a commission house in New-York, and that the consular invoices were under valued 20 per cent. The manufacturer justifies this practice on the ground that the United States tariff is iniquitous and contrary to public policy and international comity, and that he could not ship to the United States if he declared his goods at the true value, and that this practice has become established both at Zurich and at Lyons. The special agent also gives information from another manufacturer, who as commissioner, assisted in arranging a commercial tariff between Switzerland and France, who, prior to and pending negotiations between the two countries, ascertained beyond any question of doubt that Zurich sales shipped to the United States were undervalued fully 20 per cent, and that such undervaluation was absolutely necessary to enable the Swiss manufacturers to compete with the American-made goods. He was also informed that it was perfectly understood and no secret that Lyons goods for the American trade were undervalued from 10 per cent to 30 per cent. He also states that Consul Bigers at Zurich informed him that the Zurich agent, or representative, of the large and reputable house of Passavant & Co., of New-York, told him in plain terms that our tariff for silk goods was commonly regarded as a monstrosity, not entitled to respect, but a thing to be avoided and evaded by all possible means and methods, and that declarations upon consular invoices were not held to be in the least binding upon the conscience.

"The special agent in Europe submits a list of sixty invoices of embroideries shipped from St. Galle during September and October, 1883, consigned to houses in New-York and Philadelphia. The samples of the goods represented in these invoices were examined by the expert employed for this duty at the St. Galle consulate, and his report shows an undervaluation of 316,770 francs in a total valuation of 1,887,915 francs, being an average of about 22 per cent."

In addition to the above information, a statement is being prepared by Mr. Martin showing the advances on the invoice values made both by the importer and the appraiser at the port of New-York during the past year.

THE PROTEUS INQUIRY.

CAPTAIN CLAPP'S PART IN ORGANIZING THE EXPEDITION.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—The examination of Captain William H. Clapp, 16th Infantry, was continued by the Proteus Court of Inquiry to-day. In response to a request by General Hazen, the witness described in detail the means taken to insure the safety of the Garlington expedition and the care taken to have all its arrangements complete and its material and supplies of the best and most serviceable character. A letter written by Captain Clapp last month to Major Goodfellow was then identified and submitted in evidence. In this letter Captain Clapp refers to the fact that he was in charge of the Arctic Division of the Signal Office from some time late in 1881 until June 20, 1883, when he was relieved from duty in the office. Before Lieutenant Garlington reported for duty on the relief expedition, Captain Clapp made, in conversation with the Chief Signal Officer, two recommendations—that the depot of supplies and winter station should be made at Cape Sabine, or higher, on the west coast," and "that this should be done as the relief vessel went up." "I remember," he says, "urging this in view of the severe 'nip' sustained by the Neptune in those waters in 1882, and the possibility of disaster from similar cause to the expedition then in contemplation. Both these suggestions involved departures from Lieutenant Greely's plan, but, as I considered, not serious ones and only in the direction of greater security. It was evident that Lieutenant Greely in the event of having to retreat could only do so along the west coast of Smith's Sound, and that the proposed change of location for the supplies and winter station would save him and his party from the troublesome ice between Cape Sabine and Littleton Island and could not in any event increase his danger. The Chief Signal Officer heard me patiently and then informed me that he would not consider or approve any departure from Lieutenant Greely's instructions as contained in his letter. He repeated this with emphasis. When, therefore, I was directed to prepare a 'rough' of instructions for Lieutenant Garlington, these instructions were followed and the paper put in evidence was the result."

Captain Clapp then goes on to state that Garlington agreed with him as to the location of the station on the west coast, but he has no recollection of any conversation as to the landing of supplies on the way up. Regarding the outfit for the expedition it was, I think, Captain Clark says it was "most complete and embraced everything needful. The inquiry now being made is, I believe, with regard to the Chief Signal Officer and subordinates in so far they were concerned with this expedition. I therefore request of the Court to be heard in person or by deposition in the event of there being any testimony directly or indirectly making me responsible for the errors committed. I had requested to be sent in command of the expedition, and selected stores, outfit, &c., in view of the possibility of being sent. I therefore neglected nothing which seemed necessary for the safety of the party to go and the accomplishment of the purpose in view."

Private John Moriarty, a clerk in the Signal Office, who assisted in copying the "supplemental instructions" or "inclosure number 4," was examined, but nothing of importance was developed.

At two p. m. the court adjourned till to-morrow.

