

and wisdom of our political institu-tions. Eight years have passed since a con-troversy concerning the result of a na-tional election sharply called the atten-tion of Congress to the necessity of providing more precise and definite regulations for counting the electoral vote. It is of the gravest importance that this question be solved before conflicting claims to the Presidency shall again district the country, and I am persuaded that by the people at large any of the measures of relief thus far proposed would be preferred to continued inaction.

FORFIGN RFLATIONS.

Continued inaction. PHFION BFLATIONS. Dur relations with all foreign powers for an entry of the scope of present treaties has been so enlarged as to secure to purisdiction of the other, equal right the reaty has also been concluded. The war between Chili and Peru is at an end. For the ablitation of the cialms of American citizens, who daring its continuance suffered through the continuance suffered through the fines to be an embarrassing feature of our Eastern relations. The Chineso foreer mend also factored the constitute a part of the reaty has also been concluded. The war between Chili and Peru is at an end. For the ablitation of the cialms of American citizens, who daring its continuance suffered through the fines to be an embarrassing feature of our Eastern relations. The Chineso for erement has promptly adjusted and paid the claims of American citi-ters to seage that the Canton fund be re-turned to China, the true interpreta-tion of the recent freate with that country permitting the restriction of basin a subject of your deliberation. HIGHTS OF CHINAMEN. These the exclosed an embarrassing feature of the recent from the function of the state of the recommendation of my last annual message that the Canton fund be re-turned to China, the true interpreta-tion of the recent freated with that country permitting the restriction of the recent for called the claims of American citi-territory on the Pacific is for the rice and commercial advantages of the treaty is laid before you, the instituted the treaty is laid before you, the provide with the treaty is laid before you, the provide with the reaction of our representative at the treaty is laid before you, the provide with the treaty is laid before you, the provide with the reaction of our representative at the treaty is laid before you, the provide with the treaty is laid before you, the provide with the treaty is laid before you, the provide with the treaty is laid before you. the provide with the the sth

The death of our representative at Russia, while at his post at St. Peters-burg, affording to the Imperial govern-ment a renewed opportunity to testify its sympathy in a manner befitting the intimate friendliness which has ever marked the intercourse of the two countries SPAIN AND SIAM.

MEXICAN MATTERS.

MEXICAN MATTERS. During the past year the increas-ing good will between our gov-e meent and that of Mexico has been variously manifested. The treaty of commercial reciprocity oncluded January 20,1883, has been mained and awaits the necessar; tariff legislation of Congress to become end, be among the first measures to claim your attention. A full treaty of commerce, navigation, and consular inghts, is much to be desired, and such a treaty, I have reason to believe that the American government stands ready to conclude. Some embarassment has been occasioned by the failure of Con-gress at its hast session to provide mercy of the American boundary and the re-location of boundary momi-ments.

THE NAVY.

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NEW YORK.

HUCK FOR OVERALLS, BLUE, BROWN, OR IN THE SR INSA THE OFCIALLS, OSEC, and the analysis of the constraints of the co

RIGHTS OF CHINAMEN.

RIGHTS OF CHINAMEN. It may be seriously questioned whe-ther the statute passed at the last ses-sion does not violate the treaty rights of certain Chinese who left this coun-try with return certificates valid under the old law, and now seem to be de-barred from landing from lack of cer-tificates required by the new. The re-cent purchases by the Unit Al States of a large trading fleet, heretofore under the Chinese flag, has considerably en-hanced our commercial importance in ber of vessels built or purchased by American citizens in other countries and excinsively employed in legitimate the recognized protection of our flag, it might be well to provide a uniform mentation, that the bong fide poperty rights of our citizens therein shall be duly evidenced and properly guarded. THE CONGO COUNTEY.

