Mrs. Stowe are all sixty-six years old. Mr. Emerson is seventy-five, Victor Hugo is seventy-six, Tom Hughes is fifty-five, Froude is sixty, Ruskin is fifty-nine, Tennyson is sixty-nine, Thomas Hardy is only thirty-eight, William Black is thirty-seven and Bret Harte is thirty-nine.

Mr. John Keats, the poet's nephew, and the only one of his relatives who bears his name, is a civil engineer in Missouri. He is an elderly bachelor, and the name of Keats will probably die with him. His mother, the sprightly widow of George Keats, and later the wife of Mr. John Jeffrey, of Lexington, Ky., died in that city last week.

M. Hippolyte Taine is now very wealthy, but has in his time tasted bitter poverty. He was sadly poor and ill when the publisher, Hachette, gave him the means of going to the Pyrenees, and so of writing his first book. He is said to have an astonishing memory; and when taking up a subject he puts aside feelings and opinions and judges calmly. He is now studying the French Revolution.

M. Alphonse Daudet, the author of "Le Nabab," was threatened with a duel, it was reported, by M. Bravay, the son of the late Deputy who was supposed to have been recognized in the character of the "Nabab." M. Daudet contradicts this report, declaring that he was only asked to write a letter affirming once more his respect for the Bravay family. This he did in these terms: "I have not the slightest hesitation, Monsieur, in writing to you what I had already told you verbally, a year ago, and afterward formally repeated in the preface to my book, namely, that La Levantine of the 'Nabab' is a personage as fictitious as the plot in which she is mixed up, and I never for a single instant supposed that in this odious and purely imaginary type any one could see the slightest allusion to your mother, whom I have not the honor of knowing, but for whom I entertain a profound respect, for the name she bears and the dignity she shows under her misfortune. Accept, etc.,
"A. DAUDET."

General J. B. Hood rose to explain at the meeting of the Louisiana Division of the Army of the Tennessee recently. Speaking of the battle of Franklin he said: "Many writers have told of that terrible struggle, and it has been declared that I made a slaughter-pen of the field of Franklin. Of this charge I assume I will have no difficulty in disposing. Franklin, these writers say, was a slaughter-pen. If so, let them turn their eyes to Gettysburg, Sharpsburg, and, especially to Malvern Hill. I tell you, the brave Forrest was not far from right when he declared that 'When it comes to war, war means fighting, and fighting means killing.' Say what you will, it cannot be avoided. I will tell you something of this battle of Franklin. I was attempting to pass the gates of Nashville. It has been said of Lord Byron that the poem which he considered to be his best was the same which the public would not accept. So say I! I look upon my attempt to pass the gates of Nashville as the best work I ever did. That battle has attracted the highest admiration from the enemy, and it has been pronounced the most glorious struggle ever seen on this continent."

GENERAL NOTES.

So far the Talmage trial has not been dull, and to the more irreverent classes it may have been entertaining. But no one, so far as heard from, has yet been moved to characterize it as impressive.

The success of *O Novo Mundo*, an illustrated journal published monthly in this city for circulation in Brazil, seems to have been phenomenal. It is now one of the most widely read periodicals in South America, and has done much to promote friendly intercourse between Brazil and the United States. The conductor, J. C. Rodrigues, has taken pains to render the hundredth number peculiarly attractive, and he has reason to be proud of the artistic merits of the illustrations.

One of the most tasteful college publications ever put to press by American students is the current issue of *The Miner*. Each page has a handsome blue border, the illustrations are ingeniously designed and admirably executed, and the press-work is exceedingly neat. The interests of the Columbia School of Mines and its students are faithfully recorded in this little pamphlet, which is so pretty a souvenir of college life that every old boy who sees it will wish himself "a gay young miner" again.

The respect paid to royal rank invariably gives the Duke of Cambridge a hearing when he addresses the House of Lords, but no one is quite so well pleased with what he has to say as he is himself. He has an engaging way of easing his kneejoints, and stands with legs astride as if he had just dismounted from his charger. After he had been on the floor for a few minutes a fortnight ago, he returned to receive the congratulations of the Prince of Wales. Then he bent over the Duke of Richmond to ask Lord Beaconsfield what he thought of it. Next, by way of showing his political impartiality, he took a seat near Lord Cardwell, and received his felicitations. Then he took a tour of the House, and sat a moment by Lord Cranbrook. Next he seated himself on the woolsack, and was felicitated by the Chancellor with a courtly bend of the bewigged head. Afterward he recited the whole of the speech to three Peers who had come in late, and who stood just before the steps of the throne. Finally he returned to the proxies bench, and noticing for the first time Lord Derby, gave him two fingers to shake, and evidently made a stereotyped inquiry, "Don't you think I was right, hey?"

