Amusements.

BIJOU OPERA HOUSE—8—Big Pony.
CASINO—8—Ermine.
DALY'S THEATRE—8—The Taming of the Shrew.
DOCKSTADER'S—8:30—Minstrels.
EDEN MUSEE—Muncai Lajoe.
GRAND OPERA HOUSE—8—Hoodman Blind.
HARRIGAN'S PARK THEATRE—8—Cordelia's Aspirations.
LYCEUM THEATRE—8:15—The Love Chase.
MADISON AVE. AND 59TH-ST.—Day and Evening—Merrimac and Monitor Panorama.
MADISON SQUARE GARDEN—8—Circus.
MADISON SQUARE THEATRE—8—Jim, the Penman.
NIBLO'S GARDEN—8—Black Crook.
POLO GROUNDS—Baseball.
STANDARD THEATRE—8—A Trip to Africa.
STAR THEATRE—8—Kerry and Fin Mac Cool.
THALIA—8—Thomas.
THEATRE COMIQUE—8—Shane-Na-Lawn.
WALLACK'S—8—Old Heads and Young Hearts.
5TH-AVENUE THEATRE—8—The Golden Giant.
14TH-ST. THEATRE—8—Denman Thompson.
728 and 730 BROADWAY—Old London Street.
23D-ST. TABERNACLE, near 6th-ave.—Christ Before Pilate.

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TRIBUNE TERMS TO MAIL SUBSCRIBERS.
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Weekly Tribune	1 00	.....	.....
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Branch Office, 1,238 Broadway, 9 a. m. to 9 p. m.
No. 953 Broadway, between 22d and 23d sts., till 8 p. m.
No. 308 West 23d-st., 10 a. m. to 8 p. m.
No. 760 3d-ave., near 47th-st., 10 a. m. to 5 p. m.
No. 1,007 3d-ave., near 60th-st., 10 a. m. to 8 p. m.
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Union Square, No. 153 4th-ave, corner of 14th-st.
IN OTHER CITIES.
WASHINGTON—1,322 F-st. LONDON—26 Bedford-st., Strand

New-York Daily Tribune.

FOUNDED BY HORACE GREELEY.

FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 1887.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN.—England's pacific policy; danger scented in prolonged dispute over the fisheries. ═ Debate on the Land bill in the House of Lords. ═ The Parnell letter. ═ Earthquake in the Island of Jersey. ═ Racing at Sandown Park. ═ Maltreating a Hebrew merchant. ═ Germany and the Pope. ═ Protection for Russian products. ═ The British budget. ═ Home Rule resolutions in the Dominion Parliament. ═ Resolutions in favor of annexation to the United States introduced in the Nova Scotia Legislature.

DOMESTIC.—The Ives Pool bill passed by the Assembly. ═ The Vedder Liquor Tax bill ordered to a third reading in the Senate. ═ Hearing before the Interstate Commerce Commission on transcontinental rates. ═ Few callers received by Mr. Blaine in Chicago. ═ Deficit in a post-office at Shenandoah, Penn. ═ Judge Bingham, of Ohio, appointed Chief Justice of the District of Columbia. ═ Mr. Powderly on the views of Senators Sherman and Hawley. ═ Charitable bequests in Philadelphia. ═ Death of Major Blaine. ═ Meeting of Grand Army leaders in Chicago.

CITY AND SUBURBAN.—Work stopped by the silversmiths. ═ Reunion of the Ohio Society. ═ A crowd of guests of the 12th Regiment charged by militiamen with fixed bayonets. ═ McDermott and Pigott talked of as forgers of the Parnell letter. ═ The State Woman Suffrage Convention begun. ═ Sale of Messrs. Cassatt and Vanderbilt's running horses. ═ Preparations for the Republican primaries. ═ "Jack" Talbot testified in Brooklyn. ═ Further efforts in support of the Archbishop. ═ Gold value of the legal-tender silver dollar (412½ grains)—43 13-16d. per ounce—73.16 cents ═ Stocks dull and firm till late, then depressed by heavy short sales, closing steady with some recoveries.

THE WEATHER.—Indications for to-day: Fair, and then cloudy, possibly followed by rain; nearly stationary temperature. Temperature yesterday: Highest, 66°; lowest, 42°; average, 53°.

A majority of business men would doubtless approve a National Bankruptcy bill; but until that can be obtained, the mercantile community of this State will approve the action of the Assembly yesterday in killing the measure to forbid preferences to creditors. The long and short of the matter is that if preferences could not be promised, the number of failures would increase. They often seem unjust when they become known. The good they do in preventing disaster is seldom revealed.

