MUSIC—THE DRAMA.

MR. MAPLESON'S BENEFIT.

"Semiramide," garnished with anachronisms, made ridiculous in the settings, but glorified by the singing of Mme. Patti, has been the most popular opera that Mr. Mapleson has put forward this season at the Academy of Music. It was therefore well chosen for his annual benefit performance which occurred last night with the same distribution of parts as on three representations given the opera previously this season. The house was well peopled but not crowded, and the singing of Mme. Patti and her able coadjutor, Mme. Scalchi, frequently stirred up great enthusiasm. The opera representations will continue on Friday evening and Saturday afternoon, but this was the last opportunity to hear Mme. Patti for a time concerning which nothing seems to have been settled. It is certainly greatly to be hoped that she will return to New-York for a spring season. Accepting the theory, which has much evidence to support it, that German opera is crowding Italian into the background, it is nevertheless true that it only increases the duty of all musical persons to hear this matchless singer. Hers is the art which needs to be studied, all the more assiduously if the dramatic element is to crowd out the lyrical element of opera. This is the lesson Dr. Damrosch taught by attending the dinner given in Mme. Patti's honor and sounding her praises as a vocalist.

The departure of the audience after the curtain had fallen on the last act of the opera was checked by loud cries from different parts of the house of "Mapleson," and finally the curtain was raised and Mme. Patti led in Mr. Mapleson from the wing. He was greeted with warm applause as he took a place with Mmes. Patti and Scalchi on either hand and spoke briefly as follows:

"Ladies and gentlemen—I beg to thank you sincerely for your attendance this evening on this occasion. I regret the absence of my leading stockholders, but you are all my stockholders and so long as you support me I shall tender my best service to please you. I have nearly completed my seventh year in this building, laboring under many difficulties at times in my interest in art. I regret that I have not been able to produce two or three pieces that I should have given. But with such talent as I have on my right (to Mme. Scalchi), and with such talent on my left (to Mme. Patti), and with such talent in front of me, bowing to Sig. Arditi, I must foot along as best I can. [Laughter and applause.] This city is growing rapidly, and if I am to be singled out to take charge of Italian opera, I must make my home somewhere. [Applause.] I can only repeat that I am much obliged to you, ladies and gentlemen, for your attendance."

The curtain was falling amid applause when the two ladies, who had him a willing captive, led Mr. Mapleson forward nearer to the footlights. Then a handsome bouquet and bouquet were handed up to him from the footlights. The bill fulfilled, but the audience did not depart. The bill had come once more, bowing and smiling before the curtain.

THE STANDARD THEATRE REOPENED.

The Italian Standard Theatre was opened last night under the management of James H. Hope with an English version of Von Suppe's operetta "Fatinitza." The theatre is practically a new one and so far as the exterior front is concerned is yet unfinished. An effort has been made in the interior decorations to introduce new effects in colors and a few architectural novelties, with a result which may generally be set down as successful, although there is a raw air about the coloring which we scarcely believe will be found agreeable to the many. So far as the designs are concerned they are in admirable taste and the curtain, though pitched in the high tone of the walls, proscenium and tier fronts, is nevertheless felicitous in idea. The programme of the theatre is printed on a rubricated sheet of the usual blanket size that has long been a nuisance. It contains the information that the theatre is to be devoted to the production of "opera comique," which we presume is the manager's way of trying to say that operettas are to be the staple of the representations; we certainly do not expect ever to attend a performance of a French "opera comique" there. The choice of "A Trip to Africa" was one which will give pleasure to the lovers of operettas of the Viennese school. Just a year ago it was produced in the original tongue at the Thalia Theatre in the Bowery and four of the persons who took part in the German representations are in the company which Mr. Duff has domiciled at the Standard. The plot of the operetta and its dramatic working out are not so good as to repel criticism, but they furnish excellent opportunities to the composer, and, which is quite as much to the purpose nowadays, to the theatrical costumer, for the exhibition of their arts. The music throughout has an easy flow which betrays the hand of a veteran and practised writer, and if it lacks the pervading charm of the music of "Fatinitza" it nevertheless is much superior to a great deal that has won the favor of the public. It abounds in concerted pieces with pretty national characteristics in melodic tunes and harmonies. The scenes, being laid in and near Cairo and in the tropical interior of Africa, are picturesque, and Mr. Duff has shown full appreciation of their beauty by the manner in which he has furnished his stage.

