

considered,

faithful in its service.

FOREIGN RELATIONS.

AUSTRALIA EXHIBITION.

Our relations with foreign coun-

the prac-levies for

the

deposit of contact has been very large. The excess of the precious mained until recently a dead letter in the Territory of Utah, because of the peculiar difficulties attending deemed, is about \$40,000,000. The resumption of specie payments has been followed by a very great re-been followed by a very great re-tor of the constitutional guar-tor followed by a very great re-vention of the constitutional guar-tor followed by a very great re-vention of the constitutional guar-tor followed by a very great re-vention of the constitutional guar-tor followed by a very great re-vention of the constitutional guar-tor followed by a very great re-vention of the constitutional guar-vention o been followed by a very great re-vival of business. With a currency equivalent in value to the money antee of religious freedom. This tions irrespective of partizan poli- giving the necessary authority to opinions, and to coerce the politi- and comply with all treaty stipula- by Samoa in the harbor of Pago the s

previous year. The channel through This government has not yet been formally recognized, and it is deem-ed desirable to await the proposed action of the people, which is ex-pected to give it the sanction of constitutional forms. SAMOA, Back of 20 feet and a central

we are enabled to enter upon an equal preme Court of the United States factures and agricultural products has caused a large balance of trade in our favor, the first of July jast to November 15, to the amount of about \$59,000,-

change for notes has been very

## NATIONAL DERT.

Since the resumption of specie payments there has been a marked and gratifying improvement of the public credit. The bonds of the above par, sufficient in amount to ship in the territories of the United pay off all of the national debt States may be withheld or withwhich was redeemable under the drawn from those who violate or present laws. The amount of interest saved annually by the process of refunding the debt since March

1st, 1877, is \$14,297,177. The bonds sold were largely in small sums, and The elections of the past year, though the number of our citizens now holding the public securities is amount of national debt which ma-\$792,121,700, of which \$500,000,000 bear interest at the rate of five per cent. It is believed that this part of the public debt can be refunded by the issue of four pet cent. bonds, and by the reduction of interest which will thus be effected, about \$11,000,000 can be annually saved to the Treasury. To secure this important reduction of interest to be paid by the [United States, further legislation is required, which It is heped will be provided by Congress during the present ses-

## THE COINAGE

sion.

Of gold by the mints of the United States during the last fiscal year was \$10,956,912. The coinage of citizenship, and that the power if silver dollars since the passage of public opinion will override all of the act for that purpose, up to November 1st, 1879, was \$15,000,850, al and state attachments, in the demand that all over our wide terof which \$12,700,341 have been issued from the freasury and are ritory the name and character of ;a now in circulation, and \$32,300,506 citizen of the United States shall are still in the possession of the mean one and the same thing and government. The pendency of carry with them unchallenged sethe proposition for the uniting of curity and respect. I earnestly appeal to the intelligence and pa-triotism of all good citizens of every of the world, leads me to recom-

all ver dollars upon the present legal rights, no serious object will thwart rates. The market value of the or delay the complete pacification silver being uniformly and largely of the country, or retard the generless than the market value of the al diffusion of prosperity. gold dollar, it is obviously impracticable to maintain them at par with each other if both are coined without limit. If the cheaper coin is forced into circulation, it will, if coined without limit, soon beco the sole standard of value, and thus lefeat the desired object, which is a currency of both gold and silver, which shall be of equivalent value, dollar for dollar, in the universally

recognized money of the world.

competition with other nations in has decided the law to be within trade and production. The increas- the legislative power of Congress. ing foreign demand for our manu- and binding, as a rule of action, for all who resided within the territories. There is no longer any reason for delay or hesitation in its enforcewhich has been paid in gold from ment. It should be firmly and effectively executed. If not sufficiently stringent in its provisions it should. be amended, and, in aid of the purpose in view, I recommend that more comprehensive and more searching methods for preventing, as well as punishing this crime be previded. If necessary to secure obedience to the law, government bearing only four per the enjoyment and the exercise of cent, interest have been sold at or the rights and privileges of citizen-

objection is now removed. The Su

oppose the enforcement of the law on this subject.

