Amusements.

ABBEY'S THEATRE—8:15—The Tzigane.
ACADEMY OF MUSIC—8:15—The Fatal Card.
AMERICAN THEATRE—8—A Temperance Town.
BROADWAY THEATRE—8—Aladdin, Jr.
CASINO—8—Vaudeville.
COLUMBUS THEATRE—8:15—Vaudeville.
DALY'S THEATRE—8:15—A Gaiety Girl.
EDEN MUSEE—8—Vaudeville
EMPIRE THEATRE—8:15—Sowing the Wind.
FINE ARTS BUILDING, 57th-st., near Broadway—Day and evening—Exhibition.
GARDEN THEATRE—8:15—Trilby.
GARRICK THEATRE—8:30—A Parisian Romance.
HARLEM OPERA HOUSE—8:15—Orient Express and A Tragedy Rehearsed.
HERALD SQUARE THEATRE—8:15—Pudd'nhead Wilson.
HOYT'S THEATRE—8:30—The Foundling.
KOSTER & BIAL'S—8:30—Vaudeville.
MADISON SQUARE GARDEN—2 p. m. to 11 p. m.—Sportsmen's Exposition.
PALMER'S THEATRE—8:15—Little Christopher.
PROCTOR'S THEATRE—10:30 a. m. to 11 p. m.—Vaudeville.
STANDARD THEATRE—8:30—Too Much Johnson.
STAR THEATRE—8—Oliver Twist.
TERRACE GARDEN—Der Obersteiger.
366 FIFTH-AVE.—9 a. m. to 6:30 p. m. and 8 to 10 p. m.—Art Loan Exhibition.

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Dr. Hasbrouck makes a specialty of extracting teeth without pain with gas. HARVARD BUILDING, 729 6TH-AVE., Cor. 42d-st.

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New-York Daily Tribune.

FOUNDED BY HORACE GREELEY.

FRIDAY, MAY 17, 1895.

FOURTEEN PAGES.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

Foreign.—It is reported that a satisfactory agreement has been reached between Japan and the Powers which were not satisfied with the terms of the peace treaty. ═══ Count Gulochowski was appointed Premier of Austria-Hungary, in place of Count Kalnoky, whose resignation was accepted by the Emperor. ═══ The Cuban insurgents are reported to have been defeated with heavy loss in a battle near Guantanamo. ═══ The upper house of the Prussian Diet adopted a resolution favoring a monetary conference. ═══ The plan of confederation of Newfoundland with Canada has been abandoned.

Domestic.—The Legislature at Albany adjourned sine die; the Greater New-York bill failed to pass the Senate; Assemblyman Eugene F. Vacheron, accused of bribery in connection with a bill, appeared in Albany and gave bail; the Senate Bribery Investigating Committee submitted a report, exonerating Senators Raines, Robertson and Coggeshall. ═══ Dr. R. R. Booth, of New-York City, was chosen Moderator by the Presbyterian General Assembly at Pittsburg. ═══ A statue to Mrs. Emma Willard was unveiled at the Troy Female Seminary; Russell Sage Memorial Hall was dedicated, Chauncey M. Depew delivering the oration. ═══ Rear-Admiral John J. Almy died at his home in Washington.

City and Suburban.—On a test vote on a resolution affecting the appointment of election officers, the Anti-Platt element in the Republican County Committee was successful by a vote of 61 to 37. ═══ The Guttenburg "Big Four" was set at liberty by the New-Jersey Court of Pardons. ═══ The semi-centennial of the New-Jersey Historical Society was celebrated at Newark, ex-President Harrison being the guest of honor. ═══ Action was taken by the Jockey Club looking to the immediate suppression of illegal betting at the racetracks. ═══ Differences of opinion have developed in the Broadway Tabernacle over the pastor, the Rev. Dr. Stimson. ═══ The annual convention of the Alpha Delta Phi fraternity was begun. ═══ Stocks advanced and closed at net gains.

The Weather.—Forecast for to-day: Fair and warmer. Temperature yesterday: Lowest, 45 degrees; highest, 59 degrees.

At the meeting of the Republican County Committee last evening special pains were plainly taken by the Platt element to avoid anything that would precipitate a conflict and a division of forces. There had been rumors of resolutions censuring Mayor Strong for his treatment of Kerwin and Murray, but nothing of the kind was even remotely suggested. Unexpectedly, one question arose that in some sort formed a test of the present feeling of the committee, and on this the Anti-Machine men won by a vote of 61 to 37. This cannot be regarded as a decisive test, but it is certainly a significant straw.

