Amusements To-Night.

BIJOU OPERA HOUSE—8—"Orpheus and Eurydice."
CASINO—8—"The Beggar Student."
DALY'S THEATRE—8:15—"Dollars and Sense."
GRAND OPERA HOUSE—8—"Cheek."
HAVERLY'S SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS—8—"The Princess of Madagascar."
HORTICULTURAL HALL—Exhibition.
MADISON SQUARE THEATRE—8:30—"The Rajah."
NIBLO'S GARDEN—8—"Excelsior."
NEW PARK THEATRE—8—"The Stranglers of Paris."
STAR THEATRE—8—"Our Boarding House."
STANDARD THEATRE—8—"In the Ranks."
THEATRE COMIQUE—2 and 8—"Cordelia's Aspirations."
THALIA THEATRE—8—"Three Pairs of Shoes."
UNION SQUARE THEATRE—8—"Storm Beaten."
WALLACK'S THEATRE—8—"The Road to Ruin."
3D AVENUE THEATRE—8—"Friend and Foe."
5TH AVENUE THEATRE—8—"Monte Cristo."
14TH STREET THEATRE—8—"Fedora."

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Business Notices.

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No. 1,007 Third-ave., near Sixtieth-st., 10 a. m. to 8 p. m.
No. 208 East One-hundred-and-twenty-fifth-st., 4 to 8 p. m.
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New-York Daily Tribune.

FOUNDED BY HORACE GREELEY.

NEW-YORK, TUESDAY, DEC. 4.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN.—Poole, the murderer, of Kenny, was refused a new trial yesterday. ═══ Protestants in Wexford, Ireland, were assaulted by a mob. ═══ It is reported that England, Germany, America, Russia and France will unite in protecting their interests in China. ═══ Five Spanish officers have been arrested for being connected with an insurrectionary plot. ═══ Bands of invaders have entered Persia.

CONGRESS.—The first session of the XLVIIIth Congress began yesterday. ═══ In the Senate nothing was done beyond qualifying new members. ═══ In the House Mr. Carlisle was elected Speaker over Mr. Keifer; the organization of the House was not completed.

DOMESTIC.—There were 405,882 votes in favor of the proposition to abolish contract labor in the prisons and 266,966 against it. ═══ E. S. Martin, former manager of the Ideal Opera Company, was prevented from committing suicide at Utica, yesterday. ═══ Samon, the murderer of a Mrs. Ford and a Mr. Ruddy and his child at Laconia, N. H., confessed his guilt yesterday. ═══ John H. Tilden was shot by an unknown man at Peru, Ill., on Sunday night. ═══ It has been discovered that a contractor robbed the Wabash, St. Louis and Pacific Railroad of $50,000. ═══ Ex-Senator McDonald in conversation yesterday expressed approval of Mr. Carlisle's views on the tariff.

CITY AND SUBURBAN.—The steamship Alaska ran down a pilot-boat off Fire Island about midnight on Sunday; all those on board the boat—an indefinite number—were lost; the name of the boat is not known. ═══ The Bartholdi Pedestal Art Loan Exhibition was opened yesterday. ═══ The Congregational Club discussed "Marriage and Divorce." ═══ Three negro children were burned to death in a tenement-house fire. ═══ The will of the murderer Chisholm, recently executed, was probated at Newark. ═══ The tenth anniversary of the Reformed Episcopal Church was celebrated. ═══ A young girl was abducted from Astoria. ═══ Gold-value of the legal-tender silver dollar (412½ grains), 84.89 cents. ═══ Stocks were feverish and lower, and closed weak.

THE WEATHER.—TRIBUNE local observations indicate warmer, clear or fair weather. Temperature yesterday: Highest, 34°; lowest, 25°; average, 29°.

If the strike for higher wages which the exhibits in a dime museum in Cleveland have set on foot should spread very much, it means serious trouble for the proprietors of these highly instructive places of moral amusement. The number of bearded ladies, living skeletons, giants, fat girls and pink-eyed Albinos who speak without a brogue is painfully small; and if they should get up a "corner" on themselves, the outlook in the show business would be bad. It is not possible to speculate largely in "futures" in this line of products. So the Bowery at least would be all broken up.

The celebration which will take place to-day in the old Fraunces's Tavern, at Broad and Pearl sts., will be of more interest to the warm admirers of Washington's character than to the public at large. It was in this same building a hundred years ago that the Commander-in-Chief of the American Army bade farewell to his faithful officers. It was a scene full of pathos, and seemed to the brave men who took part in it to be sadder than it really was. For as it proved Washington was not leaving the service of his country, but was merely starting for a new post of duty as the first President of the Nation which honors itself by calling him Father.

