

B. Altman & Co. ATTRACTIVE ASSORTMENTS OF FURS, FUR GARMENTS and FUR ARTICLES OF ALL DESCRIPTIONS suitable for PRESENTS. FUR NECK PIECES, COLLARETTES, MUFFS, BOAS, &c. FUR TRIMMINGS. 18th St., 19th St. and Sixth Avenue IN AND OUT OF CONGRESS.

Continued Attractions in Real Holiday Goods. Our Great Display is universally acknowledged by large crowds of real buyers of FINE HOLIDAY GOODS. No one can complain of the prices, for they are EXCEPTIONALLY LOW. Our JEWELRY, BRIC-A-BRAC, LEATHER GOODS, and TOYS in unlimited variety, and all other departments are worthy the inspection of the most CRITICAL OF PURCHASERS. A Downright Reduction in our ENTIRE CLOAK DEPARTMENT. Cloaks and Wraps of the very latest conception at prices much lower than shown anywhere else in this city. No one visiting our stores will be disappointed at the unusual display of Christmas offerings at the extremely low prices at which they are offered.

Stern Bros. On the Second Floor Desirable Articles for Holiday Presents. Nurses' and Maids' Aprons 14c, 17c, 25c, 38c, 50c Silk Skirts Black Taffeta, \$4.95, \$5.75 Changeable Taffeta \$5.75, \$7.50 Fancy Figured Warps, \$7.50, \$9.50 Flannel Night Robes, 89c, \$1.19 Flannelette Underskirts, 18c, 39c Ladies' Muslin Skirts, 73c, 95c Ladies' Muslin Night Robes, 65c, 98c West 23d St.

Stern Bros. will place on sale To-morrow A Special Purchase of Black Brocaded Silks at 85c Formerly \$1.35 yard And 2200 Yards High-Class Fancy Silks at \$1.25 Formerly \$2.00 to \$3.00 yard West 23d St.

"Buy China and Glass Right." HIGGINS & SEITER FINE CHINA. RICH CUT GLASS. A Step in Gift Hunting That it Pays to Take. RICH CUT GLASS BOWLS. We will offer a rich Cut Glass 7-inch Salad, Fruit or Berry Bowl of the Lincoln cutting, made by J. D. Hertz & Co. These are the Bowls that have recently been advertised as a special bargain at \$3.25. We will sell them at \$2.90. SEVRES VASES. We have a very large assortment of these Vases in various rich hand-painted decorations and Ormolu mountings, assorted colors, which, for convenience of sale, we have arranged on one of our centre tables, in six assorted lots.

ORAL HEARINGS ON THE NEW TARIFF BILL DISCOURAGED. THE INAUGURATION BALL NOT TO BE GIVEN IN THE NEW LIBRARY BUILDING—THE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE VACANCY—NEW ALIEN LAW IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN REPUBLIC—AMERICAN CITIZENS IN PALESTINE.

Washington, Dec. 19.—The members of the Ways and Means Committee of the House, so far as possible, are discouraging oral hearings. Many persons who have written for information respecting the hearings have been asked to put their arguments in writing, so that they may receive more attention from the committee than would be the case if the latter had no such data before them. There is a determined effort on the part of the committee to finish the hearings on the date specified—January 12—in order that no delay may occur in preparing the tariff bill. Mr. Dilliver, of Iowa, who will be present at the first hearing, Mr. Dilliver says that the agricultural schedule, which in effect includes the woolen schedule, will receive careful attention from the committee. The farmers along the northern border have been complaining bitterly for the last two years, he says, of the competition from the Canadian tariff, and it is proposed to give them a protection that will be quite as satisfactory as that afforded by the McKinley bill.

So much interest is felt in the Northwest in the new tariff bill that Representative Tawney, of Minnesota, one of the Republican members of the Ways and Means Committee, has been asked to receive certain delegates interested in different schedules of the bill during his brief visit home. In order to accommodate these men, he will spend one or two days in Minneapolis and St. Paul during his absence from Washington. Minnesota is interested in a number of agricultural, pastoral and other schedules, and it is with reference to these that his attention will be directed.

