failure. So far as can be told from the various criticisms, which differ widely, "Il Rinnegato" is copied after Wagner, but displays none of Wagner's genius. Rubinstein's opera, on the other hand, was greatly admired. The book was not a good one, and at certain points the opera failed of being effective, but the music is warmly spoken of on all sides, though it is said to be better fitted for the concert-room than the stage. It appears to be in Rubinstein's best and most characteristic style, to be full of that local color in which he delights, and to contain many passages of exceeding beauty.

GENERAL NOTES.

A Cambridge, Mass., letter-carrier goes his rounds upon a bicycle.

A London benevolent institution, with a long name and a good record, is the Metropolitan Drinking Fountain and Cattle-Trough Association. In an appeal to charitable persons for assistance, the chairman points out that there are now 875 fountains and troughs in London, at which 700,000 persons and animals daily quench their thirst.

If heat and drouth still continue in Paris the condition of affairs in that city must be very serious by this time. Ten days ago the Director of Works issued a circular announcing that the authorities had decided to suspend almost entirely the watering of the streets. The private consumption, however, had increased so enormously that the sources of the water supply were showing signs of falling off. Bad smells arose from the unflushed drains and the atmosphere was so filled with fine dust as almost to assume the appearance of a fog when the lamps were lighted.

A recent Parliamentary return gave the number of agricultural holdings in each county of Ireland, and their valuation. In the province of Ulster there are 72,055 holdings at £4 and under; 82,645 holdings over £4 up to £10; 1,697 holdings over £100; total value of all the holdings, £243,977. In Munster there are 42,091 holdings at £4 and under; 34,682 holdings over £4 up to £10; 3,348 holdings over £100; total value of all holdings, £143,159. Leinster possesses 38,825 holdings at £4 and under; 32,231 holdings over £4 up to £10; 5,926 holdings over £100; total value, £134,794. Connaught contains 65,228 holdings at £4 and under; 47,350 holdings over £4 up to £10; 1,396 holdings over £100; total value, £138,255.

A year ago all France was in alarm over the ravages of the phylloxera, and despondent prophets predicted that the vineyards, which they declared had already suffered irreparable injury, would be totally ruined in the near future. All efforts to stay the pest seemed useless; prizes were offered in vain for some cure and preventive, hardy American vines were imported upon which to graft French stock, and still the ravages went on. In view of this discouraging outlook it was interesting to read in *Galignani* that this year's vintage promises to be one of the best in fifteen years in both France and Italy and fully up to the average in Spain. Superstitious persons, too, are deriving much satisfaction from the ancient belief that a comet always brings with it good wine, and thus the vineyards are smiling over the prospective quality as well as quantity of their coming harvest.

The universal anxiety lest the President should suffer from an impure atmosphere is likely to result in a thorough investigation of the sanitary condition of Washington. In an article just prepared by Mr. F. C. Adams upon the drainage of the city, there are some amazing statements, indicating a condition of affairs at once dangerous and disgraceful. Mr. Adams says: "We have the novel spectacle of a river running its natural course down, and our great B-st. sewer made to run in a contrary direction up hill. Of course the mouth of this B-st. sewer opens up the river, so that the latter, with even an ordinary freshet, acts as a dam or force pump, driving the filthy sewage back into the sewer to decay and fester and fill our chambers with poisonous gases emanating from it. And now we are told that the Fifteenth-st. and New-York-ave. sewer is an entire failure so far as relieving the B-st. sewer, that it has 'caved' in several places and has choked. The Kidwell bottoms, for miles along our river front, are rank with weeds and sedge grass, into which the excrement vomited from the B-st. sewer lodges and festers in the sun, the breeze wafting its sickening smell over the whole city."

BITS OF CRITICISM.

MALLOCK'S "ROMANCE OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY."—It is difficult to imagine that this book can have any effect that is not mischievous; and to introduce it into ordinary drawing-rooms under the name of a novel, without any warning of the revolting nature of some of its contents, is an insult to ordinary readers. Moreover, its tone is not the tone it affects. There is to our ears a genuine vulgarity of feeling underlying the affected intensity of passion—a true worship of the worst side of the world ingrained in the very essence of the religious sentiment it contains. And though we can quite conceive that a book of this nature might have been seriously planned for a religious purpose by a man with a very deep religious conviction to express, such a book as this—written with as much plainness of speech as if the sore to be healed needed the closest study, but not to express a very deep religious conviction, rather, indeed, the despair of attaining any such conviction—can hardly exert any influence that is not at once deteriorating and contaminating.—[The London Spectator.