Colonel Fellows lost no time in acting under the bill signed by Governor Morton yesterday providing him with two additional helpers, and promptly promoted two members of his staff to be regular Assistant District-Attorneys. The two vacancies thus caused will, of course, be filled with little delay, for it is contrary to the creed and practice of the Democratic party to allow any office to remain vacant long. When the record of the Legislature is examined, nothing will be found more mysterious than the enactment of this bill. Nobody of influence asked for it. Everybody of intelligence knew that Colonel Fellows had more assistants than the work of the office demanded. Yet the bill was passed, and when the Mayor gave a hearing on it nobody raised an objection to it. What was the secret influence that sent it through and imposed a useless burden of $15,000 a year on the taxpayers of this city?

The record of the Assembly is much better than that of the Senate, but its final action on the Civil Service bill was not to its credit. On Tuesday the bill was tossed aside in the lower house by being referred to a committee which had completed its work, but that blunder was repaired the next day through the earnest efforts of Mr. Ainsworth, and the bill put in shape for passage. When taken up yesterday, however, the majority had retreated from the position they took on Wednesday and the measure was buried under a heavy adverse vote. This is most unfortunate. The bill provided for a reorganization of the Civil Service Commission and an increase in the salaries of the Commissioners. It was drawn up by the New-York Civil Service Reform Association, and its enactment, which was earnestly desired by Governor Morton, was necessary for the proper administration of the Civil Service system under the revised Constitution.

The Greater New-York bill was permitted to die without a struggle in the Senate, after Senator Bradley had secured the adoption of the referendum amendment. It was not too late even then to pass it in both houses, for Governor Morton, if appealed to, would in all likelihood have declared an emergency to exist. But Senator Lexow preferred no bill rather than one permitting the people to vote on the proposed charter, and did not lift a finger to pass the amended measure. The question of consolidation is thus thrown over till next year.

Owing to the persistency of Assemblyman Brush the bill consolidating the government of Kings County with that of Brooklyn is now in the Governor's hands, a certificate of urgency having been issued by Mr. Morton so that final action on the measure as amended could be taken yesterday. As the city of Brooklyn will embrace the whole of the county after the beginning of 1896, it would be obviously absurd to continue duplicate sets of officers having the same duties to perform. We are not sure that all the provisions of the act as passed are wise, but the general principles underlying it are undoubtedly sound. Since the City Chamberlain in New-York is generally believed to be a fifth wheel to the carriage, it would have been well to avoid saddling such an officer on Brooklyn, even though the County Treasurer elected last fall will have only six months to serve in that capacity.

THE REPUBLICAN FUTURE.

The Tribune has already pointed out that notwithstanding the shortcomings and follies, the weakness and the faults, of the Legislature which has just adjourned, it did give us something in the way of reform legislation, even though grudgingly and reluctantly, and that good citizens have reason to be thankful for that. True, we are indebted for it almost entirely to Governor Morton's honest purpose and determined will, but we may at least give the Legislature credit, as we have before said, for having the sense and discretion to listen to his counsels and be governed by his advice. Not great praise, to be sure, but something by way of palliation. Like all its predecessors, this Legislature is pronounced by the exacting and censorious "the worst yet." It was bad enough, but it was not that. It has not broken the record for incompetency, extravagance and corruption, though it might easily have done so had it followed the directions of the irresponsible Boss who aspired to absolute control of its action, in opposition to the cooler and wiser counsels of the Governor. Without undertaking any defence of its action, taken as a whole, there is this to be said in explanation of it, and of the motives by which its members may be supposed to have been actuated. So far as the Senate is concerned, it is an open secret that most of the Republican Senators felt that they were under obligations to Mr. Platt because of the contributions to their election expenses which the Republican State Committee had permitted him to extort in their name from sundry great corporations and disburse by his personal check—a mischievous practice, which must be discontinued or the party will suffer shipwreck. Moreover, they were elected in 1893, before Republicans had become fully aroused to the dangers of Boss rule in their own party. As to the Assembly, it may be said that a majority of the Republican members were nominated by the machinery which Mr. Platt had occupied himself with perfecting during the period of Democratic ascendancy, with the perpetuation of which it dovetailed, and though they owed their election to the uprising against Bosses and machines, many of them recognized Platt as their benefactor and sponsor. Still, the record of the Assembly is incomparably superior to that of the Senate.

