NEW-JERSEY STATE TOPICS.

REVIEWING THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

THE PROBLEM OF STATE PRISON LABOR—VITAL STATISTICS.

[FROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

TRENTON, N. J., Jan. 18.—The Governor's Message to the Legislature on Tuesday was disappointing. All that he had to say on the railroad tax question—and he had little else to say on any subject—had been better said in the newspapers devoted to the propagation of Anti-Monopoly and in the speeches of Assemblyman Cator and Congressman McAdoo, when the latter used to spread the American eagle all over the State House. Excepting the oyster question, which experts say that he does not comprehend, he gave other State topics the scantiest attention and, indeed, seems to have paid the reports of the several State officers the slightest heed. There are so many topics which deserve consideration that the negligence of the Governor is astonishing even to those who understand the man and his motives.

Prominent among the subjects demanding early attention is that of State Prison labor. Keeper Laverty, in his annual report, makes a piteous appeal for the employment of the convicts. There are 800 of them, and in a few months four-fifths will be idle. The prison costs $150,000 a year, and it is greatly desired that the prisoners should pay a part of their maintenance. It is more important that they should be given something to do, profitable or not. The legislation of recent years has gradually limited the earning capacity of the prison in the interests of free labor; but nothing has been done toward supplying the place of the contract system.

The annual report of the Bureau of Vital Statistics shows, in the State, 8,968 marriages, 25,263 births and 21,716 deaths during the past year. The report of deaths is probably much more accurate than that of the births and marriages. It is noteworthy that while the births in Essex County numbered 5,137, against 3,844 in Hudson, the deaths and marriages in the latter county exceeded those in Essex. The mortality, as usual, is greater in cities, but probably part of this may be due to the fact that the deaths in the towns are fully and accurately reported as a rule, while there are many omissions in the country districts. Several health resorts report a larger number of deaths than births, owing to the invalid population.

Governor Abbett's first appointment, that of Sinking Fund Commissioner, has been opposed by a Democratic Senator, and will probably be antagonized by others. He has a large number of places to fill, and it is evidently his intention to let the appointments come in occasionally in the hope of making "arrangements" in each case. It is doubtful whether any selection he is likely to make will meet the unanimous approval of the Senate.

Ex-Senator Alexander G. Cattell has done a large share of the work of the State Tax Assessors and drew the report. He has regained all of his old vigor and was active in the Republican cause during the last campaign. Few men were stronger in the State at one time, and there are reasons to expect that he will again figure prominently. It is said that the usual privilege of the eminent jaryman, a railroad pass, was omitted in his case at the beginning of 1884. A railroad official said that he "guessed it wasn't worth while." Mr. Cattell's appointment on the Tax Commission made a revision of this estimate necessary.

Farmers who buy oleomargarine and sell it, mixed with real butter, have been near this city, and efforts to obtain their conviction under the State law have been made. Before the law was passed last winter a single Newark firm sold 100 cases of oleomargarine a week, and yet made no effort to extend this branch of their "butter" trade.

PENNSYLVANIA INTERESTS.

STATE AND LOCAL POLITICS.

THE FEELING TOWARD THE SOUTH—STAGNANT BUSINESS INTERESTS.

[FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 18.—At last the vexed questions of the Senatorship and the gas trusteeship are settled and there may be peace, politically, for a brief time. But it is generally admitted that there are altogether too many elections here. Business interests are injured and the people are wearied by frequent elections for big offices or little ones. In Philadelphia there are general elections twice a year, in February and November. There is no good reason why the one in November should not be sufficient.

In the contest for the gas trusteeship the defeat of David H. Lane was a great disappointment to him and his friends. It was really a victory of the "city" party over the "State" party. When in the Trust before, Mr. Lane was continually attacking Mr. McManes with a view of breaking him down, and he was nearly successful. But Mr. McManes is a hard fighter, and has a long memory. He is firm in his adherence to his friends and relentless in his opposition to his enemies. He has generally been in opposition to Cameron and his friends, who have never forgiven him for his fight for Mr. Blaine, at Chicago, in 1880. In the last Presidential campaign, however, Mr. McManes took no very active part. His health was poor.

There has been no postmaster here since January 6. General Huidekoper has continued to act, although his term has expired, and there is a growing suspicion that perhaps this appointment is to hang fire until after the Senatorial election, and then possibly some new man is to be appointed. This week will likely determine the matter.

The old State House bell will be started for New-Orleans on Thursday. Four hundred policemen will escort it to the Broad Street Station. The debate in the Senate at Washington has not increased the disposition of the people to make this contribution to the New-Orleans Exposition, and it has also tended to chill the effort to obtain a State appropriation for the same object. The people of Pennsylvania are watching the drift of events with a great deal of serious apprehension, and the general feeling is that, if the mere prospect of a Democratic restoration to power warms the Confederate spirit so promptly in Congress, that Jefferson Davis can be openly defended, and a bill to place General Grant on the retired list of the Army cannot even secure consideration in the popular branch of Congress, the prospect, after Democratic power is fully and absolutely secured, is not assuring to all who supposed that the late war forever settled some questions.

