THE WEEK IN SOCIETY.

LITTLE GAYETY FOR MID-LENT.

A DANCE AND A WEDDING OR TWO—DISCOURAGING WEATHER—CHARITABLE ENTERTAINMENTS PREPARING.

Something sadly discouraged the mid-Lent gayety which ought to have broken forth last week in fashionable social circles but didn't. The outburst never is very hilarious, but this year it has hardly been noticeable at all. Possibly it was the combination of cold and dust and wind that caused the depressing effect. Indirectly, at least, this is so, because it is owing to the awful reputation of March weather here that so many New-Yorkers have fled southward. At any rate, the town was terribly dull last week. There was not even much to talk about, despite the row in the Rockaway Hunt Club, the death of the Emperor of Germany, and preparations for charitable entertainments to come off before and after Easter—not to mention the chatter usually indulged in about this time over preparations for Easter costumes. The only real formal fun of the week was a dance for Miss Maud Robbins, given by her mother, Mrs. Henry Ascher Robbins, of No. 419 Fifth-ave. About fifty young people were present, and Miss Robbins and Norman Whitehouse led a pretty cotillion. The favors were sensibly inexpensive, and there was a good supper served after the dancing was over. Naturally, it was voted a successful affair. There were also two or three weddings; but as these were in Presbyterian or Baptist circles, they cannot be counted in as mid-Lent festivities. There was a fair amount of indoor tennis played. Indeed, this game has been in favor all winter, one reason therefor being that lawn tennis players now who want to keep in condition from one summer to another have to practise at kindred sports during the winter. Herein is one of the secrets of the success of the Badminton Club, which meets on Saturdays in the 71st Regiment Armory. Its tournament yesterday brought out a lot of excellent players. The Tennis Building has also been well patronized since outdoor sports were driven into the house last fall. Theatre parties have been in vogue this Lent, but as most of them were on the basis of "self-treats," they have not been incidents of social significance. A pleasant affair of last week, Monday, which should be mentioned, was the ladies' reception at the Manhattan Athletic Club, No. 524 Fifth-ave. Like all other entertainments which this club bids its friends to attend it was eminently successful.

Kettle-drum, kaffee-klatsches, kirmesses, Marches aux legumes and aux fleurs and fairs of various nationalities have had their day. Plain, straightaway charity fairs, where they demand your money or your life 'mid smiles and fascinations of all sorts, still abide with us. But the fashionable entertainment of this spring evidently is to be "Fashing Thursday in Venice," or an imitation of it, to be given at the Metropolitan Opera House, just after Easter—April 11 and 12. The list of patronesses includes many names well known in fashionable circles, and that is always a great point gained in favor of the success of any entertainment in this city. The leading features of "Fashing Thursday" will be national dances and a pantomime, and the object of all the trouble is to swell the funds of the Hahnemann Hospital. It is understood that there will be nothing in connection with this fair that can touch the most delicate Old-Code, New-Code or No-Code susceptibilities of any patient or doctor in town. In addition to this principal charitable entertainment, there will be many others between now and the middle of April, which probably will be none the less successful for being less pretentious. The fair at the Brunswick Hotel yesterday furnished much harmless but expensive diversion to people who attended it.

The principal Presbyterian wedding of the week was, of course, that of Miss Clara Taylor, granddaughter of the late Senator Webster Wagner, to William H. Van Steenburgh, which occurred in the Collegiate (Dutch) Reformed Church, at Forty-eighth-st. and Fifth-ave., on Tuesday evening at 8. It was not precisely mid-Lent, but to the Collegiate Dutch Reformers that mattered not, and the wedding festivities were gayly celebrated by six bridesmaids, a maid of honor (who has the honor of holding the bridal bouquet), a best man, six ushers and a numerous congregation. The ceremony had to content the mass of people, however, no large reception being given, owing to the mourning which the bride's family are wearing. The Rev. Dr. Coe officiated. The bride was dressed in white silk.

There was a flurry in certain Baptist circles on Thursday night in the church at Second-ave. and Tenth-st., when Miss Sophie H. Thurston was married to Alfred W. Honer, by the Rev. Dr. D. C. Potter. The bride was prettily dressed in white silk. The veil was of point lace, and it and the jewels she wore had been her mother's at her own wedding. Four bridesmaids, four ushers and a best man helped make up the bridal party. Later there was a reception at No. 348 West Thirty-third-st., which was numerously attended.

The engagement is announced of Miss Rose Hutchinson and Mr. John J. Phelps.

In Brooklyn there was a brisk revival of public amateur theatricals under the auspices of the Amaranth Club. The place was the Academy of Music, and the time Wednesday evening. "Belle Lamar" was played. It was well done, speaking from an amateur's point of view, and certainly gave pleasure to a large and brilliant audience. Miss Wallace, who took the part of "Doris," is said to have carried off the honors of the evening.

