'84 (captain and stroke), Mumford, '84; Storrow, '85; Borland, '86; and Sawyer, '83. Sawyer is now in the Law School, and it is doubtful if he can spare the time to row another race. Besides the above, Curtis, '83, who stroked the '81 and '82 crews, is in the Law School, and will, perhaps, be able to fill a seat in the '84 boat. The crew now in practice is as follows: Bow, Yocum, '85; 2, Keith, '85; 3, Borland, '86; 4, Mumford, '84; 5, Hamlin, '84; 6, Cabot, '86; 7, Storrow, '85; stroke, Perkins, '84. The crew has adopted a course of training entirely new at Harvard. In former years it was the custom to go into strict training at the very beginning of the year. Last year, however, Captain Hammond did not put the crew in training until after the Christmas holidays. Captain Perkins has adopted a middle course, and takes the men out for a pull on the river only three days in the week.

THE DRAMA—MUSIC.

EDWIN BOOTH.

It is nineteen months since Edwin Booth was last seen on the New-York stage. He took leave of this public on April 29, 1882, at Booth's Theatre (since then demolished), in the character of *Richard III.* A little later he went to England, appearing at the Adelphi Theatre, in London, and subsequently making a tour of Great Britain, and he was everywhere received with admiration and honor. Then he made his famous expedition into Germany, which was attended with all that the public enthusiasm, the homage of scholars, and the favor of Princes can contribute to the recognition of genius and worth. Last summer he returned home, and, until his Boston engagement began (November 5), he lived in retirement, chiefly at Newport. His performances at Boston during the last three weeks have drawn great crowds and have elicited the praise of even the coldest and most fastidious judges of dramatic art. Edwin Booth is the leader of the American stage. His renown is established. His past services to this public are not forgotten. And his return to the capital,—which will be made on December 10, at the Star Theatre,—ought to excite, and doubtless will excite, the liveliest interest throughout this community. Mr. Booth's engagement is to last four weeks. The first week will be devoted to "Richelieu" and "King Lear"; the second to "Hamlet" and "The Fool's Revenge." Mr. Booth's company includes Eben Plympton, D. C. Anderson, Frederic Bock, Affie Weaver, Owen Fawcett, John A. Lane, Ida Vernon and Louisa Eldridge, with Mr. W. H. Daly for stage manager. These are all good names, and there is every reason to anticipate that the plays will be mounted and performed in a manner worthy of the scholarship of a great actor and the taste of an educated public.

WALLACK'S THEATRE.

The last performances of the play of "Moths" are now passing at Wallack's Theatre. This piece was produced on the 18th of October, and it will have its last representation on December 1. It will then have been played forty-two times. Rose Coghlan and Caroline Hill have maintained it in favor by their earnest and skilful acting and the charm of their contrasted personalities. For them the career of "Moths" has been a triumph of brilliant talents. On December 3 Mr. Wallack will effect a revival of "The Road to Ruin," and John Gilbert will make his re-entrance as *Mr. Dornton.* Mme. Ponisi will enact the *Widow;* Mr. Howson, *Goldfinch;* Mr. Tearle, *Harry Dornton;* and Miss Measor, *Sophia.* This is an auspicious cast of a fine old play. Mr. Wallack has also underlined a new drama. The health of Mr. Wallack, who has been very ill during the last three months, is slowly but steadily improving.

THEATRICAL MISCELLANY.

Mr. Bancroft, at the Haymarket Theatre, London, has brought out a new play by Mr. Pinero. It is brigat and unconventional, and it bears the happy title of "Lords and Commons." Mr. Bancroft himself has been acting *Loris Ipanoff,* in "Fedora," and though uncertain and indefinite on the first night, his performance subsequently became strong and fine, in its quiet power, its true feeling, and its innate refinement and elegance.

This is the cast of the principal parts in "Monte Cristo," as revived this week at the Fifth Avenue Theatre, by Mr. John Stetson:

Edmond Dantes	James O'Neill
Noirtier	Frederic De Belleville
Albert de Moncerf	Forrest Robinson
Villefort	G. C. Boniface
Fernando	J. V. Mellon
Danglars	James Taylor
Caderousse	J. W. Shannon
Abbe Faria	Horace Lewis
M. Morel	J. L. Carhart
Old Dantes	J. Swinburne
Mercedes	Eugenie Ruff
Carconte	Annie Brandenot
Mlle. Danglars	Marjorie Bonner

"In the Ranks" has met with all the favor that was expected, at the Standard Theatre, and it remains there for the present. It is an interesting and showy play, and very popular. Reports of the continued success of its kindred, "The Silver King," and "The Lights o' London," occasionally drift in from the country. Another melodrama, "The Stranglers of Paris," described as "Belasco's Masterpiece," is current at the New-York Theatre, and has improved and edified many persons. This is a theatrical synopsis of some of the stories of the French writer, Belot, and Mr. Henry Lee as *Jagon,* a strangler, is painfully and vividly conscientious in it. Agnes Booth likewise acts in this piece, with her accustomed force and taste.