THE FITZGERALDS INDICTED.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—The Grand Jury came into court to-day and reported, among others, indictments against N. W. Fitzgerald and Samuel C. Fitzgerald and Andrew B. Webb for alleged violation of laws relating to pensions. When the papers had been handed to the clerk, District-Attorney Corkhill stated that he wished to call the attention of the Court, on personal grounds, to the publication in one of the papers in this city of an open letter to him. At the suggestion of the Court he read the letter, which had been sent to the members of the Grand Jury. The letter, which is signed by N. W. Fitzgerald, criticised the District-Attorney's conduct in attempting to prosecute pension attorneys and as appearing as attorney in the libel suits brought by Fitzgerald against certain newspapers. "It is true," said Mr. Corkhill, "that I am the attorney of *The Globe-Democrat* and *The Cincinnati Commercial Gazette*, but I have a right to appear professionally in these cases as it is no criminal proceeding. My objection is that this document, when it was known that the Grand Jury was investigating this question, was sent to all members of the Grand Jury to influence their action, in violation of law."

"This," said Judge Wylie, "is a matter proper for investigation of Grand Jury. If they have received these papers containing this letter, they may proceed to investigate the matter, and if they find that it is such an offence as described in section 5,405 it is a proper subject for presentment by the Grand Jury and for indictment. In the present condition of the matter the Court has no information as to who sent these papers. The letter was printed in a paper, but that is not an indictable offence. The criminality of the act consisted in attempting to influence the Grand Jury in regard to a matter which was pending before them. You have the power of summoning witnesses and if, after examining them, you ascertain who sent the papers and come to the conclusion that its intended effect was to interfere with your deliberations in the matter, that party is liable to indictment. If you find that the editor of the paper sent it, he is liable. The Court gives you this matter in special charge at the instance of the Attorney of the United States."

The District-Attorney took out bench-warrants for the defendant returnable January 2.

THE COLORED NATIONAL COMMITTEE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—The Colored National Committee met this morning and apportioned the delegates to the convention to be held at Richmond next July. Each Congressional district was allowed two delegates and each Territory one representative. Frederick Douglass, B. K. Bruce, of the District of Columbia, and Colonel William Murrell, of Maryland, were elected Members-at-Large of the National Committee. The Committee on the Freedmen's Bank made a final report, with a memorial asking Congress to reimburse depositors, and denouncing a former act of Congress in creating a Commission to settle the affairs of the institution. In support of the adoption of the report, Mr. Murrell said that "the Freedmen's Bank was the most disgraceful and sinful swindle that ever stained earth or shocked high heaven. The Commission appointed, at $5,000 a year each, was like a hyena devouring a carcass, and then like a lion smashing its bones and sucking the marrow therefrom; and furthermore, a Republican Congress made the Commission the pallbearers of this same carcass." The committee adjourned to meet in Chicago on June 2, 1884.

IN MEMORY OF JUDGE BLACK.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—An adjourned meeting of the bar of the Supreme Court of the United States was held in the court-room at the Capitol to-day for the purpose of taking action upon the death of the late Jeremiah S. Black. Remarks were made by Senators Edmunds, Bayard, Vance and Garland, R. T. Merrick, J. H. Hopkins, W. H. Smith, J. H. Embry, J. H. Ashton and J. Randolph Tucker. Resolutions were adopted expressing the regrets of the members of the bar at the announcement of Judge Black's death, and declaring that he was a lawyer "worthy to be ranked with the greatest and ablest of our age and country" and "a statesman illustrious for his public services, a ready scholar, a vigorous writer, unexcelled as a logician, and in all the relations of life an eminent and most worthy citizen."

A SENTENCE MITIGATED.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—The sentence of the court martial in the case of Lieutenant Uriel Sebree, lately in command of the United States ship Pinta, to suspension from rank and duty for a period of three years, and to retain his present number during suspension, and to be reprimanded in general orders, has been mitigated by the Secretary of the Navy to a public reprimand only.

NAVAL INTELLIGENCE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—The torpedo boat Alarm has been put in commission at Norfolk. Orders have been issued to remove the boilers and engine from the tug Snowdrop and to break up her hull at the Norfolk Navy Yard. The Shenandoah is ready for sea and it is expected she will sail from the Boston Navy Yard to-morrow for the Pacific station, provided no more sick leaves are granted to officers.

Assistant Engineer Charles E. Manning has been detached from the Shenandoah and placed on sick leave; Ensign John T. Newton from the coast survey and ordered to the Yantic; Surgeon J. W. Ross from the Iroquois and ordered to the Onward; Passed Assistant Surgeon Charles L. Hibbett from the Onward, Pacific station, and ordered home; Lieutenant A. B. Wyckoff, from the Monocacy, Asiatic station, and ordered home; Ensign A. A. Ackerman from special duty at the Smithsonian Institution and ordered to duty on the Fish Commission steamer Albatross.