The great iron failure at Pittsburg has given a severe check to the growing belief that better times were gradually coming. How far it may reach and what its full effects may be, can not yet be told. If common talk can be believed nobody is making any money in any kind of business just now, and all are satisfied if their balance sheets at the first of the year showed no loss. The trades unions do not seem to learn anything from the depressed condition of business and insist, generally, that their members shall all have old time prices for their work.

CONNECTICUT AFFAIRS.

BARNUM'S TRIUMPH OVER WALLER.

GROWTH OF PEOPLE'S SAVINGS BANKS—ABSENT-MINDED DIRECTORS.

[FROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

HARTFORD, Jan. 18.—The two prominent advocates of W. H. Barnum's nomination for United States Senator in the Democratic Legislative caucus this week varied considerably in giving their reasons why the honor should be conferred upon him. One said that he was defeated six years ago by Senator Platt, and naturally comes up as a candidate now against Mr. Platt, just as ex-Senator Eaton having been defeated by Senator Hawley, would come up two years hence in regular line; the other asserted that the nomination now meant a candidate to pit against General Hawley in 1877, and it was argued that Mr. Barnum, all things considered, was the best man for the party because Connecticut cannot be revolutionized "by oratory alone." The supporters of ex-Governor Waller evidently were disappointed as they hoped the caucus would give him the compliment of a nomination.

The growth of the people's savings as shown by the increased amount of deposits in the savings banks of the State, is shown in a tabulated statement furnished in the annual report of the Bank Commissioners. In 1853 there were 23 savings banks in the State, 50,850 depositors, and deposits aggregating $8,764,645. In ten years the number of banks increased to 48, the depositors to 121,682, and the deposits to $26,954,802. Now there are 84 banks, 256,245 depositors, and deposits amounting to $90,614,623. The amount of dividends paid during the year was $3,637,192 09. The average deposit to each depositor is $359 23; but a single Norwich depositor has to his credit $38,688 33, another in Middletown has a deposit of $46,138 85, and one in New-London is booked for $38,521 09.

A curious case of absent-mindedness is reported as having taken place at the annual meeting of the New-York, New-Haven and Hartford Railroad company, held in New-Haven last week, and it occasioned a good deal of merriment among the facetiously inclined stockholders present who observed it. Attention was called to the fact that the directors' report for the year made no mention of the death of Augustus Schell, of New-York, who, for several years, a member of the board. Mr. Watrous, the president, explained that it was an oversight, and then remarked that to fill the vacancy caused by Mr. Schell's death, Charles P. Clark had been named. Mr. Watrous spoke of Mr. Clark as a gentleman well known, etc., and was proceeding when some one whispered to him that it was not Charles P. Clark (who is with the New-York and New-England road) but Mr. Park, of New-York; where upon Mr. Watrous, not betraying the slightest disturbance continued, with no apparent break, by saying that Mr. Park was at the head of the large house of Park & Tilford, and lived in Westchester County on the line of the road and would be a valuable man in the board.

The conviction of Johnson, the colored murderer of Wellingford, of murder in the second degree at New-Haven this week, shows that juries in Connecticut are getting away from capital punishment, and will not convict of murder in the first degree if they can possibly help it.

PLAYING CHESS AGAINST TWO DOZEN MEN.

Twenty-four little tables with twenty-four sets of chess men were distributed about the rooms of the New-York Chess Club at Houston-st. and Second-ave. yesterday. There were only twenty-five players. One player sat behind each table and the twenty-fifth player was W. Steinitz, who was to play all the others. He moved about from one table to another stopping only a moment at each and hastily making moves that his opponents had plenty of time to consider. Among the players were the strongest men of the club. As one after another the victims of Mr. Steinitz's combination dropped out, the interest in the playing grew and the remaining players were watched with closer attention. The games began at 2 o'clock in the afternoon; at 5 o'clock there were only thirteen players; at 6 o'clock there were only eight. The final result was that Mr. Steinitz was beaten four times, while four more succeeded in making draws with him.

At the end of the games, at 8 o'clock, Mr. Steinitz rubbed his head as if it ached. His successful antagonists were William Johnston, A. S. Heim, P. J. Doyle and Mr. Levin. Elias Stark, George A. Limback, Joseph Schmitt and H. Otten made the draw games.

MICHIGAN MEN VISIT THE GOVERNOR.

Don M. Dickinson, the leader of the Michigan Democracy, is at the Hoffman House, where a TRIBUNE reporter found him on Saturday evening. Mr. Dickinson is a medium-sized, handsome man, with a huge forehead and full side whiskers, but without the customary mustache. He is a lawyer by profession. When asked about a recent visit to Buffalo to see President-elect Cleveland, he replied:

"Eighteen Michigan gentlemen took the opportunity to call together on President Cleveland and make his acquaintance. The visit was purely a social one. We told him immediately after the introductions that we were not there to give him advice or to seek office, as there was not a man in the number who wanted anything of the kind. We had a very agreeable visit with him, lasting nearly two hours."