So much in explanation. And now, what? The Legislature has to some extent failed us. It has left undone things it ought to have done, and done some things it might better have left undone. For its faults of omission and commission its members will be held to a strict accountability by their constituents. We feel certain that none of the more conspicuous offenders will be returned. If nominated they will be defeated. But we feel also a reasonable degree of confidence that they will not be renominated. The Republican party owes it to itself to prevent it. For these men have done almost everything in their power, and quite everything they dared to, to bring the party into discredit by wanton betrayal of principle and shameless disregard of promises squarely made and pledges publicly given. They have done this in obedience to the orders of Mr. Platt, simply and solely to furnish that person the opportunity to make trades and deals at the expense of the party's honor and good name for his personal advantage and the perpetuation of his power as the party's Boss. Any effort to renominate these men or others of the same kidney will present very sharply the issue between Republicanism and Plattism in the State. The triumph of Plattism would mean Republican disaster, and that we do not look for. We do not underrate the strength of this man's hold upon the party machinery in the State, and we do not mean to be oversanguine in counting upon the continuance of the present feeling of indignation and disgust at his malign influence. But we do believe that the monstrous blunders he has made during the last six months have so effectually opened the eyes of the voting Republican masses throughout the State to the fatal consequences of his self-constituted leadership that they will shake off their sloth and indifference and meet his machinations at the primaries with the same determined opposition which they show to Democratic Boss rule at the polls. The record of this Legislature furnishes such incontestable proof of the blighting influence of his leadership that unless the party deliberately contemplates suicide it must throw it off absolutely.

Meantime, one or two of our Democratic and Mugwump contemporaries, fastening their attention upon the failures of this Platt-ridden Legislature to do all that was expected or hoped for good government and municipal reform, and refusing to give credit for the good it did do under the spur of a Republican Governor, are saying that the Republican party has forfeited public confidence and wasted its opportunity, and that presently "Tammany will come back to power much more strongly intrenched than before." But why? In the name of common-sense, why should the voters, who signified their desire last November to turn out Tammany, root and branch, and institute sweeping reforms in all directions, go back now on the party they put in power because it has only half answered their expectations, and restore the party which, by its representatives in the Legislature, opposed stubbornly and bitterly even the half-measures of reform that have been granted? What logic or reason or sense is there in that proposition? None. It is cold, pure Mugwumpery. Upon that process of reasoning we might expect a Church member, who should get indignant because his Church did not incorporate total abstinence in its Creed, to fling himself out and start a ginmill next door. The voting masses are not such fools. They appreciate the difficulties and embarrassments with which the Republican party has been beset. They believe that in the long run it can be trusted to give good government and honest administration to the people. And they will not for an instant think of restoring to power the party that is solid and uncompromising against everything in the nature of reform in a fit of spite against the party which has not given them all the reform they hoped for. No, Tammany will not come back. But the Republican party will drop Mr. Platt and all his machinery and move forward.

SAVING SCOUNDRELS FROM PRISON.

A majority of the Court of Pardons of New-Jersey has affronted and insulted all the decent people of the State by relieving the "Big Four" of Guttenburg from the imprisonment to which those rascals had been sentenced. It is not too much to say that a majority of the Court of Pardons has disgraced itself, and given cause for severe censure and condemnation on the part of all respectable people. Walbaum, McLaughlin, Crusius and Carr, who composed the so-called "Big Four," have been the boldest, most defiant and persistent lawbreakers who could be found in any part of our sister State. Their offences were practised day after day, week after week, month after month and year after year. They were guilty of corruption and bribery in the most detestable forms. They escaped punishment for a long time because the members of the Democratic Ring of Hudson County made such infamous misuse of the machinery of justice in that county that these men were not brought to trial, convicted and compelled to pay the proper penalties for their crimes. The misdeeds and villanies of the Hudson County Ring have been exposed in the clearest and most thorough manner. The rascalities perpetrated by the "Big Four" at Guttenburg were known and recognized of all men. These lawbreakers brought ignominy and shame upon Guttenburg, upon Hudson County and upon the whole State. They cast aside all the restraints of decency, of self-respect, of honor, of consideration for the community. If it had been possible to sentence all four of them to imprisonment for life, the penalty would not have been more severe than was justified by their long-continued and abominable series of violations of the laws. When at last they were sentenced to pay fines and to spend a year in prison it was not supposed that any court or any body in New-Jersey would so dishonor itself as to throw obstacles in the way of their incarceration.