There were some small dinners, teas, receptions and other minor entertainments. Among the ladies who entertained were Mrs. Seward Webb, No. 680 Fifth-ave., a dinner; Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt, No. 689 Madison-ave., a dinner; Mrs. William Manice and Miss Remsen, No. 26 Waverly-place, a reception; Mrs. Edward Winslow, No. 27 West Fifty-third-st., her crystal wedding; Mrs. S. M. Felton, jr., No. 57 West Seventy-third-st.; Mrs. George Bedts, No. 102 Madison-ave., a dinner; Mrs. J. W. Roosevelt, No. 32 East Thirty-first-st., a luncheon; Mrs. A. E. Bateman, at the Belgravia, Fifth-ave., a dinner; Mrs. Charles E. Sprague, No. 1,271 Broadway, a ladies' breakfast; Miss Ogden, No. 26 West Twenty-first-st., a dinner; Mrs. Walter Rutherford, No. 714 Madison-ave., Mrs. Henry W. Everett, No. 48 West Forty-ninth-st., a reception; Mrs. James W. Gerard, No. 17 Gramercy Park, a musicale; Mrs. A. Lewiston, No. 49 West Fifty-sixth-st., a dinner.

The sewing classes and their male attachments also held their usual meetings.

April 7, Easter egg sale at Louis C. Tiffany's studio, Seventy-second-st. and Madison-ave., in aid of the New-York Infirmary for Women and Children.

April 17, marriage of Miss Bertha Horlburt and Stewart Wing.

The engagement is announced of Miss Mary Paris, grandniece of Washington Irving, to Allister Swann; also of Miss Louise Rider and Henry Nash.

Soon after Easter Richard Gambrill will marry Miss Van Nest; E. D. Morgan will marry Miss Lizzie Morgan, and the wedding of Gardiner Colby, jr., and Miss Fannie Curtis, of Orange, N. J., will be celebrated.

Miss Mattie Goodridge and Gouverneur Carnochan will marry this fall, at Riverdale-on-the-Hudson.

The Essex County Toboggan Club will give a fancy dress ball at the new armory, in Orange, on April 2, for the benefit of its treasury. The hall is to be decorated with evergreens, toboggans, boats, guns and all the paraphernalia and implements used by out-of-door clubs. Thomas A. Edison has promised to furnish electric lights of all colors of the rainbow for the occasion. The ball will begin at 3 p. m., and continue without intermission until 3 a. m. An interesting feature of the affair will be the presence of young children from 3 to 6 p. m., and older children from 6 to 9 p. m. After that hour the old people will have a chance. A return train for this city will start at 2 a. m. The Executive Committee consists of Oliver Summer Teall, John Firth and Elsden A. Morris. Mrs. Governor Green heads the list of patronesses.

Mrs. John Sherwood has just given a successful reading in Trenton, N. J., in aid of old St. Michael's church, which was founded in 1699, and which is commonly known as Washington's church. During her stay in Trenton Mrs. Sherwood was the guest of Mr. Robert Stockton. In the last ten days she has read eleven times for charity, each reading resulting in a large pecuniary return, and she is just beginning a new course of readings at her house. She is soon to give a course of readings in Boston, and has urgent invitations to give readings in Elizabeth, Newark, Princeton, Jersey City, Philadelphia and Chicago.

GRADUATES IN DENTISTRY.

There was a large attendance at the twenty-second annual commencement exercises of the New-York College of Dentistry at Chickering Hall last night. The valedictory was delivered by Albert Westlake, jr., and the following prizes were awarded: Gold medal for the best written and oral practical examination, William J. Taylor; silver medal for the most skilful work in operative dentistry, Joao Rodriguez Da Silva; silver medal for the best piece of mechanical dentistry, George B. Herbert; bronze medal for the best report of the aural surgery clinic, Edmund L. Stevens. F. H. Eichorn, F. A. Chicherio, Jacob Bate, F. M. Hayward, W. P. Ives, E. M. Kettig, S. T. A. Muller and Charles F. Weber received honorable mention for the work they had done. The exercises closed with an address by the Rev. Dr. Thomas Gallaudet. The names of the graduates are as follows:

