gieur. An intense admirer of Shakespeare, and regretting that the works of the great poet were not accessible to his subjects, he has set about translating his plays into Portuguese. A handsome edition of "Hamlet" was published some time since, and formed part of the Portuguese typographical exhibit at the recent Exposition in Paris, and now His Majesty's publishers announce that editions will soon appear of "Othello" and "The Merchant of Venice," for which as great a success is predicted as his earlier works met with.

Mrs. A. H. Norton is a very old lady who lives in Cleveland, and who remembers attending the Lafayette reception at Castle Garden a half-century ago. The Marquis did not dance, she says, but he was "extremely social, and his face wore a smile all the time. He was not a handsome man, but impressed one very favorably because of his gentlemanly manners and pleasing address. He shook hands with all the ladies—he was very particular not to miss one—and in taking the hand of one very handsome belle he noticed his initials stamped on the back of her glove, and raising it to his lips, kissed it. That girl, you can imagine, was the envy of all her compatriots."

The Jackson Vase, presented to the General by the ladies of South Carolina in acknowledgment of his services at the battle of New-Orleans, is now seeking an owner. The hero left it to the Governor of South Carolina, for presentation to the South Carolinian who should prove to be the best and bravest soldier in the next foreign war. The Governor presented it in turn to the survivors of the Palmetto Regiment, leaving it to them to "vote it to the most deserving." It was found impossible to make this choice, and the survivors finally decided that it should be held in trust by the successive officers of the association, to be delivered to the last survivor. There are now forty-three survivors, and there is much competition in regard to the ownership.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 2.—Ex-Secretary A. E. Borie sailed in the steamship Illinois for Liverpool today.

ROME, Jan. 2.—Signor Depretis, President of the Council, is ill with erysipelas. Lieutenant-General Medici, first aide-de-camp to the King, is also seriously ill.

GENERAL NOTES.

At Mount Æna, Penn., during Christmas week was solemnized a wedding between an aged man and a dame of ancient days. He was eighty-seven and she was eighty-six. A justice of the peace married them. When they had been congratulated by a few friends the old gentleman took from his pocket a purse containing silver coin and directed the smiling "boys" to make merry at the hotel over the way.

Workingmen in the village of Gunston, Va., have circumvented the hard times in a novel and successful way. A cooperative association furnishes its members with constant employment at fair wages, and they board in one large family house, and thereby reduce the cost of living about one-half. They have a large farm and garden, and are employed raising food, making clothing, erecting buildings, making roads and fences, cutting fuel, and in housekeeping for themselves, producing their own labor nearly all that is required to supply their wants and make them comfortable, with a considerable surplus, which they sell. Each member is required to save a commendable part of his wages. None of them have lost a day during the past nine months.

Four items, about a horse, a watch, gambling, and Cinnamon—all from the good old Commonwealth of Massachusetts: The horse belonged to a leather dealer of Lynn, who died last Sunday at an advanced age, and requested on his death-bed that the animal, which is twenty-three years old, and one which he had driven for a long time, should follow him to the grave. Accordingly the horse, covered with a black mantle, was led by a neighbor in the funeral procession.—The watch is in Granby, and is 228 years old. It was made by George Clark, of London, in 1651. It will run now with a loud tick, if wound up. It has no hair-spring, and runs with a metallic fusee chain. It is not so large as average modern watches, but is thicker. There is only one older watch, it is thought, in the country. This is owned by the American Watch Company of Waltham, Mass., was made in 1600, and has a cat-gut chain.—Gambling is carried on, it seems, to a large extent in the good City of Boston. One Clinton Lovell has sued one John E. Stewart, manager of a faro bank in Howard-st., to recover the sum of $27,000. Lovell lent one White $900 for legitimate business purposes, which sum he lost at the table. The Massachusetts statute gives the creditor a chance to recover three times the amount lost in gambling.—Chinamen cannot be naturalized in the Federal courts in Boston. The Clerk of the United State Circuit Court there has just issued the application of a Celestial, on the ground taken by Judge Lowell, that the petitioner, being of the Mongolian race, did not come within the provisions of the statute conferring the privilege of naturalization to free whites or Africans, or persons of African descent.

Edison is said to have remarked that his experiments with the electric light require a knowledge of almost everything "except paleontology and things of that kind," and *The Daily News* (London) thinks he must include the study of Greek in the same category as paleontology. It cites this in connection with the fact that a number of statesmen, teachers and scholars have just presented a memorial to the officers of the University of Cambridge praying that a certain knowledge of Greek be no longer required of candidates for admission. Matthew Arnold is among those who have signed it, by than whom no living Englishman has more eloquently defended the study of Greek in its proper place. The Professor of Greek in the University of Glasgow has signed it, and among others are the head masters of Eton, Rugby, Harrow, Winchester and Westminster Schools. It is thought possible, in view of these eminent names, that candidates may be allowed to offer French or German in place of Greek. What does a man gain who can pass the Greek ordeal? asks *The Daily News.* "He gains the power of stammering very painfully through one 'book' out of the whole range of the Greek classics. He cannot, of course, do what Macaulay thought every scholar should be able to do—he cannot read 'Plato with his feet on the fender.'" In one short year he will have forgotten the one "book" he learned to read, and over which he has "absolutely wasted the working hours of six months or a year—perhaps of several years." For the other side of the account he has "literally nothing" to show. There is not "a penny worth of profit to all the dreary hours of sterile 'grind' at grammars, dictionaries and cribs."