Almost equal success has crowned the efforts made in the musical line. The conductor is Herr Mowak, formerly of the Thalia, who there became familiar with the work. Mr. Alexander Kielin, who has acquired some English, but not enough, sings and acts the part of *Mirudillo* almost as well as he did at the Thalia, and Miss Engelmeier does the part of *Scric*, a scantily clad Abyssinian slave, quite as well as she did it in German. The other characters are represented by well-meaning and more or less talented people, who will soon develop the appreciation of the comical elements of the piece which as yet they lack. Of all of them only Miss Neiland is completely good histrionically. Mr. A. L. King, whose musical and correctly attuned voice we have frequently admired in concerts, cut a fine figure as a Moorish prince, and was apparelled with appropriately barbaric richness. He sang his music well, moreover, which is something to be thankful for when the music is so good as to deserve being sung well, but the narrow circle of his stage knowledge was always manifest. When familiar knowledge of the immediate object of his presence on the stage comes to him he will probably acquire a freedom of movement which will enable him not only to give greater variety to his gestures and facial expressions, but also to emit his voice with less evidence of restricted power. Miss Conron, who will alternate hereafter with Miss Seebold (also a former member of the Thalia company—Mr. Amberg seems to be stocking the English operetta companies) in the principal woman's part, sang agreeably, and so did Miss St. John.

VICTOR DURAND AT WALLACK'S.

Record has already been made in this journal of the first night and the auspicious reception of Mr. Henry G. Carleton's excellent drama of "Victor Durand," at Wallack's Theatre. The successful production of a new American play, however, is an event that may well warrant further consideration. It is not often that such an emphatic hit as this is made upon the stage by a writer comparatively inexperienced and unknown. Mr. Carleton makes a worthy beginning, and one from which certainly many good results may be expected. Among other things, the charge so often made as to Mr. Wallack's alleged aversion to American plays and his resolute reluctance to produce even a good one, may now be considered exploded and set at rest.

Mention of the attributes of the new piece and an estimate of its value have already been given. Reference may now be added to the ingredients of its plot. The predicament imagined for *Victor Durand* is one that has sometimes occurred in fact, and that has often, in different guises of circumstance, been used in fiction. Accused, and, by circumstantial evidence and hostile and treacherous false witness, convicted of a crime of which he was innocent, he has been detained in prison; but he has escaped, and changed his name, and started life anew, keeping his secret, and presently marrying the woman whom he loves, but in whose love he has a wicked and dangerous rival. At this point the play begins; and the theme which it proceeds to display is the malignant effort of the villian to procure the rearrest and reimprisonment of *Victor Durand*, to destroy his happiness and his home, and to carry away his wife. For a time these rascally machinations are almost successful. In the end they are discomfited.

All this seems trite and hackneyed in a plain rehearsal of facts; it is the dramatic manner in which all this is recounted that inspires interest, arouses sympathy, and commands admiration. It may be doubted whether an actual criminal, such as *De Mersac* (the *Iago* of this drama), is represented to be, would, even remotely, endanger his own safety by disturbing, from any motive whatever, an already safe condition of circumstances; but strange and unusual things continually occur in this world, and without assuming a certain license as to probability it might be difficult to make a play at all. The dramatist in this instance assumes that his villian does disturb a safe condition of circumstance, because of irresistible love for a woman; and he has, with thoughtful adroitness, invested this rascal with uncommon talent, and caused him to fashion his conduct with exceptional skill.

The first act of the piece shows the characters in their domestic and social relations, and terminates with *Durand's* arrest. The second act involves him in a network of such adverse evidence as makes his innocence seem impossible even in the eyes of his devoted wife. The third act, crystallizing the inherent strength of the drama, confronts him with his enemy; confronts that enemy with his wife; and closes with an interview betwixt wife and husband which is remarkable as showing what power may consist in the simple expression of sincere feeling. Perhaps the dramatic effect would be finer were the wife's avowal of perfect confidence in her accused husband's integrity made in the presence of other persons. The scene, however, is one of refreshing truth and unmistakable force. The fourth and final act procures the vindication of the innocent man through a neat bit of evidence, which, all through the piece, has been dimly glimmering just beneath the surface of disclosure.

The introduction of an organ-grinder as an accomplice in the villany of *De Mersac*, is not an admirable expedient. There is no very startling intricacy of novel invention in the work; nor can it be said that its storm of emotion casts up any gem of thought or any unusual ideal of nobility in character or conduct. Yet, undeniably, it is a play that interests the mind, imparts an emphatic and salutary sense of the possible excellence of human nature amid circumstances of trial and affliction, and manifests, on the part of its author a decided and unusual talent for presenting persons and things in a dramatic manner. Mr. Carleton has labored to good purpose, and the public no less than the author will benefit by his well directed and admirable labor. "Victor Durand" is already enrolled among the best successes of the dramatic year.

OLD WORLD GOSSIP.

ABOUT PERSONS AND THINGS OF NOTE.

From Mr. Labouchere's Truth (London.)

HEAVY WHIST STAKES.

