performer that our public has so long known and liked as the Pet of the Petticoats. Her mirth has the same childish ring. Her song is the same wild-bird warble. Her dance is the same exuberant overflow of animal spirits. She does not trouble herself with analysis of character, but she fully appreciates the value of dramatic situation, and her effects of this kind are always sharply made. No scene languishes in which she is present, and her playful humor and innate kindliness never fail to win for her an abundance of sympathy. Throughout her performance last night the audience was in a ripple of good-natured laughter, and at its close the crowd went away with pleasant feelings if with no especial substance of thought. Miss Lotta is the kitten of the drama, and people will always be interested and amused by her, who care for the gambols of that pleasing household pet, chasing its ball of yarn by the fireside. She has done good to many and harm to nobody, and her withdrawal from our stage will be the loss of much innocent pleasure.

MUSICAL NOTES.

There is ground for reasonable hope that England is entering a period of new development in creative musical art. The acceptance of Mr. Villiers Stanford's "Veiled Prophet" at Hanover, of Mr. Mackenzie's "Colomba" at Hamburg and of Mr. Goring Thomas's "Esmeralda" at Cologne, is a significant sign of the times.

The third annual mass concert of the Church Choral Union of New-York will take place on Thursday evening, May 31, in the Madison Square Garden. The Union will present a chorus of 3,300 voices, which, since January, have been undergoing drill in ten different centres. The musical director of all the centres is Dr. H. R. Palmer. The great organ used at the festival in the 7th Regiment Armory will be set up in the Madison Square Garden for this occasion.

THEATRICAL INCIDENTS.

Miss Mary Anderson will sail for England next Tuesday, May 29, aboard the Arizona.

Mr. Jefferson will end his season to-morrow at Chicago, and will come then to his country house in New-Jersey.

The cast of parts in Mr. Salmi Morse's wonderful play of "A Bustle Among Petticoats" is a portion of the current theatrical record, and is as follows:

Count Andrassi	Theodore Hamilton
Blondin, a shopkeeper	Frederick Paulding
Marquis de Vervieaux	J. H. Evesham
Jules, his clerk	T. Q. Seabrooke
Marquis Ego	F. M. Kendrick
Count Pluralis	C. R. Thorpe
Alonzo, a Moor	Charles Currier
Monsieur Burgess	Charles Steele
Andre, a postillion	H. Cheery
Francois	E. Stone
Etienne	Robert Ellers
Matteo	Alexander Small
Egouard	Thomas Crocks
Lorenz	William Carter
Ernest	H. Cooper
Pierre	George Bert
Baptiste	J. Williams
Jacques	H. Peterson
Duchesse de Bellerapport	Mary C. Blackburn
Fioretta de Vervieaux	Ida Aubrey
Marquise Adagio	M. E. Smith
Countess Fortissimo	Hazel Arnold
Mlle. Ange	Helen Gottschalk
Mlle. Rippert	Florence Arnold
Madame Le Blond	Dora Stuart
Clara Burgess	Harriet Evanson

MIDNIGHT WEATHER REPORT.

GOVERNMENT INDICATIONS.

Synopsis for the past twenty-four hours.

WASHINGTON, May 25—1 a. m.—The barometer is highest in the South Atlantic and East Gulf States and is lowest in the Lake Superior region. Occasional rains have fallen in New-England, and general rains in the Northwest and Lake Superior region. Southerly winds prevail in the Lake region and Ohio Valley, Tennessee and the Gulf States. There has been a general rise in temperature.

Indications for to-day.

For the Middle Atlantic States, fair weather, westerly shifting to southerly winds, stationary or higher temperature, nearly stationary pressure.

For New-England, fair weather, northwest shifting to southerly winds, stationary or higher temperature and pressure.

For Tennessee, the Ohio Valley and Lower Lake region, fair weather possibly followed by local rains, warmer southerly shifting to westerly winds, stationary or lower pressure.

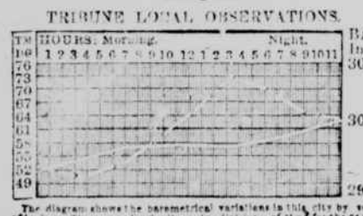
For the Upper Lake region, partly cloudy weather, local rains, southerly veering to westerly winds, stationary or lower temperature, higher pressure.

For the Upper Mississippi and Missouri Valleys, clearing weather, winds mostly northerly, stationary or lower temperature, higher pressure.

Indications for to-morrow.

Warmer fair weather is indicated on Sunday in the Middle and South Atlantic States.

TRIBUNE LOCAL OBSERVATIONS.



The diagram shows the barometrical variations in this city by weather o'clocks. The perpendicular lines give divisions of time for the 24 hours preceding midnight. The irregular waltz-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 Hoffman's Pharmacy, 218 Broadway.

