FOR A BIG CONVENTION.

IRON AND STEEL MEN COMING FROM ALL COUNTRIES.

PREPARATIONS FOR THEIR RECEPTION BY AMERICAN SOCIETIES—TO BE A MEMORABLE CONFERENCE.

The coming international convention of iron and steel manufacturers, which will be held in this country in October, has attracted more attention and has been anticipated with greater interest by the engineering world than any affair of the kind in recent years. For months preparations of an elaborate kind have been carried on. It has long been the desire of the iron and steel manufacturers and the engineers of this country to issue a call for an international meeting on this side of the Atlantic. This desire, deeply rooted as it was, received an impetus by the meetings held in Philadelphia during the Centennial of 1876 and the courteous treatment of the 300 American engineers who visited various countries of the Continent in 1889. Months ago the Council of the American Institute of Mining Engineers, in connection with the Iron and Steel Association, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the United States Association of Charcoal Ironworkers, extended an invitation to the Iron and Steel Institute of Great Britain to hold its annual session in union with their own on this side of the sea. The invitation was accepted with enthusiasm. Similar requests were sent to the Verein Deutsche Eisenhuettenleute, in Germany, and to like societies in other lands. Everywhere the response was prompt and hearty. In consequence, the meeting, the first of its kind in this country, will be attended by more than 500 foreign guests, including the greatest engineers of England, France, Germany, Switzerland and Spain. It is difficult to overestimate the importance and probable results of a convention at which many of the most brilliant members of the engineering profession will read papers and discuss subjects of practical interest to all mankind.

ANDREW CARNEGIE.

The arduous work in preparation for the meeting, over which Andrew Carnegie will preside, has been done chiefly by Dr. Rossiter W. Raymond, secretary of the American Institute of Mining Engineers; C. Kirchoff, jr., Editor of "The Iron Age," and secretary of the American Reception Committee for the Iron and Steel Institute of Great Britain, and James F. Lewis, chairman of the Reception Committee, which also includes Abram S. Hewitt, Chauncey M. Depew, Seth Low, Dr. Thomas Egleston, Dr. Henry Morton, Stevens Institute; Professor F. R. Hutton, John Bogart, Oberlin Smith, Benjamin Atha, Warner Miller, T. C. Platt, William Kent, George W. Maynard, Dr. Herbert G. Terry, Walton Ferguson, James Douglas, jr., I. P. Pardee, Jasper R. Rand, Joseph E. Gay, Charles E. Emery, William G. Hamilton, W. W. Van Voorhis, D. Willis James, Charles Macdonald, J. C. Bayles, Oliver W. Barnes, William H. Wallace, Addison C. Rand, E. Gybon Spilsbury, W. H. Wiley, Horace See, E. D. Hatfield, George H. Hall, Thomas A. Edison, James Irvin, H. H. Rogers, Charles M. Rohker, Louis Lee Stantin, Levi Holbrook, Frank Benjamin, B. S. Church, Andrew Carnegie, James A. Burden, William P. Shinn, Lafayette, Penn.; Dr. R. W. Raymond, Dr. T. Sterry Hunt, Edward Cooper, T. C. Clarke, B. G. Clarke, Henry R. Towne, J. Ross Stanton, W. A. Perry, John H. Inman, Smith M. Weed, George H. Babcock, W. H. Adams, Cyrus W. Field, Charles B. Brush, F. O. Norton, William Brookfield, George A. Crocker, William E. Worthen, General Samuel Thomas, C. C. Martin, F. S. Witherbee, David Williams, F. O. Fayerweather, J. F. Holloway, Theodore Voorhees, Walter Katte, John C. Kafer, Willard P. Ward, J. H. Harris, John C. De La Verne, L. G. Laureau, Professor James E. Denton, R. P. Rothwell, F. L. Lehman, F. H. Prentiss, George B. Wilkinson, John Thomson and Philip Voorhees.

ALEXANDER L. HOLLEY.

The foreign guests will arrive in this city between September 20 and September 28, and will make their headquarters at the Park Avenue Hotel. It was first the intention of the committee to meet them at Quarantine and convey them up the harbor in a special boat. As the delegates arrive, however, at different times, that plan has been abandoned. An elaborate programme for the entertainment and instruction of the engineers and members of the various societies during their stay in this country has been prepared, however, by the members of the committee. No expense will be spared to make the meetings memorable and remarkable. It is hoped that the delegates will return to their homes with better ideas and fuller appreciation of the possibilities and capabilities of the United States of America.