From a pugilistic point of view the strike of the silversmiths promises to be a very pretty fight. Both parties to it are in excellent condition, and have faced each other with a determination not to get knocked out. If right made might in this case the employers would be sure to win. They can hardly be expected to carry on their expensive business if it is liable at any moment to be subjected to interruption at the command of an outside committee composed of butchers, bakers, candlestick-makers, 'longshoremen or hackmen out of legitimate jobs.

The people who were asked to the 12th Regiment's reception last night came near being invited to a riot. Thousands of invitations were sent out, it is said, but after about 3,000 people were admitted to the armory, the rest were kept out at the point of the bayonet. Twice a corporal's guard indicated a desire to charge on the eager guests, and would have done it, too, probably, if the guests had not had nerve enough to hold the dangerous playthings steady and harmless in the agitated militiamen's hands. Next time the regiment would do well to ask fewer people or such as are accustomed to being stuck with bayonets.

The enrolled Republicans in each district of the city will have an opportunity to-day to show their interest in the welfare of the party by the election of good men to represent them on the county and district committees. The time and places at which the primaries will be held are given in detail in the advertising columns of this paper this morning. The success of the party largely depends on organization; and that, to be effective, must be in the hands of thoroughly trustworthy and competent leaders. It should be the business of every enrolled Republican to see that such men only are elected at to-day's primaries.

The arrest by the Germans, through trick and device, of a petty French official, M. Schnaebeles, naturally causes much excitement in Paris; and in view of the strained relations between the Republic and the Empire, it must be regarded as an unfortunate occurrence. It can easily be made a cause of war if Germany wants to fight—and many observers are inclined to think that war is just what Bismarck does want in order to put France in a condition which would cause Germany no trouble for twenty-five years to come. That is, if he can. It is a big if. People of a gloomy turn of mind will be persuaded that the incident is more ominous at this time of year than it would be later, since the spring is a good time to begin a campaign.

The plan of the Democratic opponents of the Vedder Liquor-tax bill is to kill it by amendments. They worked hard in this direction yesterday and changed the measure for the worse in one respect, namely, by directing that the moneys collected in any county, less the cost of collection, shall be deducted from the amount of State tax to be paid by that county. Whatever may have been the intention of the original framers of this amendment, its plain effect would be and the plain desire of the Democrats who supported it was to make the measure unpopular in the eyes of the country members who are thought averse to increasing their own tax-burdens or allowing New-York to decrease hers. Despite this amendment, the bill was ordered to a third reading and certainly has not received a mortal blow. The damage may be repaired if every Republican Senator is in his place when next the measure comes up. The apparent friendliness which the Democrats showed toward the act the other day proves to have been rank hypocrisy. When it was charged in the Senate yesterday that the minority meant to defeat the bill if possible, Mr. Cullen cried out, "Right you are.'

THE GOVERNOR'S NOMINATIONS.

Governor Hill's choice for Superintendent of State Prisons is spoken of as a good business man, but would seem to rely for distinction largely on the fact that he is the partner of "Charlie" Walker, the wide-awake chairman of the Democratic State Committee. If Mr. Lathrop is as ardent and aggressive a Democrat as Mr. Walker, his administration of the prisons, in case he is confirmed, whatever its deficiencies in other respects, is likely to be entirely satisfactory from the point of view of Democratic politics.

It is possible that Mr. Lathrop is just the man for the place, regarding the nomination from the point of view not of partisan politics, but of the public weal. But the Senate will not do its duty by this very important office unless it insists that Mr. Lathrop's fitness be thoroughly established as a condition precedent to confirmation. The present, as we all know, is a critical time in the history of the prisons. The old policy under which they paid their own way has been abandoned, and a new policy is now to be tested. The sum of one million dollars has been appropriated at the present session of the Legislature to be expended upon a plant for the public account system of labor. To mention these considerations is to demonstrate the prime necessity of having a man at the head of the prisons who will keep them out of politics, who will use this great appropriation as not abusing it, and who, if he finds the new system breaking down at any point, will know how to meet the emergency.

The retiring Superintendent, Isaac V. Baker, has proved an admirable official. He has been faithful and efficient at all points, and has shown himself a master of the prison problem. If Governor Hill was a genuine Civil Service reformer he would hesitate long before superseding this capable and experienced prison manager, and certainly he is bound by every consideration of his duty to the people to name for the Superintendency a man whose character and career commend him to the public confidence as being fitted for the serious responsibilities which Mr. Baker surrenders. The Governor holds, and has an opinion of the Attorney-General to fall back on, that the office of Superintendent of Prisons is now vacant. If this is the correct view, nothing stands in the way of the Governor making an appointment to fill the office. The responsibility rests with him, and if the Senate, so holding, decides to confirm Mr. Lathrop, their decision will prove that they are convinced that the prisons can be safely intrusted to his hands.