MUSICAL NOTES.

The vocal recitals by Mr. and Mrs. Georg Henschel will take place on the afternoon of December 4 and the evening of December 11, in Chickering Hall.

Mrs. Anna Bulkley Hills will give a concert in the Madison Club Theatre to-morrow evening, with the help of Miss Ella Earle, Mlle. de Ronka Ravasz, Theodore Toedt, Franz Remmertz, Emilio Agramonte and a male quartet.

The Sacred Harmonic Society in London, which was dissolved last year after an honorable career of half a century, and immediately reorganized, gave its first concert on the 16th inst., when Sir G. A. Macfarrin's oratorio, "King David," was performed for the first time in London. The work was composed for the last Leeds festival.

Some of the most delightful performances of English glees ever heard in New-York were those given for several years by the English Glee Club led by George E. Aiken. These concerts were interrupted two or three years ago. It is a pleasure to record that they are to be resumed this season. Three subscription evenings of glees will be given at Chickering Hall on December 22, February 7 and March 27. The club is composed of William Dennison and George Ellard, tenors, and W. H. Beckett and George E. Aiken, basses. Assistance will be had from the club's helpful friend Miss Henrietta Beebe, Mrs. Sarah B. Anderson and Caryl Florio.

We believe that negotiations are pending between Mr. Mapleson and M. Hengel, the Parisian music publisher, for the production here of Leo Delibes's opera "Lakmé." It is to be hoped for several reasons that they will have a favorable outcome. In the first place, after the butchery which his opera has received at the hands of one of the itinerant opera companies in the West M. Delibes is entitled here to a worthy performance of it. In the second place, it is an interesting work, well worthy of hearing in the American metropolis. In the third place, we have with us a charming artiste, who studied the title character with the composer—Mme. Gerster. A private letter from a friend of M. Delibes states that he is exceedingly desirous that Mme. Gerster shall appear in his work here. It concludes: "Nous parlons souvent de cela avec Delibes qui est resté sous la charme de sa belle voix et la merveilleuse intérpretation de role de *Lakmé.*"

MARRIED ON THANKSGIVING DAY.

Miss Grace Ellen Coope, daughter of the late David Coope, was married to James M. Hasbrouck yesterday, at No. 251 Bainbridge-st., Brooklyn. The Rev. Dr. Cornewell, of the Church of the Good Shepherd, performed the ceremony. The best man was Francis Alsdorf and the "best girl" Miss Goodwin. The bride wore a travelling-dress of dark blue velvet, with bonnet to match. There was a reception after the ceremony and the bride and groom started for Washington.

THE BRIDGE, THE FERRY AND STRANAHAN.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: I see by your paper of to-day that the grip repeated its usual performance of dragging the cable off the drum and refusing to let go until the machinery was stopped. The other day it was a grip that let go half way over. When some terrible accident happens and a score of human beings are horribly mangled and crushed, this thing may be stopped. Hundreds of people are afraid to allow their families to cross on the Bridge, recognizing the fact that, with a grip that will neither clutch nor release the cable when desired, a frightful disaster is only a question of time. Significantly, in connection with these repeated failures on the Bridge, the papers also announce that Mr. Stranahan, the ruling spirit of the trustees, has been elected a trustee of the Union Ferry Company, whose supreme interest it is that the mismanagement, failure and disaster on the Bridge should continue. Almost simultaneously, when a strong company, composed of some of the wealthiest men in America, offers, under the penalty of a large bond, to become responsible for a perfect system and a reduced fare, Mr. Stranahan, alarmed for his ferry stock, moves to lay the proposition contemptuously on the table. It seems to me that it is of vital importance that Mr. Stranahan, of the Ferry Company, should not be allowed to suppress it. After wasting thousands of dollars on the roller grip of Colonel Paine and finding it a failure, I see it is now proposed to experiment with the grip of one of Paine's underlings, a Mr. Matheson. In other words, Mr. Stranahan, running the Bridge, will continue to see that it is of no practical use, and Mr. Stranahan, running the Ferry Company, will continue to pocket the profits. MANHATTAN.

New-York, Nov. 21, 1883.

[We should not think this just to Mr. Stranahan. Still, it doesn't please the public to see a common interest in control of both bridge and ferry.—*ed.*

"SAFE BIND, SAFE FIND!"—Young Spoonbill: "Au, my dearest Miss Shillinworth, if I may—I have long wished for this sweet opportunity, but I hardly dare trust myself now to speak the deep emotion——. But, 'n short, I love you!—and—your smile would sled—would sled—would——" Miss S.: "Oh, never mind the wood-sled! How's your aunt's money invested? and where are the securities deposited?!!" [Punch.

WINDSOR THEATRE BURNED.

A BRILLIANT FIRE IN THE BOWERY.

