

manufacture of arms and ammunition will cease. And so on. One hundred millions will be amply sufficient to feed, clothe and pay all that will remain in the service at the opening of the next Congress.

RETRENCHMENT IN OTHER DEPARTMENTS.

In the Navy department equally sweeping reductions have been made and are making. Just about one-tenth of the vessels in active service at the end of the war will be retained in commission. Its force on the pay lists of forty thousand will be reduced to seven or eight thousand. After the expense of constructing numerous new vessels shall have ceased, the yearly budget of this Department will not exceed twenty-five millions.

In the other departments retrenchments are also being effected. But the restoration of the mail service in the South and the additions to the pension list will probably swell the expenditures under the head of the civil service some millions. Mr. Fessenden's estimates for the civil service proper in 1864-65 were thirty-five millions, and for pensions and Indians eleven millions. Allowing ten millions for the probable increase, we have a total of sixty-one millions.

FUTURE ANNUAL EXPENSES OF THE GOVERNMENT.

The interest on the public debt on September 1st, was one hundred and thirty-eight millions. Supposing the principal to be increased to three thousand millions, the interest will be say one hundred and fifty-four millions. Thus we have:

For the War Department.....	\$100,000,000
For the Navy Department.....	25,000,000
For interest on the Public debt.....	155,000,000
For the civil service, Pensions and Indians.....	61,000,000
Making a total of.....	\$341,000,000

as the aggregate of annual expenditures to be incurred in the future. Before next summer the progress of the work of confiscation will probably enable the War Department to reduce its expenses still further. But, allowing even, that three hundred and forty millions will be required for a number of years, a comparison will show that the receipts of the government will be large enough not only to meet a regular demand upon the Treasury to that extent, but also to leave a surplus for a sinking fund.

TREASURY RECEIPTS.

Since the first of July last the Internal Revenue receipts have been more than seventy-five millions, and they are expected to reach ninety-five millions at the end of the quarter. But as the Income Tax is included in these returns it would not be safe to make them the basis of an estimate of receipts from the same source for a whole year. But \$324,000,000 a year hereafter will not appear as too high an estimate when the facts that commerce and industry, indeed every human pursuit, has experienced a mighty impetus since the close of the war, and that the States late in rebellion will now become taxpayers. From customs the receipts have lately been at the rate of \$10,000,000 a month, and it is more than probable that with the re-opening of the southern market importations of foreign wares of every description will be very heavy for some time. \$74,000,000 a year can be safely relied on. Thus the receipts of the government may be expected to reach \$400,000,000, and with its expenditures no more than \$340,000,000, a surplus of \$60,000,000 will be left.

LORD STANLEY ON PARLIAMENTARY FLOQUENCE.

At a banquet given by the Mayor of Birmingham to the members of the British Association,

Lord Stanley responded on behalf of the toast of "The House of Commons." He said: I arise, in obedience to the call of your mayor, to return thanks on behalf of the House of Commons, and yet I do so with some hesitation, because I cannot forget that in this room, and at this table, you have a member, although an ex-member of that house, older and far more experienced than I can claim to be—Lord Houghton, who may have been long enough in the Lords to forget that he ever listened to a Budget or passed through the ordeal of a public election. But any one who has once seen him can never forget his accomplished speeches, or his kindly and pleasant manners. (Cheers.) I always respond with pleasure on behalf of the House of Commons. I have sat in the house for nearly seventeen years, and I can say with pride that the longer I have known it the higher has risen my respect for its ability and its