Last Sunday was one of the quietest Sundays this city has enjoyed for a long time, much to the disgust of sly topers. The explanation is not hard to find. It is the new interpretation placed upon the Excise law by Inspector Thorne. The police have been instructed not to recognize any longer the licenses of liquor-sellers who have been convicted of violating the law. So a conviction now does not mean only a fine of $10 or even ten days' imprisonment. It means the ruin of the liquor-sellers' business. It is to be hoped that Mr. Thorne's interpretation of the law will be sustained. But if it should not be, it will furnish the next Assembly with a hint as to how one clause of a new Excise law should read.

The members of any association for mutual benefit or pleasure have an unquestioned right to spend their common fund for what purposes they please. It is a little hard for outsiders, however, to understand the principles which govern some of the expenditures. Take, for instance, that admirable organization, the Odd Fellows. The annual report of the work done by them in New-Jersey for a year past shows, among other things, that while $3,094 46 was spent for the relief of deceased members' families and for the education of their children, $12,666 30 was paid out for the funeral expenses of these deceased members. We hope the explanation of the difference between these amounts is that the Odd Fellows of New-Jersey are so rich that when they die their families need no assistance.

The sinking of a pilot-boat and her yawl by the steamship Alaska is a remarkable accident as well as a sad one. According to some observers, it is the first of its kind on record. Pilots, all the world over, form a specially careful class of mariners, who realize fully the peril they run in putting one of their number on board an incoming steamship. In this manœuvre, it seems, the pilot-boat drops its yawl containing the pilot to be put on board, and then cuts across the bows of the steamship, which by this time should have nearly stopped moving, in order to take up the yawl, which drifts astern. In this accident, the pilot-boat, instead of getting safely across the Alaska's bows, ran into her, or was run over by her. Then the yawl floated against the great vessel's side, and was capsized. Thus it was a double accident, and no one belonging to the pilot-boat is living to tell the tale. But it is plain enough that if the Alaska was going as slowly as she ought to have been, the unfortunate commander of the pilot-boat made a fatal mistake in calculation, which none of his class has been guilty of before in many years.

MR. PECKHAM'S OPPORTUNITY.

We lately took occasion, in common with the press of the whole city, irrespective of political character, to point out to Governor Cleveland the splendid opportunity he had of gratifying the public demand which THE TRIBUNE has frequently presented, that the District-Attorney's office be taken absolutely out of politics. He has undoubtedly given general satisfaction in his appointment of Wheeler H. Peckham as District-Attorney in place of the late Mr. McKeon. Mr. Peckham is a man of ability long since recognized and approved. He is not identified with local factions. His personal character is such as to justify the belief that his office will no longer be run in the interest of gamblers, lottery and policy swindlers or violators of the Excise laws, and that it will not be longer under the domination either of Democratic factionists, Centre-st. shyster lawyers or personal favorites.

Now comes Mr. Peckham's opportunity. He doubtless knows—at any rate he ought to learn, and can learn by proper inquiry—that the severe strictures upon his predecessor pronounced from the bench and by the press generally, were directed really against the acts of some of Mr. McKeon's assistants. It was recognized at the time, and excuses were made for the head of the office on that ground. Pursuing his inquiries, Mr. Peckham will learn that the public distrust of the ability and character of some of these assistants still continues, and is not likely to be removed solely because there is restored confidence in the chief of the office. Mr. Peckham must recognize this if he desires success. To attain it in the brief term allotted to him before another election he must look forward to early changes, and to the selection of aids possessing both ability and character. Without such improvement in the staff, public faith in the efficiency of the District-Attorney's office can never be fully established. That is Mr. Peckham's opportunity.

SPEAKERS OF TWO HOUSES.

The simultaneous choice of Speakers for the House of Representatives and the British Commons affords a striking contrast in constitutional methods. Mr. Carlisle having received a caucus nomination secures the full vote of his party and obtains a political office of enormous power. In the appointment of standing committees and in the general direction of the business of the House he will administer that office in the interest of the party which has elected him. This was formerly the practice of the British Commons, the election of a Speaker being the first formal trial of strength between political parties after a general election. In 1874, however, the Conservative party changed the precedent by retaining in office Mr. Brand, who had been appointed Speaker by the opposite party after a long period of service as "whip." Being reappointed in 1880, he has survived several changes of administration. Upon his voluntary retirement, the office, which may fairly be said to have ceased to be a political one, is offered to Mr. Goschen by the Ministry upon their own responsibility. It is practically a Cabinet appointment, although the Commons will be expected to register in some formal way Mr. Gladstone's decision.