At Troy, a few days ago, funerals and mourning were discussed by a joint ministers' meeting, and suggestions have been laid before the congregations of the churches. It is recommended that all unnecessary expense for flowers, and the distribution of crape and gloves be avoided, and that the burial service be made brief and simple; even private funerals are discouraged. The suggestion was made that long-continued mourning be discontinued as "inconsistent with a Christian spirit of submission to God's will and with Bible examples of mourning." An article in *The London Globe* a few weeks ago called attention to the curious fact that the Christian nations of Europe, professors of a religion which teaches that death is a joyful event, following upon the Pagan Roman Empire, adopted unanimously and without a struggle, as the color of mourning garments, the black which the Pagans had used before them. Black, however, was not the color worn by the earliest nations. In Egypt it was yellow, in Ethiopia, brown, and in China, white. Mahomet selected for his mourning robes violet or dark blue, as emblematic of mingled grief and hope, and in our own times there has been an effort in England to introduce the same color into funeral decorations. Violet has played an ancient and honorable part in the history of mourning. For many years it was worn by the kings of France, and even Louis XI., with all his love for black velvet, appeared in violet when the death of his father raised him to the throne. There have been many instances in history where restrictions were placed upon extravagance in funeral flows and manifestations of grief. In the Twelve Tables of Rome there is an article forbidding the practice of lacerating the face with nails or with pointed instruments, and two other notable laws in the Roman system limited the duration of mourning to a period of ten months at the most, and put a check to the practice of enfranchising slaves purely in order that they might walk as mourners in the funeral procession.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

OPERA AT BOOTH'S THEATRE.

Mr. Max Strakosch will open his opera season at Booth's Theatre on Monday next, when "Aida" will be given, with Miss Kellogg in the title role, Miss Cary as *Amneris*, Mr. Adams as *Rodames*, Pantaleoni as *Amonasro*, and Conly as *Ramfis*. Miss Maria Litta will make her first appearance in New-York on Tuesday evening in "Lucia." The other operas during the week will be "Faust" on Wednesday night, "Martha" on Thursday, "Il Balio" on Friday, and Miss Litta will appear at the Saturday matinée. The prices are "popular," and the sale of seats has already begun at Booth's.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC NOTES.

General Tom Thumb and his small troupe are disporting themselves at Masonic Hall.

At Niblo's Garden the great Irish drama "Peep o' Day," will be played during the rest of this week.

"At Last" seems to be a success at Wallack's, and will continue to be given at that theatre every evening for the present.

Mrs. Scott-Siddons, who has not been before this public for two years, will appear at Chickering Hall this evening in some new readings.

At the Fifth Avenue Theatre, Mr. Joseph Jefferson may be seen in his exquisite impersonation of *Rip Van Winkle*, one of the most faultless pictures that our stage affords.

At the Aquarium, to say nothing of the marine monsters which there disport themselves, there is a spectacle of "Cinderella," and the Kentucky horses perform, as well as that "grotesque jester," Mr. Seely.

The charming burlesque, "Babes in the Woods," in which the Colville Company does so excellently, still holds the boards, and seems likely to do so indefinitely, at the Park Theatre.

The San Francisco Minstrels set forth in the most impressive manner this week the strength of "Love's Endurance." Mr. Ryman gives substantial encouragement to Mr. Murphy's temperance movement, and Mr. Thatcher, and Birch and Backus, may be now seen to the greatest advantage.

At the Broadway Theatre Mr. Macauley may still be seen as "Uncle Dan'l," though his engagement is now drawing fast to its close. On the 13th the Lingards will appear at this theatre in "Les Fourchambault," presumably an adaptation of the French play of the same name, which has been a great success in Paris.

Massenet is at present at work on a new opera, in five acts and seven tableaux, which is to be entitled "Hérodiade." He is soon to start for Milan, where he will direct in person the last rehearsals of the "Roi de Lahore," and will read the first three acts of the "Hérodiade" to the director of La Scala, for whom this new work is destined.

PUBLIC OPINION.

Senator Thurman will find it as difficult to make off much of a case of intimidation in Massachusetts as he did to defend the Ohio ballot at the last election.—[Boston Transcript (Rep.)

Because Samuel J. Tilden is a dead cock in the pit, it does not follow that New-York will not demand and secure the next Democratic nomination for the Presidency.—[Norristown Herald (Rep.)