TRIBUNE OFFICE, May 25—1 a. m.—During the clear and fair weather of yesterday the movement in the barometer was upward. The temperature ranged between 51° and 73°, the average (61⅜°) being 14° higher than on the corresponding day last year, and 4⅞° higher than on Wednesday.

Warmer and clear or fair weather, may be expected today in this city and vicinity.

DALY ALMOST A CERTAIN WINNER.

DION DEFEATED BY THE COMING CHAMPION—ANOTHER VICTORY FOR VIGNAUX.

Maurice Daly crossed cues with Joseph Dion yesterday afternoon at Tammany Hall and won an easy victory by more than 100 points. This practically decides the championship of the tournament in favor of Daly. He has won five games and has only to meet Schaefer. The choice for second place seems to be between Schaefer and Wallace. The game yesterday afternoon was rather a tame one, and there were only a few spectators present. From the start Dion played a losing game and the lead obtained by Daly in the first part of the game was held throughout. At the nineteenth inning the score stood, Daly, 101; Dion, 60. This lead was increased until at the sixty-fifth inning when Daly was 492 and Dion 338. Dion then made several fine runs and increased his score to 395. Then Daly ran the game out. The score was as follows:

Daly—1, 2, 0, 4, 0, 5, 7, 2, 8, 1, 0, 8, 15, 7, 0, 1, 16, 16, 8, 5, 0, 0, 1, 8, 28, 1, 4, 5, 4, 7, 3, 0, 2, 6, 27, 2, 21, 20, 0, 2, 0, 12, 39, 10, 0, 4, 0, 3, 23, 5, 18, 0, 2, 31, 0, 2, 3, 2, 14, 4, 0, 33, 6, 27, 9, 0, 0, 1, 5, 2—500. Average, 7 1-7.

Dion—4, 12, 1, 5, 4, 7, 4, 6, 2, 6, 0, 5, 0, 0, 2, 0, 1, 0, 1, 4, 5, 0, 0, 2, 0, 0, 3, 21, 3, 2, 0, 23, 13, 9, 0, 14, 1, 2, 0, 0, 4, 5, 16, 10, 1, 2, 6, 23, 2, 4, 0, 0, 1, 1, 14, 13, 0, 18, 36, 11, 5, 0, 3, 1, 25, 17, 0, 1, 14—395. Average, 5 9-14.

A large number of spectators were present at the evening game, which was played by Vignaux and Sexton. All thought that the Frenchman would have a walk over, but Sexton was in unusually good form, and though he did not give Vignaux a close race he still made the game interesting. In the fifty-first inning Vignaux, who had been playing the strongest game by far that he has played during the tournament, made 32 points. This he followed in the next inning by 26 and in the next by 13. These three runs placed him so far in advance of Sexton that it seemed absolutely useless for the latter to try to win. But Sexton did not think so. He found the balls on the upper right cushion. By making an almost impossible massé-bank draw he counted one, and drove the balls to the centre of the upper cushion. There he licked off point after point, showing extraordinary nursing power. All around the table he followed the balls, in the corners, out of the corners, everywhere—it seemed impossible for him to miss. He made 65, the largest run of the tournament, and the second largest run ever made at cushion-carroms. But such play, though brilliant, came too late. The Frenchman won by the following score:

Sexton—8, 26, 0, 2, 3, 0, 2, 3, 2, 2, 6, 3, 4, 7, 13, 0, 0, 2, 11, 4, 5, 17, 0, 1, 1, 3, 2, 1, 2, 1, 1, 15, 2, 0, 17, 1, 0, 1, 22, 3, 2, 65, 2, 1, 0, 5, 11, 0, 0, 0, 0, 58, 4, 0, 1, 28, 17, 11, 1, 7, 19, 2. Total, 451. Average, 6 49-62.

Vignaux—0, 3, 16, 22, 5, 0, 3, 0, 7, 11, 3, 2, 2, 10, 15, 9, 0, 9, 1, 2, 0, 0, 4, 26, 11, 17, 46, 20, 3, 11, 9, 4, 26, 7, 3, 2, 1, 17, 4, 10, 23, 11, 0, 0, 18, 25, 2, 1, 6, 0, 12, 12, 10, 0, 14, 0, 2, 0, 1, 1, 10. Total, 500. Average, 8 2-51.

Time of Game—Three hours and five minutes.

Two challenges have been issued by Vignaux, one to Schaefer for the balk-line championship at $500 a side, and one to the winner of the present tournament for the same stakes. Sexton has also challenged the winner of the tournament. All of these games are to be played within thirty days.

The game this afternoon will be between Carter and Wallace. In the evening Daly and Schaefer will play.

DAMAGES IN A SLANDER SUIT.

CINCINNATI, May 24.—A suit for slander brought by Miss Belle English against Clement L. English, was tried in the Superior Court to-day before Judge Force and a jury. The complaint alleged that Mr. English said that the plaintiff was a blackmailer and not his daughter. The question at issue was her paternity. The jury, after a short deliberation, brought in a verdict in favor of the plaintiff, awarding her $2,500 damages.