F. P. Arango,	Herman T. Brass,	Nelson Merwin,
W. F. Acton,	John L. Crater,	E. W. Marshall,
V. W. Baker,	F. A. Chicherio,	V. M. Munier,
W. H. Baldwin,	J. H. Clark,	I. P. Marxson,
C. L. Babcock,	C. J. Mapp,	Henry J. Moore,
Virgilio Sezas,	S. T. A. Muller,	J. J. Marchant,
Jacob Bate,	C. E. Maine,	H. W. Northrop,
Stephen E. Best,	F. L. Mersereau,	Frederick Nies,
J. F. W. Glasing,	D. M. Fogemssohn,	H. T. H. Russell,
J. A. A. De Castro,	E. Fox,	E. S. Ruger,
J. R. Da Silva,	E. B. Griffith,	D. B. Smith,
W. L. Drummond,	W. E. Garrish,	A. P. Sturridge,
W. H. D. Davenport,	J. C. Graff,	W. H. Steeves,
F. M. Dunn,	A. H. Gamble,	C. B. Steele,
W. L. Depew,	W. H. Prudon,	L. A. Smith,
F. H. Eichhorn,	C. A. Pickhardt,	J. S. Sanger,
C. S. Sweedy,	H. A. King,	W. F. Tooker,
L. M. Slocum, jr.,	E. M. Kettig,	F. Van Blarcom,
K. P. A. Hans,	J. H. Coffey,	C. F. Weber,
F. M. Hayward,	J. Lyons,	E. F. Wood,
G. B. Herbert,	C. M. Lindsey,	H. P. Wilcer,
J. Rassinger,	L. A. Snyder,	A. Westlake, jr.,
E. S. Hall,	E. L. Stevens,	A. Wagner,
W. P. Ives,	W. J. Taylor,	C. D. Wright.

SALE OF FRENCH'S HOTEL.

MR. PULITZER TO ERECT A BIG BUILDING.

NEW QUARTERS PROPOSED FOR "THE WORLD"—WILL THE PROPERTY BE CONDEMNED.

French's Hotel has been sold at last. Joseph Pulitzer, the proprietor of *The World*, purchased it last week, but the fact was not made known until yesterday. Although the deed has not yet been passed, there is little doubt that the sale will be consummated, since Mr. French, the owner, is under contract to sell at $630,000, and on this contract a large deposit—$100,000, it is said—has been made by Mr. Pulitzer.

As is generally known, the site upon which this well-known structure stands is among the most desirable in the city for newspaper purposes. It occupies the entire block in Park Row, between Frankfort-st. and the Bridge entrance, except the comparatively small space taken by Mr. Kosmak's building. Its frontage in Park Row is 115 feet. The property extends down Frankfort-st., opposite "The Sun" office and the north wing of THE TRIBUNE Building, 136 feet. The eastern boundary line is 109 feet in length, and the northern line, separating it from the Kosmak building, is 124 feet, making the property almost rectangular in shape. It is covered by the hotel building, which will be torn down.

HISTORY OF A WELL-KNOWN HOTEL.

This well-known building was erected forty years ago by John Simpson and acquired great reputation before the War as the headquarters of pioneers returning from California. Mr. Simpson only ran the place a short time, when Colonel Richard French took charge, and it was under his management that the house attained its success, a success, indeed, almost as great as that which attended the old political rallying-place, Tammany Hotel, which stood right across the way, on the ground now occupied by "The Sun" Building. Colonel French acquired possession of the entire property in 1867. When he died in 1872 a dispute arose among the heirs which lasted for a long time. The hotel was closed for awhile, and when at last a settlement was effected, the business had to be practically built up anew. The final settlement was made by Mrs. Helen A. French, the wife of Thomas J. French, the colonel's son, who is now the landlord of the place, buying out the other heirs. She became sole owner and it is from her that Mr. Pulitzer made the purchase for $630,000.

SIMON STEVENS'S PROPOSED BUILDING.

The property has been held for some time at $650,000. Several persons were after it at different times, but refrained from buying through fear that the Bridge trustees would decide to take possession of it, as they have been frequently urged to do, or that the city might be induced to erect a public building on the ground. In fact there is now a plan before the Sinking Fund Commissioners having this object in view. It was devised by Simon Stevens and has been published in THE TRIBUNE. Mr. Stevens's idea possessed at least the merit of comprehensiveness. He wants the city to buy the land all around the Bridge entrance and cover it with a splendid building ten or twelve stories high. The lower stories were to be arranged so that they would afford a terminus not only for the Bridge cars, but for the elevated railroad as well. The purchase of the property by Mr. Pulitzer would seem to frustrate this scheme, but Mr. Stevens does not think so. He said last night that the property could be condemned just the same under the right of eminent domain. As Mr. Pulitzer, however, intends, it is stated, to put up a million dollar building, it is doubtful if the Bridge trustees or the city authorities will feel disposed to acquire the land when thus ornamented. There are at present two leases on the property. One of them does not expire until May, 1889. No changes will be made till then, it is said, but as soon afterward as possible work will be started on the new newspaper building which Mr. Pulitzer proposes to erect.

Abel Crook, who is Mrs. French's legal representative in the matter, declined last evening to give any particulars in regard to the sale, but admitted that the sale has been practically consummated. There was an evident disinclination to discuss the subject in "The World" office. Mr. Pulitzer is still in California. Ballard Smith said that while he could not deny the rumor, yet all he could say in addition was that the deed had not yet been passed. It was too early to talk about the character of the building that would be erected.

BARNUM'S GLITTERING PARADE.

A FIRE INTERRUPTED IT—FRIGHTENED ELEPHANTS RUN AWAY.

