THE BIBLE FREE FROM ERROR.

DR. DE COSTA'S VIEW OF THE SCRIPTURES.

THE SURPLICE SHOULD BE WORN BY NONE WHO CANNOT ACCEPT THEM.

The Rev. Dr. B. F. De Costa, rector of the Church of St. John the Evangelist, at Waverley-place and Eleventh-st., preached yesterday morning on "The Bible and its Place in the Scheme of Christian Thought." In an interview with Dr. De Costa published in THE TRIBUNE yesterday, he said that charges would be preferred against the Rev. R. Heber Newton, because of his recent sermons on the proper use of the Bible. There was no reference to Dr. Newton in the sermon yesterday. His text was II. Timothy, iii., 14-16, and the sermon was in part as follows:

The place occupied by the Bible in the system of religious thought known as Christianity and taught by the Church, is a subject that of late has attracted unusual attention. The subject is brought before you this morning, not because there is any existing urgency, or because the discussions now going on furnish any ground of alarm. The Bible is in no danger. Men may speak against God Himself. They may malign and disparage His character, and in the same way they may attack, misinterpret and challenge His Word. In all ages it has been opposed by ungodly men. It has been burned and banished and trampled upon. It has been opposed by every device that malignity could invent; yet to-day it maintains a higher place in the world than ever before; it has more readers and students and commands the respect and homage of the noblest minds.

The Church accepts the whole Bible as free from error. She has spoken in the ages all along without reservation and she speaks to-day with no uncertain voice. The Church demands this view of God's Word from every candidate for orders. Whoever comes into the ministry to-day is obliged to accept the Holy Scriptures in the sense in which the Church accepts them. The individual makes a most solemn contract with the Church and pledges himself by every consideration of honor and religion to endeavor to his utmost to conform his teaching to what he has accepted as God's Word. But suppose that, after honestly subscribing to this view of the Bible, the individual changes his mind and concludes that the Church is in error, and that, whereas part of the Bible agrees with his notions, the rest is certainly wrong. Has he not, under the circumstances, a right to remain in the Church, and, while declaring the Bible a grand old book and overwhelming the different writers with compliments at the same time, to be allowed to tell us in opposition to St. Paul that after all we have followed cunningly devised fables and that the Scriptures quoted by our Lord are uncertain and at times altogether false? To attempt to answer that question is to assume that my hearers are altogether at ease with respect to the common principles of honor and morality. Let no man wear the surplice of the Church to serve the gods of his own imagination. A lack of candor in this respect will deprave the character. The declaration signed by every person who receives orders reads: "I do believe the Holy Scripture of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God, and to contain all things necessary to salvation; and I do solemnly engage to conform to the doctrines and worship of the Protestant Episcopal Church." The language is clear, guarded and comprehensive, and covers every book, chapter and verse in the Bible. Is it not, therefore, contrary to all morality for any person, after making this solemn declaration, registered with his own hand, to turn from his vow, deny the inspiration of the Bible, and at the same time hold his position as a minister in Christ's Church? The position is indefensible and morally wrong. The Church expects the individual invested with her authority to represent her doctrines in their integrity, and loyally to keep intact his ordination vows.

The Word of the Lord is immortal. It endures forever. I speak because I desire to remind you of what the Church—the keeper and expounder of Holy Writ—demands of all, for, let us remember, it is a solemn thing to trifle with the Word of God, to set up a puny intellectual judgment against the mind of the Church, and against the piety, the learning and reverence of all the ages that are past. Whatever may happen to us and whatever course we may pursue, the Bible will continue to live; it will live in the world's best, highest and noblest thought; it will live in its daily life, in its secret conscience and its spiritual aspirations. It will live in connection with all that is good and true and beautiful, and guide the thought of man to the end of time. Let us hold the teachings of the Bible in a large, wise, comprehensive and beneficent spirit—that is, in the catholic spirit which pervades the Church. While jealous to preserve the authority of the Word of God, she seeks to oppress none with needless definitions, asking for the acquiescence of the people only in those simple and grand creeds that have obtained the assent of mankind in all ages of Christianity, and while expecting unity in essentials, allows liberty in non-essentials, praying for charity in all things. But there is one point on which there can be no compromise. The Word of God, as the supreme, all-sufficient and infallible authority, must command the obedience of all, and especially the reverent belief of those who are commissioned to serve at the altar of God's house.

CREDENCE IN THE REVEALED WORD.

At the Fifth Avenue Baptist Church yesterday the Rev. Dr. Armitage produced the first of two sermons for believing in the Bible. The text was John xvii., 16: "Thy word is truth."