Mr. Goschen, unlike Mr. Carlisle, may be described as uncertain in his political views. Like Mr. Brand, he is a Moderate Whig, who has more in common with the old-fashioned Conservatives on the other side than with the Advanced section of his own party. Acknowledged to be, with the exception of Mr. Gladstone, the ablest and most original financier in England, he would have been Chancellor of the Exchequer in the present Cabinet if he had been able to overcome his prejudice against the extension of the County Franchise. Mr. Gladstone, forced to find employment for him outside the Cabinet, sent him to Constantinople as Special Ambassador. In the Egyptian debates he gave the Government powerful support, and contributed largely to the success of the experiment of legislative committees at the last session. His attitude toward County Suffrage, which will probably be the main question of the approaching session, rendered his position on the Liberal benches an embarrassing one. Accordingly he has taken refuge in the Speakership, an office for which he has special qualifications by virtue of his force of character, his intellectual activity and his parliamentary experience. Mr. Goschen is not a loyal, progressive Liberal, whose sympathies will be excited by the legislative measures of the party in power. On the contrary, he is a faint-hearted Whig, who if he followed his political instincts would vote with the Conservatives against County Franchise and other Liberal reforms. If the Speakership had not ceased to be a political office, so singular a selection could not have been made.

Mr. Carlisle, like a great majority of his colleagues in the American House, was educated for the bar. Mr. Goschen represents better than any other member of the Commons the moneyed classes of English society. Elected originally from the City of London, he has remained one of the most trusted servants of the great financial corporations of the metropolis. Seven years ago he went to Egypt as the agent of the English bondholders, and introduced that specious system of financial control which subsequently became the political and diplomatic instrument of two jealous nations. He stands to-day for Lombard Street, the banking interest and capitalists generally. He has many of the qualities of mind and judgment which distinguished Lord Overstone, the real author of Sir Robert Peel's Bank Charter Act, who died a fortnight ago at an advanced age. In almost every English obituary of this millionnaire banker regret is expressed that he should have been so few years in Parliament and not have taken a larger part in political life. Men of that class are valued in the Commons as possessing qualities that are pre-eminently useful in the conduct of government. In Washington they are not held in as high esteem. Mr. McCulloch was an admirably-equipped Secretary of the Treasury, and Mr. E. G. Spaulding was one of the most sagacious members of the House during the Civil War; but ordinarily the bankers remain in the background and the lawyers have the Treasury and the halls of legislation to themselves.

MR. CARLISLE'S ELECTION.

Mr. Carlisle was nominated as a tariff reformer. He was supported by that section of the Democratic party which has grown tired of Mr. Randall's policy of keeping quiet and letting industry alone. He was the choice of the free traders, the "bold spirits," the men who refuse to be afraid of their platform; and from all that conservative wing of the party which is found north of the Potomac and east of the Alleghanies he received in the caucus only one vote. It is useless to deny the significance of his election. It means that the Democracy has passed under the control of the hotheads, and that our "business interests" are not to be consulted any further. Yet in his speech yesterday Mr. Carlisle declared that "sudden and radical changes in the laws and "regulations affecting the commercial interests of the people" would not be favorably received at this time. Evidently the new Speaker sees the need of hedging at once. He perceives that great damage has been done to his party by the feeling that his election means the triumph of Free Trade; he has discovered that the Democrats have thrown off the mask too soon, and now he wants to put it on again until after the Presidential election. This cunning trick will not serve. His election means Free Trade and everybody knows it.

Cautious Democrats have already taken alarm. *The Sun* does not hesitate to call the choice of Mr. Carlisle a misfortune, and only hopes that it may be repaired by the prudent behavior of Congress. *The World* is frantically arguing that Mr. Carlisle can do no harm because the Republican President and Senate will not let him, and is begging the victorious faction not to make a disturbance yet, because free trade is "an abstraction," and, "under existing circumstances, an absurdity." Mr. Cox sprang to his feet when the result was announced, and prayed the majority not to do anything rash till after the election; and he is now sitting on the safety-valve, crying, "Remember that eighty-four depends upon our wisdom and discretion." Whatever may be the state of feeling at the South, the choice for Speaker seems to be received by the Democracy of this region with anything but elation.