## POPULAR RIGHTS.

occupied only with state officers, has not failed to elicit, in the polimuch greater than ever before. The tical discussions which attended them all over the country, new and tures within less than two years is decisive evidence of the deep interest which the great body of citizens take in the progress of the country towards a more general and complete establishment, at whatever cost, of universal security and freedom in the exercise of the elective franchise. While many topics of political concern demand great attention from our people both in the sphere of national and state autho rity, I find ino reason to qualify the opinion I expressed in my last annual message that no temporary or administrative interests of the Government, however urgent the

will ever dispel weighty, people in de-primary rights zeal our the fense of demand that all over our wide ter-

tions of Europe to effect a perma-nent system for the equality of gold and silver in the recognized money on other political subjects, to unite in compelling obedience to existmend that Congress refrain from ing laws aimed at the protection of new legislation on the general sub- the right of suffrage. I respectfully ject. The great revival of trade, urge upon Congress to supply any internal and foreign, will supply, defects in these laws which experiduring the coming year, its own ence has shown, and which it is in instructions, which may well be its power to remedy. I again inawaited before attempting experi- voke the co-operation of the execuneutal measures with the coinage. tive and legislative authorities of I would, however, strongly urge the States in this great purpose. I upon Congress the importance of am fully convinced that if the authorizing the Secretary of the public mind can be set at rest on freasury to suspend the coinage of this paramount question of popular

REFORMING THE CIVIL SERVICE.

In a former message I invited the attention of Congress to the subject of reformation of the civil service of the appointing pow-pressed the intention of the civil service of the appointing pow-service of the government, and ex-pressed the intention of the civil service of the appointing pow-the atiman of the civil service of the government, and ex-pressed the intention of the civil service of the government, and ex-ting to Congress as early as practi-ting to Congress for the representation that during a considerable period that during a considerable period that government of the early and rapidly bring about that the distants and has obtained the approbation of our industries of the prevalence of quet the government of Great Britani the distants and has obtained the approbation of our industries at the Melbourne the congress for the prevalenc

whatever party is in power and service reform. Acting under this ent opinions. Reasons of justice whatsoever policy prevails. As a statute, which was interpreted as and public policy, quite analogous consequence it follows that their intended to secure a system of just to those which forbid the use of and effectual examinations under official power for the oppression tenure of office should not depend upon the prevalence of any policy uniform supervision, a number of of the private citizen, impose upon or the supremacy of any party, but eminently competent persons were the government the duty of proshould be determined by their selected for the parpose, who en-capacity to serve the people most tered with zeal upon the discharge arbitrary exactions. In whatever communication between the two usefully, quite irrespective of par-tizan interests. The same consid- intelligent appreciation of the reaspect tice of making tizan interests. The same consid-erations that should govern the tenure should also prevail in the appointment, discipline and re-moval of these subordinates. The who in this capacity as a board, discreditable to the country. authority of appointment and re-moval is not a perquisite which may be used to aid a friend or re-ward a partizan, but is a trust ito as any other citizen to give his own or his party, he should also be as be exercised in the public interest, for the expenses of carrying on the free as any other citizen to refuse to under all the sanctions whch at- work of the commission. It ap- make such gifts. If such salaries tend the obligation to apply the pears from the report of the com-public funds only for public pur- mission submitted to the President time and labor of the officers, it is poses. Every citizen has an equal in April, 1874, that examinations gross injustice to levy a tax upon right to the honor and profit of en-tering the public service of his of the country, and that an appro- in order that they may bear the gross injustice to levy a tax upon country. The only just ground of priation of about \$25,000 would be tax, the excess is an indirect robbery of the public funds. I recomiscrimination is the measure of required to meet the annual expencharacter and capacity he has to make that service most useful to the people. Except in cases where mission. The report was trans-the people. Except in cases where mend, therefore, such a revision every grade of official life or public