By believing in the Bible, I mean giving it credence as the revealed Word of God, given for man's guidance. The Bible is composed of sixty-six books, written by not less than forty writers, and these embrace a period of at least 1,600 years. These writers are of various grades of society and of education, yet the Bible is one book in design and historical showing. Some of Michael Angelo's works were completed after his death, from models left by him. Moses left no models, yet his work was carried on to completion. Dante and Shakespeare have little relation to each other in their fields of thought; yet the sixty-six books of the Bible, bound together in one, read as perfectly in one sense as if they were the work of one author. Merches cruises have sailed it, yet they have been obliged to accept it. And those are not fools who have not dared to reject it. They are men of the highest grade of mind. Constantine, Charlemagne, Alfred the Great, and Gustavus Adolphus are among them; and with these are statesmen like Pitt, Fox, Peel, Gladstone, Bismarck, Washington, Adams and Webster. The great poets have revered the Bible, Byron, Spenser, Young, Cowper, Wordsworth and Tennyson. Philosophers testify to its divinity—Ferguson, Bacon, Locke and Newton; among physicians, Arnottand and Harvey; jurists, Hale, Blackstone, Erskine and Marshall; captains, Wellington and Havelock. Artists, such as Raphael, Rubens and Doré have revelled in its inspiration.

The external evidence for belief in the Bible is found in the fulfilment of prophecies in the Book. If future events were foretold thousands of years before their occurrence, they must have been revealed. The history of the Jews for 4,000 years, from Abraham, through the destruction of Nineveh, the succession of the Babylonian and Roman empires, foretold by Daniel, and the true blood of Abraham, represented by 10,000 Jews in this city, testify to the fulfilment of prophecies made thousands of years ago. The prophecies in Genesis and Leviticus regarding the dispersion, the captivity and the continuance of the Jews have been fulfilled. Historical events running back 2,500 years are to-day the fulfilment of the prophecy of Jeremiah; but the foresight and the hand of humanity did not compel events to bring this to pass.

The prophecy of Christ regarding the fall of Jerusalem was fulfilled. The writings of Mark extend from 45 to 65 A. D.; of Luke, from 50 to 60 A. D., and Jerusalem was not destroyed until 79 A. D. The records of Matthew extend from 37 to 60. A. D., while Christ foretold the fall forty-one years before the time of it. He prophesied in detail the destruction of Jerusalem, the apostasy of the Apostles, the spread of the Gospel, of nation at war against nation, of the dispersion of the Jews, etc. There were twenty distinct particulars, any one of which failing would vitiate the whole.

Did these things occur? The enemies of Christianity say they did. The Bible states nothing of it. We depend on profane writers for our testimony. Josephus tells how Nero, Galba and Otho met violent deaths within eighteen months. Tacitus and Suetonius record famines and pestilences in every direction, and earthquakes at Samos, Miletus, and Crete. In 63 Pompeii was shattered. Pliny the Younger adds his testimony. Josephus tells us of the Temple being set by twenty men, whose doors burst open of themselves. So outside testimony comes to sustain inside prophecy. All the Apostles except John were then dead. Christ had said: "There be some standing here who shall not taste death until those things take place." Since the fall of Jerusalem 1,900 years have passed, and ten attempts have been made to rebuild the Temple, yet not one stone yet stands upon the other. The Jews found in every country of the earth, and he is not a Christian. The Phœnicians, Etruscans, Goths, Avars, Huns and Vandals, where are they? Truly 1,200 years have passed, and the races that numbered millions are lost. The Jews are everywhere, according to the prophecy. What would be said if the career of Napoleon or Disraeli had been predicted? It would be a miracle. Let him who would doubt the divinity of the prophecy of Christ go to the author of "The Decline and Fall of Rome." The Jews are the evidence of the divinity of the Bible. Their history is like that of a scarlet thread in a silken mesh, which, removed, destroys the whole texture.

THOSE WHO ASSAIL THE HOLY BOOK.

The Rev. Mr. Talmage yesterday, at the Brooklyn Tabernacle, took his text from the threat in Revelation against those who added to or took from the Bible. He said that the gates of Heaven would be shut against all who mutilated the Bible. A New-York pulpit had set the fashion lately of demanding its expurgation. Mr. Talmage then quoted from printed reports of the Rev. R. Heber Newton's recent sermons, and compared the "heinousness of a Christian minister finding fault with the Bible at this time" with the crew of a ship sawing its planks while in a storm, and with the garrison of a besieged fortress prying out its stones.

"Those who find parts of it unfit to read," he said, "were prurient—their hearts, not the Holy Book, needed expurgating. The man who assails the Bible uses the same weapon as did Samson. Those who find fault with the Bible should go clear over on the other side and range themselves behind the Devil's guns. There is no compromise between infidelity and Christianity. Give us out-and-out opposition and infidelity, rather than the work of these hybrid theologians, these mongrel ecclesiastics, these half-and-half pulpiteers who believe the Bible and don't believe it, who accept the miracles and don't accept them, who belive in inspiration and don't believe in it, who really make the Bible a target and shoot at God!"

AMERICAN PORK IN EUROPE.

