Cooperstown Courier. By E. D. STAIR. COOPERSTOWN, GRIGGS CO., DAF. PRESIDENTIAL POINTERS

President Arthur Favors the People with His Third Annual Message.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE. FOREIGN BELATIONS.

To the Congress of the United States: A the threshold of your deliberations I congratulate you upon the favorable aspect of the do mestic and foreign affairs of this government. Our relations with other nations continue to be on a friendly footing. With the Argentine Re public, Belgium, Brazil, Denmark, Italy, Santo Domingo and Sweden and Norway, no incident has occurred which calls for special comment. The recent opening of new lines of telegraphic communication with Central America and Brazil permitted the interchange of messages of friendship with the governments of the ing the year those countries. ear there have Durbeen perfected and proclaimed consular and commercial treaties with Servia and a consular treaty with Roumania, thus extending our in-tercourse with the Danubian countries, while Eastern relations have been placed upon a wider basis by treaties with Corea and Madagascar. The new boundary survey treaties with Mexico, a tradesmark convention and a supplementary extradition treaty with Spain, and a convention extending the duration of the Franco-American claims commission, have also been proclaimed. Notice of the termination of the fisheries articles of the treaty of Washington was duly given Great Britain. The privileges and exemptions of the treaty will scemingly close on July 1. 1885. The fishing industry pursued by a numerous class of our citizeus on Northern coasts, both of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, are worthy of the fostering care of congress. Whenever brought tnto competition with like industries in other countries, our fishermen, as well as manufacturers of fishing appliances and preparers of fish products, have maintained a foremost place. I suggest that con-gress create a commission to consider the question of our rights in the fish-eries, and the means of opening opening to our citizens, under just and enduring conditions, the richly stocked fishing waters and sealing grounds of British North America. A question has arisen touching the deportation to the United States from the British islands, by government or municipal aid, of persons unable there to gain a living and equally a burden on the commun-ity here. Such of these persons who come under the panper class, as defined by the law, have been sent back, according to the provisions of our statutes. Her majesty's government has

trust without pledge of compensation, but I trust that congress will see in the national and international bearings of the matter sufficient motives for providing at least for the reimbursement of such expenses as they may necessarily incur. The coronation of the czar at Moscow afforded to the government an occasion for testifying to continued friendship by sending a special envoy and a representative of the navy to attend the ceremony. While there have arisen during the year no grave questions affecting the status in the Russian empire of American citizens or other faith than that held by the national church, this government remains firm in its convictions that the rights of its citizens abroad should be in no way affected by their religious belief. It is understood that measures for the removal of the restrictions which now burden our trade with Cuba and Porto Rico are under consideration by the Spanish government. The proximity of Cuba and the pecultar method of administration which there prevails necessitate constant discussion and appeal on our part from the proceedings of the insular authorities. I regret to say that just protests of this government have not as yet produced satisfactory results. The commission appointed to decide certain claims of our citizens agains the government after the recognition of satisfactory rul s as to their validity was admitted to be illegal. Full reparation for the injuries sustained by our citizens should be no longer delayed and the farce of naturalization in the United States as a shield to disturbers in other countries abolished. The claims com mission has finally adjourned. Some of its awards, though made more than two years ago, have not yet been paid. Specie payment is expected. Claims to a large amount which were held by the late commission without its jurisdiction have been presented to the Spanish government, as the ac-tion of the colonial law authorities has given rise to these claims. The case of the Masonic has not yet reached a settlement. The Manilla court has found that the proceedings of which this government has complained were authorized, and it is hoped that the government of Spain will not withhold the speedy reparation which its sense of justice should impel it to offer for the unusual severity and unjust action of its subordinate colonial officers in the case of this vessel. The Helvetian confederation has proposed the inauguration of a class of internanal treaties for the deferment to arbitration

