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ART. I.—*On the Elocution of the Pulpit: an Introductory Lecture, delivered at the Theological School of Montauban*: By Professor Adolphe Monod.

THE author of the following discourse is the celebrated Adolphe Monod, who, though still a young man, has been for some years regarded as second to no pulpit-orator in France. He is at present a member of the Theological Faculty at Montauban, a Protestant seminary, in which evangelical Christians ought to take a special interest, as well for what it has been, and is, as for the dangers which impend over it from the hostility of the government. It is believed, that no one can read Professor Monod's lecture, without being awakened by its vivid originality, and convinced by its native truth.

ALTHOUGH the art of recitation depends more on practice than on theory, it nevertheless has certain rules, which must be presented to the mind before you can address yourselves with profit to the exercises which are demanded, and which form the object of this course. In commencing the lectures of the year, I think it my duty to lay these rules before you, or rather to recall them to your memory. In so doing, I limit myself to such general views as may be

good delivery, begin by preparing your mind and your heart. Then, by reflection with the aid of observation, search for the inflections of the soul; and oblige your organs to conform to these, humbly and exactly. For the rest, be persuaded you will speak all the better, the more you sink yourselves; that the best delivery is that which turns attention from the orator to fix on what he says; and, finally, that the highest point of the art, especially in the case of the preacher, is to cause himself to be forgotten.

ART. II.—*Message from the President of the United States, to the two Houses of Congress, at the Commencement of the Third Session of the Twenty-Seventh Congress.* pp. 767. Washington, 1842.

ON or about the first Tuesday of every December, the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, being assembled in their respective halls, and having formally made known to the President, that they are in readiness to receive any communication from him before proceeding to business, a messenger in due time is announced to each house, who makes his appearance laden with a bulk of manuscripts that an editor might be allowed to compare to a year's outfit of a quarterly review. Taking one of the smallest of these articles, the clerk proceeds to read the *President's Message*, which being accomplished in some seventy minutes, he spares the legislature the rest of the pile, which is, however, ordered to be printed in a mass—which order has probably been anticipated for some weeks. When the edition is ready, it is divided among the members, at their demand, each copy being neatly enveloped, and only waiting to be addressed, with the potential symbols, "Pub. Doc. Free," and the signature of a member affixed, to be carried without cost of postage to any office on the thirty five millions of miles traversed by the American mail. Therefore the newspaper editors, one and all, exclaim "we are indebted to the Hon. — for important public documents;" and with the majority of the other honoured recipients peep into the uncut sheets and put them aside for reference. Some, like ourselves, sit down seriously to read the book; but we suppose our number to

be very few. It is, indeed, worthy of a deliberate perusal ; for it is the annual report of our public affairs in detail ; it is the balancing of the national ledger, and the presentation of our servants' stewardship, for the examination and judgment of their employers, the people. For this reason alone Christian patriots should feel an interest in such a report. But there are many subjects which are included in the operations of our national Departments that lay special claim to the notice of such observers. A glance, therefore, at the Message and its appended documents, we may hope will furnish some matter, both new and interesting, to the most of our readers.

The prominent and emphatic manner in which the President directs our acknowledgment of the Divine Providence in the productiveness of the soil, the general health of the country and the preservation of national peace, whilst it is the smallest tribute we can render for such mercies, is gratifying to all who wish to see this recognition preserved in the public papers. It would be still more pleasing to see the acknowledgment of the "Great Being who made us, and who preserves us a nation," evinced in all the deportment of our rulers and legislators. It might be hoped that the common admission of human accountability and a knowledge of the Providential history of our country, would be so much aided by the daily devotions conducted by the chaplains of Congress, that the members would feel the influence of these associations in their debates and social habits.

The extraordinary mission of a venerable and pacific gentleman, like Lord Ashburton, so strongly bound on the one hand to his sovereign by his elevated station as privy counsellor, and on the other hand to the United States by domestic connexion, for the purpose of settling the chief matters in dispute between the two nations, is an honourable event to our age. We trust that it is not wholly to worldly policy that we must attribute the proposition and acceptance of compromise, in relation to questions of difference which might so easily have been fomented into open war. How much more rational and human is this quiet way of conference and concession between cool-headed men, than the bluster of orators and the verbosity of diplomatic letters ! How Christian was the purpose of the mission, when contemplated, as expressed by his lordship, as "an amicable and at the same time equitable settlement of a controversy,