It is a wonderfully insolent thing which the Court of Pardons has now done. Reports have been rife through the State that the "Big Four" have paid large sums out of the fortunes which they have acquired by their evil doings to persons who assured them that they would save them from imprisonment. The Legislative Investigating Committee has been engaged in laying bare the wickedness of prominent and influential Democratic politicians in New-Jersey. Some shocking disclosures have been made about Leon Abbett and other Democratic leaders. The people of New-Jersey have bowed their heads in mortification when these disclosures were made. A deeper disgrace has now befallen the State, when the majority of the Court of Pardons so unscrupulously, and so entirely without conscience, has intervened to protect four of the worst offenders who ever defiled the soil of the State from the just penalty of their violations of law. It is amazing that the majority of this Court should have been so audacious at this time and in these circumstances as to put so foul a blot upon the escutcheon of the State. Every citizen of New-Jersey possessed of honorable instincts must feel that his State now occupies a lower position in the eyes of the world than it occupied before this action of the majority of the Court of Pardons, and must deeply regret that a step so thoroughly discreditable and disreputable should have been taken by this Court. New-Jersey is indeed in a pitiable plight. The pardon of the ballot-box stuffers in Hudson County some years ago was inexcusable and abominable. The course of the Court of Pardons in saving Walbaum, McLaughlin, Crusius and Carr from prison is so completely without justification or excuse that every member of the Court who voted in favor of clemency toward these convicted scoundrels has brought upon himself the distrust and the contempt of every honest citizen of the State.

ONE THING NEVER LACKING.

Whatever monotony there may be in life, the weather—at least such as we have in these parts—is surely not responsible for it. Nothing could present a more bewildering variety than our climate affords. Whether the variety is as charming as it is bewildering and profuse is quite another matter. But of the fact of the variety there can be no possible manner of doubt. All in this merry month of May, within the compass of a single week, what have we had? The sultry heat of midsummer and the chilling frosts of midwinter. Roads dusty as an ashheap, and the same roads flowing with mud and water. Orchards white with apple blooms, and meadows hoar with rime. Dead calm, and howling gale. Skies of blue, and skies of gray. The whole meteorological gamut run up and down again within a single octave of the calendar. Talk about the varied climates through which great empires reach! We have them all, right here and all together. Lapland and Italy embrace each other, and Pole and Equator play stick and hoop, between the Battery and Kingsbridge.

Nor is there anything on earth, unless it be the incident which men call death, which more impresses us with a sense of our own weakness and helplessness than this same capriciousness of the skies. Before it the wisest may as well close up his books and the strongest fold his arms. The amiable Anarchists of Mr. Howells's Altruria contrived in some way to change the globe's ecliptical inclination and to control the ocean currents. But of such achievements we lesser beings, in the benightment of individual liberty, can have no hope. A little we can do, here and there, perhaps. We can preserve our forests, and plant new ones on the unwooded plains, and irrigate the arid lands until they are redeemed from drouth and barrenness. Perhaps—who knows?—some practical means may be discovered of provoking rainfall now and then. But who will stop the rain when it begins to fall? Who will cause the wind to blow, or to cease from blowing? Who will chase old General Humidity from the air? Who will cool the hot waves and warm the frosts? Before these problems, before such inclemencies as we have seen in the last ten days, all the knowledge and all the might of man are as futile as the vague wonderings of the brutes. As it was in the beginning, so it is now, and so shall it ever be: "The wind bloweth "as it listeth, and ye hear the sound thereof, but "cannot tell whence it cometh or whither it "goeth."

And so we come around to the eternal fitness of things. A social cynic has said the topics of general conversation are limited to three: Politics for men, fashions for women, and the weather for us all. Well, and why not the last? What earthly theme is more prolific? There is none other upon which so much is to be said, which presents so inexhaustible a variety of suggestions, upon which all the world may so readily agree or disagree. The politics of to-day may be the same as those of yesterday, and the fashions of the morning may not be changed before the afternoon. But with every breath we draw the weather-whirligig whisks around to something new. Let us be happy. Frost may blight the grapes, and drouth may parch the corn. Those are nothing but material details. To the philosophic soul the world can never grow dull or tedious while the weather maintains its changelessly changeful sway.

THE RECEIVERS TAKE PRECAUTIONS.

There is obvious connection between four events—the call for gold by the syndicate, the change by London from purchases to sales of American securities, the deficit of over $50,000,000 in Government revenues, and the decrease in exports of domestic products. These things do not prove that the recovery in business has stopped. They only show that it is not complete, and that the effects of vicious Democratic legislation have not entirely passed.

