amusing, in many ways the best personation of the character seen on our stage for a long time. The *Rocco* of Mr. Brown was also admirable. Mr. Clark's *Pippo* and Mr. Nichols's *Physician* deserve notice.

Miss Letitia Fritsch played *Bettina* with charming spirit. The chorus and orchestra were good, and all the adjuncts of the play fresh and attractive.

ITALIAN OPERA—SEMIRAMIDE.

The Academy of Music was crowded to its utmost limits last evening. A plainly perceptible air of eager expectation overspread the great audience which had been attracted by memory or report of the extraordinary scene of last winter, when Mme. Scalchi, almost unannounced, and without any of the accustomed preliminary trumpetings, made her first appearance in the same role of *Arsace*, and with the sudden revelation of her phenemenal voice and art first astonished and then entirely conquered a houseful of critical hearers.

Since that time Mme. Scalchi has appeared in no other part so well fitted to display her powers, neither would any other part afford a conjunction so intimate between this admirable singer and Mme. Patti, for whom also nothing fitter could be found in which to show her own wonderful art of singing than "Semiramide." It was, therefore, not surprising that so great a company assembled last evening. Mme. Patti always sings with exceptional brilliancy against the admirable foil of Mme. Scalchi's voice and under the stimulus of her sympathetic aid, and her work last evening was marvellous. Possibly the familiar *Bel Raggio* excited the highest enthusiasm, but it is useless to dwell upon the separate parts of such a rendering. It was of course in the duos with the contralto that the greatest popular effects were produced, notably in the *Giorno d' orrore*, which was redemanded. The other parts were in familiar hands: *Assur*, M. Durat; *Idreno*, Signor Clodio; *Oroe*, Signor Monti; while Signor Costa impersonated the Shade of Ninus.

The orchestra played with unusual care and delicacy.

MRS. EMMA GATES CONKLING.

Mrs. Emma Gates Conkling, the lecturer and elocutionist, died at 8 o'clock last night, at No. 318 West Twelfth-st., after a protracted illness. Mrs. Conkling was born near Rochester, N. Y., in March, 1834. She was associated with Miss Susan B. Anthony when she and several others attempted to assert their rights at the polls. In New-York, during 1877 and part of 1878, she edited *The New-York Palladium*, a journal devoted to temperance and woman's rights. In Long Island City a year ago she engaged in a crusade against the local government, and in New-York in the past year she was foremost in a movement in favor of girls and women employed in the stores of the city, claiming that they were overworked and not allowed to sit down when rest was absolutely needed. She wrote constantly for the press, and was the author of a number of poems. For the last six months she had been ill from complaints brought on by her continuous physical efforts.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC NOTES.

Miss Annie Pixley, in "M'liss," appears on Easter Monday at Niblo's Garden.

Attention is directed to Mr. George Riddle's reading of "Cymbeline," which will occur at the Turf Club Theatre to-day.

Miss Rosalba Beecher's concert on Wednesday evening at Chickering Hall will be followed by a matinée on Saturday at the same place.

By Her Majesty's command "The Redemption" was performed at Windsor Castle by the choir of St. Anne's Church, Soho, under Mr. Barnby's direction, on Monday, March 19.

Dvôrák's "Stabat Mater" was performed in London on March 10, at St. James's Hall, by the London Musical Society, under the direction of Mr. Joseph Barnby.

The Germania, Wallack's Thirteenth-st. house, now becomes the Star Theatre, and as such it will be opened by Mr. Wallack next Monday night, when Dion Boucicault will make his re-entrance in New-York in his new play of "Vice Versa." Miss Sadie Martinot is to act the chief part. "The Amadan" and other Irish dramas by Mr. Boucicault will follow.

THE COSMOPOLITAN THEATRE'S SAFETY.

On account of the alarm caused in the Cosmopolitan Theatre by the settling of a part of the balcony on Friday evening, Inspector Esterbrook directed two examiners of the Bureau of Buildings to make a careful examination of the building. The examiners yesterday sent in a report that the balcony was unsafe, because the six iron columns supporting its front were not set upon solid foundations. They stated also that other portions of the balcony were not properly secured to the walls of the building. Mr. Esterbrook stated that the management of the theatre had also failed to build the wall between the stage and the proscenium, as was directed. "The Long Strike" was given at the theatre last evening. The house was about half filled.

THE RIGHTS OF MUSICAL COMPOSERS.

BOSTON, March 19.—Notice was served upon the Ideal Opera Company to-day by an agent of D'Oyly Carte that the proprietors of the operas of "The Pirates of Penzance," "Patience" and "Pinafore" would insist upon their rights under the recent decisions of Judge Lowell in the "Redemption" case, in which it was ruled that a musical work may not be publicly performed with any orchestration excepting that of the composer of the work. The matter will be thoroughly tested upon its merits in court. It is stated that the advertised performances of these operas will be carried out.