which, with the best intentions, the authorities of the two countries, for nearly half a century, have in vain endeavoured to effect." And we cannot help citing another sentence or two from the British plenipotentiary's correspondence, for the sake of his suggestions as to the true method of managing all international differences: surely we are old enough to lay aside the folly of the old way. "I trust, sir," says Lord Ashburton to Mr. Webster, "that you will have perceived in the course of my hitherto informal communications with you, that I approach my duties generally, without any of those devices and manoeuvres which are supposed, I believe ignorantly, to be useful tools of ordinary diplomacy. With a person of your penetration they would avail as little as they would with the intelligent public of the two great enlightened countries of whose interests we are treating. I know no other mode of acting than open, plain dealing, and I therefore disregard willingly all the disadvantage of complying with," &c.

One of the stipulations of the new treaty with Great Britain binds each of the parties to maintain, on the coast of Africa, a sufficient squadron to enforce their laws for the suppression of the slave-trade. Among the documents before us, is a report from two officers of the navy, of much experience in that service, from which we collect that the extent of country along which the slave trade is carried on is more than 3600 miles; reaching from Senegal to Cape Frio. Deducting from this length the portions of the coast watched in some degree by the thirty European and American settlements scattered along it, 3000 miles are left for the protection of a naval force. There are hundreds of "factories," or trading places along this space, most of which are interested in the traffic of slaves. There are established stations on the rivers or open shore, to which the slaves are brought by the negro chiefs, who collect and sell them to the agents. They are kept in wretched buildings, called barracoons, strongly built and in sufficient number, in some places, to hold several thousand at once. These stations are generally fortified with cannon and muskets, for defence against the neighbouring natives and to suppress insurrections. The vessels usually take in their cargo of slaves as soon as they arrive and can land the goods which they have brought from Brazil or the West Indies. These particulars relate to the western coast of the continent. "We have little knowledge," the officers state, "of the de-

tails respecting the slave-trade or the eastern coast of Africa. No instance has come to our knowledge of the use of the American flag there. From the best information we can obtain, it seems that a large trade is carried on by Portuguese colonies, the Arab chiefs and negro tribes. Their greatest markets are the Mahometan countries, bordering on the Red Sea and Persian Gulf, the Portuguese East India colonies, Bombay, and perhaps other British possessions in the East Indies; this part of the trade is probably in the hands of the Arabian vessels. Many are also shipped to Brazil, and some perhaps find their way to Cuba and Porto Rico."

To most of us who live out of the hearing of drum and fife, excepting as the sound greets us on our national anniversary, in the innocent evolutions of our village "Blues," "Greens," "Guards" and so on, it will excite some surprise to find that we have an army that costs us from three to four millions of dollars annually. But even now when the war with the Indians in Florida is over, it is necessary to keep a force of 1600 men there for protection. A thousand more are required on the Texas frontier; 1800 in Missouri and Wisconsin; 900 in Arkansas; as many on the Canada line. These, with the various forts and stations in the interior, employ in the aggregate nearly ten thousand men. For all this number there are but twenty "chaplains and schoolmasters" provided. The number of recruits enlisted in the last year was 2391. We should like to see a return of the age and condition in life of these recruits, and the causes which induced their adoption of a life, unhappily, so degraded as that of a soldier in time of peace. The extent of the warlike preparations constantly going on, unobserved by the mass of our citizens, may be further exhibited by stating that in the year 1842 more than two millions of dollars were employed by the ordnance department. Of this sum \$300,000 were expended in the armories of Harper's Ferry and Springfield, in manufacturing and repairing arms, and about \$120,000 in purchasing ordnance and stores, such as \$20,000 worth of saltpetre for gunpowder. This department has charge of the lead mines in the Upper Mississippi, owned by the government, of which Galena is the head-quarters. The mines are worked by smelters who pay their rent in a per centage of the mineral obtained. The openings of the mines are what are called in the slang vocabulary "dig-

gins" and are formally reported under that name in the tables of the report of the department. In five months sixty-six lessees dug 956,000 pounds of the mineral. Still another branch of the military establishment is that of the engineers, comprising the erection and maintenance of forts and other defensive works, barracks, national road, harbours, &c. A million and a quarter of dollars is named as the appropriation needed for this department for the next eighteen months.

