THE GOVERNMENT PRINTING

A HARD NUT FOR THE COMMITTEE TO CRACK.

PRESSING NEED OF REFORM—RESULTS OF THE PRESENT HAPHAZARD METHODS—WASTE AND WORTHLESSNESS RUN NECK AND NECK—HOW THE REPORTS OF DEBATES HAVE GROWN.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Washington, May 10.—The Congressional Committee to inquire into the amount and kinds of printing done, and the number and extent of publications officially issued by the Government annually, and to make recommendations for future action, has already discovered that only by the most constant and persevering industry and the cordial aid and co-operation of a large number of officials who are interested will it be able to submit a complete report next winter. Probably there were not a dozen Senators or Representatives in the last Congress who realized, in anything like an adequate degree, the magnitude or difficulty of the task imposed upon the committee, and it is doubtful if all the members of the committee itself did so. They might have been better informed if they had carefully studied the report made by the commission of which Librarian Spofford and Superintendent Ames of the Interior Department were members several years ago, or the exhaustive annual report of the latter for the year 1889, a full abstract of which was published in The Tribune more than a year ago. It is true that the main object of both of those reports was to describe and explain the careless system or want of system which has governed the distribution of the official publications of the Government, and to recommend needful reforms; but incidentally they threw much light on other matters relating to the subject of public printing and publishing.

So haphazard had been the distribution of public documents that in 1876 a careful and thorough investigation, under the direction of the Interior Department, showed that a complete collection of such documents did not exist in any public or official depository in the United States; in fact, that the least imperfect collection was in the British Museum. There has not been much amendment in the last fifteen years, although, thanks to the urgency of Librarian Spofford and other eminent librarians, and the intelligent and earnest efforts of Superintendent Ames and others, the XLVIIth Congress did enact that the Rebellion records and the reports of the Tenth Census should be distributed in sets, and that the same person should not receive more than one set of those publications. In several of the Departments and Bureaus also greater care has been exercised to prevent duplications and to send documents only to such persons and institutions as would or could make them useful; but in the absence of any central agency of distribution such efforts have been nullified to a great extent by the demands of Senators, Representatives and Government officials. The natural consequence has been that thousands of persons who needed copies of any report for legitimate use have been unable to obtain them, because the supply has been exhausted by the demands of dealers who had a sharp eye to pecuniary profit and by persons who cared nothing for the publications after they were obtained.

There has been much unnecessary and expensive duplication, triplication and even quadruplication in the publishing as well as in the distribution of documents. A majority of the special orders of publication made by Congress have specifically directed that so many copies of each of the documents ordered should be for "the use of the Senate," so many copies more for "the use of the House," and so many more for the head of the Department, Bureau or office from which the document emanated. In hundreds of cases, too, documents published "in accordance with law" have appeared in two, three, or more publications under different titles, and at double or treble expense, on account of typesetting, stereotyping, electrotyping and presswork. Again, and until within a few years, there has been no intelligent editorial supervision of Government publications as a rule, and the consequence has been a great and constant expansion by the publication of a vast amount of matter which was wholly irrelevant and generally of little or no value. Almost every chief of a Bureau and some heads of Departments have felt the pride of authorship and been ambitious to distinguish themselves by swelling the size of each successive pamphlet and volume; and one result has been the issuing of some most extraordinary and worthless documents at the public expense. Among the first acts of Secretary Rusk after he entered upon the duties of his office was the appointment of a competent editor of the official publications of the Department of Agriculture. This has resulted not only in greater economy of expenditure, but in a great improvement in the documents issued from that Department.

Editorial supervision is also exercised over the consular reports and some other publications of the State Department, the publications of the Geological Survey and, perhaps, of two or three other Bureaus, the heads of which care more about the quality of a document than they do about a vast, barren waste of print. These isolated exhibitions of good sense seem to have aroused the attention and excited the interest of the last Congress, which inserted in the appropriation for public printing and binding for the next fiscal year a provision requiring that "the heads of the Executive Departments, before transmitting their annual reports to Congress, the printing of which is chargeable to this appropriation, shall cause the same to be carefully examined, and shall exclude therefrom all matter, including engravings, maps, drawings and illustrations, except such as they shall certify in their letters transmitting such reports to be necessary and to relate entirely to the transaction of public business."

It will be observed that Congress was not moved to any attempt to curtail the quantity of its own printing, and yet the growth of "The Congressional Record" has been far beyond anything which the nature and quality of its contents has justified. It has become the most unwieldly and ill-digested, and, in many respects, the most worthless and inaccurate, publication issued by the Government. A comparative statement showing the extraordinary expansion of the reports of Congressional proceedings within a short period will be pertinent and interesting.

