FEDERAL CAPITAL TOPICS.

APROPOS OF MR. BLAINE'S PLAN.

TAXATION IN GERMANY AND IN THIS COUNTRY—EDUCATION AT PUBLIC EXPENSE.

[FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—In connection with the plan of Mr. Blaine, which some persons criticise as contrary to all financial teaching or experience, it will be interesting to notice the taxation in Germany. The latest official report of Mr. Smith United States Consul at Mannheim, gives details of the revenue collected, and says: "It is the declared intention of the government to release the communities from the burden of supporting and paying for the public schools, and so leave that expense upon the budget of the State. To provide for the execution of this scheme is one of the intentions of the present reform programme, which includes the creation of the tobacco monopoly." It does not seem "unconstitutional" to Germany to educate the people at public expense, and it ought not to be considered unconstitutional in a free country like the United States, where the welfare of the Nation depends directly upon the intelligence of the voters.

It is the fashion to growl about taxes everywhere. But the German who comes to this country does not discover that he has unendurable burdens. He has left a land where almost everything conceivable is taxed, incomes, trades, lands, houses, hotels and restaurants, manufactures and mills, navigation and transportation, pedlers and keepers of livery stables. In Prussia 5,115,555 persons pay the "Klassen Steuer," whose yearly income ranges from $105 to $750, and the executions for non-payment of this tax numbered 1,556,507 in the year ending April 1, 1881, of which nearly 1,000,000 were of the lowest class, whose income is from $105 to $132 yearly. The income tax is paid by 163,024 persons whose income ranges from $750 a year upward, and over $18,000,000 is thus raised by the State, besides the commercial taxes. The tax on grounds is of varying amount, and ranges from 2 to 2.4 per cent of the yearly income. The tax on houses for habitation, shops, theatres, and buildings for purposes other than productive purposes, is 4 per cent of the annual value; the tax on factories, mills, and other industrial buildings is 2 per cent. These taxes yield in Prussia alone, $13,938,055 yearly. The taxes on trades are too numerous to mention; they yield in Prussia $4,226,007 yearly. All this vexatious system put together, with its executions for class and income tax alone against nearly one-third of the persons taxed, does not yield in Prussia as much as the tax on tobacco alone brought to the United States Treasury last year—and no man was obliged to pay one cent of the tobacco tax who did not please to do so.

Germany also has taxes on tobacco, which yield $12,394,500 yearly; on distilled liquors, which yield $8,713,000 yearly; on beer, which yield $3,774,000 yearly; and there are besides indemnities amounting to $3,349,000 instead of taxes on brandy and beer; so that liquors pay in all $15,836,500, and tobacco $12,394,500. In this country liquors pay $91,000,000, and tobacco $42,000,000, and we are not obliged to issue 1,500,000 executions against poor people in a single year to collect a tax on incomes. Germany collects $12,388,250 from taxes on sugar, $9,091,700 from taxes on salt, and $8,076,000 from revenue of the railroad, telegraph and postal systems, and, though the country is so thickly settled that a passenger charge of half a cent per mile ought to yield about as much as the average charge in this country, 2 1-3 cents per mile, the German rates for first and second class fare average higher than the rates of all railroads in this country. Yet, with all its disadvantages, and in spite of the great difficulty of raising enough money for its costly establishment, the German Empire proposes to take upon itself the entire cost of supporting the public schools. But there are people in this country who think it would be unconstitutional for the United States to contribute to the support of the school system in the different States, though we have an overflowing revenue from taxes which nobody feels.

BILLS INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE.

SEVERAL IMPORTANT MEASURES PRESENTED YESTERDAY.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—Among the bills introduced in the Senate to-day were the following:

By Mr. Lapham—Limiting a portion of the Naval Appropriation act. It provides that that portion of the act approved August 5, 1882, limiting the number of graduates of the Naval Academy to be retained in service each year shall not apply to those classes who had completed the four years' course at the Naval Academy prior to the passage of the act, and authorizes the return to the service of those members of the class of 1881 who have been honorably discharged under the provisions of the said act. Also a bill regulating maritime liens and remedies, and to secure uniformity in the enforcement of the rights of material men in Courts of Admiralty. Also a bill to establish a United States Mint at New-York City.

By Mr. Slater, in accordance with the prayer of the memorial presented by him—To forfeit certain public lands granted to the Oregon Central Railroad Company in the State of Oregon and in Washington Territory.

By Mr. Call—To disqualify judges of the United States Supreme Court from sitting in the trial of causes which have been previously heard before them at Circuit or otherwise.

By Mr. Garland—To release the Memphis and Little Rock Railroad Company from such of the conditions of acts of Congress as unjustly affect said corporation; also to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to settle and adjust the accounts between the United States and the same company on account of customs duties on iron imported by that company.