It follows, from what we have said of Mr. Baker, that he can scarcely fail to give entire satisfaction as Railroad Commissioner. He possesses the necessary sagacity, knowledge of public affairs, and practical business experience. Mr. Rogers, who is renominated, has made a record as Commissioner which attests that the best interests of the State will be conserved by retaining him in the Board.

THE SUPREME COURT REBUKES SLANDER.

Certain cheap demagogues, among whom Land Commissioner Sparks is conspicuous, have for years sought a pinchbeck reputation by filling the air with charges of fraud against officials, against lawmakers, against corporations and against honest settlers. These men go on the theory that Republics are not only ungrateful, but fond of blackening private character, eager to think the worst of every prominent citizen, and glad to believe that officials elected by the people are scoundrels. The sure road to popularity, they think, is to lift themselves by trampling on the reputation of everybody else. Some newspapers have adopted this theory, fancying that decaying popularity can be revived by much display of wrath on account of pretended land frauds.

It is time that this carnival of slanders should come to an end. The Supreme Court of the United States, by a single decision just rendered, has branded with disapproval and disgrace a large proportion of the charges made by Commissioner Sparks, in effect declaring that in nearly all of the many thousand cases in which he has disputed the titles to land, he has been guilty of gross wrong. The decision is all the more cutting because it terminates in favor of title-holders a suit of great importance, brought long before Sparks came into office, and marks as scandalous and slanderous the charges of fraud against Mr. S. B. Elkins and several Republican officials, which men like Sparks have been in the habit for years of treating as proved beyond dispute. In deciding in favor of the Maxwell land grant, the Supreme Court declares:

> The question of fraud in the survey . . . is not deserving of much consideration. We are compelled to say that we do not see any satisfactory evidence of an attempt to commit a fraud, and still less of its consummation. As to the principal officers of the Government who were connected with that survey, to wit, the Commissioner of the General Land Office and the Surveyor-General of the Territory of New-Mexico, there is not the slightest evidence that they were governed by any fraudulent or improper motive in their acts in regard to this survey, or that they displayed any leaning toward the grantees in ascertaining the true boundaries of the grant.

Were this the whole of the decision just rendered it would be of unusual interest, because it emphatically stamps out a slander that has been so long and industriously repeated that it is probable most of the citizens of these United States have formed a vague impression that Mr. Elkins and the other prominent Republicans were somehow guilty of fraud in the matter of the Maxwell grant, if they had not wickedly stolen 1,714,764 acres of valuable land. The court not only confirms the title to the entire tract claimed, but holds that "There is not the slightest evidence" of fraud in the survey. Unhappily for Sparks and other men who seek notoriety by attacking land titles, the court goes much further and says:

> The respect due to a patent, the presumption that all the preceding steps required by the law have been observed before its issue, the immense importance and necessity of stability of titles dependent upon these official instruments, demand that the effort to set them aside, to annul them or to correct mistakes in them, should only be successful when the allegations on which this is attempted are clearly stated and fully sustained by proof. It is not admitted that the titles by which so much property in this country and so many rights are held, purporting to emanate from the authoritative action of the officers of the Government, and, as in this case, under the seal and signature of the President of the United States himself, shall be dependent upon the hazard of successful resistance to every whim and caprice of any person who chooses to attack them in a court of justice. . . . To annul such an instrument and destroy the title claimed under it, the facts on which this action is asked for must be clearly established by evidence entirely satisfactory to the court. . . . In the case of Johnston against Towlsey this court considered the force and effect to be given to the action of the officers of the land department of the Government. . . . As to the facts on which their decision is based, in the absence of fraud or mistake, that decision is conclusive even in courts of justice when the title afterward comes in question.

Commissioner Sparks has brought into disrepute more than 100,000 titles to land, by doing just what the Supreme Court declares other courts cannot do, by questioning the honesty and validity of past decisions of his own department. He has wronged thousands of honest and hard-working settlers in order to get a reputation for himself, by affirming without even decent color of evidence that they were dishonest, and that officials of his own department had been dishonest, and that all had been in conspiracy to rob the Government. The Supreme Court could not show, more plainly than it has in the words quoted, that it stands ready to grant all the relief in its power to claimants who are able to endure the oppression of the Land Office long enough to reach that court, and that it holds Sparks guilty of shameful abuse of power. It is time that public opinion should strongly sustain the Supreme Court and the settlers, upholding the doctrine that past decisions of the Government, and patents issued under its laws, cannot be questioned by the Government except upon clear and conclusive proof. No one doubts that many mistakes have been made and frauds committed. But it is infinitely better that some wrongs should fail to meet redress than that all titles derived from Government should be unsettled, and millions of honest men be rendered insecure in their homesteads.

