Amusements.

ABBEY'S—8:15—A Pair of Spectacles.
ACADEMY OF MUSIC—8:15—Humanity.
AMERICAN THEATRE—8—Miles Aroon.
BIJOU—8:15—The Widow Jones.
BROADWAY THEATRE—8:15—El Capitan.
CARNEGIE CHAMBER MUSIC HALL—8:15—Red Fan Recital.
COLUMBUS THEATRE—8:15—The Great Diamond Robbery.
EMPIRE THEATRE—8:20—Bohemia.
EDEN MUSEE—Concert.
FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE—8—The Speculator.
GARDEN THEATRE—8:30—His Absent Boy.
GARRICK THEATRE—8:30—Thoroughbred.
GRACE M. E. CHURCH, West 104th St., Near Columbus Ave.—8—Lecture on Abraham Lincoln.
GRAND OPERA HOUSE—8—Coon Hollow.
HARLEM OPERA HOUSE—8:15—Trilby.
HERALD SQUARE THEATRE—8:15—The Heart of Maryland.
HOYT'S THEATRE—8:30—A Black Sheep.
IRVING PLACE THEATRE—8:15—College Crampton.
KOSTER & BIAL'S—8—Vaudeville.
LYCEUM THEATRE—8:15—The Prisoner of Zenda.
MADISON SQUARE GARDEN—2—8—Circus.
METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE—8—Aida.
NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DESIGN—Day and Evening—Exhibition.
OLYMPIA—8:15—Marguerite.
PASTOR'S—12:30 to 11 p. m.—Vaudeville.
PROCTOR'S PLEASURE PALACE—12-12 midnight—Vaudeville.
SOCIETY OF AMERICAN ARTISTS, 215 West 57th St.—Day and evening—Exhibition.
STANDARD THEATRE—8:15—Chimmie Fadden.
STAR THEATRE—8—The Last Stroke.
TROCADERO MUSIC HALL—2-8—Vaudeville.
14TH STREET THEATRE—8:15—The Village Postmaster.

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AT BRANCH OFFICES.

Advertisements received at regular office rates until 8 p. m., viz.: 254 8th-ave., s. e. cor. 23d-st.; 152 6th-ave., cor. 12th-st.; 142 Columbus-ave., near West 66th-st.; 2d West 42d-st., near 6th-ave.; 62 East 14th-st.; 231 West 42d-st., between 7th and 8th aves.; 159 East 47th-st.; 1,338 3d-ave., between 76th and 77th sts.; 1,026 3d-ave., near 61st-st.; 1,708 1st-ave., near 89th-st.; 69 3d-ave., near 41st-st.; 554 3d-ave.; 325 Bleecker-st.; 2,908 3d-ave.; 240 East 79th-st.; 1,921 3d-ave.; 2,662 3d-ave.; 95 Amsterdam-ave.; 402 West 42d-st.; 48 East 16th-st.; 203 East 48th-st.; 856 9th-ave.; 651 9th-ave.; 1,152 3d-ave., near 67th-st.; 204 East 86th-st.; 1,620 Broadway; 1,563 3d-ave.; 129 8th-ave.; 1,318 2d-ave.; 753 6th-ave.

New-York Daily Tribune.

FOUNDED BY HORACE GREELEY.

TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 1896.

SIXTEEN PAGES

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN.—The Governor of Yakutsk reports nothing is known about Dr. Nansen by the inhabitants of Ust-Yansk or the ivory seekers on the New-Siberian Islands, this pretty thoroughly discredits the story that the Doctor had found the North Pole. ═══ Juan Urraide San Martin, accused of being the man who robbed August Belmont & Co. of $24,000, is being taken from Spain to Havana. ═══ A bill providing for the Reduction of Rates on Agricultural Land was introduced in the House of Commons and passed to its first reading with much opposition from the Liberals. ═══ There was a debate on the question of Government interference in duelling in the German Reichstag.

CONGRESS.—Both branches in session. ═══ Senate: No progress was made on any of the measures under consideration. ═══ House: The General Deficiency bill, the last of the great appropriation bills, was passed.

DOMESTIC.—Governor Morton signed the Armstrong Bicycle Baggage bill. ═══ Patriots' Day, in commemoration of the battle of Lexington, was celebrated in New-England. ═══ The Hotel Men's Mutual Benefit Association held its annual banquet at Coronado, Cal. ═══ A mass-meeting in favor of McKinley for President was held at Syracuse, N. Y. ═══ A tornado in Ohio killed and injured a number of people and did much damage to property. ═══ A report from Miss Clara Barton, giving an account of the gratifying progress of relief work in Armenia, was received in Washington.