Barnum sent fairyland in procession through the streets of New-York last night and thousands and thousands of people turned out to see it. The great annual parade which precludes the opening of the circus season was seldom witnessed by more onlookers. They lined the streets through which the gay show passed in dense masses, every window and point of vantage was crowded, and every lamp-post along the route bore a clustered fruitage of small boys. The way bill as originally arranged and published was Madison-ave. to Forty-ninth-st., to Fifth-ave., to Twenty-ninth-st., to Broadway, to Grand-st., to Sullivan-st., to Canal-st., to Hudson-st., to Eighth-ave., to Twenty-sixth-st., to Madison Square Garden.

But a malevolent little spindle fire sputtered up at No. 579 Broadway, and this caused not a few of the spectators who awaited the procession in New-York's greatest thoroughfare, from Fourteenth-st. to Grand-st., to be disappointed. Barnum has driven triumphantly over many fires, but he had to go out of his way for this one, and his long, glittering line of wonders turned aside from Broadway at Fourteenth-st. to University-place, thence proceeded down Wooster-st., and took up the regular route at Grand-st. When it got to Wooster-st. the congested droves of men, women and children in Broadway made a rush to see it. They ran helter-skelter across Mercer and Greene sts., through the narrow cross streets. Hundreds of persons were knocked down and trampled on in the stampede. In a few minutes Wooster-st. was packed, and its narrow limits overflowed. But in spite of the rush great numbers of the Broadway crowds were, through no fault of their own, "left" lamenting.

At the Sixth-ave. Elevated Station in Grand-st., the three elephants drawing the Bluebeard chariot, took fright at the overhead trains and ran away, breaking the pole and part of the front of the chariot. They were brought under control, however, and led quietly to Madison Square Garden, while a team of horses was harnessed to the damaged chariot. Phineas T. Barnum was "on hand" for the procession and watched it from first to last. With pardonable pride he said it was "an unusually fine show," but the opening of the circus to-morrow afternoon will undoubtedly prove no less a success, and no less an attraction to the public of New-York.

THE GOVERNMENT SUES TWO BIG COMPANIES.

United States District-Attorney Stephen A. Walker has begun a suit, by direction of the Attorney General, on behalf of the United States against the Western Union Telegraph Company and the Union Pacific Railway Company to recover $12,405 62 for moneys received for Government messages. The complaint, which was filed yesterday in the United States Circuit Court, sets forth the organization of the companies, and refers to the grants in 1862 and 1864 of large tracts of land to the Union Pacific Railway Company or its predecessors. The Union Pacific agreed among other things that it would transmit dispatches over its telegraph lines for the Government whenever required by any department thereof, and to charge a fair and reasonable rate not to exceed the amount paid by private parties, and that the compensation for such messages should be set aside by the railway company for the payment of bonds and interest.

The Western Union has had telegraph lines along the Union Pacific road for several years under a contract with the railway company for a division of the receipts. Army officers and others have used the telegraph lines and have sent messages which were prepaid under the rules of the Western Union Company, and were afterward charged to the Government in the accounts of the officers. The money received, the Government declares, should have been applied in payment of the indebtedness of the Union Pacific Company. The amount of the charges is the amount for which suit is brought.

MAJOR POND MARRIED.

The marriage of Major J. B. Pond and Miss May Glass took place at 11 o'clock yesterday morning at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Willard E. Glass, No. 97 Belmont-ave., Jersey City. The Rev. D. C. Hewes performed the ceremony. The wedding was a quiet family one, and the guests included only the immediate families and one or two intimate friends of the Major and Miss Glass. Among them were Major Pond's father, W. E. Pond, who was a pioneer of Wisconsin and a member of the first legislature of that State; his brother, Dr. Edward Payson Pond; the grandmother and aunts of Miss Glass; Mrs. Howes and the Misses Howes, and her brothers and sisters; and, as friends of the bride, Miss Nellie Van Winkle and Miss Lottie Gager; while Major Pond was attended by Mr. Frank Jenkins and Colonel Edward De Camp.

ABOUT THE WILD ANTI-RAILROAD LEGISLATION IN IOWA.

From The Iowa State Register.

We copy elsewhere an article from THE NEW-YORK TRIBUNE Saturday, in surprised comment on the extreme legislation proposed in the Iowa Legislature. It shows that it does not talk without knowledge of the real situation, for it shows acquaintance with the facts gained from research and examination. It will be seen that the judgment of this unprejudiced outside paper, the leading Republican paper of the Nation, is far from complimentary to the Iowa Assembly, or the radical and rancorous members of it. The fair and reasonable men in the Legislature should and will feel the force of the opinion, and will heed its warning and advice. Even the unfair will hardly complument "The Register" so much as to call THE TRIBUNE an echo of "the Regency."

SAFEGUARDS FOR THE INSANE.

ASKING A JURY TRIAL FOR ALL PATIENTS.

A REPLY TO CRITICISMS ON THE BILL NOW BEFORE THE STATE LEGISLATURE.