It is now claimed in certain quarters that General Grant's trip to Ireland is to "catch the Irish vote." Mr. Kearney should take warning. General Grant is also going to China.—[Philadelphia Press (Rep.)

The South wants the war and the war issues to be over, and it is the South to whose use can have them over by acting in concordantly of all party organizations that refuse to recognize fair equality in the Southern states in the Union.—[Vicksburg Herald (Dem.)

GEORGIA NOT SOLID FOR TILDEN.

From The Augusta (Ga.) Chronicle (Dem.)

THE NEW-YORK TRIBUNE says: "Georgia is in favor of Tilden, with a platform of any principles which can be guaranteed to catch the most votes." Georgia is not in favor of Tilden, and if he should be nominated thousands of Democrats in this state would refuse to go to the polls on the day of election.

TRYING TO SHAKE OFF THAT UGLY RECORD.

From The Boston Post (Dem.)

The Greenback campaign of the current year will never be repeated. Inconsistent has disposed of it, and now the question occurs, what is the true policy for the Democratic party as regards the future? The Republicans with all their bunkum, have not restored to the country what the Democrats had established, a sound, sound and stable currency. They have simply reached the point of meeting dishonored notes, for the issue of which they alone were responsible. Now, then, it is time for the Democratic party to reassert its old position. It can start out with a clean impulse, and assist that the disorder and confusion which are the incident to the peculiar relations between the gold and silver dollar shall be removed, and thus commend itself again to the same confidence which it formerly commanded. The suggestion is alike in the interest of the country and future party success. If not, why not?

WHOSE FUNERAL IS IT, ANYWAY?

From The New-York Evening Express (Dem.)

Why do the Republicans refuse to move for the thorough investigation of these cipher dispatches? It certainly looks as though there were something elsewhere involved in these cipher dispatches which the Republicans are afraid to have made public. What is it they are afraid of? Why do they stand down upon so unanimously and so decidedly? Let us have the bottom facts, and all of them. Democrats can stand the disclosures if the Republicans will risk the making of them.

THE DANGER OF THE FUTURE.

From The Martinsville Herald.

THE TRIBUNE in its prospectus this year recounts fairly enough its work during the campaign, and then warns the Republican party that the victories this Fall would have been reversed if the Greenbackers and Democrats had been united. In the possibility of this union, it thinks, lies the danger of the immediate future. It is undoubtedly right, therefore, in summoning Republicans to the continued work of educating voters by the diffusion of sound political principles. THE TRIBUNE'S services in the campaign were so influential, that its counsels now deserve especial attention. It presents an attractive programme of its own for next year, and its premiums are particularly dazzling.

THE LATEST INDIAN WAR.

From The New-York Commercial Advertiser (Rep.)

General Sheridan's rejoinder to Secretary Schurz is sharp, and appears to be decisive. The burden of proof he presents to show the inhumanity and criminality of the management of the Indian Bureau is from reports submitted to him from time to time in years past from officers of the army who were on hand and witnessed what they reported. These reports were for the information of the General of the Army and the War Department, and were not made to exonerate the fear of Mr. Carl Schurz, for when most of them were made no one in the country thought that Mr. Schurz was ever to come to the dignity of a Cabinet position. The showing made by the Lieutenant-General is, therefore, on the clearest proof, and that Mr. Schurz has so warmly defended what is proved to be so corrupt is not creditable either to his understanding or caution.

THE INSURANCE CONTROVERSY.

A MEETING OF THE REMONSTRANTS AGAINST THE REBATE EXPERIMENT OF THE MUTUAL LIFE.

Last evening there was held at the Fifth Avenue Hotel a noteworthy meeting of the policyholders of the Mutual Life Insurance Company who have been active among the remonstrants against the rebate plan recently adopted by that company. About 150 were represented in person or by proxy. The object of the meeting was to appoint an Executive Committee, secure a thorough organization, and adopt a definite plan of action. Mr. Cyrus W. Field was appointed chairman, and a series of resolutions were considered and unanimously adopted. The preamble sets forth the legal and moral objections to the new experiment. Among these objections stated were the increased rates of commission to agents; the dangerous stretch of administrative discretion on the part of the trustees; the questionable use of a draft "without recourse" drawn by the newly assured against a fund to which they have contributed nothing; the crediting of these drafts as cash in the premium account of the company, and the charging of these drafts to the surrender value account, as if they were paid to retiring members, thus giving a fictitious credit to the management of the company. It was further stated on the authority of Elizur Wright, Sneppard Homans and D. P. Ferkler, that by the new plan the company could not realize a sufficient amount of cash to provide the reserve required by the usage of the company and the laws of the State. The whole plan was then condemned as a violation of the principles of mutuality upon which the institution is founded, as a deviation from straightforward dealing, and as an injustice to old policy-holders. It was resolved further to request the management of the company to furnish the names and addresses of all the policy-holders in order that the true sense of all the members of the company in regard to the rebate experiment may be obtained, and it was also ordered that the trustees be requested to furnish a statement of the amount of insurance already issued under the new system, together with all the details of the entries in the premises made in the books of the company.