CITY AND SUBURBAN.—The case of Mrs. Mary Alice Almont Fleming, who is accused of poisoning her mother, was put over till the May Term of the Criminal Branch of the Supreme Court, as District-Attorney Fellows declared that the people's case was not yet ready. ═══ Correspondence between Ballington Booth and his father, General Booth, was made public. ═══ The Daughters of the American Revolution opened a loan exhibition of revolutionary relics. ═══ The Daughters of the Revolution celebrated the anniversary of the Battle of Lexington at Delmonico's. ═══ Affidavits were made before Recorder Goff on which it is proposed to secure the extradition of the Burden jewel thieves now held in London. ═══ The anniversary dinner of the 7th Regiment was held at Sherry's. ═══ Stocks were strong and active.

THE WEATHER.—Forecast for to-day: Fair, followed by local showers. Temperature yesterday: Highest, 78 degrees; lowest, 68; average, 72½.

There is no denying that the House of Representatives has made a fine record in the transaction of its business. Yesterday the last of the general appropriation bills was passed, although it is barely four months since the committees were named by Speaker Reed. If an early adjournment is not taken it will not be the fault of the House. And there is no reason so far as the public business is concerned why the Senate should show a disposition to prolong the session. A short session is invariably a creditable session. There is a splendid chance to make the present session brief. Why should the "deliberative branch" insist on extending it?

A detailed report of the work done in Armenia by Miss Barton and her coadjutors has been received at the headquarters of the American Red Cross, showing that much has been accomplished in the way of alleviating the distress prevailing among the victims of the Turkish persecutions. Not only has the Porte put no obstacles in the way of the relief agents, but it has given Miss Barton the most solemn pledge that there shall be no interference with her representatives. The success of the relief efforts gives special point to the recent statement of the Armenian Relief Committee that much more money than has been subscribed is needed. The Red Cross, it is well to remember, makes no appeal for funds, but simply acts as the almoner of the relief provided by others.

On the eve of the day fixed for the passage of the Greater New-York bill by the now familiar "jamming" process there was considerable doubt, at least in this city, as to whether the scheme of the Republican Boss would be carried through. The doubt did not exist in the vicinity of the Fifth Avenue Hotel, but in other quarters it was credibly reported that a large majority of the Tammany Assemblymen would refuse to vote for the bill. In that case it is hard to see where the votes to pass it will come from. It could not have been passed without Tammany's help before, and while four Republicans opposed it in the Senate on its first passage, the opposition increased to eleven when it was taken up the second time. From present indications the fate of the measure is uncertain, and no prediction as to the action of the Assembly can be made.

Governor Morton has signed the Armstrong bill, which provides that bicycles shall be regarded as baggage by the common carriers of the State, and his action will cause great rejoicing among wheelmen, not only in New-York, but throughout the country. It is altogether probable that other States will not be slow to follow the good example set here. The fact that the bill was passed in both Senate and Assembly by an almost unanimous vote must have warned the Governor that if he vetoed the measure he would simply invite the overriding of the veto by the Legislature. The result is a conspicuous triumph for Mr. Isaac B. Potter, the Chief Consul for this State of the League of American Wheelmen, who has labored diligently to secure the enactment of the bill.

DOES BOSS RULE PAY?

It now seems probable that the Republican Legislature of 1896 will be known and remembered, first, by the fact that no Legislature of this generation—or of any other, for that matter—was ever so absolutely dominated and controlled by the will of one man. In saying this we do not forget that we have had such Bosses as Tweed and Kelly and Croker, who seemed in their time to be potential; in possession of all the sources of power in this county and in the State. But each of these had limitations. They were open to suggestion and advice from the leading statesmen of their party, whom they recognized at least as equals, whose counsels they both solicited and followed. Tweed, for instance, had his Horatio Seymour, Kelly his Tilden and Croker his David B. Hill; and in no one of these cases did the Boss assume to control the action or direct the policy of the official and titular head of the party. None of these had the audacity to undertake to dictate to the Governor, or influence legislation, except in perfect accordance with the Governor's will and purpose. Our present Boss bears, "like the Turk, no brother near the throne." No one man in the Republic has ever in all its history so definitely and unmistakably repeated in his conduct and acts the boast of the Grand Monarch, "I am the State." That is the first distinctive fact by which this Legislature and this State administration will be remembered. And it is a fact worthy the serious consideration of the average Republican voter.