The convention will open with the session of the American Institute of Mining Engineers on Monday afternoon, September 29, in Chickering Hall, where all the meetings in this city will be held. The session will be continued on Monday evening, Tuesday morning and Tuesday afternoon, and will be attended by the delegates from Europe. The members of the British Iron and Steel Institute will begin their annual meeting on Wednesday morning, October 1. On Wednesday afternoon they will have an opportunity to see the "lordly scenery, great and grand," of the Hudson in an excursion to West Point. The sessions on Thursday morning and afternoon will be devoted to the memory of the great engineer, Alexander Lyman Holley, for many years president of the American Institute of Mining Engineers. An address commemorative of his virtues and achievements will be delivered in Chickering Hall in the morning by James Dredge, Editor of "Engineering," in London. In the afternoon the Holley Memorial, presented to the city by the society over which he once presided, will be unveiled, with proper and imposing ceremonies, in Washington Square.

On Thursday evening, October 1, the annual dinner of the British association will be given in Delmonico's, while the Liederkranz Society will entertain the German delegates. During the course of the British convention, which will end on Friday morning, the following papers will be read:

"The American Blast Furnace Fields," James Gayley, of Pittsburg; "Testing Materials of Construction in the United States," Messrs. Hunt and Clapp, of Pittsburg; "The Manufacture of Steel in the United States," Henry M. Howe, of Boston; "The Thomson Electric Welding Process," Professor Thomson, New-York; "The Manufacture of Spirally Welded Steel Plates in the United States," J. C. Bayles, of New-York; "The Use of Water Gas in the United States," B. Loomis, Hartford; "The Coke Industry of the United States," J. D. Weeks, Pittsburg; "Recent Progress in Manufacture of War Material in the United States," W. H. Jacques, Bethlehem, Penn.; "The Composition and Wearing Qualities of Steel Rails," Dr. Charles B. Dudley, Altoona.

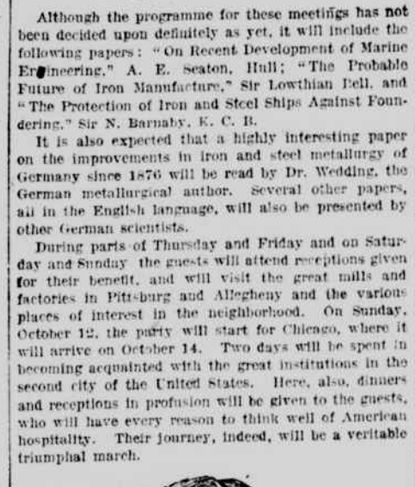
On Friday afternoon, October 2, excursions will be made to various points of interest in this neighborhood, including Mr. Edison's laboratory, the Tilly Foster iron mines and the Spiral Well Tube Works at East Orange, N. J. The members of the American and foreign societies will leave New-York in a special train on Saturday morning, October 4, for Pittsburg, where a joint international session will be held. They will stop on their way at Philadelphia, Altoona, Lebanon, Harrisburg and Johnstown, visiting the various points of interest in those cities, and attending numerous entertainments and receptions given in their honor, and will arrive in Pittsburg on October 8. Great preparations for the entertainment of the guests have been made by the people of Pittsburg. The societies will hold joint sessions on Thursday and Friday mornings, October 8 and 9.

DR. R. W. RAYMOND.

Although the programme for these meetings has not been decided upon definitely as yet, it will include the following papers: "On Recent Development of Marine Engineering," A. E. Seaton, Hull; "The Probable Future of Iron Manufacture," Sir Lowthian Bell, and "The Protection of Iron and Steel Ships Against Foundering," Sir N. Barnaby, K. C. B.

It is also expected that a highly interesting paper on the improvements in iron and steel metallurgy of Germany since 1876 will be read by Dr. Wedding, the German metallurgical author. Several other papers, all in the English language, will also be presented by other German scientists.

During parts of Thursday and Friday and on Saturday and Sunday the guests will attend receptions given for their benefit, and will visit the great mills and factories in Pittsburg and Allegheny and the various places of interest in the neighborhood. On Sunday, October 12, the party will start for Chicago, where it will arrive on October 14. Two days will be spent in becoming acquainted with the great institutions in the second city of the United States. Here, also, dinners and receptions in profusion will be given to the guests, who will have every reason to think well of American hospitality. Their journey, indeed, will be a veritable triumphal march.



C. KIRCHOFF, JR.

At Chicago, which the delegates will leave on October 16, the party will divide into two groups, one going north and the other south. According to the programme of the general committee, the northern excursion will visit the Menominee, Gogebic and Marquette iron ranges and the Lake Superior copper districts. On the return trip to New-York, which will be reached on October 28, the party will visit the Sault Ste. Marie Canal, the Sudbury nickel and copper mines in Canada, and Niagara Falls.

The Southern excursion will go first from Chicago to Birmingham, Shelby and Anniston, Alabama.

Sunday, October 19, will be spent on Lookout Mountain. The next day Chattanooga will be reached. The party will also visit the Pocahontas coal mines, Middlesborough, Roanoke, Cripple Creek iron mines, the famous caves of Luray in Virginia and the National Capital. As may be seen, the foreign guests will be able to form an excellent idea of the country's capacity for the production of iron and steel. It cannot be doubted that they will be surprised at that capacity. England may excel the United States in the manufacture of basic steel, in the handling of guns and armor and in a few other specialties, but in many other ways American industry has surpassed her, and American manufacturers will be able to teach the foreigners many lessons in the employment of labor saving machines.