A STATEMENT DENIED.

In a letter to the Editor of THE TRIBUNE recently published a citizen of Memphis complained that the murder of a poor Swede in that city last February had been hushed up and the murderer discharged without trial. *The Memphis Avalanche* declares that these statements are "unqualifiedly false." It adds that there was a fair and exhaustive trial ably conducted on both sides, and that the utmost publicity was given by the press to quarrel, killing, testimony and arguments.

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON.

A CHARGE AGAINST MR. DEZENDORF.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, May 24.—The newspaper of which the acting Postmaster-General is editor, to-day contains a letter from Portsmouth, Va., alleging that Mr. Dezendorf, as financial agent of the Republican State Executive Committee in 1873, collected political contributions from employes in the Norfolk Navy Yard and caused the discharge of one man who refused to pay a contribution. If these charges are true Mr. Dezendorf was engaged ten years ago in transactions almost as reprehensible as those which the Acting Postmaster-General now attempts to defend and justify. It ought to be remembered, however, even by him, that about four months ago a law was placed upon the statute book, three sections of which read as follows:

SECTION 11.—That no Senator or Representative or Territorial Delegate of the Congress, or Senator, Representative or Delegate-elect, or any officer or employe of either House, and no executive, judicial, military or naval officer of the United States, and no clerk or employe of any department, branch or bureau of the executive, judicial, or military or naval service of the United States, shall, directly or indirectly, solicit or receive, or be in any manner concerned in soliciting or receiving, any assessment, subscription or contribution for any political purpose whatever, from any officer, clerk or employe of the United States, or any department, branch, or bureau thereof, or from any person receiving any salary or compensation from moneys derived from the Treasury of the United States.

SEC. 12.—That no person shall, in any room or building occupied in the discharge of official duties by any officer or employe of the United States mentioned in this act, or in any navy yard, fort or arsenal, solicit in any manner whatever, or receive, any contribution of money or any other thing of value for any political purpose whatever.

SEC. 13.—No officer or employe of the United States mentioned in this act shall discharge, or promote, or degrade, or in any manner change the official rank or compensation of any other officer or employe, or promise or threaten so to do, for giving or withholding or neglecting to make any contribution of money or other valuable thing for any political purpose.

This law the President and every other executive officer of the Government are bound by solemn oath to execute and obey, and Senator Mahone and every other Senator are bound by an equally solemn oath to observe and obey it. The penalty for the violation of this statute is a fine of $5,000 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years, or both.

RELATIVE TO DR. LORING.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, May 24.—In a recent dispatch to THE TRIBUNE it was stated that the official proceedings of the Mississippi Valley Cane Growers' Association as published did not contain a certain resolution expressing confidence in Commissioner Loring, and that the omission was afterward explained by a member of the convention as due to a savage attack upon the Commissioner by another member on the following day. The Secretary of the Association has published a letter in *The Rural World*, in which he says that the Loring resolution was omitted by mistake from the pamphlet publication of the proceedings; that it was unanimously adopted by the convention, and that no unfavorable comments whatever upon the course of Dr. Loring were made by any member of the St. Louis convention. It appears that the attack upon Dr. Loring was not made in the St. Louis convention, but in a later one held at Madison, Wisconsin, and that the two occasions were confused by THE TRIBUNE's informant. The gentleman who made the unfavorable comments upon Commissioner Loring has written a letter in which he says: "At the Wisconsin convention on the closing day ex-Governor Coleman expressed quite a solicitude about the awards upon the samples and reports of different ne-growers who had responded to the circular of the Commissioner, and, after quite extended remarks, asked if any one knew what was the matter. As no one responded I said that I thought some one ought to bell the cat, and possibly I knew more about the matter than any one else present. I asked the reporter to lay down his pen, as I did not care to be reported at this time. I then stated what I knew about the action of the Commissioner in relation to the sorghum business, and went through the matter of his action about the report of the National Academy of Sciences and his language about the sorghum business of the Department. After I had got through Governor Coleman expressed his great regret that I had not had what I said reported, as he regarded it as of the greatest importance that this thing should be known by all interested in the industry. In reply I said I hoped he (Loring) had become satisfied of his mistake, as evidenced by his going to the St. Louis convention and making his long speech about the sorghum interest, and I was willing to forgive him for what had passed if he only took hold and worked well in the future. . . . As a matter of course I have no kind of confidence in Loring now."

BIDS FOR POSTAL NOTES.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON May 24.—When the bill to authorize the issue of postal notes was under consideration in the House of Representatives an amendment was adopted requiring the Bureau of Engraving and Printing to submit proposals for doing the work in competition with private concerns. A good many Representatives thought that none of the latter would be able to do the work as cheaply as the Government could, it not being expected to realize a profit.