MIDNIGHT WEATHER REPORT.

GOVERNMENT INDICATIONS.

Synopsis for the past twenty-four hours.

WASHINGTON, March 20—1 a. m.—The barometer is highest from Washington Territory to Nevada; it is lowest over the Middle Atlantic States, where a storm of slight energy is now moving northeastward. Threatening and rainy weather is reported from the South and Middle Atlantic States, and snow from New-England to the Lower Lakes. Southerly winds are prevailing along the South and Middle Atlantic coasts, northeasterly in New-England, southeasterly in the Missouri Valley, and northwesterly in the other districts. The temperature has fallen from 10° to 30° from the Western Gulf States northeastward over the Ohio Valley and beyond New-England; it has risen from 10° to 30° from the Missouri Valley to Colorado.

Indications for to-day.

For the Middle and South Atlantic States, rainy followed by much colder clearing weather, northwesterly winds and rising barometer.

For New-England, warmer cloudy weather, with snow and rain, brisk to high northeasterly winds and falling barometer, followed on Tuesday afternoon or night by colder clearing weather, westerly winds and rising barometer.

For the Lower Lake region, fair weather preceded by light snow, warmer westerly winds becoming variable, increasing pressure.

For the Upper Lake region, Upper Mississippi and Missouri Valleys, warmer fair weather followed by occasional light rain or snow, winds mostly southerly and shifting in the two last districts to westerly, and lower pressure.

Cautionary Signals.

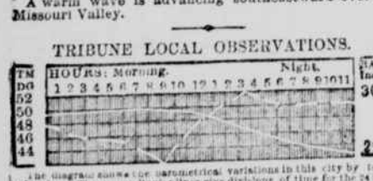
Cautionary signals continue from Chincoteague to Eastport. Cautionary off-shore signals are ordered for Key West. Cautionary signals are ordered from Smithville to Fort Monroe.

Indications for to-morrow.

For Wednesday colder and generally fair weather are indicated for the Atlantic coast and Eastern Gulf States.

A warm wave is advancing southeastward over the Missouri Valley.

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 Hoyt's Pharmacy, 218 Broadway.

TRIBUNE OFFICE, March 20—1 a. m.—The movement in the barometer yesterday was downward. Clear and fair weather was followed by cloudy weather. The temperature ranged between 42° and 52°, the average (47⅞°) being 1⅜° higher than on the corresponding day last year, and ½° lower than on Sunday.

Clear weather with light rain, possibly turning to snow, followed by fair or partly cloudy and colder weather may be expected to-day in this city and vicinity.

EXCISE COMMISSIONERS AND MR. JAY.

A letter was sent from the offices of the Board of Excise yesterday to John Jay, which is part as follows:

"We are in receipt of your letter asking for information concerning the liquor traffic and for an expression of opinion from the members of this Board upon certain matters connected with the administration of the Excise laws. . . . You ask first whether 4,931 third-class hotels, boarding-houses, restaurants and liquor dealers now licensed are not in excess of the needs of travellers. . . . So far as we are enabled to judge of the requirements of the public, this number is not excessive. No place is licensed as a hotel, so far as we can ascertain, where the requirements of the law are not complied with."

The letter then states that if the Board discovers that any of the 3,336 ale and beer stores sell spirituous liquors without a license, its license is revoked. When there are violations of the laws, the following authorities are the proper ones to appeal to: In case of licensed dealers, the Excise Board; unlicensed dealers, the Police Commissioners. The letter is signed by Commissioners W. P. Mitchell and E. B. Hart.

HONORS TO A GERMAN ACTOR.

BREAKFAST TO HERR LUDWIG BARNAY.

A PLEASANT GATHERING AT DELMONICO'S AND MANY HAPPY SPEECHES.

The feeling of good-fellowship among actors which has been fostered of late by several complimentary breakfasts was further promoted yesterday by a breakfast at Delmonico's given to Ludwig Barnay, the Hungarian tragedian who is concluding an engagement at the Thalia Theatre. There was a goodly gathering of actors, writers and artists; speeches full of kindly feeling and admiration were interchanged by the hosts and their guest; and the first steps were taken toward the founding of a National dramatic library which, if the hopes expressed by its projectors are realized, will grow into a monument that will long perpetuate a memory of the occasion. The breakfast took place in one of the private dining-rooms of Delmonico's. Flowers decked the tables, the viands were excellent and the speeches, albeit slightly polyglot at intervals, sparkled like the wine.