Before the return of the visiting delegates to their foreign homes Abram S. Hewitt will hold a reception for them. The general reception committee will give a dinner in their honor. Covers will be laid for 600 or 900 people. The date of the entertainment has not been fixed, but it is probable that it will take place on October 28 or 29.

Among the most widely known delegates from Europe who will attend the meetings are Sir James Kitson, Baronet, president of the Iron and Steel Institute of Great Britain; Sir Lowthian Bell, a man of great learning in his profession and the owner of large manufactories in the famous Middlesborough district of England; Lord Edward Cavendish, brother of the Marquis of Hartington, and a member of Parliament; Edward P. Martin, a well-known metallurgist and manufacturer in South Wales; E. Windsor Richards, formerly general manager for Bolckow, Vaughan & Co., in Middlesborough, and now general manager of the

JAMES F. LEWIS.

famous Lowmoor Iron Company; G. J. Snelus, the chemist and metallurgist; William Whitevell, president of the Board of Arbitration and Conciliation, of Middlesborough; Sir James Bain, owner of one of the largest manufactories in Glasgow; Hugh Bell, son of Sir Lowthian Bell, an iron manufacturer; Adolf Bleichert, of Germany, a designer and builder of rope tramways; H. A. Brustlein and Louis Holtzer, of the Unient Steel Works, in France; Arthur Cooper, general manager of the largest steel works in Middlesborough; William Cunningham, one of the proprietors of the great steel works in Scotland bearing his name; John H. Darby, a well-known manufacturer at Brymbo; A. J. Dorman, one of the leading manufacturers of iron and steel beams in England; W. G. Fossick, of the Fossick Iron firm in London; Theodore Fry, Member of Parliament from Darlington, and recently one of the English commissioners at the Labor Conference in Berlin; W. H. Greenwood, general manager of the Birmingham Small Arms and Metal Company; Emil Guillaume, owner of one of the largest wire and wire rope manufacturing plants on the continent; R. A. Hadfield, of Sheffield; Jeremiah Head, for many years the associate of Sir William Siemens; Francis Koch, general manager of the Alexandrowsky Steel Works, of St. Petersburg; Sir. W. T. Lewis, of Wales; John S. Nettlefold, a member of the firm with which Joseph S. Chamberlain is connected; Gustave Piedboeuf, of Aix-la-Chapelle, the largest boiler-maker in the Rhenish provinces; Alexander Pourcel, of England and Spain; Sir E. J. Reed, of London; Edward Riley, the chemist; William Rozer and Henry Steel, jr., the steel manufacturers of Sheffield; Sir Thomas Storey, of Lancaster; Jose A. de y Barra, owner of iron mines and works in the Bilboa district; Frederick Siemens, brother of Sir William Siemens and Dr. Werner von Siemens, of Berlin, and Carl Siemens, of St. Petersburg; Sir John G. N. Alleyne, baronet, the great marine engineer; J. S. Jeans, secretary of the Iron and Steel Institute, author of "England's Supremacy," "Waterways and Water Transport" and "Steel," and at one time editor of "The Glasgow Evening Star"; Emil Schroedter, secretary of the Verein Deutscher Ingenieure; Dr. Wedding, professor of metallurgy at the Royal School in Berlin, honorary member of the American Society of Mining Engineers and the author of a series of treatises on the metallurgy of iron and the base and precious metals, and A. Thielen, acting chairman of the German Society and the owner of one of the largest steel works in the Rhenish Provinces.

Among others will be:

John A. F. Aspinwall, Alfred H. Allen, Arthur Cooper, H. A. Brustlein, Hugh Bell, Paul Bavard, T. Wrightson, Louis Holzer, George Adams, Sir James Bain, James R. Bain, Leonard Cooper, T. F. Butler, Christopher Anderson, Samuel Anderson, A. C. Bamlett, Thomas Ashbury, Thomas Bantock, T. Massicks-Barlow, Clement Crowther, J. F. L. Crosland, R. Scott Burn, James Bull, D. Campbell, John Corner, James Buckley, William Burnycat, jr., George Bush, Isaac Butler, John Henry Coghlan, Joseph C. Brown, George Bond, J. W. Summers, William Williams, Cordy Manby, James Hollingsworth, Theodore Fry, M. P.; George Cawley, Samuel Chatwood, Joseph Redford, John Henry Beckwith, Joseph Coventry, S. T. Crossdell, T. W. Crawhall-Wilson, A. R. Byles, B. G. Wood, Joseph A. Pease, Joseph Richardson, George Richardson, John Kidner, T. W. Looby, G. J. M. Ridebalch, John Craven, William F. Beardshaw, W. L. Byers, C. E. Bell, M. Bayliss, George Scoular, F. T. Barnett, J. H. Rogers, J. F. Hobson, B. G. Bradley, Walter Buchton, George Bond, T. N. Robinson, W. H. Greenwood, T. Barningham, T. Leonard Ellis, William Cunningham, G. H. Macarthy, William Sumner, Jules Margery, John Tait, John G. Thomas, George Dalton, William Molineaux, William F. Whitwell, Alexander Pourcel, G. R. Harrison, G. H. Harrison, B. M. Renton, R. W. Williamson, John Price, R. A. Hadfield, S. J. Fellows, W. E. Norbury, Gerard O. Cakes, Thomas Miller, R. R. Easton, W. H. Edwards, Henry Webb, Frederick Monks, Christmas Evans, R. R. Evans, James Dunnachee, Fr. Korb, John W. Sparrow, Charles Rummens, Francis W. Rummens, Peter Williams, T. N. Muller, A. H. Gornasson, John Houghton, George Siddell, G. Ogilvie, John Page, John H. Darby, George Garrett, A. K. Huntington, C. Henry James, R. B. Hansell, Samuel Pope, James Williams, Iltyd Williams, Bernard Dawson, Jeremiah Head, J. O. Lowood, W. J. Storey, A. F. Hills, Henry P. Parkes, Henry Wake, J. H. Edge, J. S. Taylor, R. R. Gobbins, William McGowan, Edward Easton, A. L. Siemens, James Houldsworth, R. Laybourne, Richard Hosking, John Pattison, W. Storr, H. W. Lewis, Ernest C. Keay, J. W. Hulse, Alfred N. Wilson, Henry Simon, J. Richards, H. C. Simpson, G. Ratcliffe, E. Dickinson, Arnold Pye Smith, S. Dickinson, Reuben Farley, S. V. Morgan, Frederick Seaman, J. H. Pearson, T. H. Pearson, John Green, Alfred C. Lyon, Benjamin Marsden, William Dronsfield, William Parker, George Senior, Samuel Lloyd, J. James Jenks, G. J. Smith, William Pelle, George Green, H. Woolcock, G. Ratcliffe, James Platt, Colonel Paget Mosby, Dr. J. R. Duncan, Frederick Smith, John Jameson, R. de Soldenhoff, John Francis Pease, George W. Wilkinson, Alfred Moore, J. F. Hall, W. F. Hall, Joseph Gregory, G. J. Smith, Wilfred Williams, Charles McLaren, W. Hanson, Wallas A. Goulty, W. Farnsworth, Daniel Edwards, Herbert Eccles, D. H. Haggie, Walter Jenks, E. L. Squire, John W. Williams, Claude Morris, W. B. Harrison, John W. Spencer, Coalbridge, N. B.; John W. Spencer, Wednesbury; Arthur Keen, James Johnston, Charles Hunt, Robert Smith, W. F. Smith, F. W. Preston, W. H. Massey, E. Matheson, W. Thackeray, J. Walton, L. R. L. Squire, J. R. Jefferies, J. Rossiter Hoyle, Edward Steer, George W. Wilkinson, R. Heath, jr., Edgar Storey, R. C. Marshall, W. B. Harrison, George Wilkinson Whitehaven, Alexander M. Hay, Robert Hellon, Charles Wells, John Whittle, G. Piedboeuf, Paul Piedboeuf, Heinrich Remy, Richard Remy, J. Schlink, Arthur Poensgen, Emil Poensgen, Fritz W. Luhrmann, Osnabruck; Fr. W. Luhrmann, Ruhrort; F. A. Herbertz, Felix Bischoff, R. M. Daelen, Dr. Fleitmann, Max Guilleaume, Hugo Haniel, H. Irle Lauchammer Hallbauer, Georg Ablemeyer Heinr. Macco, Casper Berninghaus, W. Esser, M. F. Fischer, Moritz Mayer, Emil Schroedter, O. Schulz, Fr. Rochling, Rudolph Rochling, Joseph Keiser, G. Diechmann, H. Brauns, E. Blass, Ludwig Joseph, W. Lehment, G. A. Wayss, W. R. Schurmann, Gustav Menne, Beom Hiedicke, O. Hass, C. Kuper, H. Lulz, Dr. Paul Lulz, Bergassessor Krabler, Gust. Lentz, Wilh. Hoffelmann, Julius Merker, Frederick Schiele, A. Zeidler, Kurt. Sarge, Wilhelm Hassel, B. Ehrhardt, F. Schultz, J. Pohlig, Wilh. Rachel, C. Mischke, Max Orenstein, Th. Narjes, A. Hussener, Ad. Frank, Dr. E. Corleis, D. Bueck, Albert Langen, Eugene Langen, A. Eckardt, A. Geisler, Rudolph Brent, Paul Muller, Carl Meyer, Emil Noel, George Talbot, Edward Othberg, H. Platz, C. Kisselbach, George Gregor, Axel. Dauber, Julieus Zurkorn, Jul. Weber, A. Spannagel, O. Reinhard, Herm. Reuss, E. Schiefs, B. Leistikow, Aug. Kionne, A. Geisler, Henri Eckstein, E. Blass, Julius Buch, Peter Stehler, Fr. Rexroth, Leo Stuppelmann, Alf. Schilling, A. Hussener, P. Grosser, Luigi Imperatori, Ed Goedicke, F. E. Burgers, W. Buesden, K. Eickhorn, Th. Sholten, Albert Schneider, Wiel. Schulte, H. Rascher, Gustav Erkenzweig, Ernst Klein, Robert Klein.