About 150 Union soldiers assembled in a public hall in Washington, on Wednesday night, to denounce the unpatriotic conduct of the Norfolk City Guards and Company A, Washington Light Infantry. These companies, one from Virginia and the other organized in the District, had marched through the streets of the National Capital without displaying the United States flag. One of the speakers remarked that he had seen two of the visitors, and these were boys who ought to have been at school. These Virginia babies, he added, were not to blame; it was the education they had received. But the meeting should strike at the Light Infantry corps, who did not carry a United States flag. They carried arms procured from the Government, and the authorities should make them raise the flag or should take away their arms. Meanwhile, the visitors from Norfolk and their Washington hosts were having a good time at the armory. The captain of the former organization, when accosted by a reporter, remarked: "Way, my dear sir, this is all nonsense. We are only a company under the orders of the Governor of the State, and when we carry any flag it is, of course, the flag of our State, the only one, in fact, which we are authorized to carry. I have no objections in the world to the United States flag. It is the flag of my country, is it not?" "How many men have you in your company who were in the Confederate army?" was the next question to the captain. "Only five; three privates, the first-lieutenant and myself. And whoever says that I refuse to carry the United States flag tells a lie, and I will tell him so to his face."

Professor James Bryce, who went to the top of Mt. Ararat a few years ago, takes as broad a sweep of English politics as he once had of the Armenian mountain gorges. In appearing recently before the Liberals of the Tower Hamlets as a candidate for Parliament, he assured them that the Liberalism they and the working classes wanted was a positive Liberalism, a creative Liberalism, a Liberalism intended to make things better, that takes up things as they are, and says,

We are not satisfied with them. We want something more—something done to make England a better country." Liberalism, he contended, had two things associated with it, the principle of promoting the happiness of the people, and a belief in human progress, which would supply the motive force for carrying these measures out. The leading principles by which he conceived the Liberal party ought to be guided were: First—The maintenance of the ancient Constitution, and it was not part of this ancient Constitution to commit the country to treaties, conventions, and even to wars, without the knowledge of the people and Parliament. A part of this ancient Constitution, which has suffered much of late, was the principle of Ministerial responsibility, and it appeared to him that any Minister who endeavored to put forward the Crown as shielding his own acts was guilty of a kind of treason against the Constitution, and moreover of a kind of treason against the Crown itself. The second principle of Liberalism was the value and love Liberals attached to freedom and self-government. The third was the principle of equality—civil, social and religious—and by the latter he meant disestablishment, as he did not see any good grounds for the legal advantage and privileges which were still given to the Church of England as an Established Church.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC NOTES.

Mlle. Aimée will give a concert at Booth's Theatre to-morrow evening.

There will be the usual De Murska concert at the Grand Opera House to-morrow evening.

The third concert of the Fitzhugh Vocal Union will take place at the Brooklyn Academy of Music on Tuesday evening next.

A dramatization of Ouida's "Strathmore" has been made by a Mrs. Miller, of Troy. It will probably be produced at the Broadway Theatre during next August.

Mr. William H. Sherwood will give a piano recital on Saturday afternoon, April 19, at Steinway Hall. The programme comprises a number of excellent selections.

Mr. William Mason Evans will give a dramatic recital at Chickering Hall on Tuesday evening next. He will read selections by various authors, among them Shakespeare, Dickens, Macaulay and Hood.

M. Gevaert, director of the Conservatory of Music in Brussels, has been appointed Inspector General of all the royal conservatories, academies and schools in Belgium.

A Paris letter says: "We are told great things of the success of 'Edenne Marcel' at Lyons, and M. Planquette's 'Chevalier Gaston' at Monte Carlo is said to be prettier than even his 'Cloches de Corneville.'"

There will be given to-day, for the benefit of schools and families, a special matinée at Masonic Temple by the Midgets. It will last from 10 until 12 o'clock a. m. There will also be the usual other performances by these little people.

Maurel, the popular baritone, has returned from Russia, where he has been during the last season. He is engaged there for next year. He is to be a member of the Royal Italian Opera Company during the coming season, in London, but before that begins he will sing in the south of France and in Italy.

Miss Genevieve Ward appeared at the Boston Theatre on Saturday evening, as *Jane Shore*—thus making her first theatrical appearance in Boston. The occasion was brilliant and interesting, and the effort of this excellent actress—an artist of fine abilities and true artistic devotion—was recognized as triumphantly successful.

At the last concert of the Peabody Institute Orchestra, in Baltimore, the programme was composed exclusively of Norse music. Gade's Eighth Symphony, the Grieg piano concerto, played by Mr. Courländer, some fragments of Kuhlau's "Elfin Drama," and a couple of selections from the opera "Tovelille," by Asger Hamerik, the conductor of these concerts, were the selections chosen for performance.

Il Trovatore, of Milan, announces that a Signor Lesuyer has published a pamphlet on "The Language and Song of Animals." According to the author's statements the caw of a crow corresponds to B-flat in the trumpet; the barking of a medium-sized dog to B-flat in the bassoon, and that of a pup to B in an oboe; the grunting of a hog to G in the ophicleide. Here are some hints for a new pastoral symphony.