Two great iron vessels, after waiting here for cargoes a month or more, have left this port, one going all the way to Australia to receive freight—a thing which has not happened for more than forty years, it is said. The value of exports of domestic products last week was only $4,612,432, smaller than in any other week for two years, and this is not because the country has nothing left to sell, for its stocks of unsold cotton and wheat are uncomfortably large. Large crops this year, it may with reason be hoped, will assure an ample supply of exportable staples, but it is to be remembered that stocks held abroad are enormous, especially of cotton, so that a free movement outward may not at once follow a large yield.

The Treasury deficit has risen above $50,500,000 for the fiscal year, and seems likely to increase. The importations have gradually diminished, so that they scarcely exceed those of last year for the last two weeks, and this involves a heavy decrease in customs revenue under the Democratic tariff. Moreover, it is a decrease which is likely to continue, because the large importations of foreign products, particularly of drygoods, have not all been satisfactorily marketed. According to reports, the markets are somewhat clogged with the excess of supplies on hand awaiting purchasers. The present prospect is that customs receipts for the remaining six weeks of the fiscal year will be light.

The extraordinary buying of American stocks by London last week was largely due to the discovery when settling day came that these stocks had been heavily oversold. With the rush to cover there came a natural but short-winded buying by speculators, who saw that the covering would cause a temporary rise. It was equally natural that the shorts who had settled with losses should sell again, having the same opinion of the future and wishing to get back their money, and that the short-winded buyers should sell to realize. Thus the sales on foreign account have exceeded purchases for the week thus far, and while it is not certain what the future movement may be, there is at least reason for anticipating that European purchases of stocks may not serve to cover the adverse balance on merchandise account, which, with shrinking exports of products, is likely to be considerable. In April imports exceeded exports of merchandise only $3,348,000, but undervaluations, interest and freight charges will swell the adverse balance to more than $15,000,000, and it may be larger in May and June.

Presumably the syndicate calls upon its associates for the rest of the gold they undertook to supply, because it judges, in view of all these and other circumstances, that occasion may arise for controlling the exchange market or enlarging the Treasury reserve during the next three months. Men of real sagacity in finance do not privately indulge in the notion that all the vicious effects of Democratic legislation have yet been realized, and such men take care to guard against possible reverses by timely precautions. It was humiliating to put the Treasury of the United States into the hands of receivers, and rather costly as well; but to their credit it must be said that they are performing their functions with a measure of prudence and good sense which the Administration has never shown.

WOMEN AS SCHOOL OFFICERS.

Mayor Strong has shown a commendable disposition to bring women into active relations with the school system in this city, by appointing two or three as school inspectors; and a woman was also recently appointed to the office of school trustee. But there are now no women on the Board of Education in New-York, and so far as we know there is no present intention of appointing any. Several such appointments were made a number of years ago, with the hearty approval of most intelligent citizens, but for a variety of reasons the experiment did not fully meet the expectations of those most eager to see it tried. Just where the fault lay is perhaps not quite clear in the public mind, but the fact is not open to dispute.

It is interesting to know that a similar experiment is about to be tried in Brooklyn. Mayor Schieren has been asked to include some women among the appointments he will make to the Board of Education in the course of a few weeks, and has, we understand, signified his intention of doing so. Fifteen appointments—one-third of the Board—are made each year, and the new members enter on their duties the 1st of July. It is known that Mr. Schieren was strongly in favor of naming some women a year ago, but on account of certain political complications in the Board he decided that it would be unwise to follow his impulse in the matter. This year no such reasons exist. How many women will be selected has not yet been determined, but the probabilities are that the number will be either three or five. In our judgment, five would be the preferable number; it would be a fair proportion of the entire number of appointments and would enable the value of women's services in this capacity to be fully tested. One or two women in a Board of forty-five would carry little weight, and would be too small a factor to enable the question of woman's influence on the schools to be determined. But one-third of this year's appointments would constitute an important element in the Board, and would establish a precedent for the appointment of a like number next year, in case the Board of Education is not reorganized in the mean time. Five women would obviously be better than three, though it is possible that the "pressure" in behalf of certain men who desire appointment may be too strong for Mayor Schieren to resist to the extent of leaving five places at his disposal for the proposed experiment. The names of a number of well-qualified women are already under consideration, but in the case of some it is understood that they shrink from the publicity and responsibility which the acceptance of the office will involve.