MR. WILSON'S TWO COLUMNS.

A FRIGHTFUL RAILROAD ACCIDENT AND A SHADOWY FORM BRINGS THE NEWS.

"Mr. Wilson, how soon can you get ready to start for H——, Illinois?"

"In an hour, sir."

This conversation took place in the office of "The New-York Chronicle" one morning as the men on the staff came to receive their assignments. If the city editor had asked Wilson how soon he could get ready to start for Alaska he would have received precisely the same reply.

Edward Wilson hurried off to his rooms, and hastily packing a few necessaries in a valise, reported back at the office in exactly an hour.

"He was a paragon of a reporter," you will say, "this Wilson." But he was merely an ordinary city staff reporter, who, like thousands of others on the big dailies of America, stand ready at an hour's notice to start for any part of the world.

"This Illinois story will bring two columns, even if I'm recalled immediately," he mused as he rattled up to the Grand Central Station in a hansom; "two columns will bring my bank account up to $100, and $100 will bring the wife and little one to New-York." Wilson thought with delight how happy they would be in his comfortable little Lexington-ave. flat. It was a pleasant little day-dream.

In fifteen minutes the Buffalo express, bearing the newspaper man to his destination, rushed snorting out of the Harlem tunnel, like another earth-bound Thor rejoicing at his freedom. Past the end of Manhattan Island, past Riverdale, Yonkers and all the lovely northern suburbs of the city, along the rolling Hudson, past the muddy Mohawk, then as night fell, screaming past the little hamlets sleeping under the hills of Central New-York, and on, on, on, to the great lakes.

There was nothing in the car to interest Wilson and as the sun sank behind the ripening wheat-hills he dozed fitfully and waking, would sleep again, waking and sleeping by fitful starts and wondering what it was that kept him in a vague but all the more fearful terror. Finally he slept and it was while he dreamed that a terrible accident happened. The trestle bridge over a swollen creek, weakened by the rush of waters, had given way under the advancing train and 900 people were buried into the creek.

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Three or four men hurriedly finishing late "copy." A dozing office-boy waking every few minutes to glance at the clock and long for 2 o'clock and freedom. The night desk littered with proof slips and "held-over copy"; no sound but the operator ticking "good-night" to his far-off brothers and an occasional shout of "Copy!" from the desk.

A tall figure in a caped overcoat and travelling cap enters the room, and silently walking up to the night desk lays some "copy" before the editor. The men in the office, bending over their work, do not see him pass, but the office-boy, brushing his hat, yawns: "Good morning, Mr. Wilson," but the form goes straight on.

"Can't use this, Mr. Wilson," says the editor, looking at the clock. Why, it's 1:50; the paper's going to press. What is it, anyway?"

"Yes, by George, we will run it," he continues excitedly; "Jim, stop the presses."

Then to the operator: "Have you an accident on the New-York and Buffalo yet?"

"No, sir."

"How did you get it, Wilson?"

But the form had gone.

"My God! listen to this," says the sub-editor. "The accident must have occurred at 1:50 exactly. Among the dead was Edward Wilson, a reporter on 'The New-York Morning Chronicle.' What was it then that brought this 'copy' in?"

"I don't know," replied the editor in a hushed voice. "Send the story up, just as it is. It runs exactly two columns."

FASTIDIOUS SNAKES.

From The San Francisco Examiner.

The quickest thing next to electricity is a snake. Well-behaved serpents are always interesting. But for the unfortunate information that one gave to Miss Eve before she eloped with Adam when he was head gardener of the Eden ranch, there would be snakes in more respectable families than there are to-day. A Cleveland snake professor says that "hissing pythons and cobras will eat at any time except when they are blind and shedding their skin. They won't touch anything them. Another queer thing about them is that they won't eat anything but white animals. Wait; I'll show you," and taking a young rabbit out of its cage he placed it in the box with the snakes.