We must admit the necessity of defensive preparations, but we cannot help wishing that the time had come to beat the sword and spear into ploughshares and pruning hooks, as we read the catalogue of articles required by the emergencies of war, and the estimates of millions to supply and employ them. The money invested in cannon, muskets, swords, pistols, powder and ball, and their appurtenances, would sustain all our missionaries, and supply them with means of influence over our fellow creatures which would make a strange contrast with the "grape shot," "shells," "sulphur," "ladles for hot shot," "tongs for hot shot," &c., &c., which make up the preparations for Christian war.

The report on the military academy represents the condition of that institution to be very flourishing. The last board of visitors recommend some extension of the literary part of the course, and intimate that it would be well for the young gentlemen who are destined to be the officers of our army, to know something more of geography and history, at least of their own country, than is at present provided for. The professor who conducts the moral instruction of the cadets is also the chaplain of the academy, and preaches regularly. The visitors, in their report, call him the "spiritual pastor" of the students, and express the highest confidence in the present incumbent. They signify, at the same time, that neither ethics nor preaching will secure the lads from moral evil, unless special care is given to several points of police and arrangement. Thus it is hinted that the persons having the more immediate charge of the cadets, in subordination to the higher officers, should be men of exemplary morals; and that cadets do not make the best assistants in the discipline of the school. The board make two other suggestions which demand the attention of those who wish to see the West Point Academy accomplishing more than the mere military training of young men. One is, that the occupation of a room twelve

feet square, by three cadets, for the purposes of studying and sleeping, is alike unfavourable to health and morals, and that "health, innocence and self-culture" demand the erection of an edifice with sufficient accommodations for the separate use of the students. The other suggestion of the visitors is that young cadets should not be sent too soon into the annual encampment. Their remarks on this subject are pregnant with admonitory instructions, though the board disavow that this expression of their opinions is founded on their knowledge of any actual mischief. "Here [in the encampment] they mix freely with those who, with more age and experience, have contracted, in some instances, greater immorality. The restraints of study and regular recitation are withdrawn; the unsophisticated youth, who has just come from the shelter of a father's roof, is exposed to the fascinations of those whom he regards as more accomplished than himself; and it ought not to excite surprise, if at the expiration of six or eight weeks he should sometimes enter the barracks and commence his studies deteriorated in morals, and predisposed to offences which will provoke the displeasure of his superiors, and perhaps soon send him back stained with disgrace, to afflicted and dishonoured parents."

The departments we have noticed are those in charge of the Secretary of War, and include the reports made to him by the Major General of the army, the Ordnance Bureau, the Quartermaster General, and the Chief Engineer. The military academy is under the supervision of the latter officer. Besides, the Secretary of War communicates the reports of the Chief Topographical Engineer, the Paymaster General, the Surgeon General, the Commissary General of Subsistence, the Commissioner of Pensions, and the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. From these documents (excepting the last) we glean the following facts, as comports with our use of the volumes. The number of cases of sickness in the army during the last year was 34,172. As the mean strength of the army for that time is estimated at only 10,000, the proportion of cases to the number of men was as $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 1, or nearly 342 per cent. The deaths were 303. The number of persons receiving pensions from the army side of that provision is now 25,035. The number was reduced in the year by 1500. The navy pensioners (all of them are invalids) amount to 503.

To the official statements of the condition of the Indians

every benevolent and just American must turn with melancholy interest. It is in some respects a sad, but in others a happy announcement which the Secretary of War makes—"there is no more land east of the Mississippi, remaining unceded, to be desired by us." May the aboriginal tribes take this as an assurance that they shall be unmolested on the other side of the river? If the western lands, to which they have been driven, should be "desired by us," shall we colonize them in the Pacific Islands? The Secretary prudently goes no farther than to "hope" that when the tracts now pending shall be ratified, and the Indians removed according to contract, "the red man will then be suffered to rest in peace." When that time comes he also hopes "that our undivided efforts will be bestowed in discharging the fearful responsibilities we have incurred, to improve his intellectual and moral condition, as the only means of rendering him happy here or hereafter." The number of Indians removed beyond the Mississippi is 88,000; leaving less than 25,000, the greater part of whom have engaged to emigrate within a few years. Among the latest acquisitions of our government is that of ten millions of acres of land in the territory of Iowa, from the Sac and Fox tribes; and that of fifteen millions of acres in Michigan and Wisconsin of the Chippeways. The population of the Sacs and Foxes is 2348. The Wyandots have also ceded all their possessions in Ohio, consisting of 109,000 acres, and about 5,000 acres in Michigan.