By Mr. Ingalls—To repeal the Pre-emption law and the Timber Culture law; and to amend the Homestead law.

By Mr. Brown—For the settlement of accounts between the United States and such railroad companies as received property from the United States in 1865 and 1866, and that have made full payment for the same or who upon adjustment of their accounts shall be found to have paid their indebtedness on account of such property. In this adjustment the abatement in respect to valuation of such property shall not exceed 25 per cent. The basis of settlement to be the same as that with the Western and Atlantic Railroad in 1877.

By Mr. Cameron (Wis.)—To restore to market and sale certain lands of the United States in the State of Minnesota and Wisconsin, and to authorize their sale subject to the rights of flowage. These are lands that were withdrawn from sale in 1880 and 1881, with the idea that they would be required for use in the construction and maintenance of dams, reservoirs, etc., proposed to be erected in the improvement of the Mississippi River. They are by this bill to be subject to private entry and sale at $1 25 per acre.

By Mr. Groome—To provide for the construction of the Maryland and Delaware free ship canal as a means of military and naval defence, and for commercial purposes. The canal is to connect the waters of the Chesapeake and Delaware Bays; is to be 100 feet wide at bottom, 26 feet below mean low water, and 178 feet at low-water level, with locks 600x60 feet in the chamber, and sufficiently deep to allow the passage of vessels drawing 23 feet of water; and the Secretary of War is authorized to make the necessary surveys, and to negotiate with the owners of property along the course of the canal; and if satisfactory terms cannot be reached, then to condemn the land. One million dollars is appropriated for the purposes of the bill.

By Mr. Morgan—To define the jurisdiction of the Circuit and District Courts of the United States. It provides that no District or Circuit Court shall have or authorize jurisdiction to enforce the collection of any tax levied in the States under the laws thereof.

THREE SENATE JOINT RESOLUTIONS.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—In the Senate to-day joint resolutions were introduced as follows:

By Mr. Butler—To provide an amendment to the Fifteenth Amendment to the Constitution, inserting the word "nativity," so as to make the article read: "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of nativity, race, color, or previous condition of servitude."

By Mr. Lapham—A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution giving women the right of suffrage. This is the same resolution introduced by Mr. Lapham during the last Congress.

By Mr. Morgan—Proposing an amendment to the Constitution by which the President shall have power to disapprove any item of appropriations for rivers or harbors while approving other items.

PETITIONS TO THE SENATE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—In the Senate to-day petitions were presented: From the Legislature of Nebraska, asking that the railroads to whom the Government has granted lands shall be either compelled to take out patents on them so that they may be taxed, or that the lands may revert to the people; asking that the duty be removed from barbed wire; urging the improvement of the Missouri river. From the Chamber of Commerce of Astoria, Ore., praying that the lands granted to aid the Oregon Central Railroad by act of May 4, 1870, be forfeited and thrown open to settlement.

PACIFIC COAST INTERESTS.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—Senator Miller, of California, has sent letters to Senators and Representatives from the Pacific Coast States, inviting them to meet at his committee-room, at the Capitol, to-morrow to discuss Pacific Coast matters and take such action as the meeting may deem advisable toward securing necessary legislation by the present Congress for that portion of the country. One of the principal subjects to be considered is the inadequacy of the Chinese restriction bill passed two years ago.

POST OFFICE TO BE DISCONTINUED.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—The Postmaster-General has ordered the discontinuance of the West Troy, N. Y., Post Office on January 1, and the establishment, in lieu thereof, of a branch of the Troy Post Office, to be known as West Troy Station, and to be under the control of the postmaster at the Troy office. Four additional letter-carriers have been allowed for the increased service.

SECOND VOLUME OF TENTH CENSUS.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—The second volume of the tenth census reports is now ready for distribution. It treats on statistics of manufactures, with special reports on iron, steel, glass and textile manufactures, chemical products, the factory system, etc. The contributors of monographs were Francis A. Walker, Herman Hollerith, Carroll D. Wright, Charles H. Fitch, James M. Swank, William C. Wyckoff, Edward Atkinson, George William Bond, William L. Rowland and Joseph D. Weeks.

A DISPUTED ELECTION CASE.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—It is expected that on Monday the House will be called upon to settle a disputed election case. Representative-elect Pool, of the 1st North Carolina District, died a few months ago, and at a special election held on November 20 a successor was chosen to "fill the vacancy." Mr. Pool, a Republican, was elected in 1882 by a majority of 585. Subsequently the State was redistricted by the Democratic Legislature. Bertie County, which gave a Republican majority of more than 700, was transferred to another district, and Carteret County, which gave a Democratic majority of about 200, was added to the 1st District, thus making it safely Democratic. When Governor Jarvis issued the writ for a special election he ordered it to be held in the new 1st District.