NARROW ESCAPES OF PERSONS IN HARTMANN'S HOTEL, OVER THE THEATRE.

The play at the Windsor Theatre, in the Bowery, last night was "My Partner." The audience was large and enthusiastic, and when it dispersed the Bowery was full of life and noise. An hour later, however, there were comparatively few people in the street. Just before midnight, as Officer John Appel, of the Tenth Precinct, was passing the main entrance, he discovered flames and smoke issuing from under the main staircase. He immediately gave an alarm. The flames spread with wonderful rapidity, lighting up the streets around and scattering sparks by the myriad. Second and third alarms were almost immediately sent out.

Over the theatre is Hartmann's Hotel, the halls of which were filled with smoke almost as soon as the fire was discovered. There were about fifty guests in the house, the most of whom were rudely awakened to find themselves in danger of suffocation. Most of them, however, were enabled to escape by the main staircase into the Bowery or by the rear exit into Chrystie-st.

A front room on the second story was occupied by Johanna Young and her husband, who were awakened only to find that escape by the stairway was impossible, the flames having gained such headway By the bravery of Fireman Michael J. Reilly, of Hook and Ladder Company No. 6, both were rescued. A ladder was raised, and, quickly running up it, he entered the room. He first brought down the woman, who by that time was unconscious, and returning immediately he took the man upon his shoulders and brought him safely down amid the cheers of those who witnessed his brave act.

Morris Cohen, one of the first to enter the hotel, found a woman on the third floor, who insisted upon going back to save her effects. With difficulty she was forced out of the building.

Among the first to rush into Hartmann's Hotel was James H. Lent, age eighteen, of No. 114 Meserole-st., Greenpoint. Making his way to an extension from the third floor of the hotel he found a Frenchwoman, who was unable to speak a word of English, wandering about the hall in a bewildered manner. He endeavored to persuade her to leave the building, but she went into one of the rooms and tried to make young Lent understand that she wanted to take away a large trunk which was in the room. After much persuasion Lent succeeded in getting her to leave the trunk and he carried her into the street.

The flames found plenty of combustible material to feed on, and the signs of a great conflagration in the sky brought spectators from every direction; but a strong force of police kept the lines well, and gave the firemen plenty of room to work.

By 1 o'clock, although the flames were still shooting up, it was thought that the fire was under control.

For those who had no property at stake and could view the progress of the flames with comparative indifference, the scene was magnificent. Immediately above the theatre hung a cloud of the brightest roseate hue, which by its varying depth accurately reflected the fierceness of the flames raging beneath. The air was filled with sparks and burning embers that fell in a starry shower in Canal-st., and rendered it almost impassable. Immediately in the rear of the burning building on Chrystie-st. are a lot of tenement houses. Soon after the flames had broken out the terror-stricken occupants began to move their effects to the opposite sidewalk. Willing neighbors lent assistance and speedily the sidewalk was filled with furniture and household utensils. The poor people, herded together like so many sheep, waited in momentary expectation of seeing the flames break out in front of them in the houses which many of them had so hurriedly left.

Schnitz, Israel & Co.'s furniture store, No. 37½ Bowery, appeared in imminent danger, and the goods were all removed to the opposite side of the street by 1 o'clock. There they were piled up in picturesque confusion and the highly polished furniture shone like mirrors in the full blaze of the flames.

All the buildings on either side of the doomed building are used as lodging apartments above, while the ground floors are either cafes or concert halls. They were flooded by the firemen promptly on their arrival at the fire. The flames, however, succeeded in reaching and gutting the ground floors of No. 41 Bowery. This place is known as the Eden Concert-Hall on the first floor. The progress of the fire was stopped at this point. To reach the Eden Concert Hall the fire had eaten its way behind No. 43, which is also a hotel. This building was not damaged except by water.

The loss on both the hotel and the theatre will not exceed $200,000. The hotel is owned and conducted by Christian Kramer, while the theatre belongs to William C. Martin. The hotel is built of brick and is four stories high. The greater part of the loss is covered by insurance. The lessee is John A. Stevens.

The origin of the fire was not ascertained.

On January 7, 1882, Inspector Esterbrook, of the Bureau of Buildings, reported the Windsor Theatre as unsafe, and predicted that should a fire occur in it during a performance the consequences must be disastrous; that the walls of the theatre were out of plumb, and that the means of egress from the auditorium and stage were insufficient. He suggested certain repairs, and notice was served on the owner to make them. Proceedings were begun by the Buildings Department to compel the owner to tear down the walls, Judge Van Brunt rendered a decision on March 1 following holding that in the sense of the law the walls were not unsafe. He further said in his opinion that it had been proved that in case of fire the walls of the building were not strong enough to withstand the effects of great heat. But he held that this fact did not authorize the Court to direct the walls to be taken down. If they were strong enough to stand alone under ordinary circumstances and when the building was used in the usual way, the Court could not interfere.

EXCITEMENT IN A TENEMENT-HOUSE.