The bids were opened yesterday, the bidders being the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, the American Bank Note Company, the Homer Lee Bank Note Company, and the Columbia Bank Note Company. The bids have not been made public, officially, but it is understood that that of the Homer Lee Bank Note Company was the lowest.

This result was quite unexpected, and it is said to worry the officers of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. The contract will be for four years and will be a very large one. It is expected that the award will be made next week.

THE CASES OF BADEAU AND SICKLES.

WASHINGTON, May 24.—Judge Ferris, Second Auditor of the Treasury Department, has written to General Sickles in reply to a letter of inquiry, that the ruling recently made upon the application of General Adam Badeau for longevity pay under his commission as Captain in the United States Army on the retired list will also apply to him (Sickles). Judge Ferris holds that both these officers come under the application of Section 1,223 of the United States statutes, which provides that when an officer on the retired list of the Army or Navy accepts a commission in the consular or diplomatic service he thereby tenders his resignation as an officer of the Army or Navy and creates a vacancy which can be filled only by appointment. Judge Ferris holds that after an officer is thus out of the Army or Navy he can not be rehabilitated by any act of Congress; that the Constitution of the United States vests the appointment of officers of the Army and Navy in the President; and that in the case of the gentlemen named, they having by their own acts placed themselves out of the service, they can be restored only by the President, with the advice and consent of the Senate.

The papers in the case of General Badeau have been referred by Judge Ferris to Mr. Upton, Second Controller of the Treasury, whose decision may overrule or sustain that of the Auditor. If it be sustained, then the pay of all officers on the retired list whose status is analogous to that of General Badeau will be withheld.

THE HILL INVESTIGATION BEGUN.

WASHINGTON, May 24.—The committee appointed to investigate the charges against Mr. Hill, Supervising Architect of the Treasury, met to-day. Mr. Murch stated that he desired to take up the charges seriatim and complete the investigation under each head before proceeding to another. He would, therefore, take up first the matter of the Dix Island Granite Company and to facilitate matters would call upon the Architect's office for certain papers, which he enumerated. He stated that his object in asking for these papers was to show that great frauds had been perpetrated upon the Government; that the cost of public buildings had been increased far beyond any necessity, and that contractors had in some instances been paid ten times over the value of the services rendered. After discussion as to the mode of procedure an adjournment was had till to-morrow, with the understanding that Mr. Murch be permitted to inspect the files of the Architect's office and designate such letters and documents as he may desire to put in evidence before the committee.

SAMPLING IMPORTED SUGAR.

WASHINGTON, May 24.—The Secretary of the Treasury has issued a circular in regard to the sampling and classification of imported sugars and molasses under the act of March 3, 1883, and allowances for damage thereon. The circular contains regulations for sampling sugar in hogsheads, tierces, barrels, boxes, baskets, bags ceroons and mats, and for sampling melado and molasses; also for classification, estimation of damage and directions for testing sugar by the polariscope and method of adjusting the polariscope.

NAVAL INTELLIGENCE.

WASHINGTON, May 24.—Ensign John B. Bernadou has been ordered to special duty with the United States Geological Survey party at Winnemucca, Nev., under Professor Gilbert; Assistant Engineer Winfield T. Sample to special duty in the Western University of Pennsylvania; Assistant Engineer W. F. C. Hasson to special duty in the University of Colorado; Lieutenant-Commander R. B. Bradford has been detached from duty at the Torpedo Station and ordered to duty in connection with placing the electrical apparatus on board the Trenton; the orders of Lieutenant Nathan Sargent, assigning him to duty in the Naval Observatory, have been revoked and he has been ordered to continue on duty at the Washington Navy Yard.

The Navy Department is informed that the revenue cutter Corwin was to sail from San Francisco yesterday for Alaska. Ensign Stoney was on board with the presents from the Government to the Tenenutches Indians in the vicinity of St. Lawrence Bay. The presents are intended as a recognition of the services rendered to the crew of the Rodgers.

WASHINGTON NOTES.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, May 24, 1883.

HEIGHT OF THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT.—The Washington Monument to-day reached a height of 350 feet.

QUARANTINE STATION AT PENSACOLA.—The Surgeon-General of the Marine Hospital Service has established a quarantine station at Pensacola, Fla., with Surgeon Murray in charge.

A POST-OFFICE TO BE DISCONTINUED.—On July 1 the Brookline, Mass., Post Office will be discontinued and a branch of the Boston Post Office established in lieu of it. The carrier service of the Boston office will be extended to Brookline.

AN ORDER ABOUT LAND FILINGS.—The Secretary of the Interior has directed that in future Registers or Receivers of land offices must not receive filings upon odd sections of lands granted to railroads within the limits of grants withdrawn for indemnity purposes.

