Amusements.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC—2—8—Two Little Vagrants.
AMERICAN THEATRE—8—The Broken Melody.
BROADWAY THEATRE—8:15—Brian Boru.
BIJOU THEATRE—2:15—8:50—The Chili Widow.
CASINO—2:15—8:15—Jack and the Beanstalk.
CARNEGIE HALL—8—Concert.
COLUMBUS THEATRE—2—8:15—The Sunshine of Paradise Alley.
DALY'S THEATRE—2—Geisha—8:15—London Assurance.
EDEN MUSEE—8—Waxworks and Concert.
EMPIRE THEATRE—2—8:20—Rosemary.
FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE—8:15—A Fool of Fortune.
GARDEN THEATRE—8—Parisian Romance.
GARRICK THEATRE—8:15—Secret Service.
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HARLEM OPERA HOUSE—8:15—A Night in New-York.
HERALD SQUARE THEATRE—8—The Mandarin.
HOYT'S THEATRE—8:30—My Friend from India.
IRVING PLACE THEATRE—8—Educated People.
KNICKERBOCKER THEATRE—8:10—The Seats of the Mighty.
KOSTER & BIAL'S—8—Vaudeville.
LYCEUM THEATRE—8:15—The Courtship of Leonie.
MURRAY HILL THEATRE—2—8—Monte Cristo.
NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DESIGN—Day and evening—Autumn Exhibition.
NEW METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE—8—Aida.
OLYMPIA THEATRE—8—Santa Maria.
PALMER'S THEATRE—8:15—Roaring Dick & Co.
ST. NICHOLAS SKATING RINK—Day and Evening—Skating.
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New-York Daily Tribune.

FOUNDED BY HORACE GREELEY

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1896.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN.—A cold wave of extreme severity is prevailing throughout England. ═══ The report that the British Home Secretary had ordered the release of Dr. Jameson from Holloway Jail was confirmed. ═══ General Porfirio Diaz was inaugurated for the fifth time as President of Mexico.

DOMESTIC.—An ice jam in the Chippewa River in Wisconsin has already done much damage and threatens destruction to the cities of Eau Claire and Chippewa Falls. ═══ Mr. Hanna held a long conference with Major McKinley; it is believed that he has consented to enter the Cabinet. ═══ The new cruiser Brooklyn was turned over to the Government by her builders and placed in commission at the League Island Navy Yard. ═══ Chairman Cannon, of the House Appropriations Committee, outlined the policy of the committee in the coming session of Congress. ═══ The Fayerweather will case came up in the Court of Appeals. ═══ Local elections were held in Massachusetts, Connecticut and New-Hampshire.

CITY.—The control of the Postal Telegraph Company was placed in perpetuity with the Commercial Cable Company. ═══ A fire, at which two firemen were badly hurt, did about $100,000 damage to the buildings Nos. 745, 747 and 749 Broadway. ═══ Captain Albert M. White, keeper of the Morgue, was arrested for illegally disposing of bodies intrusted to his care. ═══ The Wire Nail Trust dissolved. ═══ Commissioner Roosevelt and Chief Conlin testified before the Senate Committee which is investigating the working of the Raines Excise law in this city. ═══ Stocks were higher.

THE WEATHER.—Forecast for to-day: Fair and cold. The temperature yesterday: Highest, 32 degrees; lowest, 26; average, 29½.

THE RESULT IN ILLINOIS.

It will be interesting to ascertain why Bryan did not carry Illinois. He made a desperate effort, and although the majority against his party at the Congressional election of 1894 was very heavy, about 134,000, nevertheless he and his chief supporters were really confident they could carry the State. Altgeld made a desperate effort, and the shrewdest political managers who supported him showed the utmost confidence that they would be able to overcome the heavy Republican majorities of 1894. On the contrary, the State went more heavily against them than in the Congressional election, and the decision of Illinois made the election of Bryan impossible.

As the defeat in the Congressional election of 1894 was phenomenal, the comparison may well be made with the returns of that year. The Republicans then had an overwhelming majority in favor of the Protective policy, and, although the Populists cast 63,000 votes, the Republican majority above Democrats and Populists combined was over 71,000. In Cook County alone, which includes the city of Chicago, the Republicans had 51,000 plurality, though there were about 34,000 Populist votes, and the majority over the combined forces was only 17,000. But this year the Republicans had about 70,000 majority in that one county, and in the seven Congressional districts which include Cook and Lake counties the Republican majority was 73,200, against 53,100 over Democrats alone two years ago.