Of course the result was a Democratic successor to Mr. Pool. It is expected that he will present himself to be sworn next Monday, and the Republicans will object on the ground that he was not chosen to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Pool. No longer ago than October 13, 1880, a Democratic House of Representatives in the case of Ezra B. Taylor, of Ohio, General Garfield's successor, decided that where a State has been redistricted subsequent to the election of a Representative, a special election, if one becomes necessary to fill a vacancy, must be held in the old district and not in the new one. If the precedent established by the Democratic majority then be followed by the present Democratic majority, Mr. Skinner, the new North Carolina Representative, cannot be admitted.

INTER-STATE COMMERCE BILLS.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—Representative Reagan, of Texas, will again offer his Inter-State Commerce bill at the first opportunity, and he hopes that it will receive better treatment by the Commerce Committee than it did in the last Congress, when only two votes besides his own were cast for it.

Mr. Horr, of Michigan, will also reintroduce the bill prepared by Mr. Adams, of Massachusetts, and with some modifications and additions favorably reported at the first session of the last Congress. This bill provides for the establishment of a board of commissioners of inter-State commerce. The board is to "exercise supervision" over such commerce to a limited extent; to investigate complaints on account of discrimination in charges and report thereon. The board is also charged to investigate and report on the extent to which freight charges are affected by competition and by the discretionary power exercised by transportation companies; concerning differential rates between competing points the circumstances which mark the distinction between just and unjust discriminations in freight charges, and the influence exerted upon commercial and industrial interests by pooling arrangements of railroads. The board is also to be authorized to call upon all common carriers engaged in inter-State commerce for reports of their freight rates and charges and is to report to Congress all cases of excessive rates or unjust discriminations. It is also to endeavor in all ways to procure necessary data for intelligent National legislation regulating inter-State commerce.

TREASURY TARIFF REGULATIONS.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—The Secretary of the Treasury has prescribed the following regulations, which explain themselves: When affidavits are presented as a basis for the free entry of articles for the use of the societies, institutions, schools, colleges, academies or seminaries of learning mentioned in the free list, the collector of customs will take pains to satisfy himself that the facts are such as to warrant the free entry of the property by requiring, if necessary, evidence to be filed as to the character of the institution and the authority of the person making the affidavit to purchase the article for the purpose mentioned in the oath.

Such evidence may consist of an affidavit or statement from the superintendent, the board, etc., as the case may be, showing the character of the institution and that the article was imported therefor and is to remain as its permanent property, and is not for sale or distribution. A copy of the charter, constitution and by-laws may be required in proper cases, and the affidavit and other evidence, when practicable, should give the corporate seal, if any, affixed. In no case will the oath of the importer, who is not connected with the society or institution concerned, be accepted by the collector as a sufficient compliance with the regulations upon the subject, although such evidence may be accepted as auxiliary.

The individual or association of individuals importing any object of art for presentation as a gift to the United States Government, or to any State, county, municipal government, or any corporation or society, will be required to make an application in writing to the department, requesting such free entry, which application must contain a description of the work of art imported, and the name of the branch of the United States Government, or of the State, county or municipal government, or of the corporation or society to which the presentation is intended to be made, and must be accompanied by a letter or other evidence from the chief officer signifying the acceptance of such work of art as a gift.

STAR ROUTE CASES.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—R. T. Merrick, of counsel for the Government in the Star Route cases, said to-day that he had no knowledge of any communication from John A. Walsh with regard to testimony which the latter could or would give in the pending suits against Kellogg and Brady. He had no doubt, however, that Walsh was in possession of valuable information, and any disclosures which he might make in the interest of justice would be gladly received. Mr. Merrick further said that Mr. Price and all the other Star Route witnesses except Mr. Walsh were already in the city, and that the pending cases would be called on Monday and vigorously prosecuted.

NATIONAL BOARD OF HEALTH.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—The National Board of Health has decided to ask Congress to re-enact the quarantine law which expired in June last. A bill has been prepared with this object in view, which also provides for the restoration of certain lapsed appropriations. Dr. H. A. Johnson, a member of the Board from Chicago, has tendered his resignation.

WASHINGTON NOTES.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, Dec. 6, 1883.

BIDS REJECTED.—All the bids for furnishing freight elevator for the Assay Office and the public stores building in New-York have been rejected and new proposals will be invited.

WISCONSIN REVENUE DISTRICTS.—The executive order consolidating internal revenue districts has been revoked, so far as it applied to Wisconsin, and the districts in that State will remain unchanged.