There were three sessions of the XXXVIIth Congress, the first one beginning July 4, 1861, and the last one ending March 3, 1863. The reports of the proceedings of the three sessions filled 5,898 pages. There were two sessions of the XXXVIIIth Congress, between December 7, 1863, and March 4, 1865; and the reports of proceedings of that Congress filled 4,924 pages, making a total for the five sessions of two Congresses of 10,822 pages. Those two Congresses virtually covered the entire period of the War of the Rebellion, the most important and momentous period of American history.

There were two sessions of the Lth Congress which covered the last half of the not very eventful Administration of Grover Cleveland, a period marked chiefly by a wordy but fruitless war against American industries and the Sackville-West episode. The report of this Congress filled 10,245 printed pages—as many, less 577 pages, as the five sessions of the two great war Congresses; and the proceedings of the second session filled 2,067 pages, making a total for the Congress of 13,214 pages. Other comparisons quite as instructive might be made, but this one alone would seem to be enough strongly to suggest the propriety of submitting "copy" for "The Record" to the pruning of a competent and judicious editor.

It is a rather difficult and tedious task to separate all the items on account of public printing and binding from other items of appropriation and expenditure, but a somewhat careful inspection of the several acts making appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1892, shows that the total of the items specified exceeds $65,000,000. If there should be an unexpended balance at the end of the year everybody would be surprised. For years Congress has been obliged to make appropriations—sometimes large ones—on account of deficiencies for printing and binding. This item of expense has become so heavy that Congress cannot afford much longer to disregard it.

REFUSED TO BEAR HIS FATHER'S NAME.

ROMANCE OF ADMIRAL DE ROHAN—HIS QUARREL WITH HIS BROTHER, ADMIRAL DAHLGREN.

Washington, May 10 (Special).—The will of Admiral William de Rohan was filed at Washington on Wednesday last. It was executed on the steamship Gascogne, of the French Line, on April 27, 1887, on the voyage from Havre to New-York, and was witnessed by Consul-General George Walker, and J. H. Crane and E. Tuck, of New-York. The entire estate is willed to his sister-in-law, the widow of Rear-Admiral Dahlgren, of the United States Navy, who was named as executrix, with the request that she should not be required to file any bonds. On August 21 last, a few months before he died, he sent a note to Mrs. Dahlgren, properly witnessed, in which he said: "I bequeath all my estate to you, as by the will of 1887, which you have." Incidental to this fact is explained the reason for changing his name from Dahlgren to De Rohan. Over a half century ago he quarrelled with his brother, Admiral Dahlgren, knocked him down and was fined $100 in a police court. The result of this was that he refused longer to bear his father's name, and took that of his mother's family. He refused to serve in the American Navy during the Civil War, lest he should be brought under his brother's orders. He served in the Turkish Navy as captain, and with Garibaldi for the liberation of Italy, commanding the marine division at the siege of Rome. He advanced a large amount of money for the House of Savoy, nearly a quarter of a million of dollars, and was never repaid. He tried to collect this through the State Department, and in the belief that something would be accomplished he went abroad again and for several years worked the mines he owned in Sardinia and Sicily, but lacking capital he returned after four years' absence and found that his case had been neglected. His misfortunes so thoroughly disheartened him that his health gave way and about two years ago he had a stroke of paralysis, after which he failed rapidly. He lived with Mrs. Dahlgren for several years in Washington, and at her mountain summer home, but finally went to the hospital, where he died recently, seventy-two years old.

RAILROAD INTERESTS.

TO INSPECT THE WESTERN MARYLAND.

Baltimore, May 10 (Special).—General J. W. Bryant, of New-York, is expected here in a day or two to make an examination of the physical condition of the Western Maryland Railroad, for which he recently made an offer of $1,500,000, which the City Finance Commissioners considered too small. The Mayor has granted him permission to examine the road, he having stated that he could not make any higher offer until he had consulted with the other parties in the deal and made a thorough inspection of the line and its rolling stock and business. General Bryant will probably be accompanied on his inspection trip by William P. Shinn, of New-York, formerly vice-president of the New-York and New-England Railroad. It is reported that the Southern railroad men who want the Western Maryland as an outlet for the Norfolk and Western and the Virginia, Tennessee and Georgia railroads, and who are in with General Bryant in the deal, are willing to pay a much higher figure for the road than the first offer. General Bryant, however, informed the city authorities that he would only increase his offer if he found the road able to earn the interest on a larger amount. The friends of the West Virginia Central Railway have been renewing their efforts to secure the road.

ASBURY PARK'S ELECTRIC ROAD.

Asbury Park, May 10 (Special).—Asbury Park for about three years has had one distinctive feature, that of being the abiding place of the most miserable electric street railway system in this country. Now the officers of the road want the charter extended for thirty years longer, and want to take two of the prettiest driveways of the coast for its tracks. Last year Main-st. was laid with stone at a cost of about $35,000 from Deal Lake south to Shark River. The Seashore Electric Railway runs in Main-st., from Cookman-ave. over to Asbury-ave. The officials of the company want to extend the track up the street from Asbury-ave. to Deal Lake, and then run down Oak Bluff-ave. to the present track in Eight-ave. The people generally are bitterly opposed to this proposed grabbing of two fine driveways. To-morrow evening the Board of Commissioners will hold a meeting for the purpose of giving the people a chance to express their opposition to the proposed extension of the tracks. The chief owner of the road is Robert Lenox Belknap, of New-York.