of grave questions between nations. This government has assented to the proposed inauguration of such already with Switzerland. Under the treaty of Berlin, liberty of conscience and civil rights are assured to all strangers in Bulgaria. As the United States have no distinct conventional relations with that country, and are not a party to the treaty, they should in my opinion maintain diplomatic representation also for the improvement of in-ercourse and the proper protection of the many American citizens who resort to that country as missionaries and teachers. I sug-gest that I be given authority to establish an agency and consulate at the Bulgarian capital. The United States are now participating in a revision of the tariff of the Ottoman Empire. They have assented to the application of a license tax of foreigners doing business in Tur-key, but have opposed the oppressive storage tax upon petroleum entering ports of that country. The government of the khedive has proposed that the authority of the mixed judi-cial tribunals in Egypt be extended so as to cover citizens of the United States accused of crime, who are now tried before consular science and civil rights are assured to all cover citizens of the United States accused of crime, who are now tried before consular courts. This government is not indisposed to accept the change, but believes that its terms should be submitted for criticism to the commission appointed to revise the whole subject.

RELATIONS WITH MEXICO At no time in our national bistory has there been more manifest need of close and lasting relations with a neighboring State than now exists with respect to Mexico. The rapid influx of our capital and enterprise into that country shows what has already been accomplished by the vast reciprocal advantages which must the vast reciprocal advantages which must attend the progress of its internal develop-ments. The treaty of commerce and naviga-tion of 1848 has been determined by the Mexican government, and in the absence of convention engagements the rights of our citizens in Mexico now depend upon the domestic statutes of that republic. There have been instances of harsh enforcement of the laws against our ye-sels republic. There have been instances of harsh enforcement of the laws against our ve-sels and, citizens in Mexico, and of denial of diplo-matic resort for their protection. The in-itial step toward a better understading has been taken in the negotiation, by the commis-sion authorized by congress, of a treaty which is still before the senate for approval. The provisions for the reciprocal defense of the frontier by the troops in pursuit of hos-tile Indians have been prolonged for another year. The operations of the forces of both governments against avages have been successful, and several of the most dangerous tribes dispersed by the skill and valor of United States and Mexican soldiers fighting in a common cause. The convention fighting in a common cause. The convention for the resurvey of the boundary from the Rio Grande to the Pacific having been ratified and exchanged, the preliminary reconnois-sance therein stipulated has been effected. It now rests with congress to make provision for completing the survey and resetting the boun-

dary monuments. A convention was signed with Mexico on July 13, 1882, providing for the rehearing of the case of Benjamin Weil vs. The Abra Sylon Mining Company, in whose Tave a wards were made by the late American and Mexican claims commission, That con-vention still awaits the action of the senate. Meanwhile, because of the charges of fraudu-lent awards which have made a new commis-sion necessary, the executive has directed the suspension of pay of the distribution quota re-ceived from Mavie.

ceived from Mexico. OUR CENTRAL AMERICAN NEIGHBORS. Our geographical proximity to Central America, and our political and commercial relations with the seat of that country, justify, in my judgment, such material increase of consular a sent back, according to use provides for the provides for the interval of the intherval of the intherval of the intherval of which his memory is held there. Congress at its last session authorized the executive to pro-pose to the Venezuelan government a reopening of the awards of the mixed commission of Caracas, and the departure from this country of the Venezuelan minister has delayed the opening of negotiations for reviving the commis-sion. This government holds that, until the re-establishment of a treaty on this subject, the Venezuelan government must continue to make these payments provided for in the convention of 1866. There is ground for be-lief that the dispute growing out of the unbief that the dispute growing out of the un-paid obligations due from Venezuela to France will be satisfactorily adjusted. The French cabinet has proposed a basis of settlement which meets my approval, but as it involves a recasting of the annual quotas of the foreign debt it has been deemed advisable to submit the proposel to the inducements of the achinets the proposal to the judgements of the cabinets of Berlin, Copenhagen, the Hague, London of Berlin, and Madrid. THE SANDWICH ISLANDS.