AMERICAN NOVELS.—Whether it be, as we have before remarked, that only the better sort of American fiction comes to this country, or from some other cause, we know not, but it is certain the ordinary novels that are sent to us by United States publishers are executed in a better fashion than their equivalents here. It may be that, the total number being less, it is more easy to be original without being eccentric, and so there are fewer abnormal types and less cheap cynicism in the tales that cross the Atlantic than our own lady novelists have accustomed us to look for.—[The Athenæum.

THE POETS OF PESSIMISM.—The truth is that pessimism is a disease which attacks mankind, or at least civilized mankind, collectively generally at moments of exhaustion after some great historic effort. The eighteenth century was essentially of a cheerful tendency. Leibnitz's form of optimism, although ridiculed by Voltaire, had left its stamp upon the age. The world, if not actually the best of possible worlds, was sure to grow better and better every day; and the French Revolution was greeted as a sign by men of all parties as the beginning of the golden age of universal happiness and brotherhood. When the age turned out to be one of wholesale bloodshed leading to a military despotism, a reaction necessarily set in, and the tendency was now to disbelieve altogether in the perfectibility of the human race and even in personal happiness. It was this epoch which produced Schopenhauer and the various poets of pessimism—Leopardi and Byron and Heine and Pushkin and Alfred de Musset. All these, vastly as they differ in peculiarities of style, have in common the one key-note of despair without the hope and with scarcely the desire of happiness. It is true that the lines in which most of their lives had fallen were not in pleasant places, and that their personal experiences gave a tingeing to their general views of things. When Schopenhauer explained to M. Challemel-Lacour the reasons for his hatred of women on metaphysical grounds, he forgot to mention his perpetual quarrels with his own mother, and other unpleasant encounters with the sex; if Byron's marriage had been a happy one he would probably not have written "Don Juan."—[Pall Mall Gazette.

HUGO'S IMAGINATION.—While other writers adopt a fanciful *motif* from an instinctive feeling that they have not sufficient imaginative force to actualize a truly imaginative situation, and require the "prop of allegory," Victor Hugo, with the most splendid lyrical vision of any man in Europe, is not content to rely upon this vision, but goes out of his way in quest of allegorical *motifs*, such as second-rate men can find far more readily than he, and for which, indeed, he has no genius whatsoever. The greatest impeachment which criticism has to bring against that fantastic Gongorism which from the seventeenth century downward has in various forms infected European literature is that in the case of Victor Hugo it has clipped the wings of a lyrical imagination almost unequalled among men.—[The Athenæum.

RETURNING HOME AFTER NINETEEN YEARS.

Mr. Zebbeus Compton and his wife, of Plainfield, N. J., while at their home at noon yesterday, were astonished by the entrance of their son, Sylvanus, who was last heard of by them nineteen years ago, and whom they have ever since believed to be dead. Before the war Sylvanus Compton was a druggist's clerk in Plainfield. At the breaking out of hostilities he joined the navy, being about twenty-one years of age. He became attached to the surgical staff, and in June, 1862, his parents learned, through a letter from him, that he was on board a ship taking some sick soldiers to New-Orleans. This was the last heard from him directly, but they found that he had landed safely in New-Orleans, and had been in that city. No further trace of him could be found, however, and after a few years had passed his parents concluded that he was dead.

The returned son says that while in New-Orleans he fell in with a pleasant, agreeable man, who invited him to join in drinking a bottle of wine. After this, he remembers nothing until he was aroused from the stupor caused by the drugged liquor, and found himself on board a slaver three days out at sea. He escaped from the ship at one port and told his story to the American Consul, but found that that official had already been warned to arrest him as a deserter and send him back. The Consul advised him to take the ship again and escape at some other port, where there was no official to arrest him. He next left the ship at an African port and made his way to Cape Colony. Here he settled down for a time, married and had one child. He sent no word home through fear of being arrested as a deserter and taken back to America for trial. From Cape Town he drifted off to India and other parts of Asia, and finally to Australia. From Australia he finally returned to New-York and went from there directly to Plainfield in search of his parents.

The father and mother were completely overcome by his sudden and unexpected return, the mother fainting from joy. Compton has a number of relations living at Plainfield and all those who knew him before he disappeared recognize him now. When he went away he left two brothers and two sisters, but one sister has since died. The two brothers and the remaining sister are living in different parts of the country. Those who know Comptor twenty years ago speak of him as a young man of excellent reputation, quiet and much liked.

SUMMER LEISURE.

A STORMY DAY AT LONG BRANCH.

LONG BRANCH, N. J., July 30.—It has rained nearly all day, and the surf is heavy. The City of Richmond did not reach here at all. The Plymouth Rock reached the Ocean Pier at noon. The surf was so heavy and the vessel rocked so badly that no landing was made and the passengers returned to New-York on the vessel. The hotel piazzas were deserted, but the hotel parlors were lively with the music of the bands and the voices of the people. In nearly all the hotels the younger people danced during the afternoon. A few ladies and gentlemen, wearing their winter wrappings, walked out upon the Ocean Pier to watch the white-capped waves that dashed high upon the sandy beach.