The Democracy of this region will have to do most of the fighting next year, and its misgivings are well founded. That the victorious faction should keep quiet for a whole year, cover up its designs, and adopt the policy of the faction it has just defeated in an animated struggle, is in the last degree unnatural. No set of politicians could afford to place themselves in such a ridiculous position; and even if the plan were feasible the Southern and Western Democrats who have elected Mr. Carlisle are the last men in the world to assent to it. Those who are asking them to keep quiet forget that the policy of keeping quiet was the very point at issue in the Speakership struggle, and that the quiet party were beaten. We may look for a disturbance early in the session. Even if the victors should curb their impatience, it would make no difference in the contest of 1884. The most that their comrades ask of them is to keep still until after the election. And they may fairly answer, "What is the "use? All the world has had notice of what we "mean to do, if we get control of the Government next year, and we shall only make fools "of ourselves by pretending not to know it."

BAD FOR MR. RANDALL'S SUPPORTERS.

Intoxicated with its delight at the choice of Mr. Carlisle for the Speakership, *The Louisville Courier-Journal* does not hesitate to strike the friends of his principal competitor a bad blow. In an article on Mr. Carlisle's success, it remarks: "The contest "between Mr. Carlisle and Mr. Randall was "in reality a contest between the people "and monopoly. If at any time there was a "doubt of this among intelligent men it must "have been dissipated by the scenes and incidents which marked the struggle just "ended. With the beginning of the race for "the Speakership, the tariff lobby, embracing "representatives of every manner of subsidy and "all sorts of steals, rushed to Washington, as "they always do when their special privileges "seem to be menaced. These men, who have "grown rich on bounty and can afford to spend "large sums to perpetuate the system of pillage "which has enriched them, were a unit for Mr. "Randall."

The distinguished Pennsylvania statesman whose support is thus emphatically stigmatized, received 52 of the 188 votes cast at the caucus—over one-fourth of the whole number. The 52 votes were drawn from sixteen States. Now, if this leading Democratic newspaper be correct, the people may well feel gloomy as they meditate upon the probable career of the XLVIIIth Congress. There is cause for serious alarm in the thought that no less than fifty-two members of the majority are joined to the idols of "monopoly"; are on the side of those that push "all sorts of steals"; are backing up "the tariff lobby"; are in league with the promoters of "every manner of subsidy."

Perhaps it will be argued that the jubilant expressions of a person of a sanguine temperament flushed with victory ought not to be taken at their face value. Very good. If on second thought *The Courier-Journal* decides to apologize to any number of the fifty-two that now lie under its indictment, it will afford us pleasure promptly to note that fact.

LOTTERIES AND THE MAILS.

Postmaster-General Gresham's report makes a gratifying showing of the firm attitude of the Department toward the lottery companies. He is persevering in the course which he adopted soon after taking his place—a policy which was begun under Postmaster-General Key and suspended by litigation, but not revived as soon, apparently, as it might have been. Judge Gresham is not to be balked because the Louisiana Lottery Company has succeeded in inducing a National bank, organized under the laws of the United States, to become its accomplice in the habitual violation of the law. He takes the true view with regard to the claim that a lottery cannot be considered "fraudulent" if it be organized under State law and is conducted according to its requirements. This is much like insisting that a gambling house shall not be suppressed if the games are fairly played. The United States has undertaken to close the mails against lotteries, and it cannot allow a State to nullify its law. As Judge Gresham well says: "State "laws cannot change the inherent character of "a lottery nor render that mode of gambling "less injurious to the public morals, nor entitle its aiders and abettors to use the mails "as a means of promoting an enterprise which "nearly every State in the Union prohibits as "criminal and the moral sense of the Nation "condemns."

Two recommendations he makes should be heeded by Congress. The existing statutes against lotteries present an inconsistency which must be remedied. The word "illegal" has been dropped from the section forbidding the carrying of letters concerning "illegal lotteries," thus making all lotteries alike before the law. But in the sections forbidding the delivery of registered letters and the payment of money orders to "fraudulent lotteries," the qualifying word still remains, being the only leg the attorneys of the State lotteries have to stand on. The Postmaster-General recommends that the word be eliminated, and also that the laws excluding lottery letters from the mails, and punishing persons who mail them, be extended to newspapers containing lottery advertisements.

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE TELEGRAPH.

The Postmaster-General agrees with the President of the Western Union Telegraph Company in deprecating a Government telegraph, but they differ squarely upon the right of the Government to operate the telegraph as a part of the postal service of the country. Here, it must be said, the Postmaster-General seems to have the best of the argument. The reasons offered by Dr. Norvin Green in his recent article against this right seem narrow and technical. He argued that the Government could at most only hire the transmission of messages taken at and delivered from the post-offices, because it never carries the mails itself, but always hires others to do so. This is done as a matter of business convenience. The right to hire mail coaches, for example, would imply the right to own them. The Government did once own a line of mail coaches between Baltimore and Philadelphia. Neither is it conclusive to say that the telegraph is not a postal service because it does not transport sealed packages or original communications. Secrecy is not an essential feature of all postal business. The postal card is not secret and the newspaper is not sealed.