The reports of the various superintendents and agents of the United States among the Indians, present little evidence that the great evils of their condition are becoming alleviated. We refer specially to the injury they suffer from the rapacity of the white traders, and the effect of the spirituous liquors with which they supply the savages. Some miscellaneous extracts, abridged from the documents of the Commissioner will present this subject in its clearest light. And first, as to the general character and influence of the men who hover about the settlements to extort whatever money comes into the hands of the Indians, from the payment of their annuities or otherwise. The extracts refer to different tribes. "A set of the most abandoned and unprincipled wretches are collected near the line upon Des Moines river, and at one or two other points along the boundary, from whose dens the intoxicating liquid flows in uninterrupted streams upon the Indians. In 1832 intoxication was rare

among them, and I doubt if an habitual drunkard belonged to their nation, while at this time, except when upon their hunting ground, the whole nation, without distinction of rank, age, or sex, exhibits a continual scene of the most revolting intoxication." "The greatest difficulties with which the agents, teachers, and missionaries have to contend arise from the presence of crowds, and daily increasing crowds of depraved white men, who have taken up their abodes in the Indian country. This worse than savage population is composed of deserters from the fur traders on the upper Miami, renegades from Santa Fe, discharged soldiers, and fugitives from justice. The Indians being destitute during the greater part of the year, are compelled to solicit credits from the traders, who, aware of the uncertainty of their being paid, demand and receive the most usurious prices for their goods. The money which is not paid away to satisfy the traders, soon finds its way into the hands of the whisky dealers, who swarm like birds of evil omen around every place where annuities are to be paid." "It is useless for me to try to keep them from whisky. There is a set of lawless wretches settled on the opposite side of the river who follow nothing for a living but selling whisky to the Indians, stealing horses, counterfeiting money, &c. The life of your agent has been threatened more than once for his efforts to put a stop to this traffic. On the 9th of this month I caught three men who were introducing whisky into the Indian country, tied them, and kept them for a few days, and took them to Holt county to be committed. Instead of committing them, I had to leave myself in haste to prevent a suit for the whisky I had destroyed." "These tribes are found to be rapidly wasting away, in an intimate intercourse with that portion of our white population, who follow and keep as near them as they can for the vile purpose of profiting by their inordinate fondness for intoxicating drink." "White men are making it a business all along the line, of purchasing guns, horses, provisions, and goods of these people, by giving whisky in exchange, and then, when they get their money, sell the articles back for cash at exorbitant prices." "Choctaws and Chickasaws are induced by the presence of these dens and sinks of iniquity [whisky shops and distilleries in Texas] upon their borders, to cross over, are generally made drunk, frequently robbed, and sometimes murdered." "We see whole tribes, now in the receipt of large annuities from the Government, and en-

joying advantages which an equal number of whites hardly anywhere possess, gradually declining in numbers, and daily becoming more licentious, though not less barbarous and miserable, under the same destructive influence."

No laws have been able to cut off the supply of spirituous liquor, and the thorough devastation which drunkenness is making among most of the tribes may be conceived of by some further extracts, taken, like the preceding, from the reports of various agencies. "Unless something more effectual than has yet been tried, can be adopted for the preservation of the Winnebagoes, it is evident that they must soon be numbered with the nations that have been. Scenes of wretchedness, bloodshed and murder are occurring so frequently in their drunken frolics, that they have ceased to be objects of wonder and astonishment. Thirty-nine are known by myself to have perished in this way, within the last year; sometimes two or three have been stabbed to death during the same night. Give the Indians goods or provisions instead of money, incur the expense of hauling and delivering them in the interior of their country, give what you please and where you please, to the whisky shops it will go in the end. They have just received their goods and part of their provision for this year, and are now selling blankets which cost the government \$3,50, beside transportation, for one bottle of whisky. Five Indians have lost their lives since their supplies were distributed, and others severely wounded." "The Sioux, remote as some of them are from the settlements, find the means of indulging the proneness of the savages to adopt the vices of civilized man in preference to his virtues; those near the agency and on the Mississippi, obtain whisky from the settlers on the east side of the river, and use it to great excess; the more remote and wild bands of them obtain it from the British half-breeds from Lord Selkirk's along the Red river of the north, who meet them on their hunting grounds and conciliate them by presents of ardent spirits and other articles, while they destroy their game in vast quantities." "It has been ascertained from sources entitled to the utmost credence, that upwards of five hundred men belonging to these prairie tribes, have been killed during the last two years in drunken broils, while the survivors, men, women and children are reduced to the lowest depths of poverty and degradation." "These Indians are in a most deplorable situation. The evil spirit found its way into their lodges, and

generated among them discontent, jealousy, and strife, which eventually terminated in butchery and bloodshed. This state of theirs produced in their minds a settled prejudice against the place they then occupied, and in a moment of drunkenness and riot they set fire to their village, which was soon reduced to ashes. Their farms suffered a similar fate; the greater part of the fences being torn down and burnt, and the whole now lying waste and uncultivated."