This evening it is raining heavily, and rubber overcoats and "waterproofs" are in demand. The surf beats upon the shore with a sullen roar that is heard nearly half a mile inland. The water washes to the foot of the bluffs, but no damage has been done.

There were many arrivals this afternoon, the railroad trains being crowded. The customary Saturday evening hops at the hotels are in full blast to-night, and are much enjoyed in spite of the bad weather outside.

An invitation ball will be given by the guests of the United States Hotel next Saturday evening.

Governor Cornell, of New-York, arrived at the West End Hotel this morning.

D. A. Stuart, the president of the Pittsburg Locomotive Works, is at the Ocean Hotel with his family.

Ex-Mayor Vaux and the Rev. Dr. Van Nest, both of Philadelphia, are at the Atlantic Hotel.

Mrs. M. E. Whitaker, the wife of the American Consul to Canada, is at the Sea Cliff.

Martin Delahanty and family, of Albany, N. Y., are at the Mansion House.

A number of crabbing parties are being organized for next week. The objective point of the parties will be Pleasure Bay.

Among the latest arrivals at the hotels are the following:

At the Howland Hotel—A. J. Woodruff and wife, S. L. Morrison, H. W. Atwood, W. Duer, E. H. Wales, G. C. Webb, C. H. Caldwell, Jr., T. A. Carroll, A. Pomroy, of New-York; J. C. Kelly and wife, Miss Kelly, A. J. Wolf, Mrs. Metlier and family, P. T. Ransom, W. H. Waulbaum, H. J. Trexler, D. S. Trexler and wife, J. Roeller, F. H. Trexler, of Philadelphia; Mrs. Rhoades, G. E. Collins, of Chicago; Mrs. Lamb, Miss Lamb, of Scotland; F. Kessler, of England; W. Young and family, Miss Fried, of Easton, Penn.; G. M. Stonebrake and family, of Maryland.

At the Ocean Hotel—G. H. Siedel and Miss Siedel, A. Lincoln, G. S. Crosby, D. C. Lynch and wife, Mrs. Nathan and daughter, H. McClellan, H. C. Page, R. Good, J. Lipman and wife, C. B. Meeker and wife, N. B. Freeman, of New-York; J. S. Wood and wife, W. Gibson and wife, E. M. Devoe, of Mount Vernon; E. P. Meany, W. Isaacs, of St. Louis; C. H. Robinson and wife, of Boston; V. B. Gullie, wife and daughters, of Princeton, N. J.

At the Brighton—O. K. Clark and family, C. F. Panago, E. M. Ehlers, J. P. Boyd, Mrs. N. M. Shaffer, Miss E. Shaffer, W. S. Pyle, O. M. Buckingham, of New-York; H. B. Crosby and wife, E. Theodore Bell, of Paterson, N. J.; A. H. Combs, R. G. Thomson and the Misses Thomson, of Brooklyn, N. Y.; the Rev. J. Shaffer, of Newburg, N. Y.; Lieutenant Brant, United States Army.

At the West End Hotel—E. S. Blundfield and wife, Miss Hunter, J. W. Emerson and wife, Mrs. Burnell, W. Taylor, jr., J. F. Watton and wife, A. Fritz, Douglas Taylor and family; S. M. Keeland, of New-York, A. Mack, wife and Miss Mack, of Louisville, Ky.; F. Rawl, Mrs. Walters, Mrs. D. Firth, J. G. Klien, A. B. Klien, G. Heye, the Misses Heye, of Philadelphia; G. L. Ward, Miss Moore, of Boston, Mass.; H. H. Dickson, W. Blake, H. S. Adams, of Brooklyn; J. H. Gunner and wife, J. Tiobel, W. T. Morls, of Baltimore, Md.

At the Mansion House—D. Morrell, G. W. Allen, C. B. Ellsworth, Mrs. MacKenzie and son, J. Tracey, J. S. Boden and wife, Mrs. D. O'Brien, M. G. Kiely, of New-York; M. Delahanty and family, of Albany, N. Y.; J. E. Van Winkle and wife, of Paterson, N. J.; W. J. Harman, J. McKay and wife, of Pittsburg, Penn.; Mrs. Harbeck, of Philadelphia; J. V. Farnam, of Providence, R. I.

NEWPORT NOTES.

NEWPORT, R. I., July 30.—The hotels are filling up, but as yet they are not "crowded."

Major Sanger, United States Army, has returned to his duties at Fort Adams.