AN IMPORTANT FIELD OF INQUIRY.

The committee of which Assemblyman Bacon is chairman has gone into the relations existing between the City of Brooklyn and certain telephone and electric light companies, and has brought some highly suggestive and interesting facts to light. The full list of stockholders in the Citizens' Electric Light Company was produced on Monday. The leading spirits are Hugh McLaughlin, John Delmar, James Shevlin, Anthony Barrett, Thomas J. Nevins and Francis Markey, all more or less active Democratic politicians. This corporation seems to have been a political concern, and by virtue of that fact was able to obtain privileges from city officials which no other company could secure. It obtained contracts for lighting the streets, agreeing to furnish lights of 1,200-candle power, but according to one competent witness the lights are of not over 700-candle power. The profits of electric lighting in Brooklyn are declared to be 25 per cent greater than in this city.

How far the relations of the Aldermen and other city officials with the officers of these companies can be traced is problematical. It is hoped that the suspicions that surround the matter may be cleared up. There are similar suspicions in regard to the Union Elevated Company, and the committee has properly begun an inquiry in that direction. Certain it was that the company last named had no difficulty in securing a franchise from the Common Council, while the applications of other corporations for similar privileges were allowed to slumber in committee in spite of a pretty vigorous demand that action should be taken. This subject will be further inquired into when the committee meets to-day.

It has been made tolerably clear that the arrangement entered into some years ago whereby a telephone company got the privilege of putting up poles by allowing fire and police wires to be strung on them was more advantageous to the company than to the city. The secretary of the company testifies that it has five times as many wires on these poles as the city has; and the worst of it is that this arrangement has allowed the erection of poles during the time when active work was in progress to get the wires placed under ground. Altogether, the management of wires and poles in Brooklyn has been far from satisfactory, and Mr. Bacon and his committee should not pause until they throw all the light possible upon it.

PRICES OF FARM PRODUCTS.

Whether it is wise, by one act which nobody can thoroughly understand, virtually to change the prices of nearly all products both for consumers and for producers, is a question which must be left to the Western and Southern supporters of the Interstate bill to answer after a year's experience. They are beginning to understand it now. Hundreds of evasions will be devised, of which a part will prove futile. In a multitude of cases the Commission will find it necessary to interrupt the operation of the law. But the general effect of the law must be to increase charges for transportation long distances, and this will especially affect the prices of bulky products.

To understand how this change will work, it is necessary to observe how the gradual reduction of rates under free competition has worked. Twenty years ago through rates were about three times those lately charged, and on a bushel of wheat from Chicago to New-York about 45 cents, against 15 cents during the last season. This great reduction of rates has not added 30 cents to the price which Western farmers obtain for their wheat, nor has it taken 30 cents from the price paid by Eastern consumers. The saving has been divided between the two, in different measure at different points or in different seasons, but always the farmer has received a substantially higher price than he used to receive at the same distance from Eastern markets, and always the Eastern customer has obtained his food at a lower cost than he used to pay. Natural development of the railway system under free competition has thus conferred great benefits upon all the Western farmers and all the Eastern consumers.

The Interstate bill turns back the hands of the clock, and sets the country back five, ten or twenty years, according to the efficiency of its enforcement. After a year we shall know about how much the through rates are likely to be affected. But be the change greater or less, whether it adds 10, 20 or 30 cents per bushel to the cost of transportation, that entire increased cost will not be paid by consumers. Part, and probably the largest part, will be borne by the Western farmers in reduced prices for their products. The markets of the whole world affect the price in Eastern seaports. The Interstate bill does not make the wheat of India, Egypt or Australia cost more money in the Liverpool market, and hence the price at Atlantic ports must be controlled in a measure by conditions irrespective of the cost of transportation from Western farms. If the seaport price should not change at all, while the cost of transportation rises, the Western farmer would have to bear the whole of the increased cost of transportation. Thus far there has been no substantial advance in the prices of grain at Eastern seaports, though an upward movement has been vigorously attempted. So of other bulky products that are largely exported, for which the export demand is potent in fixing the price. The Western farmers will find that they have ordered the dance, and must pay the piper.

If the rumor-mongers really want to set a story going that people will believe, let them gravely announce that Jacob Sharp has suffered a loss of memory.

