the king. "The king of clubs," said Thurgut, throwing down a card. "No," said the king, "you're wrong; it is the knave." "I beg your majesty's pardon," replied Thurgut, "that's the second time to-day I have mistaken a knave for a king."

Enghien-les-Bains a century ago was a squalid little village, which the inhabitants of Paris, only twenty miles distant, had probably never heard about. The Curé of Montmorency discovered that some sulphur springs in the place, the water from which was allowed to flow into a mill-stream, contained as health-giving ingredients as sulphur springs in the far Pyrenees—the resort of fashionable Paris. But fashion refused to drink of the waters till Louis XVIII. said that they were good. Now there is no token of the old-time village. Immense and handsomely adorned hotels have taken the place of the hovels, there are beautiful gardens on every side, the mill-stream has been enlarged into a good-sized lake; and the humble springs are encompassed by magnificent structures. There are ordinary hot and cold baths, *douches* of every kind, and Russian baths. The waters are patronized by singers. Colds and coughs disappear when their influence is obtained. There are special rooms for gargling and taking spray baths, while there is a perpetual inhalation going on, as an apparatus discharges volumes of moisture into the air.

Königshofen on the Tauber is the duelling-ground of the South German students. It lies on the line of railway between Heidelberg and Würzburg, and is a sort of Plumstead Marshes for the fierce young Philistines whose honor can only be appeased by blood. *The London Echo* states that one day about three weeks ago a special carriage load of nearly one hundred *Burschen* from the Universities of Erlangen, Würzburg, Tübingen, Heidelberg, Basel and Strasburg, was deposited at Königshofen Station, with a couple of surgeons, and with all the customary paraphernalia of offence and defence needed for a proper German *Paukerei*, even including a stock of bandages and some pounds of ice. They hired the great Saal of one of the hotels for their learned consultations and their drinking. The proceedings were conducted with closed doors; but the suspicions of the hotel-keeper were at last aroused by the continual demand for fresh water, and by the fact that the water-vessels came back stained with blood. He sent for the local police, and no fewer than twenty-five of the learned youths were discovered to be scratched, although with wounds which were happily only skin-deep.

COMMERCIAL NOTES.

The German Government has lately demonetized the one-sixth-thaler pieces, and is now exchanging them at the post-offices for the new Imperial coins. When these shall have all been called in, the only coins of the old system still remaining in circulation will be the one-thaler pieces.

A machine has been invented in this city, mounted on wagon wheels, which is intended for use on farms in the West. It deluges the ground behind it with smoke from burning chips and brimstone, and holds the smoke down long enough to suffocate every potato bug, locust and other insect that comes within its influence.

The trade in Carolina rice, which the City of Charleston now controls, is in danger of being lost to that city by reason of excessive charges for freight and milling. Freight to Charleston is 6 cents per bushel, against 2 cents to the country mill. The total charge for delivering 1,000 bushels of rice in the New-York market is $127 50, and to deliver the same in tierces to the factor in Charleston costs $147 50. Planters get from ¾ to ⅞ cent a pound more for their rice by sending it to New-York.

The new Imperial Patent Office of Germany was opened on the first of July. A circular explaining the principles upon which it is based, and inviting patent authorities in other countries to forward information in regard to their systems, in order that the German office may profit by the experience of older institutions, has been issued. The German Patent Office is to issue a periodical gazette, similar to that issued by the United States Patent Office, containing descriptions of all new inventions.

The annual report on accidents on Austrian railways during the year 1876 has been published. The number of trains which were thrown from the track during the year was 217; the number of collisions, 72; the number of cases in which persons or animals were killed by trains, 476; and the number of disasters by the elements, 186. One hundred and eighty-seven persons were killed during the year, only three of whom were passengers. In 1875, 196 persons were killed, five of whom were passengers. The total length of the railroads of Austria is now about 6,600 miles.

The trade statistics of France for the first six months of 1877 do not compare favorably with those for the same period of last year. The total imports of all kinds of commodities into France up to June 30, amounted to $362,527,000, against $361,894,200 in 1876, showing the slight increase of $633,400. During the same period of 1877 the exports from France amounted to $332,595,200, against $355,742,800 in 1876, a decrease in the exports of $23,147,600; the falling off in the total trade of the republic being $22,514,200. The comparison of the trade of the first six months of the present year with that of the same period for last year, is unfavorable also in other respects. Evidence of the stagnation of trade is afforded by the decrease of $4,200,000 in the imports of raw material, and of $15,000,000 in the exports of manufactured articles. The small gain in the imports of France during the six months is almost entirely due to the unusually large arrivals of foreign sugar necessary to replace the deficient crop at home.