THE CONGO COUNTRY.

ant to the advice of the Senate at Pursuant to the advice of the Senate at the last session. I have recognized the flag of the International Association of the Congo as that of a friendly govern-ment, avoiding in so doing any pre-judgment of conflict in territorial claims in that region: subsequently, in execution of the expressed wishes of the Congress, I appointed a commer-cial agent for the Congo basin. The importance of the rich prospective tory were subsequently tried and con

he Congress, I appointed a commer-ial agent for the Congo basin. The importance of the rich prospective rade of the Congo Valley has led to a reneral conviction that it should be open to all nations upon equal terms. An international conference, for the consideration of this subject, has been ialled by the Emperor of Germany, and is now in session at Berlin. Delegates ire now in attendance on behalf of the United States. Of the results of the confarence you will be duly informed. The government of Corea has gener-ously aided the efforts of the United states minister to secure suitable premises for the use of the delegation. The conditions of diplomatic inter-course with Eastern nations demand that the legation premises be owned by the represented power. I advise that an appropriation be made for the ac-quisition of this property by the gov-irnment. The United States already possesses valuable premises at Tan-gier, as a gift from the Sultan of Mo-rocco. As is stated hereafter, they have istely received a similar gift from the Siamese government. The govern-ment of Japan stands ready to present to our representative grounds at Toklo whereon to erect a suitable building presentative grounds at Tokic to erect a suitable building gation, court house and jail or the legation, court house and juil, and similar privileges can be secured a China and Persia. The owning of uuch premises would not only effect a arge saving of the present rentals, but would permit of the due assertion of matra territorial rights in those coun-ries, and would the better serve to maintain the dignity of the United States.

EGYPTIAN REPRESENTATION.

The failure of Congress to make an appropriation for our representation at the autonomous court of the Khe-dive, has proved a serious embarrass-ment in our intercourse with Egypt, and in view not only of the necessary intimacy of diplomatic relationship, but of the participation of this gov-promeut in the treaty powers in al matters of administration there affect The failure of Congress to make an ariment in the treaty powers in all matters of administration there affect-ag the rights of foreigners, I advise the restoration of the agency and Con-sul General at Cairo on its former basis. I do not conceive it to be the wish of Congress that the United States should withdraw altogether from the honorable position they have hitherto had with respect to the Khe-dive, or that clizens of this republic meading or sojourning in Egypt should hereafter be without the aid and pro-tection of a competent representanpetent repr on a to ac

THE STATUE OF LIBERTY.

the generous gift of the ce, is expected to reach May next. I suggest on be taken in rela-which has prompted d of the timely comin ald of the th

SPAIN AND SIAM. The course of this government in raising its representation at Bangkok to the diplomatic rank has evoked from Siam evidences of war i frieud-ship and augurs well for our enlarged intercourse. The Siamese government has presented to the United States a commodions mansion and grounds for the occupancy of the legation, and 1 suggest that by joint resolution Con-gress attest its appreciation of this generous gift. This government has i more than once of late been called up-on to take action in fulfiment of the international obligation toward Spain. Agitationin the Island of Cuba hostile to the Spanish Crown having NATURALIZATION LAWS. solute. There are sy

Spain. Agitation in the Island of Cuba hostile to the Spanish Crown having been fermented by persons abusing the sacred right of hospitality which our territory affords, the officers of the government have been instructed to exercise vigilance to prevent infrac-tions of our neutrality laws at Key West and at other points uear the Cuban coast. I am happy to say that in only one instance were the precau-tionary measures successfully fluded; the offenders when found in our Terri-tory were subsequently tried and conlaw favoring the naturalization of the serve in the army, or in who serve in the army, or in

A uniform rule of naturalization, such as the Constitution contemplates, should, among other things, clearly de-fine the status of persons born within the United States subject to a foreign power (Sec. 1002), and of minor chil-dren of fathers who have declared their intention of becoming citizens, but have failed to perfect their maturaliza-tion. It might be wise to provide for a central bureau for registry, wherein should be filed authenticated tran-scripts of every record of naturaliza-tion in the several Federal and State courts, and to make provision also for the vacation or cancellation of such practiced upon the court by the appli-cant himself, of when he had removed or forfeited his acquired citizenship. A just and uniform is win this respect would strengthen the hands of the cov-enament in protecting its citizens abroad, and would pave the way for the conclusion of treaties of matural-ization with foreign countries.