Lawrence Barrett, who, like other actors present, had made the acquaintance of Herr Barnay when, in company with the Meiningen troupe, he was showing how Shakespeare's plays ought to be presented, sat at the head of the table. At his right sat Herr Barnay and at his left Carl Schurz, who, when it became necessary, performed the office of interpreter. In the company, besides, were Horace Porter, Lester Wallack, John Gilbert, Whitelaw Reid, R. W. Gilder, A. St. Gaudens, William M. Chase, Frank D. Millet, Courtlandt Palmer, Charles Scribner, A. Thorndike Rice, William J. Florence, John T. Raymond, George Parsons Lathrop, Dr. Leonard Weber, William Wesendonck, Carl Herrmann, Heinrich Conried, Algernon S. Sullivan, Julian Hawthorne, Marshall H. Mallory, Francis W. Tracy, H. C. Bunner, J. R. Osgood, H. F. Keenan, Harry Edwards, Lawrence Hutton, E. C. Wendt, J. H. Ryley, Gustav Kobbé, J. Brander Matthews and Osmond Tearle.

WORDS OF GREETING FROM MR. BARRETT.

The company sat down to the table about half-past 1. Mr. Barrett rose with the first curling smoke from the cigars. He said:

GENTLEMEN: The moment that I feared must come has come, and the pleasing discord of your voices must be shocked by mine. I do not know why I should have been put to perform the duties of chairman here unless it be because I have the pleasure to know personally and intimately Herr Barnay, and to be under infinite obligations to him for his hospitalities on the other side of the ocean. We are met to do honor, if that were possible, or at least to testify our appreciation of the very distinguished gentleman who stands foremost among the nation of artists who has wrung from a reluctant English public the recognition which he has quickly won on our shores. I ask you, gentlemen, to fill your glasses and drink to our guest, Herr Ludwig Barnay.

HERR BARNAY'S REPLY.

Herr Barnay was greeted with great enthusiasm as he rose to reply, a little hesitatingly. He began to speak in English, saying:

"Now you must speak," says Mr. Schurz. That's easy for him to say, for he speaks German as well as he does English. He can speak in English what he feels in German, and in German what he feels in English. It is not a great thing or any news that I am delighted and full of thanks in my heart, for you have given me a reception and honor that it is not possible for me to thank you enough for. I think you will have the best profit if I finish my speech quickly in German. I understood everything that Mr. Barrett said, and he spoke English; I hope you will understand me just as well when I speak in German.

He then continued in German, saying that the burden of his thanks would have to be a self-accusation. He had come to a strange country and found himself far from home, in a climate to which he was unaccustomed; had been ill and met with an accident, and as a result had been always out of tune and given expression to his discordant feelings and carried them into all that he had done here. He was extremely sorry that it was so, and thought a frank confession was his fittest expression of thanks. He was overwhelmed and embarrassed at being the centre of such a galaxy of dramatic gems, and could only quote the words of Richard Wagner as appropriate:

"Euch macht ihr's leicht
Mir macht ihr's schwer."

He ended by referring to the fact that, though they could not converse with each other freely, face to face, there was still a universal language—one that Americans had understood in Salvini, and that Berlin was now listening to with enthusiasm from Booth—the Shakespearian language. Applause followed Herr Barnay's closing remarks. Mr. Schurz, then, at the request of Mr. Barrett, outlined so much of the speech as had been delivered in German and added that he had nothing to say for himself, it being a day for acting. He did not want to create the impression, however, that he had never had anything to do with the drama. Almost every German at some time in his life wrote poetry, and he before his nineteenth year had written seven tragedies. It was not necessary to say they were all very good tragedies. They dealt well with the dramatic unities; all the heroes perished and all the villains met the retributive hand of justice. The tragedies, too, had perished and he was glad of it. He had fought many battles in public life, but did not think he would survive if one of those tragedies should rise from its grave to confront him.

REMARKS OF ACTORS AND OUT-IDEES.

Mr. Florence said if he were a girl he would say it was "real mean" to call on him and to couple his name, as Mr. Barrett had done, with that of Mr. Raymond, but it was the penalty of being supposed to be funny. He recalled the kindnesses that he had received from Mr. Barnay and gave expression to his thanks. Mr. Raymond, who made an effort to pronounce the name of Mr. Barnay, interrupted the laughter that followed it by saying that he always spoke German on Monday. He spoke pleasantly of the actor's heart which had no corner for jealousy because of a competitor's popularity, extended a "warm Western welcome" to all artists from Germany, France and—"yes, China, too"—and excused himself because he had to hurry to Philadelphia to "make a fool of himself."

Lester Wallack responded to the chairman's call next and after expressing his own selfish feeling of pride and pleasure at being able to be present to do honor to a guest whose fame was undoubted and whose modesty of bearing had charmed all whom he met, he added that it gave him peculiar pleasure to see the old enemies *Marc Antony* (Barnay) and *Cassius* (Barrett) sitting peaceably together, and if *Cassius* had a "lean and hungry look" he was sure it wasn't the fault of Delmonico.

Algernon S. Sullivan closed his remarks with an allusion to John Gilbert which evoked such a generous outburst of applause that Mr. Gilbert was visibly affected when he rose to reply. As the oldest American actor living Mr. Gilbert, after he had expressed his own profound appreciation of his welcome, thanked Herr Barnay for having given the profession an opportunity to see one of his interpretations of the great master.