To The Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: In your issue of Sunday, March 4, you publish some statements made by Dr. L. H. Talcott, superintendent of the State Lunatic Asylum at Middletown, N. Y., regarding the bill of the "Society for Promoting the Welfare of the Insane," which is now in the Legislature of the State. I think you will be willing to publish a reply to Dr. Talcott from one of the founders of the society which has prepared this bill. The society was chartered in 1882, and has among its members many persons who have been intimately connected with the inner workings of asylums.

Dr. Talcott says: "One of the queer things about this association is that its members have never put themselves in communication with any of those who have charge of the insane in the State." We do not need to consult with the officials of asylums. We have seen and studied these institutions, both from within and without. We have had experience in dealing with the insane in our families and in the asylums, and have arrived at conclusions far in advance of superintendents and experts, whose opinions are naturally colored by the glasses of self-interest through which they peer at the alleged insane.

This bill for trial by jury before consigning a person to a mad-house for a term that may mean imprisonment for life, is for the protection of the liberty of the sane. One asylum of this State reports 289 sane patients kept in it during its existence. Judging from this one asylum, how many sane persons have been imprisoned in the other six of the State asylums, in the ten private asylums, and in the county asylums? If the truth was made known regarding these false, illegal imprisonments, the country would be appalled. It is the necessity for the better protection of the liberties of the sane that led this society to prepare this bill; for by the practices of our asylums the sane are included with the insane. Dr. Talcott says that in Illinois the superintendents say that trial by jury "works injustice to the insane." But the judges in the State urge that it does not work injustice. The secretary of the State Board of Commissioners of Public Charities of Illinois reports that on the Cook County lunacy docket for the year ending March 31, 1886, there were 619 cases of alleged insane persons who were tried by juries, of whom 100 were declared sane. Is it not well to save 100 out of 600 from the terrors and deprivations of imprisonment?

Dr. Talcott says that in Illinois "two women were taken to court, adjudged insane, sent to asylums and shortly thereafter died, who were suffering from puerperal fever after child-birth. The exposure of the trials killed them." I ask if it is not possible that the asylums killed them? A superintendent of a State asylum in this State told me that "no woman suffering from puerperal insanity should ever be sent to an asylum." If these women had not been sent to an asylum they would not have needed trial by jury. Dr. Talcott's principle objection to a jury trial is "that it makes a sort of criminal of the alleged lunatic, who is, in fact, only a sick person." I fail to see how a judicial investigation as to the sickness of a person can be compared to a criminal trial, but I can perceive how the treatment in an asylum can make the patients feel as if they were considered criminals. The rigid custody of an insane person makes a person feel like a "sort of a criminal." The Doctor's comparison of a smallpox patient to an alleged insane person is not a parallel case, and is not worthy of notice.

A superintendent's view of the inside of an asylum rests on an entirely different base of vision from that of an imprisoned patient, and he, as lord, is incapable of realizing the effects of his asylum upon his patients. Under the unnatural life of asylums, superintendents may spend their whole lives in the study of insanity, and yet fail to understand it. Dr. Talcott disapproves of the provisions of the bill in regard to the correspondence of patients. He reiterates the threadbare assertion that many of the letters of patients are obscene and cannot be sent through the mail without violating postal laws. Now, while it is true that occasionally a vile letter may be sent by an insane patient, it is no less true that a majority of the letters are objectionable, except that they are apt to tell some truths about the institutions, and truth about asylums is what the superintendents do not want told. I beg pardon of the asylum doctors, if I misrepresent them. Certainly, if I were in their places, I should not want the truth told, unless I could have different truth from that at present. We all want a fair outside. As to the obscenity in letters, the post-office has its laws guarding from it, and letters to friends are the best tests which the friends can have of the mental condition of the patient.

In regard to Dr. Talcott's asks why female patients should be obliged to have female physicians, any more than in home life? I reply that in home life we select our physician. He is under the restraint of society, and if he proves objectionable we can dismiss him. In an asylum a patient has no choice, and what redress the conduct of a physician toward a woman, she has no power to discard himself to a woman, even believed if she undertakes to complain. Therefore, no woman in the secret halls of an asylum should be subjected to the care of a physician of the opposite sex. Besides, a woman does not readily tell a man her secret troubles.

With regard to Dr. Talcott's charge that "most of the proposed charges are made by persons who have never known what it is to be afflicted with an insane member in their families," I would say that many of the members of this society have had dear ones in their families who have been insane and have been kept at home or sent to asylums, and it is through care for these sufferers and interest in their treatment that these friends were moved to organize and consider what remedies to propose for the great evils of the present system. There are now in the state of New-York thousands of insane people confined in asylums. Within the next few years this number will be largely increased. This increase is coming from the homes of the people, and many of those who read these lines will some day find asylum doors closing on themselves or on their dearest friends. It is to save these from the dangers of unjust commitments, and to make it possible for them to get out after a cure has been effected, that the Society for Promoting the Welfare of the Insane is putting forth its efforts.