Count Phalen, who died recently at Cannes, at the age of ninety-six, was formerly well known in English society, and was a constant guest at Devonshire House, the Royal Cottage, and at Lady Jersey's, for nearly twenty years after he first came to this country with the Emperor Alexander in 1814. He afterward went to Paris, where his brother was Ambassador for many years, and thence to Italy; and while residing at Venice in 1838 he was summoned back to Russia by the Emperor Nicholas. But he did not long remain in his native country; and, on his second visit to England, he was again a *persona grata* at Stafford House, Devonshire House, and other "Mont Blancs" of the social struggle. The Count was at one time a renowned whist-player, and once, when passing through Berlin on his way to Russia, he won £20,000 from Prince John Lichtenstein at a single sitting. He was on most intimate terms with Talleyrand, Pozzo di Borgo and Montrond.

A DUAL EXISTENCE.

The other day a curious case came before Mr. Justice Chitty, which, as far as I have seen, has not been reported in any of the papers. A gentleman called Pound left a will by which he bequeathed his entire property to his wife, Mrs. Pound. A gentleman called Jackson also left a will by which the lady who was known as Mrs. Jackson became his sole legatee. Pound and Jackson eventually turned out to be one and the same person, and the question arose as to who was entitled to his property. The techuical points of the case were not of general interest; but it seems a most extraordinary thing that a man could not only lead a completely dual existence un etected, but that he should almost deceive himself into believing that he was two different persons.

MME. HUGUES AS LADY MACBETH.

An American speculator is extremely anxious to get Mme. Clovis Hugues to sign an engagement with him to play Lady Macbeth in the United States and different European cities, when she is acquitted. I have no doubt that she would, in that character, be one of the greatest successes of the age. She is Stidonsish in air, aspect and possibly disposition; has lived in an atmosphere of poetry and the art, and has a natural bent for *le style noble*. With very little teaching she would make a first-rate tragedy queen, and probably the finest Lady Macbeth that ever trod the boards of a theatre since Mrs. Siddons retired from the stage. Her voice accords with her person. It is strong, deep and musical. Latterly, she was rather stout for perfect beauty. But it may be expected that seven weeks in a theatre of Shakspeare will exhibit her more slim. Being a sculptress, she has an artistic appreciation of attitude. Her arms are finely [illegible] and she knows how to use them. Her conception of the character is that of a woman who, [illegible] and sleeps in the face of the American spectator.

A PRETTY BIG FISH.

One of the largest salmon ever known to have been taken from a European river was netted a few days ago in the Tay, near the mouth of the Almond, a few miles above Perth. The weight was estimated at about eighty pound. The fish was five feet in length and two feet five inches in girth. It was a male, fresh run, and in splendid condition. It was returned to the river, having been captured in the course of the operations which are being carried on to provide for the annual stocking of the Hatcheries at Stormontfield and Dupplin, which have been very successful this season.

From Life (London.)

ANOTHER "CLAIMANT."

In these days claimants of some kind or another seem to be very plentiful, but we have at present in Paris a lady who appears to have taken quite a new departure in this—often very profitable—line of business. I believe that by birth she is a German. Her name is Gusser. She claims to be nothing less than the eldest daughter of the Queen of England, and says that soon after she was born, the Princess Royal, then, of course, a baby, was substituted for her, in order to please the late Prince Consort. Why that exchange could ever have been made, I have not yet heard; but there is something in connection with a morganatic marriage of Prince Albert that is put forth as the reason. It would seem difficult for any one who knows the history of the English Court for the last fifty years to believe in such a tale; but like every impostor, this lady has her followers, or rather, those who believe in her story; and I hear she is about to publish a book, which, she says, will prove her to be what she says. To carry out her intentions she wants funds; and I am told that she has been supplied, to a certain extent, with what she requires. Her chief supporter, on whom she relies for assistance to carry out her plans and bring her case before the public of Gaul, is said to be an American gentleman who has long resided in Paris. This may or may not be true; but it is the universal talk of her in this city. I may add that she is at present residing at a small private hotel, and, however absurd her claims may be, she conducts herself with the greatest propriety. I have not yet seen her, but a gentleman who is a firm believer in her story tells me that she is about forty-five years of age and resembles Her Majesty very much. But this, as a matter of course, must be taken with a very large piece of the proverbial grain of salt.

A PERPETUAL CAMELLIA.

A curious *habitué* of the Paris boulevards is an aged personage of rather less than shabby-genteel appearance, sporting the most splendid white camellias as a buttonhole. The person in question, well known in the world of gamblers, some five years ago had such a lucky night at the tables that he paid to a pretty florist his buttonholes in advance for five years. Fortune has since deserted him, and all that remains to remind him of former prosperous days is a fresh camellia every morning, of which he never fails to avail himself, even when—as sometimes will happen—he has to forego a dinner.

FAMOUS BUILDINGS IN THE MARKET.

French lovers of art and curios are in tears at the loss of the Basilewski collection, which the Russian Government acquired, all in a moment, one day last week, by telegraph; and Parisians are holding up their hands in dismay at the decision of the Prince de Wagram to sell his two splendid *hôtels* in the Rue de la Rochefoucauld and the Rue de la Tour des Dames, on account of the domestic affliction which has lately befallen him. These two buildings date from the time of the First Empire, and belonged respectively to Mlle. Mars and Mlle. Duchesnois, two "stars" of the Comédie Française, and neighbors of the great Talma, who died in a house close by. The *hôtels* were in turn inhabited by the Comte de Gouvion-Saint-Cyr and the Comte de Sassenay, who sold them to the Prince de Wagram, who made them into one magnificent dwelling.