common sense. I believe the opinion of the House of Commons collectively is generally better than that of any individual member of it. (Cheers.) I say this for the benefit of young members. (Laughter.) The house, as long as I have known it, has always shown a marvellous tact, almost approaching to instinct, in discerning who are those who are likely to contribute anything to its debates, and who are those who merely get up to waste time, and air their vocabulary. (Laughter.) I have heard men who have spoken with real fluency and eloquence; in a word, men of that kind who are described as having great command of language, when probably it would be truer were you to say that language has great command of them; because they have about as much command of it as a man has of a runaway horse. (Cheers and laughter.) Men of that class I have heard described as not knowing what they were going to say when they got up, not knowing what they were saying when on their legs, and not knowing what they had said when they sat down. (Cheers and laughter.) Many and many a man of that sort is left to declaim to empty benches, while you have the ear of 400 or 500 members listening in silent respect to some one else, who certainly hadn't the gift of oratory, and brought his sentences out head foremost, or tail foremost, until you almost wondered how it was possible that a man could speak such bad grammar. (Cheers and laughter.) The House of Commons soon found out the distinction between the man who only spoke commonplaces and the other man, who, though very awkwardly and uncouthly, really sought to contribute some new idea to the discussion that was going on. (Cheers.) I recollect, about a dozen years ago, when the discussions about competitive examinations for the public services first came on, somebody said, by way of a sneer, "Oh, if this principle of competitive examination is such a good thing why do you confine it to the clerks? Why not have it also for the Secretaries of State and Chancellors of the Exchequer?" Well, my answer was and is, this is exactly what we do; no man could obtain a leading position in the House of Commons without passing through a competitive examination of this kind. (Cheers.) It is a trial of physical strength and endurance; a trial of patience and of temper; it is a trial of readiness, of thorough and accurate knowledge, and last, and chief of all, it is a trial of common sense and knowledge of the world. (Cheers.) If a man fails entirely in any one of these particulars, but more especially if he fails in the last, he may do very well elsewhere, but he is not the man who will take a leading part in the House of Commons. I suppose there is no popular assembly that has ever existed among men that has commanded so much respect and exercised so much power as the English House of Commons. (Cheers.) Now, why is it? To give you all the causes would be too long a story to tell here. It is because there never has existed in the world a legislative body whose component members were so thoroughly independent in social position and in feeling. (Hear, hear.) Take the whole house through, count up—you may easily do it—the number of those who are known to be aspiring to high political office, deduct again—and I am happy to say they are very few—those who are supposed to come in on the speculation that they may drop in for a comfortable place somewhere; deduct both these classes, and they still leave behind a great majority of the house. I say again, the great majority of the house on both sides is composed of men who have nothing to fear and nothing to gain from any minister, and who can, therefore, follow a minister without servility and oppose him without asperity. (Cheers.) As regards the character of the House of Commons, I for one am not afraid it will ever lose the position it now holds in public opinion. (Loud cheers.)

THE SHODDY ARISTOCRACY OF AMERICA.

It is instructive to watch the developments of would-be Shoddy. In the conflict of pride and cupidity the best part of the man is taken captive, literally falling into the hands of the enemy. Instructive, too, and sad, to note the trials and mortifications befalling the elect of Shoddy. Think of the chagrin of the new millionaire (or billionaire?) at Washington, when he read in the morning papers comments like this on his first grand ball: "A truly magnificent affair; cost, it is estimated, \$100,000, which represents the exact profit

on 100 cannon, large numbers of which have been furnished the Government by this contractor." Think of the weariness of the Shoddy lady who, ennuied with the superb house and uncongenial surroundings, said to a friend of mine: "Ah, its all very fine, but my old friends kind o' stay away from me, and my new ones make fun of me, I know they do. Everything that money can buy I've got by the bushel, but I ain't happy, Miss Mary, I really ain't happy." Study Shoddy while you may. It is a transient "aristocracy" at best. Soon its strong characteristics will be lost, its peculiarities worn away. Its like has never been on earth before. Remembering those ten remarkable years, when speculation ran mad over Europe, when the South Sea Bubble encompassed all England, and John Law ruled France with his Midas-promise and "dissolving views," it is safe to assert that the Shoddy of to-day is without a parallel in human history. It is the one "new thing under the sun" not dreamt of by Solomon. America, in common with all Christendom, regards it with mingled feelings of disgust, amusement and concern. "Where will it end?" is the question on every lip. Verily it will end just where it began—in human nature itself. It is not more American, after all, that it is Adamite. That it has, for the present, found a local habitation and a name in America is because nowhere else has nature so lavishly and unexpectedly poured forth her treasures among the people, or a national emergency arisen offering such unparalleled temptations both to individual enterprise and cupidity. And Shoddy has its mission. It will enable mankind to see more plainly than ever before the absurdity of pretence, the vulgarity of display, and the folly of imagining that money alone can ever make a gentleman. It will point a brazen finger, for all time, at imposture and treason, and the rottenness of the virtue that presents its fair side to individual men, but yields to temptation in dealing with governments and corporations. It will develop new necessities and new industries—bring a fresh, hardy element to society by educating new classes—open a channel through which the poor may receive a share of the refining influences which surround the rich—and, what is very important to America just now—it will put money in the national purse. Large capitalists are needed in these days for vast enterprises, and Shoddy, with its bursting coffers, can furnish its quota of these. The Americo-Russian telegraph has its prospective message. The Pacific railroad is its humble servant. Other proposed public improvements beckon to it invitingly. Science even, is pointing the way that Shoddy must go. From the north, south, east, west—wherever gold, oil, quicksilver, and coalieburied, there is a call for Shoddy to come and grow richer still; and Shoddy will eagerly answer the summons. Just now, when the nation is coming out of its struggle for life or death, when it requires fresh explorers and new resources to enable it to meet the tremendous demands that have been made upon it, Providence reveals these long-kept secrets, discloses these hidden stores, these illimitable reservoirs of wealth, and—let us believe it—gives us Shoddy.—[*Cornhill Magazine.*]