The next concert of chamber music by Messrs. Brandt, Scawarz, Matzka and Bergner will take place at Standard Hall, on Broadway, above Forty-second-st., at half past 8 o'clock on Thursday evening, April 17. The programme will consist of the Haydn quartet, op. 74, No. 1; the Schubert quartet in D minor (a posthumous work), and the quartet of Beethoven, in C minor, op. 18, No. 4. Attention is especially called to the change in the hour of the performance.

Among the incidents of the coming season of Italian opera by Colonel Mapleson's company at Her Majesty's Theatre will be the revival of Glück's "Armida," with Mme. Nilsson (who has not sung at that theatre for two years) in the title-rôle, and the production of Boito's "Mefistofele." The personnel of the company includes most of the artists whom we have had here, with the addition of a number of others among whom are Mesdames Trebelli, Pappenheim and Kellogg, and Signori Fancelli, Rota and Behrens, together with many others less known to fame.

The programme for Mr. John Lavine's annual concert is now announced and, as is usual, is in the highest degree attractive. Madame di Murska will sing the "Bel raggio" from the "Semiramide" and Weber's "Invitation to the Dance." Herr Wilhelmj will play, with orchestral accompaniment, the Paganini concerto, and Herr Franz Rummel will play, also with orchestra, the Raff concerto, op. 185, and Liszt's Hungarian Fantasia. The orchestra, which will be conducted by Dr. Damrosch, will perform Beethoven's "Egmont" overture, Brahms's Hungarian Dances, and the March from "Tannhäuser."

Miss Thursby's recent remarkable success in England is another proof of the fact that if American girls want to become singers it is not necessary for them to go abroad for it. There are several recent cases of the sort. Miss Minnie Hauk is one of them, perhaps the best known. Mlle. Stella Bonheur, the contralto, is an American; she has just made her début with great success at the San Carlo, in Naples, as *Fides* in "Le Prophète," and she has for some time been known as the best *Ortrud* in Italy. Mme. Durand, the soprano, has recently been singing in Madrid, and she has not only been very warmly received there, but she has been engaged as "Soprano Drammatique" for the next St. Petersburg season. All four of these ladies were prepared for the stage in this country, and in this country alone, and oddly enough all four are pupils of the same master Sig. Errani, of this city.

PUBLIC OPINION.

Unless Tilden is elected by 100 electoral votes majority his anxiety for the stock market will weaken his spine.—[Vicksburg Herald (Dem.)

Mr. Hendricks says that he doesn't feel called upon to take again the second place upon the National Democratic ticket. It is noticeable that he doesn't say that he will not again take the second place.—[Cincinnati Enquirer (Dem.)

If the Democrats persist in their attempt to starve the Government to death, the Republican candidate for Governor will have a majority equalling the Republican majorities in the years immediately preceding and during the rebellion.—[Augusta (Me.) Journal (Rep.)

TESTIMONY OF AN EXPERT.
From The Albany Evening Journal (Rep.)

Mr. Belmont was long associated with Mr. Tilden in politics. They trained in the same company, represented the same ideas, and sought the same ends. Mr. Belmont now says that New-York has had enough of Tilden. We don't know of anybody who is better qualified by experience to speak intelligently on that point.

A HIGH OLD BASIS OF PEACE.
From The Brooklyn Eagle (Dem.)

The basis of settlement of the present trouble between the Democratic leaders, so called, in this State, should be this:

1. A Tilden delegation to the next National Convention, guaranted to him now, if necessary.

2. The elimination of what is distinctively known as Hildeism from the Democratic politics of the State, so that every Democrat in the State shall be counted in the divisions of the honors of the party for the service he can render it, or for the credit and honor he may have conferred upon it, and not for what he thinks of Mr. Tilden or Mr. Tilden thinks of him.

SNIFFING AT HENDRICKS.
From The Baltimore Gazette (Dem.)

Mr. Hendricks has emerged from the convoluted recesses of his cacoethes and has been seized by the insatiate interviewer. He imparts to the world his belief that Congress is now on the right track and in keeping with the sentiment of the country. He says emphatically that he will not accept the second place on any Presidential ticket in 1880. It should be understood that Mr. Hendricks has never, at any time, either by word or implication created the impression that he would decline the first place on a Presidential ticket if it were presented to him with proper formality and with sufficient unanimity.

THE FOLLY OF BEING "TOO PREVIOUS."
From The Hartford Evening Post (Rep.)

If there is anything more absurd than another it is the publication of the "sentiments" of different States on Presidential candidates, drawn from conversations between reporters and a few individuals supposed to be exponents of public opinion. The nominating conventions are not to be held for a year, and while it is likely that a few restless politicians have turned over the subject in their minds, the masses of the people have not spoken and have had no opportunity of indicating what they think of the different candidates. As the time for making choice approaches they will indicate their preferences, and these will be governed quite as much by what may happen in the interval as by the claims set up in the behalf of different candidates. The men who furnish the opinions which are put forth at this early day as the judgment of whole States would look ridiculous if their names could be known. Of course their views of what "the people" are thinking are colored by their own wishes.

