available method, as it was rebuked in times past when it sustained slavery and opposed the war for the Union."

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

THE AMADAN.

This piece was shown in Boston, some time ago, and copious accounts of it were then published. Last night it was presented at the Star Theatre, and the event drew together a brilliant concourse of eager and friendly spectators, by whom it was received with marks of both interest and disappointment. Mr. Boucicault has, in this drama, given an uncommonly free rein to his imagination. "The Amadan" is the most imaginative of all his Irish plays, and for that very reason, perhaps, the most ineffective, in a strictly dramatic sense. In its predecessors the element of power was chiefly resident in situations and in the sharp and felicitous development of humanity of character. In this piece the stress has been put on complication of plot and upon a weird, ghastly, Rembrandt atmosphere. The scene is laid on the western sea-coast of Ireland, and much of the action passes among the ruins of an ancient Abbey Church. The play is comprised in three acts, which contain nine scenes and introduce fifteen persons, four of whom are women, and the story is the old, conventional narrative of a scheming scoundrel's effort to obtain the estate of an embarrassed family, and to wed the daughter of the ancient house. In this thread of fiction there is nothing fresh, nothing that has not been used over and over again by Mr. Boucicault himself. The special felicity is in the treatment, and in the analysis and opposition of two remarkable characters—*Colley, the Amadan*, played by Dion Boucicault, jr., and *Michael O'Leary*, played by the author. The former is a half-witted boy, who haunts the crags and caves, and consorts with owls and bats, but whose heart is wholly devoted—with the unreasoning passion of a dumb animal—to the young mistress of the estate on which he dwells. The latter is a coarse, sordid, filthy trickster—the quintessence of all that is offensive in the Irish character, drawn in this case, by the hand of a master, in the revolting colors of absolute truth; *O'Leary's* endeavors to obtain the hand of the ruined heiress, and the Amadan's proceedings, leading to his discomfiture, make up the play. In a dramatic sense Mr. Boucicault has done no more with *The Amadan* than he did, long ago, with *Danny Mann*. The fine preservation of a certain haunted and ghastly tone, however, in his management of this character is worthy of his genius, at its best, and shows its poetic aspect in a strong light. For the reason, however, that the conduct of his persons, in this play, is frequently strained away from the order and sequence of nature, and because the entire structure of the work is weighted with an explanatory air—as if a novel were being analyzed rather than a story told in action—"The Amadan" is unlikely to take a deep hold upon the public fancy. One special dramatic felicity in the construction is the establishment, by deft use of circumstantial evidence, of suspicion, between the two young lovers, of the attempted murder and robbery of the loathsome *O'Leary*. There is a vein of humor, too, that flickers along through the piece, like the murmur of a hidden brook in the woods. Mr. Boucicault has often won greater sympathy than he did last night; but he has never acted with greater fidelity to life than in his presentment of *Michael O'Leary*. The younger Dion took the chief honors of the night. His Colley was only a sketch, but it had freedom and force, imagination and tenderness, and its execution was firm and clear. He will, assuredly, become a fine character actor. Miss Cleves surprised the house by a moderate, sweet, well-balanced piece of acting, clearly indicative of reserve power. The full cast is given here

Colley (the Amadan)	Dion Boucicault, jr
Mr. Michael O'Leary, of Mount O'Leary	Dion Boucicault
Owen Darrell	William Herbert
Sir Horle Carew, of Ballycarew	Charles Foster
Ted Carew, his Son	Arthur R. Forrest
Dr. Fogarty	Benjamin Magnley
Rooney, an old servant at Ballycarew	Mr. Walton
Forey Keogh, O'Leary's man	Mr. Wilks
Colonel O'Keefe, a Magistrate	Mr. Clarke
Clancer, Corporal R. I. Constabulary	Mr. Reynolds
Mulligan, a Sentry	Mr. King
Dora Fogarty	Miss Martinot
Ellie Carew	Lillian Cleves
Miss Dodd McLeverty	L. R. Becket
Raley	Miss Langdon

THE MEMPHIS MUSIC FESTIVAL.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., May 15.—About 3,000 persons were in attendance this afternoon at the concert of the Mozart Society, of Memphis, assisted by Theodore Thomas's orchestra. To-night there was as large an attendance to hear the oratorio of "Elijah," as there was last night. The festival is both an artistic and a financial success.

AN OFFER TO MR. GERRY.