It is an interesting fact that Republicans gained in every northern district, and almost every county in the northern part of the State. They lost about 2,100 in the XIVth, or Peoria, District, while gaining 2,000 in the XVth, the river district west of it, and 200 in the Champaign District, east of it, and 1,500 in the Will-Vermilion District further east and lying along the Indiana border. These districts embrace some of the most productive counties in the State, and particularly the heaviest corn-growing belt. But in every district south of these the Republicans sustained losses, while in every district north of these they made gains. They gained about 20,000 in Chicago and in Lake County, and 10,500 more in the VIIIth and IXth districts, lying along the Wisconsin line, a little in the Xth, which lies partly against the Mississippi River, and about 1,500 each in the XIth, which includes La Salle and Bureau counties, and the XIIth, already mentioned, which lies on the Indiana border. But they lost in two of the five counties of the XIIIth, near the centre of the State, and in every district south of that. They lost five Congressmen in the XVIth, XVIIIth, XIXth, XXth and XXIst districts, and also lost heavily in the XVIIth and XXIId, although not enough to overcome their big majorities in 1894.

The richest and most productive farming counties were Republican. The big manufacturing counties gave Republican gains. The big wool-growing counties and the central corn and wheat growing counties gave Republican gains. Even the appeal of Altgeld to German voters failed in the counties most largely settled by Germans. Where the silver cause gained was in the section settled largely from the South. The counties settled by Northern immigrants were Republican. The counties built up by diversified industries were Republican. But where the Southern blood had most influence Altgeld and his ideas made gains, and those gains were large enough to have done mischief if the overwhelming majorities in the northern counties had not surpassed expectations.

The thought which these figures suggest is that the silver question had not much to do in this typical State, which in a sense turned the scale. It was largely a question of loyalty. Altgeld was the champion of rebellion against law. His man Bryan was the mouthpiece of revolution. His supporters came largely from the region settled by the sons of rebels thirty years ago. But the allied forces of disloyalty gained nothing by their appeal to the farmers of the great wheat and corn growing counties, nothing by their appeals to the foreign immigrants, and lost terribly and fatally when they attempted to capture the workingmen in the big manufacturing centres. The Republican majority to sustain the policy of Protection was in every quarter as strong north of the line drawn a little above the centre of the State as it had been in 1894, when the election of Congressmen turned distinctly on the tariff issue, and in all the great manufacturing and farming counties the Republican majority was larger than ever before. That settled the question for Illinois, and the appeal of Altgeld to a disloyal sentiment was a failure, and the vote of Illinois made Bryan's election impossible.

THE SITUATION GROWING CLEARER.

The remarks of Mr. Foster, of Ohio, formerly Secretary of the Treasury, regarding tariff prospects and needs are interesting. The ex-Secretary is qualified by his experience to speak with some authority regarding the source of past evils, and does not hesitate to say that the deficit has been the principal source of trouble to the Treasury, and that it must be remedied, and by a tariff fairly defending home industries, before a general and lasting restoration of prosperity can be expected. Mr. Foster does not think that there will be an effort to pass any tariff bill at the coming short session, but that a bill will be prepared for consideration at an extra session, which, he judges, the coming President will be likely to call as soon as possible after his inauguration.

In connection with this report it is of some consequence that Senator Jones, of Nevada, who has been one of the most ultra silver men in the Senate, is now quoted as declaring with much emphasis that he intends to act with the Republican party in the support of a protective tariff bill. He does not abandon his views regarding silver, but has been an earnest protectionist in years gone by, and in acting with the party of protection again he will only adhere to convictions which he has often proclaimed. With Mr. Jones, of Nevada, it is now stated that the Republicans will in any case have forty-five votes in the Senate after March 4, which, with the casting vote of the Vice-President in any emergency, would enable the Republicans to pass a proper tariff bill without the assistance of Democrats.

It may be taken for granted, we suppose, that the effort to secure the appointment of an outside tariff commission will not meet with favor. With good reason members of the legislative bodies regard with disfavor these attempts to take from them the responsibility and the credit for important measures, and experience has taught that the outside commission of experts rarely finds it possible to secure the approval of Congress for the measure it frames, even after the most careful adjustment of details. Nor is there any likelihood of the appointment of a permanent commission with power to adjust tariff details from time to time. Apart from the fact that radical changes in the whole system of laws relating to the revenue would be involved, it is obvious that no Congress would have power to tie the hands of a coming Congress in such a matter, or to take away from it and intrust to a special commission one of its most important functions. But there is much satisfaction to be found in the fact that both in the Senate and in the House men who were active in the framing of the McKinley bill of 1890 have been placed on committees where they will be intrusted with similar duties, and experience under the act of 1890 has gone far to justify the opinion expressed by ex-Secretary Foster, that no wiser or more carefully adjusted act had ever been passed. He does not advocate its re-enactment, as to details, recognizing that changes in prices and modes of manufacture have rendered some of its provisions unnecessary or unwise, but believes that the measure will furnish a groundwork or basis greatly facilitating the labors of the coming Congress.