Secretary Bayard to-day said that he felt that the people of the country outside of Massachusetts had never realized its importance or appreciated the gravity of the alternative left to the Administration—a declaration of non-intercourse—if it failed to effect a peaceable adjustment of the differences between the United States and Great Britain respecting the construction of the treaty rights of our fishermen. It is doubtful, he said, if the interests of San Francisco in maintaining her present source of cool supply from British Columbia, aside from the importance of the great Chicago business connections with Canada and the vast trade that ebbs and flows across the 3,000 miles of our northern boundary, do not exceed the interest of Massachusetts in the results of the application of such an alternative as commercial non-intercourse.—[Washington Dispatch to The New-York World.

This is only one of the hundred straws showing which way the wind is blowing in the Cabinet. The Administration has no intention of taking up the Retaliation act and making use of it. It encouraged the Democratic House to stand out for several weeks against the Senate bill and to favor a much more stringent scheme of non-intercourse. It did this because it was anxious to have the session end without legislation so that the President would have a decent excuse for neglecting to protect the fishermen's interests; and now that it has power to resent Canadian outrages, it is alarmed by the consequences to be apprehended from the enforcement of a milder measure than the one Secretary Manning himself prepared!

Will the Legislature adjourn without passing the bill reorganizing the Brooklyn Board of Aldermen? It will be a mistake to let this measure die. The Republicans of Brooklyn have a right to be more adequately represented than they are in the Common Council.

"The Penny Ledger" contains a contribution from William Dorsheimer on "Democracy and Democrats." Mr. Dorsheimer begins his paper by defining Democracy to be "Christianity applied to Government." This is as good in its way as the best of "Tim" Campbell's immortal sayings. The idea of claiming that the organization which to-day is the great bulwark of the rum power, just as it used to be the right arm of the slave, is "Christianity applied to" anything. We submit to the distinguished Editor of "The Star" that he has made it clear that his strong suit is not definitions.

Lockport goes forth to meet the shadowy future without fear and with a heart full of confidence. She feels that her prosperity is assured, that henceforth her cup of happiness is bound to run over. How can it be otherwise—have not the glad tidings been published that the Lockport Baseball Association was fully organized?

It is greatly to be hoped that the District-Attorney intends to proceed against Jacob Sharp promptly. Mr. Martine should receive the benefit of the assumption that he knows his business better than any one else, and yet the securing of an indictment presupposes the existence of proof of guilt. On the surface the case against Sharp seems to be conclusive. The testimony of Fullgraff and Duffy proves the commission of the offence by somebody. They say they agreed to accept a bribe and did actually take the money. All the circumstantial evidence that was put in against the Aldermen is evidence also against Sharp. This, taken in connection with his own testimony before the Senate Committee in which he said that he was the body, boots and breeches of the Broadway Surface Railroad, and in which he failed to account for just exactly $509,000 of the money he received, which is precisely the sum offered to the Aldermen, is certainly enough to convict him. The only question is upon the admissibility of his evidence. This, of course, is purely a legal question, and delay is not likely to aid in its settlement.

Why are the Unionists in England, Lord Salisbury, Lord Hartington, Mr. Chamberlain and the rest, harping upon the Phœnix Park assassinations and dynamite outrages? Has any State official been murdered since the Salisbury Government allowed the Crimes Act to lapse? Has there been a single dynamite explosion in London for two or three years? The only noticeable outbreak of crime has been in the columns of "The London Times," where blood-curdling tales have been recounted to help the Coercion bill along.

The proprietor of Jones River, Alaska, has been recognized by an enterprising newspaper reporter in California and asked to name his first choice for the Republican nomination for the Presidency in 1888. He has named his man—a distinguished jurist now on the United States bench—and thereby done what he could to ruin the political prospects of a very worthy citizen. A candidate who should go into convention with a certificate of character signed by George Jones would be able to rally scarcely a dozen supporters. We are sorry for Judge Gresham, who is an admirable man, and a sound Republican, and who really has done nothing to earn this unkindest cut of all—the enthusiastic support of "The New-York Times."

To Governor Hill duty is only a football.

These sensible and acute observations are taken from "The Galveston News":

> The shyster constitutes one of the worst pests that afflict society, and enjoys immunity only through the false ideas of professional courtesy which restrain the courts and respectable attorneys from proceeding against him. He is naturally an enemy of the press because of the darkness of his transactions, and opposes legislation for the protection of the press against blackmail, because such legislation would seriously interfere with the libel suit industry, an important branch of his practice.

From which it would seem that the individual "Citizens' Committee" practises his trade as industriously in Texas as in New-York.

Members of the Legislature who refuse to allow a discussion of the exorbitant rates charged by telephone companies need not be surprised if their motives are closely scrutinized. Stifling the question by refusing to make a report on the bill to regulate charges does not look well. The matter is one of such importance that no committee should be permitted to pigeonhole the bill.