A LAND DECISION.—The Secretary of the Interior has rejected the application of the Mayor and City Council of Leadville to enter certain lands for town site purposes, on the ground that the greater portion has already been patented as placer claims, or reserved for hospital and cemetery purposes. Such portions of the land, however, as are not already disposed of and can be segregated, will be held subject to entry by the city.

WINTER CRUISING ORDERS.—Winter cruising orders have been issued to the following named revenue steamers with cruising ground indicated: Woodbury, from Robbinston to Cape Elizabeth; Gallatin, from Portsmouth, N. H., to Edgartown, Mass.; Dallas, from Mt. Desert, Me., to Cape Ann, Mass.; Dexter, from Edgartown through Long Island Sound to Whitestone Point, going both inside and outside of Block Island; Grant, from Block Island along the outside of Long Island to Delaware Breakwater.

COLONEL HOOKER RETIRES.—Sergeant-at-Arms Leedom having filed his bond to-day, the records of the office and all belonging to it were turned over to him by his predecessor, Colonel Hooker. During the incumbency of the latter not an error has occurred in banking transactions, not a complaint has been received from any quarter and not a check or draft has been lost.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE HOUSE.—Mr. McCold, of Iowa, appeared at the bar of the House to-day and took the oath of office and then the House adjourned until Monday.

MR. CARLISLE'S DENIAL TOO LATE.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: Mr. Carlisle in his vague denial that his speech in Cynthiana, several years ago, was correctly reported, admits that he saw the "account" in *The Cincinnati Gazette*. If the "account" was incorrect, why did not he contradict and expose it at the time? I submit that, having left the report before the public for years as his expressed sentiments, it is too late now to offer a quasi denial. V. S.

New-York, Dec. 6, 1883.

ASSIGNED INSURANCE POLICIES.

SUITS AGAINST SPECULATORS IN GRAVEYARD CASES.

READING, Penn., Dec. 6.—A brisk war is being carried on against assigned insurance policies in the Lebanon Valley. By a recent decision of the Supreme Court the heirs of deceased poor people who were insured for large amounts are enabled to bring suit and recover the money paid on the insurance policies. The plan heretofore pursued by the speculators was this: Rich men would induce poor children of aged poor people to insure their parents for large amounts, sometimes for as much as $6,000. Being unable to keep up the premium, they transferred the policies to the rich speculators, who had no insurance interests. The companies paid the amount to the speculators, having been indemnified by bond. Now the heirs sue the speculators and recover.

To-day three cases were decided, involving $12,000, which is now to be paid to the real heirs of the deceased. The speculators are alarmed, as hundreds of such speculative policies have been paid and will be sued for at once.

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTION.

NEW-HAVEN, Dec. 6.—Last summer there was much excitement here over the importation of rags from Egypt for Connecticut paper mills, owing to the fear that the germs of cholera might be brought hither in the bales. As a result of that agitation the Board of Aldermen has just adopted the following regulation: "Egyptian rags will be received at this port on proper and satisfactory certification that the said rags have been subjected to boiling in water for two hours under a pressure of fifty pounds per square inch, or to boiling in water for four hours without pressure, or thorough fumigation with sulphurous acid gas. The certificate and stamp of an inspector appointed or authorized by the Government will be considered satisfactory evidence to this Board. In case of the failure of the Government to appoint such inspector, this Board will be its own judge as to what is satisfactory evidence of of proper disinfection."

REPUBLICAN REPRESENTATION.

A PLAN SUGGESTED BY SENATOR FRYE.

A WAY TO PERMIT THE VOTERS TO HAVE POWER IN THE NATIONAL CONVENTION.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—To remedy in some measure what is regarded by many as the grave injustice of the present representation in Republican National Conventions, which gives to States and districts all over the country the same voice regardless of the Republican vote, when in some districts in the South even the form of nominating Republican candidates for Congress is not pursued, Senator Frye, member of the Republican National Committee from Maine, will propose at the next meeting of the committee on December 12, a new basis of representation as follows: Each State shall be entitled to four delegates as now; each district to one instead of two as now to one additional delegate for each 10,000 votes cast within its limits in 1880 for the Republican candidates for Presidential electors, and to one additional delegate for a majority fraction of 10,000 votes. The vote for Presidential electors is taken as best indicating the real strength of the party in any district, being less liable to be affected by local causes. The effect of this proposition, if adopted, upon the States and upon the convention is shown by the annexed table, compiled by an application of the Presidential vote of 1880 to the districts as then existing. The application of the same rule to the present districts under the late apportionment could not just now be readily made owing to a lack of necessary and accurate information, but will not materially change the relative strength of the States, and will only increase the total membership of the convention by about eighty.