The superior facilities of private bankers for the sale of government loans is illustrated by the failure of the French Government to dispose of its new four per cent bonds by popular subscription, recently referred to in this column. Since these bonds were sold to the Rothschilds, and have been admitted to the Price Current in Paris, they have been quoted at a premium of five francs, in addition to the accrued interest. The amount purchased of the Government by the Rothschilds was $13,500,000, and the total amount of popular subscriptions received by the Government before this sale was only $400,000. The chief cause of the financial strength and recuperative power of France has been the willingness and ability of the French people to lend to the Government, and France's consequent small foreign indebtedness. It is a bad sign for France in these hard times, when four per cent is a good return for money safely invested, that her own people refuse to buy her bonds. It undoubtedly shows that their power to lend is nearly exhausted.

There has been a little revival of the iron trade of Germany. The imports of manufactured iron during the first four months of the present year were as follows: For January, 34,150 tons; for February, 13,400 tons; for March, 19,700 tons, and for April, 22,200 tons. The increase in the imports of manufactured iron during the first three months of the present year, when compared with those of the same period of last year, has been 34,800 tons, and of raw and old iron 46,150 tons. At the beginning of the present year the duties on manufactured iron imported into Germany were abolished, and this fact probably explains the comparatively large imports for January. But the free importation of foreign iron manufactures, while attended with a larger demand, has not seemed to cramp or destroy the native industries of Germany, as is shown by a still greater increase in the demand for raw material. The export statistics for May show a remarkable increase in the consignments of rails and manufactured iron, especially to Russia, the amount sent to that country alone being nearly twice as great as the average for the four previous months, and to the Netherlands, probably for shipment to Russia, fully fifty per cent greater than at the beginning of the year.

MUSICAL NOTES.

Wieniawski, the violinist, has paid a visit to Stockholm.

The Leeds Triennial Festival will commence September 19.

Sunday concerts of sacred music in the London concert halls are positively forbidden.

Madame Materna has renewed her engagement at the Imperial Opera House, Vienna, for six years.

Capoul has had a flattering offer to become first tenor of the Paris Grand Opera.

Messrs. Arthur S. Sullivan and William S. Gilbert are said to have an opera ready for the stage.

Parts of Wagner's "Ring des Nibelungen" will be given at the Théâtre de la Monnaie, Brussels.

Richard Wagner arrived at Weimar on July 23, where he and his family are on a visit to Dr. Franz Liszt.

Mr. John Hullah has been elected an honorary member of the Royal Academy of St. Cecilia at Rome—the oldest musical institution in Europe.

A certain composer of comic songs, M. Edmond Lhérillier, has been appointed to elevate the tone of Turkish military music.

The net profits of the concert given at Cassel in aid of the fund for a statue to be erected in memory of Spohr amounted to 2,900 marks ($580).

It is announced that Gounod's opera "Cinq Mars" will be performed at St. Petersburg in the course of the next season, with recitatives recently added by the composer.

Victor Massé has visited Brussels in order to personally superintend the rehearsal of his opera "Paul and Virginia," which is to be produced at the Théâtre de la Monnaie.

Flotow has a new opera in hand, to be called "The Musicians." Mozart is the principal personage in it. Flotow is also composing another opera, "Sacountala," for the firm of Ricordi, in Milan.

No less than 11,075 people attended the Sims Reeves benefit. Tickets were sold at popular prices, and the receipts were only a few shillings short of £1,500. The net profits were over £1,000.

The new five-act opera by M. Ambroise Thomas, "Françoise de Rimini," will be produced during the International Exhibition season, as also the revivals of Auber's "Muette de Portici" (Masaniello), and Meyerbeer's "Africaine."

The voice of Mme. Gerster, who lately made such a sensation in the operatic world of London, is said to be worth at least $250,000 a year while it lasts. Engagements have poured in to her from St. Petersburg, Paris and Vienna.

Patti, Albani and Thalberg had benefits in the same week at Covent Garden, London, and chose respectively *Margherita* in "Faust," *Lucia* in "Lucia di Lammermoor," and *Mrs. Ford* in the "Merry Wives of Windsor."

At the installation of the new Bishop of St. Albans a march was announced to be played. Some of the newspapers went into ecstacies at the grandeur of the composition and criticised it accordingly. The organist really played the Hallelujah Chorus from "The Messiah."

It is reported in London that arrangements are in progress to have a third Italian opera company in that city next Winter, to be housed at the Drury Lane Theatre. The names of the leading artists engaged in the undertaking have not as yet been announced.

Herr Tichatschek, the famous German tenor, recently celebrated his seventieth birthday. He received on the occasion a pension, and orders from the King of Saxony, and the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, as well as telegrams of congratulation from many parts.

Accounts of the prospects of the next opera season in Italy at present appear to be far from brilliant. It is rumored that the Fenice Theatre at Venice, the Bellina Theatre at Palermo, and perhaps also the Carlo Felice at Genoa, and the Pergola at Florence will remain closed; and that a complete company has only with difficulty been brought together for the La Scala Theatre.

