The Easton Gazette.

VOL. LXXVI.—NO. 1. EASTON, MD., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1891. $1 50 PER YEAR.

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oly

GEORGE WASHINGTON CUSTIS LEE, who lives so quiet a life at Lexington, Va., where he is president of Washington and Lee University, is a tall, brown bearded man, straight as a soldier, instead of being bent like a scholar, and so reserved and modest in his tastes that the near approach of a fair young girl is actually said to call blushes to his cheek. He is fond of lecturing on applied mathematics.

A SONG OF LOVES.

Love is a shallow brook
Tenderly wooing
Each shady nook
With murmured suing.

Love is a river strong
Restlessly sweeping
Part sigh and song
Laughter and weeping.

Love is an ocean deep
Round the world flowing,
Where hidden sleep
Realms beyond knowing.

* * * * * *

Draw closer, heart of me,
Thy secret telling,
Which of these loves with thee
Maketh its dwelling?
—*Duffield Osborne, in Harper's Bazar.*

THREE RIVALS.

BY MARY KYLE DALLAS.

Laura Hunt stood on the front porch of her aunt's residence looking across the garden where the artemisias were in bloom and late dahlias nodded their heads upon their slender stalks, and the seeds were browning on the morning-glory vines.

She made a pretty picture in a calico of crushed strawberry tint, belted at the waist, and with a white kerchief pinned turban fashion about her head to keep her gold-brown, waving hair from the dust.

She had been doing the Friday's sweeping, as became a poor relation, while the cousins, the Misses Cumfry, were taking their last morning nap, with Madame Cheatham's celebrated dream of cowslips on their noses to repair the ravages of late hours, and gloves on their hands to whiten them. To carry out the Cinderella simile, these Misses Cumfry ought to have been ugly spinsters with very evil tempers, but really they were very pretty girls, with neat features and trim figures, twins who loved each other and cared for nobody else, and who had been humored into a sort of dual selfishness by their mother, while Laura, their cousin, the child of her late husband's sister, was early taught to make herself useful and find some occupation for every hour of the day.

So Laura had already swept and dusted the parlor and filled the flower vases and tidied the cup-closet and rubbed the dining-room windows, while the twins, side by side in their pretty, white bed, were still fast asleep.

As Laura leaned upon her broom and contemplated the lingering autumn flowers, some one watched her from the road —a young man, fashionably dressed, and with his full share of good looks.

"If that is the girl she is rather pretty," he said to himself. "That makes it easier, and although I'm a lucky fellow, I expected to find a dowdy or a fright. Pretty cheeky business this, but I'm endowed with the natural qualities necessary for the adventure."

And he walked slowly up the road, opened the gate, and lifted his hat gracefully.

"Beg pardon," he said. "Mrs. Cumfry live here?"

"Yes," answered Laura, glancing at her big apron, and regretting the broom and turban a little. "Yes, sir, and aunt is in if you would like to see her."

"I should very much, indeed, thanks," the young man replied, and Laura ushered him into the parlor, where, while he waited, there came to him, through a door that had been unwittingly left ajar, fragments of a conversation:

"Laura Hunt, why didn't you ask what he wanted?"

"Laura Hunt. I'm all right," he said to himself.

"It's a book agent or a lightning rod man, or somebody with silver polish, of course," continued the shrill voice. "You might as well have said no as I."

"Oh, auntie, I'm sure he is nothing of the sort," said the softer voice of the girl who had spoken to him. "They always look so tired and anxious, poor things! And he is so—so stylish."

"Good! I've made an impression," said the young man to himself, as the steps of a woman came toward the door, and a middle-aged lady opened it and entered the parlor.

"If it's anything to subscribe for—" she began.

Then, seeing a smile on his face, paused suddenly.

"There are so many of them," she apologized.

The young man bowed and offered her his card; on it she read: "Mr. Mayne Morton."

"Still you have the advantage of me," she said.

"I am quite a stranger, Mrs. Cumfry," young Morton replied, "but I think you knew my aunt, Miss Brunder, once upon a time. She boarded with some of your neighbors."

Mrs. Cumfry smiled vaguely; she did not remember the name; still, no doubt he was right.

"I am taking my vacation rather late," he said, "and this is such a pleasant little place, and my aunt told me that if you would take me to board I should be so comfortable."