States.	Rep'tion 1884 old basis.	Rep'tion on vote of 10,000 and maj. frac'n.	Gain.
California	16	16	0
Colorado	6	8	2
Connecticut	12	15	3
Delaware	6	6	0
Illinois	44	56	12
Indiana	30	41	11
Iowa	26	30	4
Kansas	18	19	1
Maine	12	16	4
Massachusetts	28	34	6
Michigan	16	18	2
Minnesota	14	15	1
Nevada	6	6	0
New-Hampshire	8	11	3
New-Jersey	18	23	5
New-York	72	88	16
Ohio	46	63	17
Oregon	6	7	1
Pennsylvania	60	76	16
Rhode Island	8	6	2...loss
Vermont	8	12	4
Wisconsin	22	27	5
Nebraska	10	10	
For Northern States	592	613	113—2

			Loss.
Alabama	20	13	7
Arkansas	14	10	4
Florida	8	8	—
Georgia	24	15	9
Kentucky	26	19	7
Louisiana	16	11	5
Maryland	16	16	—
Mississippi	18	10	8
Missouri	32	32	—
North Carolina	22	22	—
South Carolina	18	14	4
Tennessee	24	21	3
Texas	26	15	11
Virginia	24	21	3
West Virginia	12	12	—
For Southern States	300	239	61

Territories, 18, 18, 0.
Number of delegates on present basis, 820.
Number of delegates on proposed basis, 870.

THE DWIGHT INSURANCE CASE.

THE MOTION TO DISMISS DENIED—WHAT THE JURY MUST DECIDE.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

NORWICH, N. Y., Dec. 6.—In the Dwight case to-day Mr. Newton continued his argument against the motion for a dismissal of the complaint, taking up the several points as discussed by Mr. Larocque for the defence. He claimed that the entire matter was a question of fact for the jury to decide and not one of law for the court to pass upon. Attorney-General Russell followed in a three hours' reply to Mr. Newton.

Upon the conclusion of the argument Judge Follett denied the motion, and said the case must go to the jury. Judge Follett said: "Considering the importance of the case, and the length of its trial, I shall direct the jury to give a general verdict, but they shall ascertain special questions of fact. If the counsel cannot agree on the questions of fact to be submitted to the jury, I will submit them myself. I will not submit the case to the jury in a lump. The questions of fact to be submitted to the jury are: (1) What was Dwight's occupation ten years previous to 1878? real estate and grain dealer or not? (2) Was he engaged in or connected with the manufacture or sale of wine, liquors, etc., within the intent and meaning of the contract? (3) Had Dwight the disease known as spitting of blood? (4) Did he obtain the policy with intent to defraud the defendant? (5) Did he commit suicide?"

The decision proves a great disappointment to the defence, as they have openly expressed the opinion that the motion would be granted. Attorney-General Russell will begin summing up for the defence to-morrow morning. Henry Smith will follow for the plaintiffs.

RIPARIAN RIGHTS IN NEW-JERSEY.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

TRENTON, Dec. 6.—The legislative committee to investigate the subject of riparian rights and the manner in which the riparian lands of the State are being disposed of, held its final meeting in this city to-day. Only three members, Messrs. Freeman, Rollins and Neighbone, were present. They listened to a long paper read by Bennington F. Randolph, the president of the Board of Riparian Commissioners, giving the history of the origin of the State's rights in riparian land, and the working of the present system of managing them. The committee spent the rest of the day in secret session preparing the report. The investigation has awakened some anxiety throughout the State, for fear it should be the means of bringing up the claims of the descendants of the old New-Jersey proprietors to these lands. The right of ownership of this vast property, worth untold millions of dollars, has never been definitely settled by a court of last resort; and every effort has been made in the past to prevent the question from being raised. The proceeds of the sales and leases of riparian lands go to the State school fund, which already amounts to from $3,000,000 to $4,000,000; and it is increasing rapidly. If the State's ownership of these lands can be sustained, no State in the Union will have so magnificent an endowment for its public works.

SANITARY CONVENTION AT TRENTON.

TRENTON, Dec. 6.—The ninth annual meeting of the New-Jersey Sanitary Association was begun in this city to-day. Among those present were J. J. R. Croes and Charles Wingate, sanitary engineer, of New-York; Dr. Ezra M. Hunt, president of the State Board of Health; Professor A. B. Leeds, of the Stevens Institute of Technology; Professor H. B. Pierce, of Rutgers College; Professor Shippen Wallace, of Burlington; J. C. Bayles, of East Orange, president of the association; the Rev. William Harris, of Princeton College; Dr. William K. Newton, of Paterson, and Dr. J. W. Pinkham, of Montclair. The first paper read was on "Methods of Sewage Disposal without Discharge into Streams," by Mr. Croes. In the lively discussion aroused by this paper, Messrs. Wingate, Harris and others sustained Mr. Croes's position, while Dr. Hunt was convinced that soil, as soil, was no better a sieve for sewage than the water of streams, and that in many cases severing into streams more quickly and harmlessly destroyed the dangerous elements of sewage than was possible by the irrigation systems. A paper on "Malaria" by Dr. T. W. Hovey, of Orange; a discussion upon it led by Dr. Hunt, and a paper on "The Germ Theory of Disease," by Dr. E. L. B. Godfrey, of Camden, closed the afternoon session.