A circular was issued about two years ago by Goulard, Rouse & Bostwick, inspectors, of No. 36 Whitehall-st., regarding the shipment of American pork. This document has recently been used in the German Reichstag by those favoring the exclusion of American meats from Germany, as sustaining their position that these meats are unwholesome. Concerning this, H. J. Goulard, the son of Thomas Goulard, the senior partner, said to a TRIBUNE reporter:

"We have been surprised at the interpretation put on our circular in the Reichstag, and we have received many letters from American shippers regarding it. For purposes of argument, or through ignorance, our intentions were entirely misconstrued. The whole trouble regarding bacon arose from the fact that although the Western inspectors were careful and competent and the meat we shipped from Chicago in good condition, it was often exposed to the inclemency of the weather, heat or snow or moisture, from being shipped here in open cars. Then there were delays here in transferring it to ships, and often the meat was exposed to the action of the weather. In view of this we thought that attention should be called to the necessity of a proper inspection of the meat at the seaboard and such care of it here as would insure its being placed on shipboard in a good condition. We never said that the meat as diseased. In my experience—eight years—I have known of no meat shipped from the West affected with trichina. As our hogs are fed on corn, acorns and grasses, largely, while foreign hogs are fed on swill, there is much less danger of trichina with the former than with the latter. Our purpose was simply to secure a proper overhauling of bacon at the seaboard to insure its being in prime condition when it reached Europe. Our remarks were entirely precautionary, whereas they seem to have been interpreted as condemnatory to American bacon. It would be foolish for us to issue a circular which would injure our own business and depreciate American meats. Our firm is one of twenty years' standing, and once the goods were received in Europe except when accompanied by a certificate from us. The circular was issued in justice to shippers here and to receivers of bacon abroad. Meat cannot safely be shipped directly from the West without being examined here."

HOSPITAL COLLECTIONS IN BROOKLYN.

The amount of money collected by the Hospital Saturday and Sunday Association of Brooklyn, which was organized last year, has been distributed to the various hospitals with free beds, by a committee, including in its membership Mayor Low, Postmaster McLeer, and State Charities Commissioner Ropes. The amount collected was $3,925 27. The expenses, including boxes, cost of collection and advertising, amounted to $956.37, leaving $2,969 to be distributed to the Long Island College Hospital, Garfield Home for Consumptives, St. John's Hospital, Brooklyn City Hospital, Brooklyn Maternity, Eastern District Hospital and Homœopathic Hospital. The amount collected in the boxes at the ferries, factories and drug stores was $890.

MR. BERRY'S ESCAPE FROM THE AUSTRIA.

The Rev. Philip Berry, assistant editor of *The National Baptist*, corrects the published statement that "only three wrecks, the wrecks of the City of Glasgow, the Hamburg and Atlantic, resulted in greater loss of life" than that of the Cimbria. Mr. Berry was a passenger on the steamship Austria, of the Hamburg line, when she was burned at sea on September 13, 1858, and over five hundred persons perished. An interview with him upon this disaster was published in THE TRIBUNE of October 1, 1858, when he was a theological student. He says: "The burning of the steamship Austria on her trip to New-York will long be remembered as one of the most terrible calamities that has ever spread sorrow on the sea. A finer day than September 13, 1858, never broke upon human view. The passengers crowded the deck of the magnificent vessel, and were enjoying the refreshing breeze. Some engaged in various games, exercises and pastimes, and others in cheerful conversation, when in a moment the cry of 'Fire' rang through the ship and changed the scene into one of consternation and agony. Women and men were praying, crying, screaming, and rushing frantically about the deck wherever they were not driven back by the smoke and flames; while others stood quietly looking on with a blank vacancy of despair upon their countenances that was even more terrible in its ghastliness and silence than the wildest outcries. Many were suffocated and burned to death, and hundreds, to escape the flames, buried themselves into the sepulchral waves. Out of six hundred persons on board only about eighty were saved by vessels that came to their rescue.

"On the quarter-deck, after unavailing efforts to save the ship and to help others and themselves, were gathered a little band of eight men and women, all of whom were Christians. Two were theologic students and two were clergymen. After endeavoring to save the ship and some lives, I but my friend, Mr. Schenck, whose testimony should been spent in his efforts of getting from the cabin to comfort the poor creatures who so much needed consolation. He did his work faithfully. After endeavoring to get the hatches down, the boats lowered and the steamer broadside to the wind, and failing in all, I cut two life preservers loose—one for myself and the other for Mr. Schenck. We went to the side of the vessel, determined to endure as long as possible the approaching flames, and then to leave the steamer together. We gave farewells to our friends, so that if either of us was saved they might be assured that they were remembered by us in our dying hour. After our farewells we both gave the word 'Let us go,' and jumped into the water. It was the last I saw of my dear friend. On jumping I kept my preserver in my hand, whirling it over my head to retain a perpendicular position in striking the water. On reaching the water I let go my life-preserver. I suppose I went under the surface twelve or twenty feet; on coming up again I saw my life-preserver thrown up by a wave sixty or seventy feet off; there were two or three parties, of two or three each, striving to gain it. Having secured it I returned in search for my friends, but they were gone. Distracted by the shrieks and groanings of the dying, whom I could not help, I swam away with the current. After swimming about an hour with the sea, I found that all was quiet save the low moaning of the waves. Soon the stormy petrels, which were flying around, began striking me in the face with their wings, treating me as dead. I then swam toward the wreck about an hour, and soon became exhausted. Finally I signted a sail, and after remaining a few moments in suspense, I struck out and swam toward it."