"If" cried Mrs. Cumfry. "Why, I haven't taken a boarder in five years! Then it was only old Mr. Palmer, the real-estate agent. He gave no trouble and wanted the comforts of a home."

"Exactly what I want, and I will promise to give no trouble either," said young Morton. "I detest hotels; I can't endure the class of people one meets at a common boarding house. A refined family, especially where the young ladies were musical, would be my ideal."

This thought had occurred to him as he remarked the presence of an upright piano, on which the twins were wont to play duets.

Mrs. Cumfry looked at him.

"He is stylish," she thought. "Laura was right, no doubt. He is very well off, in good business, anyhow." Her thoughts climbed the stairs and viewed the sleeping twins in the innocence of their morning slumbers.

"What a nice match for Dora or Cora," she said to herself. "Eligible young men are scarce here. I think I'll do it."

"I have no need to keep boarders, so I don't make a practice of it," she said, after a little pause. "But still, to oblige—"

"It will be a great obligation," said the young man; and so it came to pass that when Dora and Cora came down to their late breakfast, the news they heard fully aroused they from their still rather stupid condition.

"A young gentleman!" they cried. "And is he nice? Is he handsome? How funny he should come here!"

"Yes, it is odd," Mrs. Cumfry said. "I wonder whether he has seen either of you?"

The idea was so delightfully romantic that they kissed each other then and there, and rushed upstairs as soon as they had swallowed their chocolate to put lace in the bands of certain new fall dresses in which to appear at the lunch table, where they should meet the stranger for the first time.

Meanwhile, out in the kitchen, where she was rubbing the spoons, Laura was saying to herself:

"Who knows but he has seen me? I'm as nice-looking as either Dora or Cora. It was singular, his coming so, and he stood watching me from the road quite a long while."

It was she who set the table for lunch, and she wore the crushed-strawberry calico, but the apron was removed, and a box at her throat and another in her hair were becoming.

Cora and Dora blushed and giggled, and talked pretty nonsense.

Their mother kept her eyes upon them, but certain glances, of which they were not aware, reached Laura, and she laughed to herself as she washed the dishes at the kitchen sink, and heard the twins playing duets in the parlor.

Through the window she saw Richard Beech mending his fences.

It would be stupid after all, she thought, to marry a plain man who owned a little two-story house, which had sunk a little to one side, to go on washing dishes and ironing table-cloths all her life.

Mr. Mayne Morton's wife would probably have servants to wait on her.

Then, how beautifully he wore his handsome clothes. And Dick Beech had on an old striped linen jacket and a fisherman's hat, in the brim of which sundry straws were sticking.

Dick was good and in love with her, but neither Dora nor Cora would have looked at him, and, oh, the joy of cutting them out with an elegant New Yorker!

Dick looked up just then, but he could not catch Laura's eye as he usually did, and when he called on Sunday evening, Laura was not disposed to give him a chance to talk to her in the corner.

In fact, by this time she had learned that Mayne Morton had come to the house on her account solely.

He had told her so one Saturday afternoon, following her to the far end of the garden where she was spreading napkins to bleach, to talk to her.

"I know you'll be angry," he said; "still, I want you to know my reason for coming to Mrs. Cumfry's to board was a glimpse I had had of you. Faint heart never won fair lady, and I never mean to lose the girl I love because of not going to the point at once. You know I shall not let my wife do housework and wear cotton gowns. You don't know what life might be yet."

Laura was too bright not to coquette a little, but her heart was beating with flattered vanity.

She was angry at herself when a memory of Dick Beech's pleasant face—a little soft heart-tug as it were, came over her.

She drove it away; she tried to believe that she liked Mayne Morton for himself, that she was not moved by a longing to live elegantly and a wish to triumph over the belle twins, but it is impossible to deceive one's self in such things.

As the weeks passed on, great changes occurred in the little household.

To their mother's horror the twins began to quarrel. Instead of cooing and kissing as had been their wont, they actually slapped each other with their soft, little pink palms, and called each other "mean" and "hateful" without saying for what. Both of them were furious with Laura, and did all they could to hurt her feelings, while their mother gave her many hard tasks that filled the day and evening, never guessing of meetings that took place at odd times, or an engagement ring that Laura wore on a ribbon about her neck.

