THE WASHINGTON CRITIC.

22D YEAR---NO. 6,722. WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 21, 1890. PRICE TWO CENTS.

NEWS OF THE WORLD IN BRIEF.

Local.

The Grand Lodge of the Knights of Pythias elected officers last night.

Peter Jackson knocked out George Walker in short order at Kernan's last night.

The Convention of Mining Engineers discussed the properties of aluminum at their session to-day.

Mr. B. H. Warner thinks the last assessment of property in the District for taxation was a failure.

Employes of the Washington Navy-Yard complain of a spy system practiced upon them by their superiors, and claim that favoritism is shown.

Chief Justice Bingham, Judge Bradley and Judge James are all sick. The Johnson-Turner murder case and the Pan-Electric case have in consequence been postponed.

Two pistol bullets were fired through the window of Mr. U. H. Gray's house upon two different occasions, and one narrowly missed hitting his wife. The police have not apprehended the miscreant who fired the shots.

The District Commissioners have declared it a law that "No person shall erect within the fire limits any brick-yard kiln, pottery, furnace, slaughter-house, soap or candle factory, bone-boiling or other establishment whereby offensive odors are generated without the written assent of all the property-owners within 250 yards of the proposed location."

The District Commissioners have announced the public offering of fish-wharf privileges. The same has been done by the authorities in Alexandria. Upon the establishment of these privileges it becomes illegal for fish to be landed or sold at any other points during the season. It is thought the run of fish will be earlier and larger than usual this year.

Governmental.

Assistant Secretary Tichenor has decided that certain steel wire, coated with tin, is properly dutiable as steel wire "covered with cotton, silk or other materials."

George Nicklin Venable, of Paterson, N. J., has been appointed a cadet at the United States Military Academy.

Acting Secretary Batcheller of the Treasury Department yesterday appointed J. L. B. Dawson of Beaver Falls, Pa., to be a special Inspector of Customs.

The President signed the following Notary Public commissions to-day: Charles S. Shreve, Edward F. O'Brien, Philip Mauro, John A. Barthel, Nell Dumont, Isaac C. Slater and Thomas M. Harvey.

Assistant Surgeon A. R. Wentworth of the Navy has been ordered to the Naval Hospital at the Mare Island Navy-Yard, and Assistant Surgeon George Rathganger, from that yard to Charlestown, Mass.

Passed Assistant Engineer George D. Twickland has been detached from the the Coast Survey and placed on waiting orders; Assistant Engineer T. F. Carter from the Navy-Yard at Portsmouth to the Coast Survey, and Lieutenant J. H. Ball to duty at New London, Conn.

Domestic.

Philadelphia is to have a great market-house.

The New York Senate has passed the Anti-Bribery bill.

The Ohio, Indiana and Western Railway was sold for $3,000,030.

An American firm will experiment with bringing ice from Canada.

Edward P. Cosgrove, grocer, of Wilkesbarre, Pa., has failed for $10,000.

Two breweries at Springfield, Ohio, have been sold to an English syndicate.

The Montana Legislature adjourns leaving no money for the State's expenses.

Charles Moth threw Bert Scheller at Michigan City, Ind., in two out of three falls.

A cloud passed over Petersburg, Va., in the daytime, enveloping the city in total darkness.

Saunders Buckley was killed by lightning near Cambria, Ohio, and Miss Letitia Buckley injured.

County Attorney Smith of Frankford, Ind., was sentenced to two years in the penitentiary for forgery.

John Morgan was arrested at Ironton, Ohio, for robbing the United States Express Company in Indian Territory.

Poore's Opera-House and other buildings at Watertown, N. Y., have been burned. Loss, $40,000; nearly covered by insurance.

The Republicans of the West Virginia Senate have so changed the Ballot Reform bill that the Democrats will vote against it.

A bill has passed the New York Assembly fixing charges for all telegraphic messages at ten cents for ten words for any distance.

Charles Hamburg, a baseball player, for two years past with the Buffalo Internationals, has been signed by Louisville to play left field.

One hundred leading citizens of Chicago, selected for the purpose, left that city today for Washington to look after the World's Fair.

Robert Louis Stevenson is on his way from Australia to the United States, and it said that he intends hereafter to make his home in New York.

Maud Banks, who is now acting as private secretary to her father, Congressman Nathaniel P. Banks, is translating a German novel into English.

Henry Isaacs, 1018 Moyamensing avenue, Philadelphia, has been held in $500 bail by Magistrate Smith for committing an assault and battery upon his daughter, Mary.

It is reported that Mr. James R. Garfield, the second son of the late President, is engaged to marry Miss Helen Newell, daughter of John Newell, president of the Lake Shore Road.

John Coffee, who was tried in Gainesville, Ga., for the second time for the murder of Deputy Marshal Merritt in 1886, has been acquitted. It was a most aggravated case of murder.

