IN THE GOLDEN STATE.

POLITICS—OIL WELLS—CLIPPER SHIPS—FRUIT.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

San Francisco, May 17.—An attempt is being made by enemies of ex-Congressman Markham, of Los Angeles, to kill his chances for the nomination for Governor by reviving the stories that he favors the division of the State. There is absolutely no truth in the statement, as Markham was one of the few prominent men in southern California during the height of the wild land boom who kept their heads and opposed the movement to carve a separate State out of the southern counties. This attack, however, is an earnest of the bitter fight which will be made on Markham, as the northern and central counties want to elect a candidate. The spread of the story has already injured Markham, as all California, north of Tehachapi Pass, regards favoring the division of the State as unpardonable. Many old Californians also regard Markham as a carpet-bagger, since he has been in the State only about eight years.

President C. P. Huntington, of the Southern Pacific Company, left here to-day for Los Angeles, where he will inspect the main and branch lines of his company. On Wednesday next he will start for Chicago over the Atlantic and Pacific and Santa Fe roads, at the invitation of President Manvel. There are rumors of many changes in local officials which will be made as soon as Mr. Huntington leaves the State. One result of his visit has been to put every one on the alert, and to enforce economy in management. Mr. Huntington will return in September, to remain for the rest of the year in San Francisco.

George Francis Train sent here from Hong Kong an extraordinary report of his lectures and speeches on the steamer from Vancouver to the Orient, and of his addresses at Yokohama and Hong Kong. The name of Tacoma must be familiar in Anglo-Oriental ears, as Train boomed the lively Puget Sound city at all hours and in all places. He paid "The Hong Kong Daily Press" for a whole page of reports of speeches showing that Jules Verne plagiarized from him, and predicting that Tacoma before the opening of the new century, will be the commercial rival of New-York and will have left San Francisco as far behind as New-York has left Baltimore. The conservative and slow-going newspaper men of Hong Kong were dazed by Train's pyrotechnics; but they explained it all by accepting him as a typical American, whose energy had not been relaxed by the drowsy and enervating East.

Homer N. Lockwood, of New-York, has reached here after an extensive trip through Mexico. He thinks a new steamship line will soon be established between Hong Kong and Guaymas, as there is urgent demand for Chinese labor in the new mines of Lower California, as well as a good opportunity to smuggle coolies over the Mexican boundary. He is much impressed with the future of California, and has already advised a number of New-York friends to come here and settle.

A new omnibus cable road was opened for travel to South San Francisco this week. This will do much to develop a part of the city that has languished for lack of rapid transit.

The Women's Auxiliary to the Episcopal Board of Missions of the California Diocese had its annual meeting this week, and the report showed a gratifying increase of 24 per cent over the work of last year. The receipts were a trifle over $7,000, all of which was expended.

Much excitement was caused in the Ventura County oil fields by a sudden increase this week in the flow of many oil wells. In several the increased flow is over 200 barrels. Pennsylvania oil capitalists are on the ground, and the prospect is that a syndicate will develop the wells to their full capacity.

Among the deaths of the week was that of William F. White, father of Stephen White. He ran as a candidate on the Workingmen's ticket at the first election after the passage of the new Constitution, but was badly defeated. His son is a Democratic candidate for United States Senator to succeed Senator Stanford.

Governor Waterman this week pardoned ex-Supreme Court Clerk McCarthy, who embezzled $13,000 of State funds. McCarthy has spent three years in the county jail, and through his political friends he convinced the Governor that he had been sufficiently punished.

John Rosenfeld & Sons have chartered the fine American ship M. P. Grace for New-York. This firm expects hereafter to load a clipper ship for New-York every month. Iron ships are in demand here now, as for nearly a month there has not been one disengaged. The ship Lord Cairns, within a month has had three calls for the same voyage, her last charter being at forty-one shillings threepence to Liverpool, the highest price paid since May last. There are now seventeen iron vessels in port under engagement for wheat.

The orange crop of southern California for the coming season is estimated by experts at 5,000 carloads or 1,500,000 boxes. Los Angeles County alone will produce 600,000 boxes. The time of the fast fruit trains to Chicago will soon be reduced from six days to four, and when this change is made fresh vegetables and perishable fruits will be shipped daily.

A party of six men started this week from Tacoma for a year's exploring trip to Alaska. They will sail up the Yukon on a schooner built for the purpose, and will prospect for gold and trade with the Indians. They carry a complete mining outfit.

NEWPORT LOOKS FOR A GAY SUMMER.

MANY COTTAGERS THERE AND MORE COMING—RHODE ISLAND'S INAUGURATION DAY.

Newport, R. I., May 17 (Special).—It looks as if the season so near at hand would be a success in every particular. Cottages are renting fairly well and many well-known families who were in Europe last season will be found at their cottages. Everybody here is busy preparing for the season, and no end of work must be done. The laborers employed by the gardeners of the summer residents have struck for nine hours a day, and this in many respects is unfortunate for all concerned. A few of the cottagers are arriving for the season and the number of transient visitors is large enough to gladden the hearts of those who are fortunate enough to care for them while they are here. The summer stores on Bellevue-ave. are opening and that aristocratic thoroughfare already presents quite a busy appearance.