A few minutes before the Dancing Zouaves were introduced at the performance of Calleaders Minstrels in the Cosmopolitan Theatre, last evening, William Welch, the manager came upon the stage accompanied by five boys and a woman bearing a three old child in her arms. Advancing to the footlights Mr. Welch read a letter from Mr. Gerry of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children in which the latter stated that complaint had been made to the Society by Charles MacGeachy that three little colored boys, age about ten years, and a tiny tambourine player who had not seen his third summer, were employed by the company in violation of Section 292 of the Penal Code of this State. Mr. Gerry intimated that proceedings would be instituted against the management if the performance of the children were continued. "These boys" said Mr. Welch, pointing to two bright-faced ten-year old colored children, "are twins who were picked up by us in Opa[illegible]a, Ala. Their parents were poor and almost helpless. The boys being clever and bright, we engaged them from their parents under a contract to feed, cloth and educate the youngsters till they attain the age of twenty-one. They do a single dance, not as fatiguing as bite and sock. These three boys," introducing three larger boys, "were found in Detroit, Mich., homeless, fatherless and friendless on the verge of starvation. We pay them $3 a week and look after their physical and moral welfare. They dance a pure Southern jig such as is taught every little darkey as soon as he can stand on his legs. This little mite," pointing to the little three-year old, "is the child of two members of the company. He is in part a member of the company, since he was born in it. Now, if Mr. Gerry can do as well by these little fellows as we are doing we are prepared to commit them to his charge and tresurry at once, regardless of the preferences of the chidren themselves."

The latter part of Mr. Welch's remarks was greeted by a long and continuous outburst of applause. As the children did not attempt to perform no attempt was made by Mr. Gerry's officers to arrest the Messrs. Frohman, the proprietors. To-night the children will resume their parts in the performance.

THE REPUBLICAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

The Republican Central Committee met last evening, John J. O'Brien presiding. Colonel Charles S. Spencer said that the Executive Committee had requested that the Committee on Resolutions prepare suitable resolutions with reference to the death of Pierre C. Van Wyck and Charles Blackie. This was ordered to be done.

Colonel Spencer further said that the committee appointed to draft a plan of reorganization broad enough to take in all the Republican voters in this city desired to report progress. In pursuance of the resolution the committee had met at the house of Edward Mitchell and appointed a sub-committee to prepare the necessary plan and instructed it to report as soon as feasible. The sub-committee had asked for further time and is to meet the main committee on Monday evening next, and will then report a plan of reorganization which he had every reason to believe would meet with approval of the Executive and Central Committees. He had yet to meet a member of the Central Committee who did not express himself as heartily in favor of reorganization, of who had evinced a disposition to throw a single objection or obstacle in the way of a plan of reorganization which is calculated to enlist the support of every Republican who desires henceforth to act with the party. He had been pleased to meet the editor of THE TRIBUNE at the meetings of the committee, one whom they all recognized as an earnest worker for the success of the party, and who had given good practical advice in discussing a plan of reorganization. Colonel Spencer said that there was no reason to doubt that the Republican party would present a united front to the Democratic party next November, and this was a good omen of victory. The special committee will act on the report of the sub-committee on Monday evening, and as soon thereafter as possible the Executive Committee will be called together to act on the report. [Applause.]

Martin Kavanagh, of the 11d District, eulogized the late Pierre C. Van Wyck and offered an appropriate resolution, which was passed unanimously. General Dennis F. Burke reported the death of Major Thomas Hagan, of the XIXth District, for many years a member of the Central Committee, and moved that suitable resolutions be prepared. This was agreed to.

THE ADVANCE OF THE CREES STOPPED.

CHICAGO, May 15.—A special dispatch from Helena, Mon., says: "The expected advance of a large war party of the Northern Crees into Montana has been stopped by the mounted police of Fort Walsh, North-west Territory, and by the action of General Ruger, of this district."

SILK CULTURE IN AMERICA.

THE ASSOCIATION'S MEETING AND DINNER.

SPEECHES BY WILLIAM WALTER PHELPS, GENERAL WOODFORD, COLLECTOR ROBERTSON, MAYOR LOW AND OTHERS.

Yesterday was the occasion of the annual business and social meeting of the Silk Association of America, which comprises the entire silk manufacturing trade. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: F. W. Cheney, of South Manchester, Conn., president; B. Richardson, of New-York, and A. B. Strange and C. Lambert, of Paterson, vice-presidents; Louis Franke, treasurer, and William C. Wyckoff, secretary.

The dinner in the evening at Delmonico's was one of the most enjoyable in the history of the association. Among the 120 gentlemen who sat at the tables were Britton Richardson, the chairman; Collector Robertson, William Walter Phelps, Mayor Low, of Brooklyn; Joseph Nimmo, jr., of the Bureau of Statistics, Washington; John Hill, of Paterson; Judge John Hopper, of Paterson; Franklin Allen, A. B. Strange, Stewart L. Woodford and John N. Stearns, of New-York. The president of the association was unable to be present, owing to a death in his family, and James M. Grant, of Cheney Brothers, whose name has become prominently identified with the work of the association through his successful invention of a valuable method of winding silk, sent in lieu of himself a generous supply of cigars. The speeches were happy, and were interspersed plentifully with songs by the Stein Brothers. The chairman, Mr. Richardson, in announcing the toasts, introduced each speaker with appropriate compliments, and in making his own very brief remarks alluded gracefully to the regret that was shared by all at the enforced absence of the president, Mr. Cheney, and the sympathy which was felt in his behalf, adding a word or two in reference to the growing strength of the Association and the valuable interests it represented. While the trade for the past year had not been exactly what had been hoped for, it had, he believed, not been without good result in the lessons that hard times and adversity always taught. The Association committees had been hard at work on the tariff question and although it had sacrificed 10 per cent on the amount of production it had gained something in honest valuations and had to-day a decision by the Secretary of the Treasury in its favor in regard to charges.