Roswell Thompson of Gayeport, Pa., was found dead across the body of his dying wife yesterday. Both were old, and Mrs. Thompson had been ill in bed for some time. Mr. Thompson evidently died from paralysis.

Governor Beaver has signed the death warrants of William H. Bartholomew, Northampton County; Zach Taylor, Green County; William H. Smith, Allegheny County; Charles Carter, Cambria County; Alfred Andrews of Center County, who are to be hanged on Wednesday, April 9. Rudy and Jacobs, the Lancaster County murderers, have been respited till April 9, their cases being before the Board of Pardons.

Foreign.

Count Napoleon Daru, the French statesman, is dead.

The Marquis of Hartington has arrived at Cairo, Egypt.

Empress Frederick gave a reception to Prince Bismarck at Berlin.

The general elections for members of the Reichstag took place in Germany yesterday.

The Sultan's Government has determined to establish ship-yards and arsenals at Jeddah, Tripoli.

Forty-three bodies have been taken from the colliery at Decize, France, in which the explosion occurred Tuesday night.

An order has been issued at Berlin prohibiting the circulation in Germany of the *Volks-Anwalt*, a Cincinnati paper.

John Liston of Kingston, Ont., was burned so that he will probably die. Four of his children were suffocated and his wife broke her leg when his house was burned last night.

Three members of the Cretan Council have been sentenced to seven years' imprisonment each for resigning their posts under threats made by the Cretan committee at Athens.

Daily Beverages

Should be pure beyond doubt. All connoisseurs have phenomenal confidence in the choice Bordeaux wines of J. Calvet & Co. For sale by the Schoomaker Co. and other leading dealers.

You can order THE CRITIC by postalcard. It will be sent to your address every evening for 35 cents.

WAS THIS CONSPIRACY?

Plans to Secure Honest Taxation Mysteriously Suppressed.

RICH INFLUENCE VS. PUBLIC APPEAL.

Queer Experiences of an Official Dr.-Jekyll-and-Mr.-Hyde.

Commissioner Webb's Commission and How it Was Never Carried Out—Tax Reforms Ordered and Formulated Only to Disappear.

In the spring of 1887 the subject of unequal taxation in the District of Columbia was receiving the serious attention of the citizens.

The abuses which had grown out of unjust assessments of properties were vividly apparent and the people clamored for a change.

The District Assessor at that time prepared an unique statement of the situation. He procured a list of some 250 pieces of city and suburban property, improved and unimproved, scattered throughout the city and county, upon which a certain Building Association had made appraisements of value for the purpose of loaning money upon the properties. These appraisements were made upon two-thirds of the business value of the properties. The Assessor compared these appraisements with the assessments made upon the same properties by the city tax assessors.

The District assessment was $389,397.

The Building Association's appraisement was $685,498.

This was a slight indication of the general condition of affairs at that time. The citizens kept up a continual demand for a change in the mode of assessment.

There was a new Board of Commissioners in office then, appointed by President Cleveland. The civilian members of the board were Samuel E. Wheatley and William B. Webb. They were active, zealous, and manifested a sincere and keen desire to do only those things which would be best for the city.

On April 2, 1887, the board held a meeting and adopted the following resolution:

Ordered, That Commissioner Webb be and he is hereby appointed a committee by the Board of Commissioners to examine carefully the existing laws relating to the assessment of taxes in the District of Columbia, and to the collection of said taxes, and the methods pursued in making such assessment and collection under said laws; that in so doing he shall inquire into and examine the laws existing in other communities in respect to the assessment and collection of tax in such communities, and shall resort to all such sources of information as may to him seem best; that he shall reduce to the form of new laws and amendments to the existing laws the information thus obtained by him, and shall report the same to the Board for its action.

In their annual report some time after this the Commissioners put themselves on record in the matter of taxation as follows:

"The method of assessment is in every way unsuitable to the wants and interests of a large and rapidly-growing community. The Commissioners could illustrate what they say in this respect very forcibly by showing to Congress the remarkable contrast that is made apparent by comparing the values of property in several localities as they exist at this time with what they were at the time the last assessment was made. The evident remedy for this lies in such a change in the existing law as shall require assessments to be made annually, and will provide means by which assessments, when made, shall be at all times subject to revision and correction by some authority appointed for that purpose, so that the same may be increased or diminished, as the interests of the property-holders shall demand.

"During the past year the Commissioners have had this whole matter, in all its details, under serious consideration, and by an order made with a view to bringing about just and proper changes have directed one of their number to prepare and submit such a plan of legislation as shall seem best adapted to effect the ends in view.

"This will be done at an early day in the session, with the hope that some reform may be obtained without delay."

The citizens were delighted, the Commissioners had expressed their disapproval of the existing system, acknowledged a reform was necessary, and had promised Congress to give the matter early attention.

Commissioner Webb began an exhaustive study of the system of assessment and taxation.