TO BE CLOSED ON DECORATION DAY.—First Assistant Postmaster-General, acting Postmaster-General, issued an order to-day closing all post-offices on Decoration Day between the hours of 10 a. m. and 5 p. m., except in the larger cities. In these cities the postmasters are to use their own discretion as to the hours of closing their offices.

TO ACCOMPANY THE GREELY EXPEDITION.—At the request of General Hazen, the Secretary of the Navy will order one of the vessels of the North Atlantic Squadron to accompany the vessel to be chartered at St. John's, N. F., for the Greely relief expedition. The object of having a convoy is to prevent the failure of the expedition in case any accident should befall the Signal Service steamer.

A COURT-MARTIAL PROBABLE.—Judge-Advocate Barr, who was sent to Philadelphia by the War Department to make an examination of the judicial proceedings and all the papers in the Nickerson divorce case, has returned to this city and will forthwith prepare a report. The investigation, army officers say, cannot fail to result in a court-martial of Major Nickerson for conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman.

PAUPER MORMONS FROM SWITZERLAND.—The Treasury Department has been advised that a party of pauper Mormons from Switzerland are on the way to New-York on the steamship Nevada, which sailed from Liverpool on May 17. Instructions were to-day sent to the Collector of Customs at New-York to co-operate with the Commissioners of Emigration to prevent the landing of these Mormons, provided they are paupers within the meaning of the immigration act.

CORRESPONDENCE FOR CHINA RETURNED.—The Post Office Department has received notice of the discontinuance of all Japanese postal agencies heretofore maintained at different ports in China, except at Shanghai, and in the consequent inability of the Japanese administration to assure any longer the delivery of the unpaid or short-paid correspondence of United States origin for destination in North China, other than Shanghai, which for some time past it has been the practice to send via Yokohama. In consequence of this information the Department has been compelled to direct the return to senders of the correspondence referred to.

NOT SUICIDE, BUT MURDER.

MYSTERY SURROUNDING THE DEATH OF EDWARD Q. STRONG—THE CORONER'S STATEMENT.

Edward Q. Strong, age thirty, whose parents reside at No. 32 West Thirty-first-st., was taken to Bellevue Hospital from No. 36 West Forty-fourth-st. at 11 o'clock on Wednesday night suffering from a pistol-shot wound in the right temple. He was unconscious when admitted, and remained so until he died, at 2 o'clock yesterday. The officer who accompanied him to the hospital told the house surgeon that it was a case of attempted suicide. Although the young man was very seriously wounded, it was not thought when he was admitted to the hospital that he would die from the effect of the injury. Death occurred at 2 o'clock yesterday. The body was sent to the Morgue and there it was viewed by Deputy Coroner Messemer, who came to the conclusion that the man had not committed suicide, as reported by the police, but had been murdered.

"I found," said Deputy Coroner Messemer, "that the skin around the wound in the temple was not discolored by powder, as is usual in cases of suicide, the pistol in such cases being held close to the head. Strong must have been shot by somebody else. The autopsy which I made indicated that the wound could not have been self-inflicted. The course of the ballet proved that conclusively. Besides there was a fracture on the right side of the skull, extending from the middle of the forehead back two inches behind the right ear. This fracture in no way corresponded with the pistol-shot wound, being about one inch below it. There was extravasation of blood over it. Another fracture was found on the left side, running from the temporal bone through the middle and anterior fossae. The man was dressed well. He evidently belongs to a good family."

Coroner Merkle informed Captain Mount last night of the result of the autopsy made by his deputy. Dr. Messemer is of opinion that the fractures were caused by sling-shots. Strong was a commercial traveller in the service of Lamoers, Frarey & Clark, of New Britain, Conn. He had been staying for several days at the Leland House.

Miss Clark, who occupies the house, told the police that Strong was very drunk indeed when he went to the house. She alleged that he had had no trouble with anyone in the house. She said that if his skull was fractured before he shot himself, the fracture must have been made before he reached the house.

THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY.

MONTREAL, May 24.—The Queen's birthday was celebrated in this city to-day by a military review which was witnessed by the visiting members of the New-Hampshire Guards. After the review the American visitors, at the invitation of Major Davidson, visited the Montreal Hunt and were agreeably entertained. They afterward visited the St. James's Club, and later were entertained at a special reception given them by Consul-General Stearns and wife at their residence. Toasts were drunk and speeches made. General Patterson gave sentiments in honor of Consul-General Stearns, to which the host made an excellent response. The good health of the President of the United States and the Queen of England was drunk amid great enthusiasm.

TORONTO, May 24.—To-day, the Queen's birthday, is being observed as a general holiday throughout the Dominion.

A BANQUET AT THE BRITISH LEGATION.

WASHINGTON, May 24.—The British Minister gave a banquet at the Legation this evening in honor of the Queen's birthday. Covers were laid for twenty-nine, and the floral decorations of the table were beautiful and emblematic. Two pieces representing the British and American flags graced the centre of the board. The Union Jack was composed of red, white and blue immortelles. The stripes of the American flag were of red immortelles and white carnations, and on a blue ground of immortelles were stars of white carnations.