Among some of the tribes, where the influence of the missionaries is exerted, temperance societies have been formed, and the pledges given by its members, in general, faithfully observed. In other places, the temporary restraint of the society has been followed by a sad re-action. In the small tribe of Quapaws, in the Choctaw agency, a great improvement is reported. When the present sub-agent went among them, "these people were in a wretched condition, spending most of their time in drinking; sometimes the whole tribe passing days, and even weeks, together, in a state of intoxication. Literally every dollar they could raise went for whisky. Many of them lived on roots, and were often on the verge of starvation." But during the year they have become more temperate and industrious, and not a single instance of intoxication had been heard of among them for the three months previous to the date of the report, though liquor might have been obtained. There are neither missionaries nor schools among this tribe.

The returns of the schools sustained among the Indians, either directly by the government agencies or by the missionaries of different denominations, are of an encouraging character. The whole number of the schools is fifty-two: and omitting seven which have not reported, the number of scholars, of both sexes, is 2,132. Of these schools, the A. B. C. F. M. have charge of 10; the Roman Catholics of 9; the Baptists of 6; the Methodists of 5; the Presbyterians of 2; the Episcopalians of 1; the Moravians of 1; the Quakers of 1. Another school has probably been since opened by the missionaries of our church, as the last report of the Foreign Board mentions that the Creeks were favourable to the opening of a boarding school among them.

The Choctaws are foremost in their disposition to unite with the government in sustaining a school among themselves. The crection of an academy, near Fort Towson, with work-shops and farm-buildings, is now in progress. This is intended to supersede the "Choctaw Academy" in Georgetown, Kentucky, so far as this tribe is concerned—sev-

eral others having an interest in that institution. Many strong reasons are given for preferring to educate their children at home to sending them into the United States. One of these is, that the lads with whom the experiment has been made, have sometimes returned with a disrelish for their former homes, and have introduced vices which they have learned of the whites. Another reason stated is, that some have remained five or six years at the Kentucky school, and returned "without acquiring a common education, or any knowledge of agriculture or the mechanic arts, or even upright habits, such as would render them respectable members of society in their own nation." Two of the young men who returned last from the Georgetown Academy committed suicide. The cause given for one was the poverty of his relations; and for the other the estranged affections of his father. The same complaint of the inefficiency of the Kentucky school is made by the Creek agency. It is stated on this authority, that the Creeks "complain that not one of their young men educated at that institution, has ever done any good after returning to the nation; but on the contrary, generally became idle, dissolute, and intemperate." The Indians naturally attribute these results to education, and their prejudices are thereby strengthened in favour of barbarism. The agent, after alluding to the effects that may be expected to follow the return of a young man, after several years absence, to the comparative debasement of his native tribe—without congenial companions, books or occupation—recommends the withdrawal of the Creeks' education fund from the Choctaw Academy, and the institution of agricultural and manual labour schools on their own territory. The judiciousness of the suggestion must be self-evident.

The Chickasaws have neither schools nor missionaries. Their agent affirms that both would be welcome. "While speaking to them at their recent council on the subject of education, many of them shed tears, and expressed themselves determined to do every thing in their power to improve the condition of their race, and said that the time would come when their children and their children's children would not be dependent on the white man for any thing."

The experiment of schools among the Osages was unfavourable; and has seemed to excite the prejudices of that people against missionaries. The ground of this prejudice

seems to be, that their children having been boarded at the houses of the missionaries, "learned to dress as the white man, to be fond of living on sugar and coffee, to sleep on a good bed, to speak something like the English language, and to read and write a little."