In the Brooklyn school system as at present constituted women members of the Board of Education will have peculiar opportunities for rendering good service to the community. The experiment will command attention outside of that city. It is to be hoped that the women chosen by Mr. Schieren will possess such great aptitude for the work that future Mayors will feel bound to make similar appointments.

The untiring efforts of Mr. John N. Stewart, member of the Assembly from the IId District, and Mr. Ben L. Fairchild, Congressman, were crowned with success yesterday in the final passage of the Annexation bill, annexing the parks in Westchester County to the City of New-York. This bill, it is reported, has been opposed by all the gambling element in the town of West Chester and vicinity, and its passage through the Legislature has been hindered in every possible way. The Mayor of New-York City should give this bill his immediate approval, and the Governor should sign it. The moral element in the town of West Chester and throughout Westchester County has been in favor of this measure, and it is a triumph for the people over the worst elements in the county. It is fit that these parks should be managed and policed by New-York City, and after a ten years' struggle this end has been gained.

Was Louis F. Payn in contempt of the Senate when he refused to name his principal? Senator O'Connor says there is doubt on the point, and so this soul-harrowing conundrum will go thundering down the ages unanswered.

It is a good thing that a number of bicycle riders have been arrested and fined for riding on the Boulevard without having their lamps lighted. The ordinance on this subject ought to be rigidly enforced in all parts of the city. The cyclist who goes abroad in the evening without a lamp endangers his own safety and that of every other rider whom he comes near. In the case of the crowd taken in on Wednesday night the activity of the police was due to the efforts of a citizen who stirred them up to do their duty. Such an incentive ought not to be necessary. So soon as it is known that the police are alert and in earnest, the dangerous practice will be stopped.

What Spanish troops have to fight in Cuba is an aggressive combination of yellow fever and courageous revolutionists. The chances are that pestilence will destroy more members of the invading army than are slain by rebel bullets.

The failure of the late Democratic Congress to do its duty comes home close to the people when the United States courts are brought to a standstill and deputy marshals can get no pay for months. In the court at Rochester great indignation was expressed by the Marshal, the District-Attorney and Judge Coxe when it was found to be impossible to go on with business. The worst feature of the case is that persons awaiting trial must be kept in prison for six months longer before their cases can be adjudicated. This is a gross outrage. Apparently Congress withheld the needful appropriations from motives of so-called economy. Such economy is dearly bought when justice is delayed, and injustice done, in consequence.

The Treasury deficiency now exceeds $50,000,000, according to Democratic estimates, and it is growing at the rate of nearly $500,000 a day. In the light of these figures the tariff smashers must admit that it is a large and yawning condition, not a theory, that confronts them.

If the people of South Carolina find an orderly and honorable way out of the conflict of authority which has arisen between that State and the Federal courts, it will be because they have the intelligence, patriotism and courage to resist the specious arguments of the reckless demagogue whom they foolishly placed in the office of Governor. South Carolina evidently stands face to face with a great opportunity to prove to the world that she is still loyal to the Constitution and that she cannot be betrayed by fanatics or blatherskites.

The Grand Jury in Brooklyn has before it the determination of the important question whether certain establishments which carry on offensive lines of business along the malodorous Newtown Creek are nuisances in a legal sense. The Newtown Creek problem has not yet been satisfactorily solved, in spite of the numerous attempts made for several years past, though there has been a noticeable improvement in the condition of the creek and its surroundings. Governor Flower last December issued a proclamation against the offending factories, and recently the Sheriff and District-Attorney of Kings County were ordered to close them. In consequence of this order, the Grand Jury has been called on to act. The entire matter has been complicated by the fact that the creek is the dividing line between Kings and Queens counties. When the Greater New-York scheme is perfected it will be wholly within the city limits, and the nuisances, if any then exist, can be much more easily abated.

The American Geographical Society is in a flourishing condition, as is evidenced by the fact that Governor Morton has just signed a bill empowering it to hold real and personal property to the amount of $1,000,000. This does not mean that its present assets approach that figure, but they are close to $300,000, the previous limit fixed for the society, and there is a prospect of their steady increase. One of the society's plans is to erect a fireproof building uptown, but no site has yet been selected. It is creditable to a commercial city like New-York that a society of this kind prospers so well within its borders.

PERSONAL.

The Rev. A. W. Mason, who died the other day in Minneapolis, was next to the oldest Universalist minister in the United States, having been ordained in 1834. The oldest is the Rev. Lucius R. Paige, of Cambridge, Mass., who was ordained in 1825.