The second salient feature of the Legislature by which it bids fair to be remembered will probably be that its two principal measures of legislation were the Raines excise law and the act consolidating New-York, Brooklyn and other outlying districts in the Greater New-York. Both passed at command of the Boss by the suppression of individual opinions of members of the Legislature, and both approved by the Governor under the same dictation. The excise law is already in operation, and we are able to form some judgment of its probable scope and effect, and its influence upon public opinion in future elections. It was passed with the ostensible design of promoting temperance, but, as was freely admitted, for the real purpose of strengthening the Republican party—meaning thereby the ruling faction of the party. Will it accomplish either of these ends? Let us see. And let us begin the inquiry with an examination into its origin and the causes that led up to it. First of all, is it such a measure as the Republican party was committed to in its platform, or such as it had in any way manifested a willingness to make an issue in the State election?

Most assuredly not. On the contrary, it is of common notoriety and official record that the very men who carried the measure through under the whip and spur of the caucus were those who stood in a cold shiver at the State Convention in front of the only phase of the excise question which had been under discussion, and deliberately resolved to dodge it. Warner Miller rebuked their cowardice and brought them to their senses, so that upon his demand they did go so far as to say that the Sunday laws against liquor-selling should be maintained and enforced. Even then they hesitated to stand by what in a momentary burst of courage they had agreed to. In this county, under the lead of one of the most active of those who afterward forced the Raines law through as a party measure, they took the back track and tried to make it appear that the resolution of the convention meant nothing, and that a Republican Legislature, if elected, would not only refuse to pass a law in the spirit of that resolution, but would actually legislate in favor of more liberal Sunday laws. That was politics—Platt-Lauterbach politics. Was it honest politics? The people will have to answer that question hereafter.

And then what? Why then, the result of the State election having made it clear that the voters of the whole State favored the cause of temperance in so far as the maintenance of the Sunday closing laws was concerned, these cunning politicians said to themselves that here was an opportunity for using the manifest trend of public sentiment in favor of temperance legislation for their own purposes. Hence the Raines law as a party measure. Had they desired to carry out the resolution of the State Convention, it was easy enough to prevent Sunday liquor-selling by enacting the one provision of this Raines law which has proved effective. The provision that all licensed saloons should have their interiors exposed to public view in the prohibited hours was enough for that. But there was an opportunity to strengthen the machine in addition, and that could not be neglected. A loosely drawn bill, complicated and contradictory in its details, has been passed. The citizens of this town saw it in operation on Sunday last. By common consent it is a failure so far as the restriction of the Sunday liquor traffic is concerned. It has not so much as mitigated, to say nothing of cured, the evils of that miserable business. The one thing it has accomplished is to put on the State payrolls a parcel of heelers and dependents of the very men who in the last State Convention opposed committing the Republican party to the simple proposition that all laws should be enforced. And now what? Has the party been strengthened? Not much. The advocates of temperance legislation can see nothing in the operation of this law that promotes either temperance or morals, and the Republican saloon supporters and saloonkeepers—for there are such—are disgusted with the attempt to make political capital at their expense.

And the consolidation bill, about to be passed under the same dictation over the vetoes of the Republican Mayors of New-York and Brooklyn—will that help the party much? These are the two distinctive measures of a Republican Legislature and a Republican State administration; both controlled as never before by a single man. And it is said that they will strengthen the party. We shall see.

LAST DAYS AT ALBANY.

The Legislature has only eight working days of its session left, according to the accepted programme for adjournment on April 30. This is supposed to be as long a time as is needed for the completion of indispensable public business and for carrying out various special arrangements, including the Greater New-York bill. If no part of the machinery is thrown out of gear by accident or design, there will probably be little difficulty about getting ready for adjournment at the appointed time, and certainly the people are not desirous of a longer session. It is too late for the introduction of any new jobs of large dimensions which would be sure to attract attention and require the forcing process to bring them to maturity; but there are some mischievous bills already on their way to enactment which ought to be watched closely, and it is not improbable that others which have not yet been found out are only waiting for a favorable opportunity to slide through without observation amid the confusion of the last few days.