THE NATIONAL PINANCES.

COMMERCIAL TREATY.

The growing need of closer relation-ship of intercourse and traffic, be-tween the Spanish Antilles and their natural market in the United States, led to the adoption in January last of a commercial agreement looking to that end. This agreement has since been superseded by a more carefally framed and comprehensive convention, which I shall submit to the Senate for approval. It has been the aim of this framed and comprehensive convention, which I shall submit to the Senate for hegoriation to open such a favored re-ciprocal exchange as to make the inter-course between Cuba and Porto Rico and ourselves scarcely less intimate than the commercial movement be-tween our domestic ports, and to in-sure a removal of the burdens on ship-ping in the Spanish Indies, of which in the past our ship-owners and ship-matters have so often had cause to complain. The negotiation of this convention has for a time postponed the prosecution of certain claims of our clitaens which were declared to be without the infisicition of the Span-ish-American Claims Commission, and which we therefore remitted to diplo-matic channels for a treaty of commer-cial reciprocity with the Dominican republic have been zent will shortly be republic have been zent will shortly be tait before the Senate. DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR SERVICE. The legislation of the last session efrassment. The popula ercial activity of our co

THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE.

The is not, it seems to me, in accorr ance with true aconomy. A commun by of sixty million of people should adequately represented in its inte-course with foreign nations. A proje-for the peognition of the consul-service, and for recasting the achen of extra territorial jurisdiction is no before you. If the limits of a sho session will not allow its full conside-ation, I trust you will not fail to ma-suitable provisions for the prese needs of the service. It has been cu Certain questions between the United States and the Ottoman Empire still remain unsolved. Complaints in be-half of our citizens are not satisfac-torily adjusted. The Ports has sought half of our citizens are not saturate torily adjusted. The Ports has sought to withhold from our connection the right of the favored treatment to which we are entitled by existing con-vetional stipulations, and the revision of the tariff is unaccomplished. The final disposition of pending questions with V enzylia has not yet been reached, but I have good reason to expect an carly sattlement which will provide the means of re-manning the Caraona awards in conomany to define in the appropriate the ranks of each diplomatic to which a salary is atta gest that this course being that it be left to the Pr lowever, as now, Io lary to b

ros. They contain a statemen general policy of the Govern chlarging its commercial into with American States. The

foners have been a for their responsible conferences in the pr

emergencies have arisen since, and modern ingenuity supplies means for the organization of hostilities without open resort to armed vessels or to fili-bustering parties. I see no reason why preparations in the country for the commission of criminal acts, such as are here under censideration, should not be alike punishable, whether such acts are intended to be committed in our country or in a foreign country with which we are at peace. The prompt and thorough treatment of this question is one which intimately concerns the national honor. nt, at least, to be an ele of active disturbance in our current system, some provision should be ma for their surrender to the Government in view of the circumstances under which they were coined, and of the fact that they have never had a legal tender quality there should be offered for them only a slight advance over their bullion value. The Secretary in the course of his report considers the their bullion value. The Secretary in the course of his report considers the propriety of beautiving the designs of our aubsidary silver coins, and of so increasing their weight that they may bear their due ratio of value to the standard dollar. His conclusions in this regard are cordially approved. In my annual message of 1882, I recom-mended the abolition of allexcise taxes except those relating to distilled spirits. This recommendation is now renewed. In case these taxes shall be abolished, the revenues that will still remain to government will in my opin-ion not only suffice to meet its reason-able expenditures, but will afford a surplus large enough to permit such tariff reduction as may seem to be ad-visable, when the results of recent revenue laws and commercial treaties shall have shown in what quarters these reductions can be most judicially ef-fected.