Mr. Berry then details how he continued hailing the vessel. Ultimately he was picked up in a small boat and taken on board the bark.

RECOVERY OF STOLEN SECURITIES.

The Troy Times gives an interesting story of the recovery of mortgages, bonds and other securities, valued at $250,000. The house of Supervisor Gilchrist, at West Charlton, Saratoga County, was entered by masked burglars last summer and robbed of the valuable articles which were kept in a safe. A reward was offered for their recovery, but nothing came of it until the fall meeting of the Court of Oyer and Terminer at Ballston. Two strangers called at the American House, Ballston, and had an interview with Sheriff Vredenburgh. They said that they were detectives. One gave his name as John W. Luke, of this city, and the other John Lee. The latter said that he was an agent for a Cincinnati safe manufacturing firm. They professed to be able to recover the stolen securities, and wanted $900 for doing so. Mr. Gilchrist promised to give this. Ten days later Luke said that he had heard exactly where the securities were, and he wanted $750 for restoring them to the owner. This proposition was also agreed to.

Mr. Gilchrist, Sheriff Vredenburgh and Deputy-Sheriff Wolf came on to this city about the middle of November. They breakfasted at a restaurant in Wooster-st. Luke appointed, according to appointment. He said that the thieves wanted $850, and that he must have $150 for his trouble. Mr. Gilchrist objected to the amount, and finally another meeting at the Astor House was arranged. There Mr. Gilchrist agreed to pay $850. One hour afterward the party met Luke in a building in Nassau-st. The amount agreed upon was paid to him, and he produced all the missing bonds and mortgages. Among the latter was one dated 1812, and on which Mr. Gilchrist said that more than $70,000 in interest had been paid. Luke gave a receipt for the money, and the visitors returned home. Sheriff Vredenburgh was convinced that Luke knew all of the details of the burglary. He told the story to the Grand Jury of Saratoga County and Luke was indicted. He was taken recently to Ballston, as he supposed to testify before the Grand Jury, and much to his surprise was informed that he was indicted as one of the principals in the burglary. He was committed by Judge Potter for trial in default of $5,000 bail.

MARRIAGE A DESIRABLE PRIVILEGE.

Felix Adler delivered an address upon "Marriage and Divorce" before the Society for Ethical Culture, at Chickering Hall, yesterday morning. A large audience were present. Mr. Adler spoke in part as follows: "The altar of Hymen has ever been hung with roses. There is no subject upon which so much fervid poetry has been written as upon the ever dewy theme of love. From the days of Sappho to Shakespeare, literature has owed its choicest beauties to this sentiment. The attitude which young men assume toward marriage is different from that of young women. Although many arguments have been advanced to prove that the life of a bachelor is much pleasanter and much freer than that of a married man, the majority of mankind have pronounced marriage a desirable privilege. It is of the utmost importance that young girls should prepare themselves for wedlock, so that when marriage shall be contracted they may become something more to their husbands than mere social companions. Every young woman, too, should be educated as if she were not to be joined in wedlock. The independence of woman will not allow her to even seem to be waiting for the coming of the lords of creation.

"Marriage to be true must imply complete union. Many of the evils which grow out of married life are owing to an imperfect union. The very violence of the passions which bring about some of these matches often lead to a violent repulsion when the real inaccuracies of character appear. Another source of disunion is the love for money. Who are to be pitied more than those who have married for money? You may give your hand to the rich heiress, but if you do not give your heart also, your whole life will be embittered. It were better for you to lie in the arms of the skeleton Death than to be tied to one whom you loathe and abhor. The most favorable conditions for marriage are found in quiet, settled neighborhoods. Co-education of the sexes is one means of preventing unhappy marriages. By co-education I do not mean that in which young men and women sit upon the same benches and study the same lessons at college, but that co-education which is carried beyond the school into society. I do not deny that divorce is sometimes an inexorable necessity, for the living should not be tied to the dead. The cure for the evils which have grown out of unhappy marriages lies not in making the exits easier, but the entrances more difficult."

The elopement of Lady Macnaghten with Mr. Thornhill excites much interest in London as well as in Ireland, for her ladyship is the daughter of Mr. William Howard Russell, the celebrated journalist and historian of the Balaklava charge. I say "celebrated" advisedly, for Russell, Forbes, and the late Mr. Delane are about the only three English journalists I have known to attain celebrity beyond the limits of their own fraternity.

WHISKEY IN BOND.

THE QUESTION OF EXTENDING THE TIME.

PLEAS MADE BY THE WHISKEY DEALERS—OVERPRODUCTION CAUSING TROUBLE.