The toast to "The President of the United States" was then drank. To the toast "The Land of the Free—where a man is a man if he is willing to toil," the chairman called upon General Stewart L. Woodford to respond, prompted thereto, as he said, by the suggestions of those on his right and left. Thereupon General Woodford proceeded to hint delicately at the honesty of the American silk manufacturers, which, he said, he had taken great pains to impress once upon a jury who were about to decide a case against a fraudulent importer of foreign silks on an undervaluation [laughter], and he had the opportunity to confirm that impression, for last Sunday he had promised, at the request of a deacon of his church, to attend the dinner on the condition, readily acceded to, that he should not be called upon for a speech. [Laughter.] While he could understand the presence of Collector Robertson, Mr. Richardson, Congressman John Hill and others, he could not find any explanation of the Brooklyn Mayor's presence until he remembered that in the canvas preceding his election his opponents had called him the "silk stocking candidate for the Mayoralty." [Laughter.] Speaking to the toast he concluded with an eloquent forecasting of the time when American factories could safely compete with the looms of Lyons and Genoa, and weave fabrics that should contest with those of the German, Frenchman, Englishman and Italian for the mastery of the markets of the world—that better day when the infancy of Protection shall lead to the manhood of permitted Free Trade. [Great applause.]

To the toast of the "Congress of the United States" John Hill responded with a glance at the work which the late Congress had done—under the irresistible pressure brought by the people—for the urgent needs of the country, such as the bill relative to civil service, etc. What Congress would do in the future was a theme too vast for his conjecture, and as if satisfied with that, the speaker turned to the more congenial subject of the Silk Association's work, showing the rapid progress of the industry, and expressing his confidence in the future influence that it would have in the general development of the country. [Applause.]

Collector Robertson spoke to the toast of "The Public Service and its Bearing on the Silk Industry," acknowledging his inclination to defer the consideration of the first branch of it until another occasion, and promising to take that up at the next annual dinner, he proceeded to adopt what he believed was Henry Ward Beecher's method with his texts, using them as clothespins to hang his thoughts on other subjects upon. [Laughter.] Silk culture and manufacture, said he, are not a new industry in America. More than 200 years ago a silken robe of great magnificence was made for the King of England out of Virginia silk, and not long after the product of Georgia, South Carolina and Connecticut was worn on occasions of grandeur by sovereigns and important personages. After the Revolution there seemed to be a suspension of the culture and manufacture, which continued for more than fifty years, when a revival occurred for ten years. Another suspension followed, but in 1880 the work began again and has never flagged since, until now the value of silk manufactured here annually is about $35,000,000. We have nearly 400 factories, employing 35,000 men, who are paid about $10,000,000. New-Jersey comes first, then New-York, the two States manufacturing more than two-thirds of the whole product.

After John Hopper had spoken for the New-Jersey Legislature, Mayor Low responded to the toast of "The United Cities of Brooklyn and New-York" in a speech that was loudly applauded and full of humorous touches. "There is one very important point," he said, "that must be settled first of all before an official of Brooklyn can undertake to discuss this question at all, and that is the political basis of our union. Take it for granted that we should not object to a scheme that would let Brooklyn do the governing and let New-York furnish the taxes. [Laughter.] Brooklyn stands ready to furnish an Emigration Commissioner and all it desires New-York to do is to pay for an aqueduct. [Laughter.] Yet I don't want to speak as an official here. I am on familiar ground here and amiast old friends, and I refuse to see the faces of so many who have got the better of me in a bargain. [Laughter.] We have been told of the 15,000 men and women in the silk manufacture at Paterson and I am glad to see that none of the speakers have referred to them as 'hands.' Some would have called these 15,000 poor people 'hands.' Some one has said that the Germans conquered the French because they had a thinking bayonet, and if America is going to compete with the world in the direction of manufactures it is going to be because her factories are filled with people who think and not with 'hands.' [Applause.] I want to impress upon you as people who employ the labor of your fellow-men that you do not feel that your duty is done when you pay them your weekly wages for which they give you their return of labor, but that you treat them as men and women, and try to advance their condition in life in every way within your power." [Great applause.]

MR. PHELPS'S RESPONSE.