Nothing could have been prettier or more effective than the stars and stripes in these flowers. The two flags were united by a magnificent crown of dark red carnations. Large heart and diamond designs of roses, tulips, lilies and other cut flowers were at the ends of the table, and these alternated with tall silver candelabra holding wax lights.

The Secretary of the Interior sat on the right of the host, and General Sherman on the left, the Chief Justice sitting opposite. The other guests were Admiral Porter, the Assistant Secretary of State, Senator Miller, of California, the Austrian, German, Spanish, French, Portuguese, Japanese, Chilian, Brazilian, Belgian, Peruvian, Argentine, Hawaiian and Netherland Ministers, the Charge d'Affaires of Russia and Italy, Commander Green, of the United States steamer Dispatch, Mr. Sauzin, Mr. Howard, Mr. Charlton and Mr. Johnson, secretaries of the British Legation, Chief Clerk Scrivion Brown and Mr. Chew, of the Department of State. The Swedish Minister, whose father died recently, and the Ministers from China, Switzerland and Denmark were unable to attend the banquet.

MOTHER AND CHILD FOUND DEAD.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

ST. PAUL, Minn., May 24.—News of a frightful domestic tragedy was telegraphed to *The Pioneer Press* to-night from Neche, Dakota. There has been for some time a smallpox epidemic in the half-breed settlement in Pembina Mountain District, three miles from Walhalla. For a week past the neighbors noticed that the premises of Antoine Gringras were deserted, and the house locked up. They broke in and found the bodies of Mrs. Gringras and a new-born child which had evidently been dead several days. Gringras had been absent from the neighborhood some time. He returned a few days ago and since died of small-pox. While Gringras and his wife were out riding they quarrelled and he gave her a terrible beating, and when they arrived home he locked her up in the house and fled. It is supposed that the woman gave birth to the child and died from the effects of the beating.

GOVERNOR-ELECT BOURNILL.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., May 24.—Governor-elect Bournill, whose inauguration is to take place next Tuesday, is at home to-day suffering from a slight attack of rheumatism.

A colored porter in an Austin store asked the proprietor for a day's leave of absence. "What's up now?" "Dar's a niggah gwine ter get married and I oughter be present to see him fru." "Who is this colored man at whose wedding you have to be present?" "Ise de niggah, boss."

MICHIGAN SALT WELLS.

FRESH NOTES ON A SAVORY SUBJECT.

HOW THE WELLS ARE WORKED AND THE SALT REFINED—MAGNITUDE OF THE BUSINESS—EFFECT OF THE TARIFF.

[FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

SAGINAW, Mich., May 21.—In 1882 there were eight million barrels of salt consumed in the United States. Nearly three-fourths of the quantity was made in this country, Michigan alone producing about three and a quarter million barrels. Salt was first made at Syracuse by white men in the year 1788, when the annual product was 100 barrels; in 1880 it was 1,600,000 barrels. The first salt was made in Michigan in 1860, when the annual product was 400 barrels; in 1877 it was 1,661,000 barrels. The salt business had grown more in seventeen years in Michigan than it had done in ninety-two years in New York. Of course it is not intended to make any reflections on New-York men as not being as enterprising as the civilized savages of Michigan.

The northern portion of the lower peninsula of Michigan rests on a series of piled-up saucers, it is said, that were formed at the bottom of sundry oceans in times past; and the lowest part of these several dishes, or the bottom of them, is immediately under the Saginaw Valley and Bay, this being the locality at which the brine is obtained and where almost all of the salt is made. But at Manistee, on the western edge of the State, at Marine City, on its eastern edge, and at Goderich and Kincardine, on the northeastern shore of Lake Huron, monster beds of rock salt are found, the depth of which, I am informed, has not been determined, although at one point the drill was sunk over a hundred feet into it without going through it. The probability is that this bed of rock salt underlies the whole of this brine-bearing region, and is the source of Michigan's pickle. Huron is about 800 feet deep, and Superior over 1,000. If this bed extends under the water of those lakes, as it probably does, then, even if it does not crop out into the water, the tremendous pressure of the lakes will drive the fresh water through crevice and seam and pore until it comes in contact with the salt, flows over it, dissolves it, and carries it up, under the same pressure, to the strata in which it is found as brine and from which it is pumped by all these wells along the valley and lake shore.

REFINEMENT AND GRADING.