Mrs. Daniel LeRoy, of New-York, has arrived at her cottage on Bellevue-ave.

It is rumored here that the English Minister at Washington is to take a cottage here. The first secretary of the legation, the Hon. Henry Edwards, has been here during the week, and it is presumed that his visit had something to do with the renting of a cottage for the Minister.

John B. Pell and family, of Brooklyn, have arrived at their cottage on Purgatory Road.

Mrs. De Lancey Kane, C. O. Iselin and Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Vanderbilt, of New-York, are expected at their cottages next week.

The Misses Rhinelander, Mr. and Mrs. Fellowes Davis, and Mr. and Mrs. Amos Morrill, of New-York, have been here this week looking for cottages.

Mrs. Frederick W. Rhinelander, of New-York, is at her cottage on Redwood st.

The steam-yacht Wampanoag and sloop-yacht Titania have arrived. H. L. Willoughby, the owner of the Wampanoag, has a cottage here, and Mr. Iselin has taken the Chickering cottage for the summer. Quite a large number of the prominent yacht owners are to spend the summer here.

E. A. Tuttle and E. K. Little, of New-York, have sold their cottages in Red Cross-ave. to Miss Carrie E. Meres and F. D. Meres, of the same city.

Judge and Mrs. Gray are to sail for Europe at an early day. Extensive improvements are being made to their cottage on Kay-st.

Mrs. J. M. Child, of New-York, has arrived at the Dane cottage on Broadway.

Mr. and Mrs. Peleg Hall, of New-York, who have rented their Newport cottage, have taken rooms for a few weeks at the Robinson cottage.

Miss Woolsey ("Susan Coolidge"), the well-known writer, has sailed for Europe with her sister.

The Misses Ogden, of New-York, have taken the Palmer cottage on Bellevue-ave.

Among the recent visitors are Captain T. O. Selfridge, U. S. N.; James Richardson, of St. Louis; J. W. Biddle, Mr. and Mrs. Rosengarten and Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Mason, jr., of Philadelphia; Miss Goodwin, J. H. Congdon and Thomas F. Cushing, of Boston; Miss Schermerhorn, of Peekskill, N. Y.; the Misses Rhinelander, J. J. Wysong, Peleg Hall, Mrs. Charles F. Chickering, Mrs. F. D. Carley, Mrs. E. C. Homans and Mrs. R. H. Hunt, of New-York; Lieutenants Newell, Logan and Hutchins, of the Navy, and ex-Governor Henry Howard, of Rhode Island.

Paul G. Stevenson and W. H. Osgood, jr., of New-York, have arrived here in a sloop yacht.

Fellowes Davis, of New-York, has leased the Breese cottage on Francis-st.

Woodbury Kane's sloop yacht Bantam is on the marine railway at this place for repairs.

J. & G. d'Hauteville, of New-York, who has a cottage here, is at the Aquidneck. His wife is still in Paris, but she is expected here about the middle of next month.

GUARDSMEN TO BE IN LINE.

PREPARING FOR THE PARADE ON MEMORIAL DAY.

ALL TO BE PRESENT AT THE LAYING OF THE CORNERSTONE OF THE WASHINGTON MEMORIAL ARCH—OUTDOOR DRILLS.

The following orders have been issued from the First Brigade headquarters for the Memorial Day parade:

The First Brigade will parade on May 30 in commemoration of Decoration Day, and by invitation of the Memorial Committee will act as escort to the Grand Army of the Republic. The formation will be at 9 o'clock, the commands in close column, the heads resting in Fifth-ave., as follows: 69th Regiment in West Fifty-eighth-st., 8th Regiment in East Fifty-eighth-st., 9th Regiment in West Fifty-seventh-st., 22d Regiment in East Fifty-seventh-st., 71st Regiment in West Fifty-sixth-st., 7th Regiment in East Fifty-sixth-st., 12th Regiment in West Fifty-fifth-st., 1st Battery in East Fifty-fifth-st., 2d Battery in West Fifty-fourth-st., in which order they will join the column.

The Signal Corps, mounted, will form on the right of the 69th Regiment. Troop A will act as escort to the brigade commander, and will report to him at his residence at 8:30 o'clock a. m. Regimental and battery commanders will report to the brigade chief of staff at Fifth-ave. and Fifty-eighth-st. as soon as their commands are in position. A marching salute will be paid to the reviewing officer at the Worth Monument.

The brigade will, after completing the escort duty, by invitation of the Washington Memorial Arch Committee, participate in the ceremonies incident to the laying of the cornerstone of the arch, and the parade will be dismissed at Washington Square, from which point the several commands will proceed at once to their armories. The Belknap Trophy for the highest percentage of recruiting and attendance has been won by Company F, 22d Regiment, and will be handed over to the commanding officer of that company by the commanding officer of Company B, 71st Regiment.