John F. Cook, jr., the only negro resident of Bonnerport, Idaho, has just been elected Mayor of the town.

James Young, known as "the King of Pennsylvania farmers," died in Middletown, Penn., on Saturday last, seventy-five years old. In earlier life he made considerable money in business ventures which he invested in farms. "These splendid farms," says "The Philadelphia Record," "are the admiration of all who have seen them. Fences, barns and residences are all nicely painted. Around each farm is a driveway, and Mr. Young would get in his carriage and drive around his farms to inspect them. He kept scores of fine horses and hundreds of cattle. Colonel Young managed his farm on as correct a plan as he would have conducted any other business. His farms all adjoin, and are by far the most valuable in the eastern part of the United States. It was Colonel Young's pleasure to have friends visit him, and his hospitality was exceedingly generous. A register of visits at home contains the names of the Duke of Sutherland, Generals Grant, Sherman and Sheridan, ex-Presidents Rutherford B. Hayes, Arthur and Harrison, Governors, United States Senators, Congressmen and distinguished men in all the walks of life. He was also interested in industrial enterprises, being president of the American Tube Company, a director in the Lochiel Rolling Mill, a director in the Harrisburg, Mount Joy and Lancaster Railroad Company; a director in the Farmers' Bank, of Middletown; in the First National Bank, of Lebanon; in the First National Bank, of Steelton, and in the Merchants' National Bank, of Harrisburg. He was also a director in the Harrisburg Rolling Mills Company, president of the Cameron Furnace Company, a director in the Pennsylvania Steel Works, a director in the Lancaster Electric Railway, and a director in the Harrisburg and Steelton Electric railways. He was made a member of the State Board of Agriculture by Governor Hartranft in 1877, and was still a member of the board at the time of his death. A widow and four children survive him."

Professor Ernst Curtius, the famous Greek scholar, has recovered from his serious illness and, despite his eighty years, will soon begin his duties again at the University of Berlin.

William Hamilton Gibson has just closed his busy lecture season and gone to his country home at Washington, Conn. Beginning with the middle of October last his winter has been exclusively devoted to his lectures on floral evolution, and he expects to devote his summer to water-color painting, illustrated magazine essays, botanizing, the renovation of his well-known mechanical chart models and the preparation of several new ones for the two new lectures which he will add to his list for next season.

Said Dr. Thomas Dunn English, the author of "Ben Bolt," the other day: "I am feeling very well and enjoying life as well as an old man can, but this eternal 'Ben Bolt' business makes me so infernally weary at times that existence becomes a burden. The other night, at a meeting of a medical association at my home in Newark, some one proposed that all hands join in singing 'Ben Bolt,' whereupon I made a rush for the door and came very near forgetting the proprieties by straightway leaving home. However, I recovered my equilibrium and rejoined my friends. I don't think that General Sherman ever grew half so tired of 'Marching Through Georgia' as I have of that creation of mine, and it will be a blessed relief to me when the public shall conclude to let it rest."

WRITERS AND BOOKS.

MR. EDMUND GOSSE AGAIN ON THE GREEDINESS OF AUTHORS—M. ALPHONSE DAUDET'S VISIT TO LONDON—THE "LITERARY AGENT" AND HIS RELATIONS TO AUTHOR AND PUBLISHER—"THE STANDARD DICTIONARY" AND ITS RECEPTION IN ENGLAND.

London, May 4.

Mr. Gosse's remark about the unbridled greediness of great authors bids fair to give rise to a certain amount of literature. "The Chronicle" challenged him to say whom he meant,—who the great writers are who are "killing the goose on which they all lived." To this very direct question Mr. Gosse does not find it convenient to reply. Instead of replying he writes a letter of some thirty lines which is a mere evasion of the question. He complains of the "meagre and fragmentary report" from which his interlocutor quotes. Yet, "having just read over a verbatim report of what I did say," he does not deny the accuracy of the other report. He finds "nothing to explain or retract." It may therefore be taken as conceded that Mr. Gosse did utter the offensive imputation which he declines to explain or retract. He does not think it was offensive. Naturally. He tells us that at this Booksellers' Dinner his speech was listened to by 200 persons—the assumption is charming and characteristic—"among them three or four novelists of great popularity and distinction, each of whom happens to be my personal friend." What has that to do with the matter? He was actuated, moreover, by the best intentions. Most people are, especially when they address disagreeable remarks to 200 people including three or four personal friends. Finally he assures us that "the object, the sole object, of my words, such as they were, was the maintenance of the material prosperity of the author." These rather pompous futilities are all that thus far can be extracted from Mr. Gosse.