They did not move for about a minute. Then one of the pythons raised its head and fastened its eyes upon bunny. The rabbit's ears dropped, its eyes closed, and it began to tremble. All at once the snake shot forward, and, seizing it by the back of the neck, coiled itself around it and began crushing out its life; then, turning it over, began to swallow it. The python's head under ordinary circumstances was not larger than a thumb-joint on a man's hand, yet when it seized the rabbit its jaws became dislocated in such a way that it was able to start the rabbit's head into its mouth. Then by a peculiar motion it began slowly to swallow its prey. As the snake worked backward and forward its head stretched to many times the natural size, until finally bunny's hind legs disappeared down the python's mouth.

"That supper will last him a couple of weeks," said the showman, as he picked the snake up.

COURT-ROOM VISITORS.

MEN WHO HAVE A PASSION FOR TRIALS.

SITTING GRAVELY BEFORE THE JUDGE DAY AFTER DAY—DEEP INTEREST TAKEN IN CASES—HOW THEY CONDUCT THEMSELVES.

Strangers who come to this city hardly step from the platforms of the cars or the decks of the steamers which bring them here before they are immediately impressed with the idea that New-Yorkers are born, live and die without stopping long enough either to breathe or to eat. On the piers, in the streets and at the railway stations there is an amount of hurrying and scurrying, of crushing and pushing that simply amazes one not used to it. To a stranger it is all like one continuous Stock Exchange, where the "bulls" and the "bears" play at football with stocks.

The average American, and especially the New-Yorker, takes great pride in this exhibition of business energy, push and vitality, and he is proud to inform his French or English cousin that the only "gentlemen of leisure" in this country are the tramps. When he says it, he undoubtedly believes that he is telling the truth, and he would, no doubt, be much surprised and astonished, if not grieved, to learn that New-York has a leisure class, composed neither of the pampered children of wealth nor the unfortunate sons of abject poverty. They do not dine at Delmonico's or on the charity of the public. Whence they come no one knows, and none cares where they go.

New-York "men of leisure" cannot gracefully and successfully loaf unless they first satisfy their own consciences by making a pretence of doing something. Although they may have the best inclinations in the world, and want to achieve the distinction of making a success of doing nothing, there is still such a superabundance of energy in the organism of the average American, that its influence is too strong not to be felt, even by the laziest of men. This self-satisfying pretence at doing something compels men of this class to seek congenial methods of doing it, and New-York provides so many opportunities for such practices that most of them manage to find the field best suited to their efforts in this direction. Almost every field of employment has therefore hovering near it, sometimes occupying a minute corner in it, a class of men who never seem to be doing anything, and yet would be positively angry if informed that they made a complete success of this.

THE DIVORCE MAN.

Any one whose business brings him to the courts of this city and county, from the places where common "drunks and disorderlies" are disposed of with almost as great a rapidity as an elevated railroad man sells tickets, up through the higher courts, where fine points of constitutional law are weighed and argued, has become acquainted with familiar faces which can be found there day in and day out, their owners always as intent upon the proceedings as are those upon whose shoulders rest the outcome of the trials.

There are odd faces among them, too; faces that would attract attention almost anywhere. Not because of the great intelligence which they might express, but because of the chance it gives one to study character dressed up in this fashion.

In the various courts held in the County Court House, in the City Hall Park, there is a colony of men who, in summer and winter, are in constant attendance upon the proceedings. These "gentlemen of leisure" have their respective courts which they attend, just as a criminal lawyer has one class of business, a divorce lawyer another class of business, and a real estate lawyer his special line. It is unknown to the world at large whether or not there are any laws or rules, written or unwritten, which govern these men in their attendance upon the respective courts. It is seldom, however, that one can be found at the trial of a case not of his individual preference. If he does chance to depart from the rule, it is because the calendar of cases which interest him has been cleared. When such conditions confront him, he is as much out of his element as a cab-driver is in the cab of a locomotive, and he becomes a listless and disinterested listener.

The divorce cases come first on the list, as being able to present the greatest attraction to the largest number. As one would naturally suppose, the men who are in almost constant attendance upon the trials of such cases are not distinguished from ordinary humanity by the appearance of being the possessor of much intelligence. So regular are these men at the trials that the court officers get to know them, and unless they are on hand it does not seem that the trials are going on properly.

"Billy," the divorce fiend," has looked and listened through many a divorce trial. He always gets a seat as near the witness stand as he can, so that no question and no answer may escape him. He has been doing this for years and has worn a bald spot on the left side of his head by trying to rub some intelligence into his brains. The officers who are now employed around the building cannot remember when he first began to study the divorce calendars. He was there when the oldest one among them was first employed about the building. He is generally on hand half an hour or so before the courts open and remains respectfully seated until after both judge and jury have left the room. In this he shows a good example to the rest of the attendants, who are generally on their feet with their hats on before the court has been officially adjourned.

A WOMAN HATER.