The appointment is announced of Major Francis Vinton Greene as engineer on the brigade staff, with rank from December 7, 1889.

National Guard affairs are exceedingly quiet just at present, the Memorial Day parade being the only matter which is attracting any particular attention. The opening of the State Camp has been postponed one week, by the action of Adjutant-General Porter in allowing the 69th Regiment to be the organization to close the camp instead of opening it, and so the camp will not be opened until July 5.

The 8th Regiment will have another street parade to-morrow evening. Colonel Scott is showing a great deal of energy and making a commendable attempt to make up for the time which was lost while the new armory was being built. It is a matter of regret that Colonel Scott's command cannot go to the Camp of Instruction this year, and the opinion prevails that Colonel Scott was too modest when he asked to be relieved from camp duty in consequence of the poor condition of the regiment.

Company A, 12th Regiment, Captain H. Pell, will have an outdoor drill to-morrow evening. The 12th Regiment will assemble at the armory at Ninth-ave. and Sixty-second-st. this afternoon at 2 o'clock to attend church.

The new armory of the 11th Separate Company is being fitted up in a manner to make it attractive to not only the members, but to their friends as well. A new $500 upright piano is the latest addition to the reception-room. The company will close the drill season on May 26 with a reception. Captain Edward J. Kindler, who was promoted to that grade by a unanimous vote of the company two weeks ago, was before the Third Brigade Examining Board on Friday and passed a successful examination. He is a thorough soldier and is popular in a social way. The vacancy caused by his promotion from the first lieutenancy will be filled by election in a few days.

LONG BRANCH'S MAYOR.

THOMAS R. WOOLLEY TO BE RE-ELECTED—THE OCEAN AVENUE DRIVE.

Long Branch, May 17 (Special).—The newly-elected members of the Board of Commissioners of Long Branch will organize next week. Ex-Mayor Thomas R. Woolley will be re-elected to his former place. The commissioners will take prompt action in reference to the bluff fronting Ocean-ave., the famous driveway. No definite plan has yet been decided upon, but the commissioners will certainly be compelled to place the roadway in such a condition that it will not be dangerous to ride upon it. Many of the summer cottagers are in favor of having bridges built over the big gaps which the sea has torn into the avenue, and then to have the timbers covered with a heavy layer of soil. Next fall these bridges can be replaced with strong bulkheads. The season will open too early to permit the erection of permanent bulkheads now. A number of our prominent cottagers have arrived at their summer homes. They are almost wild with indignation over the present condition of their favorite driveway.

Forked River, on Barnegat Bay, has a new hotel, the Parker House, erected since last season by W. S. Parker. It is commodious and handsomely furnished.

The brick cottage of Jose de Navarro, on the Rumson Road, has been leased for the approaching season by J. Maxwell Robeson, the president of the Central Railroad of New-Jersey and a son-in-law of Austin Corbin.

"The Sea Bright Sentinel" has made its appearance for the season. It is popular with the summer guests.

Richard V. Breese, the Long Branch contractor, who built last year the elegant country house at "Rebellion," on the Rumson Road, for Edward D. Adams, of Winslow, Lanier & Co., the New-York bankers, is erecting for Mr. Adams the largest greenhouses and fernery on the New-Jersey coast.

Congressman Geissenhainer, of New-Jersey, has decided to rebuild his country home, near Freehold.

Thomas Patten, the agent of the Rhinelander estate in New-York, and his family are at their cottage at Pleasure Bay.

J. S. Sellgman, the New-York banker, will occupy the cottage of Mrs. J. H. Herrick, also of New-York, at Monmouth Beach.

LAKEWOOD'S SEASON STILL LINGERS.

LAND SALES AND BUILDING PLANS—RECENT ARRIVALS AMONG THE PINES.

Lakewood, May 17 (Special).—There has been a very perceptible falling off in the population of this village since last week. There are still a good many people here, but the hotels and cottages generally have some vacant rooms. Still there are over 200 guests at the Laurel House to-night, and this exceeds the number there at this time of the year during any previous season since Lakewood became a winter resort.

In real estate transactions and building progress there is, however, a perceptible gain, and the interest of the place is rapidly turning from pleasure to business. Of course this change is temporary and will last only during the summer and until the next winter season opens. The most important real estate sale of the week is that of three lots sold by S. D. Davis, treasurer of the Lakewood Hotel and Land Association, to Mrs. Elizabeth Whitewright Stewart, widow of the late well-known New-York banker. Mrs. Stewart will build a handsome mansion without delay. Charles E. Nachtigh, secretary of the Forty-second-st. railway, will break ground at once for a $15,000 mansion on Main-st., with a fine view of the lake on the southern exposure. Captain A. M. Bradshaw contemplates some extensive improvements in the way of building on the business portion of Manasquan. Work upon the new railroad station so long a public necessity will be begun in a few days. The structure will be a handsome one of stone, and will be located about a hundred feet south of the present depot.