SECURING A LINE INTO PITTSBURG.

Baltimore, May 10 (Special).—An agreement has about been completed between the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company and the West Virginia Central Railroad by which the latter will get an outlet to Pittsburg via Grafton. The Baltimore and Ohio's Grafton and Greenbrier narrow gauge branch will be widened to standard gauge. There is an equally good prospect of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company giving the West Virginia Central a line into Pittsburg from the same neighborhood.

DIGGING IN TREACHEROUS SANDS.

Baltimore, May 10 (Special).—The sinking of portions of the street along the line of the Belt Railroad Tunnel, under this city, is causing some alarm among the owners and occupants of the large business buildings on both sides of Howard-st., from German to Franklin sts. The contractor and engineer say there is no cause for alarm, but the people who have lived in that section for years know that quicksands have time and again seriously interfered with getting secure foundations, and the miners at work in the tunnel have encountered the evil in every opening thus far made along the lower part of the route.

HOPEFUL VIEWS OF J. F. PLUMMER.

Omaha, May 10.—John F. Plummer, one of the Government Directors of the Union Pacific, was here yesterday in company with several Eastern capitalists, on his way to Puget Sound. In an interview, Mr. Plummer said he thought the recent action of the Western Traffic Association would go far toward stiffening the stock market. He also thought the Gould management would result in the Union Pacific's redemption.

FOR FAILING TO FURNISH CARS.

Logansport, Ind., May 10.—The celebrated damage case of Anson Wolcott against the Pittsburg, Chicago and St. Louis Railroad Company, came to an end here yesterday morning, after the jury had deliberated thirty-six hours. A verdict was rendered for $12,528 77. The plaintiff asked for $25,000 damages for failure of the company to furnish him cars to transport a large amount of grain to Chicago last fall during a raise in the wheat market.

THE BOYCOTT BEGINS TO-DAY.

NO LUMBER TO BE SUPPLIED TO BUILDERS WHO EMPLOY UNION MEN.

The Lumber Trade Association begins to-day the lockout and boycott which, its members assert, will cause a total cessation of building operations in this city before long. This action by the association is to force the board of walking delegates to raise the boycott on one of the association's members, Charles F. Bucki & Co., Thirteenth-st. and the North River. To accomplish this they intend to stop the delivery of lumber to all buildings where union men are at work. In regard to the effect which this proposed boycott will have on the building trades in this city, John D. Crimmins, the contractor, said yesterday that the builders would generally stand by the dealers in their fight with the union. "It is time to call a halt," said Mr. Crimmins. "There will be a stiff fight, but the only builders who will really suffer are the speculative builders. There are about 100 of these builders in this city, who employ about 15,000 men."

Continuing, Mr. Crimmins said that both himself and David H. King, who is one of the largest builders in this city, would have no trouble in getting lumber and as much as they wanted, as they had made all the necessary arrangements. At the meeting of the Central Labor Union yesterday the strike in the yards of C. F. Bucki & Co. was indorsed and support promised the Lumber Handlers' Union.

Other business transacted at the meeting of the Central Labor Union was the reception of a report from the Painters' Union that John H. Starin was employing non-union men in his yards at Staten Island. The case was referred to the non-intercourse committee. It was decided to order a strike this morning of the carpenters and joiners who are at work on the steamship Hudson, of the Cromwell Line, now in Hoboken, because, it is said, the negro waiters and stewards employed on the ship are doing the painting. A committee was appointed to make arrangements for a demonstration to be held in Jones's Wood on May 20, by all unions who are interested in the demand for a workday of shorter hours.

At the meeting of the Central Labor Federation at No. 385 Bowery yesterday, a committee of Brooklyn machinists asked for help in their fight with E. W. Bliss & Co., who, they say, have locked out their men because they wanted a shorter workday. The necessary moral support was promised them. The Brewers' Union reported several recent victories. The Bakers' Union reported that 120 Hebrew bakers were on strike in East Side bakeries for a shorter workday. The Cloakmakers' Union reported that its members would contribute 25 per cent of their weekly wages to pay for appealing against the sentence of Joseph Barondess, their leader, who has been found guilty of extortion. Resolutions were passed by the Central Federation protesting against the sentence of Barondess, condemning Inspector Byrnes and De Lancey Nicoll and commending Inspector Byrnes and asserting that the time for their share in the case and asserting that the time for their share in the case and asserting that the time for the organized and united revolt must had come when an organized and united revolt must be made against political vice.

SUSTAINING THE EIGHT-HOUR DAY.