Lord Salisbury considers the fisheries troubles a question of hard cash. He attributes American resentment of repeated violations of treaty law and countless outrages on the Dominion seaboard if the hard bargain which Canada drove at Halifax. It is something more than a question of money. The national honor has been compromised by the wanton conduct of Canadian officials.

PERSONAL.

Cornelius Vanderbilt sailed on Wednesday on the North German Lloyd steamer Trave. He will return on the same vessel. It is usual for him to take a sea trip at this season of the year.

Ex-President White has given to Cornell University a valuable library of architectural works.

Mr. Edwin Booth has been elected an honorary member of the Bohemian Club of San Francisco.

The Harvard Overseers whose terms will expire in June next are Messrs. E. E. Hale, E. R. Hoar, Morrill Wyman, Theodore Lyman and F. C. Lowell. The last two are eligible for re-election.

Ex-Representative O'Hara, of North Carolina, will, it is said, start a newspaper.

The Fetter-lane house in which Dryden used to live is presently to be demolished.

Ex-Representative Elsberry, of Ohio, is going to settle at Los Angeles, Cal., and practice medicine.

Dr. Williams is the third Bishop of Connecticut who has been Presiding Bishop of the House.

Verdi is criticising the critics. He has collected as far as possible all published notices of "Otello" and is amusing himself under his vine and fig tree at Saint Agata by annotating them. Those that please him he marks with a blue pencil: "Good suggestion," "Apt observation," etc. The others, which offend, he scores with red lead, thus: "The man is a jackass," "Unmusicianly error," etc. And when he meets with some reference to his earlier works and it wish that he would write some more catching melodies, he writes "The devil take all those old barrel-organ tunes!"

Word comes of the death of Karl Franz Josef von Hofer, the last surviving grandson of Andreas Hofer.

Mr. Quay is still State Treasurer of Pennsylvania, and until he resigns that office will not accept any Senatorial salary. The United States will thus be "in" two or three thousand dollars by next fall.

Judge Joel Parker is in California.

Mr. F. A. Bregy, the new Common Pleas Judge in Philadelphia, is a son of Professor Bregy, for many years a conspicuous teacher of modern languages in Girard College, the University of Pennsylvania and elsewhere.

Sir P. W. P. Wallis, G. C. B., senior Admiral of the British fleet, has lately entered his ninety-seventh year and is still on the active list. He won high honors in the Chesapeake-Shannon fight in 1813, and has completed eighty-seven years of actual service.

There has been opened in Vienna an interesting exhibition called the Richard Wagner Museum. It contains a large number of objects collected by the exhibitor during the past ten years, and connected in some way or other with Wagner and his productions. The Wagnerian literary works are there complete. Photographs, engravings, and woodcuts of the author adorn the walls. The collection of documents comprises more than 100 of Wagner's autographs and different papers from the Bayreuth Theatre. There is a special cupboard for the personal souvenirs, which contains Wagner's writing and smoking requisites, his knife, spoon and fork, visiting cards, etc. The statues of the different Wagner societies and the accounts that appeared of his funeral also figure in this extraordinary gathering. On each cupboard, and, in fact, in every available place, there are busts of Wagner, relieved here and there by one of Franz Liszt. The whole exhibit is the property of the gentleman by whom it was collected.

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

The fact that Mr. Loiter, of Chicago, paid $1,000 for a Bible at a recent book sale is exciting so much attention out there that it is suspected the book is the first work of the kind ever owned by a citizen of that city.

"Say, Maria!" exclaimed Mr. Blobson the other day, "I move we suspend the long-haul clause."

"What do you mean?" demanded Mrs. Blobson.

"I mean," said Mr. Blobson, "that instead of pushing the baby carriage around four blocks we try one block for awhile. Otherwise, I shall be obliged to raise the rates of transportation."—(Burlington Free Press.

The recent report of the Brazilian Minister of Agriculture on the commercial situation of the empire has caused no little anxiety among the people who hoped for a steady improvement of trade. Brazil is at present passing through a great commercial crisis, the experience which comes to every nation at some time, but she will no doubt soon struggle from under it and come out victorious. The Minister of Agriculture says that the resources of Brazil are so extensive and the people are so energetic that he cannot believe its commerce has permanently declined.

Here is an Indian "yarn": The story goes that a young man in Allahabad proposed to a young lady in Calcutta by telegraph, adding: "Answer yes or no at my expense." She sent him 600 words of explanation without coming to any conclusion.—(London Globe.

The Coroner of Rahway must be a particularly tender-hearted and soft-spoken person. In his official certificate he declares that the unfortunate murdered girl came to her death by "injury to her throat." Euphuism of this kind was hardly called for.