The Mozart festival at Salzburg was commenced on the 17th of July; one of the attractions was the inauguration of the little house in which the composer wrote in 1791 "Flauto Magico," which house was removed from Vienna to Salzburg. The musical selections were not confined to the works of Mozart, but included those of Beethoven, Weber, Mendelssohn, Cherubini, etc.

There was living at Ulm last year the last of the Master-singers. He was an old man of eighty, whose name was J. Best, and his calling was that of a grave-digger. Owing to his infirmities, a substitute was granted to him by the town, whilst he usually sat, in musing mood, at the entrance of the churchyard. His signature is to be found on the act of donation, by which the only surviving members of the Society of Master-singers at Ulm, in 1839, handed over their standard, their pictures, their school and song-books, and other property, to the "Liederkranz," or Musical Union, of the town. The document in question is of a pathetic nature in its quaint simplicity. It requests the Liederkranz to carry the old banner in any festive processions in which its members may publicly take part, after the last of the master-singers shall have gone to his rest. This act of donation was signed by Christian Bassler, J. Best, Thomas Häberlein, and Peter Bassing. Best was the solitary survivor in 1876. If we do not much mistake, he, too, is dead now. The Hamletic irony of fate so willed it that the last representative of a poetical guild which, after the decay of the Minne-song, undoubtedly did much for the ennobling of the spirit of the German middle and working class, should have been a grave-digger.

PUBLIC OPINION.

Whatever difference there may be as to means, the country agrees with the President in desiring that the Union may be a real Union.—[Albany Journal (Rep.)

Upon the whole, the Democracy of Pennsylvania could have done worse, for the folly that devised such a platform might have mounted blatant fools upon it, as did the Republicans of Ohio.—[Philadelphia Times (Ind.)

There was some pretty lively talk among prominent Democrats yesterday, in favor of forcing Bishop off the ticket. I would require force, and a good deal of it, to accomplish that. Mr. Bishop seeks office, but never resigns.—[Cincinnati Gazette (Rep.)

It is worthy of remark that the Democratic party has never had charge of the Government in any time of trial. Its theories of finance and administration are all untried. It may talk, blow and criticise and boast, but it has no record to point to, except one of consistent devotion to slavery and opposition to free labor. The Democratic party has never done anything to entitle it to the confidence of the country.—[Indianapolis Journal (Rep.)

If it was the intention of Mr. Hayes in appointing Judge Key to place a representative Southerner in the Cabinet, he blundered most egregiously. The South stands ready to resent any reflection upon her loyalty, but she comes to reconciliation as an equal.—[Richmond Enquirer (Dem.)

Those gentlemen who exhibit their smartness in an attempt to belittle old Ben Wade are not making any friends among Republicans. When the party in Ohio was in its palmiest days wouldn't he be so scarce in that locality now if Ben Wade were more of a leader—[Chicago Inter-Ocean (Rep.)

If there is any opposition to the President in this State, it will not be the party any good by attempting to hide itself in a "neutral" course by the convention. The Republicans of Wisconsin want to speak out loud on every subject, and we are confident it will. And equally confident that the President will be sustained by an overwhelming majority.—[Milwaukee Sentinel (Rep.)

There are many good men in the United States army, we do not deny. Nor do we underestimate the distinction of a commission in the regular service. Just at this juncture, however, the true Southerner can be of more service to the country at large by following the paths of civil life than by placing himself under the orders of the Administration and its military and moneyed advisers, who would rest the Government in an oligarchy rather than in the people.—[Richmond Enquirer (Dem.)

REGULAR HOGS.

From The Utica Herald.

When it is known that one Federal official in New-York City has five members of his family pensioned on the Treasury, good reason will be recognized for the President's order against nepotism. Yet that family quite certainly will have little patience with this meddling with the civil service.

SPEAK UP, MR. RANDALL.

From The Rochester Union and Advertiser (Dem.)

As Mr. Randall stands before the country today, as he is in favor of Tom Scott's coveted subsidy for Texas Pacific. If he does not wish to be so considered, he must speak out and say plainly and emphatically that he is against that subsidy. The Democratic Representative who in Democratic caucus or in the House votes for a man for Speaker who is not thus committed against further robbery of the people to enrich soulless corporations and colossal thieves, will have a fearful account to settle with his constituents. Nothing can be taken for granted. Everything must be clearly understood, and the organization of the next House, through its Speaker and Standing Committees, must be in the interests of the people, or another Democratic House will not be seen at Washington for an average lifetime.

BEWARE OF TAMMANY.

From The Troy Times.

The opinion is steadily gaining ground that the Republicans can carry the State of New-York next November, if they will only act together with vigor and determination. It will be exceedingly important to secure control of the Legislature, and especially of the Senate, which body holds over for two years, and will participate in the choice of a Senator of the United States in 1879. If the Legislature shall be Republican, the evident purpose of John Kelly's corrupt Tammany Ring to extend its power over the whole State, through the obsequious aid of Gov. Robinson, will be thwarted; and that is a matter of no small importance. All that the Republicans need is unity of purpose and action. That there is some difference of opinion among them concerning the policy of the National Administration all are aware. But the present is not a time to pass upon that matter. The election this year will be one of purely State concern, except so far as the United States Senatorship is concerned, and the period of attending to that matter is so remote that all cause for dividing upon it in respect of its influence upon Federal politics will probably have disappeared before the necessity for action arrives.