But one day squeals rent the air of the Cumfry house, bringing Mrs. Cumfry from her room, and Laura up the kitchen stairs to the twins' own apartment, when, behold those young ladies in wrath and tears. Dora grasping a handful of tulle from Cora's neck, Cora a little tuft of hair from Dora's curls.

"It is I!" screams Cora.

"It is I!" squeals Dora. "You are always coming where you are not wanted."

"He always wants me," sobs Cora; "only you hang on forever, when we wish you wouldn't."

"Oh, my children!" sighs the mother; "it is only that you are both so pretty that he doesn't know which to choose."

It is Laura's face that looks in at the door at this moment—Laura who closed it, and stands with an air of triumph at the foot of the bed on which Cora has cast herself.

"Really," she says, in a superior tone. "I couldn't help overhearing, and since Cora and Dora are quarreling about Mr. Morton, perhaps I'd better tell them that I am engaged to him."

She draws a ring from her bosom and slips it on her finger, and there is a tableau—no matter for particulars. She has had her triumpu. The petted daughters of the house have been passed by for her sake, and the man can have had no motive but pure love. Still she cannot feel proud of her own conduct, for she knows well that she likes Dick Beech far better than she does Mayne Morton, ever now.

Happily Morton has left the house before the quarrel between Dora and Cora reached its climax. Laura looks into the parlor where he had been writing, and sees the blotting-book which Dora once decorated for him laying upon the table. He has blotted his letter hastily, and a whole page of the large, square paper he has used has been transferred to the blotter—the writing reversed, of course. But behind the table rises a mirror, and looking into this, Laura sees the note plainly reflected. She sees her own name.

"He has been praising me to some of his friends," she says to herself; then she finds herself reading this:

"Keep quiet, and I will certainly pay you soon. I am going to marry an heiress. You know I am in Chew & Chowser's law office, and know about all that is going on there. Lately I learned that a rich old man, who cannot live six months, had made his will in favor of a certain Laura Hunt, his grandniece. The girl doesn't know it yet. She is a poor relation in an aunt's house, and doesn't dream of her good luck, so I took time by the forelock, came here, pretended to be smitten, and we are engaged. She jumped at me as a means of escape from the housework, and I shall hurry on the wedding. My bride to be is not quite my style. There are two much prettier girls in the house, but—"

There was no more, but Laura had read quite enough, and if the twins, reconciled, and making common cause against a common enemy, could have seen poor Laura's heart just then, they would have felt themselves avenged.

Laura was very miserable for awhile, then she began to be glad that she had had discovered Morton's motives in time.

Then she went to the window and looked out. Richard Beech was busy painting the front door of his little yellow house.

What a pretty residence he could build on that ground if he had a rich wife, she said to herself. Then she found herself laughing, and as Richard looked up from his work, she nodded and smiled to him.

That night Mayne Morton went disconsolately home to New York.

He was no longer engaged to an heiress, and when Laura married Richard Beech, the twins made such lovely bridemaids, that the two groomsmen fell in love with them on the spot, and everybody was as happy as possible ever after.
Family Story Paper.

Talent and genius have many quarrels

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

The reports of the heads of the several executive departments, required by law to be submitted to me, which are herewith transmitted, and the reports of the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Attorney-General, made directly to Congress, furnish a comprehensive view of the administrative work of the last fiscal year relating to internal affairs.

Some suggestions growing out of this unhappy incident are worthy the attention of Congress. It would, I believe, be entirely competent for Congress to make offenses against the law of nations committed in the United States cognizable in the Federal courts. This has not, however, been done, and the Federal officers and courts have no power in such cases to intervene either for the protection of a foreign citizen or for the punishment of his slayers. It seems to me to be in this state of the law that the officers of the State charged with police and judicial powers in such cases must, in the consideration of international questions growing out of such incidents, be regarded in such sense as Federal agents as to render this Government answerable for their acts in cases where it would be answerable if the United States had local jurisdiction and power to define and punish crimes against treaty right.

OUR RELATIONS WITH CHILI.

The civil war in Chili, which began in January last, has continued, but fortunately with infrequent and not important hostile collisions, until August 28, when the Congressional forces landed near Valparaiso, and after a severe engagement captured that city. President Balmaceda at once recognized that his cause was lost, and a provisional government was speedily established in the insurrection party. Our Minister was promptly directed to recognize and put himself in communication with this Government so soon as it should have established its de facto character, which was part of existing the pendency of this civil conquest frequent direct appeals were made to this Government for belligerent rights to the insurgents and to give audience to their representatives. This was declined, and that policy was pursued throughout, which this Government has observed in all civil wars, so strenuously insisted upon on the part of European nations.