THE FRENCH MERCANTILE MARINE LAW

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—In response to a circular sent out some time ago from the Department of State to United States consuls in France, requesting information as to the operation of the French mercantile marine bounty law of 1881, reports have been received from the consuls at Marseilles, Nantes, La Rochelle and Lyons, giving statistics at hand showing the effects of the law upon French shipping and trade. Consul Taylor, at Marseilles, presents figures to show that since 1880 there has been a decrease in the number and tonnage of sailing vessels registered at that port. In 1880 there were registered at Marseilles 409 sailing vessels of a tonnage of 51,336 tons; in 1881, the number was reduced to 404, and the tonnage to 45,241 tons and in 1882 the number was reduced to 401, and the tonnage to 40,557 tons. The figures bearing on the steamship registration at Marseilles showed an increase in the number and tonnage of such vessels since 1880. In that year the number of steamships registered at the port was 230, with a tonnage of 153,748 tons; in 1881 there were 237 steamships registered with a tonnage of 166,152 tons and in 1882 the number of steamships was 260 and the tonnage 207,838. But with respect to the effect of the law on the ship-building interests of France, Consul Taylor points out that while the provisions of the law show that it was intended to favor those interests, in that particular respect it has failed of its intended effect, only seven of the ships added to the registry of the port of Marseilles in 1881 and 1882 having been built in France. This failure he ascribes to the scarcity of shipyards in France at the date of the enactment of the law and comparative cheapness of English-built vessels. He says: "To counteract this, the French Government has decided that the subsidy paid for the transport of the mails should, in all future contracts, be allowed to French-built ships only. This regulation will secure to French builders a great proportion of the ships to be built in future. Again, French owners are not entirely satisfied with their experience of English-built ships, and have found out that if their first cost is considerably less than in France, the difference is soon made up by the numerous and expensive repairs they require."

"To sum up" Mr. Taylor says," the French public has become so favorably impressed with the law, that there is a general demand in favor of extending its provisions so that ships engaged in trading with foreign ports located inside the limits defined in France as 'long sea voyages' may receive the bounty on navigation of which they are deprived under the present provisions of the law." Consul Glover at Havre reports as follows: "Ship-owners, merchants and business men of every kind with whom I have conversed agree that the first effect produced by the passage of the law was not good. The offer of large bounties both to builders and owners of vessels begat an unhealthy spirit of speculation. Great companies were hastily organized and ship-yards were established in all the principal cities of France. All agree the law of 1881 has given a considerable impulse to ship-building in France, and has added materially to the carrying trade of this country. Although the first results were not entirely satisfactory it is believed that in the long run the act will be beneficial to the French Republic."

WASHINGTON NOTES.

WASHINGTON, Friday, Dec. 21, 1883.

BONDS WITHDRAWN.—The called 3 per cent bonds held for National banks to secure circulation withdrawn to-day amounted to $63,000. Of the proceeds there will be deposited to retire circulation $38,700.

A NEW MICHIGAN BANK.—The Controller of the Currency has authorized the Ishpeming National bank of Ishpeming, Mich., to begin business with a capital of $50,000.

BIDS FOR STEAM ELEVATORS.—The lowest bidders for the steam freight elevators for the Army Office and Public Store Buildings in New-York were Otis Brothers and T. C. Howard.

YELLOW FEVER IN RIO JANEIRO.—The Surgeon General of the Marine Hospital service has been informed of the reappearance of the yellow fever in Rio de Janeiro. It is supposed that this is the beginning of an epidemic in that country, as the warm season has about begun there.

JAMES N. TYNER ON POLITICS.

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES IN THE WEST—THE ELECTION OF CARLISLE.

James N. Tyner, ex-Postmaster General, was at the Gilsey House last evening. He has just returned from a six months' trip in the Northwest, during which he visited Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois and Michigan, stopping in Indiana before coming East.

"What about Harrison and Gresham?" was asked.

"There is no contest between them. Either would be acceptable to the Republicans of Indiana. There is no movement among the friends of either to 'capture' the delegation. I do not speak by authority, but I think General Gresham will not permit the use of his name as a Presidential candidate, while he remains in Arthur's Cabinet. Mr. Harrison will be given the Indiana vote, if he desires it."

"What is said of Mr. Arthur?"

"There are none but the kindest expressions and most favorable criticism of his administration. It has been so much better than was anticipated that there is general satisfaction."

"Does that extend to favoring him for renomination?"

"That I really could not say. It is a point that is seldom discussed West."

"How about Illinois?"

"Logan will have the solid vote of Illinois in the convention, if his name goes before it."

"Is Blaine's name mentioned?"

"Very little. The disposition is to regard him as out of the field. He is quoted as saying so, and is being taken at his word. I think myself that he will be brought before the convention."

"What did you hear on the tariff question?"

"Through Ohio, Indiana and Illinois there is a strong tariff sentiment. These States are largely engaged in manufacturing. Indiana and Illinois have taken great strides forward in this regard within five years. The election of Carlisle as Speaker is regarded in those States and further west as a grave Democratic mistake. That is one of the fears I have for the Republicans—over-confidence, resulting from reliance on Democratic mistakes. Why, in all my travel I have not heard a doubt expressed of Republican success in 1884."