The incorporators of the Pine Forest Land Improvement company, capital $1,000,000, are Nathan Strauss, D. G. Thompson, Jordan L. Webster, jr., Max Nathan, Eugene G. Blackford, Frank K. Hain and Benjamin F. Einstein, all of New-York and Brooklyn. This company is building the large hotel on the north side of the village, which is designed to accommodate 1,000 guests.

The latest arrivals at the Laurel House from New-York are Mr. and Mrs. A. de Castro, Miss French, Matthew Griffin, Mrs. P. C. Baker, Mrs. W. H. Harrison, T. C. Richardson, jr., Samuel Breeam, Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Barker, Dr. Robert Abbe, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Thomson, Mrs. John Taylor, Miss Taylor, Mrs. Henry S. Crooke, John E. Carpenter, Mr. and Mrs. S. Turner, John C. Giles, Mrs. Stephen W. Giles, Wilson de Meza, Dr. L. L. Seaman, H. H. Curtis, Mr. and Mrs. T. Whittaker, Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Macy, Mr. and Mrs. F. J. de Peyster, A. W. Mandeville, Miss M. M. Belding, Mrs. Charles Tillman, Charles Hastings, W. H. Quick, J. C. Atwater, E. J. Smith, Dr. and Mrs. J. H. Anderson, Miss Anderson, Mrs. D. M. Fisk, Mrs. George H. Vaillant, Miss Vaillant, Mrs. F. B. Squier, Mrs. H. Clarkson, Miss Clarkson, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Holland, Mrs. L. C. Morris, Miss Morris, G. H. Hotchkiss, A. W. Trotter, S. D. Brewer, Dr. F. H. Wolcott, Mrs. John J. Sheppard, Henry W. Davis.

Late Brooklyn arrivals at the Laurel House are Mrs. W. Wallace, Mrs. E. T. Austin, Mr. and Mrs. J. K. Draper, Miss C. Wells, the Misses Linton, Miss E. Mines, Miss E. Connell, Miss J. Jervis, A. W. White, Miss F. E. White, Miss Detmer, J. F. Baldwin, Pascal C. Burke, F. A. Van Horstein, W. F. Swalm, Norman S. Bentley, E. G. Blackford, W. E. Blackford, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Rooke, Mr. and Mrs. H. de Selding, Miss Parsons, D. W. Bentley, S. Swain, R. F. Cole, Miss Addie Cole, B. T. Lynch, Mrs. Lynch, Charles A. Tinker.

The following are the latest arrivals from New-York at the Palmer House: Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Strauss, H. A. Brann, Mrs. J. J. Hagen, Miss Bessie Hagen.

Brooklyn guests who have recently registered at the Laurel House are: A. D. Bloodgood, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sickles.

Late arrivals at the Old Homestead from New-York are the Misses Varick, Mrs. Willoughby Powell, J. H. Hamilton, George J. Harlow, Miss Nellie Constantine Smith, John L. Hamilton, Mrs. C. A. Carley, T. A. Speery. From Brooklyn, Percy B. Pardy, George W. Price, Charles Currie, jr. From Newark, Mrs. James Hodge, Frederick E. S. Hodge.

MUSICAL COMMENT.

BOSTON PROVINCIALISM AND BOSTON CONDUCTORS—VERDI AND MASSENET.

For the sake of an argument, which is adroitly made, but rests on false premises, "The Boston Evening Transcript" pleads guilty to the charge that Boston is provincial in musical matters. The indictment to which this plea is made was formulated by a contributor to "The Evening Post," who, writing from Boston, pointed out the fact that the recent performances of German opera in that city were disgracefully bad and yet were generously patronized by the Boston people. "None but provincials would be thus imposed upon, and kiss the hand that swindles them so loftily and constantly," says "The Post's" contributor, who writes himself down "A Wagnerite" at the end of his screed. Now it is no affair of ours if Boston men and Boston newspapers wish to speak disrespectfully of their own town. Time was when Boston used to curl its lip at New-York's paucity of musical culture, and systematically put the stamp of its disapprobation on all things which New-York had admired and smile upon all things which had been frowned on in New-York. We have a case in mind where an artist took the advice of a disinterested friend and went to Boston on the strength of a New-York failure. The correctness of the rule was verified; Boston welcomed the artist with open arms—as the artist deserved to be welcomed. Many other illustrations come to mind, but nothing would be accomplished by enumerating them. It is a cause of gratitude for the sake of the art that Boston no longer feels the self-sufficiency which she did when she affected to despise what New-York liked and to like what New-York despised; and it is a proof that she is not provincial. In fact, Boston is exceedingly sensible in musical matters—much more than she is in literary—and it is a ground for hearty congratulation that the country at large is glad to study her attitude toward the musical art and profit by it, while it smiles either with pity or derision at her genuflexions before the shrines of such saints as Ibsen and Bellamy.