Dealers in distilled spirits are watching with interest the fate of the bill extending for three years the period in which such merchandise can remain in bond. There are now in bond about 90,000,000 gallons of spirits upon which the Government tax of 90 cents a gallon is falling due or about to fall due. It is claimed that if the bill now pending in Congress fails to pass, an enforcement of the tax would bankrupt thousands of dealers and cause general ruin to the whiskey trade. Preparations have been made by large dealers in case no extension is granted to evade payment of the tax temporarily by availing themselves of existing provisions of the law. This can be done by exporting spirits in bond and then importing them, as the imports will be entitled to remain three years longer in bond before the tax will become due. Even should the measure pass, it is thought by some liquor merchants of importance that such a movement will take place to a considerable extent in order to save the 5 per cent interest on the tax which the bill provides shall be paid on spirits extended in bond, without allowance for leakage.

A prominent Broad street dealer said recently: "All the complications of the present situation have grown out of the great over-production of whiskey. The Senate bill is simply an attempted postponement of the day of reckoning, but of course it is human nature to wish for that, even if eventually no permanent good is gained by it. Prior to 1879 the bond period was one year and under the law the trade had worked satisfactorily. In 1878, however, there was a large production in excess of the consumption; and, to avoid the throwing of surplus spirits on the market, the distillers went to Congress with the Carlisle bill, which extended the bond period three years and allowed a shrinkage to be deducted from the tax of 7½ gallons to the barrel (say of 45 to 50 gallons) for the three years. At that time Commissioner Raum said to the distillers: 'You are asking for special legislation which eventually will work you injury. You now have 14,000,000 gallons in bond and only one year's taxes to pay. At the end of the extension of time you ask for, you probably will have 100,000,000 gallons in bond, with three years' taxes due and no better prospect for the trade.' Mr. Raum's warning has been justified. The position of affairs is substantially what he said it would be. Nevertheless the Carlisle bill was passed by Congress in 1879. For the next three years there was a tremendous boom in the manufacture of distilled spirits of every description, and dealers became infected with a rabid speculative spirit. Where a dealer needed 100 barrels he bought 500; where he could handle 1,000 he contracted for 10,000 barrels. The crops required for distilling purposes were bought up a year ahead. Before 1879 the annual production had ranged at from 60,000,000 to 70,000,000 gallons. Since that year from 75,000,000 to 85,000,000 gallons have been distilled annually. The yearly consumption is about 60,000,000 gallons. The excess of production is clearly shown by the increase of the amount in bond from 14,000,000 gallons in 1878 to about 90,000,000 to-day. The surplus has been almost entirely whiskey intended for drinking consumption. There is practically no excess in the product intended to be used in manufactures.

"Now, what is the situation to-day? The bond period is expiring and the withdrawal of the whiskey in bond would throw an amount on the market which would break prices disastrously. In fact, the collect on of the $80,000,000 taxes legally owed to the Government on the quantity in bond would bankrupt the trade. The present Senate bill proposes to extend the bond period three years longer; but what guarantee is there that the condition of the over-loaded dealers will then be improved? May not the passage of the bill result in another stimulation of production by the distillers and renewed speculative purchases by dealers? We trust that it will not. The distillers in Tennessee, Kentucky, Pennsylvania and Ohio have agreed to curtail their output for this year. They find they have no market for a large product. I estimate that the production will fall off to 50,000,000 gallons at the most, practically all of the curtailment being in the manufacture of drinking whiskeys and of spirits used to adulterate them. Yet with a consumption only 10,000,000 gallons in excess of this quantity, what sort of an impression will that restriction make on the enormous stock now in hand? You and your friends must imbibe more freely, if the trade is to be saved!

"Should the Senate bill not pass, whiskey will be exported in bond to Liverpool and brought back when the home supply is reduced. The exportation will be made just before the bond period expires, and when the goods are brought back they will be entitled to remain for another three years in bond. The cost to the merchant will only be the storage charges, the insurance and the freight both ways. But the postponement of the Government tax will be effected for about six years and the charges mentioned will amount to only about 10 cents a gallon per year under the present basis of freights, etc. Then suppose the Senate bill becomes a law. By the export operation, the dealer even then will save the 5 per cent interest on the tax, including the interest on the tax on the leakage. This leakage amounts to an average of two gallons to the barrel each year, but the Government will impose the tax on the quantity as gauged when the liquor is put in bond, before the shrinkage has taken place. Under any circumstances I look for the storage of American spirits abroad to a great extent for the purpose of evading as large a part of the import as possible. The goods will not be sent to the Bermudas very extensively, because the warehouse facilities there are limited, insurance would be difficult to obtain and the security would be small. There will be no exportation to Canada, either, as the law of the Dominion prohibits free importations except of spirits put up 100 gallons to the package. We do not in America put up larger than fifty-gallon packages."

"Who are pushing the pending bill most vigorously in Congress?"