upon just and recognized principles, as upon the theory of pension offi-ces and promotions bestowed as re-wards for past services, their be-stowal upon any theory which disregards personal merit is an act of no doubt the rules can, after the njustice to the citizen as well as a experience gained, be so improved breach of that trust subject to which and enforced as to still more materithe appointing power is held. In the light of these principles it bevide just and adequate means, es-pecially for every department and arge administrative office where as they have hitherto been enforced have resulted beneficially, as is which appointments and removals dinates in the departments, and in should have reference. To fail to that opinion I concur;" and in the ieny the opportunity of ascertain-ng the fact upon which the most ighteous claim to office depends, but of necessity to discourage all worthy aspirants by by handing over the appointments and removals to mere influence and favorites. If it is the right of the worthiest claimant to gain the ap-pointment, and the interest of the cople to bestow it upon thim, it would seem clear that a wise and ust method of ascertaining personal fitness for office must needs be any extensive plan. I recommendan important and permanent func- ed in my annual message of Detion of every just and wise govern- cember, 1877, the making of an ap- of Washington. Efforts have been vent injurious consequences to the ment. It has long since become impossible in the great offices for propriation for the resumption of the work of the commission. In the those having the duty of nominameantime, however, competitive tion and appointment to personally examinations, under many embar-examine into the individual qualifications of more than a small pro- within limited spheres, in the exeportion of those seeking office, and outive departments in Washington with the enlargement of the civil and in a number of the custom service, that proportion must con- bouses and post offices of the printinue to become less. In the earlier cipal cities of the country, with a years of the government the sub. view to further test their effects, ordinate officers were so few in and in every instance they have and commerce. number that it was easy for those been found to be as salutary as they

making appointments and promo- are stated to have been under the tions to personally ascertain the wants of the candidates. Party managers and methods had not then become powerful agencies of would be greatly promoted by their

percion, hostile to the free and systematic introduction wherever at the two international exhibitions

WITH GREECE,

In consequence of the omission of

Congress to provide for a diploma-ROUMANIA AND SERVIA. tic representative, the legation to The subject of opening diploma-Greece has been withdrawn. There countries, and the expediency of providing for one in some form is

submitted to Congress. diplomatic correspondence. OTHER NATIONS.

Relations with Austria, Russia Italy, Portugal, Turkey and Bel-

gium continue amicable and marked by no incident of especial importance.

THE OBELISK.

A change of the personal head of the government of Egypt has taken place. No change, however, has occurred in the relations between Egypt and the United States. The system now adopted, have resulted in ebtaining much valuable infor-action of the Egyptain government in ebtaining much valuable infor-in presenting to the city of New mation, which has been and will in order that they may bear the York one of the ancient obelisks which possess such historical inand the public from time to time. terest, is highly appreciated as a generous mark of international re-

There is a gratifying

THE CONDITION OF ALASKA. employment the protection with gard. If prosperity should attend which a great and enlightened na- the enterprise of its transportation The third article of the treaty with Russia of March 30, 1867, by tion should guard those who are across the Atlantic, its erection in which Alaska /was ceded to the United States, provides that the inhabitants of the ceded territory, a conspicuous position in the chief commercial city of the nation will

be soon accomplished. CHINA AND JAPAN.