TAKING A WHACK AT HIM.

From The Buffalo Courier.

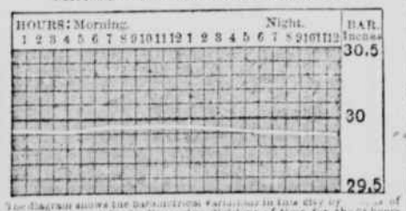
We think Mr. Key feels the humiliation of his position keenly. It is one regarded as anomalous by the very persons with whom he is associated in the Administration. He is neither willing to be considered a Republican by Republicans, nor regarded as a Democratic by Democrats. His presence in the Cabinet as a bid for Southern Democratic support will doubtless prove a failure. Such support as the House of Representatives will give those measures of the Administration which are in accord with the Democratic policy, Mr. Hayes had no occasion to purchase by a slice of patronage. It is quite doubtful whether Mr. Key will long remain in his uncertain position. A withdrawal from the Cabinet will of course be equivalent, in his case, to a retirement from public life.

MIDNIGHT WEATHER REPORT.

GOVERNMENT INDICATIONS.

For the Lower Lake Region, the Middle States and New-England, rising barometer, slightly cooler south and west winds, clear or partly cloudy weather, and possibly light local rains at the northern stations.

TRIBUNE LOCAL OBSERVATIONS.



The diagram shows the barometrical variations in this city during the last 24 hours. The perpendicular lines give divisions of time for the 24 hours preceding midnight. The irregular white line represents the oscillations of the mercury during those hours.

TRIBUNE OFFICE, Aug. 25—1 a. m.—The light rains in the latter part of yesterday showed few traces in the record of air-pressure, and hence rainy weather is not likely to be prolonged. There was no rise in temperature after midday; the moisture of the air has increased.

For this city and vicinity, cloudiness is probable, especially in the earlier part of the day. Clearing and fair weather may be expected to follow, and last through to-morrow, with at least no marked increase of warmth.

THE McKEE WHISKEY CASE.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Aug. 24.—A demurrer and an answer in the case of the United States against A. M. McKee were filed in the United States Circuit Court to-day by defendant's counsel. The demurrer is against all the counts and causes of action from No. 1 to No. 454, covering the time from September 1, 1871, to August 3, 1872, on the ground that they are barred by limitation. The answer is a general denial of all the remainder of the counts, from Nos. 455 to 1,653, and alleges that the Government cannot maintain the present suit against the defendant, for the reason that he was indicted, tried and convicted on the same general charge as that now brought against him in 1875, was sentenced to imprisonment and to pay a fine, and that he was subsequently granted full and unconditional pardon by the President, which was accepted, and the court released him.

SUMMER LEISURE.

SARATOGA SPRINGS.

SARATOGA, N. Y., Aug. 24.—The day has been cloudy and dull, but the air is cooler to-night, and the piazza concerts and hops have been fully attended.

A private German was danced to-day at the United States Hotel, in which many of the principal guests participated by invitation.

A grand pyrotechnic and musical fête will be given at Congress Park to-morrow night. The various hotel bands will assist in the musical part of the programme, each band playing two or three pieces. The proceeds are for the benefit of a soldier's monument.

The display of private carriages on Union-ave. yesterday and to-day was the finest seen here in ten years.

Goldberg & Rottace will give an entertainment at Congress Hall to-morrow evening.

Some of the visiting clergymen in Saratoga are urging the impropriety of the Sunday-evening sacred concerts.

Among the arrivals at the Grand Union Hotel are the Hon. L. W. Hunt of Macon; the Hon. J. W. Rankin of Atlanta; Samuel Archer and family of Hoboken; Mr. and Mrs. E. Ira Richardson of Attleboro; Mrs. Jno. A. Tweedy of New-York; the Hon. J. C. Henderson and wife of Staten Island; Judge M. B. McMahon and family of New-York; Mr. and Mrs. Freeman T. Nutt of Brooklyn; J. L. Mott, V. Delmonico, Judge Geo. G. Barnard and son, N. Guy of New-York; E. J. Knowlton of Baltimore; Mrs. C. Sherman, Mr. and Mrs. A. Innis and wife, W. S. Innis of Poughkeepsie.

At the United States Hotel are the Hon. C. Bonres and brother of New Haven; Mrs. John C. Keep, Miss S. V. Keep and E. K. Keep of Lockport; Charles E. Course of Syracuse; E. G. Burgess, wife and two children, of Montclair; J. H. Woodin and wife of Fulton; Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Fithian, Ira D. Warren and wife, Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Nichols and Miss Bessie Nichols of New-York; M. Runyon, Miss D. A. Runyon, Miss L. A. Runyon, of New Brunswick; Charles T. Chapin, Charles H. Newhall of Boston.