A TIMELY ADMONITION TO KEEP COOL.
From The Boston Advertiser (Rep.)

When the time comes, the local conventions of the two parties will select delegates to their National conventions, in view of the situation as it may then appear to be, and not as it appears to be now. We will not even try to predict what factions or powers will control the Democratic Convention, but we believe the Republican convention will face the situation calmly and select the fittest candidate. General Grant is no more likely to be that man than any one of twenty other capable and honorable Republicans. The efforts now so openly making to foreclose the action of the people next year, and to induce prominent men all over the country to commit themselves in a way which will hinder impartiality of judgment and freedom of action when the time of action comes, are in the last degree unwise, and they will fail.

THE AUCTION-BLOCK AGAIN—WHO BIDS?

UNCLE SAM:
"Who bids? Again the blacks are up at auction!
The man and sale and mother—who's the bidder?
Peremptory—without regard to section—
Impartial—'tis our purpose to consider
With favor the first guarantee that comes,
Of fair play, freedom, peace and happy homes!

"Ah gentlemen! This is a happy session!
Come, Mississippi, Kansas and Kentucky,
New speak up! Give us lively competition;
The buyer of this labor will be lucky!
Bid sharp! This is the crisis of your fate,
For work is wealth and underlies the state."

KENTUCKY:
"I bid—a home for every plekaninny
Whose dad or mam 'll earn it by their workin';
O, fer the times we had in Ole Virginny
Wen niks was nigs an' white folks did the shirkin'!
I'm good at shirkin', an' I can't agree
Thet why nigger is ez good ez me!"

UNCLE SAM:
"You hear the bid—who goes a trifle better?
Who guarantees the ballot? Who proposes
To leave the spelling book replace the letter,
And wreathe this rugged auction-block with roses?
Who offers to protect the rights of men,
And turn the slave into the citizen?"

MISSISSIPPI:
"I'll make 'em free! The mandate of the Maker!
Men serve themselves the best. It stands to reason;
And land thats worth $5 by the acre
I'll rent 'em for $10 by the season.
I'll let 'em vote. If rifle clubs use force
And say they sha'n't, why, then they can't, of course."

UNCLE SAM:
"Too late by far! You promise no protection!
You make them free—but merely free to suffer;
A voice rings hither from another section:
'Your bid is beaten by a better offer!
Now raise it, Mississip, or you are fast;
I hear a dozen bids as good as that!'"

KANSAS:
"I bid!—A home for every man and woman,
A school for every child;—a field to labor;
The guarantee of every right that's human;
Respect that sees in every man a neighbor;
The richest soil a farmer ever saw
And equal rights for all before the law!"

UNCLE SAM:
"Do I hear more? This is a happy session;
Come, rally, Mississippi and Kentucky!
One! Two! Now going! Is there competition?
Just going! O, the buyer will be lucky!
Going! From where the torrid fervor fans us—
Last call! A-going!—going!—gone!—to Kansas!"

THE CLOSE OF LENT.

PREPARATIONS FOR EASTER.

THE OBSERVANCE OF GOOD FRIDAY IN THE CHURCHES—SHOP WINDOWS FILLED WITH EASTER DISPLAYS—ARRANGEMENTS FOR MUSIC TO-MORROW IN EPISCOPAL AND ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCHES.

Good Friday services were held yesterday in the Roman Catholic and Episcopal Churches, and the day was observed by the closing of the business exchanges. The shop windows are unusually bright with the display of Easter cards and gifts in many curious designs, and the dealers report a very large sale. The Easter music in the Episcopal and Roman Catholic Churches has been arranged with much care. Masses by Mozart, Gounod, Haydn, Ambroise Thomas, Leprovost and Rossini, and selections from the Messiah, are among the chief attractions. In several instances orchestras have been secured to accompany the masses.

SERVICES OF GOOD FRIDAY.

PECULIAR FEATURES OF THE EXERCISES IN ROMAN CATHOLIC AND EPISCOPAL CHURCHES.

Good Friday was observed in the customary manner yesterday. In the Roman Catholic, Protestant Episcopal and Ritualistic Churches there were special services throughout the day and evening. Some business firms suspended transactions. All the exchanges were closed, and the banks were only open for the payment of notes. The State and United States Courts, with the exception of Judge Blatchford's, were closed. The children in the public schools enjoyed a holiday.

In all the Episcopal Churches special services were held.