The response to the next toast, "The Silk Association of America"—the principal toast of the evening—was made by the Hon. William Walter Phelps. Mr. Phelps arraigned the silk men of New-Jersey as bad and wicked, not to say impatient, men. When he went to Congress he was not properly impressed with the exalted character of his position. These silk men called upon him in Washington early one morning just as he was going down to his breakfast and when he sent word, with his compliments, that he would see them after breakfast, such was their impatience that as near as he could hear it they said something as they went out of the door to the effect that "they would see him—— first. [Laughter.] These silk men were not patriotic either, for at the election last fall, when republican institutions were threatened, they did not heed his assurances of danger and his offer to do all he could to avert it, but they hired a room, hired music and furnished their own speakers, and this was the only means by which the country was saved and their candidate was defeated. [Laughter.] "Yet notwithstanding all this," said the speaker, "I shall stand by the Silk Association of America as far as it is represented in Paterson. [Applause.] I shall stand by all these gentlemen who did their own speaking to elect my opponent because I believe them to be good citizens, good gentlemen, and good friends, and I purpose at the expiration of my time to satisfy them that if they did not get their own friend they got the next best. [Great applause.]

William Strange and Mr. Otterbourg also responded to toasts.

THE ST. NICHOLAS CLUB ELECTION.

The election at the St. Nicholas Club for five trustees and a secretary was not so exciting, partly because many of the older and conservative members stayed away from indifference, and partly because many of the younger ones were attracted to the sparring-match at the Madison Square Garden. Only about eighty votes were polled. Rufus King, for secretary, and Walter Kingsland and Robert E. Livingston, for trustees, were elected without opposition. The young men's or radical candidates for the three other trusteeships, G. H. Van Roesen, F. Dumont and J. J. Riker, were elected by a small majority. The young element of the club is thus given almost the entire control of the club.

RECEPTION AT THE AMERICAN MUSEUM.

The annual reception of the American Museum of Natural History, at Seventy-seventh-st. and Eighth-ave., took place yesterday afternoon. The halls of the museum were filled with people, and outside, carriages drawn by horses whose glittering harnesses flashed in the sun constantly came and went. The park around the museum has been improved so that instead of being the rocky desert that it was a little over a year ago, it is now a collection of green grass plots through which wind gravelled walks. A stone bridge has been constructed connecting the drive in Central Park with Eighth-ave. at Seventy-seventh-st., and many carriages came to the museum that way. The museum is now easy of access as the new bridge will allow it to be made the terminus of a drive in the Park; the Eighty-first-st. station of the Ninth Avenue Elevated Railroad is just at the northwest corner of the green plot surrounding it, and the Eighth-ave. horse cars go within half a block. Many valuable additions have been made to the collection, some of the newly acquired specimens being the only ones of their kind in the country. Entering the lower hall, one is introduced to many strange animals whose society is all the more pleasing that they are dead and liable to remain so. In the centre of the hall is a group of walruses. The one nearest the entrance is apparently the head of the family. He is an immense, ugly looking beast, with large white tusks and a wicked gleam in his glass eyes. His spouse, just behind him, is somewhat smaller than her lord and master, but looks as if her temper were quite as bad. Many persons gathered around the case containing the gorilla and other rare monkeys—a curious collection of these parodies of humanity. Among the most interesting of these specimens was the family of orang-outangs. The creatures when in their native wilds must passs their entire life in a perplexing effort to decide which are their hands and which are their feet. A number of fine specimens of seal have been added to the collection in the course of the past year, among them the extremely rare and curious banded seal.

In the main hall above, the sunlight shining through the windows was reflected back in a thousand gorgeous colors from the brilliant plumage of thousands of birds. Here are gathered in glass cases "many birds of many kinds," from the bird of Paradise that sails on lustrous plumage above the spice groves of far-off tropic islands, to the auk which flaps his colorless wings on cold blue hills of ice and screams in Arctic winters. In one of the alcoves of this hall an orchestra, whose music could be heard throughout the building played during the reception.

On a landing of the stairway leading to the gallery above the main hall are some heraldic columns presented to the museum by H. R. Bishop. They are of wood, carved into all sorts of curious and hideous forms and faces, woven and wound together as if the carver had had the nightmare or was a hard-drinker. These columns are from British Columbia and form part of the archives of the College of Heralds of the Tsimpean Nation, a native tribe that is very strong on ancestry, the great family setting up these columns as reminders of their descent. The great war canoe of Queen Charlotte Island suspended in the middle of the main hall is best seen from the gallery. This canoe was presented to the museum by Mr. Bishop. It is over sixty feet long and is decorated with a profusion of wild and savage carving. Among the other additions to the collection in the gallery are three cases of the handiwork of the Indians in British Columbia presented by Mr. Bishop, a collection of Indian dresses from the Columbia River presented by Hinds Auchmuty, and a set of casts illustrating the Bronze period in Scandinavia, presented by Andrew E. Douglass.