Mrs. Howard Townsend, of Albany, is at the Appleton cottage in Catharine-st.

A party of gypsies are in camp about two miles from the city. The men have horses to sell, while the women visit the cottages with fancy baskets and other wares, and some of them make a practice of telling fortunes.

Mr. Mallory, of New-York, has arrived here in his schooner-yacht, the Water Witch.

Isaac Townsend, of New-York, is at the Ocean House.

Bishop Huntington, of Central New-York, will officiate at All Saints' Chapel to-morrow, and the Rev. Mr. Moran, of New-York, will be at Zion (Episcopal) Church.

Dinner parties were given to-day by F. S. G. De Hauteville and G. Mead Tookes, of New-York.

The Westchester Polo Club formally opened the season this afternoon before a large and fashionable assemblage. The games were called at five o'clock. The names of the players were as follows: Lloyd S. Brice, jr., Samuel S. Howland and Dr. Fred O. Beach, who wore blue, and who played against August Belmont, jr., Francis R. Appleton, A. Ladenburg and H. L. Herbert. Eight spirited games were played, each side winning four. A band of music was on the ground.

Among the hotel arrivals are the following:

Ocean House—John R. Magruder, Dr. R. H. Westmatt, Miss N. T. Ellard, W. M. Grennell, New-York; J. Lee Judson and wife, Rochester, N. Y.; Alexander L. Hayes, Cambridge; J. B. McClung, Edward H. Ogden and family, Mrs. W. S. Sackman, H. J. Ball and wife, T. J. Klouse and wife, Philadelphia; Edward Farquhar, Washington; John Morris, Boston, E. Mallett, France; W. H. Barnes and wife, Cleveland; Harry Joy, H. J. Sheldon, O. F. Warner, S. Baldwin, Detroit; M. Hutchinson and wife, Bordentown, N. J.; R. Sterns and wife, W. Sterns, Cincinnati; S. E. Burrows, N. McKinney and wife, A. W. McKinney, jr., New-York; J. J. Emery, Cincinnati; R. Ruey and wife, Philadelphia; Mrs. S. R. Dunick, England; J. C. Bell and family, Miss Thomas, J. W. Bell, J. C. Bell, jr., Maryland; H. Middlebrook, Columbus, Ga.; Mrs. R. R. Farnum, Miss S. Cary, R. B. Shepard and wife, Foxboro, Mass.; Charles Cary, Philadelphia; Charles L. Long and wife, Springfield; Mrs. F. A. Howe, Miss F. Farwell, Chicago; A. B. Chapin, E. M. Bell, Buffalo; W. J. Thomson, New-Orleans; J. Ellis and wife, I. D. Stillman, San Francisco; Julius Nathan and wife, Debb's Ferry; Ferdinand Ward and family, George M. Stetson, C. S. Clark, John F. Plummer and family, New-York.

Hotel Aquidneck—Charles H. Botz, Henry Dochery, Brooklyn; J. M. Cohen, M. C. Cook, W. S. Read, Boston; W. H. Niles, Cambridge; W. F. Wright, U. S. N.; E. H. Allen, and wife, Kansas City; H. R. Butler, W. A. Butler, jr., Yonkers, N. Y.; B. J. Carr, Gardiner, Mass.; A. B. Hovenor, J. S. Crouse, Red Hook, N. J.; Robert F. Burton and wife, J. Lyburne and wife, Baltimore; H. J. Neger, R. F. Homer, Chicago; Mr. H. Howland, Chicago; Commander R. D. Evans, U. S. N.

CROWDS AT SARATOGA SPRINGS.

SARATOGA SPRINGS, July 30.—Summer guests are pouring into Saratoga thick and fast, and the hotel and boarding-house managers have been kept busy to-day greeting visitors and assigning them quarters.

The local pulpits to-morrow will be principally supplied by clergymen from out of town, including Dr. Murphy, of New-York, Dr. Eddy, of Detroit, the Rev. Charles Cook, of London, England, the Rev. W. B. Derrick, of Albany, the Rev. W. V. V. Mahon, of Woohawken, N. J., the Rev. D. T. Carnahan, of Oil City, Penn., the Rev. Charles M. Morton, of Chicago, the Rev. James Roberts, of Coatesville, Penn., the Rev. Dr. J. J. Hough, of Jackson, Mich., the Rev. Dr. Humphreys, of India, the Rev. Dr. Z. Taylor, of Detroit, Mich., the Rev. Dr. Wm. C. Roberts, of Elizabeth, N. J., and the Rev. Henry T. Miller, of Chicago.

Open air religious exercises will be held in the Indian Encampment to-morrow afternoon, and will be conducted by the Rev. Charles Cook, of London, the English Evangelist.