Messrs. Hezron A. Johnson, Cyrus W. Field, M. B. Fielding, C. L. Perkins, Conrad N. Jordan and J. W. McCulloch, were appointed an Executive Committee with power to add to their number. Mr. Conrad N. Jordan was constituted treasurer. A subscription list was opened, a considerable amount was raised on the spot, and arrangements were made to secure a sufficient sum of money to carry on the contest. Altogether the temper of the meeting was very resolute and determined, and while the proceedings were characterized by the greatest moderation, it appeared as if the gentlemen who are conducting this movement have enlisted "for the war."

DISCUSSING THE SUGAR TARIFF.

WILLIAM H. MAXWELL'S ADDRESS BEFORE THE FREE TRADE CLUB.

William H. Maxwell discussed the sugar tariff last night at a meeting of the Free Trade Club. Refiners, he said, objected to the present tariff as being too high, imposing, when reduced to ad valorem, 62 per cent, a higher duty than was levied upon any of the luxuries. The entire dispute over the sugar question now, he claimed, was between the American refiners and the refining and planting interests of Cuba. He believed that if free trade was adopted, Congress would be induced to enact a tariff law that would strengthen the refining business. Mr. Maxwell opposed Secretary Sherman's bill for specific duties because it adopted, he felt convinced that it would throw the refining of sugar into Cuba, and thus increase the price of sugars. Every civilized country except America had discarded the Dutch standard, and he was willing to admit that under its operation the revenue might very easily be defrauded. He made the assertion from personal experience with the leading refiners that what they really wanted was free trade. They did not expect to get this from Congress and they therefore asked fair play. They did not want, as Secretary Sherman desired, a discrimination in favor of Cuba. The most needed reform in the tariff, he argued, was the introduction of the polariscope, an instrument which, while testing the saccharine strength of sugar by polarizing the rays of light, he claimed could in the hands of a child, make an accurate test. This should be introduced, he said, and the old Dutch standard color-test should be abolished.

"What I want to get at is the animus of the transaction," said the judge. "But, your honor," said the complainant, "there wasn't any at all. He came up quiet like and grabbed the coat, and was off with it before I saw what he was at. No, sir, there wasn't any muss."

A COLD WESTERN WAVE.

VIOLENT STORM OF SNOW AND WIND.

PREDICTIONS THAT A SEVERE COLD WAVE FROM THE WEST WILL REACH THIS CITY TO-DAY—REMARKABLY LOW TEMPERATURE THROUGHOUT THE WEST—SNOW BLOCKADES ON THE LAKE SHORE RAILROAD.

A blustering snow-storm prevailed in this city yesterday, causing much discomfort and impeding travel. The wind blew violently and the air was keen. Signal Service reports predict that a cold Western wave will reach here to-day. Throughout the West the cold is intense and the changes in temperature have been remarkable. The mercury fell at St. Louis Wednesday night forty degrees. In Western New-York, and on the Lake Shore Railroad travel is impeded by drifting snow, and passengers are compelled to seek refuge from the cold in houses along the roads. The Hudson River is closed as far South as West Point, and ice has formed in the Chesapeake Bay so as to delay steamers.

DISCOMFORT IN THE CITY.

VEXATIONS OF PEDESTRIANS—TRAVEL ON THE ELEVATED AND SURFACE ROADS.

The storm that wrapped the city in a white mantle yesterday was announced to the Signal Office by a dispatch from Washington early in the forenoon, and at 10:30 the storm signal was displayed. Throughout the city the discomfort to man and beast was extreme. Snow ploughs were run on the horse railroads, and on four of the lines four horses were used for each car. Great crowds took advantage of the elevated railroads, and escaped the slow ride downtown. Navigation in the rivers and bay was somewhat impeded in consequence of the thick snow which fell until early in the afternoon, and the whistles of the ferry-boats and tugs on the rivers were heard constantly. The storm outside of the city caused a delay of several hours in the mails coming from the snow-bound regions.

At 11 o'clock the wind changed from east to northwest, and then veered into the west, where it blew during the remainder of the day and evening. At 3 o'clock the storm centre, which had been coming along the shore from the South, and which had been over Cape May at noon, reached this city, and blew the snow viciously into the faces of all who were in the streets. The fall of snow had tempted many to try their sleighs, and Fifth-ave. was filled with scores of gaily dashing teams, in spite of the fine snow and fierce winds. The riders were well wrapped up, however, and did not seem to mind the fierce gale. In less than ten minutes after the storm struck the city the bay was turbulent with tossing waves. Ferry-boats rolled about, causing many of the passengers to experience a little sea-sickness; and vessels lying at anchor in the stream were obliged to get out additional moorings. It is thought that the off-shore gale will drive many incoming vessels away from the coast. At sundown the sky began to clear, and before long the stars were shining brilliantly in the clear sky. The air was cold and bracing.