The reception was from 2 to 5 o'clock. Among those present were Robert Colgate, Benjamin H. Field, Adrian Iselin, Morris K. Jesup, D. Jackson Steward, Joseph H. Choate, Percy R. Pyne, Andrew H. Green, John B. Trevor, James M. Constable, William L. Dodge, jr., Joseph W. Drexel, Abram S. Hewitt, Hugh Auchincloss, Oliver Harriman, Cornelius Vanderbilt, D. O. Mills, Carlos G. Landon, J. T. Van Rensselaer, John Wheeler, W. H. Guilden, Colonel John James Astor, Colonel Jacob Ruppert, W. R. Stewart, W. W. Hoppin, Henry Burch, Francis Brooks, Vernon H. Brown, Gouverneur Morris, Professor A. A. Julien, of Columbia College, Brayton Ives, the Rev. Dr. William C. Gray, Sir Lewis and M. and Lady Arendrupt, Frances H. Leggett, D. D. Williamson, General Newton, R. R. Roosevelt, James F. Harper, William Saunders, John H. Hoadley, Professors D. S. and B. N. Martin, Professor O. C. Marsh, of Yale College, Augustus Schell, the Rev. Torrington Williams, J. L. Mott, Dr. H. G. Fisher, Christian Dorr, Stewart L. Woodford, Benjamin A. Willis, Professor Joel Eggleston, of the Columbia College School of Mines, General Alexander Shaler, Herman B. Le Roy, the Rev. H. M. Saunders, Verplanck Colvin, of Albany, and John S. Kennedy.

A WEDDING YESTERDAY.

The interior of the First Baptist Church, at Park-ave. and Thirty-ninth-st., was profusely decorated yesterday for the wedding of Miss Caroline Lesher, daughter of Stephen R. Lesher, and Henry Hutton Landon, the son of C. G. Landon. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Dr. Joseph F. Elder, pastor of the Baptist Church of the Epiphany. The best man was James B. Pratt. The ushers were F. G. Landon, S. Mortimer Lesher, Arthur L. Lesher, Egmont Schermerhorn, Dr. Valentine G. Mott and R. F. Purdy. The bridesmaids were Miss Adele Lesher, Miss Emma Jacob, Miss Mary F. Willis and Miss Eleanor Taylor. Their dresses were novel and pretty, being of white mais veiling embroidered with little moons, made with full train, and a Watteau plait and fronts trimmed with Oriental lace. They wore spanish poke-bonnets of lace veils, and carried bouquets—two of Jacqueminot and two of Bon Silene roses. The bride was attired in white Ottoman silk, made with a round court train and a front covered with flounces of point duchesse lace, caught up with orange flowers. The corsage was cut square and filled in with lace and orange flowers. Her bouquet was of white lilacs and roses. She wore a diamond and pearl necklace and diamond pendant, given by the groom, and a diamond pin and bracelet, the gift of the bride's father. The bride's mother wore lavender brocade, point lace and diamonds. A reception was held at the house of the bride's parents, No. 330 Madison-ave. The parlors were decked with a floral horseshoe, a handsome wedding bell, and many other handsome floral designs, bouquets and similar. Pilsner served refreshments.

Among the guests were Mr. and Mrs. Gordon W. Burnham, Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Jadkey, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Graves, the Misses Graves, Mr. and Mrs. Seth J. French, Miss Lila Barry, S. Whitman, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. London, Mr. and Mrs. Charles G. Landon, Mr. and Mrs. George T. Bliss, Mr. and Mrs. James Mckeage, Mr. and Mrs. H. Hamilton Fish, the Misses Fish, the Rev. Dr. Henry L. Potter, Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Lyon, Mr. and Mrs. William Allen Butler, the Misses Butler, the Countess de Moltke, Mr. and Mrs. L. Coddington Bleecker, Mrs. Charles Van Norden, Mr. and Mrs. Dallas Bache Pratt, Mr. and Mrs. Schuyler Van Venslen, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Togg, Stacey Clark, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Robbins, Mr. and Mrs. Lovett Farragut, Mr. and Mrs. Jean Lawrence, Mrs. Warren, the Misses Warren, Henry Coe, Stephen Baker, Dr. Baldwin, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Martin, James D. Livingston, George French, Arthur Scribner, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Parkins, Mr. Mackenzie, Mr. Kirkland, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Clarke, Miss Mary Governor and Miss Joan T. Hoffman, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Neslit, the Misses Neslit, Mr. and Mrs. John Bigelow, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Morgan, Miss Agnes Bissel, the Misses Andrews, Mr. and Mrs. William Foll, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Jacob, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Lee, Dr. A. B. Mott, Mr. and Mrs. Josephine Rayner, Mr. and Mrs. Coggate, Miss Helen Richmond, Rossland Foll, Judge and Mrs. Benedict, Lieutenants Gilmore and McClellan, U. S. A., Miss Gertrude Lawrence, Miss Elizabeth Lawrence, S. Carter, James B. Townsend, the Misses Martin, Dr. Hornbrook Curtis, Dr. Donaldson Morton, Newbold Lawrence, Mr. and Mrs. Percy R. Pyne, Judge and Mrs. Barnard, Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Harriman, Mr. and Mrs. David Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. Joshua M. Fiske, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Pratt, the Rev. and Mrs. H. L. E. Pratt, the Misses Matthews, Miss Kate Cotting, Mr. and Mrs. Amos Cotting, and Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Wheelock.