At the Clarendon Hotel are Benj. Payne, of Albany; Robert Kent, R. Y. S., Belfast; Luther Kountz and wife of New York; the Hon. Adin Thayer of Hoosic Falls; J. Allen and wife of Philadelphia.

At Congress Hall are J. Harris, jr., Mrs. Palmer, New-York; Wm. B. Selby of Newark, Chas. H. West, C. Tiers Myers of Philadelphia.

At the American Hotel are J. E. Barnett and wife and Miss S. A. Barnett of Boston; the Rev. and Mrs. E. H. Kraus, Mrs. D. Smith, Miss F. M. Smith, Geo. H. Bearborn, and Geo. W. Beach of New-York.

NEWPORT.

NEWPORT, R. I., Aug. 23.—The Citizens' Cup, to be raced for at the steeple-chase meetings, has been ordered from Gorham's, and will be made expressly for the occasion.

Congressman Butler from South Carolina is spending a few days with the Hon. August Belmont.

To-morrow Mr. Bayard Taylor will read a poem before the Town and Country Club, at the residence of Mr. Charles J. Peterson of Philadelphia.

Among the arrivals at the Ocean House to-day were the following: W. H. Tidford, B. J. Gordney, J. Aymar, C. M. Jarvis, J. Callister and wife, H. G. P. Spencer, Miss Burden of New-York; F. L. Griswold of Auburn; Mrs. D. W. Holmes of Boston; S. W. Pomeroy, of Pomeroy, Ohio; the Rev. and Mrs. J. H. Rogers of Schenectady; Gen. Heratio Rogers and wife of Providence; W. W. Hawkins of Newark, N. J.; A. Frohman and wife, W. O. Johnstone and wife, Theo. Wright, W. R. Tucker and wife, of Philadelphia; Mrs. Wm. Porter, Miss H. W. Robinson, J. R. Robinson, of Brooklyn; B. P. Ward of England; J. G. Dickinson of Detroit; W. C. Truell and wife of Brooklyn; Henry L. Laws, the Misses Laws, of Cincinnati; the Rev. Dr. Spottswood and daughter of New-Castle; E. L. Gaylord and family of Bridgeport; J. W. Carpenter of Providence; D. N. Pearshall and wife of Lyons, N. Y.; W. C. Dayton of New-Jersey.

Among the Aquidneck House arrivals to-day are: J. M. Hopper, C. A. Stanley, of Brooklyn; Mrs. M. A. Badger and Miss Badger of New-York; R. Dutton, J. B. Sanborn, of Yonkers, N. Y.; C. A. West of Boston; L. S. Phillips of Syracuse; James Parker and wife of Wilmington, Del.

AUGUST 24.—Two excellent games of Lacrosse by the Indian teams were played this afternoon on the polo grounds before a large and fashionable assembly. The Reds won both games. The first lasted about four minutes and ten seconds more than half an hour. They return to Montreal to-morrow.

The United States ship of war Constellation has arrived from New-Bedford.

Admiral Rogers, U. S. N., is in town, and is the guest of August Belmont.

LONG BRANCH.

LONG BRANCH, Aug. 24.—To-day has been cooler than yesterday, though it is still warm. The wind continues strong from the southeast. The sun has been playing at hide-and-seek all day with the loose masses of light vaporous clouds that have been scudding across the sky and settling into a heavy bank in the northwest. The sea is wonderful in its coloring. Close to shore it is of a leaden gray, then comes a broad strip of Nile green shading into blue, and away in the distance it is of a dark violet. There is a fine surf, the breakers lap each other upon the beach, and far out the rough waves are chasing each other like mad horses, their crests tossing like white manes in the wind.

G. H. Wade, who won the swimming match with Cunningham yesterday, has challenged Andrew Trautz of this place to swim a race of five miles or more in the ocean off Long Branch at any time before the 15th of September, Trautz to have half-a-mile start. Wade was beaten by Trautz in a swimming match last Summer.

The arrivals at most of the hotels to-day have been very few. Nothing of general interest is occurring, and everybody complains of dulness.

At the West End Hotel are J. H. Ogleby and family of New-Orleans, Dr. F. Carter, J. O. Matthewson, Mrs. Col. W. J. Vason of Augusta, Ga.; Robert F. Stockton of Trenton, N. J.; Alex. Hudnut and wife of Orange, N. J.; Charles P. Crosby, Thomas G. Ritch and family, Dr. John T. Metcalf of New-York.

At the Ocean Hotel are J. L. Hubard of Virginia; T. J. Early of West Point, J. H. Robertson of Peekskill, A. D. Downs and family of Philadelphia, W. F. Rose and family of Camden, N. J.; J. J. Learing and family, E. J. Edwards, A. Smalley, S. B. Terry, A. J. Hope, Mrs. F. A. Goddard and family, Mrs. S. E. Provost of New-York.