There are members in each branch who can be trusted to expose any trick which they detect, whether money or the machine is behind it, but there is danger that they will not be alert enough at every moment to see all that is going on. We hope, however, that some of them will make it their special business to watch every item of legislation from this time forward to the end. It is almost invariably discovered after adjournment, perhaps too late to affect the action of the Executive, that bills have been passed which nobody is able, or willing, to account for. They are not necessarily bad by design; they may be merely ill-considered, but that is not very consoling when they are found to be irrational and vexatious. In the majority of cases, moreover, these unproclaimed measures are as sly as they are obscure, serving some selfish purpose, private or political, and owing their adoption to the secret activity of manipulators who do not work for nothing. These last days of the session are the hope and opportunity of the lobby, which always rejoices when some strenuously contested measure like the Greater New-York bill absorbs attention. We earnestly commend this duty of persistent watchfulness to the consciences of members who are not only honest in a pecuniary sense, but who have no taste for the operation known as log-rolling.

THE REPUBLICAN RECORD.

The meanest of untruths is the distortion or partial statement or dishonest interpretation of facts. A vast amount of such stuff has lately appeared regarding the record of Governor McKinley on the silver question, which may mislead those who have not a clear recollection of events. As no candidate ought to be nominated or defeated by misrepresentation, and the whole truth can only hurt those who ought to be hurt, it is well that the record itself, to which Mr. McKinley always appeals, is sufficient to inform those who examine it.

It may be assumed that, in common with most Republicans of the West, Major McKinley at first believed that free coinage of silver, as it had existed without opposition from 1834 to 1873, was both safe and wise; that the sudden increase in American production of silver after 1872, which had not begun and was not imagined by anybody when the act of 1873 was passed, would prove but temporary, and that the decline in silver bullion, which was only about 8 per cent when the Bland bill was first passed, November 5, 1877, would be followed by speedy recovery if the United States should reopen its mints. He certainly represented the almost universal opinion of his constituents, and presumably his own opinion, in voting for that measure at that time. It could not have been known then, and did not become known until the next February, by the issue of the Wells-Fargo report after the Bland-Allison bill had finally passed both houses, that the production of silver had increased in 1877 to $45,846,100, against $39,202,924 in 1876, and less than $20,000,000 in each of the years 1871 and 1872.

The Senate was forced to choose, about three months later, in February, 1878, between a full free-coinage bill and one giving larger but yet subsidiary use to silver by restricted coinage. It passed the Allison bill, under which coinage was in fact limited to $2,000,000 per month, in the belief that this would at least be harmless, whereas unless such a measure was passed free coinage would pass both houses over a veto. In the House Major McKinley voted with most other Republicans, February 21, for this bill also, and the vote stood 204 to 72 in its favor. This measure marked the second stage of Republican opinion—namely, that remonetization of silver should be sought by international agreement, and meanwhile the use of silver in this country should be increased, so far as it could be, without endangering the soundness of the currency or the maintenance of the gold standard established in 1873. The immediate effect was to raise the price of silver in London 2 cents in a week, from 53.87 pence per ounce to 55 pence, which had been the price when the Bland bill first passed the House in November. But the increase in silver production continued, and the price declined 10 per cent more before the end of that year.

For twelve years the Allison bill remained in force, and the soundness of the currency was at no time seriously doubted by anybody. It is proof enough that 4 per cent registered bonds of 1907, worth 101 February 1, 1878, were worth 123.62 February 1, 1890, and in the month before the McKinley act went into effect Government had to pay 126 for about $17,000,000 of them. The silver act of 1890 originated in its essential features with Secretary Windom, who prepared the bill reported and passed in the House. The free-coinage majority in the Senate, by a vote of 37 Democrats and 15 Republicans, against 22 Republicans and 2 Democrats, passed a free-coinage bill instead. A conference committee then reported the substitute which embodied Secretary Windom's plan of issuing notes against only the bullion value of silver received, stopped silver coinage, and pledged the public faith to maintenance of the parity of gold and other forms of currency. This bill passed with 122 Republicans in favor and 90 Democrats against it. Under it the price of silver rose August 20 to 120.75, and at London to 54.62 pence per ounce, the highest point it had touched in twelve years. Many began to believe that the silver men might be sustained, and that the metal might be raised to par with gold by the United States alone. Yet the trial resulted in complete failure and in lower prices than ever, and nothing else has ever done so much to sweep from the minds of men the silver fanaticism as has been done by this practical test.

It is not necessary to go beyond the public record which proves that free coinage was twice defeated by the united action of Republicans, first in 1878 with the vote of Major McKinley when restricted coinage was voted, and again when all coinage was stopped in 1890 by the act which required a gold dollar's worth of bullion behind every note issued, and pledged the maintenance of the gold standard of value. For thirty years the Democratic party has been casting a heavy majority for free coinage on every occasion in Congress, and has been aided by a fraction of the Republicans, thus often obtaining a majority in one house or the other. The struggle of the Republican party for the last twenty years has been to defeat, and its glory is that it has defeated, this conspiracy of Democrats with others of any party who would aid in destroying the soundness of the currency. In that struggle and victory Major McKinley has steadily acted with the great majority of Republicans on every vote and enactment, from the passing of the Allison limited-coinage bill in 1878 down to the stopping of all coinage forever in 1890.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN CRISIS.