The variations in the thermometer during the day were as follows: At 7 a. m., 25°; at 2:30 p. m. (the maximum), 32°; at 5 p. m., 27°, and at 9 p. m., 10°. The probabilities are that to-day will be extremely cold. Slight snows were reported yesterday afternoon at Boston, Buffalo, Burlington and Erie. The weather in the West was clear and cold in the afternoon. At Chicago the thermometer was 10° below zero, having fallen 17° in 24 hours. At Leavenworth it fell 39° in the same time, and stood 12° below. At Cleveland the mercury fell 30° and at 4:47 p. m. was 5° below zero. In Breckenridge the mercury fell to 26° below zero in the forenoon and in Milwaukee it was 14° below; in St. Paul, 8° below; and in Yankton 10° below at 4:47 p. m.

The wind blew with the most force yesterday in the Middle States. At Albany a velocity of thirty-seven miles an hour was reached; at Philadelphia, thirty-six; at Rochester, twenty-eight; and at Toledo, twenty-six; in this city the velocity of the wind was the greatest at 5 p. m., when twenty-six miles an hour were registered. At 9 p. m. the wind was blowing at twenty-four miles an hour. The "off-shore" signals were displayed from the Equitable Building at 6:50 last evening.

RECENT ROUGH WEATHER AT SEA.

The steamship Alsatia, of the Anchor Line, arrived from London yesterday after a brief delay caused by boisterous weather and disabled machinery. On the day after Christmas, 600 miles from port, a large crack was discovered in the intermediate shaft. This was temporarily repaired by the engineers, and the vessel, after a few hours' delay, proceeded at a reduced speed, making nine miles an hour. The steamer will sail again on Saturday. The bark Crown Jewel, which arrived from Hamburg, encountered a hurricane on St. George's Bank, and afterward a succession of gales during which she strung her rudder head and foremast. The bark Williams, from Antwerp, also encountered heavy gales and lost an entire suit of sails. The bark America had heavy weather. About 230 miles from Sandy Hook she spoke the British bark Thomas short of provisions, and supplied her. The Thomas had been spoken by a schooner ten days previous and supplied with provisions.

The steamship Labrador, from Havre for New-York, which was due here on Wednesday morning, had not arrived up to sundown last night. Captain Ward, of the schooner Mary Ann which arrived from Fire Island yesterday, gives to Leander A. Jeffrey, the keeper, and crew of Life-saving Station No. 25, great credit for coming to his assistance while passing out of the inlet, thus saving, he declares, both vessel and crew.

RAILWAY TRAVEL IMPEDED.

TRAINS BLOCKADED IN WESTERN NEW-YORK AND ON THE LAKE SHORE RAILROAD.

WATERTOWN, N. Y., Jan. 2.—Another heavy snowstorm, with a high wind, has prevailed all day along nearly the entire length of the Watertown and Ogdensburg Railroad. There is eighteen inches of snow on the ground, and the railroad cuts are full. All trains on this road have been abandoned. The trains on the Utica and Black River Road are still running.

BUFFALO, N. Y., Jan. 2.—The wind is blowing a gale, and the light fall of snow to-day has drifted badly. Trains on the Buffalo, New-York and Philadelphia Railroad are again stalled at Ebenezer, and those on the Buffalo and Southwestern Road at Elma; passengers taking refuge from the intense cold in the farm-houses in the vicinity. Trains are reported abandoned on the Lake Shore Road east of Cleveland. It is growing very cold, and the thermometer now stands only a few degrees above zero.

INTENSE COLD IN OHIO.

CLEVELAND, Ohio, Jan. 2.—The weather was very cold at 6 o'clock, the thermometer being 7° below zero. There was a driving snow storm in the afternoon. The night is clear and cold. All the railroads are clear of snow. Passenger trains are from one to five hours late. The passenger train due here at 7 p.m. left Buffalo five hours late. The Lake Shore Road has abandoned all freights East of here. Three trains of stock were sent to Painesville to unload and wait until the yards are clear in Buffalo.

RAPID FALL OF TEMPERATURE IN THE WEST.

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 2.—A cold wave came down from the Northwest last night and lowered the temperature some 40 or more degrees during the night. At 6 o'clock this morning the mercury marked 6 degrees below zero, and although it is clear with bright sunshine the temperature continues to fall. There is no change in the river. Ferries continue to run, and the harbor is kept clear of ice.

SEVERE GALE ON THE HUDSON.

POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y., Jan. 2.—There is a terrific gale of wind from the west along the Hudson River to-night, but as yet no damage is reported. The ice in the river is firm as far south as West Point, and the ferry-boats at the latter point find difficulty in crossing.

SNOW STORM IN CANADA.

TORONTO, Jan. 2.—A severe snow storm, with high wind, from the West, is now raging throughout the western portion of Ontario. The thermometer averages 5° above zero. The trains are so far about on time.