But what is to be said about the fact that Boston gave generous patronage to the operatic enterprise which has been masquerading there and elsewhere as the Metropolitan Company? Simply that not being able to hear anything better it accepted what was offered with becoming gratitude. Willingness to eat half a loaf rather than go hungry is not a proof of provincialism. Those who stand upon the critical watch-towers in Boston failed not in their duty of warning the public against the viciousness of the German performances; yet the public went, and went, too, in greatest numbers to the operas which were most difficult to perform well. Why? Because they were the operas which are most in consonance with the musical taste of to-day. Beethoven's "Fidelio" and Wagner's operas drew the big audiences. If the writer of the article in "The Transcript" will but recognize this fact (to which if challenged we are sure he would be willing to bear testimony), he will knock out the underpinning of all that critical structure which he reared in the hope of proving that New-York, too, is provincial because its opera is sung in German. He questions the taste and culture of the people who support our operatic establishment, because the operas are sung there in a foreign tongue, and describes the Opera House as "an inn where artists come and tarry awhile, with no interest in the place or the people." How would it differ in this respect if the language used were Italian? Or even English? Singers' voices do not last forever. Would "The Transcript" have an artistic institution turned into an asylum? Some of the members of the Metropolitan Company have been here for five years, and will doubtless be kept as much longer as they can be had or their powers hold out. In what does the status of Madame Lehmann Kalisch differ here from that of Mr. Nikisch in Boston? We will not cite the case of Mr. Scott, for he is in process of transformation into an American citizen. He has come to stay. Institutions that cater to the entertainment of the public cannot establish their personnel on a permanent footing. If they were to do so it would tax the ingenuity of even a Boston editor, we fancy, to show how that would benefit art in a greater degree than the present arrangement.

The Boston writer does not confine himself to illogical observations, however. He formulates a charge against the stockholders of the Metropolitan Opera House which is not only in bad taste, but for which the writer can offer no support. In his eyes the annual subscription of $5,000 each by the stockholders for the maintenance of opera "only proves a pork prince's prodigality, an opulent operator's opportunity to exhibit his elegant person in an evening suit, and the opportunity by their wives and daughters of the fine chances offered to show their shoulders and display their diamonds." It would be interesting to learn how the writer learned so much about the motives of the Metropolitan stockholders, or by what right he lumps seventy odd men in his characterization. The vulgarity in his charges is traceable, we imagine, to the newspaper talk about the vulgar conduct of some of the occupants of the opera boxes. But that conduct was not general. It was confined to two or three boxes of the seventy-two, as everybody might have known who wanted to. And to accuse the stockholders as a whole of a mere desire for vulgar display is on a par with an attack on Mr. Higginson for maintaining the Boston Symphony Orchestra, on the score that he does it in order to see his name in the papers. The stockholders as a body here are doing for opera what Mr. Higginson is doing alone in Boston and throughout the country for orchestral music. To maintain the Boston Symphony Orchestra Mr. Higginson employs the best foreign conductor he can find and the best foreign musicians. Together they do the best they can to please the best taste of the public. That is what the stockholders of the Metropolitan do, and their institution is German simply because German opera pleases the best taste of the public, as is proven by experience. It is another matter entirely when "The Transcript's" writer speculates about what might be done for the same amount of money in the way of establishing opera in the vernacular. That is a goal for which The Tribune has long been striving, but not blindly. They show little appreciation of the true state of affairs who think that American opera could be established by the mere fiat of the stockholders of the Metropolitan Opera House, backed by their annual subvention of $200,000. Time is not yet ripe for that. But the Metropolitan institution is helping to that consummation with the poorest of its representations much more potently than Madame Patti with the most scintillant of her vocal flights. If Boston would but understand we would like to show her why it is the manifest destiny of a National opera to be established within her confines; but we fear that she is so little provincial that she will not rise to her opportunities.

The conservative spirit of Boston was more agreeably exemplified in an article which appeared in the same issue of "The Transcript" reviewing the ninth season of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. From a compilation of the compositions performed in the course of the season, it appears that Germany's composers were represented by sixty-six works, and those of the rest of creation by forty. This might have seemed a dreadful disproportion to such narrow-minded and short-sighted observers as have recently ventured to discuss musical matters (in prisoning style) in some notorious prints in this city, but the Boston writer has this to say about it:

In view of the character of the concerts, and of the unquestionable supremacy Germany has maintained during nearly two centuries in all fields of music, excepting the opera, this proportion seems about as fair as could be desired. Its fairness will be still more strikingly apparent if we consider that the especial fields in which German works in the above list most strongly outnumber those of non-German composers are the symphony and overture—just the fields in which the Germans have shown themselves especially preeminent.