"Did you gather any impressions of public import?"

"We think that he meant just what he said in his Civil Service letter, and that he will carry out the views there expressed. It suits us very well that he should do so. Michigan Democrats agree heartily with that letter."

"What about the Cabinet?"

"There was nothing said that would indicate that he has reached any conclusions in that respect. As to men, there was no expression whatever. We gathered from what he said that it was his intention to give the Northwest—Wisconsin or Michigan—a Cabinet officer."

"Your own name has been mentioned in that connection?"

"I am not a candidate—couldn't afford it, don't want it and couldn't take it."

"What do you think will be the Democratic policy on the tariff question?"

"Undoubtedly an effort will be made to reform the tariff. It is a necessity."

"How far will it reach?"

"The Democrats of the Northwest and West will favor strongly a tariff for revenue only. We can carry Wisconsin and Michigan on that issue. We have talked it successfully even in the iron districts of Michigan."

"What will be the effect of the exposure of St. John on the Prohibition vote?"

"I do not think it will have any appreciable effect. We have a very strong anti-liquor vote in our State. They polled a large Prohibition vote. Their candidate, David Preston, was a strong and popular man. While they will lament that they had a bad man for a candidate, they will not cease their organized work on that account. There will probably be a constitutional amendment submitted in Michigan for a vote this year, which will, for a time at least, settle that question."

DOINGS OF BALL PLAYERS.

Now that the only enemy of the National League and American Association is dead there is every prospect of these two bodies getting into a fight. The disturbance will take place whether the St. Louis Club is admitted to the League or not. It is said that President McKnight, of the American Association, Mr. Byrne, of the Brooklyn Club, and Mr Von Der Ahe, of the Louisville American nine, have had their heads together lately, and that they will vigorously oppose the club's admission. The remainder of the American Association clubs either favor the admission of the Union Club or are indifferent, and it is thought that the opposition to the scheme cannot make a fight that will last long. President McKnight will do everything in his power to defeat the project, and it is the general opinion now that he ought to have attended the recent League meeting in this city. President Young of the League, judging from his deportment at the recent meeting, will be highly pleased if the scheme is successfully carried out. The coming meeting of the Arbitration Committee, composed of delegates from the League and American Association, will undoubtedly be a stormy one, and some managers now say that Mr. Young will be called to account for his alleged conduct touching the Cleveland-Brooklyn deal.

Early on last Friday morning Messrs. Byrne, McKnight and Von Der Ahe might have been seen closely muffled stealing in a most mysterious manner toward a certain house in Cleveland. The rendezvous reached, Phillips, Pinckney, Harkins, Hotaling, Smith and Kreig, the players who were recently released by the Cleveland club, were found, and all signed the contracts to play in Brooklyn during the coming season. It is asserted that according to the ten days' rule these players could not be hired until Saturday, and to make "assurance double sure" another contract was signed by each player on the following morning. Bushong, the catcher, was not wanted by the Brooklyn Club and he signed with Mr. Von Der Ahe for his St. Louis American club. McClellan, of last year's Philadelphia Club, will sign with the Brooklyns on Friday next. The club now has an excellent nine and will make a strong fight for the American pennant. The players and their positions will be as follows: Harkins and Terry, pitchers; Kreig and Hayes, catchers; Phillips, first base; Pinckney, second base; Smith, short stop; McClellan, third base; Cassidy, left field; Hotaling, centre field; and Swartswood, right field. This nine may not win the championship, but it will make a much better showing than the last year's scrub team.

The Indianapolis Club is in no enviable position at present. The directors, under the impression that the nine would remain in the American Association, have expended considerable time and money in getting up a first-class nine for the coming season. Now that the club is out, the directors are in a bad box and can't let go. The directors have concluded to try to arrange a schedule of exhibition games with League and American clubs, and it is hoped that the club will weather the season without great financial loss.

COAL COMPANY PRESIDENTS TO CONFER.

A meeting of the presidents of the anthracite coal companies has been called for to-day to consider the formal refusal of the Pennsylvania Railroad to join the combination. President Sloan, of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad, who was chairman of the New-York meeting at which the allotment plan was adopted, issued the notice of the new conference. Mr. Sloan and one or two other coal presidents said on Saturday that they could tell better to-day what action would be taken.

Under the allotment plan the Pennsylvania Railroad was given 8 per cent of the total production, which was placed for the present year at 30,000,000 tons. The only question which can possibly arise at the meeting is whether the other companies will carry out the agreement, which they all have approved, without the Pennsylvania Railroad. The opinion was expressed that the companies would adhere to the plan for at least two reasons—the Pennsylvania Railroad had never been a member of the combination, and consequently the other companies were not really affected by its recent refusal, and moreover the companies could do nothing else without an open contest. It was said frequently, before the decision of the Pennsylvania Railroad was made known, that one or two of the coal companies would refuse to support the plan if that company did not give its assent to it.