No official complaint of the conduct of our Minister or other officers during the struggle has been presented to this Government; and it is a matter of regret that so many of our people should have given color to unofficial charges and complaints thus manifestly had their origin in rival interests and in a wish to pervert the relations of the United States with Chili.

THE VALPARAISO INCIDENT.

On the 16th of October an event occurred in Valparaiso so serious and tragic in its circumstances and results as to very justly excite the indignation of our people and to call for prompt and decided action on the part of this Government. A considerable number of the sailors of the United States steamship Baltimore, then in the harbor of Valparaiso, being upon shore-leave and unarmed, were assaulted by armed men, nearly simultaneously in different localities in the city. One petty officer was killed outright and seven or eight seamen were seriously wounded, one of whom has since died. So savage and brutal was the assault that several of our sailors received more than two, and one as many as eighteen, stab wounds. An investigation of the affair was promptly made by a board of officers of the Baltimore, and their report shows that these assaults were unprovoked, that our men were conducting themselves in a peaceable and orderly manner, and that some of the police of the city took part in the assault and used their weapons with fatal effect, while a few others with some well disposed citizens, endeavored to protect our men. Thirty-six of our sailors were arrested, and some of them, while being taken to prison, were cruelly beaten and maltreated. The fact that they were all discharged, no criminal charge being lodged against any one of them, shows very clearly that they were innocent of any breech of the peace.

So far as I have yet been able to learn no other explanation of this bloody work has been suggested than that it had its origin in hostility to these men as sailors of the United States, wearing the uniform of their Government, and not in any individual act or personal animosity. The attention of the Chilian Government was once called to this affair, and a statement of the facts obtained by the investigation we had conducted was submitted, accompanied by a request to be advised of any other or qualifying facts in the possession of the Chilian Government that might tend to relieve this affair of the appearance of an insult to this Government. The Chilian Government was also advised that if such qualifying facts did not exist this Government would confidently expect full and prompt reparation.

It is to be regretted that the reply of the secretary for foreign Affairs to our previsional Government was couched in an offensive tone. To this no response has been made. This Government is now awaiting the result of an investigation which has been conducted by the criminal court at Valparaiso. It is reported unofficially that the investigation is about completed, and it is expected that the result will soon be communicated to this Government, together with some adequate and satisfactory response to the note by which the attention of Chili was called to this incident. If these just expectations should be disappointed or further needless delay intervene, I will by a special message, bring this matter again to the attention of Congress for such action as may be necessary. The entire correspondence with the Government of Chili will at an early date be submitted to Congress.

THE CHINESE QUESTIONS.

The late outbreak against foreigners in various parts of the Chinese Empire has been a cause of deep concern in view of the numerous establishments of our citizens in the interior of that country. This Government can do no less than insist upon a continuance of the protective and punitory measures which the Chinese Government has heretofore applied. No effort will be omitted to protect our citizens peaceably sojourning in China, but recent unofficial information indicates that what was at first regarded as an outbreak of mob violence against foreigners has assumed the larger form of an insurrection against public order.

The Chinese Government has declined to receive Mr. Blair as the Minister of the United States on the ground that, as a participant, while a Senator, in the enactment of the existing legislation against the introduction of Chinese laborers, he has become unfriendly and objectionable to China. I have felt constrained to point out to the Chinese Government the untenableness of this position, which seems to rest as much on the unacceptability of our legislation as on that of the person chosen, and which, if admitted, would practically debar the selection of any representative so long as the existing laws remain in force.

A SPANISH WORLD'S FAIR.

The United States has been invited to participate in an Exposition at Madrid to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the discovery of America by Columbus. It will open September 12, 1892, and close December 31.

RUSSIAN HARSHNESS TO HEBREWS.

This Government has protested in serious but friendliness to the Czar against harsh measures towards the Hebrew population of Russia and their banishment from that Empire.

THE TARIFF LAW.

The general interest in the operations of the Treasury Department has been much augmented during the last year by reason of the conflicting predictions which accompanied and followed the tariff and other legislation of the last Congress affecting the revenues, as to the results of this legislation upon the Treasury and upon the country.