A fire broke out at 2:15 a. m. yesterday in the five-story rear factory at No. 51 Crosby-st., and damaged the building to the extent of $2,000. Gerado Gemotto, manufacturer of macaroni, lost stock valued at $3,000. The fire caused much excitement among the inmates of the tenement-house in front of the factory. Smoke filled many rooms while the fire was at its height, driving the occupants into the street. Patrick Rogan, a young waiter, who occupied one of the rear rooms, was overcome by the smoke. He was taken out insensible by the firemen and removed to St. Vincent's Hospital. The cause of the fire was not known.

OCALA, FLA., DEVASTATED.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Nov. 29.—A dispatch to *The Times-Union* gives further particulars of the great fire at Ocala. It was more destructive than at first supposed, two-thirds of the business houses of the town and five residences being burned to the ground. The fire broke out at about daylight and was caused by the upsetting of a lamp in a store, and, driven by a northeast wind, swept around two sides of the public square, consuming everything in its course. The loss is estimated at $200,000. The insurance is about $80,000.

SAXONVILLE MILLS BURNED.

SOUTH FRAMINGHAM, Mass., Nov. 29.—The Saxonville Woollen Mills at Saxonville, owned by Michael Simpson, were burned this morning. Five buildings were destroyed. The company employed 500 hands. The loss on buildings and machinery is $150,000; loss on stock and insurance unknown.

A HOTEL AND A FACTORY BURNED.

BOSTON, Nov. 29.—A fire was discovered this morning in the Hotel Clifton, a five-story brick building, situated at Berwick Park and Columbia-ave. The inmates fled in their night-clothes, escaping without injury. The fire was confined to the one building. George B. Taylor, owner of the building, loses $15,000. The losses of the occupants were slight. The building was insured for $125,000.

GROVELAND, Mass., Nov. 29.—Charles Stickney's shoe manufactory was burned last night, throwing 100 hands out of employment and causing a loss of $40,000; insurance, $32,000.

A GIANT'S REMAINS UNEARTHED.

From The Charleston (W. Va.) Call.

Professor Norris, the ethnologist, who has been examining the mounds in this section of West Virginia for several months, the other day opened the big mound on Colonel B. H. Smith's farm, six or eight miles below here. This is the largest mound in the valley and proved a rich store-house. The mound is fifty feet high, and they dug down to the bottom. It was evidently the burial place of a noted chief, who had been interred with unusual honors. At the bottom they found the bones of a human being, measuring seven feet in length and nineteen inches across the shoulders. He was lying flat, and at either side, lying at an angle of about 45 degrees, with their feet pointed toward their chief, were other men, on one side two and on the other three. At the head of the chief lay another man, with his hands extended before him, and bearing two bracelets of copper. On each side of the chief's wrists were six copper bracelets, while a looking-glass of mica lay at his shoulder and a gorget of copper rested on his breast. Four copper bracelets were under his head, with an arrow in the centre. A house twelve feet in diameter and ten feet high, with a ridge-pole one foot in diameter, had been erected over them, and the whole covered by the dirt that formed the mound. Each of the men buried there had been inclosed in a bark coffin.

ALL READY FOR A MINING FEVER.

THE RUDIMENTS OF A "BOOM" AT LISBON, DAKOTA.

[FROM A OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

LISBON, Dakota, Nov. 12.—It is a cheerless journey from Fargo, by the Fargo and Southwestern branch of the Northern Pacific Railroad, to Lisbon, D. T.—the little place which woke up one day three weeks ago to find itself made famous by the announcement that gold had been found in its vicinity. There are towns and settlements along the line, but they do not occur with bewildering frequency; they do not follow each other so fast but that with a very slight knowledge of short-hand a man may keep count of them as they pass. First there is Horace—a handful of houses which look as if they must have had some difficulty in squeezing themselves in between the track and a bare, leafless wood which forms a sombre background to the yellow frames. Then, after a long stretch of prairie on one hand and ploughed land on the other, Davenport, a double handful this time, sprinkled about the level land apparently without any definite arrangement, but dotted promiscuously like the pieces on the board in the middle of a game of chess. Then more prairie and Sheldon—looking bigger and more solid than either of the two towns and in considerable contrast to Buttzville, the next place, where the *hero Eponymus*—H. D. Buttz—keeps an "everything store" by the side of the track, and appears to constitute in his own person the entire population of the place. These are not the only towns along the road, but prairie towns are not things which are made after any great variety of patterns, and it is not necessary to keep a large stock on hand for descriptive purposes; especially where they are all about the same size. The towns are all on the right hand (or western) side of the track, and round them and behind them stretches the prairie; while on the left lie miles upon miles of wheat land.