GRANT AND THE SIEGE OF VICKSBURG.

From Admiral Porter's forthcoming work, "Anecdotes and Reminiscences of the Civil War."

In the history of the world's sieges nothing will be found where more patience was developed, more endurance under privations, or more courage shown than by the Union forces at the siege of Vicksburg; while on the part of the besieged it was marked by their great fertility of resource in checking almost every movement of ours and for the long months of suffering and hardships they underwent. It belongs of right to General Grant to tell the story of that event, for in no case during the war did he so clearly show his title to be called a great general, nor did he elsewhere so fully exhibit all the qualities which proved him to be a great soldier. If General Grant had never performed any other military act during the war, the capture of Vicksburg alone, with all the circumstances attending the siege, would have entitled him to the highest renown. He had an enemy to deal with, of twice his force, and protected by defences never surpassed in the art of war. I saw myself the great strongholds at Savastopol of the Malakoff town and the Redan, the day after they were taken by a combined army of 120,000 men; and these strongholds, which have become famous in ballads and story, never in any way compared with the defences of Vicksburg, which looked as if a thousand Titans had been put to work to make these heights unassailable. I am told that there were fifty-six miles of intrenchments thrown up, one within the other. The hills above with their granite rocks standing in defiance, were enough to deter a foe without having intrenchments bristling with cannon and manned by the hardiest troops in the Confederacy. After it was all over, and General Grant could see the conquered city lying at his feet, he could well afford to laugh at his vile traducers, who were doing all they could to hamper him by sending telegrams to the seat of government questioning his fitness for so important a command. If those who lent themselves to such things could be followed through the war, it would be found that they never made a mark, put them where you would, nor did they achieve any good for the government.

That was a happy Fourth of July when the Confederate flag came down at Vicksburg, and the stars and stripes went up in its place, while Meade's force at Gettysburg was driving Lee's army back to Richmond tattered and torn. That day, so glorious in the annals of our history, lost nothing by the two brilliant events which were added to our fame, and made it still more dear to the heart of every true American. When the Union flag was hoisted on the ramparts of Vicksburg, my flagship and every vessel of the fleet steamed up or down to the levee before the city. We discerned a dust in the distance, and in a few moments, General Grant, at the head of nearly all his generals, with their staffs, rode up to the gangway, and dismounting, came on board. That was a happy meeting, a great hand-shaking and general congratulation. I opened all my wine lockers, which contained only Catawba on this occasion. It disappeared down the parched throats which had tasted nothing for some time but bad water. Yet it exhilarated that crowd as weak wine never did before. There was one man in the party who preserved the same quiet demeanor that he always bore, whether in adversity or in victory, and that was General Grant. No one, to see him sitting there with that calm exterior amidst all the jollity and without any staff would ever have taken him for the great general who had accomplished one of the most stupendous military feats on record. There was a quiet satisfaction in his face that could not be concealed, but he behaved on that occasion as if nothing of importance had occurred. General Grant was the only one in that assemblage who did not touch the simple wine offered him; he contented himself with a cigar; and he has say here that this was his habit during all the time he commanded before Vicksburg, and also while he commanded before Richmond, though the same detractors who made false representations of him before Vicksburg, misrepresented him also in the matter above alluded to.

THE STORY OF A MAGAZINE.

SOME LIGHT ON THE PEDDER AFFAIR.

HOW HENRY C. PEDDER KEPT UP THE MANHATTAN WITH STOLEN MONEY.

The shutting of the doors on all that remained of *The Manhattan Magazine* at No. 141 Temple Court, last week closed a curious chapter in the history of American periodicals. *The Manhattan* in its most rudimentary form was the joint inspiration of Alexander W. Orr and William Henry Forman, the former a printer of this city, and the latter a journalist of experience, gained in part on the editorial staff of *The Mail and Express*. The first intention of its founders was to combine in a monthly illustrated magazine literary excellence with news of interest to members of secret orders in the United States, but principally the Odd Fellows. These ideas were mingled in about equal proportions in the first number that came from the press of A. W. Orr & Co., No. 100 Nassau-st., in January, 1883.

In search of capital to expand this enterprise Mr. Forman met Henry C. Pedder, of Arnold, Constable & Co. Mr. Pedder's interest in literature had been proved by his willingness to pay printers' bills for books of his own writing on religious, moral and æsthetic subjects. He was a devotee of the drama and patron of the fine arts, and he worshipped the beautiful in all its outward forms, whether plastic, pictured or breathing. He agreed to become a stockholder in *The Manhattan Magazine* Company, which was incorporated with a capital of $100,000. The Odd Fellow element was eliminated along with Mr. Orr at an expense of $3,000, new offices were secured, and, beginning with May, 1883, Mr. Pedder sent monthly his check for $10,000 to Mr. Forman, to be expended in establishing and maintaining a first-class monthly.