In the evening President Bayles, in his annual address, treated of "Methods of Popularizing Sanitary Information." Dr. Pinkham read a paper on "Domestic Wells and Cisterns: Best Methods of Construction," and Professor Leeds one upon "The Agencies, both Natural and Artificial, Affecting the Passaic River above and below Paterson." There was discussion upon each of these.

GOOD CROPS IN OHIO.

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Dec. 6.—The forthcoming December crop report of the State Board of Agriculture, based on returns from about 700 township correspondents, shows the number of wheat acres sown to be 2,626,579, being 97 per cent of that sown for 1882. The condition of the crops as compared with those of last fall is as follows: Wheat, 102; rye 99 per cent; barley, 99 per cent.

BOSTON DRUGGISTS FINED.

BOSTON, Dec. 6.—In the test case against Billings, Clapp & Co., wholesale druggists, the defendants were found guilty to-day of selling tincture of opium containing a less quantity of morphine than that prescribed by the pharmacopœia. They were fined a nominal sum and will take the case to the Superior Criminal Court.

AGAINST THE SLAUGHTER OF GAME.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—At to-day's session of the American Humane Association a resolution was adopted asking Congress for legislation to prevent the slaughter of buffalo, deer and antelope on the Western plains; also a resolution urging the proprietors of abattoirs to have all slaughtering done out of sight of the other animals, and to exclude boys under fourteen years of age.

Ella Wheeler says: "I love him with a Fire that Burns to Hate." Ella has more ways of loving than any woman we ever heard of, and they all partake more or less of the mad-dog order. If she ever gets mashed on us and we find it out the world will be startled by an especially horrowing suicide.—[Philadelphia Call.

A LECTURE BY GEO. W. CABLE.

DISCUSSING WRITERS AND BOOKS.

FIRST MEETING OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY CLUB FOR THE SEASON.

The fortnightly meetings of the Nineteenth Century Club were resumed last night in the house of Courtlandt Palmer, the president, No. 117 East Twenty-first-st. The company that was gathered there was similar in numbers and quality to that which met in the same parlors during the first season of the club last winter. It was composed of members of the club and invited guests. Among those present were Roswell Smith, the Rev. Dr. G. Gotthell, Mr. and Mrs. Burton N. Harrison, George Parsons Lathrop, Dr. Hammond, S. H. Morse, Mr. and Mrs. D. G. Croly, the Marquis de Lanza and Thaddeus B. Wakeman.

Mr. Palmer opened the meeting by a statement of the purpose of the club, denying the charge that it had a specifically irreligious tendency. He also reviewed the course of lectures read before the club last year, and announced that among the lecturers this winter would be George W. Cable, who would discuss the ideal life and art of the fictionist; the Rev. Dr. John P. Newman, who would speak on Boodha; Dr. Hammond, who would tell of the use and abuse of the brain; and Mrs. Elizabeth Cady Stanton, who would discourse on Woman Suffrage. He then introduced Mr. Cable as a writer who had done for the Creoles of Louisiana what Bret Harte had done for the wild miners' life of Colorado and the West, and won his way to the front rank of fiction writers.

Mr. Cable announced his theme to be "The True Literary Artist." He read his lecture in an easy way, with a voice full of graceful inflections, and with remarkably clear and distinct enunciation. He treated of writers and of books, and of the elements that make them worthy. His argument was followed with close attention, and as he had been received with hearty applause at the outset, so his remarks called out enthusiastic applause at the close. He read for over an hour, and among other things said:

Literature is the architecture of thought. Therefore, it seems to me, the producer of literature, more than any other person who makes it his calling or pastime to evolve artistic work, must, if he would be a whole, round artist, be a whole, round man. The painter, the sculptor, the musician, even the architect, may live to himself and may be the better artist for so doing; but the writer must be a citizen. He must be a man among men or suffer a discount on his quality. They may live in the past and burn and shine in that setting like stars in the sky; but he must be of the day, and while he lives none the less in the past, and for the future, live in and for and with the present—the men and the things and the affairs that are here at hand.