Chairman Hanna has written a letter to Chairman Bell, of the Inauguration Committee, which amounts to an abandonment of the new Congressional Library Building, and will lead to the selection of the Pension Office for the Inauguration Ball. In view of the opposition in Congress and among citizens, Mr. Hanna leaves the choice of the building entirely to the Executive Committee.

Some of the silver men in the House believe that the vacancy on the Ways and Means Committee will be given to Mr. Newlands, of Nevada, whose political designation is a representative of the silver party. This assertion was made by one of the silver men that the Republicans were dependent on for support in the House to pass the new tariff bill, and that they would not be disappointed in this expectation. They argue, however, that by placing a Newlands member on the Ways and Means Committee, Mr. Reed would not only give to the committee the services of an experienced man, but that he would also give to the silver men a representative of their own party.

If the favorable comments of the members may be accepted as a criterion, the argument made by William L. Royall, of Richmond, Va., to-day, for a State banking law before the House Committee on Banking and Currency was a brilliant success. Chairman Walker characterized their visitor as one of the most practical and clear-minded men that have appeared before them. He explained that Royall's objection to the National bank system is principally theoretical, and that he wanted a banking system which would give to the people of the South that freedom of banking which is denied them under the State system. Mr. Walker added that while the committee would find in the bill which the committee will mature all the freedom of banking the Southern people required.

United States Consul Germaine at Zurich has investigated the restrictive measures against American meat products in Switzerland and finds that the prohibition relates only to salt meat products in the Canton of Zurich, where the law prevents the sale or use of any meat product prepared by other chemicals than salt or saltpetre, while in American meat boxes was found to contain borax. American shippers send meat to Switzerland without borax the restriction will probably be removed.

The new Allen law which goes into effect in the South African Republic on January 1 has been sent to the State Department by the American Minister at the Hague. It provides for the admission of foreigners into the Republic when they have a proper passport, which must show that such foreigners have sufficient means of subsistence or can obtain it by their own work. Other foreigners may be admitted on letters of identification if they can prove their identity and can show themselves capable of self-support. Admissions, however, are to be granted only through the issue of a travelling or reading passport, which must be renewed every three months. Those who declare intention to settle in the Republic need only renew once a year, each time giving a required guarantee that they will be content to reside only in the Republic, and will not be applying to the United States for admission. This law is made to apply to the United States and foreigners alike in the country, and all who do not comply with its terms may be expelled.

Consul Wallace at Jerusalem reports to the State Department that according to the records of his office it appears that there are 520 citizens of the United States living in Palestine. Of this number 400 are Hebrews, who are only nominally Americans, having been naturalized only to gain most desirable citizenship papers and passports. The majority of these emigrated from Russia to the United States and thence to Palestine. Of the ninety-two American citizens, nearly all went there because of peculiar religious views, and among them may be found all possible shades of beliefs. The one idea which seems to possess all to a greater or lesser degree is that of the Second Advent of Christ. This is the belief of the majority, and it is the cause of the religious fanaticism which is so prevalent in Jerusalem. Some of them expect to take place in Jerusalem. Some of them expect to take place in Jerusalem. Some of them expect to take place in Jerusalem.

For the first time in its history the Abel Trophy was won by the ninth company of the 7th Regiment at the competition which took place at the armory on the evening of December 12, by a score of 62 points. Lieutenant Horace C. Fu Val is the captain of the team, and the victory is a triumph for him. Among the members of the team is a triumph for him.

peaceable and law-abiding community, the consulate has not been called on to protect them. As a matter of course, United States Consul Morris at Ghent reports to the State Department that the most expensive product in the world is the charcoal thread employed for incandescent lamps. It is for the most part manufactured in Paris and comes from the hands of an artist who desires his name to remain unknown in order to protect the secret of his manufacture. It is by the grams that this product is sold at wholesale. In reducing the price of the charcoal thread, it is easily found that the elements for lamps of twenty candles are worth \$3.00 a pound, and that for lamps of thirty candles they are worth \$2.00 a pound. The former have a diameter of two-tenths of an inch, and the latter four and one-half tenths of a millimeter. The market for these threads is a millinery, and the market for these threads is a millinery, and the market for these threads is a millinery.