In the bound volumes of the magazine Mr. Pedder appears as a frequent contributor. His essays on "Women in Modern Civilization," Wordsworth, and Edwin Booth, were illustrated, some of them at a cost of $300 a page. It is safe to say that few magazine articles have ever appeared which cost their authors so much money and gave their readers so little enlightenment. A perusal of them at the present time is a liberal education in the art of how not to say a thing. But this modern Maecenas sat down at these feasts of reason in good company. Poets, historians, essayists, novelists, artists and engravers of recognized reputation in this and other countries contributed to the pages of *The Manhattan*. Money was poured out like water. The price of sonnets by approved poets rose to one hundred dollars. Essays in the same market were frequently quoted at twice that sum. Those were halcyon days for the editors and business managers of the "pearl of the mouthies," as they called it. The offices were wainscoted with men and women all day long, each waiting with manuscript or drawing in hand to gain the ear of the bland and indulgent editor-in-chief. He welcomed all with a smile, but no one more eagerly or cordially than the messenger from his Maecenas of the dry goods district.

Mr. Pedder meanwhile was kept busy in filling checks by day and white paper by night for the credit of his expensive plaything. His employers, the great firm with which he had grown up from a boy, seem to have marked the magnificent ostentation of his life more for admiration than suspicion. He had given them to understand that his wealth was a legacy from a rich West Indian relative to whose declining years he had devotedly ministered. Mr Pedder lived in New-Jersey, in a costly villa, adorned outside and in with lavish outlay. The magazine was only one of the enterprises which owed their existence and support to his ambitious spirit. But the others were commercial in their character, or at least were conducted on business principles, while his literary schemes were chimerical and abnormal in their conception as they were futile and unprofitable in their execution. In the summer of 1884 Mr. Pedder sailed for Europe with his wife to enjoy, as his employers thought, a brief but well-earned vacation. He occupied himself in England with pushing the fortunes of the magazine, establishing a London agency and soliciting contributions from the most eminent English writers. But absence and unforeseen events were undermining his fancied security. The house of Arnold, Constable & Co. discovered the peculations of Seymour, a trusted clerk and sharer with Pedder of many of his secrets. Confronted with the books containing the amounts of his embezzlements from time to time, and asked to explain various entries, Seymour pointed to one for a small amount and said "this is mine" and to another for a larger sum and added "and that is Pedder's." This was the first intimation that the firm had of the dishonesty of their absent manager. They at first refused to believe it and when convinced, it is said that the eldest of the house bowed his head and wept like a child.

Upon a sudden pretext Pedder was recalled and when he landed became virtually a prisoner, passing the first night after his return in an uptown hotel guarded by a private detective. The next morning he conveyed all his property to his employers except a small personal estate which his wife was allowed to retain During the few days that followed his confession he was overwhelmed with the shame of his situation. He denied himself to every one. On the third day the editor of *The Manhattan* drove in a carriage to his patron's residence in Orange, naturally anxious for the future of the magazine. Mr. Pedder received him coldly and in silence. "I am sorry," began the editor, "there is nothing to be said," answered the fallen Maecenas, "except that I do not care to see you. Please do not come again until I send for you." The editor left the house without a word, and in telling the story afterward he is said to have remarked humorously, "And he has not sent for me from that day to this."

The rest is soon told. The September number of the magazine was issued by arrangement with the principal creditors. The title, good will, plates and other effects then passed into the possession of the printer, Howard Lockwood, to satisfy a judgment of about $1,700 and there remains, subject to the old of the next Maecenas who desires to have a magazine of his own. Mr Pedder is living now in St Kitts, an island of the British West Indies, where he was born. There a business which nets its manager $25 a month makes a nabob of him. This accounts for the fabulous stories that have come back from there about the style in which Mr Pedder lives. To the native of St Kitts the remains of a past magnificence left to the once millionaire by a magnanimity that is almost unexampled in the history of such transactions gives him all the importance and subjects him to all the penalties of a king in exile.

REAL ESTATE WAITING ON RENTS.

LITTLE DOING IN THE MARKET—BUT FEW MORTGAGES CREATED.

In real estate circles little that was new was developed last week. Private transactions were carried on in the usual hum-drum way, except for a slight natural increase resulting from the closing up of new year accounts. There was no direct reflection in the market of any unfavorable influence of the Cisco and the Western Iron failures, but the temporary feeling of alarm and uncertainty, real estate dealers say, undoubtedly checked dealings and inquiries. At the auction rooms little was done, the large foreclosure sales having been adjourned out of an indisposition to press property on the market at the present juncture of affairs. While all the influences that have depressed values in the speculative markets have been resisted by real estate, operators recognize the wisdom of not testing the strength of prices by any forced sales at the moment. The result is that no one feels inclined to enter upon any large transaction until some definite tendency is developed in the spring rent market. The number of conveyances last week was 203, against 190 for the same week last year; the consideration was $2,795,157, against $3,766,491 a year ago. There were 201 mortgages ($1,825,820) recorded last week, against 232 ($2,514,871) for the corresponding week a year ago.