In an equally judicial manner the writer, who is evidently Mr. Apthorp, discusses the character of the orchestra's work under its new leader. He thinks that the question whether Mr. Nikisch or Mr. Gericke is the better conductor is impertinent and need not come up at all. The difference between them he thinks to be one of point of view. Mr. Gericke was unwilling to attempt to adapt himself to circumstances (the size of Music Hall); Mr. Nikisch is. The former insisted on as much finish and ideality as if the conditions were favorable, the latter thinks the conditions must be conquered—"the orchestra must sound, its volume of tone must fill the hall, its accents must strike home to the farthest corner." No doubt there is much truth in this, but we fancy the essential differences between the work of the two admirable men were the products of the difference between their temperaments and their attitude toward that vague and illusive thing called tradition. This, too, is recognized in the concluding paragraph of the Boston critic's estimate:

Yet it is still to be recognized that these characteristics of Mr. Nikisch's conducting, blemishes though they be, are in reality the outcome of a warm, intense and passionate musical nature; they are, as the French would say, the vices of his virtue. And for the genuine warmth and vital force with which he makes his men play no one can have a heartier admiration than we.

At the distance from which we are obliged to view the conduct of foreign composers, it seems as if the greatest defect in their characters as a rule is their provincialism. Many will recall Von Bulow's remark that he knew a man who had written forty operas and didn't know anything about music, and who mentioned Verdi as the man. Saint-Saëns's attack on Wagner, after years of ardent admiration, friendship and advocacy, is still fresh in the public mind. Now it seems that Verdi has been quoted as having spoken disparagingly of French musicians, and Massenet, squinting at the modernisms in "Otello," has retorted: "I am astonished that Verdi has said anything against French composers, although I should not have been surprised if he had said everything good of the Germans." Yet Verdi's friends seem to think it is incumbent on them to deny that he is familiar with Wagner's scores.

THE PRESIDENT IN NEW-YORK.

THE SICK RECEIVING MEDICAL SERVICES FREE.

The president of the European and American staff of physicians and surgeons (composed of German, English, Scandinavian and American doctors) is in New-York City, at 35 East 10th-st., and will render service to the sick free of charge until the evening of June 10. The object is to become rapidly and personally acquainted with the sick, and afflicted invalids will not take offence if they are rejected as incurable, as no case will be accepted unless there is a moral certainty of a cure being effected. If your case is incurable they will frankly tell you.

A special invitation to any one suffering from disease pronounced incurable. It matters not what your disease may be, come and be examined; if you are curable they will treat you, and if you are incurable they will advise you.

Office hours from 9 to 12 a. m., 2 till 6 p. m.; Sundays, 10 a. m. to 4 p. m.

PULPIT AND PEW.

RELIGIOUS NOTE AND COMMENT.

Our Presbyterian brethren have at least the satisfaction of knowing that the eyes of the country are upon them. Said a Catholic priest to me a day or two ago: "Catholics, of course, are interested in this question of revising the Westminster Confession, for aside from its bitter hostility to the church, it contains some elements of Catholic teaching, though many of its statements are out of the true perspective. It exaggerates in some directions, and minimizes in other directions. But with all its faults it anchored our separated brethren of the Presbyterian Church to the theology of the past, and it will be unfortunate if it is altogether thrown aside by a majority vote, just as though there was necessarily any divine certitude in the decision of a majority." Thus my friend the Catholic priest. I might have teased him by asking him about some of the acts of the early church synods, which were the outcome of a majority vote; but as he really was a good fellow, I refrained from doing so. Then I met an old-time Methodist preacher, the sort that wear a stubby beard and a shaven upper lip. "What do you think of this Presbyterian revision question?" I asked. "A war of words," he replied. "Sheer waste of time to discuss it. Presbyterians think so, too. Their creed has been virtually in the lumber room for the last twenty years, because they have been so busy working, like the Methodists, that they haven't had time to bother about creeds. Now somebody happens to read it over, and discovers that the Church has grown away from it. Announces his discovery. People laugh. The man's a crank, but let's take a vote, say the Presbyterian big wigs. They take a vote, and lo! it is found that a majority of the members want to let the old Creed drop. Great sensation. Church leaders throw dust in the air, beat their tom-toms and cry out 'To your tents, O Israel.' But the venerable old Confession is dropped overboard all the same, and they know it. As a Methodist, I am glad, for it will bring us closer to the great Presbyterian Church, for which I have the most profound respect." Then I questioned Optimus, the Unitarian. "The Presbyterians," he said, "are drifting. Where? I don't know. Come to that, I don't know where I am drifting myself. But I do know it will be all right in the end. The old creeds are dying. The Unitarians saw that many years ago, and suffered much contumely because they were brave enough to say so. To-day all this is changed. Some of the most eminent Presbyterian clergymen in the country refuse to accept their creed, and they are right. It is a human, imperfect document, the record of the finest thought of a few people in a particular age. If you happen to agree with it, all right. If you don't, all right again. But for pity's sake don't let us make a fetich out of a fallible declaration of fallible men. That the Presbyterians are not going to do so any longer is evidenced by the present revolt against the Westminster Confession."