The idea of the postal service is the interchange of information, which shall be made as rapid as possible, and which shall be under the seal of secrecy when so desired but if the progress of science renders it possible to make intercommunication far more rapid, it seems strange to be told that the Government could not, if it chose, improve its postal service in this way, because the element of secrecy was lacking in this branch of it. The Postmaster-General reaches the conclusion, which seems in thorough accord with the spirit of the age, that "Congress has the constitutional power to avail "itself of all the facilities devised by the inventive genius of modern times for transmitting messages and intelligence." This is the view of the Supreme Court, as well as of the committees of several Congresses. Judge Gresham, therefore, holds that the Government has the right either to take the existing lines, for which he insists full compensation should be made, or to build new lines, in which case he is of the opinion that Congress could prohibit competition, just as it has already prohibited competition in carrying letters. But he withholds his approval from any plan of a Government telegraph, on the ground that an enormous expense would be incurred, a large increase in the Civil Service would be necessary, and the telegraph would be, practically, in the hands of the party in power.

These are all serious considerations—none the less so because they are familiar; and it is to be added that since the temporary excitement attending the telegraph strike has abated, there have been no indications—if, indeed, there were then—of a popular demand for a Government telegraph.

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.

Another effort is about to be made to secure proper accommodation for the Library of Congress. It is even at the best of times—that is to say when Congress is Republican—very difficult to obtain a fair hearing for questions of this sort. The Congressional mind does not generally approach literary or even sub-literary topics with any of that enthusiasm which marks the discussion of, let us say, a River and Harbor bill, for example. And it is rumored that the Democrats are preparing a new plan for dealing with the Library, which seems to possess that peculiar and striking originality only to be found in connection with thorough and utter ignorance of the subject wrestled with. The Democrats propose to regard the Library of Congress in the light of a surplus literary revenue, and to distribute it among the States; in proportion to population, probably. Perhaps this notable solution of the problem arose in the mind of some Democratic statesman who considers the Library to be merely a cumbersome collection of Government reports, and to whom the idea of a National Library had never occurred.

Of course it is evident that the new plan, if adopted, would render abortive the whole theory upon which the Library of Congress has been built up. For many years a minority of educated and patriotic citizens have been endeavoring to secure fit housing and provision for the collection of books from which alone a respectable and adequate National Library can be evolved. The need of such a library ought to be so clear as not to require special demonstration, though it is to be feared that there are Democrats in Congress who have yet to acquire the most elementary notions on the subject. To distribute the books forming the Library among the State Libraries, as proposed, is to abandon all hope of having the only kind of library which can do credit to the United States or can serve the purely utilitarian purposes of a National Library. It is to determine that there shall nowhere be any central point at which the student, the historian, the statistician, the statesman, can with any certitude find a full representation of indigenous literature. It is to destroy the usefulness and significance of a great collection of books by dispersing them. It is to make the Congress of the United States a by-word and a reproach among the intelligent of all nations, and to fortify and encourage the Old World suspicion that Americans have, notwithstanding their wonderful material progress, hardly as yet emerged from the intellectual backwoods. Let us hope that the suggestion will not find favor in Washington. Even a Democratic Congress has nothing to gain by such an act of exaggerated vandalism.

THE TRIBUNE from time to time has described the excellent and important work which the Charity Organization Society is doing. It aims to help all who deserve help, to root out professional beggary, to promote unity of methods on the part of alms-giving societies, to discourage indiscriminate charity, investigating thoroughly all cases where relief seems desirable. The result of such labors will certainly be seen in the decrease of vice and crime and the lowering of taxation. A meeting is to be held in the hall of the Union League Club House on Thursday evening, December 6, at which Mr. Joseph H. Choate will explain the benefits to the city which this society secures. Chief-Justice Charles P. Daly will show the necessity of co-operation in this work; Bishop Potter is expected to speak of the evils of mere almsgiving; the Rev. Dr. Rylance will make clear the benefits which the poor will receive from the organization, and Mr. George William Curtis will give a general summary. The society richly merits the generous support of the community.

As a fitting supplement to the outcome of the Speakership contest, some enterprising Democratic newspaper would do well to rush into the field with this ticket for 1884:

For President: JOHN GRIFFIN CARLISLE, of Kentucky.
For Vice-President: SAMUEL SULLIVAN SUNSET COX, of New-York.
Platform: American Industries must go.