He has not a face that is at all pleasant when he is in his best humor, but the way in which he can frown upon a clumsy man or small boy who has recklessly run against something rivals that of the most severe judge on the bench. Various court officers have tried at times, but always in vain, to find out something of this man's history. He has a peculiar manner of turning off questions about himself that none of the officials has yet been able to overcome. He enjoys exceedingly chat upon the merits of a case, and he is not at all sparing of his criticism of the lawyers who are employed upon it. He is always delighted when Joseph H. Choate has a divorce case on hand, for he seems to be especially fond of hearing him cross-examine a witness. The most that any one has ever been able to get out of him is that his first name is William. This being known and he becoming so familiar a figure, and as William is somewhat formal and distant, one of the older officials ventured to call him "Billy" while discussing some particularly interesting case. He did not object to it, and "Billy" it has been ever since. The clerks have tacked to it an additional term by which he is pretty generally known, and that is "the divorce fiend." He invariably takes the woman's side of a case, and is much disturbed when a verdict against a woman has been brought in. It will cause him to be gruff and grouty for a day or two at a time, and his contempt for a lawyer who loses a woman's case is beyond measure.

In this he is entirely different from the woman-hater. Take him and a rainy day together and the average court-room is about the gloomiest place that there is outside of a prison cell. He utterly hates and despises women, and the prettier they are the deeper his enmity. It has been said that he was once crossed in love, but how true that is none has been able to ascertain, for like the rest of the court-room loungers, or "regulars," his lips are practically sealed on all subjects touching himself and his history. When he first began to attend divorce trials he confessed to one of the officials that he wished that he could be on every jury where there was a woman in the case, and it would not be his fault if their lawyers were beaten every time. Unlike most of his companions who are members of the court colony of idlers, he is always dressed neatly, and from his appearance it would seem that he takes exceptional pains with his attire. He always wears a square-cornered collar and tie, both of which are always scrupulously clean. As long as he has been a member of the colony he has never been known to present himself in court with soiled linen. The hair that he has left on his head is always well oiled, and every morning he appears cleanly shaven. He frequently becomes much disgusted at "Billy's" ex-

"PUMPS," THE INVENTOR.

pressions of anger when a lawyer has made a timid woman cry on account of his questions, and they frequently go out of the court-room together hardly on speaking terms. But no matter how high the feeling gets before they leave the room, when they reach a liquor-shop nearby where both get their luncheons, they are on friendly terms again, and "Billy," over his glass of gin and water, and his companion, over his ale, agree to disagree on the female part of the question and discuss the pending case on its legal merits. They know no more of each other than the court officers do of either. "Billy," when asked to tell who the other was, curtly replied:

"It's none of my business, and I don't care to know."

When the other had been asked the same question regarding Billy, he answered quite as curtly:

"I never asked."

It is safe to say, however, that the woman-hater is a foreigner, for after listening to a political discussion on the respective merits of Tammany Hall and the County Democracy he turned away with the ejaculation:

"Humph, I'm glad I'm not a voter."

He has never given a clew that would allow the clerks or officials to hint at his name, so they got one up for him, and he is known by that title among them. They call him "Grumps," and the name seems to fit him to a nicety.

Years ago a suit was brought in the Court of Common Pleas by a man who sued a pump manufacturing firm to recover damages for what he alleged was a breach of contract in the division of the profits on a pump-making scheme. He had thought out a new idea for a chain pump while at work on his old place in Vermont, and he became so impressed with the idea that his pump would revolutionize the entire pump-building world that he whittled out a couple of models and brought them to New-York, selling out the old place for almost a song to get money enough to pay expenses. He spent days and weeks going from one factory to another, endeavoring to explain his invention to manufacturers and to interest them in it. If he had worked from then up to the present time he would probably have failed to lift a single drop of water with his pump. But he would not believe it, and weeks grew to months and the months to years, and still he persisted in trying to sell his idea. To do

HE LIKES MURDER TRIALS.

this became the sole object of his life, and it was not long before "Pumps the Inventor" became known as a harmless crank in most of the factories in town. His wife and daughter lived with him here in the city long after his money had gone, and until absolute starvation stared them in the face. They tried in every way to persuade him to go back to the old town where there were friends and relatives, upon whom they had leaned for enough to keep them from the gutter, and who had promised time and again to give the unfortunate family a home. But to all of their appeals he was deaf. Through his mind there raced in a chaotic train visions of riches and luxury which would come to him immediately after he could get some one with money to take his pump, have it patented and put it upon the market. He talked to his weeping wife and daughter of horses and carriages, silks and laces, diamonds and jewelry for them, with a mansion and servants. They finally gave up in despair, and returned broken-hearted to their home alone, leaving the crazy inventor here with his pump and hopes. The wife did not live long after that, and not many months after she had been buried the daughter also died. Letters were sent to the old man telling him of this, and a home was offered to him for the rest of his life if he would only return to his old town. To these he paid no attention. It was not long after this that a young bookkeeper, who had humored the old man by talking with him about the patent, thought that he would play a joke on him, by drawing up a contract and signing the name of the firm by which he was employed to it, agreeing to take the invention. He forgot all about his joke until the next afternoon, when he was called upon by his employers to give an explanation of what he had done. He was severely reprimanded for his work, and the incident had been forgotten by him and his employers, when a note from a lawyer was received, announcing that Wilkinson K. Dawes had requested him to bring a suit against the company for breach of contract. The note further said that the man appeared to be light in his mind, and the lawyer wanted to know something about the case before taking it. The circumstances were explained to him, and he saw immediately that there was nothing for him in it. He thought best to humor the old man, and assured him that he would argue the case for him. This he made the old man believe had been done about two months later, and he told him that a decision might be expected almost any day. For this decision the inventor is still waiting. In the meantime the firm has gone out of business, and one of the partners is dead, while the clerk who drew up the bogus contract has forgotten all about it long ago. A sister of the inventor died a few years ago, leaving him a small annuity, enough to furnish him with all he wants in food, clothing and shelter, but he still hangs around the Court House, guarding religiously an old dirty pocketbook in which he carries the contract, now yellow and worn with age.