From The Whitehall Review.

A NIGHT SCENE IN THE COMMONS.

The House of Commons presented a curious appearance at 5 o'clock on Friday morning, when what at one time promised to be an absolute all-night sitting of the good old-fashioned type was still in progress. On the Treasury bench Mr. Balfour held himself stiffly erect. Mr. Chamberlain leaned languidly back and smiled blandly, as if he were cherishing soft visions of the departed Schnadhorst and the missing Larry Mack. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman wore his habitual air of puzzled surprise beneath a hat of the most amazing newness of gloss and lustre. Mr. Walker looked gloomy. Lord Richard Grosvenor looked cross. Mr. Caine, in all the pride of his new office, talked condescendingly to the late Lord Mayor below the Bar; while Lord Kensington leaned on the Sergeant's chair, and conversed anxiously with Captain Erskine, who stroked his beard thoughtfully. Mr. Warton had the Opposition benches all to himself, and reigned supreme for the seat of Sir Stafford Northcote. Sir Charles Hilke paced up and down the dark space behind the Speaker's chair like a caged animal. On the Liberal benches below the gangway Dillwyn and Dodds slumbered, and Shaw-Lefevre, with his face thrust out, thought sullenly of his committee, which was to meet at 12 that same day. Sir Andrew Fairbairn fitted about with a lowtide-of-the-Ganges countenance, and at last got up and moved a count, under the manifest impression that he was thereby serving the Government—an impression which was soon dissipated when the Government whips with the utmost speed brought in the necessary forty, as a count would have compelled a Friday sitting. The Third Party alone seemed in their element, and were volubly contented.

IRREVEREND JIBES.

From The Boston Journal.

Several weeks ago *The New-York Evening Post* expressed editorially its impatience to have the suit brought against it by the Rev. Dr. Ball, of Buffalo, hurried to a trial, and intimated that it was eager to get "at" him. It is an interesting fact that the delays thus far secured in the trial have been at the solicitation of *The Post's* attorneys, and that at the very time when *The Post* was expressing its eagerness to show up Dr. Ball its counsel was entreating to have the case dropped, on the ground that the election was over. It is a familiar truism that the biggest bullies are also the biggest cowards, and *The New-York Evening Post* is no exception to the rule.

THE COMING SENATOR.

From The Buffalo Express.

It begins to look as if William M. Evarts would be his name. And a great many Republicans—to say nothing of the other people in the State at large—seem to be quite ready, already, to say amen to that.

In many respects the election of Mr. Evarts would be a happy conclusion. To speak of his qualifications for the stately office would be superfluous—they are generally understood to be admirable and adequate. Probably no intelligent person in New-York is unaware of his absolute fitness to represent the Empire State in the Federal Senate. Even Mr. Evarts himself, absorbed as he is in large affairs, is not so indifferently acquainted with the recognized leader of the New-York Bar, as not to know it. To say that William M. Evarts would be a great Senator is much like saying that Ulysses S. Grant has been a great General.

Not the least among the merits of this candidacy must be estimated the probability that the election of Mr. Evarts as Senator would do as much toward harmonizing the conflicting elements which still, to a sorry extent, distract the Republican party in this State as would that of any other man. His success could not be regarded as the triumph of any faction. He has not been known as an anti-Arthur, an anti-Blaine, or an anti-any-other-man. He was never claimed by the stalwarts as one of their own, and the Half-breeds did not feel that they had any hold upon him. He has been a Republican indeed, without qualification and without guile. During all the factional period the party has always known where to find him, if the factions have not.

INCIDENTS IN SOCIETY.

Mrs. Henry Sloane of No. 13 West Fifty-seventh-st., gave a dinner party to twelve guests last evening. Large clusters of pale pink roses were presented to each lady. The company afterward attended the Patriarchs' ball.

Miss Sadie H. Olmstead, daughter of Mrs. C. A. Olmstead, was married to Dr. Joseph B. Lawrence of this city, at her home, No. 108 Lefferts place, Brooklyn. Only the relatives were present. The Rev. Edward Hungerford, uncle of the bride, officiated, and afterward Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence departed on a Southern tour.

Mrs. James N. Young, held a large reception at her house, No. 42 West Fifty-fourth-st. The decorations consisted of holly and evergreens.

Mrs. Richards of No. 131 Hicks-st., Brooklyn, gave a german to 200 young people.

The Orange Reunion ball took place in Music Hall, Orange, and was attended by 200 guests, many of them from this city.

THE PATRIARCHS' BALL.