Postmaster-General Wilson to-day gave out a statement showing the postal receipts for November of the three largest postoffices were \$2,033,111. The receipts for the same month of 1895 were \$1,781,000, a net decrease of \$252,111. New York City leads in the amount of receipts, followed by Chicago, Philadelphia, Boston, St. Louis and Cincinnati.

IN PORT AFTER TRYING VOYAGES. THE ETHURIA'S ROUGH EXPERIENCE—SOME OF HER PASSENGERS. Weather-beaten vessels continued to come into port yesterday with passengers more than thankful to feel the solid earth again beneath their feet. The Cunard Line steamship Ethuria, which arrived yesterday, caught the recent gales that swept the Atlantic in their full force. In one of the worst hours a fireman was knocked down by a sea that came aboard. His leg was broken and he received a cut on the scalp. He was attended by the ship's physician and is in a fair way to recover.

Among the arrivals on board were Prince and Princess Rzewuski, Count Carls, Count Lanskoy, Countess Linskoy, W. B. Albright, Lazar La Grange, G. H. Harding, W. S. Harvey, Hugh de Haven, John D. MacMaster and Dr. Charles B. Mayberry. Members of the Austrian Consulate in this city and the general staff of the post to meet the arrivals. These travelers, Prince and Princess Rzewuski, Count Lanskoy, Countess Linskoy, W. B. Albright, Lazar La Grange, G. H. Harding, W. S. Harvey, Hugh de Haven, John D. MacMaster and Dr. Charles B. Mayberry.

FATHER CASSELL'S FUNERAL. The body of Father Cassell, who died on Friday night at Roosevelt Hospital from typhoid fever, was removed to St. Ann's Church, where the funeral will take place to-morrow morning. Father Smith, of the University of Washington, will have charge of the service. The burial will be in the Cathedral burying-ground.

TO WORK AGAINST THE LOUD BILL. John Elderkin and O. J. Viator have gone to Washington to urge the repeal of the bill which would give to the Loud Post office relating to second-class matter.

WEST SIDE FRUIT AND FLOWER MISSION. The rooms of the West Side Fruit and Flower Mission, No. 265 West Thirtieth-st., are now open for the reception of contributions. The Christmas work of the mission will begin to-morrow and continue until Christmas Eve. Fruit, jellies, condensed milk and delicacies for the sick in the tenement-houses are especially requested. Excuses, however, are not acceptable. Money is much needed for current expenses and for the purchase of supplies. Checks should be drawn payable to the treasurer, Mrs. J. Lewis Fox, No. 415 Park-ave.

COST OF REMOVING THE SNOW. The new snow contractor, G. M. Furman, expects to have the last vestige of the recent blizzard removed from the city's thoroughfares before sunrise this morning afternoon. Mr. Furman's method of presenting his work has been warmly commended by city officials and the public generally. He gets 14 cents a cubic yard less than was paid to his predecessor, Herbert Tate, last year. The last snowfall was the heaviest to occur in the month of December in recent years. At 6 a. m. yesterday the cold winds and snow had been carried off, leaving, it was estimated, about forty thousand cubic yards still on the streets. The contract for the removal of the snow was, therefore, the storm did the city about \$2,200.

TO REPRESENT THE REGIMENT. The members of the Board of Officers of the 6th Regiment have selected the following to represent them at the National Guard convention, which will take place next month: Colonel George Moore Smith, Lieutenant-Colonel Edward Duffy, Major Michael J. Spellman, Adjutant John McClintock and Assistant Surgeon Collins. It is expected that the subject of the reorganization of the National Guard and the formation of the State forces into one division will be discussed at the convention, and that the officers of the Guard will go on record as being opposed to persons from civil life being appointed to responsible places. Many officers are in favor of legislation which will allow the Governor to appoint an honorary staff, each member to have the rank of colonel, but no person to be eligible to a place the duties of which may bring him in direct contact with the organization, unless he is an officer in good standing.