Before a decade had passed in the development of this business in the State it was found that the salt had a bad name in the market, and packers would not buy it as long as they could get New-York or even Canaua salt. The reason was that some men would work up into salt everything that was in the brine; they didn't clarify it properly. The salt was full of "bitterings" and made the meat bad, and so it was "hog spoil hog" until it became evident that something must be done or the business itself would spoil. Then in 1869 the wise ones procured the enactment of a law requiring all salt manufactured in the State to be inspected. The effect was marvellous. From having to beg men to take it, the character of the product has so improved that it now takes precedence over all other salt among packers in the ever-fresh city of Chicago, the greatest meat-mart and slaughter-house of the world. In 1876 "The Michigan Salt Association" was formed for the purpose of still further advancing the salt business of the State. Six years ago the president of the association went to Chicago to get a fair show for his saline commodity, and the packers refused to touch it. The well-cured Michigander agreed to pay for all the meat that would spoil from being packed in his salt. He placed several car-loads on those conditions and went home happy. The result was astonishing. In 1882 there were 2,465,000 bushels of the salt of this association shipped direct to packers in bulk, most of it to Chicago, besides the enormous quantities of barrelled salt used for similar purposes all over the country.

Salt is manufactured in three grades: "Fine," "Packers'," and "Second Quality." A small quantity of solar salt is yet made in the State, and that too has its grades of "Coarse" and "Fine." Michigan salt, as shown by frequent analysis, is remarkably free from impurities, the percentage of chloride of sodium (pure salt) running from 94½ to 98½. The grade marked "Fine" is used for all general and family purposes. One often finds it on the tables about the country districts, while "out on the Plains," where much of it goes, it is said that one can easily see cattle, horses and family all eating Michigan salt out of the same barrel. There is a dairy-salt mill running in East Saginaw where the "block" salt is washed and ground, and it is said to be producing the purest dairy salt in the world. But I suppose everything up here must be taken *cum grano salis*.

PROTECTION FOR SALT.

The salt men are "mad as March hares" when anything is said about free trade. In 1860 salt was $1 80 per barrel. It is now 70 cents per barrel. The duty on salt has been 8 cents per hundred for years. There are 280 pounds in a barrel. The duty per barrel is thus 22 cents. That tariff enabled Michigan manufacturers to work and compete with foreigners. What has been the result? A reduction of $1 10 on every barrel of salt that is used in the country, and a saving to the consumers of salt in the United States in 1882 of over $7,000,000. Take off the tariff, the home production stops, and foreigners put up the price, make the United States pay it, and carry the money out of the country, and the thousands who lived in the business here are thrown out of employment. I tell you, these salt men are the hardest kind of savages to beat on an argument that I ever met. You can't scare them, either. Not even the fate of Lot's wife has any terrors for them. If a Saginaw Valley salt man could only get a patent on that ancient process of spontaneous crystallization, the world-old customs of cremation and burial would speedily fall into disuse. The dying would be made to look behind them and become pillars of salt. The living would dissolve them, evaporate the brine, and put them into the Chicago market as the best family salt in the world.

CLEANING AND REPAIRING WELLS.

The connections of a salt well are exceedingly numerous and run away into the earth just as family connections do. The "connecting-rod" by which the pump is worked is made up of connected rods. The "tubing" is made up of pieces securely connected, and the "casing," also, is good for nothing unless its various parts are properly connected. Like family connections, too, they are agreeable enough while everything goes smoothly, but when anything gets wrong they are apt to be troublesome. Here is a well that has been throwing weak brine and it is evident that the casing leaks and fresh water gets in. A crew of men come in to mend it. They begin by breaking up the family connections. The pumping-rod is disconnected piece by piece, the tubing is disconnected and set aside. The casing has been rusted down in that gullet of a hole so long that removing it is almost like tearing the œsophagus out of Mother Earth. They drive a sound wooden "plug" into it with an eight-hundred-pounds "sinker," and when they "get it solid" the engine tries to lift the whole. If they cannot start it or cannot unscrew a joint, they jerk out the plug and send down a "knife" which cuts the casing open from top to bottom. Then "the devil catcher" is sent down, and he, she, or it never fails to bring the sinner home.

Sometimes a well gets "foul" and has to be cleaned out. Nitro-glycerine is the gentle aperient that is administered at such times and they call it "pooh" the well. The tubing is removed and the torpedo lowered by a line into the "salt rock." Then a "messenger" is sent down on the same line—an iron weight it is—to explode the can. Sometimes the messenger gets lost in the dark or caught, and the explosion does not take place. Then they have to haul the torpedo up again. The workman stands over a blind, deep hole in which somewhere he has seen him and the explosive there is a messenger that has not done its work, and knows that it may be jarred loose and do its work at any moment. The whole work of making and mending salt wells is about the most complete illustration of "going it blind" that can be found in the world.

METHODS OF CRYSTALLIZATION.