In order to compare the Washington system with that of other cities, he visited New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Boston.

The citizens watched his movements with admiring eyes, and waited for the "new laws and amendments to existing laws" which he had been directed to recommend and promised Congress to submit.

In the meantime the assessors of the District, familiar with the subject, prepared the draft of a proposed law which would work a desirable change over the existing system. The bill provided that the Commissioners should, on the first Monday in January, 1889, divide the District of Columbia into six assessment districts and appoint a sub-assessor for each district, who should receive annual salaries of $1,500 each. This would form a permanent Board of Assessors and make the office of such desirability that it would be sought by men able to fill the duties.

This bill was introduced in the House of Representatives by a member at the request of the Assessor, and referred to the District Committee.

About this time a peculiar change seems to have come over the intentions of the Commissioners to institute radical reform in the matter of tax assessments. That keen and zealous desire formerly manifested to meet the demands of the majority of the citizens in this regard seems to have suddenly lost some of its edge.

It was just about this time, too, that the handful of powerful and wealthy property owners, whose lands and houses were assessed for about one-fifth, and less, of their true value, made up their minds that radical reforms were not necessary. In fact, they were certain the existing system was all right, and should not be changed.

Well, it was not changed.

Commissioner Webb did not submit to the board any startling recommendations of sweeping changes in the law.

The bill which the District Assessor had presented to the House of Representatives was referred by the District Committee to the Commissioners for their approval, as is customary. The bill never got out of the District Commissioners' office again. It was smothered there. There is not even a copy of it in their files, among the other bills.

Evidently, it did not meet their approval.

The bill did not meet the approval of the handful of powerful and wealthy property owners, either. Naturally, they deprecated a change which involved a more correct estimate of values and assessment thereon.

When Congress met again the Commissioners had not fulfilled their promise of recommending legislation to correct the assessment evil. They felt it necessary, however, to give some excuse for their failure, and this is what they said:

"In their last report the Commissioners called attention to the condition of the laws relating to assessments in the District of Columbia, suggested certain changes by means of which they were satisfied the land laws could be greatly improved, and promised to prepare and hand to Congress amendments to the existing law which would greatly modify and improve its operations. They respectfully call attention to what they said about these amendments and repeat the arguments used in their support.

"For reasons that it is not necessary to state here the plan of legislation referred to in their report was not formulated and presented as promised.

"Steps are being taken now, however, to fulfill the promise made, and it is hoped that such changes in the law as will insure a more careful and satisfactory assessment will be put in form and presented to Congress at an early day."

This sounded fair, and the citizens waited patiently for the "new laws and amendments to existing law" which were to relieve them from the burdens of unjust assessments.

They are still waiting.

That Board of Commissioners has run its course and another one been nearly a year in office, and there is no change for the better in the situation.

The only pretext of a fulfillment of the promise made by that Board of Commissioners to Congress and the people to make a change in the situation was a bill recommended and introduced in the House of Representatives January 7, 1889, creating a permanent Board of Tax and License Appeals.

It provided a possibility of an amelioration of the effects of the evil, but did not correct the cause. The bill passed the House, went to the Senate, and there disappeared.

The triennial assessment then came around. The citizens were assessed in the same old way, the small property-holders paying taxes upon 89 per cent. of the value of their property. The wealthy and powerful landlords paid upon 20 per cent. of the value of their property.

The sum of $2,043,893 was levied. The small property-holders paid $1,635,179 of it; the millionaire landlords paid $408,795.

As the former went down in their pockets to meet the unequal assessment they probably had rather bitter memories of the golden promises, never materialized, held out to them two years previously, that "new laws and amendments to existing law" would be forthcoming.

What Mr. Webb Says.

Ex-Commissioner Webb was seen by a CRITIC man yesterday. His memory of the details of his connection with the matter of a revision of the assessment law while he was Commissioner was not very fresh. He dimly recalled the order made by the Board directing him to investigate the subject, and he remembered his trips to the other cities upon this mission. When he returned he recommended to Congress a bill creating a permanent Board of Appeal, as explained above.

"What do you think of the present system of assessment?" asked THE CRITIC man.

"It is faulty in the extreme!" he said, emphatically. "It is almost impossible to pick up a dozen men promiscuously at the present rate of compensation who can furnish the ability to correctly assess the value of property for taxation as a permanent Board of Assessors would."

"Did you ever embody those remarks in a report to Congress?"

"No. It would be useless to do so. Congress would not grant any increase in officers or expenses to better the system. We have an inadequate and unexpensive system. Boston has a perfect, but consequently an expensive system of assessment. Congress would never give such a plan to Washington, although this is the place for a model system to flourish."

"Do you remember the bill proposed by the District assessors to create a permanent Board of Assessors?"

"Yes, I think I do. I believe it was referred to us by the House Committee and met with disapproval.

"I would favor an adequate assessment plan, but think it would be hard to get one from Congress."