MIDNIGHT WEATHER REPORT.

GOVERNMENT INDICATIONS.

Synopsis for the past twenty-four hours.

WASHINGTON, May 16—1 a. m.—The barometer is highest in Missouri and Illinois, and is lowest in the Middle Atlantic coast. General rains have fallen east of the Mississippi River. Northerly winds prevail in the Southern States; in the other districts they are light and variable. The temperature has fallen decidedly in Tennessee and the Ohio Valley and remained nearly stationary in the other districts.

Indications for to-day.

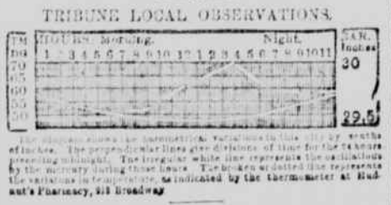
For the Middle Atlantic States, fair weather, preceded near the coast by light local rains, northeasterly winds, stationary or lower temperature, higher pressure.

For New-England, fair weather, winds mostly westerly, stationary or lower temperature, higher pressure.

For the Lower Lakes region, fair weather, light variable winds mostly southerly, stationary or higher temperature and pressure.

For the Upper Lake region and the Upper Mississippi Valley, slightly warmer fair weather, light variable winds mostly southerly, stationary or lower pressure.

TRIBUNE LOCAL OBSERVATIONS.



The diagram shows the barometrical variations in this city on the other side. The proper dicular lines give distances of time for the 24 hours preceding midnight. The irregular white line represents the barometer by its varying during these hours. The broken or dotted line represents the variations in temperature, as indicated by the thermometer at Hadnut's Pharmacy, 218 Broadway.

TRIBUNE OFFICE, May 16—1 a. m.—The movement in the barometer yesterday was downward and upward. Fair and cloudy weather prevailed, followed in the evening by light rain. The temperature ranged between 49° and 70°, the average (56¾) being 3¾° higher than on the corresponding day last year and 5° higher than on Monday.

Cloudy weather and possibly rain, followed by clear or fair weather, may be expected to-day in this city and vicinity.

A GREAT LAND SWINDLE.

BONDS SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN CANCELLED STILL IN THE MARKET.

Information of a bold attempt to dispose of some spurious bonds was given to Inspector Byrnes at Police Headquarters yesterday. The informant was John Henry, a publisher of No. 15 Vandewater-st., and the transaction grew out of an attempt to swindle him several years ago. The bonds are those of the Farmers' Improvement Company of West Virginia, and are 500 in number of $500 each. They were never properly sealed and are worthless, but a letter received by Mr. Henry a few days ago from Samuel Whitney, of Katonah, Westchester County, indicates that an effort is being made to dispose of them. The history of the whole transaction leading to their issue illustrates the deliberate methods of swindlers. In the winter of 1877, Henry says, at a meeting of several gentlemen interested in organizing a Brooklyn street railway, he met a Dr. Battle, a clever and pleasant mannered man, who afterward called on him several times. Finally Dr. Battle referred to a project he had in view of organizing a company to deal in West Virginia unimproved lands. He represented the enterprise as an excellent investment, and one that would do a great deal of good to the country. Subsequently he urged Henry to accept the trusteeship of the company, the conditions being that he should have sole control of the business and represent it at its New-York office. Dr. Battle introduced to Henry two men named Van Doren and Brown, manufacturers of artificial stone, whose office was in Broadway, as officers of the company, and also a J. H. Walters, of Plainfield, N. J., as an able manipulator of real estate.

These men appeared to be all that they had been represented, and the bonds were printed setting forth as security an aggregate of 368,337 acres of arable, iron and coal land in Wyoming, McDowell and Logan Counties, West Virginia worth, Dr. Battle said, fully a quarter of a million dollars. The bonds were to draw interest at 6 per cent from September 1, 1876, until September 1, 1895. The day was appointed for signing them, and it was agreed that they, together with a deed of trust, would be placed in the possession of Henry for him to carry out all the legal requirements. But instead of this they were taken to Walters's office in Plainfield, and neither Walters nor Battle was seen again. Brown and Van Doren informed Henry that Dr. Battle had told them that the bonds were taken to Plainfield for safe keeping. After several letters had been written to Walters he wrote that the bonds could not be turned over to Mr. Henry for certain legal reasons. Henry wrote declining to have anything further to do with the affair, and then another letter was received saying that the bonds should be cancelled and returned to him as dissatisfaction existed. Brown and Van Doren subsequently left New-York for the West, and Henry does not know whether they were parties to the attempt to swindle him, but he does not think that they were. Of Dr. Battle he has never been able to learn anything more. The letter he received a few days ago asks for information as to whether the interest has been promptly paid on the bonds, their market value, and where the office of the company is situated. The whole scheme is of a similar character to those recently ventilated in the courts of the city, and it is doubtful whether the West Virginia lands have any existence.