COLD WEATHER AT LOUISVILLE.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Jan. 2.—There has been a remarkable change in the weather here in the last 24 hours, the mercury falling 31 degrees. Navigation is entirely suspended.

THE "TERRIFIC SECRETARY."

A CORRESPONDENT'S VIEW OF THE MOTIVE OF THE GENTLEMAN.

To the Editor of the Tribune.

SIR: I am afraid you do not fully appreciate the motive of the gentleman you designate as "a terrific Secretary." Mr. William Stickney, secretary and member of the Board of Indian Commissioners, in taking up the cudgel for the Indian Bureau. How else is it possible for him to earn the $3,000 per annum and travelling expenses "that he receives out of the $15,000 per annum appropriated each year by a confiding Congress" to pay the expenses of the gentlemen who serve without compensation "as a Board of Indian Commissioners"? This "terrific Secretary," who makes his philanthropy pay so handsomely, is evidently moved by his conscience to do something toward earning his comfortable salary, which it is well known the ordinary duties of his position do not permit, the real clerical work being performed by "an assistant secretary," salary $2,000, and other subordinates. In view therefore of the commendable motive of this philanthropist THE TRIBUNE should not be too severe in its comments. W.

Washington, Jan. 2, 1879.

THE NAVAL ACADEMY.

ANNAPOLIS, Md., Jan. 2.—Commander John A. Howell has been ordered to report as senior member of a Board for testing night signals at the Naval Academy, in place of Commander William T. Sampson, detached. Professor Henry D. Todd, United States Navy, has taken charge of the Department of Physics and Chemistry at the Naval Academy.

MIDNIGHT WEATHER REPORT.

GOVERNMENT INDICATIONS.

Synopsis for the past 24 hours.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3, 1 a. m.—An area of high pressure with very low temperatures has extended rapidly eastward to Pennsylvania and Virginia, and southward over the Gulf States. An area of very low pressure has moved southeastward to the St. Lawrence Valley, and developed into a storm-centre now off the coast of Maine. High northwest winds and gales prevail from Maine to Virginia, and westward over the Lakes.

Indications.

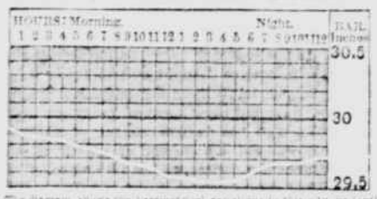
For the Middle and South Atlantic States, the Lower Lake region, Tennessee, and the Ohio Valley and East Gulf States, rising barometer, cooler westerly winds, and clear weather.

For New-England, rising barometer, colder north and east winds, and clear weather.

Cautionary Signals.

Cautionary signals continue at Lewes, Grand Haven, Milwaukee, Ludington, and cautionary off-shore signals at Cape May, Atlantic City, Barnegat, Sandy Hook, New-York, New-Haven, New-London, Newport, Wood's Hole, Boston, Portland, Eastport, Indianola, Galveston, Port Eads, Mobile, Macon, Cape Lookout, Cape Hatteras, Kitty Hawk, Cape Henry, Norfolk and Baltimore.

TRIBUNE LOCAL OBSERVATIONS.



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

TRIBUNE OFFICE, Jan. 3, 1 a. m.—The downward movement of the barometer continued during the snow storm yesterday, but rose with the partly cloudy and clear weather. The temperature during the early part of the day was higher than on Wednesday, reaching 34° at 3:30 o'clock p. m. After that hour the mercury fell rapidly, the record showing 22° at 6 p. m., 13° at 8 p. m., and 6° at midnight. At midnight on Wednesday the mercury stood at 29°. The amount of moisture in the air has been diminished.

Cold winds and clear weather may be expected in this city and vicinity to-day.

TAMMANY IN COUNCIL.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE—RAISING MONEY FOR THE NEXT CAMPAIGN.

The Tammany Hall General Committee for 1879 met in the Wigwam on Fourteenth-st last night to elect officers. There were very few new faces present—most of the members of last year and all of the leaders having been reflected, except Louis C. Wachner. Augustus Schell called the meeting to order, and on his motion Frederick Smyth was made temporary chairman. W. H. Quincy and Joel O. Stevens were elected temporary secretaries. John Kelly and other Tammany leaders were present.

Mr. Smyth, in taking the chair, said that he felt honored in being nominated for District-Attorney on a ticket that was Democratic from stem to stern, and in being stricken down on November 5 with the others on that ticket. He said that defeat resulted from a combination of Republicans and recreant Democrats, but that they would reorganize at once for the next election, so that Tammany Hall should be triumphant. He then congratulated the members that the villanous conduct of John I. Davenport had been appropriately condemned by Judge Blatchford, who was a Republican.