Attitude of the Present Board.

The incumbent Board of District Commissioners expressed in their first annual report recently in vigorous terms their opinion of the objectionable nature of the present system of assessment. They said they anticipated no different results in the future from persistence in this method.

They distinctly recommend the establishment of a permanent Board of Assessors "who should devote all the time necessary to that duty, with a tenure of office that would secure to the public the value of their experience and skill, and who should give such bond and receive such salary as would enable the authorities to employ, and retain in that capacity, the continuous services of responsible and able citizens."

They also recommend a permanent Board of Appeals.

They promise to prepare and submit to Congress during the present session a bill embodying their views in the premises.

The Postoffice to Be Open.

The several divisions and branch stations of the Washington City Postoffice will be kept open for the transaction of business for the public on the 22d of February—Washington's birthday—until noon. At that hour the registry and money-order divisions will be closed to the public at the main office and branch stations. A delivery by carriers will be made at 8 a. m. Collections will be made at 4:30 a. m. and 5 p. m. The carriers' windows will be open from 5 to 7 p. m. The general delivery will not be closed.

Shortages of County Officials.

LAWRENCEVILLE, ILL., Feb. 21.—Experts reported yesterday the results of their investigation of the books of the officers of this (Lawrence) county to the board of supervisors, and the report shows that ex-Sheriff Ed Ryan (Republican) is short $2,658, ex-County Clerk L. G. Putnam (Democrat) $1,081, and ex-Treasurer J. W. McLean (Democrat) $57,500. The investigation covered a period of eight years.

MR. HUSTON TO RESIGN,

And He Wants His Resignation to be Felt by Harrison.

HIGH OFFICIALS MUCH DISGUSTED.

Publication of the Treasurer's Intention Upset His Plans.

Embarrassment of the Administration—Absence of Harmony in the President's Circle — Half-Hearted Denials—History of the Cause.

Is there a conspiracy among certain officials to embarrass the Administration by successive resignations?

Recent events certainly point in this direction. First there was the well-authenticated report that First Assistant Postmaster-General Clarkson would resign, quickly followed by a half-hearted denial. The reason assigned for his resignation was disgust with the Administration. This Mr. Clarkson has not, so far as known, ever denied in any way.

A few days later comes the report from Indianapolis that Treasuer Huston is to resign. Evidently the report was started by the statements of some indiscreet home friend of Mr. Huston. It was denied in the same half-hearted way as characterized Mr. Clarkson's denial.

The facts in Mr. Huston's case are simply these: He is not in harmonious relations with the President. This fact is too notorious among his Indiana friends to require further confirmation. Until this premature report came out Mr. Huston was in the habit of expressing himself to his Hoosier friends concerning his resignation in about the following language, and in the most emphatic manner:

"Resign? Of course, I'm going to resign. I'm not ready yet. I want my resignation to be felt. Wait till one or two others of the disgusted resign and I'll follow suit, and in that way the Administration will be embarrassed."

Mr. Huston expressed himself freely and frequently, and to more than one person to this effect. He was mad all the way through and showed it. The premature publication of his intention upset his plans and there was nothing left for him to do but to follow Clarkson's lead and deny.

To find the reason for Treasurer Huston's bitter dissatisfaction it is necessary to go back to Indiana politics in recent years. Ten years ago John C. New, now Consul-General at London, was chairman of the State Committee. His political reward was to be made an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury. He had already been Treasurer. Then New became the member of the National Committee for Indiana, which position he retained during the last Presidential campaign. During the campaign of 1880 Colonel W. W Dudley, then United States Marshal for Indiana, took an active part in the State campaign and began the reputation which has since become national.

James N. Huston appeared in the field of Indiana politics some years later and began the career which is now making him so much trouble. In 1886 he was chairman of the State committee. He made a very good one. Being rich, he saw that the good work did not stop for any temporary lack of funds. The State went Republican by a small plurality. He was chairman again in 1888. At Chicago he worked with New, Dudley and others to bring about Harrison's nomination. They succeeded, and thus laid the foundation of all their subsequent unhappiness.

In the campaign which followed, which in Indiana was unprecedentedly bitter, owing to their being a favorite son on the ticket, all these played the parts assigned them for all they were worth. New was national committeeman. Dudley, by special arrangement, represented Georgia on the committee and was treasurer. Clarkson was the national committeeman from Iowa and a member of the executive committee. Huston was State chairman.

The campaign was a successful one. Hardly had the sounds of the tin horns, bull-fiddles and other ear-torturing instruments died out upon the weary air of Indiana than the trouble commenced which has led to the estrangement of all these co-workers with the man they worked for, and in some instances with each other. Huston was hailed by his friends as the Hoosier Warwick. New's friends hailed him as the Hoosier Warwick. Dudley's friends insisted he was the only genuine Warwick in the outfit. Clarkson did the Warwick business for Iowa. Harrison broke with Dudley on account of the "blocks-of-five" letter. The National Committee concluded to do a little Warwick business on its own account, and selected one of its members, Clarkson, for a Cabinet place. He didn't get it.