CONVEYANCES AND MORTGAGES. Following is the record of conveyances, mortgages and judgments projected in New York for the last week compared with the corresponding week in 1895:

Table with columns for 1895 and 1896, showing statistics for Conveyances, Mortgages, and Judgments.

PROPOSED BUILDINGS. Number of buildings, \$2,442,185. Estimated cost of buildings, \$7,775,000. Total amount of buildings, \$50,870,875.

other good scores which were made were the following: Company C, G. S. R. 67, A. C. H. 65, F. C. H. 37, 88, D. 60, K. 26, and E. 100.

A FAIR AMOUNT OF BUSINESS. TRANSACTIONS IN REAL ESTATE IN THE HOLIDAY SEASON. Considering the fact that the holiday season is at hand, the transactions in real estate the last week were on a fair scale. The total of the sales by private contract reported by brokers was \$1,700,000. There were many transfers of lots and other property for improvement before or by spring. There was also considerable activity in dwellings, flat and tenement houses. The dealings of the week included the following:

SALES IN THE WEEK. The New York Life Insurance Company sold Nos. 140 and 142 Fifth-ave. at a considerable advance over the price at which the company came into possession of the premises under foreclosure about ten years ago. The properties are brownstone front flats, each having No. 140 on a lot 18x102, and No. 142 on a lot 18x102. The prices paid for these lots respectively by the company were \$1,200 and \$2,000.

Mrs. Rosane King sold through Duff & Risher to Thomas J. McLaughlin six vacant lots on the south side of One-hundred-and-twenty-first, 200 feet east of Second-ave. The same brokers resold the lots at an advance to Walter Field, who will erect a brick and apartment houses on the property.

Hoffman Brothers sold to Warren E. Dennis the second-story corner of Liberty and Canal-sts., No. 58 Liberty-st., 24 feet front in Liberty-st., and 24 feet deep in Canal-st., with a two-story brick building on the lot. The price was \$100,000. Mr. Levy. This is a choice corner and surrounded by office buildings. Hoffman Brothers sold this property for \$100,000.

The Jay estate sold the inventory brick business building by No. 31 Spring-st. to Charles E. Tracy, as executor of the estate of John Chappell, sold the inventory and basement brick dwelling on lot 18x102, No. 42 East one-hundred-and-forty-second-st., to James J. Lamborn, of 50th-st., No. 58 Liberty-st., 24 feet front in Liberty-st., and 24 feet deep in Canal-st., with a two-story brick building on the lot. The price was \$100,000.

Albermarl Nicholas T. Brown acquired from Augustus P. Greene for a consideration of about \$20,000, a lot on the northeast side of Madison-st., 47 feet front on the northeast of New York, the lot is an irregular one and has a frontage of thirty-eight feet on the street. The price was \$20,000.

William H. Lewis & Co. sold for John C. Hegelin to Charles E. Tracy, as executor of the estate of John Chappell, sold the inventory and basement brick dwelling on lot 18x102, No. 42 East one-hundred-and-forty-second-st., to James J. Lamborn, of 50th-st., No. 58 Liberty-st., 24 feet front in Liberty-st., and 24 feet deep in Canal-st., with a two-story brick building on the lot. The price was \$100,000.

W. J. Van Pelt sold to an advance to James O'Connell and William E. Conroy the plot of five lots on the southwest corner of Perry-ave. and Two-hundred-and-fiftieth-st.

Brooklyn Brick & Co. sold the five-story brick dwelling on lot 27x115, on No. 27 Madison-ave. on the east side of the avenue between Thirty-eighth and Thirty-ninth-sts., for Arthur D. Russell, to James Steyer, on private terms.

Tredwell & Simmons sold the plot on the south side of Seventy-third-st., 20x102, 100 feet east of Riverside Drive, to an investor, for about \$2,000. A high-class private dwelling will be erected.

Francis Lawrence & Co. sold the corner lot on the northeast corner of Perry-ave. and Two-hundred-and-fiftieth-st., to an investor, for about \$2,000. A high-class private dwelling will be erected.