"The distillers, because, although the tax, if collected now, will fall directly on the dealers—the middlemen—who are carrying virtually all of the stock in bond, they are largely indebted to the manufacturer who would lose by their failure or distress. It is not necessary to explain the zeal of certain Congressmen in pressing the pending bill as the result of the use of illegitimate means by the distillers. The reason is that the banks all over the country—and very largely in the West—have made heavy advances on warehouse receipts, in many cases too far beyond the value of the goods in bond. Let the whiskey trade be imperilled by Congressional action or inaction and there would be many financial institutions that would be compelled to suspend. Some of our Congressmen have considerable banking interests or represent large banking constituencies."

THE "MOST REMARKABLE" OF ACCIDENTS.

Albert Pell, M. P., who in 1879 was a member of the Royal Commission that reported a remarkably able paper to the English Parliament on the subject of the shipment of American cattle to England, arrived in this country on a visit on private business January 1. He sailed this week for home on the steamship Parthia, of the Cunard Line. To a TRIBUNE reporter, who saw him at the Westminster Hotel while he was packing his trunk, he said:

"My visit has been one purely of private business respecting cattle. I have travelled west eleven hundred and odd miles, having been in Southeastern Colorado, on the borders of Mexico and among the foot-hills of the Rocky Mountains. I went as far as Trinidad and Pueblo, and had lovely weather, with little snow but plenty of dust. The view which I took in my report to the Government in 1879 was that England had nothing to fear from the importation of American cattle, my belief being at that time that the increase in the population of the United States would soon put such a price upon meat that it would make it difficult to export it to England with profit. Three years' experience has verified that opinion. I find the prices at retail of good meat in New-York, and of butter, eggs and cheese, to differ very little from those charged in England. The trade in refrigerated beef has abated also, for its exportation is extremely hazardous. In my trip this time I did not see so many old cattle about as before, and I think we have eaten up a good bit of your store. It has been said by an observing man, and I think that I can indorse it, that England never begins upon the meat supply of any country that she does not eat it short. The cattle I saw this time were younger than before, and you won't be able to supply us so fast as heretofore with old beeves. You will have to come to what we are doing in England—and what you are already doing, for that matter, in Kentucky and Missouri—developing your cattle with a view to producing as large an animal as possible at two years of age. I was much struck with some cattle I saw in Missouri; they were very fine I thought.

"Now let me tell you of the most remarkable railway accident man ever looked at. I haven't seen anything about it in the papers. We left St. Louis at 7 o'clock last Saturday evening by the Vandalia Line. At 4 o'clock the next morning, when we were twenty miles west of Indianapolis, I was awakened in my Pullman car by a great knocking and bumping, and in a few moments the car came to a standstill. When I got out I beheld this: The engine was 200 yards ahead by itself, the tender being off the rails. At the place the track is on an embankment eight or ten feet high, and there is a vacant space of land between the bottom of the line and the fence. The ground was covered with long grass, snow and ice. The whole train was spread out back of the engine, the cars retaining their relative positions, but the line extending down the bank and along the bottom in a curved line, like a snake. The two mail-cars were on their sides and without wheels; the express cars and two freight had no wheels, but stood on their bottoms. A passenger car came next; some of its wheels were gone, one end was on the line and the other at the bottom of the bank. The Pullman I was in had just left the rails, as had another, and two that followed it were on the track. The mail bags had caught fire and were burning, but were afterward saved. Now for the strangest feature—not a single person was hurt. The ground was so hard that the wheels run on it until they were torn off, and then the cars began to slide and went down like boys a-coasting. The cause of the accident was a sharp frost which had broken the steel rail as sharply as a piece of glass. A train came for us at 8 o'clock and we made such good time after that that we were only four hours late in New-York. The American gentlemen didn't seem to make much of it. The conductor stayed abed."

MR. TAFT CUTTING HIS EYE TEETH.

DISPUTING AS TO WHO SHALL PLAY A CHURCH ORGAN—MISS STACEY'S THREAT.

The Methodist Episcopal Church of Locust Valley, L. I., was placed in charge of the Rev. W. N. Taft in last May. Mr. Taft had just left college and was very young. Mrs. Henry P. Bond was among the parishioners of the youthful dominie. She casually remarked to Mrs. Stacey and a select few who were discussing the coming of the young pastor, "If he hasn't cut his eye-teeth yet, he'll do it before he leaves here, or it won't be my fault."

Shortly after Mr. Taft's arrival, the church found itself in need of an organist. Mrs. Stacey's daughter Lena offered her services, and after a trial was made organist by the trustees at a salary of nothing a month and "find" herself. The young minister was accustomed to send Miss Stacey the numbers of the hymns early in the week, so that she might practise them for Sunday. In the meantime, Mrs. Bond, in watchfully caring for her pastor's eye-teeth, came into collision somehow with Mrs. Stacey and her musical daughter. The feud grew apace until Mrs. Bond became outspoken in her criticisms of Miss Lena's organ-playing. She went so far as to assert that "Celia Smith ought to play that organ. Why, she can just make it talk."