There is certainly nothing in the condition of trade, foreign or domestic, there is certainly nothing in the condition of our people of any class to suggest that the existing tariff and revenue legislation bears oppressively upon the people or retards the commercial development of the nation. It may be argued that our condition would be better if our tariff legislation were upon a free trade basis; but it cannot be denied that all the conditions of prosperity and of general contentment are present in a larger degree than ever before in our history, and that, too, just when it was prophesied many would be in the worst state. Agitation for radical changes in tariff and financial legislation cannot help, but may seriously impede, business, to the prosperity of which some degree of stability in legislation is essential.

I think there are conclusive evidences that the new tariff has created several great industries which will, within a few years, give employment to several hundred thousand American working men and women. In view of the somewhat overcrowded condition of the labor market of the United States, every patriotic citizen should rejoice at such a result.

FREE COINAGE WOULD MEAN DISASTER.

I am still of the opinion that the free coinage of silver under existing conditions would disastrously affect our business interests at home and abroad. We could not hope to maintain an equality in the purchasing power of the gold and silver dollar in our own markets, and in foreign trade the stamp gives no added value to the bullion contained in coins. The producers of the country, its farmers and laborers, have the highest interest that every dollar, paper or coin, issued by the Government shall be as good as any other. If there is one less valuable than another its sure and constant errand will be to pay them for their toil and for their crops. The money-lender will protect himself by stipulating for payment in gold, but the laborer has not been able to do that. To place business upon a silver basis would mean a sudden and severe contraction of the currency, by the withdrawal of gold and gold exchange and the refunding of all values as would produce a commercial panic. I cannot believe that a people so strong and so prosperous as ours will promote such a policy.

BIMETALLISM THE OBJECT.

The producers of silver are entitled to just consideration, but they should not forget that the Government is now buying and putting out of the market what is the equivalent of the entire product of our silver mines. This is more than they themselves thought of asking two years ago. I believe it is the earnest desire of a great majority of the people, as it is mine, that a full coin standard be made of silver just as soon as the co-operation of other nations can be secured and a ratio fixed that will give circulation equally to gold and silver. The business of the world requires the use of both metals; but I do not see any prospect of gain, but much of loss, by giving up the present system, in which a full use is made of gold, and a large use of silver, for one in which silver alone will circulate. Such an event would be at once fatal to the further progress of the silver movement. Bimetallism is the desire and, and the true friends of silver will be careful not to overrun the goal and bring in silver monometallism, with the Government's entanglements, the loss of our gold to Europe and the heat of the pressure there for a larger currency. I have endeavored, by the use of official and unofficial opportunities, to keep close observation of the state of public sentiment in Europe upon this question, and have not found it to be such as to justify me in proposing an international conference. There is, however, an increasing growth, even in Europe in favor of a larger use of silver, and I know of no more fruitful way of promoting this sentiment than by accumulating gold here. A scientific and practical European reserves will be the most persuasive argument for the use of silver.

DISPOSAL OF THE SURPLUS.

The presence of a large cash surplus in the Treasury has for many years been the subject of much unfavorable criticism and has furnished an argument to those who have desired to place the tariff upon a purely revenue basis. It was agreed by all that the withdrawal from circulation of so large an amount of money was an embarrassment to the business of the country and made necessary the intervention of the Department at frequent intervals, to relieve threatened monetary panics. The surplus on March 1, 1889, was $183,827,193.29. The policy of applying this surplus to the redemption of the interest-bearing securities of the United States was thought to be preferable to that of depositing it without interest in selected National banks. There have been redeemed since the date last mentioned of interest-bearing securities $253,079,350, reducing the annual interest charge by the sum of $11,681,675. The money which had been deposited in banks without interest has been gradually withdrawn and used in the redemption of bonds.

The result of this policy, of the silver legislation, and of the refunding of the 4½ per cent. bonds has been a large increase of the money in circulation. At the date last named the circulation was $1,401,295,853, or $23.03 per capita, while on the 1st day of December, 1891, it had increased to $1,577,-252,054, or 24.38 per capita. The offer of the Secretary of the Treasury to the holders of the 4½ per cent. bonds to extend the time of redemption, at the option of the Government, at an interest of 2 per cent. was accepted by the holders of about one-half the amount, and the unextended bonds are being redeemed on presentation.

THE WAR DEPARTMENT.