GENERAL PORTER ON HERR BARNAY'S GERMAN.

Mr. Barrett read letters from S. L. Clemens, Joseph H. Choate and Judge Brady, and then called on Horace Porter, who said he hesitated to speak his own ill-considered words in the company of so many members of a profession accustomed to speak the well-matured language of others, lest before he had gone far they should say, paraphrasing the lines from "Romeo and Juliet": "He speaks, yet he says nothing," or with Shakespeare's soldier: "And yet when blows have made me stay I fled from words." He said he had been selected to speak because he had been brought up in Pennsylvania. He had been impressed in Germany with the impurity of the German spoken there, but he could assure the company that in the speech of Herr Barnay there had not been a word to offend the eye or ear of the most fastidious lady. He would not criticise him for objecting to the New-York Street Cleaning Department, and it was also, perhaps, proper and even deserved—the criticism he pronounced in alluding to steam-heating pipes—but it was hardly becoming in him to make the attack he did on the new city charter. General Porter closed with a eulogy of Germany and her rapid strides in the dramatic art.

A POEM BY G. P. LATHROP.

George Parsons Lathrop then read the following lines:

As Cæsar, thrice he doth the crown refuse,
You all have seen. But if the tragic muse
Yield royal favors, can he longer choose?

So we, her votaries, to-day may bring
A gift to him—the muse's offering—
And crown him, both as Lear and Cæsar, king.

And yet, to crowns shall Coriolanus bend?
No! Rather, say our homage here we lend
To one who's simply artist, man—and friend.

A DRAMATIC LIBRARY SUGGESTED.

Remarks were also made by Harry Edwards, J. Brander Matthews, Osmond Tearle, A. St. Gaudens, W. M. Chase, R. L. Gilder and H. C. Bunner, and the healths of Barnay, Booth and Irving were drank. Mr. Edwards in his speech suggested the need of a dramatic library. The suggestion was acted on at once, and a committee composed of Harry Edwards, J. Brander Matthews, Algernon S. Sullivan, Lawrence Barrett, A. Thorndike Rice and H. C. Bunner was named to take the movement in hand. By the time the company had broken up $700 had been subscribed toward the library fund, and Mr. Conried, the manager of the Thalia Theatre, had privately promised to contribute a complete set of the German classical plays in the acting edition.

THE ANNUAL DINNER OF SOROSIS.

The fifteenth annual dinner of Sorosis was held at Delmonico's yesterday. Mrs. Croly, who has just been elected president for the eighth time, read her annual address. Miss Kate Fields, Miss Emily Faithfull, M. Louise Thomas, Virginia C. Titcomb, the Rev. Phoebe Hanaford and Mrs. Dr. Lozier made short speeches in all of which Dr. Dix was severely dealt with. Mrs. Bergholz recited an original poem entitled "June," and Mrs. King a poem on "Sorosis." Miss Lydia Jeffries recited "The Widow's Light," Mrs. Ella Deitz Clymer, "Patience," by Whittier, and Harriet Webb gave Adelaide Proctor's "The Message." Mrs. Louise Gage Courtney and Miss Clara C. Stutsman sang several songs. Among the guests were Mrs. Dr. Newman, Mrs. Lillie Devereux Blake, Mrs. E. Finch, Miss E. Cutts, and Mrs. Madge Mackay. An original paper on "human Zoology" was read by E. A. Smith, which hit many public men, and which was received with much applause.

DINNER OF THE FARMERS' CLUB.

The New-York Farmers, last evening, at the Hotel Brunswick, held their closing dinner for the present season. James A. Burden presided. The guests of the evening were Thomas Sturgis, of Boston; Commissioner George B. Loring, James T. Gardiner, Philip Dater and Richard Church, of Livingston County. The following members were present: General U. S. Grant, James Otis, John D. Wing, D. F. Appleton, John J. Holly, Benjamin L. Swan, Samuel Thorne, F. A. Potts, Thomas Dickson, Samuel Sloan, J. Pierpont Morgan, Charles Lanier, Rutherford Stuyvesant, T. K. Sturgis, Smith Clift, F. Bronson and James O. Sheldon. "The Great Cattle Ranches of the Far West" was the subject selected for the evening's debate. The first speaker was Thomas Sturgis. The Wyoming Stock Growers' Association, he said, in which he had an interest, to-day had 100 members, representing a million head of cattle worth $30,000,000. Last year it sent to market no less than 100,000 cattle, netting to the owners a profit of $10,000,000. If any animal was found diseased it was destroyed, compensation being paid to every innocent holder from the common funds of the association. Could such a system be devised to supervise the export of cattle the saving to this country would be very great. The United States lost $6,000,000 annually by their bad reputation. Mr. Gardiner, Mr. Dater and General Grant also made remarks.

DINNER OF A VETERAN CORPS.