Our existing naturalization laws also need revision. Those sections relating to persons residing within the limits of the United States within 1796 and 1796 have only a historical interest; Sec-tion 2172, recognizing the citizenship of the children of naturalized parents is

FOREIGN TRADE.

FOREIGN TRADE. One of the gravest of the problems which appeal to the wisdom of Con-gress for solution, is the ascertainment of the mest effective means of increas-ing our foreign trade, and thus reliev-ing the depression under which our in-dustries, are now languishing. The Secretary of the Treasury advised that the duty of investigating this subject be given in the first instance, to a com-petent commission. While recognizing the considerations that may be arged against this course, I am nevertheless of the opinion that upon the whole no other would be likely to effect speedier or better results; that portion of the Secretary's report which concerns the condution of our shipping interests our shipping interests command your stiention. entive to the investment of Ameican capital in American steamships the Government shall by liberal pay

the Government shall by interal pay-ments for mail transportation or other-wise, lend its active assistance to indi-vidul enterprise, and declares his be-lief that if that course be not pursued, our foreign carrying trade must remain as it is to-day, almost exclusively in our foreign carrying trade must remain as it is to-day, almost exclusively in the hands of foreigners. One phase of this subject is now especially promi-nent, in view of the repeal of the act of June 25, 1884, of sill salutary provisions arbitrarily compelling American ves-sels to carry the mails to and from the United States, as it is neces-sary to make provision to compensate the owners of such vessels for per-forming that service after April, 1885. It is hoped that the whole subject will receive an early consideration that will lead to the ensetment of such measures for the revival of our mer-chant marine as the wisdom of Con-gress may gevise. se to new, varying, and often dencate se to new, varying, and often dencate elationships with other countries. The denomination of the second reas may devise,

RONDS REDEEMED. 100.00

ce my last an the bonds of that issue still o unt to a little over \$20 ne-fourth of which w lo the currency

in sopplying the public with the most efficient mail service; that with due re-gard to its own best interests can be furnished for its accommodation. WITNESS AND JURY FEES.

this country, who although, not pro-vided at present with the unceasary plant, are willing to construct the same and to make bids for contracts with the government for the supply of the requisite material for the heaviest guns adapted to unedern warfare. If a guaranteed order of sufficient magnitude accom-panied by a positive appropriation ex-tending over a series of years should be made by Congress, all doubts as to the feasibility of the plan being thus removed. I renew my recommenda-tion that such action be taken by Con-gress as will enable the government to construct its own ordinance upon its own property. The Attorney General renews the commendation contained in his re-

The Attorney General renews the recommendation contained in his re-port of last year of touching the fees of witnesses and jurors. He favors radical changes in the fee bill; the adoption of a system by which attor-neys and marshalls of the United States should be compensated solely by salaries; and the erection by the Government of a penitentiary for the confinement of offenders against the laws. Of the varied Governmental concerns in charge of the Interior Department, the reports of its Secretary present an interesting summary. Among the topics deserving particular attention. I refer you to his observations respect-ing owr Indian affairs the pre-emption and timber culture acts, the failure of railroad companies to take title to hands granted by the Government, and the operations of the pension office, the patient office, the census bureau, and the bureau of education. THE NAVY. The report of the Secretary of the Navy exhibits the pro-gress which has been made on the new steam cruisers authorized by the acts of August 3d, 1882, and March 3d, 1883, of the four vessels under con-tract, one, the Chinago, of 4,500 tons, is more than half finished. The At-lanta, 000 tons, has been successfully launched, and her machinery is how fitting. The Boston, also of 3,000 tons, is ready for launching, and the Dolphina a dispatch boat of 3,500 tons, is ready for delivery. Secural adverse cruis-cisms upon the design of these cruis-ers are discussed by the Secretary who ne patent office, the census and the bureau of education.

INDIANS AND GOVCRNMENT LANDS. cisms upon the designs of these cruis ers are discussed by the Secretary who insists that the correctness of the con-clusions reached by the Advisor Board and by the Department have been demonstrated by recent develop-ments in shin-building.