Indianapolis, May 10.—The Supreme Court of Indiana has sustained the new law limiting a day's work to eight hours. The complainant in the case, John Griswell, testified that he had worked for the Noel Flour and Feed Company ten months for the agreed sum of $1 25 a day. During that time he was kept busy eleven hours a day. When he was discharged he demanded pay for extra hours. Under the Court's decision, he recovered the amount claimed. The Court holds that unless there was an expressed agreement to the contrary, an employe who is required to work more than eight hours a day must be paid extra.

BOSS CARPENTERS WILL NOT YIELD.

The German boss carpenters of Newark met yesterday afternoon, and decided not to grant the eight-hour demand. The German journeymen carpenters considered Carl Lentz's agreement to have the carpenters on the Saengerfest building work eight hours only, but they declared that Mr. Lentz's contract was not enough as he is not a boss carpenter.

KILLED WHILE GOING TO HIS LOVE.

Albany, N. Y., May 10.—The terribly mangled body of a young man was found on the Hudson River Railroad tracks, a few miles west of Schenectady, on Saturday. A letter, found in one of the pockets, indicates that there was a romance in the life so suddenly ended. The letter was as follows:

Hermann, Mo., March 24, 1891.

Mr. Samuel Bright.

Dear Friend: I got your letter in which you ask the hand of my daughter. All right; if you are the respectably young man I take you for I shall be glad to have you for a son-in-law. I don't care if you are poor. I have got enough money for all of us. All I want is a good fellow to manage my money and other affairs, as I am getting too old for that. I know A. Jager and Eli Rogers, and will come to your city soon and find out if you are all right; and if you are all right, will let you come and marry my daughter soon. Your friend,

A. WENDELL.

Nothing was found on the body to indicate where the man had lived. He was well dressed, and in the same pocket with the letter was a New Testament. It is thought that he fell from a west bound freight train, on which he was trying to make his way to the object of his affections.

TWO GREAT MINDS AGREE.

Sir Morell Mackenzie and Professor Koch, the highest authorities in Europe, unhesitatingly recommend the Soden Pastilles (Troches) for all Throat, Lung and Catarrhal diseases. Against Malaria and other atmospheric influences, these troches are without equal. Beware of imitations. The genuine must have the testimonial and signature of Sir Morell Mackenzie around every box. Price, 50c.

ARMY AND NAVY NOTES.

THE ARTILLERY SERVICE AND PROMOTION.

LITTLE CHANCE OF OFFICERS IN THAT ARM TO MAKE A RECORD FOR GALLANTRY—COMMODORE GREER LIKELY TO SUCCEED ADMIRAL BRAINE—HIS CAREER.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Washington, May 10.—It is an interesting fact, suggested by the appointment the other day of Colonel A. V. Kautz, of the 8th Infantry, to succeed Brigadier-General John Gibbon, who retired, that no colonel of artillery has since the war been made a brigadier-general in the Army. Of the present general officers only one, Major-General J. M. Schofield, has been attached to the artillery arm, and in his case he was promoted from captain of the 1st Artillery to brigadier-general in 1864. General Howard was made brigadier-general from volunteers, having entered the Maine infantry on resignation from the Ordnance Corps. Miles was taken from the infantry, as were also Stanley, Ruger and Brooke. Merrill came from the cavalry, and the two latest appointments as brigadier-generals, McCook and Kautz, were colonels of infantry. The selection of a colonel of the line for appointment as brigadier-general is regarded as a reward for services. With the infrequency of vacancies among the general officers and the many instances of merit among the colonels of the line, it is a difficult matter to decide upon whom the promotion may properly be bestowed. The appointing power looks to the records of officers to furnish the reasons for selection, and naturally those records are considered most commendable and worthy of reward which exhibit gallantry in time of action. The artillery has never had the opportunity of distinguishing itself to the extent that the cavalry or infantry have. Upon the latter arms have devolved the work on the frontier, not to mention most of the active movements during the Civil War. The consequence is that cavalry and infantry colonels have constantly had opportunities of displaying daring and gallantry that never came, and are never likely to come, to the colonels of artillery regiments. When the chance of promotion exists the department has always had in view a number of colonels who had done good service in the field, and it has been the principle of the authorities to encourage effort. When General Gibbon retired, for instance, one of those early mentioned for the place thus vacated was Colonel W. Forsyth, of the 7th Cavalry, who had charge of the troops at the Wounded Knee fight in the recent Indian campaign. The artillery colonels have rarely had an opportunity of taking any such conspicuous part in warfare. The artillery has now virtually become part of the coast defence scheme. The colonels of the five regiments have their headquarters on the sea coast remote from the scene of Indian hostilities, the first at Fort Hamilton, N. Y.; the second at Fort Adams, R. I.; the third at Washington Barracks, D. C.; the fourth at Fort McPherson, Ga., and the fifth at San Francisco. It is a rather hopeless and discouraging outlook for artillery officers who have ambitions in the direction of brigadier-generalcies.