A SOUTH CAROLINA MEETING.

There was a union religious service at Bethel Church in Edgefield County, S. C., last Sunday. About 500 people were in attendance. This is a large number of worshippers for a region in which the population is so sparse and widely scattered as in Edgefield County. It might be taken as evidence that the inhabitants are more than ordinarily devout. Of the purely religious exercises on the occasion, the name of the officiating clergyman, his text, or any, even the most meagre, outline of his discourse, we have no knowledge. Indeed, but for what happened immediately after the benediction had been pronounced and the congregation had passed out we should probably never have known that there had been a union meeting at Bethel Church. It would not be rash, however, to assume that the devotional exercises were characterized by the fervor commonly manifested by emotional people, and that the preacher presented in an edifying and convincing manner the doctrines of the Gospel of Peace. The subsequent proceedings were not religious, though strongly emotional. It is because of them alone that we become possessed of the information that there was such a union religious service.

Among the worshippers were Leon J. Williams, a member of the Legislature and of the State Board of Control, leading Reformer and delegate to the Constitutional Convention; L. D. White, who was lately a candidate for the Legislature, and J. V. White, his brother. Between Williams and L. D. White there had been political differences which had degenerated into bitter personal attacks upon character. Political differences in South Carolina usually assume that phase at an early stage. In this case the disputants did not reach the point of shooting each other on sight, in accordance with local custom, during the campaign, and both having become somewhat calm, it was supposed that the danger was passed. But last Sunday, at the close of the religious services, as Mr. Williams with his mother was driving away from the church, the White brothers, accompanied by a former State Senator—all statesmen—called to him to get out of the carriage and talk the matter over. He did so. Presently J. V. White shook his fist in Williams's face and Williams promptly knocked him down. White immediately jumped up and drew a pistol, whereupon Williams drew another and shot White through the heart, killing him instantly. At this the other brother, who also had a pistol in his pocket, as subsequently appeared, pulled a knife and began slashing Williams about the head and face. Thereupon Williams shot him twice in the stomach and sent a bullet through each arm, so that he died in a few hours. And Williams is in a critical condition, not expected to live.

Now this all seems very sad. It betokens a social condition which people outside of South Carolina find it difficult to understand. Why should political differences in that State be carried to the point where they can only be settled by killing somebody? From the fact that three prominent men, one of whom held high office and had exercised the important functions of shaping the Constitution of the State and making its laws, were in attendance upon these religious services, each with a pistol in his pocket, we infer that it is, if not the prevailing custom, at least no unusual thing for South Carolina statesmen to arm themselves before going to church to listen to the preaching of the Gospel of Peace and Goodwill. Is that an indication of a high civilization?

A story is told of a man whose two sons were given to breaking the Sabbath; that upon being rebuked by his clergyman, who told him he ought to bring up his children in the fear of the Lord, he promptly answered: "The fear of the "Lord is just what ails them. Neither one of "them dares go out Sunday without a double-"barrelled gun." The large attendance at Bethel Church seems to indicate that the people of that region are uncommonly devout. It may be that fear of the Lord is what impels them to go to church armed. All the same, the practice appears to be dangerous when indulged in by an emotional people

"DEAD MAN'S CURVE."

The dangerous cable railway curves at Union Square are again brought to public notice by the officials of the Metropolitan Traction Company, though for just what purpose it is as yet impossible to say. From time to time there has been manifested a public demand for the abolition of what has come to be known as "Dead Man's Curve." On such occasions the traction company always professes great willingness to institute reforms and proposes alternative schemes of reconstruction, one of which is sure to encounter popular opposition or cannot be carried on without legislation, and against the other the public is warned by the company on the ground that it would be safe, but would rob the road of a large proportion of its transit facilities. Accordingly when a subway under Union Square is again proposed, sceptical examination of the possibility of any immediate accomplishment in that direction is naturally prompted.