At the Mansion House are L. M. Balch and wife of Boston, J. Simpson of Buffalo, Charles D. Shaw of New-York.

At the Howland Hotel are George R. Schieffelin and family, John D. Wood and family, New-York.

RAILROAD INTERESTS.

JACKSONVILLE, PENSACOLA AND MOBILE RAILROAD.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 24.—Upon application of Charles D. Willard, Attorney in fact, W. G. M. Davis and the Hon. M. H. Carpenter, of counsel for the holders of the Florida eight per cent bonds, known as the Dutch or Holland bondholders, Associate Justice Strong of the United States Supreme Court has appointed Col. Calvin H. Allen, recently Manager of the New-Orleans, Mobile and Texas Railroad, to be Receiver of the Jacksonville, Pensacola and Mobile Railroad. The appointment directs Col. Allen to take immediate possession of the road, expend moneys and put the road in good running order. This action is intended to secure the lien of the Dutch bondholders on the road, which lien is based upon the terms of the eight per cent bonds of the State, several millions of which they hold. Col. Allen has lately been engaged as Receiver for the United States Court of the Paducah and Memphis road.

RAILROAD NOTES.

RUTLAND, Vt., Aug. 24.—The Lebanon Spring Railroad, from Bennington to Chatham Four Corners, which has been operated by the Central Vermont Railroad Company for several years, and thrown up by them last Monday, since which time no trains have been run, will be opened for travel and freight to-day by the first mortgage bondholders of the road. Mr. F. C. White of Bennington has been appointed Superintendent.

CINCINNATI, O., Aug. 24.—Rufus King resigned the Presidency of the Cincinnati Southern Railway and W. H. Clements has been elected to fill the vacancy.

BOSTON, Aug. 24.—Frank B. Colton of Brookline has commenced a suit against the Eastern Railroad Company on account of injuries received at the Revere disaster in 1871. The damages are laid at $50,000.

ALBANY, N. Y., Aug. 24.—Application was made to-day to Justice Learned to allow the Receiver of the New-York and Albany Railroad Company to sue, in behalf of the judgment creditors, the stockholders of that Company for $641,000.

BENNINGTON, Vt., Aug. 24.—F. C. White, Esq., of Bennington, to-day took possession of the railroad recently abandoned by the Central Vermont, which comprises the South end of the Harlem extension, lying between this place and Chatham Four Corners, N. Y. It now passes into the possession of M. H. Bloodgood of New-York City, and other Lebanon Springs Railroad bondholders.

LEFT NAKED BY THE ROADSIDE.

Mrs. Hannah Lane, age thirty-three, a seamstress having no permanent residence, was taken with an epileptic fit in Central Park yesterday afternoon, and fell to the ground unconscious. While in this state she was stripped of her clothing by thieves, who carried off even her shoes and underclothing. Officer England of the Park police found the unfortunate woman and called in the aid of several ladies who gave her clothing. Being still unconscious Mrs. Lane was removed in a carriage to Bellevue. She is a confirmed epileptic, and the exposure to which she was yesterday subjected has made her condition precarious. The thieves have not been arrested.

WASHINGTON.

THE CASE OF MISS MEADE.

HER REMOVAL FROM THE PENSION BUREAU DEFENDED BY OFFICERS OF THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Aug. 24.—Officers of the Interior Department do not hesitate to defend the removal from a clerkship in the Pension Bureau of Miss Meade, sister of Gen. Meade, which was severely criticised by Gail Hamilton in her last letter to THE TRIBUNE. They say that Miss Meade was unable to do anything to earn the salary which was paid, and that, while they believe that the Government ought to grant her a pension, it would be neither legal nor just for the Commissioner of Pensions to provide for her support out of the fund which Congress had appropriated to pay the clerical force of his Bureau. In addition to this, they say that to retain clerks who are incompetent, or who fail to do the duties for the salary they receive—no matter how deserving they may be, or how much the country may owe them or their relatives—would be a grave injustice to thousands of persons equally deserving and equally needy. The business of the Pension Bureau is years behindhand, and owing to the inadequate clerical force allowed by Congress, needy persons entitled to pensions are now obliged to wait years before their cases can be adjudicated. Under these circumstances the officers of the Interior Department say that justice to soldiers who are actually suffering, and to those dependent upon them, demands that the business of the Pension Bureau shall be administered in the most economical manner, in order that applications for pensions may be acted upon as expeditiously as possible. To continue to pay a salary to Miss Meade out of the appropriation for the clerical force of the Pension Bureau without securing in return efficient service, while it might be doing nothing more than the Government ought to do for her in return for the inestimable services of her brother, would cause additional suffering to many humbler but equally deserving persons, the adjudication of whose cases would thereby be delayed.

NAVAL AFFAIRS.