Inspector Byrnes has placed the case in the hands of detectives, and there is some prospect that the persons may be arrested.

A THREAT NOT CARRIED OUT.

THE DEBT OF THE CITY OF ELIZABETH TO THE SINGER COMPANY—EXTREMES NOT TO BE RESORTED TO AT ONCE.

For over a year the citizens of Elizabeth, N. J., have lived in the knowledge that it lay in the power of the Singer Manufacturing Company to destroy their corporate existence. The company and several of its directors as individuals are creditors of the city to the extent of nearly a million of dollars. Three years ago the Supreme Court decided that they were entitled to mandamuses against the owners to compel them to levy a tax to pay the debt. The case was taken to the Court of Appeals and the decision rendered below was affirmed. Still the manufacturing people having large interests in the city and knowing well that to try to collect their money by assessment would be simply peddling the city to the wall, since it would compel a levy amounting to 15 per cent, which little, if any, of the property could afford to pay, held their mandamuses in abeyance and began negotiations looking to a compromise. In fact the creditors, represented now by George H. McKenzie, president of the Singer Manufacturing Company, offered to take in settlement bonds to run forty years with interest averaging about 3½ per cent but their offer was rejected. Then the citizens offered practically to settle the debt one half and issue new bonds bearing 4 per cent interest for the balance. The creditors represented by Mr. McKenzie agreed to withhold their mandamuses and let the city try to put this plan into action, saying that they would consent to it if all the other creditors would. A year expired and the plan was proved to be a failure. Mr. McKenzie then extended the time of grace one month, and gave notice that after May 15 he would not extend the city's plan. The time expired, yesterday, and the expectation that Mr. McKenzie would swoop down upon the hapless borough created a little flutter among the citizens. The feeling was not profound, however, and in fact was secondary, so far as a public demonstration was concerned, to that created by the trial of three young men for the murder committed last year in a melee in which some laboring people and others became involved while on a happy excursion. Some of the city officials and others were inclined to treat the whole matter as a joke having been on the brink of dissolution so long, they have become used to the prospect, and regard recklessness of the consequences as well as scornful of combining the execution of a threat which they think would cost the creditors twice as much as it would the city if carried out.

City Attorney Bergen said that he thought that Mr. McKenzie's letter was merely what the lawyers call *bottom fodder*—a harmless thunderclap, designed only to try the temper of the people. If carried into effect, however, its results would be disastrous indeed, not only to the city, but to Union County. Elizabeth and Railway pay about 60 per cent of the taxes of the county administration, and thousands of people are even more hopelessly involved in the issue. If that be possible, then Elizabeth, if any city has been prompt in paying her share to the county," said Mr. Bergen, "but if a levy of 15 per cent be assessed it will be impossible to collect anything at all. Railway cannot support the county, and what will become of things must be left to the imagination to show how impossible it is for Elizabeth to pay such a levy. I will say that two years ago we took an inventory of the town and tried to arrive at the income of its real estate. Fifty average houses were shown to pay in rents only 3-8-10 per cent on their original cost, and thirty-one others only 2-10 per cent of the cost."

Mr. McKenzie's counsel is John W. Taylor, of Newark, who said to a TRIBUNE reporter last evening that he had drawn the mandamuses and was waiting for orders from Mr. McKenzie to have them served on the tax assessors. He gave it as his opinion that Mr. McKenzie was not anxious to resort to this course, as he knew what would be the consequences; and at any rate he would probably not be in a hurry. He wanted to get some satisfactory arrangements with the creditors. There was no cause for great hurry, since Mr. McKenzie's rights with relation to this year's tax levy could be preserved as well by the service of the writs in a month from now as at once. He thought that the matter would be held in abeyance for several days more at least.

THE UNION CLUB ELECTION.

Though no new ticket has been proposed for the coming election at the Union Club, the names of several members have been posted by their friends for election at the annual meeting. Among these names are those of Edward Cooper, Mr. Sheldon and Edwards Pierrepont. The two former are retiring members of the present Governing Committee, and the posting of their names for re-election is of course a stroke at the sub-committee's action given by the conservative clique who want things to go on as they have been in the past. John L. Cadwalader's name has also been mentioned, and considerable influence was brought to bear on him in order to persuade him to allow himself to be put up for re-election. He will, however, have nothing whatever to do with the matter, as, it is said, he has an objection to the election being made an occasion for the display of party feeling, or being in any way contested. There is no doubt that during the next ten days there will be much excitement and wire-pulling within the walls of the club, what with Colonel Kip's revolutionary resolutions, the iconoclastic tendency of the sub-committee's ticket, and the vigorous resistance to be made by the conservative faction. Oliver King, the secretary of the club, said to a TRIBUNE reporter last night: "I can really give you no fresh information. Various members have been proposed for election or re-election by their friends, and there will be, of course, some opposition to the regular ticket, but that takes place every year, and I see nothing strange about its happening this year as well."