It needs no argument to prove that New-York, and the dealers in petroleum who operate in New-York, would be better off with only one Oil Exchange instead of two. Now there are two rival Boards, and each has twice increased its membership within a year. Concentration of orders and dealings in one Exchange would make the strongest and most influential body in the country; but now, New-York orders being divided between two rival bodies, many strong operators send to Oil City when they wish to influence the market. At last both Exchanges in this city have appointed a committee to consult as to terms of union, and the desire of the substantial members of both Exchanges is that the subject should be carefully considered. Union of the two would make a strong body whose dealings would control the oil business in this country. The banks which loan money on oil certificates have an interest in bringing the control of the business to this city. As matters now stand, both of the New-York Exchanges wait for quotations from Oil City and are governed by them. With a consolidation here, the business would properly look to New-York as its controlling centre.

Mr. Hendricks is reported as saying that he regards Mr. Blaine's letter on the reserve as "an adroit move on his part to make the tariff and internal revenue systems leading questions in the next campaign." Yes indeed—it is a sinister plot, this of Mr. Blaine's, and we rejoice to see Mr. Hendricks expose it. Some people think that the questions referred to occasioned the letter. Mr. Hendricks knows better—he knows that the letter occasioned the questions. As likely as not, but for the letter, the only leading question, next year, would have been Centralization.

Lord Ripon has shared the fate of every Viceroy of India who has made an honest effort to reform abuses in the Government and to deal with the native population on broad principles of equity. Even Lord Lawrence, the deliverer of the Punjaub, could not interest himself actively in behalf of his subjects without incurring the enmity of the European residents. One of the best Viceroys India has ever had, and one of the noblest men England has ever produced, he was bitterly opposed by his own countrymen in Calcutta, and returned to London a most unpopular official. In like manner, Lord Ripon is hissed in the street and openly insulted at a public banquet in consequence of his sagacious and statesmanlike policy in reference to the jurisdiction of native tribunals.

SOME INDUSTRIAL TOPICS.

CANALS AND RAILROADS.—The canals have closed, with very satisfactory results for the season to the boatmen, mainly because of the large increase in tonnage. The number of boats cleared from Buffalo was only 225 larger than in 1882, but the shipments from that point included 12,925,324 bushels more grain, and in other respects the abolition of tolls has brought increased business to the canals. The question has another side, however; the railroads have had a good deal of freight diverted from them, and the public has not thus far obtained lower rates than before the abolition of tolls. The practical result is that a part of the profits of the railroads have been transferred to the canal boatmen, in order to keep alive canal competition as a restraint upon railroad charges in the future. Meanwhile the people pay the cost of keeping the canals in order.

CANADIAN COTTON MANUFACTURE.—Cotton manufacturing in Canada seems to be prospering. The Secretary of the Board of Trade estimates the value of the products for 1883 at $10,400,000, and an agent of the cotton manufacturers recently stated in a circular that it was $10,200,000. But the official trade returns show that the value of all cotton imported was only $2,286,534. It is inferred that the mills made handsome profits—provided they were able to sell their goods at the prices assumed in the estimates. On that point, however, there may be a shade of doubt.

FAILURES AND THEIR STATISTICS.—Failures continue more numerous than in 1882, the excess reported for last week being about 20 per cent. But it is fair to remember that the agencies have at command each year more complete facilities for reporting, and include a larger number of firms and dealers within their survey, so that the increase in failures reported does not necessarily imply a corresponding increase in failures that actually occurred. The number reported for last week was 232, against 196 for the corresponding week last year.

A MAN WHO KNOWS WHEN TO STOP.—Mr. McLaren, of Milwaukee, appears to be a man of wisdom. Widely known for years as one of the most enterprising and energetic grain dealers of the West, he considers that he has made money enough to begin to enjoy himself, and has decided to close up his business. As he has by no means reached the time of life at which men generally begin to tire of active pursuits, his decision is more noteworthy. There are thousands of business men who have been able to close their affairs with ample fortunes, at one time or another, who are now struggling desperately to save themselves from bankruptcy. To know when to stop is one of the most difficult things in business life.

DECLINE IN THE SILK YIELD.—People who insist upon wearing silk will probably have to pay higher prices for their luxury, as a great decline in the yield of silk in China is reported. The importation of raw silk into this country has been rather larger thus far this year than it was in 1882, but the British imports have declined surprisingly of late—in October as much as 44 per cent in comparison with the previous year. The stock of raw silk in Great Britain is also much smaller than it was a year ago—8,800 instead of 9,900 bales. The report is that, owing to a disease of the silkworm like that which has proved so destructive in Europe, the quantity fit for export from China this year will fall off about one-half.

