

greatest industry, not as suggested by any natural law or correct commercial rule; but just as those who are determined to realize all there is to be made out of the business estate. And they have our Congress, the British parliament and we greatly fear the Brussels conference on their side. Under such circumstances it seems almost idle to attempt to change the status of things, and only in such circumstances as that of silver being short in the London market and the school of sharks who deal in it being threatened thereby with a temporary shrinkage in their profits, do we see or hear even a suggestion as to what we ought to do. If an indispensable article which the farmer produces in abundance becomes so common that he cannot get enough for it to return his outlay in producing it, the only thing to do is to keep it, if it will keep or can be kept, and not, by putting it out right along as usual, keep up a steady march toward impoverishment of himself and his family. Silver will keep excellently well and a large quantity of it in point of value can be kept in a comparatively limited area. If our producers were only so situated that they could retain their product for one short year and let England worry along with the meager and precarious supply she might be able to pick up from Mexico and other countries, the reward for the temporary embarrassment would be found in the increasing demand and consequent advance in price until, with the expiration of that time, it would be at a profitable point and probably stay there. Indeed, it is not hazarding too much to express the belief that such a course of treatment of our friends and relatives beyond the Atlantic would cure them of the silver-phobia and make them consent to a fair and honorable adjustment permanently—something they seem further from just now than ever, notwithstanding the Brussels conference. In fact, it is questionable if the conference has not done more injury than good so far, by causing the goldbugs to appreciate their peril and thus making them more determined than ever to keep silver where it is.

### VERY IMPRESSIONABLE.

Bridgeport, Connecticut, is the home of a suicide club and a good many people who are either unduly impressionable or lack a faculty somewhere. On the night the comet was to have made us a friendly call but didn't, the citizens of that place, or a good many of them, were in a state of "wild-eyed" trepidation; the mayor had made arrangements with the fire department and the police whereby the city was to be notified the instant the blazing wanderer came within close quarters—the fire bells were to strike three times at short intervals and the guardians of the peace were so disposed as to sound the alarm when it would do the most good, or harm, as the case might be. Along about 9 o'clock those whose nerves were on a painful tension obtained that relaxation which comes through reaching the climax. The alarm sounded and brightly against the leaden clouds arose a subdued but well-defined glow! The comet had

come, the end was at hand! People rushed out of their homes and with shouts of "There's the comet!" huddled tremblingly and in many cases despairingly together. The light gradually increased and men ran to the wharves, presumably to have water handy when the collision came. One old woman jumped up and down in a half frenzied state, shouting, "I'm glad I sold my turkeys before Thanksgiving, because we won't live to see Christmas!" What an absurd condition for the greater part of a large community to be placed in, and how sheepishly they must all have felt when the glad tidings came that the illumination was caused by a fire in a neighboring town, the glow being thrown upon the overhanging clouds!

### THE PINKERTONS.

We learn from the *Denver News* that T. C. Walker, a well known expressman of Leadville, has filed suit in the district court against the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad company and the Pinkerton Detective agency. The amount which he asks aggregates \$41,500. Walker was arrested at the instance of the defendants last December for conspiracy, with John and Frank Price, to dispose of two gold retorts of the value of \$700, alleged to be the property of the Denver and Rio Grande Express company. On a preliminary examination he was discharged, but was rearrested on the charge of robbing the United States mail, and was liberated after an incarceration of several days without a trial or hearing of any kind. He was again arrested and taken to Denver, tried in the United States circuit court and acquitted. His grounds for action are based upon two charges, malicious prosecution and false imprisonment.

No one who looks at things properly and understandingly will question the usefulness—in fact, the indispensable quality—of detective work now and then. There are special cases calling for the employment of an instinct adapted to analyzing, locating and ferreting in order that detection and, if necessary, punishment may follow. An officer with or without a warrant does not of necessity possess these requirements in a sufficient degree to enable him to work out intricate or difficult cases, and then the employment of a detective or a force of them may be essential; without such employment at such times, the welfare and maybe the life of an individual or the safety of a community would be jeopardized. There is a difference between such a condition of things and that we have of late become familiarized with as the result of employing Pinkertons; it does not mean the detection or prevention of crime so much as it once did, but oftener than can much longer be tolerated the commission of it. The Homestead affair was but the greatest of many such crimes committed upon an unjustifiable pretext, and the people, while sternly resenting it, will not be likely to let the perpetrators of another such escape without condign punishment.

Upon the opening of court yesterday morning Jones was arraigned and took the statutory time to plead.

### PRESIDENT HARRISON'S MESSAGE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8. — President Harrison sent his annual message to Congress today. In opening, he says the country never in its history was in a more prosperous condition, and quotes numerous statistics to prove this fact, giving it as his opinion that the present unprecedented prosperity is traceable to the protective system which has prevailed for something like thirty years.

Continuing the President says, that it is not his purpose to renew the argument in favor of the protective tariff. The result of the recent election must be accepted as having introduced a new policy, which means the repeal of the present protective tariff.

### TARIFF TALK.

The tariff bills passed by the House of Representatives at the last session were, as is supposed even in the opinion of the promoters, inadequate, and justified only by the fact that the Senate and House were not in accord, and a general revision could not be undertaken. The President recommends that the whole subject of tariff revision be left to the incoming Congress, a matter which he regrets, because the threat of great tariff changes introduces uncertainty and inaction in business circles, and will likely lead to a decrease in revenues from customs duties.

The United States in its history has had several experiences of the contracted effects of a revenue and protective tariff, but this generation has not felt them, and the experience of one generation is not highly instructive to the next. The friends of the protective system with undiminished confidence in the principles they have advocated will wait the results of the new experiment and will be agreeably disappointed, if it proves a success.

The strained and too often disturbed relations existing between the employed and the employers of our great manufacturing establishments have not been favorable to a calm consideration by the wage earner and the effect upon wages of the protective system. He may now be able to review the question in the light of his personal experience under the operation of a tariff for revenue only.

The President commends

### THE WORK OF THE ADMINISTRATION

during the last fiscal year, and says that every effort has been made to benefit the public welfare. Our relations with other nations are now undisturbed by any serious controversy and since his last message, President Harrison says that reciprocal trade agreements have been consummated between the United States and the following foreign countries: Guatemala, Salvador, the German Empire, Great Britain, Nicaragua, Honduras and Austria-Hungary.

The reciprocal agreements have been of much value to the United States, as is shown by our great increase in the foreign trade. The Bering seal dispute is in a fair way for arbitration and a result substantially establishing our claims and preserving this great industry to all nations is expected.

### RELATIVE TO CANADA.

Referring to our relations with