Coaching club parties have become popular here. Yesterday a number of ladies from the United States Hotel enjoyed a trip to Ballston Spa, a distance of about seven miles, and return.

A Coaching Club party from the Clarendon drove to Saratoga Lake yesterday afternoon.

The Rev. Dr. Humphreys, of India, at Dr. Hamilton's this evening gave a descriptive lecture on Hindoo manners and customs. He was followed by Mrs. Mary C. Whuson, who made a short address on scenes among the upper and lower classes in English home life.

Miss Belle Cole and Mrs. Emma Randall-Diehl, of New-York, will take part in a sacred concert in the Putnam Union Hall to-morrow evening.

Senator Warner Miller and Mrs. Miller left to-day for Washington. They will visit the Thousand Islands next week.

Hops took place at the United States and Grand Union to-night.

Mrs. Juliet Henderson Floyd, soprano, of Boston, in Congress Spring Park this evening sang "Aria de Sormo," from L'Africana (Meyerbeer), and "My Dearest Heart" (Sullivan.) She will sing again at the fourth sacred concert, to be given in the Park on Sunday evening.

The Rev. Dr. Homer Eaton will leave in a few days for Europe.

The Rev. T. W. Jones and family have gone to Asbury Park on a brief visit.

The piazza concerts continue to be one of the most attractive features here this season. At the Grand Union this morning T. Leverett executed the comic solo "Ye Merry Birds" (Cumbert.) On the Congress piazza this forenoon John Kreyer, the cornet soloist, brought out with excellent effect the "Armor Polka" (Legender), and at the Clarendon William H. Cox rendered another cornet solo, "Come Back to Erin."

The Misses Blackburn, of Philadelphia, are at Mrs. Wright's.

W. S. Ellison and family, of Rio Janeiro, S. A., are at the Medical Institute.

Miss Georgie Trenod, of New York, and Miss Florence Goodkin, of New-Orleans, are guests of Mrs. Wm. Leland.

D. E. Wagner and Mrs. Flora E. Landis, of New-York, are visiting the family of H. J. Horn, of Park-place.

F. W. Sherbume and John Bolton, of Barre, Vt., reached here on their bicycles yesterday. They will return via Boston.

Dr. D. T. Gall, of Albany, and J. H. Shoemaker, of Albany, are at the Columbian Hotel.

Mr. and Mrs. B. S. Chase, of Providence, are guests of Emory Potter at Elmwood Hall.

B. D. Mumford and the Misses Mumford, of Savannah, are at the Drs. Strong's.

R. C. Thompson and family, of Bellows Falls, are at the American Hotel.

A. T. Davis and family, of St. Louis, are at the Adelphi Hotel.

Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Strauss are among the Philadelphians at the Clarendon Hotel.

Registered at the United States Hotel early to-day were Albert Diehl, of Buenos Ayres; R. Von Loesse, Baron C. de Thomson, F. E. James, G. M. Edwards, C. Rochelle and W. F. Shaffer, of New-York; J. B. Plumb, of Niagara; Clark N. Scofield, of Atlanta; S. J. Sheldon and family, of Hartford; Mr. and Mrs. Fish and Miss Wyeth, of St. Joseph; Mr. Rombaugh and Miss Dock, of Harrisburg, and S. A. Gleason, of Troy.

The Grand Union Hotel early arrivals to-day included C. E. Crouse and William P. Sabey, of Syracuse; J. H. Chase and Miss Chase, of Providence; J. H. Conway, B. M. Savery, Edward F. Murphy, James S. Carney, Thomas L. Carney, Wm. Merrow and Henry Ritter, of New-York; Mr. and Mrs. William A. Drown, of Philadelphia; Mr. and Mrs. W. Hastings and W. P. Hastings, of Washington; the Rev. W. D. Thomas, of La Crosse; A. L. Hatch and Mrs. Hatch, of Astoria; Charles E. Leland and Dr. Charles Jones, of Albany; Mr. and Mrs. George Neil, of Cohoes.

At Congress Hall this forenoon were W. W. Culon, L. Cohn, Mr. Baumal, H Hahn, L. S. Stroock and L. Dinkelspiel, of New-York; Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Wyman, of Bergen Point; F. Ackley, of Burlington; Charles A. Mackintosh, of Boston; H. T. Baldwin and O. W. Hunter, of Bridgeport.