Next to the divorce cases as an attraction to the "regulars," are the murder trials, and the most constant attendant upon them is Hans Wilhelm Schlemen-

ALWAYS CHEERFUL.

nagle. He does not devote his time or attention to any particular court, but goes from one department of justice to another, seeking for those cases the details of which are most shocking. At times he can be found in the General Sessions Court, and then he wanders over to the County Court House, and he is frequently seen in Brooklyn. Like many another man, his sympathies are always with the prisoner, and he would like to applaud when testimony favorable to the defence is given, but he does not dare do this. He tried it once in such a hearty way that he was immediately pounced upon by the court officers, who took him before the judge on a charge of contempt of court. He was let go after a severe reprimand had been administered, but he was so badly frightened that he never attempted to applaud again. He is sometimes a valuable man for the defence on account of his ability to weep copiously at the proper time. It is so affecting that some of the criminal lawyers prefer him to a woman in black and a babe in arms. He seems to exert in this direction the energy that he would undoubtedly use in applauding if he were not afraid to do the latter. He began going to the murder trials a year or two after the war, and he has been constant and regular in his attendance upon them since then. He would not be so much of a nuisance if he would leave snuff and garlic alone. But he uses both in large quantities.

A SUIT RUINED HIM.

While most of the "regulars" are men of solemn mien and visage who go about their business of doing nothing with an earnestness of purpose that exerted in other directions would be laudable indeed, occasionally one can be found among them who appears to attend to his part of the work as if his occupation was a pleasure rather than a serious affair of business. Patrick Henry Mulcahey is one of those jolly-spirited Irishmen to whom it is an easy task to make mirth out of misfortune. He is one member of the court guests who is always cheerful and a hearty laugh is always on hand to break the monotony of the court-room proceedings whenever there is the slightest excuse for it. He does not appear to have any special preference, but is equally contented and happy at a murder trial or a civil suit if there is anything happening which he may consider funny. As a boy his parents expected great results from him. They thought that he would become a great orator. On this account they got him a place in a lawyer's office where he was supposed to sweep the floor, wash ink-stands, run errands and absorb law and eloquence. He did not make a success as an office-boy and he always said that his under lip was at fault because he did not turn out to be an orator. "It is so large," he would say, "that it got in the way of me worruds and kape me from spakin' as Oi kin."

Mulcahey once went into politics in the Fourth Ward, but he made a failure of that also. He finally turned mason and by dint of hard work and a few years of perseverance managed to save up money enough to allow him to return to his first love, the law.

It was an unfortunate day for J. Hendrickson Wilkinson when he was subpoenaed to appear as a witness in a civil suit against a city railroad company brought by the father of a boy one of whose arms was cut off by a car. This case, like every other trial of the sort, was postponed from day to day and from

JURY DUTY HIS JOY.

week to week, but Wilkinson, in his desire to see justice done to the lad and his father, attended court regularly to give his testimony. When he first began going to court he would not stay longer than to learn whether or not the particular case in which he was interested was to be called. The methods of the court-room were unknown to him then and one morning he allowed his curiosity to get the best of him and he stayed a few minutes longer than usual. It was a fatal step for him and the next day he lengthened his visit by half an hour. Then his fall was rapid and it was not long before the habit had too strong a hold upon him to be shaken off. Before this habit got the best of him he had a well-paying grocery store on the east side, and had it not been for his wife, who finally took charge of it, failure and bankruptcy would have been added to his other misfortune. When he used to sign receipts and make out bills he wrote his name J. H. Wilkinson. His hair was always cut short in those days and he wore a mustache which, to say the least, added considerably to his personal appearance. He first surprised his wife by parting his name in the middle, then she noticed that he allowed his hair to grow longer than usual and one day he drove the poor woman into tears by presenting himself with his lip cleanly shaven. To her threats and reproaches he was alike deaf and to-day he is a "regular" in good standing.