William Rosenzweig sold at private contract for the City of New York, to Henry St., a six-story tenement, lot 25x55, to Joseph R. Butenwiler, on private terms.

William Whitehouse sold for Louis L. White to A. Boardman No. 5 East Sixty-sixth-st., a four-story dwelling, lot 25x100, for about \$3,000.

The same firm sold for Mrs. A. Van Wyck to A. Hyde the two-story stable No. 42 West Forty-fourth-st., for about \$2,000.

HUBERMAN MAY PLAY TO-DAY. The case of the fourteen-year-old boy violinist, Bronislav Huberman, to whom permission had been refused to play in the Metropolitan Opera House, through the interference of the Gerry society, was brought before Mayor Strong yesterday by Edward Lauterbach, who appeared in his behalf. He was usually playing on Sunday. This has caused no end of trouble and misery to the poor fellows, who, though willing to work, have found it impossible to obtain employment.

Mr. Wilds has placed these men on half time this year, which will prove a boon to them. The crowd against the Gerry society, however, has not held off, because of a lack of funds to continue the work. There was appropriated for the repairs and maintenance of this work \$22,000. This money was usually used up before the year closes, and even this year the Commissioner has found it impossible to retain these men. About one hundred men have been laid off since the beginning of the year.

A VALUABLE TROTTER DROWNED. HORSE, WAGON AND DRIVER CROWDED OVERBOARD AT A PIER. Timothy Mooney, an employe in Julius Bindern's boarding-stable, at No. 238 East Eighteenth-st., was ordered yesterday to deliver a buckboard wagon at the pier of the Oyster Bay boat, at Pier 17. The buckboard had been left on storage in Bindern's stable by Mr. Smith, of Oyster Bay. Mooney hitched to the buckboard a trotting mare owned by Mr. Bindern, named Hattie H., who held a record of 2:19.

B. Altman & Co. BRIC-A-BRAC DEPT. 3rd Floor. In order to reduce our extensive stock of Bronzes and Marbles, Clocks and Clock Sets, Porcelains and Art Pottery, Curio Cabinets and Tables, Enamels and Miniatures, Dutch Silver, Carved Ivories, American Cut Glass, &c., &c., we will offer many unique objects of Art adaptable for Holiday Gifts AT EXCEPTIONALLY LOW PRICES.

18th St., 19th St. and Sixth Ave. MR. OLCOTT TAKES THE OATH OF OFFICE. THE NEW DISTRICT ATTORNEY REAPPOINTED TIMOTHY EARL, THE ASSISTANTS OF COLONEL FELLOWS.

William M. K. Olcott, the new District-Attorney of the county, took the oath of office yesterday and began his duties by reappointing temporarily all the assistants of the late Colonel Fellows. It was about 10:30 a. m. when Mr. Olcott went to the Criminal Courts Building, accompanied by Patrick J. Scully, the Deputy County Clerk, who was prepared to attend to the official registry of Mr. Olcott's commission as District-Attorney. They were joined by Major Flynn, the Commissioner of Jurors, and they expected that a Judge of the Court of General Sessions would be in the building to administer the oath to Mr. Olcott.

As all the parts of the court were closed and no judge had appeared in the building at that hour, Mr. Olcott and the other men went to the County Court House and into Part II of the Supreme Court, where Justice Pryor was sitting to hear some ex-parte motions. Justice Pryor administered the oath to the new District-Attorney a few minutes before 11 a. m.

Soon after noon District-Attorney Olcott returned to the Criminal Courts Building and went through the formality of reappointing the Assistant District-Attorneys and the Deputy Assistant District-Attorneys. Recorder Coffey arrived at his chambers at that hour. Mr. Olcott and the other men who had been reappointed full Assistant District-Attorneys went before the Recorder and took the oath of office. They are John F. McIntyre, Hartow S. Weeks, Vernon M. Davis, John M. Lewis, John D. Lindsay, James W. Osborne, Robert Townsend, Stephen J. O'Hare and Seaman Miller, and each has been drawing a salary of \$2,500 a year. The eight Deputy Assistant District-Attorneys were not reappointed to take the oath of office.