Such incidental mention as is made of the various Christian missionaries among the different tribes is of a favourable kind. Thus the Michigan superintendency reports of two bands, numbering about one hundred souls, that they "have attached themselves to the Methodist mission, and most of them have become industrious, temperate, and apparently truly religious. Two other bands are, as a body, making a most gratifying progress in the arts of civilization. Much credit is due to the missionaries and school teachers for their untiring zeal, and efforts to promote both their temporal and spiritual welfare. The bands on Grand river are also prosperous, especially those under the instruction of the Baptist and Episcopal missions. Such of the bands at or near Sault St. Marie as have put themselves under the auspices of the [Methodist] Missionaries seem to be comfortable and happy. The Methodist Mission at Ance, on Lake Superior, has been remarkably successful: many have made a profession of religion, and have become sober, docile, and industrious." The sub-agent among the Iowas, says, "I most respectfully beg leave to speak of the missionary establishment at this place. I can truly aver that it is under the superintendence of as devoutly pious individuals as I have ever known, having nothing to prompt them to action but a sincere desire to do good to the red man of the forest. This establishment is under the control of the Presbyterian Board of Missions. Many of the people have insisted on having a manual-labour school. I have no doubt of their sincerity, and that in six months from the commencement of such an institution they would send fifty scholars." The veteran Kingsbury of the American Board is highly spoken of. He has a missionary circuit of two hundred miles, "and is daily extending a happy influence by his example in the cause of religion and temperance."

It has not been long since we furnished an abstract of the history of the removal of the eastern Indians, and a geographical description of the districts assigned to the several tribes.* It is gratifying to find some evidence,

* Princeton Review, October, 1838. Art. I.

amidst all the discouragements we have been noticing, of the advancement of portions of these ancient nations in the constituents of a civilized state. The farms of the Choctaws on the Red river, it is said, will compare with any in the United States. Part of their settlement is within the cotton latitude; and last year they shipped more than 700 bales of that staple. They are reported to be an agricultural people, many of them owning large stocks of cattle and horses, and some of them possessing *slaves*. Their principal trading place is Dicksville, near Fort Towson, which, the superintendent says, "is one of the most quiet and orderly towns to be found in the west. I have been at this village a week at a time, without seeing any thing like ardent spirits or a drunken Indian." The Choctaws have a constitution and laws; each of their four districts has a chief, elected for four years, and there is one general council of forty, which meets annually. The Cherokees maintain the precedence for intelligence as a tribe, though the divisions that were produced by the celebrated treaty of 1835 between them and our government have tended to retard their advancement. Like the Choctaws, they have their own laws, government and courts, and a fund for education. Their number is 18,000. There are about 2,000 professors of religion in the tribe—principally Baptists. The rest are Methodists and Presbyterians. The Creeks are the most numerous of the tribes; being estimated at 20,000. Their homes are not so good as those of the Choctaws and Cherokees, but they are industrious and improving farmers. Former bickerings with the United States have, probably, weakened their attachment to us, and make them somewhat formidable borderers; but these feelings, it is hoped, will subside as they become more fixed in their pursuits as cultivators of the soil. The later emigrants of this tribe are said, by the United States agent, to be good farmers and manufacturers. "In short," is his opinion, "I know of no people on this continent who are more happy or contented, or who enjoy a greater plenty than these people do, of all the necessaries of life." "There is at this time (June, 1842,) in active progress a considerable religious excitement among the Creek people, which pervades pretty much the whole of the nation. Their religious exercises and meetings are all conducted by native preachers, exclusively, and their meetings are conducted in a quiet, decent and orderly manner. They have recently sent for the

assistance of some white men (preachers) to aid in the organization of churches, discipline, &c. At the last grand council they passed some very arbitrary laws in regard to the sale of ardent spirits in the nation. For this offence, they inflict severe corporal punishment." Seventeen different tribes were represented at a general council called by the Creeks in May last, to form a plan for the discovery and restoration of stolen property. The Seminoles are much scattered in their new country, in consequence of the several chiefs endeavouring to settle their respective bands as separately as possible from the others of his tribe. They have many negroes among them, who perform the greatest part of the agricultural labour. The Osages are too fond of the chase and too indolent to take advantage of their facilities of civilization. They have, however, forbidden the sale of ardent spirits.