The retirement of Rear-Admiral Braine will leave vacant the office of commandant of the Brooklyn Navy Yard. The Secretary is said to have settled upon Commodore James A. Greer for the place. Commodore Greer is one of the best-known officers of the Navy, and will, upon the retirement of Admiral Braine, become the senior commodore, and, should Admiral Harmony retire, as he thinks of doing on his own application, would become the junior admiral. He has been president of the Naval Examining Board in this city since January, 1890. He is fifty-eight years old, and entered the service in 1848 from his native State, Ohio. He belonged to the old Navy and has made his way to a prominent place in the service by hard and good work. His early years in the service were spent on various vessels at home and abroad. He became a lieutenant in 1855 and a lieutenant-commander in 1862, and was placed in command of the ironclads Carondelet and Benton and a division of Porter's squadron, with which, in April, 1863, he made his way past Vicksburg to fight the batteries of Grand Gulf on April 29. The following month he took part in the Red River expedition. He was engaged in the combined attack on Vicksburg, being almost constantly under fire during the forty-five days of the siege. In 1864 he was employed in correcting abuses which existed at the Naval recruiting station, at Cincinnati, and in 1865 was in command of the Black Hawk. In 1866, when he was promoted to commander, he was placed in charge of the Mohongo, of the Pacific Squadron. He remained four months at Acapulco, Mexico, to protect American interests, which were endangered on account of the downfall of the Mexican Imperial Government, and his course on this occasion was officially commended by the State Department. During subsequent years he held various commands and in 1873 was placed in command of the Tigress of the Polaris relief expedition. A month after sailing out of New-York harbor, the wreck of the Polaris was found at Littleton Island, North Greenland, but the crew had departed for the south in boats. The Tigress cruised about until October and then returned to the United States. Commander Greer was promoted to be captain in 1876 and commanded the Constitution and later the Constellation and Hartford. He was made commodore in 1886 and during his command of the European station held the appointment of acting rear-admiral. Commodore Greer, on his return from Europe, was made president of a board having the responsible work of revising the organization, tactics and drills of the Navy, a duty he held until he was detailed as president of the board charged with the examination of officers for promotion and retirement.

The examination of the hull of the Boston at the Norfolk Navy Yard is awaited with interest. She has not been docked for six months, and the constructors are curious to see the result. Each side of the vessel's hull was painted with a different kind of paint at the solicitations and on the representations of two rival New-York concerns. The enterprising firms have bothered the constructors a good deal, and the warfare between the houses has been vigorous. In previous tests there has been no good opportunity to compare the anti-fouling qualities of the compositions. There was always a difference in conditions which prevented a fair conclusion. The Department is a remedy and to preserve the peace of mind, if not safety of body, of its officers, applied the rival paints to the same vessel, and now an official report will show which side of the Boston's hull is the better preserved and the more free from marine growth. Upon that report the destinies of two New-York paint firms will depend. So far the naval constructors have found no paint which will keep a vessel's bottom free from the excrescences of the sea. Naval Constructor Hichborne, who is an advocate of sheathing as a remedy for this natural evil, has just received specimens of huge barnacles as large as a man's fist and some coral formations taken from the hull of the Ranger after a year without docking.

Captain Harry Wright and Lieutenants William H. Baldwin and P. A. Bettens, of the 9th Cavalry, have not succeeded in their effort to get back into Troop K, from which they were transferred when that troop was ordered to station at Fort Myer, near this city. The change of station was intended as a reward for service in the recent Indian campaign, but General Schofield thought the officers of Troop I, also in the campaign, should come with Troop K. The transfer of officers was a disappointment to those who were to stay at Fort Robinson, where Troop I was posted. The friends of the officers concerned endeavored to have the order revoked. Inasmuch as the order was issued at the instance of General Schofield and Quartermaster-General Batchelder, there is no likelihood of its revocation.

TO PENSION OLD AND DISABLED CLERKS.

Washington, May 10.—"The Sunday Herald" says: "A movement is on foot in the various Departments of the Government in this city to establish what might be termed a comparative pension scheme for the benefit of those clerks who, through advanced age or physical disability incurred by their service for the Government, become unable to attend to their duties. By a fund established through a small monthly deduction made from the salary of each clerk, those sick or aged would receive a pension during the time of their disability, or for life when regularly retired by the action of an authorized board. It is suggested that a percentage of about 2 per cent a month be deducted from the salary of each Government clerk and deposited in the United States Treasury, to be held there in trust as a fund to pension those regularly retired, and to pay a stated amount to those who are temporarily disabled. The number of clerks of an advanced age who are retained in the Departments simply because of their faithful service for many years is very large. They have outlived their actual usefulness, and are allowed to remain only for the reason that if dismissed they would be in actual want. With the pension, these could be retired, with the result that the number of promotions all along the line would be large. A clerk receiving a salary of $1,200 would be obliged to pay annually $24, but the fact that they paid this amount enables a man to be retired, and the one who pays his dues is promoted to a $1,4000. Thus, the clerks assert, by giving $24 he makes $176. It is understood that the movement has the sanction of the prominent Government officials."