ries have continued peaceful. With The treaty recently made be Great Britain there are still unsetrights of citizens of the United ween Japan and the United States led questions growing out of the in regard to the revision of former local laws of the maritime protreaties, it is now believed will be their liberty, property and reli-ture of the year ended June 30,1879, followed by similar action on the gion. The uncivilized tribes are including specific appropriations vinces and the action of provincial iarge administrative office where personal discrimination on the part of its head is not practicable, for ascertaining those qualifications to which appointments and removals shown by the oplifions of the mem-bers of the cabinet and their subor which appointments and removals should have reference. To fail to provide such means is not only to deny the opportunity of ascertain-increts and appropriations for con-the fact uncon which the most authorities deemed to be in derogpressed, and appropriations for con-tinuing the work of the commission again advised. The appropriation-was not made, and as a conse-quence the active work of the commission was suspended, leaving the completion of the necessary preliminary examination, the subpressed, and appropriations for con- day of January, 1878. The subject any part of these funds is justly due ject of our participation in the returned to the nations to whom it provincial fisheries, as regulated by equitably belongs. The govern-treaty, will at once be brought to instant of Chins has signified its wil-treaty, will at once be brought to instant of Chins has signified its wil-treaty arisen from offenses of 30th, 1879. The estimates for the the commission itself still in exist-ence, without the means, there-fore, of causing qualifications to be tested in a systematic manner or of securing for the public service the advantages of competition upon whole question, which was only ate fairness, and to co-operate in other countries who have engaged temporarily adjusted by the treaty such measures as may tend to pre- in mining, fishing and other busitemporarily adjusted by the treaty of Washington. Efforts have been made to obtain the removal of re-strictions found injurious to the exportation of cattle to the United Kingdom. Some correspondence has also occurred with regard to the perky upon the lakes, which has resulted in important modifications of the previous regulations of the Dominion government on the sub-iset. in the lower of the peace. if they should mutually peace. if they should mutually deem it desirable and find it practiect, in the interest of humanity

cable to avail themselves of the proffer. STOPPING THE BORDER RAIDS.

In accordance with the joint re It is a gratification to be able to olution of the last session of Con gress, commissioners were appoint announce that through the judied to represent the United States cions and energetic action of the military commanders of the two na-

established there which will be maintaining the channel now at convenient and useful to the Unit- cured. The reports of the General ed States vessels. of the Army and his subordinates

present a full and detailed account of the military oper-ations for the repression of hostic relations with Ronmania and tilities among the Indians of the Servia, now become independent Ute and Apache tribes, and praise sovereignties, is at present under is justly awarded to the officers and consideration, and the subject of troops engaged, for the promptr skill and courage displayed. The past year has been one of almost unbroken peace and quiet on the

With nearly all the European and American countries, and it is believed with judici-ous action in regard to its double in the maintain order in the version, to ous action in regard to its developprove permanently successful. This ment it can and will be still more department was enabled, during enhanced, and that American pro-ducts and manufactures will find though crowded accommodations new and expanding markets. The and a safe depository for a pertion reports of diplomatic and consular of its records in the completed east officers upon this subject, under the wing of the building designed for continue to be laid before Congress the structure intended for the use of the War Department, is being carried forward with all possible dis-patch, and the work should receive from Congress such liberal appropriations as will secure its speedy completion.

The report of the Secretary of the Navy shows continued with the exception of the juncivi-lized native tribes, shall be admit- service during the last fiscal year. service during the last fiscal year. ted to the enjoyment of all the Extensive repairs have been m rights of citizens of the United upon vessels, and two new shipe States, and shall be maintained and have been completed and made protected in the free enjoyment of ready for sea. The total expendit reduction of \$283,725.99, that government over the Territory of amount having been drawn upon year; \$361,897.28. The reason for this increase is explained in the Nov. 1, 1879, was \$5,770,404.12, of which \$1,095,440.34 has been re-fanded, leaving as the expenditure for that period \$4,674,963.79. If the

expenditures of the remaining twothirds of the year do not exceed ed to the annual report of the Sec the proportion for these four menths there will remain unexthe retary of the Treasury on the condition of the public finances. The pended at the end of the year, \$477,359.30 of the current appropriordinary revenues from all sources for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1879, were \$273,827,184.46; ations. The report of the Secretary shows the gratifying fact that among all the disbursing officers of

THE PUBLIC FINANCES. The attention of Congress is call-