The chief trouble for the President-elect was at his home. Huston wanted a Cabinet place, and he and his friends worked and struggled for it the winter through. They insisted that he of all men had won the coveted place. They pointed with confident pride to the campaign of 1886, which they said was won by Huston's superior article of political sagacity. The late campaign, they said, would have proven a dismal defeat but for the same reason. Thus the arguments ran and thus they were poured into the Presidential auricular orifice.

New declared he didn't want any Cabinet office himself, but he blanked if anybody else in Indiana should have one unless the President wanted to make it a family matter and appoint Miller. It will be observed that Mr. Miller was appointed. New himself became very tender in the cuticle, failed to come on to the inauguration, and when he did show up some weeks later declared that he was not going to the White House. A special ambassador from the President, however, induced the doughty Hoosier editor to change his mind. He was offered his choice of his present place and several others. He chose the best and is, at least, comfortable in being away out of the heat and dust of the strife.

Huston was finally tendered the position of Treasurer as being in line with his vocation of banker. New had once held the place, and it looked quite the appropriate thing to do to offer it to Huston in turn. The place was so much below his ambition that he hesitated long before accepting. He reasoned with himself and took counsel with his friends. Finally, with doubt in his mind and anger tugging at his heart-strings, he accepted. His friends thought he could help them, once he was in place. But the only patronage he had was a private secretary, and that was soon disposed of.

Even though he had failed in reaching the Cabinet, Huston would yet have been satisfied had his claim as State chairman and, in the absence of a Republican Senator, to be dictator of the offices in the Democratic Congressional districts of his State, of which there are ten out of thirteen, been allowed. By a judicious use of this power he could have paved the way to the United States Senate, in the event that the Legislature this fall was Republican. He contended for this power for weeks, even months, before he finally gave in. But it was denied him, the President retaining this power in his own hands. At last he accepted the place of Treasurer and resigned as chairman. He has been in the sulks ever since, and no Indianian, who knew anything of the situation, has ever expected him to serve his term through. The inharmonious relations existing between himself and the President, however deplorable politically, were too plain not to be an open secret to all Hoosiers. The only questions in their minds were: How long will he endure it? When will Huston resign?

A way out of the difficulty seemed to open for a moment, when, some two or three months ago, General Thomas M. Browne, Representative from the Sixth Indiana District, now serving his seventh term, sent an open letter to his constituents stating that he would not again be a candidate for Congress. It seemed as though Huston might succeed Browne. Huston made a trip out to Indiana, but soon saw that there was going to be a bitter struggle for the place; that every county would make a fight for its own man. The only dignified course for him was to remain in the background. His county has put forward no candidate. The only other county in the district which has failed to do this was Gen. Browne's. Huston therefore returned here from his home a wiser and a madder man.

Yesterday a CRITIC reporter called on Treasurer Huston and asked him in regard to the report that he was going to resign. Mr. Huston said:

"When I get ready to resign my place I propose to tell my social and political friends first. I shall take no steps without first consulting them. I will not permit the enemy to suggest my course for me.

"Now," the Treasurer continued, "I live in the Sixth Indiana District, the old 'Burnt District,' where our majority is about 10,000. General Browne has retired and I might be nominated if I went into the scramble. But that I can't do. Besides, I am pleasantly situated here, and my office is an honorable one. My relations with the President are very cordial—even exceptionally so, I think. However, if the Republicans of my district nominate me I am not a big man enough to decline.

"A man's worst enemies are in his own household, and there are Republicans in Indiana who would be delighted to hear of a rupture between the President and myself. Suppose I should resign now and go home, my party enemies would say that I was at enmity with the Administration. Politics in Indiana are difficult to understand. Because the State has gone Republican for the last two campaigns it does not follow it will continue to do so. It is a very close State at any time.

If I should resign now and the State should go Democratic this fall, my enemies would be apt to blame me, in part, for it, would they not? Then, if I were not nominated for Congress, they would say, Huston is out of office, at odds with the Administration and has lost his influence at home—what political future has he? No, sir; when I resign my friends will know it before my enemies."

DE MOLAY COMMANDERY.

Knights Templar Entertain the Ladies Who Helped Them.