NEWS FROM NEW-JERSEY.

NEWARK.

PAWNBROKERS ARRESTED FOR FRAUD.

In connection with the arrest of Frank Plagett and Frank Taylor, on Friday, the police on Saturday night took into custody Max Negbauer and Harry Norton, both prosperous pawnbrokers. The charge preferred against the quartet is that of swindling, and all four were held to await the action of the Grand Jury. The scheme upon which the pawnbrokers and their tools operated was a simple but successful one. Selecting a dozen or two of diamonds, watches and rings which people had failed to redeem, the tickets were raised from $20 to $30, and were then sold by the tools to the highest purchaser. By this method both the pawnbrokers and their associates reaped a rich harvest. When Plagett and Taylor were arrested on Friday, two dozen or more of tickets raised after this fashion were found in their pockets.

Nicholas Bibo, a fall Italian, living at No. 18 Railroad Place, was attacked early yesterday morning by a little Italian named Antonio Lupi, armed with a knife. Lupi made several thrusts at Bibo, who used his hand as a shield for his body, and was badly cut in it. A slice was also cut from the brim of his hat. Lupi was arrested.

Mrs. Henry McCann, twenty years old, whose husband is a sailor, disappeared from her home, No. 229 Lafayette-st., on Friday, taking with her $3,000 of her husband's money and also her baby. McCann had given his money to his wife to save for him. Last week he bought a vessel in New-York and paid $500 deposit on it. He was to pay the rest on Friday, and his wife was to accompany him to New-York for that purpose. She disappeared before he arose in the morning.

A passenger train on the Newark and Elizabeth branch of the New-Jersey Central Railroad ran into some empty coal cars at Brill's station, between 11 and 12 o'clock on Saturday night. Five of the coal cars were smashed and the engine of the train was damaged. The passengers were shaken up, but nobody was hurt. The accident was due to a wrongly placed switch.

JERSEY CITY.

William Ziegler, of No. 13 1-2 Wallace-ave., while under the influence of liquor yesterday afternoon, struck his wife on the head with a hatchet inflicting a dangerous wound. The woman with difficulty succeeded in escaping from the infuriated man, and she ran to the Seventh Precinct Police station and told what had happened. Her injured head was attended to and she was taken home again. Ziegler was arrested.

ORANGE.

Marshal McChesney has begun a crusade against the violators of the city ordinance that requires all riders of bicycles to have their lamps lighted after dark. On Saturday Charles H. Keyse and M. H. Pengilley were arrested and released on bail until this evening. The fine is $5 and costs.

Mrs. Thomas A. Edison has offered the use of her house and grounds, "Glenmont," Llewellyn Park, West Orange, next Saturday afternoon at 4 o'clock, for a representation of the cantata, "King Rene's Daughter," by Miss Lillie P. Berg and her vocal class, assisted by Mr. Franklin Sonnekalb, pianist. The affair is under the auspices of the King's Daughters of Calvary Methodist Church, East Orange.

The sixty-seventh anniversary exercises of the American Sunday-School Union were held last evening in the Munn Avenue Presbyterian Church of East Orange. The church, one of the largest in the Oranges, was crowded to the doors. After an opening anthem, the pastor, the Rev. Dr. James M. Ludlow, read the Scriptures, and prayers were offered by the Rev. Dr. M. J. Cramer, of East Orange. Frank A. Ferris, of New-York, was then introduced to the audience as the chairman, in a cordial and affecting address of welcome by Dr. Ludlow. The Rev. Dr. John Crowell, of Philadelphia, secretary of missions, made an eloquent address, calling especial attention to the needs of the work, and the pressing need of funds, without which some of the missionaries would have to be dropped from the roll. The Rev. Dr. W. P. Paxson, of Springfield, Mo., gave an account of the work of the union in the southwestern district.

BAYONNE.

An eight-year-old son of Terrence J. Brady, who was struck on the head on Saturday with a baseball bat, died from the injuries yesterday. The boy was playing with several comrades. His father says it must have been an accident.

OTHER SUBURBAN TOWNS.

WESTCHESTER COUNTY.

THE REV. DR. COLE'S RESIGNATION.

The congregation of the Reformed Church of Yonkers was surprised yesterday morning when the pastor, the Rev. Dr. David Cole, the senior Reformed pastor of Yonkers and of Westchester County, offered his resignation to take effect after the evening service of the first Sunday in October. He said in his sermon that he thought that in view of his seventy years he should place a limit at which he should stop active work. Dr. Cole's early life was spent in teaching. He was one of the original trustees of the State Normal School at Trenton, where he taught for seventeen years. He then entered the ministry, some thirty-two years ago. For three years he was professor of Greek in Rutgers College. On December 8, 1865, he began his pastorate over this church. No discordant word has marred the relationship. His twenty-fifth anniversary last December was one of the happiest incidents ever celebrated in Yonkers. The church is in a most prosperous condition and has a large amount subscribed for a new church.