Nay, we may even turn this assertion around end for end, and say it is the duty of every citizen at least to show cause why he should not produce some share of the literary product called for by his day and his surroundings. If you or I desire to assume that we need not take part in the literary production around us, then I think there lies a burden of proof on us which we ought to consider whether we can afford to carry. History, in its modern form, has taught us the scientific principles of the rise, progress and decay of all human institutions when, unfortified by society's knowledge of the significance of their symptoms, they are allowed to take the natural course. Three things it warns us never to let fall into bad repair, but to be ever evolving their better and better operation. They are religion, literature, and the earth's harvests.

But one will say: "All this is admitted; we wait only for inspiration." Then wait no longer. In the first age of printed literature human society learned the priceless lesson that the reception of the best offices of literature does not depend upon erudition, and in later days it has added to this the happy knowledge that the production of literature does not depend upon that vague something called inspiration. It is true that among all arts, literary production is the least communicable by masters and the most dependent upon intuition. There are no secrets in its methods, and though it has rules, yet it fails short of true beauty whenever it betrays the marks of technical harness. The attempt to define genius or talent as the mere ability to work harder than others is only the generous affectation of those whose genius or talent has been established beyond dispute. Naked effort can only do by toil what talent does with ease; and talent can only learn quickly to do well what genius has done before it without rule or teacher. And so I say to whoever seeks the ideal literary method, Never let effort wait for inspiration, but let inspiration answer the calls of effort. For what is inspiration? Simply a free flow of good red blood from a subordinated body to a brain which is that body's master. Certainly it does have its seasons and caprices; but the only way for the literary workman to know when with certainty is to try them daily at the desk, pen in hand, diligently, arduously, and yet with a self-restraint that eschews all manner of artificial forcing. The literary artist must not set himself down to be wooed by, but to woo, the muse; and faint heart never won that fair lady.

Writing is but the refinery of thought. It is the clarifier of convictions. It is the mordant, the fixing salt, that sets the colors of what we have heard and seen and read. Are you an omniverous reader? I offer you an experiment—Leave off gorging with books, read only for discipline or equipment and write, write!

It ought to be more clearly recognized than I think it is generally that the mere care to assert and exemplify the triumph of virtue over vice is not always enough. The intention of this is to retain the sympathies on the side of rectitude, but it would not be hard to show that it sometimes fails as utterly to effect that result as the good story of Robinson Crusoe fails to warn boys away from the sea. The fact is that every sort of moral error has its own peculiar radius within the swing of which the mind cannot come, even under the most approved circumstances, without feeling its baleful attraction. These distances vary greatly. Some wrong-doing scarcely tempts the intelligent mind even by actual contact, while the very names of others, even while they are being denounced, cast an evil spell, inflaming the imagination and debasing the will. The crucial test of the literary treatment of any vice should be, therefore, not whether the author has intended to exemplify, or has even succeeded in exemplifying, the ultimate unprofitableness and punishment of transgression, but whether his work does or does not, in any of its stages, procure, either with or without his intention, the reader's consent to a palliation of wrong-doing, or his misconception of its nature or danger, or his failure to visit it at length with his distinct and righteous condemnation. Nay, more; whether even after it has done all this it does or does not leave the reader after all, with a lower opinion of his own nature and the nature of human society and the relative powers of good and evil, than he ought to have.

A slavish subservience to reality is so far from necessary in imaginative writing that it is only necessary to be avoided. It is true that the just claims of reality upon literature are larger in these days than ever they were before. The clean white of truth has a greater value. Its demands upon history, science, philosophy, are inexorable. The literature of the imagination, too, feels their presence. Fictionists and dramatists especially have yielded rather too readily to this pressure, and, often misconceiving its true significance, have assumed that certain subjects are no longer available to them simply because the demands of truth and intolerance of unreality demand a change in their modes of artistic treatment. Here the secret seems to lie of the supposed unfitness of virtuous character, and emphatically of the good men, as material for the prose fictionist. What is the difficulty? In the first place prose fiction has surrendered a great deal of its ideality. Its art has modified itself to correspond with its use, and that use has become the searching study, not of the outward life and actions of men assumed to be simply and grandly different from ourselves, but of the inner life and motives and struggle of characters which, in the light of our knowledge of the universality of human frailty are still within our credence and the grasp of our modern imagination. Now what does this signify? That virtue has ceased to inspire admiration? No; but that the requirements of a less simple and credulous popular mind and a self-restrained imagination reject the outline sketches of gigantic ideal virtue that once stood for portraits of human life, and demand, not that the ideals be lost sight of, but that they shall be even brighter than ever, and shall shine by inference through true and credible portraits of human virtue in all the pathetic discords and harmonies with which its heavenly nobility and earthly frailty combine to make up the fellow-man whom we know.

After Mr. Cable had finished reading, the subject was discussed by S. H. Morse and others.

CAPTAIN GORDON COMMITTED.