Among the late arrivals to-night are the following:

From New-York—Mr. and Mrs. George R. Howell, Cortlandt Howell, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Cassard, Joseph T. Law and family, Miss Jenny R. Kellogg, H. G. Elliott, F. R. Nandenest, H. L. Cammann, C. M. Hunter, A. R. Zabriskie, E. Starr, H. B. Hamilin, Isidore Strauss, Nathan Strauss, O. M. Bogart, David S. Banks, R. R. Ames, F. D. Potter, Leonard Jerome, Dr. and Mrs. Reid, John Bryan, George B. Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Moran, Mrs. M. E. Ives, John E. Beale, C. N. Sedgwick, John C. Sedgwick, D. L. Ransom, I. Jefferson Frend and family, J. Edgar Lewis, T. T. White, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Christie, P. C. Rust, Mrs. H. H. Hale, Miss Hale, R. Walter, J. B. Ball, T. T. Ester, Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Bruce, the Misses Bruce, William Henry Woods.

From other places—Mr. and Mrs. Murray Anderson, England; C. Lewis and family, Trenton; Mrs. N. H. Holmes and family, Pittsburg; H. H. Hale and family, Orange; Mrs. Waterman, Chicago; Miss Waterman, Chicago; Mr. and Mrs. George A. Toney, Boston; D. H. Faning and family, Worcester; Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Booth, Mrs. William Geddes, John B. Schoeffel, Manchester; F. L. Fay, Boston; J. B. Robertson, New-Haven; Mr. and Mrs. Horace L. Wader, Mr. and Mrs. Washington Healing, Chicago; C. L. Rockwell and family, Meriden; E. F. Child and family, Boston; Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Ward, Savannah; Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Goldsmith, Baltimore; W. H. Clement, Cincinnati.

OBITUARY.

GEORGE BORROW.

LONDON, July 30.—The death is announced of George Borrow, author of "The Bible in Spain," and well known for his associations with gypsies in Spain and elsewhere.

George Borrow was born in East Dereham, Norfolk, in 1803. His father was an officer in the army. He received a good education, and was articled to a solicitor at Norwich, but he soon abandoned the law to engage in literary pursuits. Then he went abroad and for a number of years led a life of wandering and adventure. From 1833 to 1839 he was in the service of the British Foreign Bible Society in Russia and Spain, where he was twice imprisoned for endeavoring to circulate the Scriptures. During this part of his career he edited the New Testament in the Chinese-Tartar language, and translated the same work into the language of the Spanish gypsies. In early life Mr. Borrow became acquainted with some bands of gypsies who camped near Norwich. He mastered their language, and afterward found that the same tongue was spoken by their race in Spain. His account of the Spanish gypsies, published in 1841, created much interest in the subject. In 1844 he increased his knowledge of that singular people by wandering among the gypsies of Hungary, Wallachia and Turkey. In 1845 he published "The Bible in Spain," which was warmly praised by Sir Robert Peel in the House of Commons.

JAMES ROBB.

CINCINNATI, July 30.—James Robb died at his residence in Cheviot this morning at the age of sixty-eight years. He had lived several years in seclusion. At one time he was a banker in Cuba and was at the head of the banking system of the Cuban Government. Later he was engaged in banking business in New-York. He was at one time largely interested in the Chicago and Alton Railroad.

ETHELBERT M. LOW.

Ethelbert M. Low, oldest son of Josiah O. Low and nephew of A. A. Low, died in Philadelphia Friday of malaria and dyspepsia. Mr. Low was thirty-two years old. He was an active worker for the Republican party, and aided in the formation of the Young Republican Club. He was a partner in the firm of A. A. Low & Brothers, of Burling-slip.

JUDGE J. K. SLACK.

CHICAGO, July 30.—Judge Slack, of Huntington, Ind., who was struck by apoplexy in Madison-st., Thursday morning, died in the Alexian Hospital in the afternoon.

MIDNIGHT WEATHER REPORT.

GOVERNMENT INDICATIONS.

Synopsis for the past 24 hours.

WASHINGTON, July 31, 1 a. m.—The barometer is highest in Nova Scotia and on the New-England coast, and lowest in the extreme Northwest. The temperature has remained stationary in the West Gulf States and in districts east of the Mississippi. Northeasterly winds continue on the New-England coast, the Middle and South Atlantic States, and easterly winds in the Gulf States; elsewhere the winds are variable. Local rains are reported from New-England, the Lower Lake region, the middle and western portion of the South Atlantic States. Reports are generally missing from the Upper Lake region and Northwest.

The following temperatures are reported from stations on the northern frontier: Eastport, 57°; Burlington, 73°; Quebec, 71°; Montreal, 72°, Alpena, 70.

Indications for to-day.

For New-England, generally fair weather, except local rains in the southern portion, winds shifting to southerly, lower barometer, stationary or higher temperature.

For the Middle Atlantic States, partly cloudy weather and local rains, easterly winds, stationary or lower barometer, nearly stationary temperature.

Indications for to-morrow.