"I've struck it rich out West," said a passenger from Kansas City, "and am going back home to see my folks and tell 'em what a success I've made. Let's see, it's now 'bout three years since I went West without a dollar to my name, and now I can swing a cool hundred thousand. That's pretty good, ain't it?" "Yes, good enough. Mining?" "No p." "Cattle?" "Naw." "Kansas City real estate?" "Not any." "Ah! member of Legislature?" "No, siree." "What then?" "Running a drug store in a red-hot prohibition town in Kansas!"—(Chicago Herald.

Invalids of all kinds in St. Louis are firm believers in the hot milk cure.

A recent issue of "The Arizona Howler" contains the following editorial paragraph: "Attention is called to the fact that in the news columns of this morning's 'Howler' there appears the first and only account of the elopement of our wife with 'Thumbless Billy,' the monte sharp, which occurred yesterday. Thus we score another one on our dead contemporary across the street. Look for some spicy inside developments to be published exclusively in this paper to-morrow morning."

Mary had a little lot, and thought she'd better sell; she placed it on the market, and the way that lot did—well, it sold four times within a week, and every time it went the lucky man who bought it cleared 99 per cent. "What makes town lots go flying so?" the eager buyers cry. "Oh, Lincoln's on a boom, you know," the agents do reply. And so the owners mark them up, yet buyers do not squeal, but run impatiently about for fear they'll lose a deal.—(Lincoln (Kan.) Republican.

The town of Syracuse, Kansas, has five "lady Aldermen." Of course the other members of the board are "gentleman Aldermen."

We came to a large piece of timber, and while passing through it I had my first experience with the honey-bird of South Africa. This curious little bird is, in size and plumage, about like an English sparrow, and gets his name from the fact that the little fellow, who is very fond of honey, being unable to obtain it for himself, will lead men to the places where the wild bees have hidden their stores of rich, wild honey. Whenever this bird sees a man he will fly close to him, hovering around, uttering a twittering sound; then he will go off in the direction of the place (generally a tree) where the honey is, flying backward and forward in a zigzag fashion. Then back he will come, twittering in the same manner, as if to say, "Come along; I'll show you where it is." These actions are repeated until the tree is reached, when the bird will indicate it very plainly by flying to it and hovering around it. While the bees are being smoked out and the honey taken up, the bird will hover in the vicinity until the job is done, when of course his reward comes in the shape of a feast on the fragments that are left.—(American Field.

There is to be a captive balloon at the French Centennial Exhibition of 1889 which will have the enormous capacity of 2,119,000 cubic feet. It will ascend 3,280 feet, and will carry 100 passengers at once.

Says a public librarian of St. Louis: "While it can't be denied that in the matter of well supplied book stores we are far behind Chicago and Cincinnati, any careful observer can see that there is a growing literary spirit here. During the past winter it manifested itself in the formation of a large number of clubs for the study of classic literature, and I think when so important a magazine as 'The Forum' gives us in one number able articles by Dr. W. T. Harris, the Rev. John Snyder and Professor Thomas Davidson (all St. Louisans either in flesh or spirit), we have abundant cause for hopefulness."

"I would like a pass to New-York, if you please. I believe you are permitted to give passes to the clerical profession?"

"Yes; the Interstate bill gives us that privilege. I believe. You are a member of that profession? Yes? What name? (Writes out the pass and hands it to the applicant with a gracious bow). And where do you preach, Mr. Blanderson?"

"Preach? I don't preach anywhere."

"But you said you were a clergyman."

"Not I. I said I was a member of the clerical profession. Clerk down in Julep's saloon. Call round and see us. Glad to reciprocate. Solong."—(Boston Transcript.

Says Father Phelan in "The Western Watchman" of St. Louis: "In Chicago and New-York nearly all the boodlers are Irish Catholics. It is shameful; but what are we going to do about it? We must put in a mild disclaimed right here. These ballot-stuffing and boodling Irish Catholics never go to church. The ballot-burglars of St. Louis are our parish hoodlums. They never go to church and their Sundays are spent in saloons or driving their bloated Molls along the frequented thoroughfares. The ballot-burglars are a more cowardly and dirtier race of penitentiary birds; nothing more. The priests do not speak of the crime of ballot-stuffing any more than they do of burglary, for the very good reason that the ballot-stuffers, like the burglars, never come within ear-shot of the pulpit."

Some one has cut down a tree in Nebraska on which seven different horse-thieves have been hanged, and as it was the only tree in the county the inhabitants are agitating the arbor day scheme for all they are worth.—(Burlington Free Press.

LORD SALISBURY'S GENEROUS OFFER.

From The Boston Journal.