However sincere the company may be in desiring a tunnel, it is certainly true the legal obstacles are so great as to put any immediate reform out of the question. Probably legislative action would be required for the construction, and meanwhile the cars are a menace to life and limb. The assertion that the subway is the only feasible method of solving the problem is by no means proved to outside observers, in spite of the testimony of the officials. While the company is experimenting with electricity and compressed air and planning to introduce a substitute for the cable, it is asking a good deal that the city should permit two inclined planes in a busy street and two tunnel entrances in one of its parks, just to avoid troubles incident to a power that is likely to be abolished. Doubtless it would be convenient for the traction company to have the underground line from Fourteenth to Seventeenth-st., whatever the power used, but it is no more necessary than a tunnel from the Battery to Harlem with any power except the cable, and it is much to be doubted if it is necessary with the cable. In considering any such proposition the construction of a future rapid transit system should not be lost sight of. Most plans for an underground road contemplate extensive occupation of the space under Union Square. No concession to the needs, real or fancied, of the cable road should be permitted to interfere with the perfection of a new system.

The company says that a slow-moving cable is impracticable, but there are still sceptics. President Vreeland has said that the present cable would be all right and that its speed would not cause danger were it not for the larger number of cars than originally calculated upon causing a lateral strain on the curves which draws the cable from the grips if a stop is made. Yet instead of proposing for the curves a short cable of the same speed which would hang loose enough with the few cars ever on it at one time to permit regulation of speed as at other places without losing the grip, he says that he must put in a slow cable which would seriously delay traffic over the whole line. Yet the traffic goes on with the delays which occur elsewhere. The cables are changed at Houston-st. and again at Fiftieth-st. The company does not hesitate to turn passengers into the street at the latter point and make them wait in following cars while those ahead are switched into the barns. At Twenty-third-st. there is always a switching which frequently causes delay to a line of cars. The rate of traffic is conditioned by that of the slowest point, and any delays caused by a slow cable at Union Square would only keep cars from accumulating so rapidly at points of stoppage above and below. Union Square is a comparatively clear place, and cars would go at the full rate of a slow cable without interruption, while elsewhere the crowded streets often impede progress far beyond any delay which could come from a slow cable, and those impediments set the pace for the whole line. But according to President Vreeland's own showing a slow cable is not necessary. All that is required is a short cable of the present speed without the strain of a hundred cars to draw it too taut to permit the same manipulation of the cars at the curves as elsewhere. If Mr. Vreeland would show more clearly why such a cable is not feasible his scheme to appropriate Union Square might be considered more patiently.

HARVARD AND YALE.

When, as the story goes, one football player was kneaded, or, to speak more accurately, was kneed, into the soil of Hampden Park, at Springfield, Mass., two years ago, there was then and there created the bloody chasm which has yawned between Yale and Harvard ever since. Over that sanguinary pit those venerable institutions of learning are now in the very act of shaking hands. It is a cheerful and auspicious incident in their history. It is unnecessary to inquire further into the precise cause of the breach which is now about to be healed. Perhaps nobody has ever fully comprehended it. For a long time the agile and resourceful Mr. Hinkey had the misfortune to be regarded as the chief issue, and there was heaped upon him a mountain of abuse taller than any human pyramid to which he ever contributed upon the field of carnage, or from beneath which he ever emerged with a tranquil smile upon his face and the pigskin in his clutches. But he is no longer in evidence either as fiend or hero:

> He's gone; methinks that over him,
> Like Curtius in the abyss,
> We see great gulfs close rim to rim,
> And past and future kiss.

It will be a pleasant thing to see the brethren of Yale and Harvard dwelling together once more in unity, and we hope that after, and because of, their protracted separation the unity will be closer than it ever was before. Their rivalry is ancient and natural, and without disparagement of the skill and fame of any other college it may be fairly said that a greater interest has always been felt, by their graduates and undergraduates alike, in their mutual competitions than in all the rest of their athletic engagements. Each is the other's dearest foe, and nobody has a right to complain of that relation. If either should hereafter put on immodest airs of superiority, while declining to submit its claims to all reasonable tests, the college world and the general public would doubtless estimate such vanity at its true value; but there is no reason to impute a disposition of that sort before it is evinced. It is not improbable that both Yale and Harvard have learned lessons of courtesy and kindness from the experiences of the last two years, and henceforward will take a broader view of their obligations to one another and to the college world in general.