A committee of one from each Assembly District was then appointed to nominate officers for permanent organization. After some consultation, the committee presented the names suggested by Mr. Schell and others, except that of permanent chairman. The renomination of Henry L. Clinton for that office was opposed alone by Senator Ecclesine, who nominated John E. Devlin, of the XIXth District.

Mr. Ecclesine had no following, and Mr. Schell reported the officers for the ensuing year as follows:

Chairman—Henry L. Clinton.
Treasurer—John J. Gorman.
Reading Secretary—W. H. Quincy.
Recording Secretary—Joel O. Stevens.
Sergeant-at-Arms—George P. Collins.

A vice-president and secretary from each Assembly District were also named. The report was adopted.

Mr. Clinton, on taking the chair, spoke of the determination of the Democracy to wipe out all remembrance of their late defeat. He alluded to the early organization of Tammany, and characterized it as the cradle of constitutional liberty and the temple of American Democracy. "Destroy this organization," he said, "and the Democratic party throughout the Union will be consigned to the grave. But we need have no fears. Never was this organization in a better condition than at the present time." He said that the honest Democrats who followed the leaders (not that he meant to overbook all Tammany) were coming back by thousands, while those discarded leaders had been swallowed up by the Republican party. He then denounced the Republican party as "riding in plunder and roboery," and spoke at some length on current issues.

H. P. Farrar offered a resolution of thanks to George W. Wingate and L. E. Anderson for their services in securing the decision from Judge Blatchford in regard to the naturalization papers of 1868.

Then came the important business of the evening, which was the raising of the "sinews of war" for the next campaign. On motion each of the 1,134 members was assessed $10, and each member of the Committee on Organization, yet to be elected, was assessed in advance an additional $15, making a fund of $18,755 with which to begin the next campaign, besides the amount collected from officeholders and nominees. The committee on Organization will consist of seven members from each Assembly District, who are to be elected before January 10, and who will meet at Tammany Hall at 4 p. m. on January 11, to complete the organization.

THE CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH.

HISTORY OF THE SOCIETY'S STRUGGLES—EFFORTS TO PAY OFF THE DEBT ON THE CHURCH EDIFICE.

Conspicuous among the church edifices of New-York is the brown-stone structure at Thirty-fourth-st. and Park-ave., known as the Church of the Messiah. This Second Unitarian Society was organized more than fifty years ago by members of the First Unitarian Society of this city, of which the Rev. Dr. Bellows is now pastor.

The first pastor of the new organization was the Rev. Mr. Lunt, who died in the Holy Land. He was succeeded by Dr. Orville Dewey, who occupied the pulpit for more than twenty years. His successor was the Rev. Dr. Samuel Osgood. During this pastorate the congregation removed from the church in which they had been worshipping in Madison-ave. to the present building. This structure was begun in 1865. It was planned to cost $120,000, and the lot on which it stands was purchased for $75,000. But when finished its cost, exclusive of the ground, was $245,000. The society thus found itself heavily in debt. Finally Dr. Osgood resigned. The Rev. G. H. Hepworth was next settled as pastor. During his ministrations an attempt was made to change the character of the church, and to make it Orthodox or Trinitarian. This came within three votes of succeeding; but the Unitarians retained control of the society. Mr. Hepworth resigned, and founded the Congregational Church of the Disciples. The Rev. Dr. William R. Alger then succeeded to the pulpit. He came from Boston, and is the author of the "History of the Doctrine of the Future Life." The financial difficulties of the church became so serious finally that Dr. Alger's salary could not be provided for, and in October last he resigned and accepted a call to the Unitarian Church in Denver, Col.

The debt of the church is in the form of a first mortgage held by the Mutual Life Insurance Company, and second and third mortgage bonds owned mainly by members of the First and Second Unitarian Societies. The total amount is $125,000. The Mutual Life Insurance Company recently began proceedings to foreclose its mortgage. The convention which met in the church last month, and was largely composed of Boston Unitarians, had for its primary object the devising of means to save the building to the society. The association for assisting the churches of the denomination promised to furnish $25,000 of the needed amount if the remainder could be secured. At a recent meeting of the church a special committee reported that $50,000 had been promised by members, and that the holders of bonds to the amount (with interest) of $25,000 had offered to surrender them, and that only $20,000 remained to be provided for. A Mr. Royce, at present a student in the Union Theological Seminary, offered to secure this amount, if the other subscriptions were made binding, by presenting the matter to the Unitarians of Boston. Several official members of the church said yesterday that the sacrifice of the building would be avoided. A prominent representative of the more liberal members said yesterday that Unitarianism, being a native of Boston, did not thrive well in this city. Its tendency here was more progressive than there, and the process of disintegration of church organization was more rapid. This, he claimed, was the result of exodus. The career of the church of the Messiah, he stated, was a curious illustration of the progress of thought. Two of its pastors had gone back to Orthodoxy, and many of its members had given up church-going.