Nor is there much life. Now and again a team—probably bullocks—on one hand or the other, and now and again a few cattle, which of course are on neither hand but on the track in front. It has never been satisfactorily explained why cattle—and especially calves—should be so fond of grazing on the dusty track. It is true that neither ploughed land nor scorched prairie can afford more than an indifferent sustenance, but that must be a sanguine calf which expects to get a meal off railroad ties. However, there is no need to quarrel with the calves and their preference of track as pasturage, because their presence, with the stops it demands, infuses some small variety into the journey which, though only three hours long, sadly needs something to break the monotony of level landscape before Lisbon is reached. Shortly before arriving at Lisbon the first sign of uneven ground since leaving Fargo shows itself, scraps of woodland get more frequent, and just before the town comes in sight the track crosses a bridge over the Cheyenne River.

It is impossible not to feel some respect for a town which has been so much talked about as Lisbon has of late, or at least something of the same curiosity with which one regards a man who, from being a commonplace, hard-working member of society, has suddenly come into a large fortune. Perhaps this makes one think Lisbon looks larger than it really is, but certainly it seems, struggled as it is over a mile or so of country and with a setting of river bank and trees, a place of considerable size as one runs into it on the cars. It does not daunt its wealth, however, obtrusively before strangers. The nuggets which strew the ground about the depot and up the main street are not so large or numerous as to suggest ostentation or shoddy. Indeed a man may pick up pretty well all he sees on the way to the hotel, and yet have his pockets not unconveniently loaded. Nor is there that lavish display of gilding and filagree about the houses which we might expect such a *nouveau riche* among townships to affect; they are ordinary frame buildings enough, and even the dress and manner of the people on the streets are quite unassuming and in no way suggest the bearing of newly fledged millionaires. And where is the excitement and "gold fever" which the papers speak of as raging in the town? It almost looks as if the malady must have "struck inward," for certainly there is little sign of it on the surface either of the town or the people.

This, indeed, is the first thing one discovers in the place, that the reports which have been current in the papers as to the enormous influx of visitors, the topsy-turviness of all business and the general upsetting of the public mind have been grossly exaggerated. The first day or two after the discovery was made public there doubtless was great feverishness and abundance of all the other unwholesome symptoms. But that has now not only slightly, but entirely, subsided down and given place to an ordinary business-like state of affairs. There is no disturbance of business; residents say it has made no difference to the population or tone of the place; and one does not hear the subject mentioned half a dozen times a day. And there is no reason why it should make any disturbance at all. The ordinary prairie country around Lisbon contains probably about the same amount of free gold as does any other section of Dakota, and a man would get about the same profits out of washing it as he would out of a placer mine in Union square. It is good wheat land enough, but though men on the first alarm scattered all over the country and proceeded to scratch and worry the prairie in every direction, they soon gave that up, for not a "color" of free gold was found in the neighborhood.

The original proclamation of the find merely stated that a certain ledge of rock, some eleven miles from this place, contained gold in sufficient quantity to repay the working parts of it having assayed $20 and even $40 to the ton. The gentlemen who made the announcement also said (and every one knew it to be true) that they had been living close by the ledge in question for more than two months previously, and during that time they had pretty well prospected and assayed the whole district, and it was not till they had assured themselves that the thousand acres which they had bought and taken up included about all that was worth having in the neighborhood that they made their discovery public. Other parties took up one or two claims in the neighborhood where there was supposed to be some of the same rock (the rock in question, by the way, being of a light porous formation, apparently partly stalactite, and said to resemble closely some of the auriferous portions of the Black Hills), and one assay from another spot some four miles further from here is said to have shown a result of $13. That is doubtless another portion of the same ridge, but beyond that ridge, which runs northward from the Cheyenne River, parallel with a small tributary of that stream, the rest of the country is hopelessly discouraging to gold-seekers, and neither on the level nor along the river bank is there a trace of the precious metal. The only thing to do now, therefore, is to sit and wait till the machinery (which has long been ordered) for working the supposed mine arrives from Chicago. H. W. Griswold and the three other gentlemen who are his partners in the ownership of the rock neither solicit nor will accept outside investment. They say they are quite satisfied to work the lead themselves, and are confident as to the result. The public is less confident, but there are probably as many who believe in it as there are who hold it to be a fraud. If it should prove worthless no one but the four men interested will suffer; but if it "pans out" richly, then there will be some excuse for excitement, and the excitement will come surely enough, and "Griswold," as the town site plotted out by the ledge is to be called, will be a flourishing settlement before the summer comes around.

Meanwhile, however, nobody does anything more than wait for the result of the first working, and if anybody in the East thinks he feels the first symptoms of gold-fever coming on he would better check them at once and wait for a few weeks until there is something to justify his getting sick.

THE WEATHER REPORT.

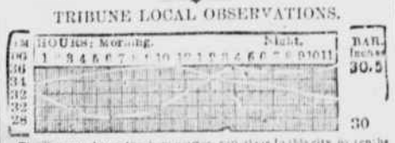
GOVERNMENT INDICATIONS.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 29, 1883.