When the services were begun at the Roman Catholic Church of St. Vincent Ferrer, at Sixty-sixth-st. and Lexington-ave., at 9 a. m., the edifice was overflowing with worshippers. At one end of the sanctuary was the repository, radiant with hundreds of lighted tapers and blossoming with choice hothouse plants prepared on Holy Thursday. The rest of the sanctuary was draped in heavy mourning. There were no ornaments of any kind on the altar. The service is called the mass of the presanctified, because the host which is used was consecrated on the previous day. The Rev. Father Slinger acted as celebrant, and the Rev. J. H. Slinger and the Rev. J. R. Meagher as deacon and sub-deacon respectively. All the priests wore black vestments. A few prayers and lessons were recited, and then the Passion according to St. John was sung by three priests. A number of prayers were said for all classes of persons, which included prayers for the Pope, bishops, priests, ecclesiastics, heretics, schismatics and Jews. The congregation knelt after each prayer except that for the Jews, because it was in mockery that they knelt before Christ. The interesting ceremony known as the Adoration of the Cross was the next feature of the service. Father Lilly took from the altar a large crucifix covered with a black veil. Displaying a portion of the crucifix to the congregation, he sang the words, "Behold the wood of the cross." To which the sub-deacon responded, "On which the Salvation of the world was hanged." This was repeated three times, each time with greater emphasis. When the cross was wholly uncovered, it was placed in the centre of the sanctuary on a cushion. All the priests went in procession to the cushion and kissed the cross. After this the congregation was invited to approach the altar-rail to kiss the cross. At the end of the ceremony there was a procession from the repository to the High Altar. The celebrant carried the veiled chalice which contained the consecrated host. In the evening the tenebræ was chanted and a sermon was preached.

In all the other Roman Catholic churches similar services were held. At St. Peter's Church, in Barclay-st., deep mourning hung in folds from the pillars and galleries and covered too from of the altar. Father O'Farrell, the pastor, conducted the services, assisted by Father Kelly, deacon, and Father O'Hare, sub-deacon. The services were very impressive at St. Stephen's Church in East Twenty-eighth-st., and a large congregation was present. There was a sermon on the crucifixion in the evening. In the Church of St. Alphonsus, South Fifth-ave., there was a sepulchre, which appeared to be hewn out of a rock, and within it hung colored lamps. Vicar-General Quinn conducted the services at St. Patrick's Cathedral. Cardinal McCloskey was present in the sanctuary.

EASTER MUSIC IN THE CHURCHES.

ATTRACTIVE PROGRAMMES IN MANY CHURCHES—SEVERAL MASSES TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY ORCHESTRAS.

In accordance with the usual custom, extensive arrangements have been made in the Episcopal and Roman Catholic Churches for the music on Easter Sunday. In many instances special choirs have been engaged, and in some of the churches orchestras will lend their aid in increasing the effect. The chancels in the Episcopal and the altars in the Roman Catholic Churches will be profusely decorated with flowers.

At St. Thomas's Church the services will begin at 7 a. m. The Litany, sermon and holy communion will begin at 10:30. Several selections from Mozart's "Twelfth Mass" will be sung. The quartet, Dr. and Mrs. L. L. Dunforth, Miss Emily Winant and F. W. Jameson, will be assisted by a choir of forty-two singers. Gounod's "Mass of the Sacred Heart," and anthems from Hiller's "Song of Victory" and Stainer's "Daughter of Jairus" will be among the musical selections at Trinity Church during the morning service. Portions of Handel's "Messiah" will be sung in the afternoon. Beethoven, Mozart, Weber, Ambroise Thomas, Schubert and Mercadante are the musicians from whom the organist of St. Bartholomew's Church, at Madison-ave. and Forty-fourth-st., has chosen selections for to-morrow's morning and evening services. The choir of Christ Church on Fifth-ave. will be increased to fifty voices, and selections from Mozart, Gounod, Beethoven, and others will be performed. At the Church of the Holy Trinity, "Thanks be to God" from the Messiah and a Gloria in Excelsis by Mozart will be sung. The quartet at St. Paul's will be assisted by a large choir, and an elaborate musical programme has been prepared. At Grace Chapel, in the morning a Te Deum by the organist, Louis C. Jacoby, will be sung, and among the music of the evening service is the Gloria from Mozart's "Twelfth Mass," which will be sung for the anthem.

A chorus of twenty voices will assist the quartet of the Church of St. John the Evangelist in the performance of an extended musical programme. "Mighty Jehovah," a festival anthem adapted from Bellini, will be sung both at the morning and evening services of the Church of the Holy Spirit. Mrs. M. Brewer, Miss Finch, A. D. Woodruff and E. R. Almy will sing at St. Andrew's Church, Fourth-ave. and One-hundred-and-twenty-eighth-st. There will be no evening service at St. Mark's Church. In the morning an Easter anthem by Haydn, and a tenor solo from Mendelssohn's Hymn of Praise, will be among the musical selections. A triumphal procession will begin the morning and evening services at St. Ignatius Church, and portions of Schiedermeyer's "Mass in F" will be sung in the morning. A prelude by Richard Wagner will begin the morning exercises at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, in West Forty-fifth-st. In the evening a movement from Raff's "Lenore Symphony," and the postlude from Schubert's "Heroic March" will be played. An elaborate musical programme will also be rendered at St. Alban's Church.