M. E. BERRY,
Secretary of the Society for Promoting the Welfare of the Insane.

New-York, March 8, 1888.

CALHOUN TO CLEVELAND.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: In a speech made in the Senate of the United States February 13, 1835, on "Executive Patronage," Mr. Calhoun used these words: "The only cohesive principle which binds together the powerful party rallied under the name of General Jackson is official patronage. . . Let us not deceive ourselves. The very essence of a free Government consists in considering offices as public trusts bestowed for the good of the country, and not for the benefit of an individual or a party; and that system of political morals which regards offices in a different light, as public prizes to be won by combatants most skilled in all the arts and corruption of political tactics and to be enjoyed as their proper spoils, strikes a fatal blow at the very vitals of free institutions."

These are the declarations of one of the purest men that was ever elected or appointed to public office in this or any other country.

JAMES A. BRIGGS.

Brooklyn, Feb. 29, 1888.

DYSPEPSIA AND INTEMPERANCE.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: In a recent number of THE TRIBUNE there appears a criticism of a work by Sir Henry Thompson on diet. As the critic is not careful to keep his opinions separate from those of the author, the careless reader might get the idea that dyspepsia is quite as responsible for human suffering as intemperance. Believing THE TRIBUNE will not hesitate to publish the truth if interesting to the great majority of its readers, I beg you to publish a brief extract from Pitman's "Alcohol and the State," page 37:

Sir H. Thompson, a practitioner of European reputation, in his letter to the Archbishop of Canterbury, says: "I have long had the conviction that there is no greater cause of evil, moral and physical, in this country than the use of alcoholic beverages. I do not mean by this that extreme indulgence which produces drunkenness. The habitual use of fermented liquors to an extent far short of what is necessary to produce that condition, and such as is quite common in all ranks of society, injures the body and diminishes the mental power to an extent which, I think, few people are aware of, such, at all events, is the result of observation during more than twenty years of professional life, devoted to hospital practice and to private practice in every rank above it. Thus I have no hesitation in attributing a very large proportion of some of the most painful and dangerous maladies which come under my notice, as well as those which every medical man has to treat, to the ordinary and daily use of fermented drink taken in the quantity which is conventionally deemed moderate."

And greatly oblige yours very truly,

HUGH HARRISON.

Minneapolis, Minn., March 7, 1888.

A TROUBLESOME FIRE IN BROADWAY.

A fire that gave the Fire Department considerable trouble and seriously interrupted Barnum's parade, was discovered about 6 p. m. yesterday in the basement of the five-story marble front building, No. 579 Broadway, directly opposite the Metropolitan Hotel. The building extends through the block to Mercer-st., and the first floor is occupied by Whittemore Brothers, manufacturers of mirrors. Part of the firm's stock of glass was in the basement, and the packing materials furnished abundant fuel for the flames. Smoke was so thick in the basement that the firemen could not go into it. It was 8 o'clock before the fire was under control although the flames had not been permitted to extend beyond the basement. The loss by the fire was not great. Whittemore Brothers lost about $15,000 in damage to stock, while smoke damaged Hirsh & Park's stock of straw goods and Wood & Freeman's stock of boys' clothing on the upper floors to the extent of perhaps $8,000. The building, owned by the Astors, can be repaired for $2,000.

KNIGHTS OF LABOR DISBANDING.

Shamokin, March 10.—Local Assembly No. 10,109, Knights of Labor, has surrendered its charter and declared the strike off. The members are indignant at the treatment they have received from headquarters and declare that they were not given the support due them. They numbered 350 and were all railroaders.

ON THE WAY TO HIS THRONE.

Continued from First Page.

services, but an admission fee of 50 cents and an additional 50 cents for reserved seats will be charged, the proceeds to go to charitable societies in the city. The main purpose in charging for admittance to the services is to prevent a wild struggle at the door to get in. The sculptor, Aloys Lecher, will exhibit on the stage a colossal bust of the Emperor, made expressly for the occasion.

The meeting was fairly harmonious until F. W. Holls moved that some prominent German clergyman should be invited to open the services with prayer and close then with a benediction. For some reason this proposition was violently opposed by some of the delegates. Mr. Holls contended that it was eminently fitting, considering the character of the services, that some recognition should be made of the religious feeling which would naturally be awakened by the death of the great and good man, that this was a religious community—he for one was glad of it—and many would be shocked if the religious element were so conspicuously excluded from the meeting. He called attention to the fact that the Garfield Memorial services in Berlin were of a quasi-religious character. However, the utmost concession Mr. Holls could extort from the majority was an agreement to consider the proposition at the next meeting of the committee which will take place at the Arion Club House, on Tuesday next.

NO OBSERVANCE OF THE FUNERAL AT CITY HALL.

Mayor Hewitt said yesterday that he did not propose to order the flags displayed at half-staff on the City Hall on the day of the Emperor William's funeral. He could see no reason why the City Government should take cognizance of the death of any foreign potentate, however much he and other members of the City Government might individually regret his loss.