Mr. Olcott said yesterday that there would be no immediate changes in his staff. He had a visit in the afternoon of the Criminal Courts Building in the afternoon, and looked about with evident interest. He said he had been in deciding which room he would select as his private office. The room which Colonel Fellows occupied for several months has been used lately as an ante-room.

GOOD FOR PUBLIC WORKS LABORERS. Acting Commissioner of Public Works Howard Payson Wilds has started an innovation in the Department that will cause many a poor laborer and employe to spend a happy Christmas. Heretofore it has been the practice to lay off all the laborers, hydrant gangs and street repair men, about the first week of December. This has caused no end of trouble and misery to the poor fellows, who, though willing to work, have found it impossible to obtain employment.

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Horner's Furniture. HOLIDAY GIFTS. Selections for gift purposes can nowhere be made with greater pleasure or satisfaction than from our stock, for the reason that nowhere can be found such a host of things combining utility with beauty—the useful with the ornamental.

Furthermore, our prices can be relied upon as being the very lowest at which high-grade Furniture and Art Novelties can be sold.

Ever-welcome gifts are Ladies' Desks Fancy Tables Cheval Glasses Fancy Chairs Dressing Tables Easy Chairs Dressing Tables Music Cabinets Of which we have large assortments.

R. J. HORNER & CO., Furniture Makers and Importers, 61, 63, 65 West 23d Street (Adjoining Eden Musee).

DELFT NOVELTIES. At the following extremely low prices any one can afford to have a piece of this much sought and fair cutting, and also fancy cuttings. Our price will be, as \$2 dozen long as they last.

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HAVILAND SETS. We have a special offering in Haviland Limoges China Ice Cream, Game, Fruit or Chop sets. Round Platters, with plates in blue, yellow, green and gold, lace edges, with very best gold or etched gold edge on each. These sets are a reduction of 25% from our former prices. With this discount from our former prices, which were THEN less than elsewhere, you will find that these are a great bargain. Prices average from \$22.50 upward for sets of 12 rich Plates and a Platter.

HOCK GLASSES. We have displayed in store No. 52, what is conceded to be the most complete line of Rhine Wine or Hock Glasses, Punch Cups and Saucers, Bon Bons, Almond Dishes, etc. that can be found in this city. Prices range from \$8.40 per dozen to \$45 for Rhine Wines, which are, as usual, 25% less than elsewhere.

BOHEMIAN BON BONNS. As a special offering in our Bohemian Glass Department we will offer an assorted lot of rich Bon Bons in colors and gold, valued from \$5 to \$8. Choice \$3 each.

TETE-A-TETE SETS. Teltitz Tete-a-Tete Sets, consisting of Tray, Tea Pot, Sugar and Cream, and two Cups and Saucers, cream body, with flower decoration and gold edges, value \$3.75 \$6.00, special price, complete.

TEA POTS, SUGARS AND CREAMS. Yesterday we purchased a large quantity of Tea Pots, Sugars and Creams, in Dresden flower decoration, with fancy gold lace edges. Owing to a late arrival of this shipment, we were enabled to purchase them at our own price, we formerly sold these sets at \$3.75, as perhaps many of our customers will remember. Owing to special purchase, the price to-day tomorrow will be \$2 set.

HANDLED NAPPIES. Rich Cut Glass handled Nappies, or Bon Bons, these are the style that usually sell at from \$2.50 to \$4.00. Do not think that they are an ordinary sort, owing to the low price at which they are quoted. \$1 each. Nameless.

CUT GLASS INDIVIDUAL BUTTERS. We will offer, to-morrow, one thousand dozen Cut Glass Indiv. Butters in 8-B diamond and fan cutting, and also fancy cuttings; they are valued at \$4.50 a dozen. Our price will be, as \$2 dozen long as they last.

DELFT NOVELTIES. At the following extremely low prices any one can afford to have a piece of this much sought and fair cutting, and also fancy cuttings. Our price will be, as \$2 dozen long as they last.

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