Among last week's private transactions were the sale by W. P. Seymour, for the account of the Johnson estate, of No. 9 East Sixty-fourth-st., to John P. Duncan for $125,000 cash. J. A. Hostwick sold the property in 1876 to Alvin J. Johnson for $239,000, and its sale to U. S. Grant, jr., in January a year ago for $150,000 was contracted for, the title not passing, however, in consequence of the Grant & Ward collapse. V. K. Stevenson & Co. report the sale of No 582 Fifth-ave. for $30,000 to Mrs. J. Pike Golin, daughter of the late Samuel M. Pike. Mr. Stevenson explains the low price on the ground that people have been indisposed to buy any leasehold property of Columbia College from the fear that the rentals would be raised upon them. The property just sold is held on lease by the college trustees. Three lots in One-hundred-and-twenty-third-st. west of Mt. Morris-ave. were bought for improvement by Anthony Smyth for $30,000. Frederick Aldhous paid $28,000 for four lots in One-hundred-and-twenty-second-st. west of Sixth-ave. L. L. Carpenter sold six lots at the corner of Eighth-ave. and One-hundred-and-thirty-fourth-st. to John A. Hardy for $30,000.

BUSY SESSION OF THE LABOR UNION.

The special order of business at the Central Labor Union at the meeting in Florence Hall yesterday afternoon was the discussion of a series of resolutions introduced by the Adelphi Labor Club complaining of the bad times, laying the prevailing depression to tariff agitation, and calling for a cessation of the agitation and for appropriations from the balance in the Treasury for public buildings and improvements so as to give employment to idle laborers. The resolutions further deprecated the attacks on railroads and other corporations as tending to throw men out of work. After a heated debate, in which it was declared that the resolutions had been proposed by a clique of Wall Street capitalists, and were a trap set to catch the trades' unions, and use them against the Inter-State Commerce bill and other measures before Congress, the Central Labor Union "repudiated" the resolutions and stamped them "as a fraud upon workingmen who are asked to advocate them." Trades' unions were cautioned against the resolutions.

Circulars containing fac-similes of the private marks of the four firms of hatters in South Norwalk whose employes are on strike were distributed among the various unions. The Eastern Butchers' Protective Association reported that they had a competent committee engaged in framing a bill providing for an inspection of all dressed beef in the city, which would be introduced in the Legislature shortly. The arbitration committee reported that Frank Tousey, the printer whose men are on strike, refused absolutely to see or treat with them, and a resolution to boycott Mr. Tousey's publications was passed. The concert committee reported that arrangements had been completed for a concert for the benefit of the Hocking Valley miners to be held in Steinway Hall on next Sunday. German, French and Irish singing societies had volunteered to participate. The committee appointed to draft a bill for the shortening the working hours of the bakers reported a bill providing that after January 1, 1886, it shall be a misdemeanor for a baker to work more than ten hours a day. Three inspectors are provided for, one to be appointed by the Board of Health, one by the Central Labor Union, and one by the Journeyman Bakers' Union.

A delegate from the Laborers' Union reported that the laborers on the new aqueduct were on strike for $1 a day. The price paid them now is 90 cents a day. It was resolved to have a vote next Sunday on the question as to the advisability of holding a mass-meeting and parade in favor of the eight hour law which has been introduced by Senator Murphy.

The Bricklayers' International Union, at a convention held last week in Jersey City, resolved to adopt the system of payment by the hour instead of the day all over the country, and to force members to work not more than eight hours a day.

AN AFRICAN EXPEDITION.

MISSIONARIES TO AN UNKNOWN PEOPLE—BISHOP TAYLOR'S NOVEL PROJECT.

One of the largest parties of missionaries that has ever left New-York will sail on Thursday by the steamship City of Montreal. The party numbers forty men and women and ten or fifteen children. Some of the adults are ministers, others are physicians, and the rest have various vocations. They come from half a dozen different States; several from Vermont and Connecticut, others from Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, and one or two families from California. The party has been organized by Bishop William Taylor of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and it is known as William Taylor's African Expedition. Bishop Taylor is the organizer of the self-supporting South American Missions, by which means a large number of missionaries have been established in South America. On its arrival in Liverpool this party will take a vessel for Loanda on the west coast of Africa. The voyage will take a month if the weather is favorable. At Loanda another vessel will carry them several hundred miles further, after which will begin a march of 1,000 miles into the interior of Africa. For several weeks contributions have been arriving in the city to the stores which the expedition is to take with it. These stores are under the care of Richard Grant, of No. 181 Hudson-st., who is Bishop Taylor's agent in the city. The Remington Rifle Company presented the expedition with twenty-five of its best rifles and a supply of ammunition; from others forty shot-guns for killing small game were received, and beside other books they will take with them 5,000 Bibles.