The Veteran Corps of the 22d Regiment had its annual dinner last night at the Hotel Brunswick. One hundred members sat down at the table. Among the invited guests were Horatio C. King, Colonel Hotchkiss and Captain McLean, of the 23d Regiment.

OBITUARY.

DAVID S. DUNCOMB.

David S. Duncomb, a well-known business man of this city, died at his home, No. 103 Lexington-ave., early yesterday morning, in the seventieth year of his age. He was born in Redding, Conn., in 1813, and was a partner in a dry-goods house there for some years. In 1840 he represented Redding in the State Legislature. He came to this city a few years later, and established himself in the clothing business. He was afterward engaged as a real estate broker in Pine-st. Before the panic of 1873 he owned a large amount of real estate in Brooklyn and Chicago. At the time of his death he was president of the United Petroleum Farms' Association and a director of the Bond Street Savings and the Grocers' banks, and of the American Exchange Fire Insurance Company. He was a member of the Union League Club, the New-England Society and the New-York Historical Society.

Mr. Duncomb's death was caused by consumption. He leaves a wife, two daughters and a son. The funeral will take place at Zion Church, at Thirty-eighth-st. and Madison-ave., to-morrow at 11 a. m.

THE REV. GEORGE F. KETTELL, D. D.

The Rev. Dr. George F. Kettell, Presiding Elder of the Brooklyn District of the New-York East Methodist Episcopal Conference, died suddenly yesterday afternoon of neuralgia of the heart at his home, No. 219 Adelphi-st., Brooklyn. Dr. Kettell entered the Methodist ministry about forty-five years ago. Among the places he preached in were Meriden, Conn.; Philadelphia and Poughkeepsie. He served one term at the Jane Street Church in this city. Afterward he became Presiding Elder of the Rhinebeck District of the New-York Conference. In 1866 he was appointed United States Consul at Baden. He returned to this country and became pastor of the Sands Street Church, in Brooklyn. He then became Presiding Elder of the New-York District. At the end of his four years' term he went to the Summerfield Church, in Brooklyn. In 1879 he was appointed Presiding Elder of the Brooklyn District.

MICHAEL MORRIS.

Michael Morris, one of the oldest and wealthiest residents of Paterson, N. J., died on Sunday, age seventy-five. He went to Paterson from Ireland about fifty-five years ago, and was at first employed as a cotton-spinner. He afterward engaged in the sale of cotton waste, oil, etc., and by great economy and shrewdness amassed a large fortune. He was an extensive owner of tenement-house property in Paterson. He was a Roman Catholic, and gave munificently to the institutions of that Church. His two surviving sons are Michael J. Morris, a cotton broker in this city, and the Rev. Father John P. Morris, recently of Plainfield and now parish priest at Avondale.

GILBERT POTTER.

Gilbert Potter, a leading member of St. John's Methodist Episcopal Church, in Bedford-ave., Brooklyn, died on Sunday night at his home, No. 6 Bedford-ave. The church was closed Sunday evening owing to his illness. Mr. Potter was born in this city in 1813, and in 1815 went to Brooklyn. He was engaged in the shipping business and amassed a fortune. He leaves a widow and three children.

GENERAL SIR CHARLES HASTINGS-DOYLE.

LONDON, March 19.—General Sir Charles Hastings-Doyle, K. C. M. G., is dead.

OBITUARY NOTES.

BUFFALO, N. Y., March 19.—James M. Ganson, formerly president of the Bank of Attica, and brother of the late Senator John Ganson, died to-day at the age of sixty-six years.

PHILADELPHIA, March 19.—George Williams, president of the Tenth and Eleventh Street Railway Line, and president of the Board of Presidents of the passenger railways of this city, died this afternoon.

HARTFORD, Conn., March 19.—Jay H. Filley, brother of Chauncey J. Filley, of St. Louis, is dead.

BOSTON, March 19.—The death in Florida of "Frenchy" A. Johnson, the well-known oarsman of this city, is announced. He was a good second-class oarsman and was a successful contestant in many regattas and match races. He had a remarkable record at pigeon and glass-ball shooting.

THE FIRE RECORD.

INCENDIARIES AT FAR ROCKAWAY.

Flames were discovered early yesterday morning from the rear of the new Post Office building at Far Rockaway, L. I. They were first seen by the night watchman, who promptly gave an alarm, and they were extinguished before much damage had been done. Upon examining the premises it was discovered that a number of pieces of pine wood had been saturated with kerosene oil, placed under the stoop at the rear of the building and set on fire.

LOSSES IN VARIOUS PLACES.

PITTSBURG, Penn., March 19.—Fire at Hulton Station, on the Allegheny Valley Railroad, this morning, destroyed a three-story building. Two families, living up stairs, barely escaped with their lives. The loss is $20,000.