strong hopes that the remainder will soon be adjusted. Questions have arisen touching the rights of American and other foreign manufacturers in China, under tho provisions of treaties which permit aliens to exercise their industries in that country. On this specific neutron own treaty is silent. strong hopes the exercise their industries in that country. On this specific point our own treaty is silent But under the operation of the most favored na ions clause we have like privileges to those of other powers. While it is the duty of the government to see that our citizens have the full enjoyment of every benefit secured by treaty, I doubt the expediency of lead-ing in a movement to constrain China to admit an interpretation by which we have only an indirect right to exact the transference to China of American capital. For the employment there of Chinese labor For the employment there of Chinese labor would in effect inaugurate a competition for the control of markets now supplied by our home industries. There is good reason to be-lieve that the law restricting the immigra-tion of Chinese has been violated intentionally or otherwise by the officials of China upon whom is devolved the duty of certifying that the emigrants belong to the excepted classes. Measures have been taken to ascertain the facts incident to this suproper information facts incident to this supposed infraction and it is believed that the government of China will co-operate with the United States in securing the faithful observance of the law. The same considerations which prompted con-gress at its last session to return to Japan the simonaski indemnity seem to make to rective Simoneski indemnity seem to me to require at its hands like action in respect to the Can-ton indemnity fund, now amounting to \$300,-000. The question of the general revision of the foreign treaties of Japan has been consid-ered in an international conference held at Tokio, but without definite result as yet. This government is disposed

Tokio, but without definite result as yet. This government is disposed to concede the requests of Japan to determine its own tariff duties, pro-vide such proper judicial tribunals as may commend themselves to the Western powers for the trial of causes to which foreigners are partices and to assimilate the terms and decla parties, and to assimilate the terms and decla-rations of its treaties to those of other civilized States. Through our ministers at London and Monrovia, this government has endeavored to aid Liberia in its differences with Great Britain, touching the boundaries of that republic. There as a prospect of the adjustment of the dispute by the adoption of the Mannah river as the line. This arrangement is a compromise of the con-dicting theritation of the state of the conparties, and to assimilate the terms and decla flicting territorial claims. The rich and populous valley of the Congo is being opened to commerce by a society called the International African association, of which the king of the Belgians is president, and a citizen of the United States president, and a citizen of the United States chief executive officer, and large tracts of territory have been ceded to the association by native chiefs. The objects of this association are philanthropic. It does not aim at perma-nent political control, but seeks the neutrality of the valleys which have been opened. Staamboats placed on the river and the nuclei of states established at twenty-two stations under one flag, which offers freedom to commerce and prohibts the slave trade. The United States cannot be indifferent to this work, nor to the interests of

indifferent to this work, nor to the interests of their citizens involved in it. It may become advisable for us to co-operate with other commercial powers in promoting the rights of rade and residence in the Congo valley free rom the influence or political control of any one nation.

one nation. In view of the frequency of invi-tations from foreign governments to partici-pate in social and scientic congresses for the discussion of important matters the discussion of the property the of general concern, I repeat the suggestion of my last message, that provision be made for the exercise of discretionary power by the executive in appointing delegates to such conventions. Specialists are really to serve

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Atlantic, each of 2, DUU tons. They are to be built of steel, with the tensile strength and built of steel, with the tensile strength and ductility prescribed by law, and in combination of speed, endurance, and armament are ex-pected to compare favorably with the best un-armed war vessels of other nations. A fourth vessel, the Dolphin, to be constructed of similar materials, is intended to serve as a fleet dispatch boat. The double-turreled monitors Puttan, Amphi-trite and Terror have been launched on the Delaware river, and a contract has been made for the supply of their machinery. A similar vessel, the Monadnock, has been launched in California. The naval advisory board and the Becretary recommend the completion of the monitors, the construction of four gunboats, and also of three steel vessels like the Chicago, Boston and Dolphin, as an important measure of material defense.