"We have also," said Mr. Grant, "received from several linen mills 33,000 yards of cotton cloth. That is the currency of Central Africa. When a cow is wanted or some provisions a strip of this cloth is cut off to pay for what is bought."

"What is the character of the natives among whom the missionaries are going?" asked the reporter.

"It is an entirely new country where no missionaries have ever been. According to a recent report made to the Geographical Society of Germany only two white men have ever been seen by the people whom we wish to reach. This nation numbers about two millions; the people are peaceable and live in huts that are grouped in large towns."

"Does Bishop Taylor accompany them?"

"He has gone ahead to prepare the way and to preside at a conference in Liberia on the 29th of this month. He left New-York in December. The party will be under the direction of the Rev. A. E. Withey. It is intended if possible to establish missionaries at intervals of a hundred miles from the coast to the interior in order to keep up a chain of communication. Under any circumstances it will take fully three months to send word from Loanda to the furthest point in the interior. Bishop Taylor will be absent about three years making these arrangements."

"Are the missionaries supported afterward?"

"No, we simply provide for carrying them into the country and settling them. They are colonists and they settle there for life, preaching and instructing the negroes. They teach them phonetically to read; the Bibles are in phonetic print, so that when French infidels send in their infidel books they will do no harm."

All the members of the party are volunteers, and most of them have arrived in the city during the week to be in readiness for their journey. Services are being held day and evening in several of the Brooklyn churches where the members of the party are being cared for. All of them are enthusiastic and hopeful of the success of their project. The following are the names of some of them: The Rev. A. E. Withey, wife and four children; the Rev. Ross Taylor, son of Bishop Taylor, wife and three children, and Peter Janson, of California; the Rev. Levi D. Johnson, of Iowa; Dr. W. R. Summers, Minn.; Clarence Davenport, Ill.; F. B. Northam, Conn.; Charles Murray McLean, the Rev. Joseph Wilkes, wife and daughters, Mich.; Miss. Della Reese, Ind.; Miss Mattie Worth, Dr. Mary R. Myers, C. L. Miller, Baltimore; C. A. Radcliff, H. C. McKinley, G. T. House and G. P. Mackey, of Cincinnati; Eli Chateiain, N. Y.; C. W. Gordon, Lynn, Mass.; W. H. Mead, wife and six children, S. J. Mead, Misses Annie and Alberthe Mead, Vt.; the Rev. N. Willis and wife, of Philadelphia; Mrs. L. S. Fisher, Auburn, N. Y.; W. P. Dobson, N. J., and C. N. Rudolph, Brooklyn.

READY FOR THE FIGHT TO-NIGHT.

IDOLATERS AT THE SHRINE OF SULLIVAN—RYAN CONFIDENT OF SUCCESS.

If that great man from Boston, J. Lawrence Sullivan, should become intoxicated with the contemplation of his own importance, it would not be at all strange. All day long yesterday large crowds made their way to the "Golden Oar," at One-hundred-and-twenty-ninth-st. and Third-ave., where he is training. He also has quarters at the Knickerbocker Cottage, at Mott-ave. and One-hundred-and-thirty-eighth-st., where he takes his meals and sleeps. The visitors were not confined to the short-haired "plug-ugly" fraternity, but among them were well dressed men, apparently of the business class, and fashionably dressed young men who believe that it is "the thing" to be, "a bit wild, you know." The outer door of the "Golden Oar" was guarded by two men and the inner sanctum by one. The favored ones that got into the place were regarded with envy by the hosts who were compelled to stay on the outside. Those in the cold outer air, however, amused themselves by talking fluently on the subject of Marquis of Queensberry rules, and warmed their heels against the curbstone and waited patiently, in the hope of getting at least a sight of the great fighter. Sullivan rose early and walked to Fleetwood Park and back. After a light breakfast he went to the "Golden Oar" and fought the bag a while. It was at this time that the pilgrims to his shrine were able to get a view of their idol, and in some instances the more favored ones were permitted to speak to him. They would receive the surly responses with marked pleasure of a humble kind, and from outward appearances these devotees were elevated to the pinnacle of their ambition and were raised to the seventh heaven of joy.

Later in the day all callers were told that Sullivan was "out" at both places. At the "Golden Oar" it was said that he was probably at the Knickerbocker Cottage and at the cottage one would be informed that he was at the "Golden Oar" and so the crowd was kept passing back and forth. Sullivan, however, spent most of the day at the cottage, but wishing to keep quiet he received only a few visitors. In regard to his condition and the probable results of the match of to-night, he said to a TRIBUNE reporter: "I weigh in fighting costume about 207 pounds. I have not reduced my weight much, because I do not think it necessary to do so. Ryan is a good man, but I am confident that I can stop him without much trouble. My stomach is all right, and I could make a good fight to-night, and will make a good one to-morrow."