MT. VERNON.—"From the moment that Colonel Henry Huss became postmaster he has labored to improve the mail facilities of the town, as well as the condition of the quarters of the postoffice, which were in so unclean a condition when he was appointed as to cause general complaint," said one of the leading citizens yesterday. Assistant Postmaster Hubbell has also been an able co-worker in the thorough establishment of the carrier system. Colonel Huss on Saturday obtained the finished plans, as outlined by him, of the new postoffice, which will be ready for use by October 1, in First-st. near Third-ave., in a building now in course of construction. The entire width of the front will be thirty-nine feet [illegible] inches, and the depth seventy-four feet eight inches. At the left of the entrance will be the room of the postmaster. There are to be two sets of plate glass doors, one opening inward for persons entering, and one opening outward for those going out, so that there will always be a free passage-way. Beyond these doors one enters a spacious lobby, at the right of which is to be a ladies' desk, at the left an ante-room with a writing desk, and next to it the money-order department. At the inner end of the lobby will be the general delivery, and the individual letter boxes. Back of this will be the general sorting room, eighteen feet deep and almost the entire width of the building. At the rear end of the building will be the carriers' department, with sorting tables, etc., with a space reserved at the left for the money and stamp safe, and vault for papers. The arrangements for the work of the new postoffice are about as complete as can be.

The ceremonies attending the unveiling of the Soldiers' Monument, on Decoration Day, will be unusual interest, and besides Farnsworth Post, Grand Army of the Republic, there will be Hobbes Post, of Stamford, and delegations from other posts in New-York and Connecticut. Little Miss Hildegarde Whitaker, daughter of the late Captain Whitaker, will unveil the monument. She was christened on Decoration Day, 1882, by the Rev. Dr. W. S. Coffey, rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, in the presence of Farnsworth Post, Colonel John G. Fay being her godfather. . . . The 11th Separate Company, National Guard, will have its closing drill and reception at the armory on May 25. Dancing will begin at 10 p. m.

WHITE PLAINS.—A large barn on the country place of Mrs. Jules Reynal, of New-York City, together with its contents, consisting of wagons, harness, hay, cool, etc., was destroyed by fire at 3:30 a. m. yesterday. Three men employed upon the property were asleep in the barn at the time the fire was discovered, but were aroused in time to escape. The total loss amounts to $6,000. Cause of the fire unknown.

LONG ISLAND.

ANOTHER SCHOOL FOR LONG ISLAND CITY.

The cornerstone of a new parochial school was laid yesterday afternoon in Long Island City. The school is being erected by the congregation of the Roman Catholic Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. It is in Flushing-ave. just back of the church, which stands in Newtown-ave. The new school will be a structure three stories high and built of brick. There will be twelve classrooms with a total seating capacity of 720. The cornerstone was laid by the Rev. Father Carroll, of St. Vincent de Paul's Church, Brooklyn, and the address was made by the Rev. Father O'Hare, of St. Anthony's Church. The new school, when completed and furnished, will cost about $40,000.

GENERAL HOWARD'S MISSION WORK.

Those who gathered at the Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church, Washington Square, yesterday afternoon, listened to an interesting talk by General O. O. Howard. He chose as his subject "Bits of Experience in Winning Souls." He illustrated the advantage of using and applying the Scriptures in Christian work by many stories of his personal experience in various parts of the country, notably in Portland, Or. General Howard is now engaged in mission work on the East Side. The old "Camp Memorial" Church, in Elizabeth-st., has been purchased, and there, in one of the most crowded regions of the city, he is doing a good work. Already over $16,000 of the $21,000 necessary to pay for this old church has been raised by General Howard. It is intended to establish a kindergarten there, and so have the building used on week-days as well as Sundays.

General Howard received a generous contribution from the congregation assembled at the Asbury church.

AFFAIRS IN BROOKLYN.

A CHILD'S TERRIBLE DEATH.

Rose Simon, three and a half years old, a daughter of Henry Simon, who lives at No. 222 Driggs-st., died yesterday from burns received by falling into a vat of boiling fat at the pork store of which Simon is the owner. The accident occurred on Saturday morning, the child having gone to the store, which is corner of Driggs and South First-st., opposite the house, to see her father. In the rear of the store is a chute leading to a boiler in which the scraps of fat are dropped. The boiler is in the basement of the building. The child went to the edge of the chute and looked down. The iron flooring around the chute had been worn smooth by constant use, and was slippery from the grease. While the child was looking into the hole she slipped and fell feet foremost into the boiling vat. The splash as the little one sank into the liquid was heard by a number of the men about the store, who at first were inclined to believe that a bag of salt, kept beside the chute, had fallen into the vat. They then remembered that they had seen the child standing near the opening only a few minutes before, and rushing down stairs into the basement they saw the child on the surface of the boiling fat. They rescued the child, but she was unconscious. She was then carried into her home, where Drs. Blaisdale, Mosely, Hainford and two other physicians were called in. Her sufferings were intense until death relieved her. The family are nearly crazed with grief. Mr. Simon only took possession of the business two weeks ago, having moved to Brooklyn from New-York.