Edwards Pierrepont, who was also seen, said: "Yes, I was told by members of the club to-day that my name was at the head of a ticket in opposition to that regularly nominated. That is all I know about it. I have been busy all day on a case in the Surrogate's Court, or I should have gone around to inquire about it. I shall do so to-morrow. If I find that my name has been proposed to bring about harmony between the warring elements in the club, I shall be glad to let it remain. But if I am proposed merely for the sake of making contention, I shall insist upon my name being withdrawn. For a year we have had nothing but squabbling in the club, and as a member of thirty years' standing and one who for many years served as a Governor, I deplore it extremely. Anything I can do to promote harmony shall be done, but I will never consent to serve as a bone of contention."

OBITUARY.

JOHN H. MORTIMER.

John H. Mortimer died at 1 p. m., yesterday, at his house, No. 556 Madison-ave., after a short illness. While conducting a prayer-meeting in the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church on Saturday night, he was stricken with apoplexy and he remained unconscious until he died. He had suffered a slight premonitory attack of the same disease about three months previous. His last and fatal illness is thought to have been brought on by Bright's disease of the kidneys.

Mr. Mortimer was in his sixty-first year. He was born in this city, and was graduated from Columbia College. He succeeded his father, John Mortimer, in the firm of Mortimer & De Bost, one of the oldest and largest clothhouses in this city. He retired from the firm in 1875, and had not engaged actively in business since. He held the position of director in the Union Bank, the Farmers' Loan and Trust Company and the Empire Fire Insurance Company. He was one of the originators of the Atlantic and Pacific Telegraph Company and was a director in the Western Union Telegraph Company until the two companies were consolidated, when he retired. Though not prominent in public gatherings or in politics, he was in a large degree charitable. At the time of his death he was president of the Eye and Ear Infirmary. He took great interest in the good works of Dr. Hall's Church, where he was an elder as well as the treasurer. Robert Bonner was one of his warm friends who were associated with him in church work. Mr. Mortimer's wife, who survives him, was a daughter of Henry Colt. His four children—two sons and two daughters—are all married and living. The funeral will take place in Dr. Hall's Church at 10:30 a. m. Friday, the pastor conducting the services. The burrial will take place at Woodlawn Cemetery.

THOMAS CHRISTY SHEPHERD.

Thomas Christy Shepherd, a wealthy manufacturer of this city, died yesterday at his home, No. 29 West Forty-eighth-st., after a short illness. He went to ride, according to his usual custom, last Wednesday evening, and on his return complained of feeling cold and ill. He grew worse, and inflammation of the bowels caused his death. His age was fifty-four years. He was the last surviving member of the firm of Christy, Shepherd & Garrett, wall-paper manufacturers of No. 510 West Twenty-third-st. Mr. Garrett died about a year ago. Mr. Shepherd lived by himself, his first wife having died and his second wife having been divorced and again married. It is not known whether he made a will, but it is supposed that the paper manufacturing business will devolve on a nephew, a Mr. Christy. The funeral will be at his late home at 3 p. m. to-morrow.

THE BILLIARD TOURNAMENT.

WALLACE DEFEATED BY DALY, AND CARTER BY SEXTON.

The second game of the Tammany Hall cushion caroms billiard tournament was played yesterday afternoon between Maurice Daly and Thomas Wallace. The game dragged along slowly until the seventeenth inning, when Daly got the balls in the upper right corner and ran 38. This he followed by 22 in the nineteenth inning, which placed him 50 ahead. In the twenty-fourth inning Wallace by fine play in the lower left corner scored 38, while Daly made nothing. In the twenty-seventh inning Daly had made 5, and was about to continue when Referee Seofield stopped him asserting that he had not counted. Daly became indignant, and his play was poor for some time. Wallace then began creeping up, and in the thirtieth inning passed Daly. He lost the lead in the thirty-seventh, when Daly regained his composure and by fine play scored 33.

From the thirty-seventh to fifty-sixth inning it was a "seesaw" game, each player passing the other three times. In the fifty-sixth inning Daly scored 24, and in the sixty-eighth inning by fine open play he ran 66. He made other runs of 45 and 19, and finally won the game by a score of 500 to 364. The following was the score:

Daly—1, 0, 2, 6, 1, 0, 3, 5, 7, 0, 16, 5, 2, 1, 10, 38, 5, 22, 3, 1, 4, 1, 0, 0, 0, 8, 0, 0, 0, 2, 0, 5, 1, 33, 0, 7, 0, 1, 2, 0, 1,