Since Dr. Alger's resignation the pulpit of this church has been filled by different preachers, their expenses being defrayed by certain of the trustees; but the last matter will be under the control of two non-official members of the society, who are not to incur any debt for the society to pay. It is expected to have preaching every Sunday. If the debt is not paid the church edifice will be sold. Its membership is now thirty families; at one time it numbered 100.

BUSINESS TROUBLES.

Josiah F. Fowle, dealer in shoe manufacturers' supplies at No. 51 Warren-st., made an assignment yesterday to John H. Fole, the liabilities amounting to about $25,000. The suspension is said by Mr. Fowle to be mainly due to the disappearance of Arthur Luton, the agent of the firm for the Eastern States at South Weymouth, Mass. Luton he charges with having run away with a large sum of money. Mr. Fowle has been in business in this city for six years, the special partner being William A. Brown, jr., with $10,000 special capital.

DEATH OF CALEB CUSHING.

HIS LIFE AND PUBLIC SERVICES.

THE LAWYER, POLITICIAN, DIPLOMATIST, JUDGE, AUTHOR AND SOLDIER.

NEWBURYPORT, Mass., Jan. 2.—General Caleb Cushing died at 11:14 to-night.

A long life, marked by various public services, by many successes and some failures, by the multifarious exercise of a sharp intellect, and by tireless industry—the life of a lawyer, politician, diplomatist, judge, book-writer and soldier, has come to an end. Mr. Cushing was born at Salisbury, Essex County, Massachusetts, on the 17th of January, 1800. His father, John N. Cushing, was an eminent shipowner. The name in that part of the State is both a common and a good one. He was fitted for college at a public school, graduated at Harvard College, second in his class, at the age of seventeen. Two years after he delivered a poem before the Phi Beta Kappa Society, and upon graduating A. M., an oration on the preservation of the Federal Union. In 1819 he was appointed tutor of mathematics and natural philosophy in Harvard College, an office, which he retained until 1821. He studied law, and began practice in 1822, his professional success being great and immediate. Newburyport, of which he had become a citizen, sent him to the State House of Representatives in 1825, and in 1826 Essex County elected him to the State Senate. Politics were not at this time very sharply defined, but Mr. Cushing is on record as a Republican (Democrat). He printed in 1826 a local history of Newburyport and a treatise on the Practical Principles of Political Economy. He had married in 1824, a daughter of Judge Wilde, of Boston, a very clever woman who, in 1832, privately printed an interesting book of travels in France and Spain. In 1826 Mr. Cushing was a candidate for Congress but failed of an election. He went abroad in 1829, and was engaged in foreign travel until 1832. Upon his return in 1833, he published his "Reminiscences of Spain." This contained several poems translated from the Spanish. It was followed in the same year by "A Review, Historical and Political, of the Late Revolution in France," in two volumes. In 1833 and 1834 the town of Newburyport again sent Mr. Cushing to the State Legislature. It was at a period of great public interest in financial quarters, and Mr. Cushing's speech on currency and the public deposits was received by the Whigs with much approbation. In 1835 he was elected to the National House of Representatives, and being a great favorite with his constituents, he retained his seat until 1843, when President Tyler sent him as Commissioner to China for the negotiation of a commercial treaty, which was signed July 3, 1844. Mr. Tyler had nominated him for Secretary of the Treasury—a nomination rejected by the Senate. Mr. returned home by way of the Pacific and Mexico. Newburyport once more sent him to the Legislature in 1846, and he was one of the few men in that body who sustained the Mexican War, for with his most eloquent advocacy he was unable to get through a bill appropriating $20,000 for the benefit of the Massachusetts volunteers, and he furnished that sum from his private means. The regiment gratefully made him its colonel, and in the Spring of 1847 he went with it to Mexico, where he was soon raised to the rank of Brigadier General, being attached to the Army of General Taylor, and taking part in the battle of Buena Vista. He was afterward transferred to the Army of General Scott, under whom he served for the remainder of the war. While still in Mexico, the Democrats of Massachusetts nominated him for Governor, but he was, as a matter of course, defeated. On his return, in 1850, Newburyport, equally as a matter of course, sent him to the State Legislature again, and elected him Mayor of the city. In 1852, he was appointed an Associate-Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts, but in March, 1853, was selected for the office of United States Attorney-General, which he held until 1857. Once more, in 1857, Newburyport elected him to the State Legislature, and again, in 1858 and 1859. He was president of the Democratic National Convention which met in Charleston, S. C., in April, 1860. He joined the seceders from that body, and when they met at Baltimore in June following, he presided over their convention, which nominated Breckenridge. When President Buchanan, still hoping for a peaceful solution of difficulties, bethought himself of sending a confidential agent to Charleston, S. C., to make some agreement respecting Fort Sumter, he selected Mr. Cushing for the duty; but, clever as he was, his mission amounted to nothing. Though his errand was a secret one, it was understood that he was empowered to communicate an assurance on the part of the President, that if Major Anderson should not be sacrificed, that hostilities should not be initiated against the Secessionists, if they would remain equally inactive until the close