INTERIOR WATERWAYS

INTERIOR WATERWAYS. The secretary urges the immediate creation of an interior fast line of water ways across the peninsuls of Florida, along the coast from Florida to Hampion Roads, between the Chesspeake bay and Delware river, and through Cape Cod. I feel bound to impress upon the attention of congress the necessity of continued progress in the construction of the navy. The condition of the public treasury, as I have already intimated, makes the pres-ent au anspicious time for putting this branch of the service m a state of efficiency. It is no part of our policy to create and maintain a navy able to cope with that of the navy able to cope with that of the other great powers of the world. We have no wish for foreign conquest, and the peace which we have so long enjoyed is in no seeming danger of interruption; yet our naval strength should be made adequats for the defense of our harbors, the protection of our commercial interests, and the maintenance of our national hour—a proposition from which no patriotic citizen can withhold his assent.

THE TREASURY. A GRATIFYING EXHIBIT.

The report of the secretary of the treasury

gives a full and interesting exhibit of the financial condition of the country. It shows that the ordinary revenues from all sources for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1883, amounted to \$398,287,581.95, whereof there was re-ceived from customs, \$214,706,496.93; from internal revenue, \$144,720,368.95; trom sale of public lands, \$7,955,864.42; from tax on circulation and deposits of national banks, \$9,111,008.85; from -profits on coinage of bullion deposits and assays, \$4,460,205.17; from other sources, \$17,333,637.60. Total, \$398,281,581.95. For the same period the ordinary expenditures were: gives a full and interesting exhibit of the

 cordinary expenditures were:

 For civil expenses

 \$22,343,285

 For forsign intercourse

 2,419,275

 For the Indians

 7,362,59)

 For the military establishment

 and arenals

 48,911

 382

 93

 For the military establishment and arsenals.
 48,911,382
 93

 For the naval establishment, in-cluding vessels and improvem'ts at navy yards.
 15,283,437
 17

 For miccellaneous expenditures, including public buildings, light-houses and collecting revenues.
 40,098,432
 53

 For expenditures on account of District of Columbia.
 3,817,025
 48

 For interest on the public debt.
 59,160,131
 25

Total The revenue for the present fiscal year, act-ual and estimated, is as follows:

Source.		Actual for '83, quarter ending Sept. 30.
istoms	\$137,597,024 33	\$57,402,975 67
iles of pub-	90,337,721 40	29,662,078 60
ds	5,067,364 83	2,932,635 17

1,557,800

521,039

298,690

863,209

112,562

950,229

172,461 31

256,017 99 1,237,189 63

 4_{22}^{1} per cents, amounting to \$200,000,000; and the \$737,000,000 4 per cents are not payable until 1891 and 1907 respectively. If the surplus shall bereafter be as large as the treasury estimates now indicate, the 3 per cent bonds may all be redeemed at least four years before any of the 4_{22}^{1} per cents can be called bonds may all be redeemed at least four years before any of the $4l_2$ per cents can be called in. The latter at the same rate of accumula-tion of surplus can be paid at matur-ity, and the moneys requisite for the redemption of the 4 per cents will be in the treasury long before these obligations become payable. There are cogent reasons however, why the national indebtedness should not be thus rapidly extinguished. Chief among them is the fact that only by excessive tration is such rapidity attainable. taxation is such rapidity attainable. REDUCING THE REVENUE.