PROSPERITY INDICATED BY SAVINGS BANKS.—Savings banks in Maine number 54, with 101,822 depositors against 80,947 in 1881, and 87,977 in 1882. Their deposits amount to $31,371,868, against $23,277,676 in 1881, and $26,474,555 in 1882. The average to each depositor, and the small increase in that average, indicate that these banks are still used mainly as a place of reserve for the laboring and poorer people, and not as a convenience by capitalists. Hence the rapid increase both in number of accounts and in amount of deposits is evidence of increasing thrift and prosperity.

LOWER WAGES IN IRON-MILLS.—Workers in iron mills at Pittsburg and Johnstown have been called upon to accept reduced wages. The establishment of Oliver Brothers & Phillips, at Pittsburg, has reduced wages 10 per cent, and the Republic Iron Works has done the same. The miners of the Cambria Iron Company, at Johnstown, struck on Saturday against a similar reduction of wages, but it is stated that this will not stop the works. At this and some other establishments orders have been received at low prices, conditioned upon the men being willing to work at lower wages than were previously paid. Many of the men are intelligent enough to see that, in the present depressed state of trade, it is much better to be at work for fair wages than not to be at work at all.

TOO MUCH WHISKEY IN KENTUCKY.—The whiskey dealers of Kentucky are loaded with more whiskey than they can well pay taxes on, and the distillers have been called to assemble on December 12 to form a pool for the control of the production. According to the report the distilleries of that State produced 32,000,000 gallons in 1882, and thus so completely glutted the market that only 6,000,000 gallons have been made this year. The theory is that the demand calls for about 12,000,000 gallons of Kentucky whiskey, and that a rigid restriction of production will save many concerns from ruinous loss.

PERSONAL.

Miss Elaine Goodale, one of the "child poets" of Sky Farm, is teaching school in Virginia.

According to a writer in *The Springfield Republican*, Sojourner Truth used to live near Northampton, Mass., and was then known as Elizabeth Van Wagener.

They say in Boston that the Rev. Dr. Bartol's treatment of "Ben" Butler since election day proves his belief in damnation after death, in this world if not in the other.

The late Sydney Blanchard, of London, who rose to prominence there and in India as a journalist, was the man who once proposed to his associates, "Suppose we start a *comic Punch*?"

Buckingham Palace is known as the Queen's London home. Yet, according to Mr. Labouchere she has only slept beneath its roof one hundred and twenty nights during the last twenty years.

Now that fit tribute has been paid to Luther's memory, it should be borne in mind that next year will bring around the quincentenary of the death of John Wyclif, the "Morning Star of the Reformation." The Wyclif Society, of England, is making preparations to observe the event, and desires as far as possible the co-operation of the Christian world.

Mr. Theodore D. Weld, whose eightieth birthday was recently celebrated in Boston by a reunion of old friends, anti-slavery associates and former pupils, was the leader of the famous revolt at Lane Seminary, Cincinnati, in 1834, when the faculty undertook to prohibit the discussion of the slavery question, and the students to a man seceded from the institution.

Professor John H. Tice, the St. Louis "weather-prophet" whose death at the age of seventy-six has been announced, was a native of Maryland, but had lived in St. Louis more than forty years. For some years he was Secretary and afterward Superintendent of Public Schools, and to him is due the credit of establishing in St. Louis an admirable system of evening schools. His surviving family consists of three daughters and a son.

The Rev. Dr. Wayland Hoyt is doing in Philadelphia just what he used to do in Brooklyn—preaching so plainly and eloquently, and striking such ringing blows at all sorts of modern errors and wrong-doings that his hearers find it difficult to restrain their enthusiasm; impossible, at times, and during his sermon on Thanksgiving Day they twice burst out into hearty applause. Such an occurrence as applause in a church, common enough in olden times, and even now in some churches, startled Philadelphia like an earthquake shock, and bids fair to be a leading topic of discussion for the rest of the winter. Dr. Hoyt himself, it may be added, did his best to restrain the outburst his eloquence had provoked, and "on general principles" strongly disapproves of such demonstrations during Divine service.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3.—Treasurer Wyman has returned to Washington from a short visit to Utah.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3.—Postmaster-General Gresham returned to Washington yesterday, and was at his desk in the Post Office Department today.

TALKS ABOUT TOWN.

A HOSPITABLE COMMUNITY.