In "solar" evaporation the brine is led from the cisterns into "strings" of "covers," where it is exposed to the rays of the sun until crystallization takes place. This is a slow process, although it gives purer salt perhaps than can be obtained by artificial heat. Next to solar in point of origin comes evaporation by the "kettle block." By this process the brine is boiled down to salt in large kettles placed in ovens over fire-arches. An improvement on this was the "pan." The idea of the kettle was evolved, the kettle was flattened out, made large on the bottom, and shallow. This allows more rapid boiling and consequently a speedier crystallization than could be had in the kettles, but the greater heat is full of danger to the salt, as it is apt to take up so much of the impurities in the agitated water as to injure its quality. This method has almost entirely been superseded in Michigan by the "steam salt block," in which salt is made entirely by steam heat. A steam block is considerable of an institution, so to speak. Here are the points of one that I know. Building, of wood, 208 feet long, 90 feet wide, 16 feet high at eaves, 40 feet high at ventilators, with a chimney-stack rising 10 feet higher. It contains two "settlers," each 140 feet long, 9 feet wide and 4 feet deep, together with four "grainers," each 150 feet long, 10 feet wide and 18 inches deep. In the settlers and grainers there are immersed in the brine 3,744 feet of four-inch galvanized iron pipe; and the numerous "connections" necessary to make a working relationship among the pumps, cisterns, settlers, grainers and boilers make a whole of over 9,000 feet of pipe. Under the same roof are fourteen salt-bins and a packing-room, adjoining which is the salt-shed, 230 feet long by 150 feet wide.

Let us go into a steam block and see how it is done. The brine has been "limed" in the cisterns outside and allowed to stand forty-eight hours. It has become clearer than Boston's Cochituate water, and is drawn into the "settlers" inside. There the temperature is raised to 175° Fahrenheit, and evaporation goes on until "saturation" is reached, which takes about twenty-four hours. It is then drawn into the "grainers," the temperature is raised to 185°, and crystallization begins. Every morning the salt is lifted and the grainers refilled. The salt is wheeled to the bins, where it drains fourteen days and is then inspected and packed.

But the visitor is already quite lost in the fog that fills the block clean down to the door. Be careful where you step, there or you will get yourself into a most uncomfortable pickle. Close down to the grainers the air is clearest. When you get down there you are in the presence of a most unique activity. The brine is as clear as a dewdrop, and the white salt-flakes, formed on the surface, fall slowly through the heavy liquid air as it were, to the growing pile beneath like great feathery snow flakes floating earthward through a quiet sky. As the water rises from this still surface in vapor you can almost see the little molecules of salt taking leave of their companion molecules of water with whom they have lived and sailed in the happy idleness perhaps of the ancient seas; and as those rise on their new-found wings into the world of air, these rush into each other's arms and die to build a beautiful crystal monument to the days that were but are no more, and so sink in eternal sleep upon the gleaming mound.

COMMERCIAL CONSIDERATIONS.

A steam block costs about $40,000. It takes about twenty-five men, coopers and all, to run one, and their wages will average $1 87 per day. The fuel is the refuse of the mills—slabs, bark, sawdust—and may be said to cost nothing. The salt costs the manufacturer about 50 cents a barrel, including the barrel, in cash, saying nothing of the interest on the plant. But the wear and tear on the machinery is heavy, and that must be added to expenses yearly, and it will bring the profits on salt at 70 cents a barrel down to a very small amount. The amount of capital invested in the manufacture of salt in the State is about $5,000,000. The gross value of the saline product of Michigan for 1882 was about $2,500,000.

But notwithstanding the meagreness of the profit the number of wells is steadily increasing, because the demand for Michigan salt increases from year to year.

If these savages up here keep on pumping until they have drained the lakes and dried up Niagara Falls by running the water down over that bed of rock salt on which the old Devonian ocean dried up and died, then I don't see but what they will have to shut down for a flood; but as long as the lakes last there will be plenty of brine, as good as it is now; and even after the timber of the State has been cut and sawdust is worth a premium for Saginaw beer saloons, the salt men can send their canoes down with salt and bring them back full of coal and so still continue to make salt cheaper than it can be done anywhere else in the United States. Hence the pine forests may go, the ash and the cedar may vanish, birch bark may become so scarce that the canoe and the wigwam shall be seen no more along these beautiful shores, but salt will still remain a most salubrious factor in the long-enduring future of the State. And when not a tree of the once magnificent forests remains, when the war-whoop of the Chippewas and the Ottonas, the Bay-citerras and Saginaws has vanished like the howl of a drunken spree, and all this fair soil teems with the growth and life of productive farms, thousands of these salt-well towers will index the land; and it shall come to pass that a man shall be judged here, not by his "sand," but by the quantity and quality of the "salt" which he can produce.

POLITICAL MOVEMENTS.

KENTUCKY REPUBLICAN CONVENTION.

LEXINGTON, Ky., May 24.—In the Republican Convention last night, on the sixth ballot Thomas Z. Morrow received the nomination for Governor by the following vote: Morrow, 539, Goodloe, 350. The nomination was made unanimous. The convention concluded its session to-day after nominating General S. S. Fry, of Danville, for Lieutenant