But we must leave these details. What we have said may be taken as a specimen of the lights and shadows of the documents on Indian affairs transmitted with the President's Message, and we turn from their examination without being able to decide on which side the testimony preponderates as to the general improvement or deterioration of the whole Indian population. We have no means of learning the ratio of extinction of the Aborigines; but if we may take the estimate of one portion of their ancient territory as a standard, it will not be many ages before the department of Indian affairs will be an unnecessary branch of our government. According to a recent census, the whole number of souls in eighteen tribes occupying an immense region east of the Rocky Mountains is 61,700; of which 20,000 are men. In 1783 one of these tribes (the Mandans) was believed to contain 25,000 fighting men. Its *whole* population is now 300. The Assinibones were then set down as having 40,000 warriors; they have now but 7,000 souls in all.

Thus far the report of the Secretary of War. The details of the Navy Department have little to attract us. The Secretary admits that much attention is requisite to maintain a grade of character among the officers of the Navy, which will be honourable to the country, and promote the greatest efficiency of their own services. He traces these evils to the want of proper selection of lads for midshipmen and a provision for their adequate education. "It is a notorious fact," he observes, "that wayward and incorrigible

boys, whom even parental authority cannot control, are often sent to the Navy as a mere school of discipline, or to save them from the reproach to which their conduct exposes them on shore. It is not often that skilful officers or valuable men are made out of such materials." The estimated cost of maintaining the Navy, and effecting all the collateral objects of the department for the first six months of the present year, is put at \$3,700,000. The Secretary furnishes an elaborate report by Prof. W. R. Johnson, of Philadelphia, on the character and tests of sheathing copper, which adds a scientific contribution to the miscellany of the President's annual. Mr. Johnson has invented an apparatus for the *thermotension* of chain cables, which will add seventeen per cent. to the strength of the iron. This improvement is pronounced to be of incalculable value "to the whole navigating interest of the world."

The last of the papers is the report of the Postmaster General. The people of the United States paid, last year, about four millions and a half of dollars for receiving their letters and papers by mail. The prerogative of franking, in its legal and illegal use, saved the people half a million, but kept that amount from the public treasury. The annual number of free letters is about three millions. But it should be considered that if this privilege should be denied to the houses of Congress, (whose correspondence contributes most to the amount,) there would be caused a blank in the occupation of its members which no other device could fill, and an accumulation of stationery in the clerks' hands, which would leave many thousand dollars unappropriated. It is true, the use and abuse of franks and the other extravagant provisions for loading the mails with free articles, prevent the reduction of postage, so generally demanded by the public, and admitted to be otherwise practicable by the Postmaster. But we should sooner expect to see the President's salary reduced to \$24,000, than such an abridgment of the pleasing prerogative which now attaches to the station of a national legislator.

On the subject of some intended efforts of the Postmaster to diminish the transportation of the mail on the Sabbath, we see nothing but the following sentence in the report of one of the subordinates of the department. "In answer to your inquiry, I have the honour to state that \$58,346 per annum is the amount of the curtailment effected by the discontinuance of the seventh weekly trip on numerous daily

routes in the United States, ordered in February, 1841, and shortly anterior to that date; and that the portion of said service restored to operation during the year ending June 30, 1842, amounted to \$18,678 a year." From this we conclude that no very general correction of the evil is likely to be effected.

A report from General Duff Green to the Postmaster, verified by official statements, shows that the reduction of postage in England has caused such an increase of correspondence that by the end of 1844, the gross receipts, under what is called the penny system, will be as great as in 1839 under the old rates. The increase was nearly 250 per cent. between November 1839 and March 1841. General Green also presents a proposition from the French government for a regular exchange of correspondence and samples of goods between France and the United States, by steam and other packets. It is his opinion that when France has completed her railways, connecting her seaports with the principal depots of the continent, Brest will supersede Liverpool as the thoroughfare of trade and travel, and that we should lose no time in securing the benefit of the anticipated change.

The opportunity presented by the Message invites reflections on the state of the country. But we should be greatly at a loss to find any observations that would be original. The contrasts between the resources of our people and our poverty; between the essential importance of united and energetic counsels and the riot of political division; between the inducement to economy and the tendency to extravagance; between the good policy of honesty and the unceasing developments of fraud—these contrasts are glaring on the most superficial view of our condition. Puritanical as the idea may be, we venture to surmise, that the effectual remedy for all our difficulties lies in the diffusion of religious principle; in the adoption of the Bible as the ultimate appeal of our legislators, officially and personally; and the acknowledgment of the Lord of lords as the judge of nations and of the earth. Religion has been in more than one way pronounced unconstitutional; but it is time that we had learned to discriminate between our natural, inseparable responsibility to God in every possible relation and position, and the adoption of a form of religion as an element of the State.