Of the Episcopal Churches in Brooklyn, the Church of the Holy Trinity will have special musical attractions. A Te Deum by Handel and an anthem, "As it Began to Dawn," by the organist of the church, Dudley Buck, will be sung. At St. Ann's Church, music by Palestrina, Gounod and Baruby will be among the selections. Christ and St. James's Churches will also present musical attractions.

As usual, the Roman Catholic Churches will celebrate the day with extraordinarily large choirs, and in several instances the singers will be accompanied by string bands and harps. At St. Patrick's Cathedral, at Mott and Prince-sts., solemn Pontifical mass will begin at 10:30. Cardinal McCloskey will preside. An organ prelude by Cherubini, Haydn's "Imperial Mass," "O Salutaris," by Bellini, and a Tantum Ergo, by the organist, J. R. Magrath, will be among the selections. Ambroise Thomas's solemn mass, together with an Ave Maria by Saint-Saëns, will be sung at the morning service and at vespers, respectively. The exercises in the morning will be concluded with a nuptial march by Guilmant. The quartet consists of Miss Henrietta Corradi, Miss Octavie Gomien, F. Harvey and O. Flemming. Leprovost's "Mass No. 1" for the choir, orchestra and organ will be sung at St. Francis Xavier's Church. A Largo by Handel for the orchestra, harp and organ will be played for the offertory. The double quartet will be assisted by a chorus of twenty-four voices. An orchestra will also be at St. Stephen's Church, where a mass by Rossini and other musical selections from Donizetti, Gounod, Clermont and Schubert will be rendered. At St. Cecilia's Church Haydn's "Mass No. 2" will be sung by a full chorus with organ accompaniment.

A RAMBLE AMONG THE SHOPS.

SOME OF THE BRIGHT AND ATTRACTIVE EASTER DISPLAYS IN THE SHOP WINDOWS.

The Easter displays in the shop windows are unusually interesting this season. Within four years the English custom of sending Easter cards and the Continental custom of making fanciful or grotesque presents, bearing some relation in form or suggestion to the Easter egg, have come into vogue in this city. At all the bookstores there are beautiful displays of Easter cards and book gifts. The dealers say that the demand this year for such wares indicates a rapidly growing adoption of the English custom. The imported English Easter cards have had the greatest sale, partially on account of their being English, and also because, as a rule, they show more taste in the designs and the combination of colors. The American manufacturers improve from year to year in the elegance and novelty of their designs. There are not many changes in the general character of the English cards and the American imitations of them this season. They embrace floral designs of crosses and Christian emblems embellished with floral decorations; also, little altar pictures in the manner of the old Flemish painters, with angels on the covers. Almost all the cards bore some verse from the New Testament or the poets appropriate to Easter week. Some of them bear the legend "Remember the Poor," and other large ones, like Sunday-school motto cards, are intended to be hung on the wall.

The most noticeable novelties in the publishing line have been issued by A. D. F. Randolph & Co. The "Easter Wings" are fifteen or twenty cards cut in the shape of wings, and tied together at the base of the wing by red, white or blue ribbon. The outer leaves are colored to resemble the feathers of a wing, and one of them bears an emblem formed of a crown, a cross and the olive branch, and the motto "Resurgam." Each of the inner leaves exhibits a verse chosen from the Scriptures or the poets. The same house has issued a number of Easter books, uniquely bound in pliable brown canvas covers, with stitched Russia-leather borders. One side of the cover is illuminated by hand in different designs in flowers, and the title is also skeleton, in scarcely two being alike. One collection of Easter hymns and poems, called "Now is Christ Arisen," is newly made. The others have been seen before, but in different bindings, and include "The Shadow of the Rock," "The Royal Invitation," by Francis R. Havergal, "The Changed Cross, or Daily Thoughts on Coming to Christ," and "Angel Voices, or Counsels for Overcoming the World."

The displays in the windows of the confectionery shops are grotesque and worldly in comparison. The most striking exhibition is under the Fifth Avenue Hotel. The candy eggs that open like a locket reveal different images and designs or contain mottoes. The French Easter eggs, of all sizes from an ordinary hen's egg to the size of half a dozen ostrich eggs combined, consist of a pasteboard shell covered with light-colored silks or satins, with tasteful flower figures pointed on them. These are all very pretty, and may be filled with confectionery. Then come the more fanciful and elaborate pieces, such as a beautiful basket of eggs, formed of straw and flowers, surmounted in the place of a handle by an arrangement of straw twigs and vines, on the top of which a snow-white dove is spreading its wings for flight. All these articles relate either to the family of birds or their eggs. Birds of Paradise are provided with heads of the daughters of Eve, the body being real feathers and the "face divine" such as ornament large dolls. Two of the most amusing pieces are a couple of young partridges dressed in imitation of Italian hand-organ women, the little shawl tied over their heads assisting to produce a human resemblance. There are dandy jackdaws and cavalier blue-jays; a jolly kingfisher, cocked out in a few pieces of finery, returns from a fishing excursion bearing a single trout; an industrious thrush who went forth to reap bears a sickle and sheaf. In these figures the beautiful plumage of ducks is made to serve very picturesque purpose, from a variety of "dear little ducks" to mountebanks and quack doctors. The gossing is also prominent and suggestive. All these stuffed birds, dressed fantastically in human raiment, carry with them something of the significance of the comic valentine.