Sullivan was visited by his backer, "Pat" Sheedy. Sheedy was evidently well pleased with Sullivan, for his face was wreathed with smiles. He said: "Everything is all right. John is drinking nothing but seltzer, and is in good condition." Delay and Murphy said the same thing. The widow who keeps the cottage says that it is her first experience with fighters, and, if they all draw such crowds about them, she hopes it is the last. Ryan devoted his time yesterday to taking long walks, so that his wind would be in the best of condition. He says that he does not wish to make any rash statements, but that he is certain of responding when time is called for the fourth round. To use his own words: "I probably received the hardest blow that Sullivan ever struck, and that right on the neck, yet I stood up and fought eight rounds after it. I was manifestly out of condition at the time of the Mississippi fight, but now I could not be better." Madison Square Garden is ready for the fight. The platform for the ring has been put up and the posts set. The managers say that there is no danger of an injunction stopping the affair or that the police will interfere, even if the "slugging" is heavy.

SOMETHING THE PUBLIC WILL NOT KNOW.

Near the close of his administration Mayor Edson decided to make a statement concerning his action with reference to the deadlock in the Aldermen over his nominations for Commissioner of Public Works and Corporation Counsel. He was especially anxious to answer the affidavit of O'Brien, the contractor, that the Mayor had endeavored to obtain the votes of two Aldermen for the Mayor's nominees. The Mayor, by advice of counsel, contented himself with a simple denial of the affidavit. His counsel also advised him to make no statement until Judge Truax had given his decision in the injunction matter. This has not been given, although three weeks have elapsed since the hearing. Mr. Lucas, the secretary of Mayor Edson, says it is doubtful if the statement will be made.

A SCHOOL BELL PASSED AROUND.

From The Charleston News and Courier.

A few days ago while the janitor of the Charleston College was ringing the college bell to summon the students to their respective rooms, and had just given it a few taps, suddenly the unusually clear and musical tones of the bell became harsh and discordant. On examination it was found that the bell was cracked completely through from top to bottom. The accident possesses some interest by reason of the fact that the bell surpasses in antiquity even the oldest of St. Michael's bells. Its beautiful tones are familiar to Charleston's oldest scholars, and almost from time immemorial they have carried confusion to the hearts of dilatory students.

The old bell was cast in Sweden in 1742, and from the peculiar arrangement of its clapper was evidently designed for use as a ship bell. It is thought to have been rung up soon after the college was built, and has probably been hanging in the basement of the building for nearly one hundred years. About the year 1854 some of the students, as a joke on the faculty, took the bell down and sent it to the students of the South Carolina College at Columbia, who forwarded it to Oglethorpe University in Georgia, whence it was shipped to Macon and was there lost sight of for several years, but it was finally found and restored to its former place in the basement of the college building, where it has hung ever since, a witness to the comings and goings and the joys and sorrows of student life.

Walt Whitman says President-elect Cleveland has a good supply of "old-fashioned horse sense." Now comes the question: What kind of sense has an old-fashioned horse?—[Philadelphia Call.

Cold! I should say so. Went home; lit a candle; jumped into bed; tried to blow candle out; couldn't do it; blaze frozen; had to break it off!

PRAISE FOR INGERSOLL.

MR. NEWTON DISCUSSES HIS LECTURES.

GOOD AND EVIL OF HIS WORK—AFTER THE PENTATEUCH AGAIN.

The Rev. R. Heber Newton made the subject of his sermon yesterday "The Good and Evil of Mr. Ingersoll." In his discourse he refrained from mentioning Mr. Ingersoll by name but made the references to him clear. Among other things he said: "It is a remarkable phenomenon which our country has witnessed during the last few years. A brilliant and eloquent lecturer has been going through the land talking to crowded audiences with a sweeping attack upon all that is ordinarily understood to constitute the Christian religion. Whatever other preachers may find it wise to do, this seems to me wise, to speak earnestly and frankly concerning the influence of this gifted and eloquent speaker. It appears to me that he is doing incalculable harm, along with some good. Those who differ with him should be the first to acknowledge frankly the many merits of the man. No one questions his rare ability. He is a master of his art. Every one admits his sweet and gracious personal character. All confess that whatever destructive work he does he is constructive in this at least, that he would build up happy homes around every household and place within them men and women living sanely and nobly. Further than this, it seems to me that we must frankly confess that even in his rough attacks upon our religion he is doing a certain needful work. He who knows the extent and depth of the obscurantism which prevails within the churches, will be forced to admit that even such coarse attacks upon the faith of Christendom have their part in forcing forward the growth of a reasonable religion. Here is one of the first orators in the land, with all the power of his wonderful sarcasm, riddling the superstitious, the shams and the illusions which still find a hiding place within the churches. One must admit that there is a work for even such an audacious iconoclast. Nature is not overnice in picking her instruments when she sees a great job of demolition before her. Luther was by no means a model iconoclast. So profound is my own conviction that the greatest foe to religion to-day is the mass of opinions no longer in harmony with reason and with conscience but still thrust upon us by authority of the Church; so profound is my conviction that the life of religion depends upon its being reasonable, upon its being