influence is too potent yet a while to permit any such change. And yet the President talks on the subject logically, and with an earnestness that, mistaken though the silverites may deem it, is still worthy the name of patriotic conviction. In like manner, those who anticipated as a result of the late elections a relinquishment of his demand for radical tariff reforms, find themselves immensely mistaken; he is not that kind of a man. Without at all entering into the merits of a tariff for protection as opposed to a tariff only for revenue—a controversy that will last as long as governments endure—we shall probably not be misjudged for saying the President makes a strong argument, turns his periods skillfully, and presents his views of himself and party altogether felicitously and capably. This part of the message could not have been more forcibly and adroitly written by the keenest tariff reformer in the country.

There are parts of the message which this section of the Union will heartily approve. The News thinks the President's course with regard to Hawaii, in so far as it relates to the rebuke of those who officiously would interfere in the domestic affairs of any foreign government, is wise and proper. His

ridicule of the free seed distribution as at present practiced; his exhortation of the land-grabber and speculator; his recommendations as to the Indians; his determination that the pension list shall be a roll of honor, unstained by roguery and unencumbered by fraud; his views on the civil service; his suggestions as to public economy—all these are treated in an eminently vigorous, statesmanlike and patriotic manner, and can meet with no objection from fair-minded men anywhere.

Finally, there have been Presidential messages that created more of a sensation, and some that were more interesting. All, or nearly all, have been shorter, and few have not been marked with more of the graces of diction. But taken as a whole the present production will bear comparison with most of them for comprehensiveness and strength, and when it gets into the archives in the presence of its predecessors it will have no special reason to feel ashamed of itself in such illustrious company.

PATER HYACINTHE'S CHURCH.

Pater Hyacinthe's idea of forming a new religious society composed of both Catholics and Protestants, as mentioned in our despatches, is not exactly a new one. It is but an effort to build further on the foundation laid by the representatives of the Evangelical Alliance. But his methods are probably new, as the celebrated "heretic" generally displays a great deal of originality in his work. Over twenty years ago, Hyacinthe, then a Catholic monk, supposed to regard non-Catholic religions as heresies, declared that the Jewish, Catholic and Protestant religions are the three great religions of the civilized world, a declaration which kindled in the minds of his superiors a suspicion that a heretic was developing under the somber cloak of the member of the brotherhood. Judging from that expression it would seem that the reverend father in his advanced age is only endeavoring to carry out an idea that must have occurred to him already in his younger days, and the realization of which has, perhaps, been the great aim of his life.

Pater Hyacinthe has frequently appeared in public playing the role of connecting link between the two great divisions of the Christian world. When he denounced papacy he was careful to emphasize that it was only the abuses he aimed at. By leaving the monastery only after being formally released from his vows by the pope, he at once protested against a Catholic institution and acknowledged the authority of the Roman pontiff, an acknowledgment which did not prevent him from vigorously opposing the doctrine of infallibility, promulgated by Pius IX. When he visited the United States and England he freely associated with Protestants of various denominations, fraternizing with the ministers and speaking from their pulpits. That such a career should end with an attempt to form what may be termed an amalgamation church is not surprising. It would have been almost disappointing should nothing of a practical nature have been offered the world by a man who once attracted