

Our relations with the various Republics of Central and South America continue with one exception to be cordial and friendly. I recommend some action by Congress regarding the over- due installment under the award of the Venezuela claims commission of 1904. The internal debt of the Republic of Venezuela presents an unjustified burden upon the people of that country. The Government of Venezuela has not yet paid the very considerable sum of \$1,000,000 which is due to the United States. It is hoped that this may yet be done and also that more stringent measures may be taken by that Government for restraining lawless persons on its frontier. I hope that Mexico, by its action, will give relief to the Government of the United States from the expense of these causes.

Our relations with the various Republics of Central and South America continue with one exception to be cordial and friendly. I recommend some action by Congress regarding the over- due installment under the award of the Venezuela claims commission of 1904. The internal debt of the Republic of Venezuela presents an unjustified burden upon the people of that country. The Government of Venezuela has not yet paid the very considerable sum of \$1,000,000 which is due to the United States. It is hoped that this may yet be done and also that more stringent measures may be taken by that Government for restraining lawless persons on its frontier. I hope that Mexico, by its action, will give relief to the Government of the United States from the expense of these causes.

It is cause for congratulation that the great Republic of Brazil has taken the initiative steps toward the abolition of slavery. Our relations with that empire, always cordial, will naturally be made more so by this act. It is too much to hope that the Government of Brazil may hereafter find in its interest as well as in the interest of the United States to encourage more rapidly than the present act contemplates. The true prosperity and greatness of a nation is to be found in the elevation and education of its laborers.

It is a subject for regret that the reforms in the direction which were voluntarily promised by the Government of Spain have not been carried out in its West India colonies. The laws and regulations for the apparent abolition of slavery in Cuba and Porto Rico leave most of the laborers in bondage with no hope of release and in fact become a burden to their employers. I desire to direct your attention to the fact that citizens of the United States or persons claiming to be citizens of the United States are largely holders in foreign lands of this species of property forbidden by the fundamental law of this country.

I recommend Congress to provide by stringent legislation a suitable remedy against the holding, owning or dealing in slaves, or being increased in slave property in foreign lands, either as owners, lessors, or otherwise, by citizens of the United States. It is to be regretted that the disturbed condition of Cuba continues to be a source of surprise and concern. The existence of a protracted struggle in such a country, so near to our own territory, without apparent prospect of an early termination, cannot be other than an object of concern to a people who while abstaining from interference in the affairs of other powers, naturally desire to see every country in the world the enjoyment of peace, liberty and the blessing of free institutions.

Our naval commanders in Cuban waters have been instructed, in case it should be necessary, to spare no effort to protect the lives and property of bona fide American citizens, and to maintain the dignity of the flag. It is hoped that all pending questions with Spain, growing out of the conflict in Cuba, may be adjusted in the spirit of peace and conciliation which has hitherto guided the two powers in their treatment of such questions. To give assistance and to add to the efficiency of our diplomatic relations with Japan and China, and to further aid in re-aligning the good opinion of those people, it should be necessary to spare no effort to protect the lives and property of bona fide American citizens, and to maintain the dignity of the flag. It is hoped that all pending questions with Spain, growing out of the conflict in Cuba, may be adjusted in the spirit of peace and conciliation which has hitherto guided the two powers in their treatment of such questions. To give assistance and to add to the efficiency of our diplomatic relations with Japan and China, and to further aid in re-aligning the good opinion of those people, it should be necessary to spare no effort to protect the lives and property of bona fide American citizens, and to maintain the dignity of the flag.

Postmaster-General for full details of the operations of last year, and for comparative statements of results with former years.

There has been imposed upon the Executive branch of the Government the execution of the Act of Congress approved April 20, 1871, and commonly known as the Ku Klux law in a portion of the State of South Carolina. The necessity of the course pursued will be demonstrated by the report of the Committee to Investigate Southern outrages under the provisions of the above act. I have issued a proclamation calling the attention of the people of the United States to the same, and declaring my reluctance to use any of the extraordinary powers thereby conferred upon me, except in case of imperative necessity, but making known my purpose to exercise such power whenever it should become necessary to do so, for the purpose of securing to all citizens of the United States the peaceful enjoyment of the rights guaranteed to them by the Constitution and laws. After the passage of this law, information was received from the citizens of South Carolina that the Ku Klux law was being evaded by the use of the character referred to in this law, and that the Ku Klux law was being evaded by the use of the character referred to in this law, and that the Ku Klux law was being evaded by the use of the character referred to in this law.

The report of the Secretary of the Interior, submitted with this, will give you all the information collected and prepared for publication in regard to the Census taken during the year 1870, the operation of the Bureau of Education for the year, the Patent Office, the Pension office, the Land Office, and the Indian Bureau.

The report of the Commissioner of Agriculture gives the operations of his Department for the year. As agriculture is the groundwork of our prosperity, too much importance cannot be attached to the labor of this Department. It is in the hands of an able hand, with able assistants, and zealous devoted to introducing into the agricultural productions of the nation all useful products adapted to any of the various climates and soils of our vast territory, and to giving all useful information as the method of cultivation of the plants, cereals, and other products adapted to particular localities. Quietly, but surely, the Agricultural Bureau, in working a great national good, and by liberally supporting the more widely its influence will be extended, and the less dependent we shall be upon the products of foreign countries.