More British troops are evidently needed in South Africa. The Matabele revolt is more serious than was at first supposed, and while no desperate fighting is to be looked for, a considerable force and some sharp work will be required for the restoration of order. The whole region from the Orange River to the Zambesi needs more thorough policing than it has now, especially since there are various anti-British influences at work provoking revolt whenever and wherever possible. Even in Cape Colony and Natal an increase of garrisons will serve a wholesome purpose. The anti-British party there has been perniciously active of late, and a visible reminder of imperial authority would be most timely, unless the Government at Westminster is willing to let those colonies get into the condition of the Transvaal.

Mr. Chamberlain is made of different stuff from the men who managed those affairs fifteen or sixteen years ago. He appreciates the need and he intends to supply it. That he will be deterred from sending troops to South Africa by either the "bluffing" of Paul Krüger or the timorous remonstrances of Sir Hercules Robinson is scarcely conceivable. The latter gentleman has not been so conspicuously successful in governing the Cape that his counsel will prove omnipotent, while as for the former, his protests against such action are just about the best possible reason for sending troops to South Africa at once. Either Mr. Krüger is a British subject and President of a British colony or dependency, or he is the head of an alien and independent State. If the former, he ought to welcome the sending of troops, which are sorely needed to keep order in the territories abutting upon the Transvaal. If the latter, he has no more business to protest than the President of Mexico would have to object to our sending a regiment to Arizona to suppress an Indian outbreak.

The fact probably is that Mr. Krüger is playing some deep game, with which he fears the British reinforcements may interfere. A great lot of German soldiers and officers are being smuggled into the Transvaal, and arms and ammunition from the same source. There has been much hobnobbing, too, between Dutch leaders in the Transvaal, the Orange Free State, the Cape and Natal, and some open thgeats have been made of a general Boer revolt against British rule throughout all South Africa. President Krüger may not be involved in any such plot. But he must be cognizant of it, and if he were not in sympathy with it he would not resist the taking of measures to thwart it. The time is apparently at hand for deciding whether South Africa is to remain British or to revert to Boer rule. The problem can be decided in only one way; but that will be accomplished the more easily the more promptly the British Government takes hold of it in earnest.

THE DUTY OF THE WHEELMEN'S LEAGUE.

It is obvious thus early in the open-air season that the multiplication of bicycles in the streets of New-York is going to involve serious dangers and annoyances unless the ordinances affecting their use are strictly enforced. Thousands of persons recklessly wheel about town every day who are not skilful enough to ride in busy thoroughfares with safety to themselves or others. It is a pity that they are ready to take such chances of doing and receiving injury, but we suppose they are within their legal rights so long as they obey regulations which are none too strict for experts. We are glad to see the police so generally vigilant and active, but at the best they can do comparatively little by themselves. The courts can do more by inflicting the maximum penalty in every case brought before them, but still the expectation of escape will be greater than the probability of punishment, and so the mischief will continue unless a stronger public sentiment can be brought to bear.

We are inclined to think that the League of American Wheelmen can do more than courts or police to diminish this evil. Its membership is very large, and the advantages of belonging to it are such as to make their forfeiture a serious loss. The League is now so strong that it can take an important part in compelling obedience to the laws, and can well afford to treat with just severity all offenders for whom it is in a measure responsible.

CITY AND COUNTRY ANTAGONISMS.

The isolation of great cities, their want of influence in public affairs even for the defence of their own gravest interests, their frequent antagonism to those interests which most powerfully control the action of the people as a whole, and the general lack of sympathy and comprehension which makes it hard for city men to guess the tendency of public opinion and purpose beyond the city limits, have often been observed with deep regret by the ablest students of municipal problems. They see that when the welfare of the city most completely depends upon understanding of the public temper and ability to anticipate it, just then the great cities are most prone to act as if utterly in the dark, and separated by wide oceans from the millions whose decision affects municipal welfare. But the causes of this mental and moral isolation are not often thoroughly considered.