THE STEAMSHIP PURITAN—CRUISING VESSELS TO BE PLACED IN COMMISSION—VESSELS TO FOREIGN PORTS—THE IRONCLADS.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Aug. 24.—The report of Rear Admiral Mullany, Chairman of the Board, appointed by the Secretary of the Navy to investigate the condition of the United States steamer Puritan, now building in Roche's shipyard at Chester, has been received by the Secretary of the Navy and referred to the Chiefs of the Bureaus of Construction, Ordnance and Steam Engineering for their consideration and recommendations. The Secretary has no intention to inquire into the expenditures on the vessel prior to the suspension in March last of the contract of his predecessor. The hull of the vessel is about completed. As soon as estimates are received of the cost of finishing her, the Secretary will incorporate the amount in his letters of estimates to the Secretary of the Treasury. In the meantime no work will be done until Congress shall have taken some definite action. At present there are no funds on hand to continue the work. The Secretary will continue the placing in commission of all the cruising vessels of the Navy. He remarked to-day that the cost was only a trifle, as the officers would otherwise be idle, and it afforded an opportunity to display our flag more frequently in foreign waters. He will also issue orders to all such vessels that they make their stay in foreign ports of less duration, so that a larger number of ports may be visited. The Secretary is also preparing an order for the assignment of the ironclads. Several will be sent to some Southern ports to Winter in fresh water. Those of the fleet at League Island will remain there and several others may be added to their number. In speaking of League Island, the Secretary observed that it possessed all the advantage of fresh water, and as a naval station was second to none in the world. Without censuring the policy of his predecessor in the distribution of the fund of $1,000,000 accruing from the sale of the Philadelphia Navy Yard, he said that amount, under the law, was justly due to the improvement of the League Island Yard, and that he would urge Congress to make good that amount to League Island, so that it might be applied to its improvement as contemplated by the Statutes.

WASHINGTON NOTES.

WASHINGTON, Friday, Aug. 24, 1877.

The Post-Office Department announces that all Venezuela mail matter will be dispatched thence by the brig Eliene, which will sail from New-York for that point August 25.

The commission of Wm. D. Wheeler as Internal Revenue Collector for the Fifth District of North Carolina has been signed by the President. Collector Winsted of this District, who was suspended by the President has had the order of suspension revoked and tendered his resignation, which was accepted.

Thomas J. Black was to-day appointed Revenue Gauger for the Fifth District of Illinois, and James A. Sedgwick for the Third District of Georgia.

Mr. E. L. Stanton, a son of the late Secretary Stanton, is dangerously ill at his residence in this city. His symptoms indicate serious disease of the brain.

About seventy compositors employed in the Government printing office on Supreme Court work, have been suspended on account of the copy having given out. It is thought, however, the work will be resumed soon.

Gen. McNeil of St. Louis, having declined to accept a position on the Sitting Bull Commission on account of illness, the Secretary of the Interior yesterday telegraphed to Francis A. Walker of Yale College, requesting him to serve. General Walker declined on account of the pressing nature of his duties at the College. It is now doubtful if any civil Commissioner will be appointed. The Indian office has no relations with Sitting Bull and the hostile tribes who are with him, and the only arm of the Government now authorized to treat with him is the military, which will be very ably represented by Gen. Terry. Secretary Schurz will probably consult with the President in regard to this matter to-morrow, and if Mr. Hayes approves of the plan the idea of adding a Civil Commissioner will probably be abandoned.

There is considerable comment here upon the affairs of the District government, growing out of rumors that several changes are contemplated in various important offices. In one office—that of Surveyor—a change has already been made, Mr. Forsythe giving place to J. R. Partridge; but the intimations made by the Commissioners of the District do not indicate further removals of consequence, with perhaps one or two exceptions. It is mentioned upon the best authority that the office of Inspector of Buildings will be subjected to investigation, and perhaps other positions will be made matters of consideration, with a view to further official action, but there is no authority for any statement of wholesale removal.

OBITUARY.

FRANKLIN A. ALBERGER.

BUFFALO, N. Y. Aug. 24.—The Hon. Franklin A. Alberger, formerly Mayor of Buffalo and a late member of the Legislature, died here to-day of heart disease.

Mr. Alberger was born in Baltimore, January 14, 1825, where he received a common school education. He was formerly engaged in the provision trade in Buffalo, and was a member of the last Whig Convention and of the first Republican Convention held in that City. He was Alderman in 1854-'56 and '59; Mayor of Buffalo in 1860 and '61; Canal Commissioner from 1862 to 1867; Member of Assembly from 1871 to 1874, serving on the Committees on Canals, and Cities and on Commerce and Navigation. He was Chairman of the last named Committee in 1872 and 1873, during which period the investigation of the New-York Quarantine was conducted.

ARREST OF A HOTEL SWINDLER.