"Well," said I to my friend the broker the other day, "have you found your ideal preacher yet?" "No," he replied sadly. "If I found him he wouldn't be ideal. You know I am a miserable broken-backed sinner, ——." "Oh, no," I broke in, "you are a pretty square man as brokers go, in fact, quite above the average." "Oh, that's all right," was his reply, "you don't know how I look inside. I tell you I am a dead failure as a Christian, in practice, but I am a success in feeling. That is nothing to my credit, of course. It is very cheap to feel like wanting to be good. Why, do you know, I sometimes feel that way the most when I am turning a particularly sharp corner in the stock market, and whipping the devil around the stump. That's sure to be the time when I could just worship the beauty of holiness, and would give half my fortune to be a saint. And then I go to church and hear some dear, good, innocent preacher tell me that I am a sinner because I love to be a sinner. Learned that in the seminary, I suppose. I tell you the preachers don't know the human heart. They are often miles away from the facts in their analysis of the average worldly man's inner life. And that's what makes them so weak in the pulpit. No, I haven't found an ideal preacher yet, and I guess I never will. But I can preach a pretty good sermon to myself, and I do it, too. Don't wait for Sunday, either. 'Old man,' I say to myself, while the boys are yelling around me in the Exchange, 'you are a fraud, a humbug and a coward. You love the good, the beautiful and the true, but you are such a blamed fool that you follow after the bad, the ugly and the false, instead.' I tell you, my friend, I haven't yet heard a preacher who can hit me as hard as I can hit myself, or who can preach so effectively to me as I can to myself, and I am only a poor, unordained sinner at that. Talk about a man having to be converted before he can preach. All nonsense. There is no one who can speak so effectively to sinners as the man whom God intended to be a saint, and who is, nevertheless, serving the devil. If you don't believe me, read the seventh chapter of Romans."

The best possible evidence of the healthy moral and intellectual growth of American Judaism is the success of such journals as "The American Hebrew" of this city. This paper, which is only about eleven weeks old, is already recognized as an influential member of Jewish thought and opinion all over the United States. It is edited with brilliant ability, and though conservative in the good sense of the word, there is nothing of the religious Bourbon about it. It is the mouthpiece of the wisest and most intelligent Jews of America, and speaks for what is most excellent in Judaism. It sometimes looks over the party and says wait to see what its Christian brethren are doing, and in chronicling their movements it sets down naught in malice. It pays much attention to the communal work of Israelites throughout the world, and altogether is a paper of which American Jews may well be proud. I am not surprised that it is able to publish complimentary letters and notices, not only from some of the most eminent Jews in the United States, but from the leading secular and religious papers.

Old Trinity is to have another chapel, the cornerstone of which is to be laid to-morrow. It is to be known as the Chapel of St. Agnes and is to be situated in Ninety-second-st., near Ninth-ave. It is the settled policy of Trinity Parish to do good with its income by erecting chapels where they are most needed and giving to them a generous support. The organization of the Chapel of St. Agnes is a wise step, as that part of the city is rapidly growing. Trinity seldom makes a mistake in locating her chapels, and each of them soon becomes a centre of religious life and influence. It is not, perhaps, generally known that a number of weak Episcopal parishes receive a regular yearly appropriation from Trinity Parish, and that without such help some of them would go to the wall. In the absence of Dr. Dix, the Rev. Dr. Muhlenberg, the pastor of St. Paul's Chapel, will have general charge of the ceremonies to-morrow.

The Episcopalians of South Carolina have agreed on a compromise on the color question. The Rev. Mr. Pollard, who has already been admitted to a seat in the Diocesan Convention by the decision of Bishop Howe, will retain it, but no other colored clergymen will be admitted. Like most compromises, this is an unsatisfactory outcome and is not likely to please anybody. It is manifestly unfair to discriminate in favor of one colored clergyman, and I should not be surprised if Mr. Pollard himself were to resent it. The churches are yet very far from any solution of this vexatious question.

There is a very manifest flagging of interest in religion after Easter. The clergy give themselves a little rest after the engrossing duties of the winter. The brethren from the country parishes flock to the cities to buy a few books, or get measured for a new suit of clothes, or tell the religious editors how they ought to edit their papers. You may see them any Sunday listening to the great preachers. And perhaps, if you talked to them afterward, they would express to you their surprise at the popularity of these great preachers, for your parson is a sharp and merciless critic. They attend lectures and concerts, and maybe they go to the theatre a couple of times just to see how bad or how good it is. Then they flit home to get ready for the coming rush of city folks. The city clergy, too, slacken their pace after Easter. Some are going to Europe and some are going to make an extended trip across the continent. At any rate, they are busy getting ready for a long vacation. They don't feel like working so hard over their sermons, because their pews are thinning out. The pillars of the church are leaving town, and a spirit of restlessness pervades those who are left that indicates a speedy fitting. The time for the more serious style of preaching is past and the clergyman instinctively makes his discourses lighter. In the almanacs the ecclesiastical year consists of fifty-two Sundays, but in practice nowadays it consists of only about twenty-five Sundays.