The First District Police Court-room in Jersey City was crowded yesterday at the examination of Captain George I. Gordon, of Astoria, L. I., charged with the seduction of Addie Bresnan. Mrs. Curtis, a neighbor of Captain Gordon and a warm sympathizer with him, became so demonstrative that she was removed from the court-room. The Board of Trustees of the Children's Home of Jersey City, from which the girl was adopted by the Bresnans, was represented by James Gopsill, George W. Clerihew and John H. Carnes. Gordon had no counsel.

Addie Bresnan made a statement with several material variations from the story she told on Wednesday. She declared that she was telling the truth, however, and that her statement on Wednesday were influenced by fear of Gordon. She said: "I am fourteen years old past. I have known Captain Gordon since last spring. He came to the house to see my brother, and I was introduced to him on an excursion to High Bridge, to which he invited a party of my friends. The first suggestion of marriage he made to me was in November last; he told me that he was wealthy, and could provide me with all the luxuries of life if I married him. He showed me a great quantity of jewelry and diamonds, which he said were worth $3,000, and which he would give me when we were married. He said he was interested in eighteen mining and stock companies, and that he had an office in William-st., New-York. He knew what my age was, because I told him. He wrote letters to me frequently, and they always contained directions as to what I should write in my answers. He did not send his letters by mail, but handed them to me in the street. He often spoke to me of marriage, and held out as an inducement the jewelry and diamonds he intended to give me."

The girl's account of their movements from the time Gordon met her on Monday morning on her way to school and persuaded her to go with him was much the same as has already been published. In answer to Justice Stilsing, she said that she did not tell the truth on Wednesday because she was afraid of Gordon. The Justice then committed the prisoner for trial in default of $5,000 bail.

MR. BEECHER PREACHES AT A DEDICATION.

The new Union Congregational Church, at Liberty and Orient aves., East New-York, which cost about $5,000, was dedicated last evening. The structure was crowded with persons eager to hear Mr. Beecher, who preached the sermon. The other parts of the service were conducted by the Rev. Dr. Edward Beecher, the Rev. Dr. J. S. Roberts, and the Rev. Messrs. Cobb, Reeve and Clark.

THE ITALIAN MURDER IN BROOKLYN.

A Coroner's jury investigated last evening the circumstances surrounding the death of Maggiorini Dagtiro, of No. 1 President-st., Brooklyn, who was shot through the heart in front of his own house, on the morning of November 30, and found that the fatal wound was caused by a bullet fired from a pistol in the hands of Guiseppe Guidici. Guidici was held to await the action of the Grand Jury.

SEVRES WARE AND TABLE CHINA.

A rare collection of ancient Sevres ware and modern reproductions of old porcelains is now displayed by Tiffany & Co., Union Square, on the third floor, which is devoted to china, fine pottery and glass. A perfect reproduction of the old Sevres "ship" vase has a body in turquoise blue, curved like the keel of an old trading ship, and painted with a gay Dutch landscape. The vase is banded with gold and the cover is mounted with a ship pennant in gold and white. An old pitcher-shaped vase from the Copeland works has a gilded handle in the form of a double-headed dragon, and the creamy surface of the ware is studded thickly with gems in many-colored enamels. A glass jar with a slender neck, in Chinese pattern, is enamelled in heavy arabesques, with gold in simulation of a metal frame around the glass. A huge vase, three feet high, in clouded Mazarin blue, finished in dead gold, is from the modern factories of Sevres. A dark peacock-blue vase from the Minton potteries is decorated in *pâté sur pâté*, the classic figures which form the decorations raised in the effect of an exquisitely cut cameo. Mantle vases and plaques in Vienna ware, in crimson and gold, painted with Greek figures, and Sevres vases in royal blue and gold, are shown side by side. A remarkable collection of cameo glass is exhibited in ruby, amber or azure blue and flint, with figures and flowers cut in opal relief. A tall jar of clear blue glass in this ware is decorated with a pattern of English geraniums and leaves, the petals of the flowers and the tips of the leaves tinged with the brilliant pink of the natural flower. A large array of table china and tastefully decorated stoneware is also displayed.

A SERVANT GIRL'S SAVINGS.

Public Administrator Abbott, of Brooklyn, has been appointed to take charge of the estate of Margaret Tully, who died in St. Mary's Hospital on August 22. Her cousin, Mrs. Elizabeth Smith, of Providence, R. I., hearing that she was dead, visited Brooklyn to find out what had become of her money. At the hospital she was told that her cousin was a poor, broken-down servant girl, and left no money or papers of any kind. The Public Administrator was applied to, as Mrs. Smith did not feel satisfied; he went to the hospital, where two bank-books, one for $1,900 on the Bleecker Street Savings Bank, and the other for $1,500 in the Brooklyn Savings Bank, were given to him. He found that