De Molay Mounted Commandry, No. 4, Knights Templar, gave an entertainment and reception last night to the ladies who rendered the commandery assistance during the Conclave and on other occasions. Eminent Commander Charles C. M. Loeffler made the address of welcome, after which Mrs. Annie Roemer Kaspar sang a soprano solo. Mr. Herndon Morsell, Miss Anita Hendries, Mr. John Tweedale and Mr. Walter F. Smith also participated in the entertainment. Supper was served during the evening, after which dancing began, and was continued up to a late hour. The members of the general committee were:

Eminent Sir R. T. Huston, Sirs H. F. Brueninger, James M. Ford, Frank Schwarz, John F. O'Neil, Charles Childs, F. G. Alexander, W. J. Lown, W. N. Wood, reception committee; Eminent Sir Charles C. M. Loeffler, chairman; Eminent Sirs Joseph Daniels, A. W. Kelley, W. H. H. Cissel, Martin R. Thorp, J. H. Jochum, Thomas Somerville, R. I. Helston, J. P. Pearson, Noble D. Larner, Isaac L. Johnson, E. F. Lawson, R. W. Hardy, George A. Sheban, Sirs J. M. Hodges, J. F. O'Neil, F. G. Alexander, Granville Mason, Frank Schwarz, L. G. Stephens.

Those present included:

Captain and Mrs. Charles C. M. Loeffler, Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Alexander, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Hodges, Miss Hodges, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. O'Neil, Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Turner, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Childs, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Schwarz, Mr. and Mrs. E. P. Vaux, Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Brueninger, Miss Brueninger, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Kelley, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Jochum, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Sheban, Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Kleston, Miss Kleston, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Manning, Mrs. Robert Graham, Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Draney, Miss Alice Draney, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Schafer, Mr. and Mrs. George W. Evans, Mr and Mrs. Jacobson, Mr. and Mrs. George Gibson, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Loeffler, Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Sowell, Mr. and Mrs. P. O. Posts, Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Johnson, Miss Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Gaddis, Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Cozzins, Mr. and Mrs. H. Benzler, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Semms, Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Leitch, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Lamb, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Harvey, Mr. and Mrs. J. K. Kerr, Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Holmes, Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Lawson, Mrs. Mittlebrook, Mrs. Caprons, Mrs. Messeny, Misses Nellie Trout, Anita Hendric, Katie Small, Summerville, Pollard, Eda McFarland, O'Connor, Margaret Lamb, Harvey, Kerr, Holmes, Lawson, Messrs. J. F. Scaggs, G. H. Kuhn, jr., J. M. Small, Thomas Summerville and J. S. Kellogg.

The President Home Again.

President Harrison arrived in the city from his trip to Pittsburg, at 10 o'clock this morning, and was driven directly from the Pennsylvania Railroad depot to the Executive Mansion. The usual Friday Cabinet meeting was held this afternoon, all the members being present.

Negroes Make Threats.

RALEIGH, N. C., Feb. 21.—Negro incendiaries at Rocky Mount have sent a notice to prominent citizens there informing them that if the Rocky Mount Light Infantry is ordered out the negroes will kill them all if they have to shoot them from ambush. Other threats of a like character have been made.

Beach Property Damaged.

LONG BRANCH, N. J., Feb. 21.—The high seas during a storm Wednesday night caused considerable damage to beach property. Portions of the bluff were washed away in several places. The roadway in front of the United States Hotel was partially washed out.

The Fifteenth Amendment.

JACKSON, MISS., Feb. 21.—The memorial in favor of a repeal of the Fifteenth Amendment was voted on in the House yesterday, the result being 30 nays, 20 yeas, but there being no quorum, the matter will come up again.

CRAZED BY LOTTERY.

Purchaser of a Ticket Now an Inmate of an Insane Asylum.

WHERE GAMBLERS TURN THE WHEEL

How the Louisiana Corporation Works at Its Home.

Tragic Results—Tickets as Currency—Subsidized Newspapers Everywhere—Investigations of a "Critic" Staff Correspondent at New Orleans.

Staff Correspondence of THE CRITIC.

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 20.

In no other city in the country so well as here in this beautiful town on the Mississippi can the effects of the gigantic gambling establishment known as the Louisiana Lottery be seen and studied. It is not difficult to find these effects, the keen eye and educated sense of the professional detective are not required to hunt them down; they can be found everywhere, on the street, in the squalid tenements below the levee as well as in the magnificent mansions of the fashionable section.

In New Orleans the vice of playing the lottery is a craze, a mania, and the proposition may be safely ventured that if it were possible to look into the pockets of every man and woman and a great many of the children of the metropolis of the Gulf State a lottery ticket, and oftimes a roll of them, would be found. The city has, from the time of its foundation, been a gambling centre; the Latin blood of its first settlers took kindly to games of chance, and this trait had only to be fostered to make it a rage. For years it has been fostered by the lottery and it has become a rage. To day this town is the greatest gambling centre of the country, and the eleventh day of each month is looked forward to with an expectancy that is as painful to the observer as it is to the observed. Plans are made by thousands, castles in the air are builded high, business men count on the result to help them pay a note coming due, their clerks expect to start in business for themselves, the drunkard looks forward to a long debauch, the shop girl looks longingly in the dry goods store window at the rich fabrics displayed there, grasping her ticket the tighter, and the professional gambler feels of his "roll" and waits with outward calm but inward anxiety for the coming time when the great wheel in the Academy of Music will turn and let him know his fate.