The indications are that fair weather will prevail in the Upper Lake region, Tennessee, the Upper Mississippi and Ohio Valleys to-day and to-morrow.

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 of the mercury during those hours. The broken or dotted line represents the variations in temperature, as indicated by the thermometer at Hoblitzelle's Pharmacy, 718 Broadway.

TRIBUNE OFFICE, July 31—1 a. m.—There was a slight rise in the barometer yesterday. Cloudy weather generally prevailed, with occasional light rain during the last half of the day. The temperature ranged between 66° and 68°, the average (63½°) being 1⅞° lower than on the corresponding day last year, and 3¼° lower than on Friday.

Generally partly cloudy weather, with slightly higher temperatures and occasional light rains during the first half of the day, may be expected to-day in this city and vicinity.

CENTRAL PARK OBSERVATIONS.

Abstract of Meteorological Report for the week ended at 1 p. m. July 30, 1881.

BAROMETER.	Inches.	THERMOMETER.	Degrees.
Mean	29.838	Mean	72.7
Max. (1 p. m., July 30)	30.190	Max. (4 p. m., July 25)	96.0
Min. (6 p. m., July 27)	29.668	Min. (5 a. m., July 28)	63.0
Range	.492	Range	23.0

Distance travelled by wind during the week, 923 miles.

REMARKS.

	Amt. of water.
July 30, rain from 0:30 p. m. to 1 p. m.	.03 inch

BASE-BALL NOTES.

The game of base-ball at Worcester yesterday, between the Worcester and Providence Clubs, was closely contested until the ninth inning, when the Providence Club scored one run. The following is the score:

Worcester	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0—2
Providence	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0—3

Base hits—Worcester, 5; Providence, 7. Errors—Worcester, 3; Providence, 4. Umpire—Callahan.

The Trojans were "whitewashed" by the Boston Club yesterday, in the game at Boston. The following was the score:

Boston	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0—4
Troy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0—0

Base hits—Boston, 9; Troy, 6. Errors—Boston, 5; Troy, 5. Umpire—Higham.

In the game of base-ball at Detroit yesterday the Buffalo Club was defeated by the Detroit Club by the following score:

Club.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total.
Buffalo	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	2	0	5
Detroit	3	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	7

Baseblits—Buffalo, 7; Detroit 12. Errors—Buffalo, 5; Detroit 6. Empire—Bradley.

The Chicago Club came near losing another victory yesterday in the game with the Cleveland Club at Chicago, winning only through some costly errors by the visitors. The score was as follows:

Club.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total
Chicago	0	0	3	1	0	1	0	2	0	7
Cleveland	2	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	6

Baseblits—Chicago, 7; Cleveland, 11. Errors—Chicago, 4; Cleveland 5. Umpire—Deoscher.

Richmond, the well known left hand pitcher of the Worcester Club, has asked for his release. If it is granted he will continue his studies as a surgeon.

Matthews, the change pitcher for the Worcester Club, has been released.

The batting averages of the Detroit Club up to date are as follows: Mountain, 375; Bennett, 329; Powell, 295; Knight, 289. Hanlon, 271; Houck, 268; Gerhardt, 257; Wood, 251; Derby, 188; Whitney, 183; Reilly, 156.

CIVIL SERVICE REFORM.

SEEKING PRACTICAL METHODS.

ITS IMPORTANCE REALIZED BY ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE CABINET—HOW APPOINTMENTS ARE OFTEN MADE—PROVISIONS OF THE LAW—OUTLINE OF SUGGESTED LEGISLATION.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, July 30.—Soon after the members of President Garfield's Cabinet entered upon the performance of their duties, the need of some reform in the method of making appointments to office forced itself upon their attention as well as upon that of the President, and the matter became the subject of frequent Cabinet consultations. Since the shooting of the President this subject has not been lost sight of, but on the contrary, the members of the Cabinet have taken advantage of the partial cessation of importunities by office-seekers and their friends to study and discuss the problem before them. While nothing has been decided upon, certain plans are looked upon with considerable favor; and it is probable that sentiment in favor of some of them will take form after the President shall have become able to consider and approve them; for it is to be noted that all the members of the Cabinet now believe that President Garfield's life is to be spared.

Within the last few days a TRIBUNE correspondent has conversed with several members of the Cabinet regarding their plans for the reform of the Civil Service. To two of them, in whom is vested the appointment of many thousand subordinate officers, the correspondent put this question: "In the applications for office thus far made to you by candidates and their friends, in what proportion of cases has the special ability, experience, fitness or qualifications of the applicant been urged as the reason for his appointment, and in what proportion of cases were the personal necessities of the candidate made the prominent consideration in his behalf?"