"Will the Democrats nominate 'the old ticket'?"

"That is the combination that appeals most strongly to the Democratic heart. If the masses controlled conventions, that would be the choice. A younger element would poll more votes. McDonald and Slocum appear to me their strongest card."

"Is McDonald stronger in Indiana than Hendricks?"

"McDonald's name will be presented by the Indiana delegation. He is supported by the politicians. Hendricks has more strength with the people. He has been very quiet of late, and is acting more adroitly than of old."

TRADE DOLLARS AND BANK CIRCULATION.

Congressman A. J. Warner, of Marietta, Ohio, was at the Astor House yesterday. When asked concerning the trade dollar, he said: "They will be taken in and exchanged for standard dollars. Congress will make that provision very early in the session."

"What about silver coinage?"

"There does not appear any general disposition to change the present law."

With regard to the currency, he said: "I have found a pretty wide sentiment favorable to removing the restriction on national bank circulation. That is, to permit them to issue notes to the full amount of bonds deposited. The Government would be responsible for the entire issue, just as it is now. The reasons that were valid when the ten per cent limit was fixed do not exist now."

NEITHER COX NOR BELMONT.

A Western Congressman, who would have had a No. 1 chairmanship under Randall, said last evening to a TRIBUNE reporter: "I am not inside, but I have friends inside who told me just before I left Washington that it was certain that neither Cox nor Belmont would be appointed chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs. Ex-Governor Curtin has been selected by Carlisle, and the choice will be generally approved except by the angry friends of the two New-Yorkers."

WORK OF THE GERMAN REPUBLICANS.

The German Republican Central Committee met late last evening at No. 385 Bowery, A. J. Dittenhoefer presiding. Three inspectors from each district for the primary election, who will also act as an enrollment committee, were appointed. A committee of seven was appointed to reorganize the IIId, IVth, VIIIth and Xth Districts. It was decided to hold the enrolment and primaries for German voters between December 27 and January 16.

THE TARIFF ON WOOL.

Congressman George L. Converse, the Democratic champion of the wool interest, was asked here yesterday what were the prospects for his bill for the restoration of the duty of 1848. His reply was in a despondent tone: "I can't tell. The tariff agitation is such that no one can predict anything with certainty. I shall push the bill."

FROM PROSPERITY TO EXTREME POVERTY.

In a cheap lodging-house down-town, yesterday, three men were pointed out to a TRIBUNE reporter. One was formerly a wealthy dry-goods merchant; another was a member of the firm which leased a hotel, now among the largest and best paying of Broadway houses, and a third was a brave colonel in a Massachusetts regiment during the rebellion.

TRANSATLANTIC TRAVELLERS.

The steamship Arizona will take among her passengers to-day Lord and Lady Onslow, Colonel Allen Gardner, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Spelman, F. L. de Forest, Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Martin, J. M. Bowen, Frederick Cotton, George Pemberton, Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Wallen, Henry Nash and Thomas Hobb.

DELTA UPSILON MEN AT DINNER.

The members of the Delta Upsilon Fraternity sat down to the first dinner of the society last evening at Clark's. Cephas Brainard, of the University of the City of New-York, presided.

NEWS FROM STATE CENTRES.

BUFFALO.

THE MUSICAL FESTIVAL—MRS. FILLMORE'S WILL—CHRISTMAS TRADE.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

BUFFALO, Dec. 21.—The edge of the enthusiasm of collecting subscriptions for the building fund of the Young Men's Association was somewhat dulled when the $100,000 limit was reached, but money is still coming in slowly, and over $115,000 has been subscribed. Some of the wealthiest citizens have not as yet been called upon, and it is believed that their gifts will bring the amount up to $150,000.

Buffalo has been peculiarly interested in the success of the great cantilever bridge at Niagara Falls, as the designs for the structure, and the largest portion of this works came from this city. Local pride points admiringly to the rapidity with which the bridge was completed and its readiness at the time appointed as against the delays in the construction of similar public structures in other places.

The Musical Festival has a director at last and, the satisfaction is general that the choice has fallen upon Theodore Thomas. Active work in the way of rehearsal will be deferred until after the holidays, when Mr. Thomas will visit the city and write out a programme, in company with the local managers. It is reported that Rossini's "Stabat Mater," the whole of Mendelssohn's music for the "Midsummer Night's Dream," and possibly Bruch's "Fair Ellen" will be given. A matinee of children's choruses is also proposed.

Christmas trade has been brisk the past few days, and the larger stores are crowded with buyers until late at night. Some dissatisfaction is expressed at the inroads upon other branches of business by the dry-goods merchants, who are selling wares entirely outside of their legitimate line. The booksellers have been especially indignant, and claim that their sales of choice gift books have been badly cut into.