On the surface there are the wide differences in customs, in habits of display and fondness for excitement and amusement, and in prevalence and toleration of vices, and to many these things go far to account for a separation in mental habits which borders on antagonism. Naturally, direct antagonism does often arise when legislation is in question which restricts customs especially tolerated in cities, and the mind is apt to attribute other antagonism, political and financial, to this occasional clashing between rural and civic habits of life. But there are much deeper causes.

The occupations of men determine to a great extent their mental attitudes. The cities are the centres of trade and transportation. The greatest of all productive occupations, that of agriculture, is omitted, and less than a third of the males employed in manufacture are to be found in the fifty largest cities of the country, but 40 per cent of all the persons employed in trade and transportation. In the fifty cities nearly a third of all the males are so employed, and, counting the assistants and servants they pay, more than half of all the males. But outside the fifty cities not one-twelfth of the males are engaged in trade and transportation, and over three-quarters in agriculture and manufacturing, the great producing departments. The personal and professional class may be regarded, with respect to natural associations and leanings, as divided in like proportion, so that it is for practical purposes sufficiently accurate to say that productive industry supports nine-tenths of the males outside the fifty cities, and trade and transportation only one-tenth. But in the fifty cities trade and transportation support more than half of all the males.

This involves a tremendous difference in the way of looking at all sorts of questions. The producing classes, for illustration, care greatly for those National policies and questions upon which the success of productive industry depends. But the bankers and traders are exceedingly apt to think that the money, which is the instrument they chiefly use and the immediate end of their efforts, is infinitely more important. The cities are apt to care much for profits, but the rest of the country more for wages. The excitements and risks of trades tinge the whole life of one class, and keep ever alive the feverish desire for excitement and amusement. The steady but sure results of patient industry give a different tone to the life of the producing classes. It will be seen at once that the resulting divergence extends to almost all relations and issues, so that constant want of mental understanding and sympathy is almost inevitable. What its natural consequences are every day's record of political or business life will help to explain.

Raines law hotels bid fair to be a prominent feature of the last lustrum of the nineteenth century. They are hotels in name only, and yet they appear to fulfil the legal requirement, while at the same time affording their proprietors an unlimited opportunity to dispense drinks on the first day of the week, in connection with the bogus "meals" which many of them furnish.

The bunco game proposed by a Democratic Congressman for an "amicable split" in the Democratic National Convention is, after all, logical and strongly to be commended. In Missouri they are putting Bland forward as a candidate on a free silver platform, while in New-York they are proclaiming that the only financial salvation of the country is to be found in unquestioned belief in the sound-money principles of the Democracy. It really does not matter which faction prevails. The pea will not be found under the thimble.

The bicycle policeman continues to do his duty. In the latest example that has come to hand, when his machine was smashed, he seized that of a bystander without waiting to ask leave and was in instant pursuit of his flying quarry, which he brought down with neatness and dispatch.

The bill to convey to a lot of private speculators a hundred acres of the lower part of the Central Park, and to make the control of that handsome slice of territory independent of any existing city ordinances is rather amusing in its gigantesque and colossal impudence; but it serves as an illustration of the depredations with which the municipal pleasure grounds are constantly menaced, and from which they have to be guarded with perpetual vigilance. The bill introduced by Senator Coggeshall, but dropped by him like a hot potato as soon as public attention was drawn to it, bears the names of L. Boyer, V. A. Boyer and A. C. Fisher, as incorporators. Their effrontery entitles them to a monument, and the brass they have exhibited would furnish the material for one as big as the Goddess of Liberty or the Colossus of Rhodes.

Mayor Strong's objection to the pending Consolidation scheme is simply an objection to buying a pig in a bag. It is a sound, valid, and convincing objection, and it ought to prevail.

Although Von Kotze is the most implacable master of ceremonies ever heard of, there are no flies on his politeness, and the survivor of his late antagonist, Von Schraeder, must have contemplated the floral wreath sent by him to decorate the obsequies of the latter, with a variety of emotions. There are something like a baker's dozen of high Court officials and unattached noblemen who stand in succession to the now expunged Von Schraeder, awaiting from the unappeasable Von Kotze a similar fate and a similar mortuary ornament, and it must be a melancholy consolation to all of them that after they have been killed their adversary will signify by a mourning emblem his sense of their worth and deservings. It is true that in the procession of these somewhat hazardous experiments he may himself become a candidate for funeral ornaments, but after the example he has set, the foeman would be but a churl who would refuse to his obsequies any arrangement of cut flowers within the compass of the florist's art.

Several queer bills, which were sliding through the Legislature without friction, have been at least temporarily side-tracked during the last fortnight. We have no doubt that there are others still moving noiselessly along on which the brakes ought to be put.