The first Patriarchs' ball of the season took place last evening at Delmonico's, and was attended by over three hundred and fifty guests. The ball room and adjacent parlors were beautifully decorated with holly, mistletoe and ivy. Each of the nineteen large mirrors was framed in holly and ferns, while moss hung in silvery festoons from the top, and pink and white flowers formed a band against the bottom. Between each mirror was placed a long panel made of ivy and ferns, and covered with brilliant flowers, each panel being different from the others. One was of rare orchids mingled with tulips, another of large marigolds, and one of pale pink and deep crimson carnations. Over each door was a plaque of callas and Amazon lilies mingled with ivy and ferns. The two music balconies were covered with holly and evergreens and fringed with English mistletoe. In the centre of the larger one was a cluster of pink and white pampas grass, with a pink shield on either side. On the other was a large shield shaded with grasses. The light from the five large chandeliers was subdued by straw-colored shades. The parlors were decked with palms and the lights covered with pink shades. The upper floor was used for dressing rooms.

The ball opened at 11 o'clock, with a waltz played by Lander's orchestra. At half past 12 supper was served down stairs in the large restaurant, at small round tables. At half past 1 the cotillion began, led by J. Rideaway Moore, and continued until 3 o'clock. About seventy-five guests danced.

The Patriarchs for this year are William Astor, W. W. Astor, August Belmont, N. M. Beckwith, Charles H. Berryman, S. V. R. Cruger, James G. K. Duer, George L. Rives, Smith Clift, Edward Cooper, Robert Goelet, J. N. A. Griswold, William Gibson, Ogden Goelet, George Griswold Haven, W. Bayard Cutting, Maturin Livingston, John W. Hamersley, J. Coleman Drayton, H. A. Johnson, James P. Kernochan, Delancey Kane, Pierre Lorillard, Johnston Livingston, Ward McAllister, George H. Shelton, William Orthond, William Colles Pell, James Roosevelt, Adrian Iselin, Robert H. Rennsen, J. P. Giraud Foster, James A. Roosevelt, Frederic W. Stevens, John Sherman, jr., Hoyes S. Rubien, Dunlap Schieffelin, William B. Astor, E. S. Mills, Henry Warren, Matthew Wren, H. S. Wright, Alexander Hamilton, Buchanan Winthrop, Robert Winthrop, Philip Schuyler, Charles H. Hooker and Hamilton Fish, jr. The last five have become members this season. Three balls have been given every season for the last twelve years, and always on Monday evening until last night. On Monday the Patriarchs yielded the ball room to the New England Society.