A man who gave the name of Edward Richards of Boston, Mass., was arrested yesterday for swindling hotel keepers in this city. His plan was to represent himself as an agent for a large jewelry house, and engage a room in which to exhibit samples. Then he would request a loan of the landlord in order to pay expressage on his baggage, and decamp with the amount thus gained. He was arrested on complaint of Patrick J. Quinn of the United States Hotel. He had also swindled the proprietors of the St. James Hotel and the Irving House. At the Toombs Police Court yesterday afternoon he was sentenced to imprisonment for three months.

THE NORTHVILLE CAMP-MEETING.

JOHNSTOWN, N. Y., Aug. 24.—The attendance at the fifth day's meeting at Northville was somewhat decreased in number, as compared to that of other days, on account of the frequent showers this morning, but those who gathered took great interest in the meeting. The Rev. L. S. Wilker of Greenbush, preached the morning sermon, taking his text from John, 20 and 27, "Then saith He to Thomas, reach hither thy fingers and behold my hands, and reach hither thy hand and thrust it into my side and be not faithless but believing." At one p. m. a children's meeting was held under the direction of Mr. Anderson, an Evangelist from England. He took great interest in the children and greatly pleased them all. The afternoon sermon was preached by Mr. Anderson, taking his text from Matthew's topic: "Who was Jesus?" Several spoke at the evening service, which was very interesting.

GENERAL POLITICAL NEWS.

WAR DECLARED AGAINST TAMMANY.

The Executive Committee of the Independent Democracy of this city met last evening at the Union Square Hotel to perfect an organization and make preparations for the coming campaign. The temporary officers were continued in their positions as follows: Louis M. Doscher, Chairman; Charles H. Swan and John W. Vanhusen, Secretaries. Addresses were made by Rufus F. Andrews, William H. Secor and others, and the committee adjourned, subject to the call of the President, which, it was understood, meant two weeks from last night.

The address which was adopted by the committee calls upon the citizens of New-York to lend their aid in a battle against Tammany Hall. It speaks of the control held by that organization through its leader, John Kelly, over all the City departments. Especially does it condemn the management of the Street-Cleaning Department, and calls attention to the discharge of such men as Devoe and Cornell in the markets to make room for Keenan and Varian. The appropriation for repairing and repaving the streets was cut down, it says, by John Kelly's demand. To offset this, the salaries of Dunlap, Boyd, Gale and other "belonging to John Kelly's body-guard," were correspondingly raised, and thus, says the address, "$350,000 has been taken from workingmen, and filthy and uneven streets are left unchanged by the direct action of John Kelly." The Dock Department likewise falls under censure. The defeat of the "Omnibus Bill" and Financial bills, which were vetoed by the Governor, some of which, it is claimed, would have reduced the City's expenses over $2,000,000 a year, is laid at the door of Tammany. "These bills were advocated by representative men, but all to no purpose." A heavy thrust is given to the Police and Excise Boards for their management of the recent Excise troubles. "We claim for all these evils," declares the address, "for the enormous expense and taxation, the increase of the bonded debt which now burthens our city, that Tammany Hall is responsible; that the change in that organization has been a change only in name, and not in practice; and good government can be had in this city only by the thorough defeat of whatever ticket may be nominated by that organization."

THE FOURTH CALIFORNIA CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT.

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 24.—Referring to the contest between Pacheco and Wigginton, candidates for Congress for the IVth California District, in which Pacheco had a majority of one vote, *The Examiner* this evening says editorially:

We are informed that an error has been discovered in the returns of Kerr County for Representative in Congress, by which Wiggmton receives an addition of three votes which were erroneously credited to Pacheco. This will give the seat to Wigginton, as it more than counterbalances the claim of a majority heretofore made for Pacheco.

CONNECTICUT INFLATIONISTS.

NEW HAVEN, Conn., Aug. 24.—At a meeting of Greenback men last night, resolutions were passed calling for the unconditional repeal of the Resumption Act, the full monetization of silver, the passage of the act making greenbacks a full legal-tender and interchangeable with bonds, the adoption of an equitable system of taxes and the abolition of monopolies, opposition to subsidies, and condemning Secretary Sherman and calling for his removal.

THE PRESIDENT'S POLICY APPROVED BY DEMOCRATS.

BATH, Me., Aug. 24.—The Sagadahoc County Democratic Convention to-day adopted the following:

Resolved, That while adhering to the principles enumerated in the St. Louis platform, we believe that, as Democrats who desire the restoration of harmony, good government and prosperity to every State in the Union, we can and do heartily endorse the so-called policy of the present Administration.

SENATOR CONKLING AT OSWEGO.

OSWEGO, N. Y., Aug. 24.—Senator Conkling arrived here this evening, and was received at the station by an immense assemblage of people. He was escorted to the residence of Thomas S. Mott, Esq., where he held a reception. He will address the veterans at their reunion to-morrow.

ALLEN C. BEACH FOR SECRETARY OF STATE.

AUBURN, N. Y., Aug. 24.—*The Auburn Morning News* has a private dispatch from Albany, which states that in view of the general sentiment which seems to be preponderat