It would be foolish for anybody in Cambridge or New-Haven to regard this reunion as an event of the first magnitude. It will please many persons connected with the two universities, and not a few outsiders who are devotees of college sports; but merely of itself it really will not be hailed as a National benefaction. It is, however, within the power of Harvard and Yale to make their resumption of amicable relations the means of raising the moral standard of intercollegiate athletics. A good deal is said, and said justly, against the spirit and methods which characterize these strenuous contests. They involve an immense expenditure, they afflict their principal exponents with an injurious notoriety, in proportion as they are converted into great public spectacles they develop objectionable features, and we think their present tendency is to put an excessive premium on the winning of a championship If Yale and Harvard shall resolve, in coming together again, to do everything in their power to eradicate the abuses which disfigure intercollegiate sports, their reunion will be an event of actual and permanent importance to the country.

No matter if the cold wave has come to stay. We can stand several days of such weather as yesterday gave us.

The demand for election of United States Senators by popular vote may be well founded, but it certainly is not on the ground that thus better men would be chosen. There's no reason to suppose States would choose better men for Senators than they now do for Governors. And what Governors some of them choose! Has the Senate Chamber ever held worse freaks than Altgeld, and Pennoyer, and Waite, and Lewelling?

At the same time that Iowa is finding it impossible to enforce the law prohibiting the sale of cigarettes in the State, the Georgia Legislature is considering the enactment of a similar measure. It might be well for the Georgia lawmakers to remember that the Interstate Commerce law applies there as well as in Iowa, and that cigarettes in the original five and ten cent packages will continue to be sold. They must find some other way if they want to stop cigarette smoking.

The Fayerweather will case is up again. When it is all over it will be interesting to see which fare the best, the colleges or the lawyers.

Mexico might as well make General Diaz President for life, and be done with it. He has made, and will doubtless continue to make, an uncommonly good President, and will round out his fifth term and the nineteenth century together with a record of patriotic usefulness seldom surpassed in the history of human governments.

At the meeting of the Board of Education to-day an opinion is expected from the Corporation Counsel as to the right of the Board to take possession of property selected for schoolhouse sites without waiting for prolonged condemnation proceedings to be completed. The idea is to secure immediate possession by the simple process of giving a bond or making a deposit for the amount claimed by the owners. The shortening of the time required to build a schoolhouse by six months or a year, or, perhaps, even more, is so desirable that all good citizens will applaud the efforts of the Board of Education to accomplish it.

If Croker signs for a new engagement with Tammany, it will probably contain a clause entitling him to a vacation whenever a new Senatorial Investigating Committee is appointed.

Ontario farmers complain of decreased value of their lands as well as Kansas farmers, but they haven't been afflicted with silver orators who told them their troubles were due to the "crime of 1873." Consequently they take a philosophical view of the situation and attribute it to natural causes.

The French field of honor justifies anew its character as the safest place going. A French Marquis and an American have just deployed upon it and fired six shots at each other, neither being hit, the seconds also coming off without injury. Honor is apparently satisfied, and the combatants displayed correct principles in going peaceably home as soon as their ammunition was exhausted. Some of the Continental nations are just now much exercised over the question of the duello, but the solution of the problem lies ready to hand. All that is necessary is to substitute the polite and harmless French practice for their own, which is a rude collision in which one or other of the combatants sometimes gets killed. They manage these and many other things much better in France, where they reap the laurel of valor in perfect security, without diminishing by expenditure the quality which that leafage is intended to signalize.

It isn't "Anglophobia" that makes people say there can be no commercial union with Canada without political union. It is simple practical business sense.

Some of the municipal officers of Brussels have resigned because the Town Council has ordained that no municipal employe shall receive less than a certain daily wage. As that minimum wage is fixed at 60 cents, the general verdict on the resignations will be that they are not to be regretted.

PERSONAL.

At a meeting of the Graduate Club of the University of Pennsylvania on Monday evening the guests of honor were Dr. S. Weir Mitchell, of Philadelphia; Joseph Jacobs, of London, and President E. D. Warfield of Lafayette College.

Andrew G. Blair, Canadian Minister of Railways, passed through St. Paul the other day on his way to Lethbridge, in the Northwest territory, to investigate a proposed extension of the Canadian Pacific Railway. He was accompanied by L. H. Davies, Canadian Minister of Marine and Fisheries, who is going to Victoria to attend the sitting of the Arbitration Board appointed to adjust the differences arising between the American and British Governments over the Canadian seal fisheries. The British Government has presented a claim of $500,000 against the Government of the United States, and the merits of the claim will be tried before the international commission. The first sitting occurs at Victoria, and the second at San Francisco, at which the Government of the United States will offer testimony in rebuttal. The court is now in session. The United States are represented by Don M. Dickinson and one other.