Among those present from out of the city last evening were Allister Hays, Leslie Cotton, Mr. Grenfell, Lord Weymouth, Guy Repton and Mr. and Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck, of England; Mr. Heard and Miss Heard, who have just returned from China, Harry Munroe, of Albany, George A. Hasselhurst, Mrs. Schultz and Miss Schultz, of Philadelphia; Baron Von Sternberg, of the German Embassy, Prescott Laurence, of Boston; Julian Le Roy, of Baltimore; Admiral and Mrs. Baldwin, Admiral and Mrs. Nicholson, and George Spencer and Miss Spencer, of Washington. Others present were: Mrs. William Astor, Mr. and Mrs. Orme Wilson, Walter F. Kingsland, Mrs. Brockholst Cutting, H. Le Grand Cannon, Mrs. Lewis C. Jones, Miss Jones, Miss Georgie Heckscher, Centre Hitchcock, Mr. and Mrs. George S. Bowdoin, Miss Bowdoin, Gould Redmond, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lanier, Mr. Beckwith, Miss Beckwith, Mrs. Paran Stevens, R. Ellis, Louis Van Auken, Mr. and Mrs. James B. Potter, Perry Belmont, Miss Urquhart, Mr. Navarro, James W. Beekman, A. S. Carhart, Mr. and Mrs. S. V. R. Cruger, J. V. L. Parker, Miss Murray, James A. Murray, Mr. and Mrs. William Jay, Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Harriman, Mr. and Mrs. Hewitt, James Otis and Miss Otis, Allan T. Rice, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Cooper, James F. Cadwallader, Miss Hewitt, J. G. K. Duer, Miss Caroline Duer, Sir Roderick Cameron and Miss Cameron, of Staten Island; William Cutting, jr., Miss May Bird, Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Colgate, Philip Allen, Mrs. Welman, Mr. and Mrs. Coleman Drayton, Louis Rutherfurd, Matthew A. Wilks, Frank Wissman, Charles Dickey, the Misses Dickey, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Winthrop, the Misses Winthrop, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Wetmore, Miss Wetmore, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Cryder, Miss Cryder, Mrs. Bayles, Miss Ruth Bayles, Edmund Bayles, R. D. Winthrop, Charles F. Winthrop, Dr. and Mrs. Weir, Mrs. Rogers, John W. Russell, John Livingston, Frederick Lefley, Mr. and Mrs. Ogden Goelet, Edward C. Post, Mrs. Lawrence Wellles, John Draper, Miss Edith Draper, R. T. Wilson, E. Randolph Robinson, E. L. Winthrop, jr., Miss Fannie Stevens, Richard Peters, F. Riggs, G. M. Tooker, Henry Emmet, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Goelet, Mrs. S. Whitney, O. K. King, R. J. Travers, John Travers, Mrs. Lansing, Miss Lansing, Eli Goddard, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Youngs, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Clewes, Miss Bowers, Mr. and Mrs. H. Victor Newcomb, Mr. and Mrs. E. N. Tailer, Miss Jean Turnure, Lawrence Turnure, jr., Oliver W. C. Whitney, S. Peabody, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Appleton, Alfred Seaton, Mr. and Mrs. Adrian Iselin, jr., Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Iselin, Mr. and Mrs. Newbold Edgar, Charles Emmet, Mr. and Mrs. Philip Schuyler, the Misses Annie and Marion Langdon, the Misses Scheffelin, Eugene Scheffelin, C. A. Post, Miss Post, Harry Stevens, H. A. Johnson, Miss Johnson and Miss Alice Johnson, W. Cooper, R. K. Richards, James H. Jones, Mr. and Mrs. J. Pierpont Morgan, Miss Louisa Morgan, Livingston Beekman, Mr. and Mrs. Barbey, Miss Barbey, Mrs. Kernochan, Mr. and Mrs. Beach Grant, Miss Grant, Mr. and Mrs. Delancey Kane, Miss Sibyl Kane, Mrs. Robert G. Remsen, Miss Remsen, Mrs. Roosevelt Schuyler, H. G. Ward, Miss Matthews, Mr. and Mrs. Bradley Martin, Mr. and G. G. Rives, Mrs. Alexander Van Rensselaer and Mrs. Leo Van Rensselaer, Miss Garrison, Frederick Martin, Thomas Maitland, W. C. and John Sandford, Mr. and Mrs. Pierre Lorillard, Mr. and Mrs. Pierre Lorillard, jr., Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Lee, G. G. Barnwell, Mr. and Mrs. William Kemp, Charles P. Wurts, jr., William Redmond, Howland Pell, Mrs. Oothout, W. Oothout, jr., Miss De Rayter, O. E. Cromwell, Julian Kean, Mrs. Maturin Livingston, Wingfield Hoyt, J. Hilhouse, Mr. and Mrs. Ogden Mills, General and Mrs. McClellan, G. B. McClellan, jr., Miss May McClellan, Norman Whitehouse, W. E. D. Stokes, F. Delano Weeks, Frederick Allen, Howard Gallup and Winthrop Parker.

RECEPTION BY THE GOVERNOR.

[FROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

ALBANY, Dec. 23.—President-elect Cleveland gave a final reception to-night at the Executive Mansion as Governor of this State. There were friends of his present from New-York, Buffalo, Troy and this city, with their wives. Several hundred persons were present. Many of his guests have given receptions and dinners in his honor. The railway trains from Buffalo this morning were crowded with the Governor's guests, who afterward were strolling about the city and inspecting the new capitol. Most of the guests went in sleighs to the Executive Mansion, which is situated in Eagle-st. in the southern part of the city, a long distance from the hotels. From early in the evening till midnight the merry jingle of the sleigh bells conveying people to and from the Executive Mansion could be heard in the city. The house was brilliantly illuminated and profusely decorated with flowers. The Governor was aided in receiving his guests by his sisters, Mrs. Hoyt and Miss Cleveland. The reception began at 9 o'clock and ended at midnight. There was a fine band of music in attendance. Dancing began in the library soon after 10 o'clock.