BOSTON, March 19.—Fire occurred this morning in the six-story building Nos. 381 to 387 Washington-st. It originated in the basement of 381, occupied by D. P. Ilsley & Co., hatters, whose loss will probably reach $50,000; insurance, $50,000. The loss of Richardson & Gertz, shirt dealers, is $3,000; insured. George H. Richards, jr., jeweler, had a stock valued at $50,000, mostly locked in safes. His loss cannot be estimated. The loss on the building is $10,000.

PHILADELPHIA, March 19.—A fire broke out in the weavers' department of Caleb J. Milne & Sons' cotton mills this afternoon, caused by spontaneous combustion in the drying-house. The loss on the building is $10,000 on the stock and machinery $53,000. The total insurance is $60,000. Although there were over 250 employes in the building at the time the fire occurred, all escaped without injury.

CHANGES IN STEAMSHIP MANAGEMENT.

BOSTON, March 19.—It is stated that William G. Davis and other capitalists of Portland purpose to purchase the Maine Steamship Company's boats and continue the line between Portland and New-York City.

THE DEATH OF LUTHER S. LATHROP.

A gentleman fell down on the sidewalk in Park row yesterday afternoon, and before any assistance could be rendered he was dead. He was recognized as Luther S. Lathrop, of the firm of Myer & Lathrop, of Nos. 135 and 231 Broadway, also of Beaver-st. He was fifty years of age, and lives at No. 101 North Portland-ave., Brooklyn. Mr. Lathrop was in a good business, and leaves a wife but no family. The cause of his death was disease of the heart.

A NORWEGIAN SHIP ABANDONED.

The Norwegian ship John Bertram, which sailed from this port for Rotterdam on February 22 with a cargo of 253,077 gallons of petroleum, has been abandoned at sea. The captain and crew were saved.

AT THE STATE CAPITAL.

DEMOCRATIC GREED FOR OFFICE.

NEW BILLS INTRODUCED IN THE LEGISLATURE.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

ALBANY, March 19.—To-night was no exception to the Democratic rule of either grabbing for office or creating a new office. Assemblyman Maher, of Albany, who represents in the Assembly Daniel Manning, the Chairman of the Democratic State Committee, presented a bill making the clerk of the President of the Senate and the Speaker's clerk permanent officers, at salaries of $1,500 each. This is at the rate of $3,500 yearly salary, as the Legislature is only in session five months of the year.

Mr. Bailey, a Democrat from Queens County, also had his office-creating bill. This time it was a general commissioner of highways, with the duty especially of seeing that railroad signals are properly placed at railroad crossings. This officer is to receive $3,000 a year salary, exclusive of side fees from the railroads.

The deterioration of character that almost inevitably follows service as a member of the Legislature is frankly acknowledged by Assemblyman Benedict in a bill he introduced to-night. As Mr. Benedict has been a member for three years his evidence must be accepted as that of an expert. In brief, his bill declares that whenever the Superintendent of the Banking Department learns that the managing director of a savings bank has been elected a member of the Legislature he shall instantly authorize some one to guard the bank till the trustees can elect a new director.

The examiners of the various law departments met in New-York on Friday last and passed resolutions in favor of conferring upon the Court of Appeals the power to appoint examiners. A bill embodying this idea was introduced by Assemblyman Howe to-night. It authorizes the Court of Appeals to appoint three examiners from each judicial department of the State to hold examinations within their respective districts of applicants for admission to the bar.

Senator Jacobs introduced a bill appropriating $100,000 for an armory in the Eastern District of Brooklyn. This bill, of course, is not related to any desire by Jacobs to be renominated for the Senate by the voters of the Eastern District.

THE INSURANCE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

RESULT OF THE INQUIRY INTO THE RECEIVERSHIPS OF INSOLVENT COMPANIES.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

ALBANY, March 19.—Senator Kiernan reported from the Insurance Committee to-night the result of the investigation of the work done by sixteen receivers of insolvent insurance companies. The report shows that the average expense of paying $1 to the unfortunate policy-holders of the bankrupt companies was $253. With the report is a bill establishing a Department of Insolvent Corporations, its head to be called Receiver-General and to receive $10,000 yearly salary. Of course there is a Deputy Receiver-General and clerks to match. With the report is a tabulated statement, the figures of which have for the most part been published, showing the assets received by the receivers, their legal expenses and personal fees, and the total amount they disbursed to policy-holders and other creditors of the companies.