The students of Holy Cross College, Worcester, Mass., will soon give a reception in honor of the Rev. Dr. Conaty, of Worcester, the new rector of the Catholic University, in Washington.

Charles Gates Dawes, of Evanston, Ill., whom rumor has named as likely to be Major McKinley's private secretary, was born in Marietta, Ohio, thirty-one years ago, and was graduated from Marietta College. Eight years ago he took up his residence in Lincoln, Neb., leaving there two years ago to go to Evanston. He is a successful business man. His father was General R. R. Dawes, who was one of the commanders of the old Iron Brigade of Wisconsin in the Civil War.

Dr. John Watson preached for the Rev. Dr. George A. Gordon in the Old South Church, Boston, last Sunday, taking for his topic "The Optimism of Jesus."

Senator George F. Hoar, of Massachusetts, has presented an interesting relic to the First Church, of Plymouth, Mass. It is a considerable portion of the original threshold of the church in Dreft Haven, Holland, in which the Pilgrims held their last service before departing for America. When Mr. Hoar was in Holland last summer he found it, and bought it for a small sum.

The Edward von Bauerfeld Foundation in Vienna has designated an honorarium of 500 guilden for Johanna Ambrosius, the poetess of East Prussia, in recognition of her talent. It is noted in the German papers that this is not a gift to relieve her poverty, but the honorary distinction given by an institution that awards its recompenses to rich and poor without discrimination. Besides, it is said that Johanna Ambrosius is no longer in great poverty.

THE DRAMA.

MR. CRANE IN "A FOOL OF FORTUNE."

FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE.

It is Romeo who, in his frenzy of trouble and grief, cries out upon himself that he is "Fortune's Fool," and that phrase has long been used to describe the unhappy man with whom, after a season of prosperity, everything goes wrong. Such a man was Elisha Cunningham, the central figure in the new play, by Miss Martha Morton, that was produced in the Fifth Avenue Theatre last night, by Mr. Crane, and such is the image of character and experience that this admirable humorist now presents. This time the cap and bells are laid aside. It is not the Jester that fills the scene; it is the Comedian. The writings of Balzac have, of late,—through the intrepid and persistent industry of Miss Wormeley,—been made generally accessible, and Miss Morton appears to have perceived dramatic possibilities in the novel of "César Birotteau." Like the stanch and honorable Birotteau, this later fool of fortune loses everything; like him he fights hard to retrieve his losses; and like him he dies,—of heart disease,—in the hour of victory. Birotteau and Cunningham, however, are not identical. The dramatist has drawn an American character, typical of a class, and, of its kind, excellent, and Mr. Crane, as Cunningham, has, at last, something with which to concern himself, besides the trivial business of making mirth for a vacuous multitude; he so utilized his opportunity as to gain one of the most signal triumphs of his professional life.

The best portrait that ever was painted of a broken-down man of business is Thackeray's portrait of old Sedley, in the novel of "Vanity Fair." It would be very difficult,—probably impossible,—to place that figure effectively upon the stage. Mr. Crane's impersonation forcibly brought it to mind. Cunningham is not the same character, but he is one variety of it. He was a shrewd, sagacious, energetic American broker, and he had gained a large fortune. He had lived for a while in Europe, with his eldest daughter, Marjorie, and in a jocular, semi-satirical spirit, he had assumed the manner, or what he thought to be the manner, of an Englishman. On returning home he brought the Count de Cluny to America, thinking to train him as a speculator and to marry him to his daughter Marjorie; but that nobleman fortunately fell in love with Marjorie's sister Jennie, and Marjorie was, thereupon, in due time, left free to follow her heart into the keeping of an earlier suitor, named Karl Worresdorf. Meanwhile Cunningham, resuming active business, and,—under some compulsion of necessity,—following in the speculative wake of his partner, Nathaniel Lloyd, invested the bulk of his money in a stock, was betrayed by an associate named Powers, and at last was plunged into penury, and then began his long and lamentable struggle with misfortune and grief. "All the rest," says Shakespeare, "is bound in shallows and in miseries." The old man daily dwindled; took to drink; became a wreck and a shadow,—haunting the Exchange and, with feverish, forlorn eagerness and half-crazed purpose, speculating upon the wretched dribblets and poor remains of a once princely revenue. A friend of his youth, Cornelius Green, was faithful to him, and so was Marjorie's lover, Karl Worresdorf, and so was the Count de Cluny, working under the name of La Crosse; but friendship cannot heal a breaking heart. In the end a fortunate combination was so directed as to retrieve his losses, and, at the same time, to punish his treacherous enemy. So, in a far grander story and upon a much more stupendous scene, victory and comfort seem to arrive for the ravaged and broken Lear. But the struggle had exhausted his endurance, and the moment of his triumph was also the moment of his death.