In a communication to congress at its last session I recommended that all excise be abol-ished except those relating to distilled spirits, and that a substantial reduction also be made in the revenues from customs. A statute has since been enacted by which the annual tax and tariff receipts of the government have been cut down to the extent of at least fifty or sixty millions of dollars. While I have no doubt that still further reduc-tions may be wighty made 1 do not advise the of at least fifty or sixty millions of dollars. While T have no doubt that still further reduc-tions may be wisely made, I do not advise the adoption at this session of any measures for a large diminution of the national revenues. The results of the legislation of last session of congress have not as yet become sufficiently apparent to in-tilly any radical revision or sweeping medifications of existing law. In the interval which must elapse before the effects of the act of March 3, 1883, can be definitely ascertained, a portion, at least, of this surplus revenues may be wisely applied to the long-neglected duty of rehabilitating our navy and providing defenses for the protection of our harbors. This is a matter to which I shall again advert. Immediately associated with the financial subjects just discussed is the import-ant question, What legislation is needed re-garding the rational currency? The aggregate amount of bouds now on deposit in the treas-ury to support the national bank circulation is about \$350,000,000; nearly \$2200,000,000 of this amount consists of 3 per cents, which, as a iready stated, are payable at the pleasure of the government, and are likely to be called in within less than four years, unless meantime the surplus revenues shall be di-minished. The probable effect of such an extensive retirement of the securities which are the basis of the national bank circulation would be such a contraction of the volume of the currency as to produce grave commercial embarrassment. How can the danger be obvi-

would be such a contraction of the volume of the currency as to produce grave commercial embarrassment. How can the danger be obvi-ated? The most effectual plan, and one whose adoption at the earliest practical opportunity I shall heartily approve, has already been indicated. If the reve-mess of the next four years shall kept substantially commencurate with the ex-penses, the volume of circulation will not be likely to suffer any material disturbance; but if, on the other hand, there shall be great delay in reducing taxation, it will become necessary either to substitute some other form of currency in place of the national bank notes, of currency in place of the national bank notes, or to make important changes in the laws by which their circulation is now controlled. In which their circulation is now controlled. In my judgment the latter course is far preferable. I commend to your attention the very interesting and thoughtful suggestions on this subject which appear in the secretary's report. The objections which he urges against the acceptance of any other securities than the obligations of the govern-ment itself as a foundation for national bank circulation seem to me insuperable. For adcirculation seem to me insuperable. For ad-verting the threatened contraction, two courses have been suggested, either of which is prob-ably feasible. One is the issuance of new low rate of interest and exchangeable upon specified terms for those now outstanding. The other course, which commends itself to my own judgment as the beter, is the enactment of a law repealing the tax on circulation and permitting banks to issue notes for an amount equal to 90 per cent of the marfor an amount equal to bu per cent of the mar-ket value, instead of, as now, the face value of deposited bonds. I agree with the scoretary in the belief that the adoption of this plan will afford the necessary relief.

afford the necessary relief. THE TRADE DOLLAR. The trade dollar was coined for the purposes of trade in countries where silver passed at its value, ascertained by its weight and finness. It never had a legal tender quality. Large numbers of these coins entered, how-ever, into the volume of our currency by common consent. Their circulation in domestic trade has now ceased, and they have become a disturbing element. They should not longer be permitted to embarrass our cur-rency system. I recommend that provision for ency system. I recommend that provision for her reception by the treasury and mints as ullion at a small percentage above the cur-ent market prices of silver of his fueness.

CUSTOMS DISTRICTS. The secretary of the treasury advises a com-

At the recent coronation of his majesty King Kalakaua this government was repre-sented diplomatically and by the formal visit of a vessel of war. The question of terminating or vessel of war. The question of terminating or modifying the existing reciprocity treaty with Hawai is now before congress. I am con-vinced that the charges of abuse and fraude under that treaty have been exaggerated, and I renew the suggestions of last year's message, that the treaty be modified wherever its pro-visions have proved onerous to legitimate trade. I am not disposed to favor the entre trade. I am not disposed to favor the entire cessation of treaty relations which have fos-tered good will between the countries, and contributed toward the equality of Hawaiian among the nations. GOOD WILL IN THE ORIENT.