Surrogate Ferris rendered a decision in the Fillmore will case to-day, deciding against the persons who have endeavored to break the will. This settles the question of the sanity of Mrs. Fillmore and her ability to make a will. The decision will certainly be received with some satisfaction here, where she lived so long, and was regarded as an estimable lady. It is expected that the contestants will appeal from the Surrogate's decision.

ROCHESTER.

SLEIGHING—MARGARET MATHER—THE FAILURE OF GORDON—SOCIETY.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

ROCHESTER, N. Y., Dec. 21.—To-day is the first of the sleighing season, and the trotting avenues were crowded with sportsmen and fast steppers, of which there are many wintering here.

The society entertainments of the week have been the reception given by Mr. and Mrs. L. Warde Clarke at the residence of the Hon. Freeman Clarke, which was a brilliant affair in many respects, and a ball given by Mrs. E. H. Hollister at Bowers Hall.

The principal event of the amusement season in Rochester is the yearly appearance for one week of Margaret Mather, an actress unknown to the New-York stage. The people of this city are really enthusiastic in their admiration of this actress, and when her advance sale of seats is announced there is a panic at the box-office, which continues for days. She opens her engagement here on Monday, when Fanny Davenport will also make her first appearance in "Fedora" outside of New-York City. Strange as it may appear to New-Yorkers, "Fedora" is not heard of in the bustle and rush for Mather seats.

The leading topic of the hour is the failure of Donald Gordon, one of the chief dry-goods merchants of this city and who ran branch stores at Oswego and Mexico in this State. His big establishment on Main-st., which was closed yesterday noon, when the general assignment was filed, was opened again this evening. The assignee, A. E. Wolf, is a wealthy young Hebrew with considerable experience in closing out bankrupt stocks. He to-day filed a petition to the court on behalf of the creditors to fix his bonds at a figure that would insure them against possible loss. The petition was granted, and the doors of the store were thrown open. A large portion of the stock consists of holiday goods, which would greatly have depreciated in value after January 1, and the creditors were therefore anxious to secure what benefits they could from the retail trade at once. The store gives employment to a large number of men, women and children. Gordon is a Scotchman and came here from New-York several years ago. He opened a store which rapidly grew in dimensions and popularity. He was an audacious and often imprudent advertiser. In the past two years he appeared to lose interest in his store and gave very little attention to the thousand details of the business which he had developed. Several months ago it was understood that he had invested heavily in a cattle ranch in Kansas, and he has of late spent much of his time there. It is now made known that this property is in his wife's name. Gordon is a man of wonderful energy; if he so resolves he will rise again in business. It has now been revealed that the immediate cause of the assignment was that Gordon feared that H. B. Claflin & Co., of New-York, intended to come on here about January 1 and close up and take charge of the house themselves. Gordon and Mr. Claflin were formerly great friends, but of late a coldness has arisen between them, and Gordon, rather than see Mr. Claflin take the entire stock by an attachment, made the assignment for the benefit of other creditors, placing Claflin among the unpreferred creditors.

SYRACUSE.

AN INDEPENDENT PARTY—JOHN McCULLOUGH—"UNBALANCED BIDS"—THE DEMOCRATS.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

SYRACUSE, Dec. 21.—The movement for an independent party in Syracuse assumed definite form this week. A meeting of the citizens interested was held Wednesday evening and an organization to be known as the "Municipal Club of Syracuse" was formed. Leading citizens are encouraging the movement, among whom are Nathan F. Graves, president of the Merchants' National Bank, and ex-Mayor D. Bookstaver. The Right Rev. Frederick D. Huntington, Bishop of the Diocese of Central New-York, expressed his sympathy with the movement for reform and sent a letter to the meeting alluded to, in which he said: "This city is threatened with three of the worst evils that can threaten and degrade the life of any community: unrestrained sensual indulgence, moral cowardice and political corruption. It is not yet too late to meet and resist these insidious assaults, provided the people themselves will open their eyes, join their hands, rise above the paltry consideration of pecuniary loss or gain, and go about it as they would go about any business operation."

John McCullough played *Virginius* in this place on Wednesday night. He appears to be still suffering from his recent illness, and he was so feeble that it was found necessary to assist him to and from his dressing-room. A laughable incident occurred in the fourth act of the tragedy. Just as McCullough knelt over the dead body of *Appius Claudius* to form a picture, the tragedian sneezed loud enough to awaken the supposed dead decemvir. The audience, it is needless to state, was convulsed with laughter. Next week Syracuse is to have Daly's "7-20-8," Lawrence Barrett, Fanny Davenport and Thomas W. Keene at the opera houses.

The West Shore general offices have been removed from Utica to Syracuse, and Utica is very much exercised in mind in consequence. A committee of Uticans, headed by Ellis H. Roberts, of *The Utica Herald*, and David Prentiss Bailey, of *The Utica Observer*, called upon General Winslow, in New-York, the other day, to protest against the removal. The General informed them in effect that the removal of the offices was influenced by business considerations purely. Investigation in reference to W. K. Niver's being offered the general superintendency of the West Shore road elicits the information that that gentleman has never entertained the proposition made to him by the West Shore officials.