The young minister seemed to fear the rivalry of a talking organ and he remained faithful to Lena Stacey. One day Mrs. Bond carried the note from the pastor to Miss Stacey which contained the hymns. Lena practised diligently on them, only to find at the last moment that the numbers had been changed in some mysterious way in their journey from her pastor. This caused trouble. Mrs. Stacey intimated to Mrs. Bond in a significant manner what she thought about the changed hymns and about any one who would do such a thing. Mrs. Bond retaliated by heaping upon Miss Stacey epithets of a strong but highly indecorous nature. From time to time Rev. Mr. Bond would laugh in meeting, in a manner that led Miss Stacey to think that her playing was not appreciated. Finally the organist went to the pastor and said that she would not play the organ until Mrs. Bond apologized for her conduct or furnished a better organist than the church had been enjoying. The pastor protested, but she was inexorable. Celia Smith was put forward by Mrs. Bond to "make the organ talk." After Celia had been there a few weeks, Miss Stacey came to the conclusion that a talking organ was not what a Methodist church wanted. She decided to be magnanimous and to play the organ again, even if Mrs. Bond did not apologize. So she asked the pastor for the hymns for Sunday a week ago. She found him changed and cold. He said that Celia Smith was good enough at the organ for him. Miss Stacey went to church, however, on that Sunday morning, and took her old place at the instrument. The pastor ordered her to give the seat to Celia Smith. She refused, and the service was broken up. In the evening, Miss Stacey again took her seat before the instrument. Then Celia Smith came. The pastor told Miss Stacey to leave the organ and gave out the first hymn. She replied that if there was music in that church on that occasion she would be the one who would make it. The pastor differed with her and proceeded to make good his assertion by actually mounting at the girl to get away from the organ. The congregation became wildly excited, especially when the dominie began putting on his overcoat and overshoes. He called for volunteers to get the deputy-sheriff. A youth hurried off for the officer of the law. The minister still continued to stamp and shout, while Lena Stacey sat immovable at the organ. Finally she seemed to become wearied of the pastor's music, so she began to play "Jesus, Lover of My Soul," to amuse the congregation while the boy was gone for the officer. When the latter personage arrived, she refused to leave the place for some time, maintaining stoutly that she had been made welcome by the trustees to play the instrument, and that the minister had no right to remove her without the consent of the trustees. She finally gave up the organ to Celia Smith and sat in one of the pews until the service was concluded.

A day or two ago a letter was received by Miss Stacey, purporting to come from two of the trustees, and ordering her not to play the organ any longer. The letter was dated at a neighboring town, which Mrs. Bond visited on the day that it was mailed. The two signatures were in the same small writing, which Miss Stacey and her mother say was manifestly that of Celia Smith. Miss Stacey announces that if the trustees do not discharge her before next Sunday, she will go to the church and play the organ, come what may.

ROYALTIES FOR PERFORATING STAMPS.

Several complaints have been received at THE TRIBUNE office concerning a firm styling itself the Geometrical Check Protecting Company, which has been endeavoring to collect money from the business men of this city for using stamps that are alleged to be an infringement upon the company's patent. According to the statements of its agents the patent covers all dies that emboss and at the same time cut or abrade the paper at the top or apex of the embossment, from the year 1870, and subjects the user of such infringement to an established royalty of $20 on each stamp. Nearly every firm in this city using these stamps has received a notice from the company stating that in case the fine was not paid within a certain time the matter would be placed in the hands of an attorney. More than 200 firms have already paid the above fine to R. B. Carsley, the treasurer of the company. A majority of these paid the $20 not because they thought the claim a just one, but to escape the trouble of a suit. Many of those who were called upon refused to pay the fine on the ground that their stamps were issued from five to ten years before the date of the patent. Others said that they could produced positive proof that perforating stamps had been in use a quarter of a century.

A TRIBUNE reporter called upon the manager of the company at No. 23 Park Row. He found a very affable gentleman seated at a desk busily engaged in explaining the nature of the patent to a young man who was anxious to become an agent.

"You are a reporter?" Well, sit right down and I will give you all the facts you want," said the manager with a smile. "You see, application was made for the patent in 1870, and it was granted March 23, 1874. Before that time there were no perforating stamps in existence. Twenty dollars royalty was granted for every infringement upon our patent. We are entitled to this amount and intend to have it, too. Our patent is recorded at the Patent Office and here is Judge Blatchford's decision in a case testing the validity of the patent. There's no fraud about that, is there?"

"Why don't you prosecute the manufacturers of these stamps, which you say are infringements, rather than the men who use them?"

The manager looked at the reporter in mild astonishment. "Why, it would take billions of money to take the cases through the courts. We should be in litigation all the time. No, our present method is much better. We deal on the square and invite investigation. Of course money is what we are after; that's clear enough. A man who is using one of those stamps called us a set of blackguards the other day, because we wanted him to pay his due. We have sued him for damages and when the case comes up in court we will show him whether we are blackmailers or not."

NEW-JERSEY LEGISLATIVE TOPICS.

[FROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

TRENTON, N. J., Jan. 28.—The Democrats of the New-Jersey Legislature expect to hold a joint caucus on Monday evening to nominate a candidate to succeed State Controller E. J. Anderson, whose term will expire on the 6th of April next. The nomination has been warmly contested and the result is in doubt. Andrew Jackson Smith is supported by Senator Smith, of Burlington, whose influence consists of a claim on the party for his victory in that Republican county last fall. Ex-Governor Rodman M. Price is hopeful that his age and former dignities will have weight in his favor, and James M. Connelly, a Newark statesman, with half a score of other local leaders, will have some support. There are indications that the caucus nomination will not be equivalent to an election, in spite of the large Democratic majority on joint ballot, and this fear occupies more attention in the Democratic State newspapers at present than the action of the caucus. There is ground for the apprehension. The Senate, with a Republican majority, thoroughly reflects the public desire for the retention of the present Controller. By refusing to consent to a joint meeting, Mr. Anderson would continue in office a year longer, and meanwhile the people at the polls would have the opportunity of deciding whether they wish him re-elected. The main argument of Republicans against joint meeting is a stringent application of Civil Service Reform. Mr. Anderson entered the office when it was created a number of years ago and has mastered its duties and the various laws and decisions affecting it to a singular degree. He was deputy for three years under a Democratic Controller who had the power of immediate removal but could not dispense with his services. It seems to Republicans that an excellent an official should be retained in the employment of the State just as long as he is available, especially since Mr. Pendleton's bill has become national law. Moreover, the Senate since the Senatorial election has been in no pleasant mood. The election of Speaker O'Connor as president of the joint assembly in violation of precedent and of all the courtesies, was felt to be, as it was probably intended, a reflection on the higher body and its presiding officer—not in a personal but a political sense.

Against the suggested refusal of the Senate to consent to a joint meeting, the Democrats urge the Jacksonian plea of spoils for the victors, and the constitutional law. The Constitution says: "The State Treasurer and Controller shall be appointed by the Senate and General Assembly in joint meeting. They shall hold their offices for three years and until their successors shall be qualified into office." It is claimed that this makes it the constitutional duty of the Legislature to elect a Controller once in three years, but the Republicans fail to see it in this light. A resolution has been adopted by the Assembly for a joint meeting on Tuesday, and it is now on the table in the Senate. The Democrats will endeavor to call up it on Monday evening or Tuesday morning, and a lively partisan struggle is anticipated.

The Jersey City bank failures on the eve of the Legislature's session attracted the attention of members immediately and two bills have been introduced as the result. One proposes to require cashiers to give bonds in $20,000, and the other provides that the directors and officers shall file with the Secretary of State annually their personal bonds for the entire amount of liabilities. The latter measure is so extreme that it is not likely to receive much attention. It has been suggested that a different system of supervision might be of advantage. Slight changes in the law would enable the State authorities to keep as close a supervision of the banks as is now maintained over the insurance companies, without increasing annual expenses materially. The forms for the annual reports made by the banks are very complete and with a small appropriation to enable the Secretary of State to employ expert examiners occasionally, it has been thought that much might be done to ward off calamities of the Jersey City kind.

NEWPORT NOTES.

NEWPORT, R. I., Jan. 28.—Among the visitors to Newport last week were the Rev. E. A. Bradley of Indianapolis, Medical Director Gihon, U. S. N., Major McClure, U. S. A., Nathan Matthews, jr., and E. W. Bowditch of Boston.

Colonel N. M. Beckwith, of New-York, who had rented the Weaver villa, which was burned by a servant girl, has taken the Rhua cottage, owned by David King, of New-York.

General James H. Van Alen, of New-York, who is having a summer residence erected here, has returned from Washington.

Mrs. Abba Goold Woolson, in her course of lectures on English literature, had for her subject yesterday, "The House of Brunswick, Dr. Johnson and His Friends."

The Rev. Mr. Emerson of Amherst, Mass., will undoubtedly decline the call to the United Congregational Church at this place.

W. B. Hathaway, of this city, has leased the new Marlboro Hotel in Boston.

The Mason cottage in Church-st. has been purchased by Mrs. Hannah Rudolph for $10,300.

The first subscription to the Perry Monument was received from David King, of New-York, who is spending the winter in Florida. He will return in March.

Thomas W. Keen will appear in "Macbeth" at the Opera House on Friday evening next.

Isaac Bell, jr., of New-York, will take possession of his new summer residence at this place early in the spring.

The cottage residents gave an entertainment at the Casino Tuesday evening for the benefit of a local charity. A pleasing programme of amateur theatricals was presented, and the receipts were satisfactory.

THE SUNDAY TRIBUNE.

Yesterday's issue of THE SUNDAY TRIBUNE was replete in all its departments with matter of more than ordinary interest. The news of the day, domestic and foreign, was given fully and in graphic form, and there was a large amount of special correspondence, reviews, scientific, religious and domestic miscellany, and general literature. Some prominent features were as follows:

London.—Special cable dispatch about Mr. Gladstone