A favorite central idea for the more artistic pieces, which lack the satiric or comic element, is the bird's nest. These with their tiny eggs are worked into flower baskets formed in different ways, with always a stuffed bird of beautiful plumage perched on the edge of the nest, or clinging to the boughs or entwining vines. Candy eggs, with chickens and other infant birds peeping out of the shell, form a large part in the Easter carnival. Human figures of humorous visage are made to appear to have come into the world in the same miraculous manner. A novel feature in egg decoration was done by some ingenious lady who soon disposed of her stock at the bookstores. She removed the meat of the egg, and then after softening the shell slightly took a hooked needle and embroidered the surface of the shell with chenille in different colors, the shell being afterward hardened. Loaded eggs painted to represent comic heads, and provided with necks to rest on and paper hats, attracted crowds about the windows of one confectionery shop. Street venders, in the last few days, have been selling boxes of dyes for coloring Easter eggs, put up in packages for the occasion.

The china stores have given prominence, for the time, in their show windows to such articles of porcelain in the shape of birds, dishes in imitation of hen's nests, with the cover representing a hen calmly engaged in incubation. Some pretty statuettes in terra cotta attract notice to a shop window in Union-square. They represent cherubs or cupids carrying big eggs, either on their backs or supported between the arms of two of the youthful figures.

An enormous wax candle, in Tiffany's windows, was eyed curiously by passers-by yesterday. It was five feet six inches tall and four and a half inches in diameter, being entirely of wax, and made by Tiffany on the order of a lady belonging to the Church of St. Mary the Virgin. She presents this candle, costing a very handsome sum, to the church for Easter Sunday services. The candle rests on a brass pedestal, and a foot below the tip of the wick there is a brass circlet in the form of a crown. When this piece of the candle, a foot long, has been burned away, another similar piece may be placed on the stick, thereby preserving the decorated part of the candle for use at successive Easter services. The base of the illumination is in two bands, the first representing the earth, dotted with lilies, the purest flowers of the earth, and five roses to signify the five wounds received by Christ. The lower band, designed to signify the waters under the earth, is painted in symbols to indicate water and fish. On the earth band are figures representing the adoring angels, the figure of Christ, in the act of blessing, being in the centre surface of the candle. Below the band typifying the heavens and embellished by such symbols as the dove and the heads of cherubs, are angels with swinging censers.

GENERAL BUTLER ON FINNERTY'S VOTE.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: You state in your issue of to-day that "General Butler told his friends that every man registered had a right to vote, Constitution or no Constitution, and Patrick Finnerty, believing this, got somebody to write his name upon the back of his ballot, which he then put into the box."

In the first place, will you please refer me to any reported speech of mine at Faneuil Hall wherein I used the words you impute to me?

Second—The law of Massachusetts which requires Patrick Finnerty or any other voter to write his name on his ballot?

Third—The evidence upon which you assert that Patrick Finnerty, believing my statement, as you present it, "got somebody to write his name on the back of his ballot, which he then put into the box?"

Fourth—If you don't find any evidence to substantiate either of the three statements, please inform me why a newspaper claiming to be respectable should publish three misstatements of facts in order to injure any man. I am, as respectfully as possible, your servant. BENJ. F. BUTLER.

Fifth Avenue Hotel, New-York City, April 10, 1879.

[General Butler cross-examines very vigorously. The facts were that General Butler defended Finnerty. His client was indicted for illegal voting. The evidence showed that Finnerty first tried to vote as Patrick Finnerty 3d, whose name was on the voting list. He came back afterward, having been challenged, and claimed that his name was Patrick Finnerty 3d. Being asked to read or write he acknowledged that he could not do so. He came back later and finally voted. The report of the evidence says that "his name was written on the envelope containing the ballot by Thomas Duffy." General Butler is reported in *The Boston Advertiser* as arguing to the court that "a man could not be deprived of suffrage because he could not read or write." If he holds that opinion now, he probably held it last Fall, and if he held it he probably expressed it.

We have a sincere respect for General Butler's great abilities, and we think the newspaper press pretty generally gets into such a habit of abusing him on all occasions as to abuse him every now and then when he really deserves praise. Doubtless these things tend to make him sore, and so we can easily forgive the "raspy" tone of his card.—*Ed.*]

MIDNIGHT WEATHER REPORT.

GOVERNMENT INDICATIONS.
Synopsis for the past 24 hours.

WASHINGTON, April 12, 1 a. m.—The barometer is highest in the Lake region, and falling slowly in the Northwest. Light snow is falling in New-England; elsewhere fair weather prevails. The temperature has risen in the Northwest, remained nearly stationary in the Lake region and New-England; elsewhere it has fallen. Southeasterly winds prevail in the Northwest, variable in the Southwest; elsewhere they are mostly northerly.