Keble school for young ladies, Miss Mary J. Jackson, principal, and St. John's school at Manlius, the Rev. Mr. Craig, head master, for boys, entered upon their vacations for the holidays this week. Both institutions are under the patronage of Bishop Huntington. The schools number over two hundred scholars, and are exceedingly prosperous.

THE TRIBUNE'S exposure of the "unbalanced bid" system permitted by Hubert O. Thompson has excited lively interest in Central New-York. Old canal contractors say that the prices paid by Thompson for rock excavation are nearly fifty times as large as the prices obtained by canal contractors on "unbalanced bids."

It has been published that James J. Belden was advocating the election of Dewitt C. Littlejohn, of Oswego, as Speaker of the Assembly. Mr. Belden said to-day that, in his opinion, this was not a good year for machine dictation or dictation of any sort. In his opinion the selecting of a Speaker should be left to the members of the Assembly upon whom it properly devolves. He believes that no influences or schemes will be permitted to interfere in the selection of the officers of the Assembly this year. He further expressed the belief that legislation this year will be of a better class than heretofore, and that the proper man for Speaker will be the man who is impressed with this belief.

William A. Beach, of this city, who has been to Albany looking for the position of Deputy Attorney-General, has returned somewhat crestfallen concerning his prospects of success. In fact it seems to be settled that Isaac H. Maynard, the Democratic nominee for Secretary of State, will get the place. The leaders of the Democracy in this section doubt the wisdom of placing Mr. Maynard in the Attorney-General's office. They assert that he has been repudiated by the people, and that placing him in office now would be construed as a defiance to the will of the people.

Central New-York is enjoying good sleighing, whereat the merchants all rejoice as well as the people at large. Syracuse bids fair to be gay during the holidays. The first of the young gentlemen's parties will be held at Chase Music Hall on the evening of December 26. Captain Robert Townsend, upon whom the principal management devolves, is authority for the statement that the parties will be the most brilliant ever given in Syracuse.

ALBANY.

SOCIAL LIFE—THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE—THE NEW CAPITOL.

[FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

ALBANY, Dec. 21.—The dulness of last year's social season promises to prevail throughout the coming winter months. Many of the wealthier families of the city, upon whom the burden of entertainment falls are in mourning, and this number has just been augmented by the sad death of Mrs. Amasa J. Parker, jr., who was universally esteemed in Albany society. The number of private receptions will be small, and in the way of public entertainment nothing is anticipated beyond the annual ball for the benefit of the Babies' Nursery—the social entertainment of the year—which takes place next Wednesday evening, and the series of Thursday assemblies at Bleecker Hall. Governor Cleveland, Lieutenant-Governor Hill, the Fort Orange Club and Senator Kiernan will give their annual stag reception to the Legislature and State officers.

Social stagnation finds its counterpart in inactivity of trade. The electric light companies have availed themselves of the rivalry existing between some of the larger stores to advertise in show windows their different methods of lighting. The interest excited has led to the preliminary organizations of an Edison company in this city, embracing Grange Sard, of Rathbone, Sard & Co., the Hon. A. Bleecker Banks, Daniel Wimple and other wealthy capitalists, with a view to applying electric lights to dwellings.

The lecture of Monsignor Capel on "Religion and Art" attracted a small audience. On Wednesday morning Mrs. William Cassidy gave a breakfast in honor of the prelate.

Governor Cleveland to-day finished a rough draft of his message. Congratulation will be expressed at the substantial progress made on the erection of the Capitol during the year. The co-operation of the Legislature is sought that the building may be completed in two years more. An appropriation of $2,000,000 will probably be asked this year, and provision for the construction of approaches to the Capitol. At an early day in the session of the Legislature the appointment of a successor to General Jourdan, of Brooklyn, will be submitted to the Senate. Although the three ranking brigadiers are Republicans, the appointment will be made from among them. The report of Adjutant-General Farnsworth will suggest a few modifications of the military code. No recommendation for the establishment of a brigade camp at Peekskill will be made, until the separate companies of the State have acquired proficiency in battalion and regimental manœuvres at the camp.

The tariff reform meeting, organized by the New-York Free-Trade Club, attracted a small audience at Bleecker Hall this evening. Professor A. L. Perry, of Williams College, and Thomas G. Shearman, of New-York, were the speakers. Judge Samuel Hand presided.

It is understood that Mayor Murphy of Troy, has secured the support of the Manning interest in behalf of Robert Hasbrouck, of Troy, for Deputy-State Engineer, and that his appointment is decided upon. Attorney-General-elect O'Brien has reconsidered his determination to appoint Judge Maynard as deputy, but has not definitely determined not to do so.