Both promptly replied that, in at least nine-tenths of the cases, personal necessities or misfortunes of the applicants or reasons other than fitness to discharge the duties of the offices were the considerations urged in behalf of their appointment. Said one Cabinet officer: "It is notably the case here in Washington that special ability to perform the duties of an office is very rarely urged in behalf of an applicant. In at least nine cases out of ten the persons who apply for places in this Department, or in whose behalf applications are made, are persons who are stranded in Washington; persons who have come here expecting to secure Government employment, or who, having once been in such employment, have lost it. They spend all their savings, if they have any, and after getting out at the elbows go to their Congressman and say that they must have something to do or they will starve. Of course Congressmen come here, and go to other Departments, and importune and plead until they find a place for their distressed constituents. This is in brief a history of hundreds of cases."

"Once a Government clerk always a Government clerk, appears to sum up the philosophy of Washington office-seekers," said the head of another important Department yesterday. "Some of the cases of distress are perfectly heart-rending. Fully nine-tenths of the persons in whose behalf applications are made are persons whose claims are urged because of their personal necessities, or because Congressmen desire to pay political debts in this manner. Ability, experience and fitness are the last things thought of."

"There is another difficulty," continued this officer. "In most cases where I discover that a man already in the service is incompetent, inefficient, lazy or otherwise unfit for his place, I always find that he has the strongest kind of political backing; and, when my sense of duty compels me to reduce him to a lower grade this political influence is at once aroused to oppose the change. It really seems as if the more unfit the clerk or officer the stronger is the political influence which he can bring to bear in his behalf."

PROVISIONS OF THE LAW.

In the discussions of the Civil Service ploblem thus far by the members of the present Administration, it appears that two branches of the subject have been mainly considered: the method of making original appointments and the means to be adopted to weed out incompetent and inefficient employes now in the service and increase the efficiency of those who remain. The tenure of office is a matter for future consideration and the action of Congress.

As the laws now stand, the President is authorized to require all applicants for appointment in the Civil Service to pass an examination "in respect to age, health, character, knowledge and ability for the branch of service into which he seeks to enter"; and the President "may employ suitable persons to conduct such inquiries, and may prescribe their duties and establish regulations for the conduct of persons who may receive appointments in the Civil Service." The law also provides that honorably discharged soldiers and sailors shall be preferred for appointment to civil offices when "found to possess the business capacity necessary for the proper discharge of the duties of such offices." The law further requires that no person shall receive an appointment to the grade of first, second, third or fourth class clerk in either of the executive departments in Washington without having first been examined and found qualified by a board composed of three examiners appointed by the head of that Department from among the officers and clerks of that Department.

A law enacted in 1875 requires that after January 1, 1876, all appointments in the Treasury Department shall be equally distributed among the several States and Territories and the District of Columbia, according to population. Several members of the Cabinet are inclined to the belief that this last provision could be wisely extended so as to embrace all civil appointments, especially those held in Washington.

SUGGESTED CHANGES.

Said the head of an important Department, in conversation on this subject yesterday: "It is no use talking. We must take human nature as we find it. The people of this country will never be satisfied until the Civil Service is so reformed that appointments will not be largely monopolized as they now are by citizens of the District of Columbia, and of the States from which the Capital is most easily and cheaply reached. Ambition to enter the public service has been instilled into the mind of every school-boy in the land for years. I think it is a mistaken ambition, but it cannot be called an unworthy one, and at all events the citizens of every State, remote as well as near, ought to enjoy equal opportunities to gratify it.

Several members of the Administration are strongly in favor of a radical change in the method of selecting persons to fill appointive offices and clerkships. A plan, which is regarded with considerable favor, is briefly as follows:

First—Provide by law that in all cases, as now in appointments for the Treasury Department, all civil appointments shall be distributed among the several States and Territories and the District of Columbia in proportion to the population, and require that every appointee shall be a citizen or resident of the State from which he is appointed.

Second—Establish in each State a board of Civil Service examiners, who shall meet at stated times at the capital, or some other central and convenient place, for the purpose of examining into the ability, character and other qualifications of persons who may desire to enter the public service.

Third—Require by law that every person appointed to a civil office or clerkship shall pass an examination by the board in the State of which he is a citizen, or in which he resides, before his case is taken into consideration by the appointing or nominating officer.

Of course this is only the merest outline of the plan mentioned, and those who are inclined to favor it speak of exceptions and modifications which they would desire to have embraced in any law that might be enacted.

Among the considerations mentioned in support of this plan are: First, that it would remove at once from Washington a horde of hungry, incompetent applicants for office, whose only merit is their perseverance and pertinacity, and thus would relieve the President, Cabinet officers and bureau officers as well as Senators and Representatives of a burden of importunity which seriously interferes with