STABBED BY HIS BROTHER-IN-LAW.

Joseph Travis, a cooper, living at No. 273 North Sixth-st., was stabbed, probably fatally, yesterday by James McDonald, twenty-five years old, who lives at No. 131 North Fourth-st. The men are brothers-in-law, and the stabbing took place in the hallway of the house in which McDonald lives. Yesterday afternoon Travis called at the house to see his mother-in-law. The two men began to "rush the growler." Mrs. McDonald entered the room, but was ordered out by her son. She refused to go and McDonald threatened to put her out. He was in the act of carrying out his threats when Travis interfered. Several blows were exchanged and McDonald, who was getting the worst of the encounter, suddenly drew a clasp knife and plunged the blade in his victim's abdomen. The knife entered the left side and gashed a wound five inches in length. The wounded man was removed to St. Catherine's Hospital. The wound was found to be a serious if not fatal one. McDonald was arrested at No. 153 North Second-st.

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF CHARLES PRATT.

At the close of his sermon at the Church of the Holy Trinity, Montague and Clinton sts., last evening, the Rev. Dr. Charles H. Hall paid a tribute to the memory of Charles Pratt. He said in part: "He has planted in our city the finest of arguments on social questions—the example of wisdom, understanding and knowledge of all manner of workmanship. He has used his wealth with a benevolence which rose up in a modest, experienced life, a life of sound labor, of working his own way through early straitness, which shows us that he knew thoroughly what is in the hearts of the thousands of boys and girls who have received his help, honorable help, as safely received as it has been cheerfully given. While others seek Europe to kneel in churches or search museums, his travel led him thither to examine every institution which might give him another or better idea of now to increase the efficiency of his own."

DESERTED HIS WIFE AND BECAME A BIGAMIST.

Edward Meislahn, who when a young bridegroom ten years ago disappeared from Brooklyn, has been found at Woodland Park, near Colorado Springs, Col., where he married, and is now in jail on a charge of bigamy. Meislahn is a son of a well-known jeweller. He married Miss Alice Kenny, at No. 713 Hicks-st., on February 1, 1881. She was seventeen and he eighteen years old. The honeymoon was scarcely over when he disappeared, and detectives have been looking for him since then. He had become a man of standing in his new home, and was a member of the town council. His wife some time ago learned where he was, and with her sister went to Colorado and preferred charges against him. The Rev. Father Kenny, the assistant pastor of the Church of the Nativity, is a brother of Mrs. Meislahn.

GATHERED ABOUT THE TOWN.

Mrs. Mildred Larten, thirty years old, of No. 997 Gates-ave., and Miss Mary Harris, twenty years old, of No. 34 Decatur-st., went driving yesterday afternoon. Their horse took fright and ran away at Buffalo-ave. and Herkimer-st., throwing them out and inflicting on both painful though not dangerous injuries.

The memorial tablet to Vicar-General William Keegan, of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn, will be unveiled this morning in the Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, at York and Jay sts.

The services for non-church-goers which the Sunday Observance Association has started at the Grand Opera House, in Elm Place near Fulton-st., were continued yesterday. The speaker for the day was the Rev. Dr. Edward Braislin, of the Washington Avenue Baptist Church.

The closing meeting of the Brooklyn Sunday-School Union will be held this evening at the Hanson Place Methodist Episcopal Church. The Rev. E. Walpole Warren will speak.

As Locomotive No. 59 of the Union Elevated Railroad was approaching the Navy-st. station of the Myrtle-ave. line last evening the cylinder head was blown out, and, narrowly missing people in the street, was projected through the plate-glass window of a store, No. 234 Myrtle-ave., owned by William I. Gaynor. Travel was delayed for some time.

Complaint was made to the police last night by a resident of South Brooklyn that four helpless children named Sinton had been left alone without food in the rear basement of No. 523 Court-st. One of them was sick. The children said they had had nothing to eat since Saturday night. Their father left them on Saturday morning and their mother had soon followed, they thought to look for him. The police are looking for the parents.

GOOD WORK FOR LITTLE MOTHERS.

The "Little Mothers" enjoyed a May-day outing at Pelham Bay Park one day last week. The old-fashioned fireplaces in the old Holcomb House were aglow with the time-honored back-log and fore-stick. The little ones spent a happy day gathering bouquets of apple blossoms, violets and every species of wild-flower growing in the park. These outings are memorable red-letter days to these children, who, were it not for these occasional excursions to the woods and green fields in the country, would be compelled to remain at home in the city while their parents are away at work.

Contributions of clothing or money for these children may be sent to George F. Vail, president of the Fourteenth Street Bank.

*CELEBRATING TH