There is a difference of opinion among the officials of the Custom House as to whether holy water ought or ought not to pay a duty. Deputy Collector Esterbrook inclines to the opinion that it ought to sustain a levy of 10 per cent, while Special Deputy Naval Officer Gurley maintains that, being natural spring water, it should come in free. The question will no doubt have to be passed upon by the Secretary of the Treasury, and a copper-bottomed, brass-riveted precedent established strong enough to hold away from the boiling point of controversy and the ebullitions of Custom House opinion all the holy water which we may hereafter find it necessary to import. To the economist it would no doubt appear advantageous to encourage the home production of this important fluid; but there may be reasons not known to professors of the dismal science or to laymen in general why this is impracticable. In adjusting its relations to the revenue it might be a suitable occasion to consider the fluid in all its bearings and aspects when it might not be found to differ so greatly from ordinary water as to justify an impost or even importation.

Morrison's friends are reported to be uneasy, on account of the opposition to him which is being made on the part of the Administration. They should not worry overmuch. The Democratic nomination is still going a-begging, and pretty soon Morrison may be thanking his stars that he didn't get it.

It is not at all likely that Benjamin B. Odell will succeed in pulling the wool over the eyes of our Republican neighbors in Brooklyn by his assumption of opposition to the consolidation scheme. The thing bears too plainly the earmarks of a put-up job. That Odell is acting by and with the advice and consent of Platt is in every way probable, and that he stands high in Platt's favor as a candidate for the Gubernatorial nomination next fall is not in the least doubtful. The people of Brooklyn are able to see through a grindstone, and they will be able to see through the Platt-Odell game without difficulty.

PERSONAL.

After trying for several months, the trustees of the Fullerton Avenue Presbyterian Church, of Chicago, have persuaded the Rev. J. A. Ronthaler, of Indianapolis, to become the pastor of the church, and he will enter upon his duties on May 1.

According to "The Pontifical Annual," which has just been issued, there still remain six cardinals in the Sacred College created by Pope Pius IX. They are Cardinals Mertel, Parrochi, Oreglia, Ledochowski, De Canossa and Hohenlohe. Cardinal Mertel, the senior, is now ninety years old, and Cardinal de Canossa, the next oldest, is eighty-seven. The youngest Cardinal, according to the book, is the Cardinal Svampa, who is only forty-five.

Miss Darida Harper, a daughter of President Harper, of the University of Chicago, was initiated the other day as a member of the Esoteric Club, the women's secret society of the University, and "The Chicago Tribune" says that the members took advantage of her position to inflict upon her many new and grotesque requirements. In the morning she was compelled to go to her classes carrying a huge market basket, wearing an immense straw hat of the umbrella pattern, gorgeously bedecked with long streamers of green and yellow ribbon. A little later she was seen promenading up and down the campus in the hot sunshine arrayed in fur cap, boa, muff, mittens and ear muffs. Another change followed, and she came out in a calico dress of bright and varied hue. At one time she pushed a little wheelbarrow containing a diminutive yellow pup and a choice collection of disabled dolls. Next she tripped across the grassy sward carrying a green lantern in one hand and a bird cage in the other, and once she made a flying trip ringing a cowbell and pulling after her a toy wagon filled with bricks.

One of the most popular members of the diplomatic corps of Berlin is Viscount Sitiso Aoki, the Japanese Minister to Germany and now also to England. He went first to Berlin in 1873 as a secretary, and while there won the hand of the Baroness Elisabeth von Rahden, the daughter of an old and noble house. They have one child, a daughter, now sixteen years old. The Minister has occupied many places of trust in the service of his country.

In speaking of the late Edwin Pardridge, the best speculator, "The Chicago Tribune" says: "As soon on the floor, he was a modest, unassuming man, and there was nothing about him that suggested brilliancy, characteristic of the average plunger. While he could play like a wizard with millions of dollars as if they were so many pennies, he was one of the most plainly dressed men on the floor. His most pronounced characteristic was dogged determination, but it never expressed itself in his face. He never appeared excited, and was the last man to attract the attention of visitors who saw him on the floor or in the corridors. Frequently he traded in the pit in person, but generally he stood apart on the floor and directed his numerous brokers, who were in the pit, by signalling to them. In the memorable days of the panic, when wheat was declining sometimes one and two cents a day, it was a familiar sight to observe Mr. Pardridge walking unconcernedly about the exchange, with his eyes on the floor, never looking up except to wave his hand to his dozen or more brokers in the pit, either to start them to selling like mad or buying in his wheat on some big bulge. Mr. Pardridge had few intimate friends on the Board, but this was principally because he didn't care much about casual friends. Scores of traders to-day remember vividly times when they were broke and how Ed Pardridge was the man who 'staked' them. These kind acts he was accustomed to do almost rudely, and after he had done a man a favor he never cared to have it spoken of again."