In pursuance of the policy declared by this government of extending our intercourse with the Eastern nations, legations have during the past year been established in Per-sia, Siam and Corea. It is probable that per-manent missions from those countries will ere long be maintained in the United States. A special emba-sy from Siam is now on its way hither. Treaty relations with Corea were per-fected by the exchange at Simul on the 19th of Mar law of the sector of the sect fected by the exchange at Simul on the 19th of May last of the ratification of the lately con-cluded convention, and envoys from the king of Zaozibar have visited this country and received a cordial wel-come. Corea, as yet unacquainted with the methods of Western civilization now in-vites the attention of those in crested in the foreign trade, as it meeds the implements and products which the United States are ready to supply. We seek no monopoly of its con-merce and no advantage over other nations, but as the Chinese in reaching for a higher civilization have confided in this republic, we cannot regard with ind forence any encoachannot regard with ind fference any encloach-

faults which are applied to our vessels an cargoes in the Antilles, a resort to that cours might not be barren of good results. A dis cretionary authority to forbid the importance of availance of computing in invite health of articles of consumption injurious to head might be advantageously exercised in our dea-ing with countries that discriminate against or food products.

WAR AND THE NAVY. THE INDIANS MOSTLY QUIET.

From the report of the secretary of war will be seen that in only a single instance has there been any disturbance of the quiet cond tion of our Indian tribes. A raid was mai from Mexico into Arizona by a small party of Indians, which was pursued by Gen. Indians, which was pursued by Gen. Crook into the mountainous regions from which it had come. It is confidently hoped that serious outbreaks will not again occur, and that the Indian tribes which have for many years dis-turbed the West will hereafter remain in peaceable submission. STATE MILITIA ENCOURAGED. On several occursions during the past year

STATE MILITA'ENCOURAGED. On several occasions during the past year officers of the army have, at the request of State authorities, visited these military eu-campments for inspection of troops. From the reports of those officers I am induced to believe that the encouragement of the State militia organization by the National govern-ment would be followed by vory gratifying re-sults and would afford it, in sudden emer-gencies, the aid of a large body of volunteers educated in the performance of military du-For civ laneo public lighth collec enue endin 1883, : For In For per educated in the performance of military duties.

AN EXPOSED SEACOAST. I again call your attention to the present condition of our extended seacoast, upon which are so many large citles whose weath and imments and ar For naval esta ero many large crues whose weath and mini-time of war, invite attack from mod-ern armored ships, against which our existing defensive works could give no ade-fore the introduction of modern heavy rifled guns into maritume warfar; and if they are not nut in an efficient condition we may easily like delt.... m'nt,inc lic debt..... not put in an efficient condition, we may easily be subjected to humiliation by a hostile power greatly interior to ourselves. As germane to this subject. I call your attention to the im-portance of perf[©] cling our submarine torpedo defenses. The board authorized by the last con-gress in report on the methods for the

The board authorized by the last con-gress to report on the methods for the manufacture of heavy ordnance, and adapted to modern warfare, has vis-ited the principal iron and steel works in this country and in Europe. It is hoped that its report will be soon made, and that congress will thereupon be disposed to provide suitable facilities and plans for the manufacture of such guns as are now imperatively needed. The eccretary of the navy reports that, under the authority of the acts of Aug. 5, 1882, and March 3, 1883, the work of strengthening to such guns as a recum China, by the payment of a money indemnit. ty, has solidel certain of the long-pending olaims of our citizens, and I have 4.500 tons displacement, and the Boston and

8-	from tax on circu- lation and deposit	
09 al	in national banks.	1,542,199 12
nd se	From repayment of interest and sinking fund Pa-	
s- on	cific railroad From customs fees,	1,478,940 49
th	et	901,303 22
ur	From fees, consular, letters patent and	2,476,790 20
	From proceeds of	2,410,190 20
	sales of govern-	, ,
	ment property	167,437 77
	From profits, coin-	
it	age, etc	3,149,780 54
85	From deposits for surveying lands	327,138 69
li-	From revenues of	021,100 001
do	District of Colum-	
of	bia	1.643.982 01
ok	From miscellaneous	2,352,810 27

E

From in

From sa

same

Total \$247,023,082 97 \$95,966,917 03 The actual and estimated expenses for the

	First quarter.	
For civil and miscel- laneous, including, public buildings, lighthouses, and collecting the rev- enue for quarter ending Sept. 30, 1883, actual	\$15,385,799 4 2,623,300 54 16,285,261 98	4,126,609 46