And when the great eleventh day arrives and the drawing takes place, there is a period of joy and depression, and then depression and joy, for those who are joyous soon spend their money and are depressed, and those who are depressed have again fixed their eyes on the next drawing and have no regrets. Seldom it is that when a prize is drawn in New Orleans a life is not ruined, and many a prize has been drawn there, more than in any other city. Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been distributed in New Orleans in prizes, but THE CRITIC's representative failed to find a single instance where any permanent good had resulted, though he procured a list of the prize-winners and inquired about them. The Louisiana Company cannot produce a man in the city who can show a fortune as the result of an investment in the tickets of their gambling establishment. But if they chose to do so they could show thousands of wrecks they have made.

And these wrecks, who can be seen in New Orleans and the State by anyone to-day, are doing more now to form public opinion against the lottery than any other one thing. They are ever-present arguments against an institution that has been a curse to the city from its very inception. Had it not been for these men, and women, too, for that matter, the company would doubtless have been a permanent establishment. The company realize the opposition which has sprung up against them, and it was this knowledge which made them make such desperate efforts to get a franchise in Dakota. They realize that they cannot find a permanent home in New Orleans, and they are now casting about for some place. This place will be difficult to find; its enemies are always on the watch, both at home and abroad, and every attempt, so far made, has been frustrated.

There is scarcely a merchant in this city who does not accept as currency lottery tickets, and this custom has led to many tragedies. The custom is spreading too, and in Washington the great majority of saloons will accept tickets in payment for liquor and food. Just before leaving there on this trip I investigated this custom, and found that within the past few years it had taken a powerful grip, and I saw myself a bartender change a $5 bill for a customer, giving him three tickets and $2.

THE TRAGEDY OF A TICKET.

Everyone here remembers the tragedy that one single ticket occasioned about seven years ago. It is not an isolated tragedy, but it was more trouble than some of the others, and in this way it occasioned more comment, as four men were the victims. It was never printed in the newspapers of the city; they can't afford to do anything of that kind, and the thousands of subsidized newspapers all over the country dared not publish it for fear that they would lose a few hundred dollars in advertising. But the public heard of it, nevertheless, and it did more to start the present movement against the gigantic den than any other single thing.

The first purchaser of the ticket was a young fellow, whose name I think was Claiborne. He was a descendant of one of the first families of the State and one of his relatives was the famous Governor of the country when it was a Territory and nothing more. Young Claiborne was fond of an occasional spree, and his family were well aware of his failing, so every saloon-keeper in the city was forbidden to sell him liquor on credit, and as he was under age they didn't do it. But tickets were as good as money, and he had a supply of them. So he went from place to place, getting what he wanted and paying with the blue bordered bits of paper. He spent his last one at a saloon on Canal street, near the St. Charles Hotel. This action had far-reaching consequences, for the ticket

DREW THE CAPITAL PRIZE.

But the saloon keeper didn't reap its benefits, if they were benefits, for on the same day he paid the ticket out in change to a contractor on the streets who in turn passed it over to one of his men, a poor negro laborer. The laborer drew the money, the great roll of bills were passed over to him and he dropped his pick and shovel, never to take them up again.

Claiborne, the original buyer of the ticket, was not a rich man; his family had been impoverished by the war, and the money would have, he thought fondly, put him beyond the necessity of work, and he could have lived somewhat in the style of his ancestors. People laughed at him and the spree that was in former days only occasional became permanent. He and the bar-keeper, to whom he had sold the winning ticket held long and animated converse over the bottle. They drank hard and deep, but Claiborne had no money, and so but little went into the till, though the whisky continued to pour out with increasing regularity.

Soon the proprietor began to take cognizance of this, and it was not many days before the bartender was dismissed from the place, and the other day I saw him on the street a tattered wretch, so unlike his former self that I would not have known him had not an acquaintance called my attention to his changed appearance. Young Claiborne's friends had to take charge of him, for he was on the verge of *delirium tremens*, and I was told that he is now an inmate of an asylum.

THE CONTRACTOR'S FATE

was not very different from that of the others. His wife was ambitious of social honors and she taunted her husband for selling the ticket. He tried to relive himself by buying heavily, spent thousands of dollars in tickets, but never drew a prize. He failed in business and died a couple of years ago, broken in health, ruined in business and weak in mind. His employe was for some time a familiar figure on the streets and about the race course at New Orleans. The propensity for gambling, which had laid dormant within him, awoke when he got possession of his money, and he did nothing else but gamble. It didn't take him long, with the aid of the professional gamblers who infest the city, to get rid of the money, and when he was rid of it he had no disposition to again take up the pick and shovel None of them do when they have once tasted of the flesh-pots. He is now serving out a sentence in the penitentiary for housebreaking.