Progress has been made in securing sites for harbor defenses and in the manufacture of guns for their armament. The Secretary's recommendation for a three-battalion formation of infantry regiments is concurred in, as is that for the adoption of smokeless powder. Seven companies of Indians have been enlisted, and seven more are being formed.

THE POSTAL SERVICE.

Revenues of the Possoffice Department have increased over $5,000,000. Estimates for 1893 show an anticipated surplus of receipts over expenses.

OUR NEW NAVY.

Four vessels, aggregating 11,000 tons, have been placed in commission during the year. Twenty-four more are in course of construction.

THE INDIAN QUESTION.

Solution of the problem of Government dealings with the Indians sought in legislation recommended, which shall have in view the making of the Indian into a citizen.

The Sioux outbreak will be made the subject of a special message.

THE PUBLIC DOMAIN INCREASED.

Since March 4, 1889, about 23,000,000 acres have been separated from Indian reservations and added to the public domain for the use of those who desired to secure free homes under our liberal laws. It is difficult to estimate the increase of wealth which will result from the conversion of these waste lands into farms, but it is more difficult to estimate the betterment which will result to the families that have found renewed hope and courage in the ownership of a home and the assurance of a comfortable subsistence under free and healthful conditions. It is also gratifying to be able to feel as we may, that this work has proceeded upon lines of justice towards the Indian, and that he may now, if he will, secure to himself the good influences of a settled habitation, the fruits of industry and the security of citizenship.

THE PENSION BUREAU.

The administration of the Pension Bureau has been characterized during the year by great diligence. The total number of pensioners upon the roll on the 30th day of June, 1891, was 676,161. There were allowed during the fiscal year ending at that time 330,-566 cases. Of this number, 102,487 were allowed under the law of June 27, 1890. The issuing of certificates has been proceeding at the rate of about 30,000 per month, about seventy-five per cent. of these being cases under the new law. The Commissioner expresses the opinion that he will be able to carefully adjudicate and allow 350,000 claims during the present fiscal year. The appropriation for the payment of pensions for the fiscal year 1890-91 was $157,985,700.83, and the amount expended $118,330,49.25 leaving an unexpended surplus of $39,155,144.54.

The estimate for pension expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1893, is $141,-950,000, which, after careful examination of the subject, the Commissioner is of the opinion will be sufficient. While these disbursements to the disabled soldiers of the great civil war are large, they do not realize the exaggerated estimates of those who oppose this beneficent legislation. The Secretary of the Interior shows with great fulness the care that is taken to exclude fraudulent claims, and also the gratifying fact that the persons to whom these pensions are going are men who ran least, not slight, but substantial war service.

THE ELEVENTH CENSUS.

The work of the Census Bureau is now far in advance and the great bulk of the enormous labor involved completed. It will be more strictly a statistical exhibit and less encumbered by essays than its immediate predecessors. The methods pursued have been fair, careful and intelligent, and have secured the approval of the statisticians who have followed them with a scientific and nonpartisan interest. The appropriations necessary to the early completion and publication of the authorized volumes should be given in time to secure against delays, which increase the cost and at the same time diminish the value of the work.

AGRICULTURE.

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The grain crop of this year was the largest in our history, far exceeding that of the year of last year, and yet the new markets that have been opened and the larger demand resulting from short crops in Europe have sustained prices to such an extent that the enormous surplus of our farms has been, and will be marketed at good prices, bringing relief and prosperity to an industry that was much depressed. The value of the grain crop of the United States is estimated by the Secretary to be this year $500,000,000 more than last; of meats, one hundred and fifty millions more, and of all products of the farm, seven hundred millions more than last season. This is more than they themselves thought of asking two years ago. I believe it is the earnest desire of a great majority of the people, as it is mine, that a full coin standard be made of silver just as soon as the co-operation of other nations can be secured and a ratio fixed that will give circulation equally to gold and silver. The business of the world requires the use of both metals; but I do not see any prospect of gain, but much of loss, by giving up the present system, in which a full use is made of gold, and a large use of silver, for one in which silver alone will circulate. Such an event would be at once fatal to the further progress of the silver movement. Bimetallism is the desire and, and the true friends of silver will be careful not to overrun the goal and bring in silver monometallism, with the Government's entanglements, the loss of our gold to Europe and the heat of the pressure there for a larger currency. I have endeavored, by the use of official and unofficial opportunities, to keep close observation of the state of public sentiment in Europe upon this question, and have not found it to be such as to justify me in proposing an international conference. There is, however, an increasing growth, even in Europe in favor of a larger use of silver, and I know of no more fruitful way of promoting this sentiment than by accumulating gold here. A scientific and practical European reserves will be the most persuasive argument for the use of silver.