. 30,		Service and the service of the service of the
	\$15,385.799 4	
	2,623,300 5	4 4,126,609 46
estab-	16,285,261 9	8 93,714,738 02
river		
senals. blish- g ves- hinery	13,572,204 3	3 20,487,795 67
ou ac-	4,199,299 6	9 12,300,700 31
n pub-	1,138,836 4	1 2,611,163 50
	14,797,297 9	6 39,702,702 04

Total ordinary ex-\$67,942,090 33 \$190,057,999 67 penditures

Total receipts, act-\$343,000,000 00 . ual and estimated. . Total expenditures 258,000,000 00

45,810.741 07 39,183.258 93

If the revenues for the fiscal year which will end on June 30, 1885, be estimated upon the end on June 30, 1883, be estimated upon the basis of existing laws, the secretary is of the opinion that for that year the receipts will ex-ceed by \$60,000,000 the ordinary expendi-tures, including the amount devoted to the sinking fund. Hitherto the surplus, as rapid-ly as it has accumulated, has been devoted to the reduction of the national debt. As a result, the will hends now outstanding which are rethe only bonds now outstanding which are re-deemable at the pleasure of the government are the 3 per cents, amounting to \$305,000,000;

11	bination of certain of the customs districts
	of the cou: try, and suggests that the president
88	be vested with such power in relation thereto
08	as is now given him in respect to collec-
	tors of internal revenue by Sec.
	3131 of the rovised statutes. The
ð 1	statistics on this subject, which are
78	contained in his report, furnish of themselves
78	a strong argument in defense of his views. Al
	the adjournment of congress the number of
80	internal revenue collection districte was 126.
00	By executive orders dated June 25, 1883, I
	directed that certain of these districts be con-
23	solidated. The result has been a reduction of
	one-third their number, which at present is but
40	eighty-three.

POSTOFFICE AFFAIRS.

A PROMISING STATE OF FINANCES

The report of the postmaster general contains a gratifying exhibit of the condition and prospects of this interesting branch of the public service committed to his care. It ap-pears that on June 30, 1883, the whole num-ber of postoffices was 47,863, of which 632 were established during the previous fiscal year. The number of offices operating under the system of free delivery was 154. At these latter offices the postage on local matter amounted to \$4,195,230.52, a sum exceeding by \$1,021,894.01 the entire cost of the carriers' service in the country. The rate of postage on drop letters passing through these offices is how fixed by law at two conts per half onnee or fraction thereof. In offices where the carrier system has not been abolished the rate is only half as large. It will be remembered that in 1863, when prospects of this interesting branch of the It will be remembered that in 1863, when free delivery was first established by iaw, the uniform single rate of postage upon local let-ters was one cent, and so it remained until 1872, when in those cities where carrier serv, ice was established it was increased to defray the expresse of such service. It seems to the expense of such service. It seems to me that the old rate may now with pro-priety be restored, and that, too, even at a risk of diminishing for a time, at least, receipts from postage upon local lotters. I can see no reason why that particular class of mail matter should be held accountable for the enmatter should be held accountable for the en-tire cost of not only its own collection and de-livery but the collection and delivery of all other classes, and I am confident, after full consideration of the subject, that the re-duction of the rate would be followed by such a growing volume of business as to occasion but slight and temporary loss to the revenue of the notable of the postoffice.

POSTAL TELEGRAPH NOT DESIRED. The postmaster general devotes much of his report to the consideration in its various aspects of the relation of the government to the telegraph. Such reflection as I have been able to give the subject since my last annual measure has not led me to change the view message has not led me to change the view which I then expressed, in dissenting from the recommendation of the postmaster general, that the government assume the same control over the telegraph which it has always ex-ercised over the mails. Admitting that its au-thority in the premises be as ample as has ever been claimed for it, it would not, in my judgment, be a wise use of that authority to purchase or assume the