Patrick Gilmore, Orchestra Leader.—Have just returned, dear sir. Fifty nights—and days, too—at the Southern Exposition at Louisville! It was a delightful experience! Such a people, dear boy! They overwhelm you with attentions and applause. I am in love with the South. It is so hospitable. No! no! How can you ask me! Did I go to Atlanta with Levy? Never!

BOGUS REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS.

Charles S. Peck, Real Estate Agent.—Not one in a hundred of the large—mind, I emphasize the word "large"—real estate transactions are properly reported, even in the official records. You buy a piece of property at $30,000; it is to your interest and that of the seller, who has more lots to sell in the same neighborhood, to report the sale at, say, $50,000. The larger amount is put in the deed as the consideration. It gets registered at the same figure; and from the Register's office the false record goes to the papers as a bona fide sale for the largest amount. It is simply bulling a poor market.

AN EMBARRASSMENT OF RICHES.

Ex-Judge A. J. Dittenhoefer.—I think Lawrence Barrett is a little dissatified with his success of "Francesca Da Rimini." He has bought the right to a new piece called "An American Queen." Good name, eh!

THE MAN WHO LEADS.

Bartley Campbell, Dramatist.—The funniest thing, to my way of thinking, that I encountered abroad was the absolute independence of the writers of music. There, if a man writes a waltz or song or whatever it may be, and it catches the popular ear, every theatre or hall whose ochestra plays that air has to pay for the right to do so. Why, in this country theatres play five acts of several of my dramas with four or five adapted airs from the latest copyrighted musical compositions and not only do not pay me or the musical composer, but do not even say, "by your leave."

Sheridan Shook, Manager Union Square Theatre.—The men who organize and the men who compose the orchestras of the various theatres are the only ones connected with theatres who never volunteer for any charitable benefit. Do I think that Mr. Abbey's importation from abroad of his orchestra for the Metropolitan Opera House has paid? I hope so. Has it weakened the Musicians Union? No, they are as positive as ever.

Bartley Campbell.—The imported musicians are made to join the Union as soon as they land here.

A NATURAL SEQUENCE.

General W. W. Averill (inquisitively).—Who is to be Speaker? Have you heard from the caucus? It is to be Carlisle, eh? Is that what you hear? Yes? Well, that elects another Republican President.

(*James M. Goodsell, formerly of Graphic* (overhearing.) —Yes, I know; that is so!

A NEW DEPARTURE.

A. Oakey Hall, Counsellor-at-Law.—Yes, it is true! I leave journalism, by your leave! Not on compulsion, my dear boy, though there were reasons for leaving quite as plenty as blackberries. But I leave. I depart, in fact. I shall shortly sail for England, where I shall engage with a firm of London solicitors. I have been making preparations for the change for some time past. I could stay. I have invitations enough. But I do not feel like submitting to the buffets of misfortune here.

Sheridan Shook.—What! Oakey Hall going to London in search of a law practice? Why, he can get all he wants here. He is one of the best criminal lawyers in the city.

John Duff, Daly's Theatre.—You astonish me. Hall going to London? Nonsense. He ought to stay here. He can do a large criminal and theatrical business. Managers are tired of having every discharged chorus singer crying out, "We'll go to 'Owe and 'Ummel if you don't pay us," and forcing us to employ Howe and Hummel to beat them. Aaron J. Vanderpoel told me that Oakey Hall was welcome to return to the firm he retired from when he was accused and repeated it after he was acquitted; yes, as late as 1880, when Vanderpoel was in THE TRIBUNE building. But Hall did not return. But I began to think Hall was in real trouble when he left *The World*.

A POETICAL BOOMERANG.

Joaquin Miller.—I did it! With my little pen! I killed Mahone in Virginia by my opposition in my letters to various papers. And I killed Ben Butler at the same time in the same papers by my praise to him.

A VERY DARK GREY ELEGY.

The Caucus tolls the knell of blasted hopes,
The New-York crowd back to its quarters flocks,
The Randall—with his fences—homeward slopes,
And leaves the world to darkness and to Cox.

No winter sunbeams sparkle round his head,
Nor why we laugh shows he the slightest care,
'Twas ever thus, since here his steps were led—
The path of Samuel leads not to the Chair.

Ne'er did he nurse a Speakership gazelle,
That learned to glad him with its soft, black eye,
But when it came to know him pretty well
That sort of wild gazelle would up and die!

Full many a joke of Sunset ray serene,
The Record named *Congressional* does bear,
Full many a wit is born to pun unseen
And waste his humor from a private Chair!

Can storied urn or animated bust
Cause him to feel less wilted and less sore?
Shall he go on an animated bust,
If he would fain ambition's