EARTHQUAKE IN CALIFORNIA.—Our City and State had a great sensation, Oct. 8th, in the way of an earthquake. It was undoubtedly the most severe shock felt in San Francisco since the American conquest. The coast was well shaken from Petaluma to Santa Cruz, and probably further north, but we have no news from the Humboldt region. The interior of the State, so far as we have heard, was comparatively but little affected, and we know that it is usually not affected by earthquakes which are felt near the ocean. In Santa Cruz, according to a telegram, all the brick buildings were ruined. In San Jose a little damage was done. In Petaluma and Stockton the shock was severe, but no damage was done. It was not felt in Visalia or Los Angeles. In San Francisco several walls were thrown down, many others were cracked, a number of heavy cornices and fire-walls fell, various buildings on made ground sank several inches, plastering fell from ceilings, a little furniture and much window glass was broken, several persons were cut and bruised by falling bricks, and many people made a great hurry to get into the streets. That is a summary of the consequences of the great earthquake.—[*Alta California.*]

THE EARTHQUAKE AT CATANIA.—The London *Times* of August 2d says:

The following particulars have been received relative to the recent earthquake near Catania: At 2 A. M. on the night between the 18th and 19th July a most violent shock of earthquake reduced to a heap of ruins the entire village of Fondo di Macchia, on the eastern slope of Mount Etna, partly destroying also the houses of St. Venerina, Rondinella, Mangano and St. Leonardo, four villages situated at no great distance. Of 150 houses forming the village of Fondo di Macchia there now remains no more than a heap of rubbish, from which have been extracted, up to the present, sixty-one dead and forty-five wounded, many of the latter giving little hope of recovery. The shock was heard at Macchia, Giarre, and even at Aci Reale, which places, however, suffered no damage. The point of departure appeared to be at Fondo di Macchia, the shock proceeding from north to south, and continuing with intensity as far as St. Leonardello.

Immediately upon becoming aware of the catastrophe, the municipal authorities of Giarre, the Sub-Prefect, the Mayor of Aci Reale, and a detachment of troops hastened to the spot, where a scene of the greatest misery presented itself. Mothers, preserved almost miraculously, were wildly striving to tear away the ruins, and calling by name their children buried beneath. A father, absent during the night from being employed on the railway, and who had spent the previous evening at home with a wife and five daughters, now in agony of grief embraced their disfigured and mutilated bodies. Children left without mothers, and the few wretched survivors, squaller and fear depicted in their faces, all formed a feature of heartrending distress. The Prefect of Catania, who arrived immediately after hearing the news, had only to applaud the measures taken by the functionaries who had preceded him for the relief of the survivors, the disinterment of those buried beneath the ruins, the care of the wounded, and the guardianship of property. The Minister of the Interior, informed of the catastrophe, telegraphed to the Prefect, placing at his disposal a sum of 2,000 livres for the first relief of the sufferers. The Prefect will invite the authorities in all parts of the kingdom to open subscriptions in their behalf.

THE BUILDER OF THE ALABAMA.—Laird, who built the pirate craft Alabama, and who has just been re-elected to the British Parliament, was so much annoyed while at the hustings by the question, "Who built the Alabama?" that he promised to answer at the close of his speech any question which might be sent to him. Accordingly some one sent up this question: "Did Mr. Laird know when the Alabama was being constructed, that she was intended for the Confederate service?" He did not answer. The newspapers the next day pressed the inquiry upon him, and taunted him with a want of candor in dodging it. But they got no reply from him.

AN ISLAND WASHED AWAY.—The government has received official information, dated May 22, narrating the devastating effects of the terrific hurricane which has visited the Society, Harvey and Palmerston islands, and most probably others. One of the Palmerston islands, the rear on the north-east, has been entirely washed away, rendering navigation extremely dangerous. Nothing but the coral breakers remain, which, in case of a heavy sea, are entirely invisible to the eye, but are observable only in perfectly calm weather. All these islands are well known to whalers in the South Sea. Owing to this damage by the hurricane several vessels have been wrecked, but so far as known none were American. Tahiti also suffered considerably from the same cause.

PRINTING PAPER MADE FROM BAMBOO.—It is stated that the Albany *Journal* is now printed on paper made from bamboo. The bamboo is brought from Jamaica, where it is produced in unlimited abundance, and costs, delivered here from ten to twelve dollars per cord. It is cut into five feet lengths, conveyed to the manufactory, where it is soaked in warm water for a time; it is then put in steam guns of the form of ordinary cannon, where it is thoroughly saturated with steam and then exploded, under an immense pressure, which tears it into fibres. When thus torn it is placed in an immense pulping boiler, where it is boiled under a pressure of sixty pounds to the inch, and from thence blown into a receiving tank. It is then perfect pulp, ready to be made into paper.