Indications.

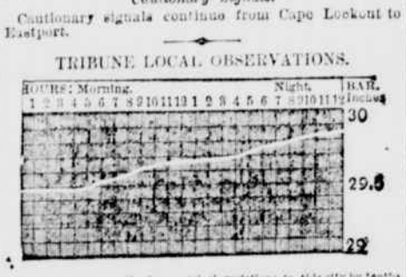
For New-England, cloudy weather, light snow, followed by clearing weather, northwesterly winds, stationary temperature, rising barometer.

For the Middle Atlantic states, clear or partly cloudy weather, northerly winds, stationary temperature, rising barometer.

Cautionary Signals.

Cautionary signals continue from Cape Lookout to Eastport.

TRIBUNE LOCAL OBSERVATIONS.



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

TRIBUNE OFFICE, April 12, 1 a. m.—After daybreak yesterday the movement of the barometer was steadily upward. Partly cloudy weather generally prevailed, with occasional light sprinkles of rain; at night the weather was clear. The temperature ranged between 36° and 42°, the average being 6° lower than on Thursday. The amount of moisture in the air is not large.

Clear or partly cloudy weather, with slight changes in temperature, may be expected in this city and vicinity to-day.

THE TOW PATH RAILROAD BILL.

ALBANY, April 11.—The adverse report of the Canal Committee on the Tow-path Railroad bill came up to-day for reconsideration. Mr. Hurd moved that the report be adopted, arguing that the scheme was impracticable and unconstitutional. General Sharpe made a strong speech in favor of the bill. Speaker Alvord said there was not a dollar in the scheme. Mr. Flynn replied. He was interrupted while speaking by Mr. Alvord, who said: "May I ask the gentleman from Kings if he was not in consultation with the main lobbyists on this floor ten minutes ago?" Mr. Flynn replied that his life was as honorable as that of the Speaker. Subsequently he said: "At least I never was elected Speaker and had placed upon my desk on the day of my election a bouquet sent by the wife of a leading lobbyist." This was in reference to an incident on the opening day of the session. Afterward General Sharpe said also: "The lobbyists who are on the floor ought to be challenged to learn whether or not they have not tickets of admission signed by the Speaker." Mr. Hurd's motion was adopted by a vote of 30 to 69. This killed the bill.

DEBTS OF THE PETERSBURG RAILROAD.

RICHMOND, April 11.—In the United States Circuit Court here to-day Judge Hughes made an order in the case of the Petersburg Railroad Company, directing the receiver of the road to pay the coupon and registered interest first in default, reserving the question of paying interest on the back interest.

DEATH OF JOHN A. INNES.

EASTON, Penn., April 11.—John A. Innes died this morning, age seventy-one years. He served two terms in the State Legislature and was Chief Clerk in the office of Secretary of State under Governors Shunk and Packer.

MARRIED.

QUACKENBUSH—WARNER—At Roselle, N. J., 9th inst., at the residence of the bride's parents, by the Rev. J. Alstyne Blauvelt, Edgar Quackenbush to Annie W. Warner, both of Roselle.

DIED.

BREWSTER—On Friday, April 11, 1879, Thomas Brewster, in the 76th year of his age.
Funeral will take place from his late residence, No. 32 Devoe-st., Brooklyn, E. D., on Sunday, 13th inst., at 2 p. m.

CHURCHILL—Of scarlet fever, Florence, only daughter of Carrie Smith and Charles B. Churchill.
Funeral service Sunday, at 4 o'clock, at the residence of her parents, 1,379 Pacific-st., Brooklyn.

CONNOLLY—In Switzerland, March 13, Marie Schenck, wife of Richard B. Connolly, and daughter of the late John Townsend.
Funeral services at Dr. Chapin's Church, 45th-st. and 5th-ave., this day (Saturday), at 2:30 o'clock.
Remains interred in Second Street Marble Cemetery.

COTTIER—In Brooklyn, April 10, 1879, John Cottier, in the 70th year of his age.
Friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from his late residence, No. 37 Sands-st., on Saturday, 12th inst., at 2 o'clock p. m. It is respectfully requested that no flowers be sent.

EDWARDS—On Wednesday, April 9, Mary, widow of the late Captain William Edwards, aged 74 years.
Relatives and friends are invited to attend the funeral from her late residence, 127 East 34th-st., on Saturday, April 12, at 2 o'clock. Friends are kindly requested not to send flowers.

HALSTED—On Thursday, April 10, Elizabeth, wife of Underhill Halsted, in the 75th year of her age.
Relatives and friends are invited to attend the funeral at the M. E. Church, Rye, at 1:30 o'clock p. m., Monday, April 14. Friends are kindly requested not to send flowers.
Carriages will meet the train which leaves Grand Central Depot at 12 o'clock m.

LYON—At Green Cove Springs, Fla., April