For New-England, warmer and partly cloudy weather and light snow in northern portions, south to west winds, lower barometer.

For the Middle Atlantic States, warmer generally fair weather, south to west winds, lower barometer.

TRIBUNE LOCAL OBSERVATIONS.



The diagram shows the barometer and thermometer in this city in tenths of inches. The perpendicular lines give divisions of time for the 24 hours preceding midnight. The irregular white line copies all the oscillations of the mercury during those hours. The broken or dotted line represents the variations in temperature, as indicated by the thermometer at Hallwat's Pharmacy, 218 Broadway.

TRIBUNE OFFICE, Nov. 30—1 a. m.—During the clear weather of yesterday the movement in the barometer was downward. The temperature ranged between 28° and 36°, the average (32⅝°) being 3½ higher than on the corresponding day last year was 5° lower than on Wednesday.

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

SIZE OF SKULL DETERMINED BY EDUCATION.

—M. Cliquet's investigations, as communicated to the Société de Méd. Publique et d'Hygiène, show some peculiar facts relating to the influence of brain work on the growth of the skull and brain. In the case of the educated classes the dimensions of the head uniformly exceed, in a marked degree, those of the neglected classes, and the frontal diameter is also much more considerable. Nor are both halves of the head symmetrically developed; in studious persons the left frontal region being more developed than the right, while in illiterate individuals the right occipital region is larger than the left. On the whole, these curious investigations prove, without question, that the heads of studious persons—those who have worked much with their brains—are far more developed than those of illiterate persons; the frontal region of the former, too, is more developed than the occipital, or in case of any difference in favor of the latter it is very small, while in illiterate people the reverse is the fact.

"This country is so new, you know," remarked the tourist; "you have no ruined Abbeys." "No," was the reply, "it looks more as if Mapleson would catch it fully as soon."—[Boston Musical Record.

THE PRESIDENT'S MAIL.

A FLOOD OF PRAYERS FOR MASON.

POSTAL CARDS POURING IN AFTER THE PARDON WAS ANNOUNCED—WHAT PETITIONERS SAID.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Nov. 29.—One of the newspapers played what amounted to a practical joke upon the President the other day, though it was not intended as one. In an evil hour the thought struck one of its editors that postal cards cost only a cent apiece, and that it was thus within the power of every citizen to exercise the right of petition to the President for a small sum in behalf of Sergeant Mason and "Betty and the Baby." It may not be true that the President saw the paragraph and pardoned Mason on the spot, but it is a fact that the postal cards only began to come in when the pardon had already been announced. They came in hundreds and continued for two or three days. How many there would have been if the President had not pardoned Mason, it would be hard to guess.

The cards made an interesting collection as they were stacked in neat bundles on the desk of Private Secretary Phillips. A great many were from women, educated and uneducated; a number from soldiers. Some handwritings showed extreme age; others were from children, or signed by whole families. Many showed singular ideas of etiquette in addressing the President, and said without a word of preface or politeness, "Pardon Sergeant Mason." Scores of cards said not a word more. Perhaps nine out of ten contained a request that Sergeant Mason should be allowed to eat his Thanksgiving turkey with Betty and the Baby. One writer evidently felt that the President was likely to grow tired of this refrain, and summarized it thus: "Sir: Mercy—Pardon—Mason—Thanksgiving. Be just and fear not." This was signed by four members of a family, the last evidently a young boy. One card gave Portia's description of mercy. One card, unsigned, bore this rather pathetic inscription in a trembling hand: "Please liberate Sergeant Mason, and answer the prayers of a gray-headed mother."

"Annie," evidently a little girl, wrote: "Mr. President: Please pardon Sergeant Mason. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy." A Philadelphia boy's card was more practical, perhaps: "If you want to be the winner in '84 you will have to let the Sergeant brave eat Betty's turkey dinner." Many cards addressed the President as "C. A. Arthur, esq., Dear Sir." One of these ran in this sharp fashion: "When do you propose to give Mason his liberty and have people think there is some good in you?"

There was one dissenting voice, and only one: "Don't, please, pardon Sergeant Mason. Let him serve his full time. It is healthy discipline. Its effect, pro or con, is very far reaching. Newspaper sentimentality and self-appointed censorship needs some rebuff. Your course is to be commended. I think, by thoughtful person. This may never reach your eye and doubtless will not. Still I have satisfied my conscience."

These were some of the more striking of the cards: "Of any good act let the first be the pardon of Sergeant Mason. For the sake of humanity, your own credit, and all that is pure in the administration of justice, pardon Sergeant Mason at once. He that knoweth and judges all our actions is holding you responsible for your delay."

"Dear President: Won't you please pardon Sergeant Mason, a man that has long been imprisoned for a crime I am sorry he did not accomplish."

"It will be a duty and a charity to all us fathers for you to consider the matter of pardoning Sergeant Mason before Christmas."

"If you desire another four years' lease of the White House you will hearken to the prayers of this free and enlightened nation and pardon Sergeant Mason."