It is the favorite cant of criticism that nothing must be sad. In a world of evanescent things,—with trouble and grief as the inevitable concomitants of time, and with death as the certain end of all,—there must be no reference to the serious facts of our mortal existence. All the greatest works in literature stand against that doctrine, and no artist will ever attain to his full stature who fetters himself by it. Mr. Crane is much more than a farce-monger, and he is wise to assert, from time to time, the strength of his emotions and the authority of his mind. He presented himself, in this new play, as a serious actor of the highest order. He assumed a specific identity and he maintained it. His impersonation was distinct, round, balanced, positive, replete with power, and rich with implied testimony as to his observation of human nature and human life. He did not succeed because the assumed person dies, but because he lives; because, as the natural preparation for the final catastrophe, he passes through a bitter and terrible experience, such as happens to many men, and such as might happen to all,—the experience of a ruined life. No ingenuity was exercised in creating the situation. It is a structural weakness of the play,—and the sign of a superficial thinker,—that the disaster to Cunningham does not flow out of anything in his character. In actual life the failures and miseries are, to a considerable extent, the consequences of something inherent in the personality of those to whom they come. This play uses the time-honored expedient of the stage,—where all the good is provided by a saint, and all the evil by a rascal. When once the situation is created, however, the actor's opportunity follows; and Mr. Crane was fully equal to it; indeed, he furnished much more than he found. The clearest part of the dramatic writing is the scene of equivoke, in the second act. The death scene, as already intimated, is a variation of that of César Birotteau. Mr. Crane had the excellent taste to make this merely a twilight close. "God's finger touched him, and he slept."

It is not meant that the play is a sad one. All the foreground of it is full of sunshine. The shadow does not fall until the end, and when it does fall it comes at the right time, and it passes. There are moments when the colloquy trembles on the verge of farce, but for the most part the piece is consistent comedy, and, although the materials of which it is composed are old, they are freshly treated, and they are made tributary to cumulative dramatic effect. The several love scenes are pretty and piquant. The traits of feminine character are aptly discriminated. The sense of a coming crisis is early inspired and it is made to grow continually stronger. The gradual breaking of the principal character is indicated by many subtle touches of felicitous art, and the closing situation is made to tremble with a deep and wild excitement. Mr. Crane worked up that situation with astonishing power, and when the final curtain fell, he was many times recalled, with enthusiastic plaudits and ringing cheers.

There was much to interest the observer, in the subsidiary acting. Mr. Mackay's remarkable powers were seen with admiration, in his embodiment of a specious, furtive, cruel speculator. The bland demeanor with the dark purpose under it could not be better displayed and the frenzied supplication was instinct with genuine passion and pathos. The cast is competent, and the general representation was agreeably smooth and crisp. Mr. Percy Brooke distinguished himself by a remarkably natural serio-comic performance of a timid and nervous broker. Miss Effie Shannon presented a lovely image of capricious girlhood. Mr. Edwin Arden was particularly happy in the character of an ingenuous foreign nobleman, somewhat mystified by American manners. Mr. Boyd Putnam, an actor of fine intelligence and unusual distinction, impersonated a reticent lover with true dignity and tenderness. The success of Mr. Crane's new venture cannot be doubted.

CAST OF "A FOOL OF FORTUNE."

Elisha Cunningham	William H. Crane
Nathaniel Lloyd	Percy Brooke
Karl Worresdorf	Boyd Putnam
Count de Cluny	Edwin Arden
Cornelius Green	William Boag
Ezekiel Powers	F. F. Mackay
James Stetson	Vincent Serrano
Thomas	C. J. Jackson
Marjorie Cunningham	Effie Shannon
Jennie Cunningham	Dallas Tyler
Mrs. Cunningham	Kate Lester

A COMPOSERS' CONCERT.