The committee reviews the evidence touching the appointment of William J. Best as receiver of the National Trust Company, and says that it is in evidence that the assets claimed by the officers of the company to have been undervalued by Mr. Best ultimately improved very largely in value, and resulted in a handsome profit to the purchasers, one of whom was one of the petitioners for the appointment of a receiver; that, in any case, the capital was impaired more or less seriously, and that such irregularity had existed among the officers of the company in their management of the trust; and that the value of the securities, as estimated by Mr. Best, was considerably reduced from that which had been placed upon them at an examination made by Messrs. Lamb and Reid a year prior. The first payment to the receiver for his own services was made on his first accounting dated June 29, 1878, and amounted to $52,039, in addition to an allowance of $2,500 for counsel fees. In August, 1879, he received for services as receiver $36,756. Between these dates there was paid to his regular counsel in New-York City, Frederick Smyth, $16,410; to Joseph B. Bedell, as counsel, $1,003; and to McCarter & Feen, as counsel, $1,615. There were also paid in 1880 and 1881 the following: For costs and counsel fees to various persons, April 13, $503; December 16, $3,743; March 23, 1881, $23,688; April 14, 1881, $824 and $1,725. A payment of $752 was made to McCarter and Feen before the company became insolvent. All these payments were made in a foreclosure suit in New-Jersey, which was ultimately compromised by the receiver for $2,500. The committee infers that about $124,822 has been absorbed in expenses. The report does not charge Mr. Best with dishonesty, but claims that he had unwisely administered the trust.

As to Henry R. Pierson's administration of the North America Life, the New-York State Life of Syracuse, the Widows and Orphans' Benefit Life and the World Mutual Life Companies, and the receiverships of the American Popular Life, American Tontine Life or Savings, Asbury Life, Atlantic Mutual Life, Commonwealth Life, Continental Life, Craftsmen's Life, Eclectic Life, Globe Mutual Life, Guardian Mutual Life, Hercules Mutual Life, New-York State Life of Syracuse, Reserve Mutual Life, Security Life and Annuity, and the Benefit Life, the committee says it appears that there passed through the hands of the receiver in all the sum of $11,551,957 17; that they paid for legal expenses $737,101 36, including their own fees; that they paid for other expenses, including salaries, clerk hire, etc., $1,016,671 18; that they distributed among the creditors of the companies on orders of the courts, based on the reports of receivers, $7,206,530 06; that at the date of the last reports by the receivers there remained undistributed by them $3,366,041 37; that there was lost to the creditors through depreciation of securities, bad debts and worthless assets $4,059,809 07; and that there appears to be unaccounted for $535,703 48.

The committee point to the admirable administration of John H. Ketcham and S. Jarvis, jr., as in marked contrast to the receivership of James D. Fish, who for a payment of a dividend of $284,394 expended the sum of $594,596. The committee find, in the administration of Henry R. Pierson, that for a dividend of $3,169 there was incurred an expense of $55,912. In the matter of the North America Life $614,163 was paid out for dividends at an expense of $132,438. The committee says that it was possible for Mr. Pierson to use the trust funds, which he held, for speculative purposes as a stock gambler in Wall Street. The committee cite Mr. Pierson's administration of the North America Life as a shining example of all that is vicious in the present vicious system.

ELEVATED RAILROAD AFFAIRS.

ALBANY, March 19.—In the Senate to-night, a communication was read from the Controller as to whether in the matter of the several elevated roads in New-York City the net income derived for the year last past has exceeded the annual income of 10 per cent upon the capital of those corporations actually expended. The communication incloses reports of the three companies, and states that such reports comprise all the information of which the Controller's office is now possessed, but that the State Engineer and Surveyor is preparing more specific information.

A letter from the Attorney-General to the Controller and State Engineer was also inclosed. He defines the question of the capital of the corporation actually expended, and recites the provisions of the law under which the elevated railroads were chartered. He says the law fixed the minimum of profits at 10 per cent upon the capital actually expended, not meaning thereby the amount of capital stock actually issued, but the actual cost of construction to the company itself. If the company sold its stock and its bonds and received in return therefor 50 per cent of the nominal amount, it had so much cash in its treasury, and if it expended that cash for the construction of the road, that amount of money annually expended would be the cost of the enterprise within the meaning of the law. If, on the other hand, it issued its stock and bonds to the construction company composed of its own stockholders for a price grossly exaggerated beyond the cost of construction, and the stockholders realized the difference between the cost of construction and the nominal value of bonds and stock, the cost to the company, or rather the stockholders composing the company, who are the real constructors of the road, was the amount of capital expended. Any other rule would provide an easy evasion of the intent of the act by floating excessive amounts of stocks and bonds for far less than their par value for construction purposes, for the very purpose of preventing the profits ever reaching the 10 per cent provided for by law. The Attorney-General therefore is of the opinion that the capital actually expended refers to the amount of money actually paid out by the stockholders of the railroad or construction company (they being identical) for the construction and equipment of the road.

The Railroad Commissioners late this afternoon gave a hearing to David Dudley Field in relation to the affairs of the New-York Elevated Railroads, in accordance with the Assembly resolution for an investigation into the financial condition of the roads. Vice-President Gallaway of the Manhattan Railway Company was also present, and submitted figures as to the earnings and expenses of that road. The Railroad Commissioners go to New-York in a day or two, to continue their investigation.

LEGISLATION IN NEW-JERSEY.