"Do please let Sergeant Mason have his Thanksgiving dinner with Betty and the baby."

"Will you release Mason, or do you grow proportionately happier as his imprisonment is lengthened and his misery thereby intensified?"

"Would be very glad to see you pardon Sergeant Mason before Thanksgiving. Betty and the baby will then have something to thank you and at the same time to thank God for."

"Hope you will read this. In all homes where the father of the household graces festive board on Thanksgiving Day, oh, don't let Sergeant Mason's table have vacant chair. He still in prison when our kind-hearted President can let captive free, and so glad to hear his wife and children as well as thousands of others in this Republican city. One of your strong, firm lady admirers."

"President Arthur: Make two votes by letting up on Mason. Blank & Bro." It is not known what Blank and Bro. will do with their votes now that they see that the President pardoned Mason before their postal card reached the White House.

From this showing it would seem that the President's mail may, under some circumstances, become a burden. Yet it is not so large as many might expect. It often falls as low as fifty letters a day and seldom exceeds 100, unless some specially important appointment or measure is pending. Nine-tenths of these, it is said, are apt to be 5th Department matters and ought properly to be addressed to the department. Almost every mail brings some letter from "cranks," which are duly filed under the head of "Eccentric"—a subdivision about as large as any in the White House files.

Occasionally letters even come from lunatic asylums. One of the interesting features of the clerical work of the White House is that the entire time of one of the seven clerks is occupied in reading the hundreds of newspapers received. This is done simply to keep the run of editorial opinions, which are classified in scrap-books by their subjects and preserved, thus making a history in one way of an administration. This system was begun under President Hayes. The clerical work of the White House is so well systematized that a President has little labor with his letters and papers. The great drain upon his physical powers is in the stream of callers, many of whom come with affairs with which he is not concerned at all, and which he is obliged to refer to the departments.

ILLEGAL CERTIFICATION OF CHECKS.

THE MATTER TOUCHED UPON IN THE CONTROLLER'S REPORT.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 29.—The completed annual report of the Controller of the Currency contains a chapter on the illegal certification of National bank checks. The Controller being in doubt as to the proper construction of section 13 of the Act of July 12, 1882, referred the matter to the Attorney-General, who rendered an opinion on November 24, 1882: (1), that a National bank cannot legally accept checks drawn upon it where the drawer has not already deposited therewith the amount stated in the check, and, (2), that the limit imposed by section 5,202 extends to liabilities incurred by the certification of checks, and that such acceptance by a bank, without the existence of funds on deposit, to an amount exceeding in the aggregate the amount of its paid in capital, would be a violation of that section.

The proposition for the establishment of a stock clearing house, such as is in operation in London, Vienna, Berlin, and other large cities in Europe, was in the meantime brought forward and discussed. An organization was formed and the plan was twice placed in operation, and it is said by those who are well acquainted with such transactions to have been practicable. It was abandoned during the last few weeks, chiefly, it is said, through the fears of some of the banks and stock brokers that it would diminish the magnitude of their business. In the month of August it was rumored that the failure of a firm of brokers had resulted in a loss to the stockholders of the Wall Street National Bank by an overcertification or acceptance of checks, and an examination of this bank confirmed the rumor, and furnished evidence of an overcertification of the checks of this firm in excess of their balance of cash on hand to the amount of $199,899. The Controller thereupon, on September 27, addressed a letter to the Secretary, inclosing a certified copy of the Examiner's report, with the request that he would transmit the same to the Attorney-General for his action. This information was soon brought to the attention of the United States District-Attorney in the City of New-York, the result of which was the indictment of the teller of the bank, who appeared before the United States Commissioner and was held to bail to plead at the December term of the Court. As soon as the proceeding became known to the bank it went into voluntary liquidation on October 17, and immediately thereafter was converted into a State bank, under the laws of the State of New-York. The trial, under this indictment, will test the law, which provides for a fine or imprisonment of any officer of a National bank who shall certify checks in violation of section 5,208, United States Revised Statutes.

This proceeding should result in the organization of a stock clearing house, or of some other action by the stock board and the banks, through whom this kind of business is transacted, which will render it unnecessary for National banks to certify brokers' checks, or lend their credit for such large amounts in the future. It is respectfully submitted that the law as it now stands makes it a criminal offence for an officer of a bank to certify the check of a dealer who may inadvertently overdraw his account for a few dollars in the payment of an ordinary obligation; and it certainly should be amended so as to exempt such ordinary business transactions from the penalty imposed. In conclusion, Controller Knox calls attention to the successful operation of the stock clearing house in the city of London, quoting an assertion of *The London Economist,* that "as a piece of time and labor saving mechanism it has undoubtedly achieved success," and appending an editorial article of that journal, dated October 6, from which he says it appears that operations of equal magnitude with those in New-York are successfully conducted, although the settlements are made fortnightly, instead of daily, as in New-York.