THE LAST FEW WEEKS.

ONLY A LITTLE LEFT OF THE REGULAR THEATRICAL SEASON.

There will be a few changes of bill among the city theatres this week, but the most of them are of no great importance. The one in which the most marked and genuine interest will be centred is Richard Mansfield's production of "Beau Brummel" at the Madison Square Theatre. Much care has been exercised in securing accuracy of historical detail in the setting of the play, and the reputation that Mr. Mansfield has already gained in this direction is a guarantee that the piece will be worthily presented.

Any one who likes echoes of the past that bring back memories ten years old and are yet in themselves as clear and fresh as ever were the sounds that they recall may perhaps be gratified by going to the Academy of Music. The way in which "H. M. S. Pinafore" is presented there by the Duff Opera Company has won many marks of approval from the audiences, and the opera is likely to be given for some weeks longer.

Miss Rosina Vokes begins the last week of her engagement at Daly's Theatre to-morrow evening, the bill for the next three nights being the same as last week, "A Game of Cards," "My Milliner's Bill" and "A Corsican Legacy." On Thursday and Friday evenings Felix Morris will appear in "The Old Musician," and Miss Vokes and Mr. Morris as well in "The Rough Diamond" and "A Pantomime Rehearsal." For the closing performances on Saturday the programme will be "In Honor Bound," "My Milliner's Bill" and "A Pantomime Rehearsal."

"The Grand Duchess" stays only a little while longer at the Casino, but it is announced that it will be put on the stage again in the autumn. The exact date of the closing of the present piece and the opening of "The Brazilian," the new opera by Chassaigne, is not yet fixed. Matt Morgan and William Young are painting scenery for the new production.

One week yet remains for "The Charity Ball" at the Lyceum Theatre, and when it closes on Saturday night it will have had 200 performances. It will be followed by William Gillette's version of "The Private Secretary," which has an engagement of four weeks.

The career of the Conried Opera Company at Hammerstein's Opera House has been encouraging thus far. "The King's Fool" has run for two weeks, and to-morrow night Strauss's "The Gypsy Baron" will be given. Miss Helen Bertram, who was a member of the McCaull Opera Company while it was at Palmer's Theatre last summer, will have the leading part.

Barry and Fay, who had a long season at the New Park Theatre last autumn, will come to Proctor's Twenty-third Street Theatre to-morrow night for a stay of two weeks. They will play "McKenna's Flirtation," which occupied over 100 nights of the time that they spent at the New Park.

A number of members of the "Five As" will attend the performance of "Castles in the Air" at the Broadway Theatre to-morrow night as a compliment to De Wolf Hopper, the president of the association. Mr. Hopper will treat his guests to some characteristic variations of his part.

The last performance for the season at the Amberg Theatre will be given to-morrow night. It will be a benefit for Ernst Possart, and he will play "King Lear." The Terrace Garden will open for the summer later in the week.

"The City Directory" still fills the Bijou Theatre at nearly every performance, and before it takes its departure it will reach its 150th presentation. More new songs and dances will be introduced to-morrow night. The company has a long engagement for next season at this house.

The Union Square Theatre will remain open for two weeks more before "The County Fair" goes to the country for the summer. It returns in September, and the managers say that they shall be satisfied if the next season is as good as this one has been.

J. B. Polk comes to the Fourteenth Street Theatre to-morrow night with Herbert Hall Winslow's new piece, "The Silent Partner." The play requires the use of a photograph, and will be presented by a company which includes, besides Mr. Polk, John W. Parker, Willard Lee, Edward Middleton, James West, Miss Helen A. Smile, Miss Julia A. Polk, Miss Fanny Denham Rouse, Miss Ella Hugh Wood and Miss Alma Aitken.

The Klralfy Brothers report that they have received many letters in reply to their announcement of a prize for the nearest guess at the weight of the elephant used in "Around the World in Eighty Days" at Niblo's Garden. The "Mikado ballet" excites a good deal of admiration, and is certainly quite worthy to share the honors with the elephant.

Preparations are in progress for the celebration of the fiftieth performance of "Money Mad," which will take place at the Standard Theatre on Saturday night. The Irish actors Murray and Murphy will appear in the "den scene," and in the bridge scene the double quartette of the Columbia College Glee Club will be introduced.

Louis Aldrich begins his third week at Palmer's Theatre in "The Editor" to-morrow evening, and his engagement was made for four weeks in all. The houses thus far have been generally good, and it is possible that the time of the piece may be extended.

Some ingenious person has noticed that many plays have been presented at the Star Theatre the names of which begin with S. The specimens this season have been "Shenandoah," "The Senator" and "The Shatchen," and it may be noted that Star begins with an S, too. The last-named play begins the second week of its engagement to-morrow night.

Duncan B. Harrison will appear in "The Paymaster" at the Grand Opera House to-morrow night. Mr. Harrison's company includes Harry Emmet, Thomas A.