The statistics collected show that all the fish caught in Canadian waters of late years have been mackerel, of which an average of less than a hundred thousand barrels were caught annually, worth less than $100,000. The trade in bait and ice is of as much advantage to Canadians as to our fishermen, while the privilege of curing fish is of little value. Thus it seems that the generous offer of the British Government is to give us the right to catch $100,000 worth of mackerel in Canadian waters, for which Canada is to receive a market worth two or three million dollars annually. . . . If Canada or the British Government believe that their inshore fisheries are worth as much as the right to sell fish free of duty in our markets, let them levy a duty of $1 or $2 a barrel on fish caught in Canadian waters and give the amount collected therefor to her fishermen to pay the duties imposed by our Government.

AN ALERT STATESMAN.

From The Chicago Mail.

Our Springer is an applicant for the place on the District of Columbia Supreme bench made vacant by the death of Chief Justice Carter. The day that Bill Springer goes to sleep when there is a life position at large is a very cold one, indeed.

BAYARD AND THE FISHERIES

THE SECRETARY'S TROUBLES THICKEN.

INCONSISTENT POLICY OF THE ADMINISTRATION—A TALK WITH MR. HITT.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, April 21.—Troubles thicken about Secretary Bayard on account of the fishery controversy. At this late day he is driven to say that he has been unable to make the British Government comprehend the position of the United States in regard to that matter. In substance he implies that he has never laid down nor accepted as a basis of negotiation the abrogated articles of the Treaty of Washington. At the same time Mr. Bayard and his friends dwell on the importance of British Columbia coal to California and the other Pacific Coast States and Territories and hints that the supply might be cut off by an enforcement of the Retaliation act.

As to the first proposition—that of negotiation—Mr. Bayard of course has not forgotten that the Senate, without the consent of which negotiation would be futile, has formally declared against it. The semi-official statement of Mr. Bayard respecting the dispatch from London shows that he has steadily adhered to his determination to settle the fishery contention by an international agreement despite the hostile attitude of Congress toward such settlement. It is not surprising that this statement came most reluctantly. Although Lord Salisbury's dispatch had been in the State Department for more than a fortnight, the existence of it was denied in diplomatic phrase by the officials of that department. If its contents are such as the dispatch from London indicates, it is not strange that Mr. Bayard should desire to have them suppressed. As to the hint about the coal supply of California and the trade between Chicago and Canada. In the first place, nobody can have forgotten that the friends of the Administration in the House insisted on the so-called Belmont bill because the Senate bill did not go far enough. They wanted non-intercourse not only as to Canadian products but to all goods landed in Canada for shipment into or through the United States. They complained that the Senate did not offer to clothe the Executive with sufficient authority. Chairman Belmont, speaking for the State Department, tried to express that idea, and Mr. Daniel, of Virginia, speaking for the Administration, did express it. The friends of the Senate bill on the contrary said: "This controversy is wholly on account of the fisheries. If we are to retaliate our relations should be in the first place responsive. If that should prove ineffectual the President is clothed with authority by the Senate bill to exclude all Canadian products." These views prevailed, with only one negative vote in the House and none in the Senate. The President signed the bill and it was a law. Before and since that time, however, the assertion has been frequently made, and never denied, that the Administration did not intend to use the power conferred by the act. It was to be used simply as a make-weight in certain diplomatic negotiations then and now in progress. It appears from Mr. Bayard's admissions that this assertion was true, and that it forced by public sentiment to invoke the authority of the Retaliation act it was to be done in such a manner as to make the legislation unnecessarily oppressive to American interests and odious to the people in a large part of the United States. As Mr. Hitt put it when he was discussing the bill in the House:

"We are asked to cut off our own nose in order to spite our own face."

It Canada will not allow United States fishing vessels to enter her ports the United States will exclude Canadian vessels, seems not to be the proposition of Mr. Bayard. Unless he is again misunderstood he proposes to shut out Canadian coal in retaliation for unjust treatment of American fishermen. In one statement published to-day which seems to have been inspired by the State Department, it is intimated that "a reciprocal agreement" may be the outcome of the present negotiations. Many American statesmen besides Mr Bayard have studied that subject long and carefully in the hope of finding a solution of the practical difficulties which environ it. One of them is Mr. Hitt, of Illinois, a member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. In the course of a conversation with a TRIBUNE correspondent to-day Mr. Hitt said:

"For several years I have thought that the only way to reach a permanent and satisfactory settlement of our troubles with Canada would be to sweep away every commercial barrier. Partial arrangements and half-way measures must fail hereafter as they have in the past. The reason is that the natural commercial relations between Canada and the United States are more intimate than between the several provinces