FRANCE AND THE DEAD KAISER.

Paris, March 10.—A high military officer and a suite will represent France at the funeral of the Emperor. It is stated that Emperor Frederick's reply to the message of condolence sent by President Carnot, of France, was very cordial and that he expressed the hope that the relations between the two countries might continue friendly.

NOTES HERE AND THERE ABOUT TOWN.

The expression "lift" is gradually coming into use, taking the place of "elevator," somewhat after the manner in which "depot" gave way to the more correct word "station." "Lift," besides being decidedly English, has the further recommendation of presenting an actual word-picture.

What Colonel Thomas W. Knox doesn't know about travelling is scarcely worth knowing, and when he indorses the old saying that "a light heart and a thin pair of trousers are the principal requisites of a journey," it is to be presumed that the old saw is worthy of acceptation. One may easily picture Hugh Cecil Lowther, Earl of Lonsdale, on his trip to the North Pole confident and light of heart, but the imagination recoils from portraying the noble Earl as doomed to a faithful observance of the second requisite.

Visitors to the city bent on sight-seeing have a fairly distinct idea of the objects of interest, and occasionally give their city friends a good "pointer" on things worth seeing. Particular curiosity prompts most of them to plan an immediate trip to the houses of the millionaires, and the Stewart house, the mansions of the Vanderbilts, the Astors and others thus become popular objects of attention. Jay Gould's house proves a general disappointment to sight-seers. Castle Garden, as an interesting place, is daily visited by scores of strangers.

It is said that Andrew Carnegie has rented Cluny Castle in the Highlands of Scotland for the summer. The castle has long been the seat of the chief of the Clan Macpherson, and was one of the hiding places of Prince Charlie after the rebellion of '45. The last head of the clan who lived in the old-time fashion died three or four years ago, and the estate is now used chiefly as a mountain country seat.

Lawn tennis enthusiasts will be delighted to hear that R. D. Sears, the champion, has finally promised to appear again, without fail, in both the single and double championship tournaments. The doubles will be played on Staten Island this year and New-Yorkers will have a chance to see his brilliant services and returns without going all the way to Newport.

OBITUARY.

HARVEY S. LADEW.

Harvey S. Ladew, of Fayerweather & Ladew, No. 24 Spruce-st., one of the heaviest leather houses in the country, died on Friday night from a stroke of paralysis that he had received on Wednesday. Mr. Ladew had not been so strong as usual of late, but no one considered him ill. On Wednesday morning he was at his place of business. In the evening he attended an auction sale of pictures. He became somewhat excited as the sale went on and the shock followed. He never regained consciousness afterward. Mr. Ladew leaves a wife, two sons and a daughter. The funeral will take place on Tuesday at 10:30 a. m., at his house, No. 813 Madison-ave.

Mr. Ladew was born at Ladew Corners, now Mt. Pleasant, in Ulster County, N. Y., on January 16, 1826. His father was a tanner. The son became a tanner and for some time had tanneries at Shokan. He finally settled in this city, going into partnership ultimately with the Hoyt Brothers, later with J. S. Hoyt & Co. On the withdrawal of Mr. Hoyt, Mr. Ladew formed a partnership with Mr. Fayerweather. The firm has seven or eight tanneries in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Maryland and Tennessee. Mr. Ladew himself was widely known in the trade throughout the country. He was a man of the highest integrity and an extremely successful business man, having accumulated a large fortune.

DR. CHARLES MARTIN.

Danville, Va., March 10.—Dr. Charles Martin, clerk of the United District and Circuit Court for the Western District of Virginia, died here to-day from paralysis, age seventy-five. He was a prominent man in his day. He entered the army on the southern side at the outbreak of the war and remained to its close. He had been a professor in Hampden-Sydney and Blacksburg Colleges.

A PRINCETON WELCOME TO PRESIDENT PATTON.

The President-elect of Princeton, Dr. Francis L. Patton, made his formal "bow" to the graduates of that college last week and was enthusiastically received by the Philadelphia alumni. In responding to the toast "Princeton—where mighty Edwards stamped his iron feet," he said: "Let me make the philosophy of a people and I do not care who makes the theology"; and went on to indicate his attitude regarding the future policy of the college under his administration. In this connection he said: "If I live to be inaugurated, I shall say, 'All aboard for the university.' We mean to keep Princeton a Christian college. There are people who will find to their cost that I am not afraid to leg for the college. There is a man that is advertising that he wants to give $50,000 to some worthy object. That man has not yet received my letter. When he does he will see that five fellowships in Princeton College are the best investment." He spoke most assuringly of the bright future of the college, and alluded in terms of reverent compliment to President McCosh, who was vigorously cheered as he rose to make one of his characteristic speeches. During the same week, the Alumni Association of Northeastern Pennsylvania, meeting in Wilkesbarre, indorsed in warm resolutions, the choice of the Board of Trustees, declaring that "the great and varied ability, steadfast resolution, high courage and wide learning" Dr. Patton had already shown encouraged "the belief that he would prove a worthy successor in a line of presidents which included Edwards, Witherspoon and McCosh." Dr. McCosh's retirement was also commemorated in fit terms.