DISPOSAL OF THE SURPLUS.

The presence of a large cash surplus in the Treasury has for many years been the subject of much unfavorable criticism and has furnished an argument to those who have desired to place the tariff upon a purely revenue basis. It was agreed by all that the withdrawal from circulation of so large an amount of money was an embarrassment to the business of the country and made necessary the intervention of the Department at frequent intervals, to relieve threatened monetary panics. The surplus on March 1, 1889, was $183,827,193.29. The policy of applying this surplus to the redemption of the interest-bearing securities of the United States was thought to be preferable to that of depositing it without interest in selected National banks. There have been redeemed since the date last mentioned of interest-bearing securities $253,079,350, reducing the annual interest charge by the sum of $11,681,675. The money which had been deposited in banks without interest has been gradually withdrawn and used in the redemption of bonds.

The result of this policy, of the silver legislation, and of the refunding of the 4½ per cent. bonds has been a large increase of the money in circulation. At the date last named the circulation was $1,401,295,853, or $23.03 per capita, while on the 1st day of December, 1891, it had increased to $1,577,-252,054, or 24.38 per capita. The offer of the Secretary of the Treasury to the holders of the 4½ per cent. bonds to extend the time of redemption, at the option of the Government, at an interest of 2 per cent. was accepted by the holders of about one-half the amount, and the unextended bonds are being redeemed on presentation.

THE WAR DEPARTMENT.

Progress has been made in securing sites for harbor defenses and in the manufacture of guns for their armament. The Secretary's recommendation for a three-battalion formation of infantry regiments is concurred in, as is that for the adoption of smokeless powder. Seven companies of Indians have been enlisted, and seven more are being formed.

THE POSTAL SERVICE.

Revenues of the Possoffice Department have increased over $5,000,000. Estimates for 1893 show an anticipated surplus of receipts over expenses.

OUR NEW NAVY.

Four vessels, aggregating 11,000 tons, have been placed in commission during the year. Twenty-four more are in course of construction.

THE INDIAN QUESTION.

Solution of the problem of Government dealings with the Indians sought in legislation recommended, which shall have in view the making of the Indian into a citizen.

The Sioux outbreak will be made the subject of a special message.

THE PUBLIC DOMAIN INCREASED.

Since March 4, 1889, about 23,000,000 acres have been separated from Indian reservations and added to the public domain for the use of those who desired to secure free homes under our liberal laws. It is difficult to estimate the increase of wealth which will result from the conversion of these waste lands into farms, but it is more difficult to estimate the betterment which will result to the families that have found renewed hope and courage in the ownership of a home and the assurance of a comfortable subsistence under free and healthful conditions. It is also gratifying to be able to feel as we may, that this work has proceeded upon lines of justice towards the Indian, and that he may now, if he will, secure to himself the good influences of a settled habitation, the fruits of industry and the security of citizenship.

THE PENSION BUREAU.

The administration of the Pension Bureau has been characterized during the year by great diligence. The total number of pensioners upon the roll on the 30th day of June, 1891, was 676,161. There were allowed during the fiscal year ending at that time 330,-566 cases. Of this number, 102,487 were allowed under the law of June 27, 1890. The issuing of certificates has been proceeding at the rate of about 30,000 per month, about seventy-five per cent. of these being cases under the new law. The Commissioner expresses the opinion that he will be able to carefully adjudicate and allow 350,000 claims during the present fiscal year. The appropriation for the payment of pensions for the fiscal year 1890-91 was $157,985,700.83, and the amount expended $118,330,49.25 leaving an unexpended surplus of $39,155,144.54.

The estimate for pension expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1893, is $141,-950,000, which, after careful examination of the subject, the Commissioner is of the opinion will be sufficient. While these disbursements to the disabled soldiers of the great civil war are large, they do not realize the exaggerated estimates of those who oppose this beneficent legislation. The Secretary of the Interior shows with great fulness the care that is taken to exclude fraudulent claims, and also the gratifying fact that the persons to whom these pensions are going are men who ran least, not slight, but substantial war service.

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