A composers' concert that was given last evening in Mendelssohn Glee Club Hall for the benefit of the Aguilar Free Circulating Library was eminently successful as a means of profiting that excellent institution. The audience completely filled the hall; it showed a friendly interest in the several composers who participated in the concert, and was moved to a generous commendation of their work. The composers' concert, like the authors' reading, is sometimes more interesting in the glimpses it discloses into the personalities of the people concerned than in the performance itself; and it may have been that many in last night's audience felt that this concert was a case in point. Mrs. Julie L. Wyman, in whose singing the interest of the occasion promised to centre, was suffering so severely from a cold that for her to appear at all was an act of fine self-sacrifice which it is to be hoped the audience appreciated at its true worth. Edgar S. Kelly, whose song, "Israfel," she sang first, was absent, and though Mr. Damrosch played the accompaniment beautifully it was not enough to make the performance a success. His excellent Madrigal, from "The Scarlet Letter," under the circumstances, was the most enjoyable number of the programme. The concert was introduced in a brief speech by Henry T. Finck.

MRS. DRAYTON NOT ENGAGED.

The story which was circulated several weeks ago that Mrs. Charlotte Augusta Astor Drayton, daughter of the late William Astor, is engaged to George Haig, of London, England, has again been revived. The truth of the report is absolutely denied by a representative of the Astor family, who assured a reporter of The Tribune yesterday that Mrs. Drayton had no idea of marrying any one against the wishes of her family. Mr. Haig, who, with his brother, J. H. Haig, is interested in whiskey distilleries in Scotland and Ireland, spent less than a week last summer at Newport. He is acquainted with Mrs. Drayton, and it is said has shown her, since her residence in England, considerable attention. Mr. Haig arrived in Newport from England in August, and registered at the Ocean House. He one day called on Mrs. Astor with a letter of introduction. He sailed for England a few days after the interview with Mrs. Drayton's mother, and, so far as it is known, has not been in this country since. Mr. Haig lives with his brother, in bachelor quarters, in London. He is a brother-in-law of John Jameson, a member of the Jameson family of Ireland, whose whiskey distilleries are among the most famous in Great Britain. Mrs. Drayton, who has leased her house, No. 574 Fifth-ave., for club purposes, is at present in Paris.

WEDDINGS PAST AND TO COME

The wedding of Miss Anna Magdalen Siedler and Leonard Hyams, a son of the late Elias Hyams, of this city, was celebrated at 5 o'clock last evening at the home of the bride's mother, Mrs. Anna Siedler, No. 545 West One-hundred-and-forty-ninth-st. The marriage ceremony, which was performed by the Rev. Dr. Joseph Silverman, of the Temple Emanu-El, was followed by a reception and dinner. The bride, who wore a gown of white silk, trimmed with lace and chiffon, and a tulle veil caught up with orange blossoms, was attended by Miss Charlotte May Aschenbrenner as maid of honor. The bridesmaids were Miss Bella Hyams and Miss Emily Hyams, sisters of the bridegroom, whose best man was his brother, Albert Hyams. The ushers were another brother of the bridegroom, George W. Hyams; Jacob Samuels and Edward J. Krug, jr.

Miss Blanche Brash, third daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Brash, of No. 65 East Eightieth-st., was married to Merrill G. Weller at 6:30 o'clock last evening in the red room at Delmonico's. Only relatives were present at the ceremony, which was performed by the Rev. Dr. Kaufmann Kohler, of the Temple Beth-El. The bride was attired in a gown of white satin, trimmed with point lace, and a veil of tulle. Her maid of honor was her niece, Miss Edna B. Rosenberg, who wore a gown of pink silk draped with white gauze. Lester B. Kahn was the little page. There were no bridesmaids or best man. The ushers were the bridegroom's brother, Alfred Weller, Samuel Kridel, David Ascheim, Michael M. Abrams, Harry Vogel and Joseph Leerberger. A reception, dinner and dance followed the ceremony, in the large ballroom. Mr. and Mrs. Weller, after a trip through the South, will make their home at No. 65 East Eightieth-st.

The wedding of Miss Evelena Babcock Dixon, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William P. Dixon, and Eben Stevens will take place at noon to-day, in St. Thomas's Church, Fifth-ave. and Fifty-third-st. The breakfast which follows the ceremony, at the home of the bride's parents, No. 29 West Forty-ninth-st., will be attended only by relatives and a limited number of intimate friends.

A large and fashionable wedding this afternoon will be that of Miss Sarah Hard, the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Anson W. Hard, and William R. Taylor, of Baltimore, which occurs at 3 o'clock in St. Bartholomew's Church. A large reception will be held immediately after the ceremony at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Hard, No. 49 Park-ave.

The marriage of Miss Pauline Starr, the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. Starr, of No. 309 West Seventy-fifth-st., and William Watson Caswell will take place at noon to-day, in the Church of the Transfiguration, in East Twenty-ninth-st.

Miss Mabel Harriette Knight will be married to Professor Alexander Hamilton Ph