The two presidents will attend the annual dinner of the Princeton Alumni Association of New-York on next Thursday, on which occasion speeches will also be made by the president of the Princeton Club, the Rev. Dr. Henry Van Dyke, Mayor Hewitt, Edmund Wetmore and Chauncey Depew, representing the Harvard and Yale Associations of this city.

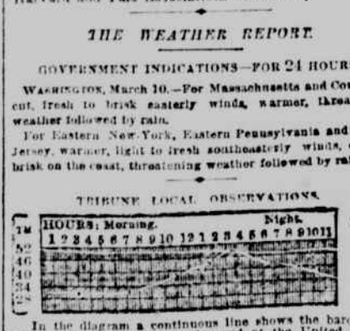
THE WEATHER REPORT.

GOVERNMENT INDICATIONS—FOR 24 HOURS.

WASHINGTON, March 10.—For Massachusetts and Connecticut, fresh to brisk easterly winds, warmer, threatening weather followed by rain.

For Eastern New-York, Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey, warmer, light to fresh southeasterly winds, except brisk on the coast, threatening weather followed by rain.

TRIBUNE LOCAL OBSERVATIONS.



In the diagram a continuous line shows the barometer fluctuations yesterday, as observed at the United States Signal Service station at this city. The dashes indicate the temperature noted at Hudnut's pharmacy, 218 Broadway.

TRIBUNE OFFICE, March 11—1 A. M.—Clear, mild weather prevailed yesterday. The temperature ranged between 29° and 50°, the average (39°) being 5½° higher than on Friday.

In and near this city to-day there will probably be warmer weather, followed by cloudiness and rain.

CENTRAL PARK METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.

Professor Draper, of the Central Park Observatory, makes the following report for the week ended at noon Saturday:

Barometer.	Inches.	Thermometer.	Degrees.
Mean	29.955	Mean	22.8
Max'm, Mar. 10, 7 a. m.	30.388	Max'm, Mar. 10, 12 m.	42.0
Min'm, Mar. 5, 6 p. m.	29.696	Minimum, Mar. 6, 5 a. m.	10.0
Range	.692	Range	32.0

Distance travelled by the wind, 1,971 miles. Amount of water, .01 inch.

OPENING A NEW SUBURBAN ROAD.

THE FIRST TRAIN OVER AN ADDITIONAL ROUTE TO YONKERS—SPEECHES AND LUNCHEON.

The new rapid transit route over the road of the New-York City and Northern Railway Company, between New-York and Yonkers, was opened yesterday. A special train carrying the directors of the company and their guests left the Rector Street Station of the Ninth Avenue Elevated Road and ran through to One-hundred-and-fifty-fifth-st., where a change of cars was made to the new line, the run through to Yonkers being made in fifty-nine minutes, including the stops. The new route runs from One-hundred-and-fifty-fifth-st. along the Harlem River straight along to Van Cortlandt Station, at the lower end of Van Cortlandt Park, and thence diverges from the old route of the New-York City and Northern Railroad's track to the northern boundary of New-York City into Getty Square, Yonkers, where a handsome station of red brick, with every modern convenience for passenger and freight traffic, is in course of construction. The Yonkers terminus will cost about $35,000, and when the road is in proper working order, after April 1 next, it is proposed to run trains at intervals of fifteen minutes, to make the journey from Yonkers to Rector-st. in forty minutes, including all stops.

The arrival of the first train was greeted with enthusiasm by a large crowd and the officers of the road entertained their guests at a luncheon at the Yonkers Music Hall, where addresses were made by Assemblyman J. Irving Burns, Waldo Hutchins, Joel B. Erhardt, president of the road, and William Allen Butler, jr., counsel for the company. The officers of the company present were Joel B. Erhardt, president; W. H. Rockwell, secretary; J. W. Reinhard, traffic manager; H. C. Willets, auditor; Sebastian Wimmer, chief engineer; and George Warren Smith, A. Marcus, William Merkens, Edward H. Bonner, A. B. Baylis, George I. Forrest, H. F. Dimock, George F. Stone, W. H. Hollister, Rufus Randall and John J. McCook, directors. Among the guests were Judges Daly and Brady, Police Justice Patterson, ex-Police Commissioner Matthews, George H. Adams, counsel for the New-York and Northern Railroad Company; ex-Mayor Wickham, Calvin Goddard, J. James Croes, chief engineer of the Suburban Rapid Transit Company; J. A. Quintard, ex-Assemblyman Molter, Samuel Stone, William Sulzer, W. W. Law, Stanley H. Ray, A. H. Johnson, G. M. Bailey, representing the Manhattan Railway Company;