THE DRAMA—MUSIC.

NEW PLAY AT THE GARRICK.

"THOROUGHBRED."

Mr. Ralph Lumley's whimsical play of "Thoroughbred" was acted last night at the Garrick Theatre, for the first time in America, and it was received with auspicious favor by a crowd of pleased observers. In London this play was presented last autumn at Toole's Theatre, and Mr. Toole impersonated the amiable Mayor of Upcomb, and gave an excellent performance,—for he was droll without effort, and he was winning in his broad simplicity. The essential fibre of the character is amiability, and the vesture of it is comic repression. Mayor Rimple likes an innocent frolic, but he is just a little afraid of his formidable wife. His resource, therefore, is occasional subterfuge; but it is all good-natured, clean, and well-meant, and there is no taint of harshness in it. Mr. Dixey, who played the part, at the Garrick, is comic in it, but he is self-consciously and aggressively comic; his waggishness is sophisticated; his demeanor is executive rather than meek; and as he lacks simplicity he seems not to be at all in earnest. The performance was of course effective, as that of a clever actor, bent on giving amusement; it was not an impersonation. The piece commingles merriment with sentimental interest, and it diversifies manners with the extravagancies of farce. At the end of act first Mayor Rimple, in order to serve a friend, has bought a racehorse,—himself and wife having avowed a special horror of races. At the end of act second they have met at Ascot, each having come there upon the invitation of an American friend, and each supposing the other to be at home.

The sentimental part of the piece concerns itself with the loves of the Hon. Mr. Carlingham and Miss Delia Rimple, the Mayor's daughter, and the Hon. Miss Carlingham and the American, Mr. A. V. Decker; but that portion of the fabric is not much above the plane of insipidity. Mr. Lumley's views of American character are quite of the rudimentary order. Mr. Robert Edeson, however, invested the part of Decker with precisely that curious self-assertive quality which marks so many Americans when they are in foreign countries,—a quality which probably springs out of their resentment of the caste system and their eager desire to be observed. It is more noticeable in Paris even than it is in London. Mr. Fritz Williams especially distinguished himself as Carlingham, and Mr. H. M. Pitt, as Lord Sandachre, denoted, by the admirable form and finish of his impersonation of the kindly aristocrat, that the old fire still burns upon the altar of art. Mr. Pitt, Mrs. Whiffen, and Mr. Humphreys alone preserved the English character of the play. Mr. Dixey was three thousand miles from any resemblance to anything English; but Mr. Dixey is easily comic, and in the last act, which drops to the negro minstrel vein, he was excellent and decidedly effective. "Thoroughbred" has arrived at the right time and the right place, and it will refresh our public with innocent mirth and laughter for many nights. This is the cast:

John Rimple, Mayor of Upcomb.....Henry E. Dixey
Lord Sandachre.....H. M. Pitt
Hon. Blenkinsopp Carlingham.....Fritz Williams
A. V. Decker.....Robert Edeson
Herbie Nizzil.....William Norris
Jeb Tosh.....Joseph Humphreys
Jennings.....Cecil Kingston
Wokeham.....Arthur Boyle
Benson.....Charles Young
Hon. Wilhelmania Carlingham.....Agnes Miller
Polly Decker.....Lucile Kane
Mrs. Rimple.....Mrs. Whiffen
Delia Rimple.....Jessie Busley

AT THE IRVING PLACE THEATRE.

In his performance of "Colleague Crampton" at the Irving Place Theatre last night, Georg Engels, the eminent German player, gave added proof of his versatility. The play is rather a series of pictures than a drama, and of pictures of the deepest sombreness. Herr Engels enacts a professor in an art academy, whom drink has driven to mental collapse. The opportunities afforded him are excellent, and he made admirable use of them. The play, however, is a thoroughly depressing one, the pathetic vagaries of the old man in the presence of his daughter being particularly distressing, even if artistically true. Herr Pfeil and Herr Linz were capital, as usual, but Herr Engels's performance stood out alone, and he had to share few of the honors with his associates. Fräulein Huss, as the professor's daughter, won much favor and displayed marked talent. To-night and to-morrow night "Colleague Crampton" will be repeated. On Thursday night Herr Engels will have a benef