TRENTON, N. J., March 19.—The House to-night passed Senator Applegate's bill providing that all State printing shall hereafter be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder. Other bills passed were: Senator Taylor's act relating to local boards of health, Senator Vail's act to create a council of State charities and Senator Ferrill's bill to provide against the spread of contagious diseases among cattle. A concurrent resolution was introduced providing for a joint meeting of the two houses on Wednesday at noon to elect a State Controller.

The Senate passed over the Governor's veto the Senate bill directing the sale of real estate held by the State School Fund and the Senate bill providing for the refunding of a State assessment paid into the Treasury by the Safety Insurance Company, which failed to organize. The report of the conference committee on the incidental bill of last session making slight amendments was adopted. Among the bills passed was one requiring County Clerks to furnish a yearly list of physicians filing diplomas with them to the State Board of Health and an act reported by the Commission on Water Supply providing for a continuance of the commission to consider the matter. The bill providing for glass ballot-boxes for election was amended so as to apply only to Essex and Hudson counties.

In executive session Arthur J. Ogilby, of New-Brunswick, was confirmed as Riparian Commissioner, vice Thomas McKeon, deceased.

THE RIGHT OF DUKES TO HOLD HIS SEAT.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

HARRISBURG, Penn., March 19.—In the House of Representatives to-night the following resolution was adopted regarding Dukes, the slayer of Captain Nutt:

Resolved, That it is the sense of this House that some action should be taken looking to a disposition of the question as to the right of Nicholas L. Dukes, of Fayette County, to hold his title to a seat in this House of Representatives.

A large crowd attended in the gallery, it being understood that Dukes would be present to demand his seat or that a resolution would be introduced declaring his seat vacant.

ABOUT TOWN IN LONDON.

FOGS, FINANCE, AND THE AMERICAN ABROAD.

[FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

LONDON, February 28.

A great deal has been written and said about London fogs, but the half has not been told; that is, the worst half, and it would not be easy to do it. A pleasant day during the winter months is such an exception that the Londoner never fails to go into a state of ecstasy and to remark to his American friend: "Come now, you cannot find fault with this, you know." It is a singular experience to go out when a real old-fashioned black fog is on, when you can hear the carriages in the streets and can't see them, and when to undertake to cross is a gross fraud on the Accidental Company in which you are insured. Newcomers have some funny experiences. A few days ago a countryman friend with his wife, who is young and handsomer than he is, essayed to go out for a little shopping. The fog was dreadful. In attempting to cross the street they got cut off and separated by an intervening cab. The husband landed on the opposite curb and supposed his wife to be at his heels. Astonished to find she was not, he rushed back. Meantime his wife had crossed in pursuit of him. He became alarmed and ran up the street and down again in fruitless search. The aid of the police was invoked, and after a vain search somebody suggested that "Madam might have taken a cab and gone to the hotel." Visions of an elopement haunted the mind of the jealous husband, but he drove to the hotel. Madam was there, and she was in a "state of mind." She was mad, very mad, and any one with the usual experience can imagine how tropical she made it for him. He told me confidentially that the little episode cost him well on to fifty pounds. Of course apologies have no commercial value. Nothing less than one of those fifty-guinea Regent-st. fur dolmans restores harmony in such a case. Nothing less did in this, at any rate. Moral: Don't go out shopping in London on a foggy day without having a string to her.

London is full of Americans. They swarm here from the east, the west, and all points of the compass, mostly with "schemes"; cattle ranches, mines or railroads. In railroads there is of course always more or less business doing, but in mines and ranches little or nothing. There have been two or three sales of cattle ranches after months of worry and labor, in most instances the vendor having to take an interest himself equal to if not in excess of his profit. The seller gets little or no cash down, but must be content to get his payments by instalments as the shares are allotted. It is trying to the impatient character of the American to do business with an English syndicate, for the moment you begin to deal with numbers so many times are your vexations multiplied, each one "wanting to know, you know"; and the united talent of the entire syndicate is devoted to the discovery of weak points in your statements, and when all are cleared up new ones will be imagined.

The first question is: "If this is so good, why do you want to sell?" You can safely calculate that it will take you a whole month to satisfy them on that head, and then you go on to the long list of flaws submitted, etc. The man that comes over here with a scheme must bring along two essential things: patience and plenty of money for expenses; and if after months of vexation, labor, disappointments, hopes, fears and annoyances, he succeeds at last, he has most assuredly earned his money—if he gets it. It is sheer folly for any one to bring any schemes over here now, as it will prove a waste of time and money, and whoever comes, if prudent, will get a return passage ticket, for London expenses will be pretty sure to bankrupt him long before he has made an impression on the market. There is an unusual depression in the market just now, and a most decided prejudice against new investments, and especially abroad. Bankers and promoters are loaded up with securities they have failed to float. There is nobody left free to take up new things, and the public absolutely refuses to take shares in even the most attractive investments backed by the best names. The British public had a pretty severe lesson in foreign