More than six years having elapsed since the last battle was fought between the armies then arrayed against each other, one for the perpetration, the other for the destruction of the nation, it may well be considered whether it is not now time that the disabilities imposed by the XIVth Amendment should be removed. That amendment does not exclude the ballot, but only imposes the disability to hold office upon certain classes. When the purity of the ballot is secure, justice is sure to elect officers reflecting the views of the majority. I do not see the advantage or propriety of excluding men from office merely because they were, before the Revolution, of standing and character sufficient to be elected to positions requiring them to take oaths to support the Constitution, and admitting to eligibility those retaining precisely the same views but of less standing in their communities. It may be said that the former violated oath, while the latter did not. The latter did not have it in their power to do so. If they had taken this oath it cannot be doubted they would have broken it, as did the former class. If there are any great criminals distinguished above all others for the part they took in opposition to the Government they might, in the judgment of Congress be excluded from such an amnesty.

This subject is submitted for your careful consideration.

Under the provisions of the act of Congress approved Feb. 21st, 1871, a Territorial Government was organized in the District of Columbia. Its results have thus far fully realized the expectations of its advocates. Under the direction of the territorial officers a system of improvements has been inaugurated, by means of which Washington is rapidly becoming a city worthy of being the Nation's capital. The citizens of the District having voluntarily taken themselves to a large amount for the purpose of contributing to the adornment of the seat of Government.

The number of immigrants ignorant of our laws and habits, and coming into our country annually, has become so great and the impostures practiced upon them so numerous and flagrant, that I suggest Congressional action for their protection. It seems to me a fair subject of legislation by Congress. I cannot now state as fully as I desire the nature of the complaints made by emigrants of the treatment they receive, but will endeavor to do so during the session of Congress, particularly if the subject should receive your attention.

It has been the aim of the Administration to enforce honesty and efficiency in all public offices. Every public servant who has violated the trust placed in him has been proceeded against with all the vigor of the law. If bad men have secured places it has been the fault of the system established by law and custom for making appointments, or the fault of those who recommend for Government positions persons not sufficiently well known to them personally, or who give letters endorsing the character of office seekers without a proper sense of the grave responsibility which such a course devolves upon them. A civil service reform which can correct this abuse is most desired. In mercantile pursuits, the business man who gives a letter of recommendation to a friend to enable him to obtain credit from a stranger, is regarded as morally responsible for the integrity of his friend and his ability to meet his obligations. A reformatory law, which would enforce this principle against all endorser of persons for public places would raise great caution in making recommendations. A salutary lesson has been taught the careless and the dishonest public servant in the great number of prosecutions and conviction of the last two years. It is gratifying to notice the favorable change which is taking place throughout the country in bringing to punishment those who have proved recreant to the trust confided to them, and in elevating to public office none but those who possess the confidence of the honest and virtuous, who it will always be found, comprise the majority of the community in which they live.

In my message to Congress, one year ago, I urgently recommended a reform in the civil service of the country. In conformity with the recommendation, Congress, in the 41st section of an act making appropriations for the year 1871, gave the necessary authority to the Executive to inaugurate a civil service reform, and placed upon him the responsibility of doing so. Under authority of said act I convened a Board of Gentlemen eminently qualified for the work, to devise rules and regulations to effect the needed reform. Their labors are not yet complete, but it is believed that they will succeed in devising a plan which can be adopted, to the great relief of the executive heads of departments, and members of Congress, and which will redound to the true interest of the public service. At all events the experiment shall have a fair trial.

I have thus hastily summed up the operations of the Government during the last year, and made such suggestions as seem to me to be proper for your consideration. I submit them with a confidence that your combined action will be wise, statesmanlike, and in the best interests of the whole country.

U. S. GRANT.
Rescinded January, Dec. 4, 1871.

J. J. Harmau & Son
EVERYTHING
in the line of
DRY GOODS
and
Groceries,
BOOTS & SHOES,
Hats & Caps,
etc. etc.
—to be found at—
Bottom Prices,
—AT—
HARMAN & SON'S

REMOVAL! HUNT & BURROWS
New Goods! New Goods!!
A fair assortment of Winter Goods just opened at the store of
J. J. HARMAN & SON'S.

Harrison Mourhess
WATCHMAKER & JEWELER,
Dial in
Watches, Clocks,
JEWELRY, SPECTACLES, and
Musical Instruments,
ANDOVER, N. Y.

Carpeting,
Carpeting,
Bargains in
Carpeting.
\$1,000 of
BUFFALO ROBES,
Lap Robes,
—AND—
Horse Blankets,
—at prices that defy competition—
N. B.—We mean
business.
Very Respectfully Yours,
J. J. HARMAN & SON.

"Banner Store."
M. J. Ellis,
Has just opened
a splendid stock
GOODS,
ALAPACAS,
MOHAIRES,
SCOTCH PLAYS,
EMPRESS CLOTHS,
AND DELAINES,
REPELLEANTS,
SHAWLS,
NUBIAS,
FELTSKIRTS,
FURS,
FLANNELS,
HOSIERY & GLOVES,
Beaver clothes &
cassimeres
Undershirts Drawers
HATS & CAPS,
BOOTS & SHOES,
GROCERIES
Crockery,
Glass Ware.
\$2,000 worth,
Ready Made Clothg,
at Great Bargains.
Gents Garments made
to order and warranted
to fit.
All kinds of Country Produce taken
in exchange for goods.
N. B.—Wanted, 2,000 lbs of
Dried Blackberries, 5,000 lbs
Dried apples, for which the
highest market price will be
paid.
M. J. Ellis.