Among the guests were Mrs. John E. McElroy and Mrs. H. J. Haynesworth, sisters of President Arthur, who were accompanied by John E. McElroy. There were a large number of guests from this city, among them Bishop Doane and Bishop McNeirny, of Albany; Erastus Corning and wife, Judge and Mrs. E. A. Learned, Judge Theodore Miller, the Rev. Dr. Battershall, General John F. Rathbone and wife, John N. Van Antwerp, William C. Whitney and wife, E. K. Apgar, Mayor A. Bleecker Banks and wife, General and Mrs. R. L. Banks, Colonel and Mrs. Bowditch, Dr. and Mrs. Balch and Miss Balch, Miss Cagger, daughter of Peter Cagger, Judge and Mrs. Clinton, Controller Alfred C. Chapin and wife, Paul F. Cooper, son of J. Fenimore Cooper, and wife, Dr. and Mrs. Coe, E. F. Chamberlain and the Misses Chamberlain, the Rev. Wesley R. Davis and wife, John A. Delehanty, son-in-law of Daniel Manning, and wife, Judge Danforth and wife, Judge Earl and wife, Matthew Hale and wife, the Rev. J. Mc. Holmes and wife, Judge Rufus Peckham and wife, Colonel Daniel S. Lamont and wife, ex-Senator Abraham Lansing and wife, ex-Judge J. H. Maynard and wife, State Treasurer R. A. Maxwell and wife, John A. McCall and wife, James H. Manning and wife, ex-Senator James Mackin and wife, Dr. David Murray and wife, Daniel Manning and wife, General S. E. Marvin, General Robert S. Oliver and wife, Attorney-General O'Brien and wife, Dudley Olcott, John S. Perry and wife, Edward Phillips and wife, Mrs. John V. L. Pruyn, Chancellor Roger R. Pierson, E. D. Palmer and wife, Judge Rufus W. Peckham and wife, C. J. Peabody and wife, S. W. Rosendale and wife, Mrs. Joel S. Reed, Railroad Commissioner W. E. Rogers and wife, the Rev. Dr. Reese, Wm. B. Ruggles, Superintendent of Public Instruction, and wife, George Sard and wife, Dean Sage and wife, Captain and Mrs. Sweney, General Charles Tracey, ex-Adjutant-General Frederick Townsend, the Rev. Father Terry, Senator John B. Thacher, S. B. Towner and wife, Dr. Vanderveer, William E. Van Rensselaer, Miss S. Van Benthuysen, the Rev. Charles Wood and wife, Dr. Samuel B. Ward, J. D. Wasson and wife, George S. Weaver and wife, General Talcott and wife, Philip Ten Eyck and wife.

The guests from Buffalo were, C. W. Goodyear and wife, George J. Sicard and wife, Mrs. Walter Carey, Colonel and Miss Utley, General Field of the Governor's staff, Edwin T. Evans and wife, Mrs. James H. Metcalfe, James S. Metcalfe, John H. Cowing, H. Hamlin, and wife, Ansley Wilcox, Lawrence Rumsey and wife, Colonel Charles W. McCune and Miss Wells, ex-Congressman D. N. Lockwood and wife, Senator Robert C. Titus, John M. Horton and wife, Charles H. Williams and wife, George E. Laverack and wife, Civil Service Commissioner Henry A. Richmond, George L. Williams and wife.

Among the guests from Troy were ex-Speaker Charles E. Patterson and wife, John B. Gale and wife, Colonel and Mrs. Frank N. Mann, Judge and Mrs. Fursman, Judge and Mrs. Ingalls and ex-Mayor Edward Murphy.

DECIDING FOR THE GOVERNMENT.

KANSAS CITY, Dec. 23.—A dispatch to *The Times* from Omaha, Neb., says: "A verdict was rendered in the Federal Court, yesterday, in favor of the United States Government against Daniel Lovejoy and his sureties. Lovejoy, while receiver of public moneys at Niobrara, Neb., used $12,000 of the public funds in riotous living. He absconded and has not yet been apprehended. His sureties disclaimed liability on the ground that they warned the Interior Department in season to prevent the embezzlement.

THE DUTY ON PICTURES.

EFFORTS TO ABOLISH OR REDUCE IT.

A circular and petition for the abolition of the present tariff on works of art were issued on November 27 by the Art Committee of the Union League Club and circulated for the signatures of artists throughout the country. Another petition, with a circular criticising that of the Union League's committee, has been issued under date of December 19 by E. Wood Perry, who represents that class of artists who want a specific duty on pictures in place of the present duty of 30 per cent ad valorem.

A TRIBUNE reporter called on Charles B. Curtis, chairman of the Union League Art Committee, last evening at his house, No. 9 East Fifty-fourth-st. When handed a copy of that to which the reporter referred as the opposition circular, Mr. Curtis said: "Yes, I have seen a copy of this petition before, but I want it understood that there is no opposition, no rivalry. We are all working toward the same end—the abolition of the present tariff. It is the opinion of the committee and of the club that the entire abolition of every form of duty would be the best thing for American art and American artists, but we do not insist on our views. The object of our circular is to draw out the opinions of artists, and if a majority of them wish a specific duty, why we are willing to turn in and work for a specific duty. We all agree on the evil of the present tariff—out of 1,000 answers to our circular, but 7 were satisfied with the present condition of affairs—but when it comes to the point of a substitute we diverge. There was an impression which gained currency some time ago to the effect that our committee was working for the abolition of all duties, and it is to that impression probably that this circular of Mr. Perry's owes its origin. On the receipt of a copy of that petition I wrote to Mr. Perry, explaining our position, as I have done to you, and received in reply a very courteous note, expressing his belief that we were working along the same lines and need not conflict."

Cyrus J. Lawrence, secretary of the committee, who was seen at the Union League Club, said: "If we had the thing to do over again we should embody all the arguments in support of our own peculiar views on the circular and leave the petition in blank form to be filled out with the views of the signer."

WALKS AND TALKS IN THE CITY.