It appears, however, that Mr. Gosse is not only an amateur author of the dilettante kind but "reader" to a firm of publishers. It might not be uncharitable, therefore, to assume that when he attacked the authors for greediness, he really held a brief for the publishers, or spoke from their point of view. The publishers, I suppose it may be said without offending them, have long been used to the lion's share of profits. Many of them still are. But of late years the author has understood his rights rather better, and by help of the Authors' Society has even learned something of the mysteries of publishing. He makes a better bargain than he did. The publisher has to concede to him a larger share of the returns. The relations between author and publisher are on a more equitable basis. The publisher, not unnaturally, likes the old times better, and it is Mr. Gosse who gives utterance to his discontent and rebukes the author for being greedy because he no longer submits to whatever terms the publisher chooses to impose on him. An odd rôle for an author, even of the dilettante kind, to play; odder still when Mr. Gosse's after-dinner oratory takes the form of a sweeping invective against authors more successful than he, and holding less intimate relations to the publisher.

There is some danger, moreover, lest a further discussion arise on the question, who are great authors. "The Chronicle," which is capable of "unbridled" enthusiasms, names Mr. Lecky, Mr. Ruskin, Mr. Meredith, Mr. John Morley, Mr. Hardy, Mr. Blackmore and—Mr. Gissing! These, cries the Editor of the Third Page in a fine Papal tone, are great writers. The word "great" is used with looseness. Out of the whole seven would any judicious critic care to affirm that more than one is really a great writer? Mr. Ruskin is, on the whole, probably entitled to be called great. But if you are going to include Mr. Hardy, Mr. Blackmore and Mr. Gissing why not Mr. Gosse himself? Mr. Lecky is an eminent historian whose style is adequate to the subject and no more. Mr. John Morley is a student, a thinker, really a man of letters and a writer of high merit; not a great writer. Mr. Meredith has extraordinary gifts, among which the power of writing good or even tolerable English cannot be included. But as Mr. Gosse speaks of great writers with the same licentiousness which might characterize even a writer for the press, he may well enough have had any or all of these authors in mind. At any rate, he must have had somebody in mind; perhaps, as "The Chronicle" suggests, writers who, if not great, have great sales; Mr. Kipling, Mr. Marion Crawford, Mr. Conan Doyle, and other heroes of the circulating library. Clearly, he ought not to let them all rest under such an imputation if he means only some. To be publicly censured by Mr. Gosse is a fate which only some gross form of iniquity can really deserve.

M. Alphonse Daudet's visit to London seems likely to occur within a few days. He has been much heralded and interviewed. The French press discusses his going as if he were bound for Central Africa. The English press discusses his coming as if he were a Siamese Prince, or an envoy from another planet. M. Daudet himself plainly regards his journey as an adventure entitling him to the prayers of the pious in all the churches. "My preparations," he cries in tragic tones, "are at last complete." There is some justification for the tragic tones if you reflect that he travels with a whole caravan of relations and attendants; his wife, his mother-in-law, his brother, I think, certainly his son and his son's wife and his secretary and I know not how many more. An Englishman would make less fuss if he were setting out for the Malay Peninsula. To a Frenchman, and perhaps to a French writer most of all, the fuss is part of the attraction. He likes to feel that the eyes of his countrymen are on him as he buys his ticket at the Gare du Nord or bends over his basin on the Channel steamer. He firmly believes that he is to encounter unknown perils. He has certainly made his will and taken leave of his friends with a solemnity befitting one who departs and knows not whether he shall ever return. To him, as to most of his countrymen, a journey of eight hours, four of them beyond the confines of his native land, is an event. He thinks of himself as a rival to Stanley and a worthy successor to the Abbé Huc. The English are amused but keep their countenances and they are quite prepared to welcome a distinguished writer without scrutinizing his foibles, and to lionize him to his heart's content.

M. Daudet's most intimate friend in England seems to be an eminent American, Mr. Henry James, to whom M. Daudet consigns himself, as he explains in his interview. But there are many literary societies which will be only too glad to pour out their homage at the Frenchman's feet. The Institute of Journalists, which grovelled before M. Zola, may be expected to offer a better deserved tribute to M. Daudet. I hope they will, but whether they do or not the memory of their melancholy mistake remains. M. Daudet has once more taken pains to make it clear that he is not a