INDIANS AND GOVCINMENT LANDS. All usion has already been made to the different tribes and as between indians and the whites, the past year has been on the whites, the past year has been on the whites, the past year has been or of unbroken peace. In this cir-question for the policy of the Gov-ernment in dealing with the Indian question and A confirmation of the bits first communitor to the Forty-seventh Congress. The Secretary proves answ the enactment of a statute for the punishment of crimes commu-ing in the House of Representatives for the purchase of a bill now pend-ing in the House of A tract of 1,800 square miles from the Sloux reserva-tion. Both these measures are worthy of approval. I concur with him also in advising the repeal of the preemp-solving in present legal complications touching fapsed grants to railroad companies, and the funding of the deb stuck guarantry as shall effectually in-sure its ultimate payment. been demonstrated by recent develop-ments in ship-building. The machinery of the double-turret-ed monitors *Puritan*, *Terror* and *Am-philrite*, contracted for under the act of March 3d, 1886, are in process of con-struction. No work has been done during the past year on their armor for fack of the necessary appropria-tion. A fourth monitor, the *Monadock*, all remains monitor the *Monadock*, tion. A fourth monitor, the shift remains inclusive at the yard in California. It is recommended that early steps be taken to control these vessels, and to provide dvisory Board, approved by the de-artment, comprise the construction f one steel cruiser of 4.500 tone, one boat, one kilspatch vessel armed with Hotchkiss cannon, one armored ram and three torpedo boats. The general designs, all of which are calculated to meet the existing wants of the service, are now well advanced and the con-

UTAH COMMISSION. ort of the Utah commis with interast. It disclose recent legislation looking raction of the vessels can be under-

seary nuthority. THE GREELY RELIEF EXPEDITION. act of Congress approved "Aug

ust 7, 1888, authorized the removal to the United States of the badles of Lientensin Companion of the Jean-nette expedition. This has been suc-cessfully accomplished by Lieutenants Herber, and Schutzer angress assume absolute politic ontrol of the Territory of Utah a rovide for the appointment of a co as in its indement may just

RORAL PROBADERS . 1by

rency fixed on a firm basis ; and, ab all, such a unity established among States of the American system as be of great and ever inco agotiated or are in progress flation, contain a provision flation, contain a provision to the Ho he House origi tives the auth sing revenue.

The states CIVIL SERVICE On the 29th of February last I trans tted to Congress the first of the civil service co port of the civil service commission together with communications from the heads of the several executive departments of the government, re-specting the practical workings of the law under which the commission has been acting. The good results therein foreshadowed have been more than realized. The system has fully an swered the auticipations of its friend in securing competent and faithfu public servants, and in protecting the appointing officers of the governmen from the pressure of personal impor-tunity and from the labor of examinin the claims and pretensions of riva candidates for public employment. The has had the unqualified support of the President and of the heads of the

law has had the unqualified support of the President and of the heads of the several departments, and the member of the commission have performed their duties with zeal and fidelity Their report will shortly be submittee and will be accompanied by such rec-omendations for enlarging the scope of the existing statute as shall commend the existing statute as shall commend

commissioners with its administra In view of the general and persi-demand throughouts commercial munity for a general bankrupt) ope the differences of sentiment hich have hitherto prevented its en timent may not outlast the presen sion.

The postilence which for the coun-two years has been raging in the coun-tries of the East recently made its ap unicatance in European ports with which earance in European ports we we are in constant commu-President, issued certain regulations restricting and for a time prohibitin the importation of rags and the admis-sion of the bagage of emigrants and of travelers arriving from infected quarters. Lest this course may have been without strict warrant of law, approve the recommendation of the present Secretary, that the Congress take action in the premises, and T also s, and I als on in the premises, ad the immediate such measures as will be likely to war off the dreaded epidemic and mitigat its severity in case it shall unhappily extend to our shores.

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA The anual report of the commoners of the District of Columbia



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