Standing on the City Hall steps yesterday, a young politician said to me: "Great Heavens, when I think of the fact that I refused the Aldermanic nomination, I could tear my hair." I asked why, and he said: "A seat in the Board is as good as the Presidency of the United States. With the Commissionership of Public Works, the street-cleaning, and other schemes and all, it is worth to a smart man $50,000 this year."

Senator Garland's nomination, I am told, has turned the Attorney-Generalship, as the Supreme Bench. Speaking of him the other day, Senator Palmer, of Michigan, said: "Garland is one of the ablest men in the Senate. He is one of the finest Southern gentlemen in Washington. He will be a credit to Mr. Cleveland's Administration as far as ability goes."

Less than a week ago, General J. T. Torrence, of Chicago, General Logan's friend, was saying to me that Providence might interfere to break the tie between the Democrats and Republicans in the Illinois Legislature and now I hear that a Democratic Senator is so ill that his recovery is doubtful.

Mr. Bonner, of Butte City, Montana, tells me that the farmers of that Territory are selling their wheat to Minnesota millers for thirty-six cents per bushel.

He has received by mail, particulars of a tragedy in British Columbia which the telegraph reported here in outline only. The victim, Robert McGregor Baird, who was in the employ of his firm, Eddy, Hammond & Co., had been up through the Kootenai country selling goods and collecting money. The day before Mr. Bonner left Butte City he sent an Indian in with $4,500, writing that he was afraid to carry it with him. He had a pack train and a man named Harry Myers with him. On their return they were attacked by robbers, who killed Baird, shot Myers through the hip and made off with about $4,500 in cash which had been collected after the Indian was sent to Butte City. Baird was a Scotchman, who was formerly an agent of the Hudson Bay Company. The incident illustrates the perils of life in that part of America.

"Dick" Bright, of Indiana, is mentioned as an aspirant for the United States Senate in 1886, to succeed Mr. Harrison. Mr. Bright, who recently paid a long visit to this city on business, when asked about his candidacy, replied: "Nothing could induce me to be a candidate against Joseph E. McDonald. God bless him and give him long life!"

Mr. Conrad, a Montana banker, says: "The newspaper criticisms on the McPherson bill amuse me. Why, the National banks, so far as profits are concerned, would not be in existence a day, except for the confidence the people have in them by reason of the Government connection. Out our way, most of the banks want to loan on bonds and securities prohibited by law. They manage to do it there and all over the country, through some officer of the bank. In private banking they would have full freedom and not be obliged to publish any statements."

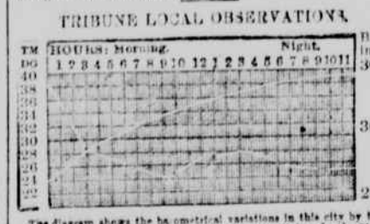
THE WEATHER REPORT.

GOVERNMENT INDICATIONS.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—For New-England, partly cloudy weather and local snows, northerly winds becoming variable, slight fall in temperature.

For the Middle Atlantic States, partly cloudy weather and local snows, northerly winds, slight fall followed by a slight rise in temperature.

TRIBUNE LOCAL OBSERVATIONS.



The diagram shows the barometrical variations in this city by tenths of inches. The perpendicular lines are divisions of time for the 24 hours preceding midnight. The irregular white line represents the oscillations of the mercury during these hours. The broken or dotted line represents the variations in temperature, as indicated by the thermometer at Hasbrouck's pharmacy, 218 Broadway.

TRIBUNE OFFICE, Dec. 24—1 a. m.—The movement in the barometer yesterday was upward. Partly cloudy weather prevailed. The temperature ranged between 24° and 38°, the average (28¾°) being 17⅞° higher than on the corresponding day last year, and 10⅝° lower than on Monday.

Milder, cloudy weather and possibly snow or rain, may be expected to-day in this city and vicinity.

A FRANK CONFESSION AT LAST.

THE COLORED VOTE SUPPRESSED BY FRAUD AND VIOLENCE—BUT THE END JUSTIFIES THE MEANS.

From The Oxford (Miss.) Falcon, Speaker Lamar's Home Organ.

We must acknowledge that the discussion of political questions is not as free in the South as in some other sections of the country. That is, the Democratic party is so greatly in the majority, and peace upon and criticism so vehemently their opponents, that they shrink away in fear and dread and do not express their opinions as freely as where they are not conscious of being in a minority. Any one who opposes the methods of procedure by which our Democrats carry their elections meets with a hasty condemnation at all hands, especially perchance he be a colored man. Mr. John R. Lynch has recently given expression to his opinion as to how we have elected Cleveland and what will be the result of his election. And we may now expect the press of the State to be all blood and thunder after John R. Lynch, but hurt how it may, he tells the truth in that opinion more than once. He says Mr. Cleveland's election was by fraud, and that fraud was in the South; that as many as twenty-six electoral votes have actually been obtained by the Democratic party through fraud.

It is a great pity that the constitution of our forefathers should bleed, for it is the guardian of our peace and prosperity. It is the boast of an American citizen that, as a