Assemblyman Howe will occupy the Norton mansion on State-st. during the winter; Senator Newbold the Rathbone residence, on the same street; Senator Robb the Townsend residence on Elk-st.; and Senator Fassett a house on Madison-ave. Judge Danforth, of the Court of Appeals, will break the custom of the members of the Court, who have lived at the Kenmore for several years, and occupy a private house this winter.

Several Albany clergymen have combined in an effort to secure a lecture from Matthew Arnold in this city in February.

It is assumed here that Messrs. O'Brien and Sweet will make a clean sweep in the offices of the Attorney-General and State Engineer before the Civil Service law goes into operation. Subordinates in the former office have already received a distinct intimation to that effect.

TROY.

MONSIGNOR CAPEL'S LECTURE—FRANK WALWORTH—A TRADES-UNION REBELLION.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

TROY, N. Y., Dec. 21.—Monsignor Capel's lecture here for the benefit of the Dominican Convent was a failure in the attendance it attracted, and the attention he received, and yet Troy as a city is largely Catholic. There is a provincial seminary here, a nunnery, nearly a dozen churches, each of which has a parish school, and a very active influential Catholic population. The present and late Mayors both belong to that sect. Why it was that Monsignor Capel failed in attracting a large audience may perhaps be explained upon the theory that lecture and lecturers are out of date. Only last week Henry Ward Beecher spoke to a house not half full of people. Years ago no hall in the city accomodated the crowd that desired to hear him.

The marriage of F. H. Walworth, the slayer of his father, Mansfield T. Walworth, in New-York some years ago, to a daughter of ex-Governor Bramlette, of Kentucky, is the sensation of this vicinity. The marriage took place yesterday in a church at Mechanicsville in the presence simply of a dozen friends and with the church doors locked to prevent the intrusion of outsiders. Since Mr. Walworth came out of the asylum he has studied law and become a leader of society in Saratoga. His conduct has been every way irreproachable and universal good wishes attend him in his marriage. The bride is young, pretty and intelligent.

The Ida Hill section of this city is practically under martial law. The Moulders Union holds it in terror, and the president of the society with members of it hourly patrol streets on the hill. Luckless non-unionists employed at the Malleable Iron Works are stoned and fired at. Merchants are forbidden to deliver goods to the workmen, and respectable citizens going home are stopped on the st. and required to give an account of themselves. The police are half in sympathy with the unionists. The Mayor is indifferent or inefficient. The moulders openly proclaim their purpose to compel the proprietors of the Malleable Iron Works to recognize the union or break up the business. One man has been killed, many others injured, and every minute citizens expect to hear of further outrages and bloodshed.

THE FIRE RECORD.

A FOUR-STORY BUILDING BURNED.

Flames were discovered at 1:30 a. m. yesterday in the four-story building at Nos. 202 and 204 East Twenty-ninth-st., owned and partly occupied by D. M. Koehler, distiller. Two alarms were sent out within twenty minutes after the fire started, but before the firemen could control the flames nearly everything of value in the building was destroyed. Mr. Koehler occupied the first floor of the building and his loss was estimated at $8,000. The second floor was occupied by W. Stamer and F. Ecanbert, machinists, whose loss was about $1,000. Wigley & Co., manufacturers of carriage lamps, on the third floor, lost about $2,000. On the top floor were the workshops of Du Moulin & Sugerman, diamond polishers. Their loss was $1,500. Most of the losses were covered by insurance. Fireman Robert Douglas, of Engine Company No. 16, accidentally fell from the third story to the sidewalk and received slight injuries.

SUFFOCATED BY SMOKE.

In a fire at No. 43 Nostrand-ave., Brooklyn, yesterday morning, John Dreesse, age forty, who lived in the house, was suffocated by the smoke and died yesterday afternoon at St. Mary's Hospital. The fire was caused by the explosion of a kerosene lamp. The loss on the furniture was $1,000, and on the house, owned by J. Solomon, was $1,000. Dreesse got out the house in safety, but returned for his property, and was caught by the smoke. Fire Engineer Smith dragged him out of the building.

A NEWSBOY'S SUIT FOR DAMAGES.

The trial of the suit against the New-York, Lake Erie and Western Railroad Company, instituted by William Haring through a guardian, for $20,000 damages for a broken leg, was begun yesterday in the Hudson County Circuit Court. The plaintiff, who is a newsboy, got on a Pavonia-ave. street car on April 22, to sell a paper to a passenger. The passenger, it is alleged, invited him to remain on the car, and he did so, riding several blocks. The driver struck the boy a blow with the butt end of his whip, which knocked him off the platform, and in the fall his leg was broken. He was laid up for several weeks. The suit was brought against the Railroad company because it is alleged to be the owner of the horse-car line. R. B. Seymour appeared for the plaintiff, and Courtlandt Parker and his son for the defendant.