THE ROLL OF THE NEW HOUSE.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 29.—The Clerk of the House of Representatives has completed a roll of the new House. There are two vacancies in the list, one each from Mississippi and Virginia. Mr. Manning, who received the certificate for the 1th Mississippi District, has not filed his certificate with the clerk, and it is unofficially stated that he will not do so, nor claim any benefits from its possession, unless the House shall act adversely upon the claim of Mr. Chalmers to the seat. Mr. Chalmers has filed with the clerk affidavits and certificates to prove that by reason of a clerical error the vote of Tate County cast for himself was recorded as having been cast for J. R. Chambliss. Among the papers is the statement of the official who made the error, acknowledging that fact under oath. The Virginia vacancy is caused by the resignation of John Paul, who has been appointed to a Judgeship. This seat was contested by O'Ferrall, the Democratic opponent of Mr. Paul, and the vacancy, it is understood, is not to be filled until the House shall have acted upon O'Ferrall's claims.

With election of Mr. McPherson's successor as Clerk of the House of Representatives, that gentleman will have completed an incumbency of the office covering a period of fourteen years.

THE SUPPRESSION OF POLYGAMY.

A NEW MEASURE TO BE INTRODUCED BY GENERAL ROSECRANS.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 29.—General Rosecrans, Member of Congress-elect from the San Francisco district, has prepared the following measure, which he will introduce in the House of Representatives at the earliest possible opportunity after its organization:

A Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States prohibiting polygamy:

Whereas, In pursuance of our duty to guard the development of that larger and more rational liberty for every unit of society, and that higher civilization which consists in the domination of reason and justice over the passions, by needful constitutional amendments and provisions we have forever prohibited such things as reason and experience have shown to be hostile or impeding to such development, and among them the slave trade and even slavery itself; and

Whereas, Polygamy, condemned for its contravention of reason, its injustice to women, its degrading influence on the character of the female sex, its brutalizing effect on the male sex, and its general repugnance to the spirit of modern freedom and progress, has always been considered so unlikely to be tolerated among us that no constitutional prohibition of it has hitherto been deemed necessary to prevent its growth under the protection of State and Territorial law; and

Whereas, The absence of such prohibition has enabled designing men, under pretence of a new revelation from Heaven, to appeal to the interests and passions of poor ignorant people at home and abroad, and to teach them that religion sanctions and the United States allows the practice of polygamy, and to diffuse the poison of this barbarian practice through the Territories of Utah, Arizona, New-Mexico, Idaho, Montana and Wyoming to the great injury of the future well being and liberties of the inhabitants thereof, and to the interests and good name of the whole people; therefore,

By the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, be it

Resolved, That pursuant to the provisions of Article V. of the Constitution of the United States, the following amendment to said Constitution be, and the same is hereby proposed for ratification by the Legislatures of the several States, to wit:

Amendment XVI. Section 1. Polygamy, being incompatible with our civilization, is forever prohibited in the United States and all places under its jurisdiction.

Section 2. Congress shall have power to enforce this by appropriate legislation.

Resolved, That the Secretary of State shall promptly forward authenticated copies of this joint resolution to the several States.

OBITUARY.

COLONEL C. O. SANDFORD.

PETERSBURG, Va., Nov. 29.—Colonel C. O. Sandford, one of the oldest civil engineers in the South, died here to-day at the age of seventy-three years. He was born in New-York State in 1811, but had lived in Virginia for many years. Under his direction that portion of the Norfolk and Western Railroad running from Petersburg to Lynchburg was built. He also supervised the building of the Augusta (Ga.) Canal, and the railroad running from Chatham, Va., now a part of the Raleigh and Augusta Air Line. In 1856 Colonel Sandford was elected Superintendent of the Petersburg and Weldon Railroad, and in 1863 he was elected president of the company, which office he afterward resigned. His remains will be taken to Savannah, Ga., to-morrow for interment.

DR. GEORGE W. BAGBY.

RICHMOND, Va., Nov. 29.—Dr. George W. Bagby died this evening at the age of fifty-five years. He was for some time before the war Washington correspondent for several leading papers in New-Orleans, Charleston, S. C., and other Southern cities. He was a humorist and satirist. He was an excellent historian of Virginia life and customs and was well known as a lecturer. Dr. Bagby's most popular works were: "Letters of Billy Bretus to Mozis Addams," "What I Did with My Fifty Millions," "Meekins' Twinses" and "Rubenstein's Playing." Several years ago he wrote a series of letters for *The Baltimore Sun,* under the head of "New-England, as Seen from the Back Door," which attracted attention.

WILLIAM E. STEVENSON.

PARKERSBURG, W. Va., Nov. 29.—William E. Stevenson, Governor of the State from 1869 to 1871, died to-day at the age of sixty-four years.

RICHARD F. CLARK.

ATCHISON, Kan., 29.—Richard F. Clark, well known in railroad circles, died here to-day. He came from New-York.

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