This is only one of a hundred stories that may be heard in New Orleans. They are true and can be vouched for by almost any one not connected with the great monopoly. The hangman could tell worse stories than even this; the warden of the jail can tell you many just as bad, and the physician in charge of the Insane Asylum could write a most interesting book of men whom he has seen day after day counting over little slips of paper and mumbling to themselves. If Congress could spend a week in New Orleans they would know more of the practical results of the lottery than could be found out anywhere else. They would see to what depths men have sunk through its existence, and they would see how it has wound itself into the homes and beings of the people of this city.

Senator Sawyer's Bill.

Speaking last evening of the bill for the suppression of lotteries which was introduced in the Senate yesterday by Senator Sawyer, Assistant Attorney-General James N. Tyner, the Solicitor for the Postoffice Department, said that it was identical with that which had been introduced in the House early in the session by Representative Bingham.

"It was intended," said the Assistant Attorney-General, "to have both bills presented at the same time, but by some oversight the Senate bill was overlooked. The bill embodies the views which Postmaster-General Wanamaker put forth in his annual report for the suppression of the lottery.

"It has been said," continued Mr. Tyner, "that the Postmaster-General is content to rest upon the law as laid down by the United States Circuit Court when Postmaster General Gresham attempted to stop the delivery of mail to the National Bank of New Orleans, the agent of the Louisiana Lottery, but that is not so. The fact is that the Postmaster General has exhausted all the powers granted to him by the laws at present to put down the lotteries, and asks for more authority from Congress.

"The whole matter is a very delicate one to deal with, as it not only involves the sanctity of the mails, but raises grave questions as to the constitutionality of laws restricting the liberty of the individual or of corporations. See, for instance, what difficulties are raised by an order prohibiting the delivery of mail matter to a bank acting as agent for the Lottery Company. It may be that the legitimate mail of that bank is three times as great as that intended for the Lottery Company. In this mail there may be letters containing notices of the approaching maturity of notes or other forms of commercial paper, upon the payment of which, at the required time, may depend the prosperity and entire fortunes of the individual or the corporation. Refusal to deliver this mail might thus cause great financial loss to many persons.

"Then again there is the difficulty of conviction under the present law The Postoffice Department may have evidence that a letter has been mailed to the Lottery Company's agent in New Orleans from here in Washington, but that is not a crime, and evidence must be secured in New Orleans that the letter has been delivered there to the company or its agent. To complete the case it would be necessary to take the witness to the mailing of the letter from here to New Orleans, which would be a very expensive and cumbersome proceeding. To get over this evil the bill just introduced makes the mailing of a letter continuous from the place of mailing to the place of delivery, so that any United States Court in the districts through which it passes shall have jurisdiction. This is the present law regarding other offenses in the postal service.

"The bill applies to the agent of the Lottery Company the same law as now applies to the principal, and has been drawn with a full knowledge of the constitutional difficulties in the way. No one can be more anxious than Postmaster-General Wanamaker to suppress the lotteries, and if the bill becomes a law he will be able to accomplish much more in that direction than at present."

Stewart Mansion Leased.

NEW YORK, Feb. 21.—The lease of the Stewart mansion to the Manhattan Club, which has been under consideration for many months, was consummated yesterday, and the instrument was formally signed at the club house last evening at a meeting of the governing board. The lease is for twenty-one years, with privilege of renewal for a similar term. During the first five years the rent is to be $65,000; during the next five years it is to be $67,500, and the remaining period $40,000.

A Noted Hotel Burned.

ERIE, PA., Feb. 21.—One of the oldest and most noted hotels between Buffalo and Cleveland, the Weigel House, at Weigeltown, a suburb of Erie, was destroyed by fire yesterday morning. The building was of very little value, but was one of the oldest landmarks in this vicinity.

SUFFRAGISTS AT WAR.

Church and Anti-Church Parties Among the Women.

"LIBERAL THINKERS" TO CONVENE.

Matilda Joslyn Gage is the Leader of the New Movement.

What Lillie Devereux Blake, Mrs. McAdow, Rev. Anna B. Shaw and Others Say About It—Ungentlemanly Conduct of a Legislator.

A few weeks ago Dr. Elliott Coues predicted "music in the air" at the close of the Suffrage Convention—music which was to be wrought by the inaugural of an anti-Church woman movement under the leadership of Matilda Joslyn Gage. The public mention of Mrs. Stanton's and Miss Clara Barton's names in connection with the proposed organization brought out emphatic public denials, and, so far as can be ascertained by inquiry and observation, this new departure among women is restricted to a very limited circle. A tour of the Riggs House parlors and the Lincoln Hall stage boxes, side aisles and vestibule elicits the following opinions of prominent women.

Lillie Devereux Blake was already seated on the stage just before the convention opened its morning session, but kindly came down into one of the boxes to answer a few questions relative to the proposed new liberal thought—a non-Church