LAWYERS AT DINNER.

The annual dinner of the Committee on Admissions to the Bar took place last evening at Pinard's, in East Fifteenth-st. There were present Augustus C. Brown, chairman; Henry R. Beekman, secretary; Hamilton Odell, Charles D. Ingersoll, De Lancy Nicoll, Lucien Oudin, Edward T. Bartlett, Clarence H. Knox, Osborne E. Bright, David B. Ogden, Ernest G. Stedman, William B. Crosby, Clarence Carey, Franklin A. Paddock, Herbert B. Turner, William G. Wilson, Frank K. Pendleton, S. Sidney Smith, Charles D. Adams, Frederic de P. Foster and Allen W. Evarts.

ANTHRACITE MINING OPERATIONS.

MOUNT CARMEL, Penn., Dec. 21.—The Mine Inspector's report for November, made public to-day, shows that in the Pottsville, Shamokin and Shenandoah districts there were mined last month 1,080,631 tons of anthracite coal, in the production of which fifteen miners were killed and thirty-four severely injured. A large number of those who met with the accidents were inexperienced Poles and Hungarians.

RAILWAY INTERESTS.

DISCUSSING THE TRIPLE ALLIANCE.

The chief officers of the Chicago and Northwestern Railway Company conferred for some hours yesterday with the officers of the Union Pacific Railway at the office of the last named company, in the Western Union Building, about the new agreement recently made by the Union Pacific with the Rock Island and the St. Paul companies. The contract was discussed and explained, but after the meeting the officers of the Northwestern road said that they had taken no action in the matter. Vice-President Sykes, speaking for President Keep, said that the position of the company had not been changed; that the officers had not signed the agreement and that it was not possible to say what course the company would pursue. Some of the other directors declared that the Northwestern would unite in the agreement, but that it might not do so for a few days.

At the conference President Keep and General Manager Hughitt were present in behalf of the Northwestern and President Dillon and General Manager Clark for the Union Pacific. Jay Gould, who is a director in both companies, and Russell Sage also took part in the meeting. Mr. Dillon and Mr. Gould are also directors of the Rock Island Railway.

THROUGH TRAINS BY THE WEST SHORE.

Through trains over the New-York, West Shore and Buffalo Railway between New-York, Buffalo and Chicago, and between Boston and Chicago, will begin to run on January 1, 1884. The New-England connection is over the Boston, Hoosac Tunnel and Western Railway, which has been extended to a connection with the West Shore at Rotterdam Junction, thence over the Fitchburg Railroad. The West Shore has obtained equal rights over the Niagara Falls and Suspension Bridge Division of the Erie, and will use that line as the connecting link between the West Shore at Buffalo and the Great Western Division of the Grand Trunk Railway at Suspension Bridge. Through cars will be run over the Great Western and Chicago and Grand Trunk railways. The company announces low excursion rates to and from all points on its line for the holidays.

NEW-YORK AND NEW-ENGLAND.

A prominent director of the New-York and New-England Railroad Company said yesterday that the new board had found the affairs of the road in poorer shape than they had expected. The amount of the floating debt was not stated positively, but it was said that the immediate requirements would not fall short of $1,000,000. A part of this sum was for the payment of the January interest, for which no provision had been made by the old board. It is understood that persons interested in the company yesterday agreed to take the $500,000 second mortgage bonds in the company's treasury at a price which was not named. The Finance Committee, which was recently charged with the duty of providing for the wants of the company will not report until December 28.

REPORTS OF THE ELEVATED ROADS.

ALBANY, Dec. 21.—The following railroad reports for the year ended September 30 have been filed with the Railroad Commission:

MANHATTAN ELEVATED RAILROAD.

Capital stock	$26,000,000	$26,000,000
Subscribed and paid in	19,005,700	19,150,700
Unfunded debt	1,596,392	1,134,617
Earnings.		
From passengers		$8,345,258
" mails		5,000
" news privileges		9,000
" interest		4,612
" sale of old scrap, &c		22,604
Total		$8,386,505
Expenditures.		
For transportation		$3,776,827
" dividends		390,000
" rental of leased lines		1,384,080
Total		$5,530,907
Surplus for the year		855,597
September 30, 1882		562,458
Passengers carried		92,124,943

NEW YORK ELEVATED RAILROAD.

	1882.	1883.
Capital	$10,000,000	$10,000,000
Subscribed and paid in	6,500,700	6,500,000
Funded debt	8,500,000	8,500,000
Unfunded debt	51,336	85,463
Total cost of road and equipment	14,918,682	14,572,250

The sum of $346,432 has been taken out of construction and added to profit and loss. In addition to the sum of $14,572,250, the Manhattan Company expended upon the lines of the company to September 30, $609,473, making $15,182,724; earnings from rent, $10,000; paid for legal services, $8,605