Amusements.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC—8:15—Straight from the Heart.
AMERICAN THEATRE—8—New-York.
BIJOU—8:15—Courted Into Court.
BROADWAY THEATRE—8:15—Shamus O'Brien.
CARNEGIE HALL—3—Concert.
CASINO—8:15—An American Beauty.
COLUMBUS THEATRE—8:15—At Gay Coney Island.
DALY'S THEATRE—8:15—The Geisha.
EMPIRE THEATRE—8:20—Under the Red Robe.
FIFTH AVENUE—8:15—Dr. Claudius.
GARDEN THEATRE—8:20—Heartsease.
GARRICK THEATRE—8:15—Secret Service.
GRAND OPERA HOUSE—8—Under the Polar Star.
HARLEM OPERA HOUSE—8:15—Kismet.
HERALD SQUARE THEATRE—8:15—The Girl from Paris.
HOYT'S THEATRE—8:30—A Contented Woman.
IRVING PLACE THEATRE—8—Bohemians.
KNICKERBOCKER THEATRE—8:15—Caste.
KOSTER & BIALS—8—Vaudeville.
LYCEUM THEATRE—8:10—The First Gentleman of Europe.
MADISON SQUARE GARDEN—2 to 11—Gas Exposition.
MURRAY HILL THEATRE—8—Northern Lights.
OLYMPIA MUSIC HALL—8:15—Vaudeville.
PASTOR'S—12:30 to 11 p. m.—Vaudeville.
ST. NICHOLAS RINK—Day and Evening—Skating.
WALLACK'S—8:45—Cymbeline.
14TH STREET THEATRE—8:15—Sweet Inniscarra.

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Roll Top Desks and Office Furniture.
Great Variety of Style and Price.
T. G. SELLEW,
No. 111 Fulton-st.

New-York Daily Tribune.

FOUNDED BY HORACE GREELEY

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1897.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN.—The Indian Government has adopted the Yersin serum as a remedy for the plague raging in Bombay. ==== The Liberal candidate won in the bye-election to Parliament in the Walthamston division of Essex, capturing a seat and making decided gains. ==== Ambassador Bayard gave a dinner at his home in London, at which the Prince of Wales was the guest of honor. ==== Dr. Nansen and his wife arrived in London. ==== A sugar trust is being formed in Germany.

CONGRESS.—Both branches in session. ==== Senate: The filibustering fight against the Nicaragua Canal bill was continued; Mr. Thurston spoke on the Pacific Railroad debt question. ==== House: The contested election case of Cornett against Swanson from the Vth Virginia District was decided in favor of Mr. Swanson.

DOMESTIC.—Judge Joseph McKenna, of California, it is announced, will be Secretary of the Interior in President McKinley's Cabinet. ==== It is reported at Columbus, Ohio, that Governor Bushnell will appoint Lieutenant-Governor Jones to succeed John Sherman in the United States Senate. ==== Frank Thomson was elected president of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, to succeed the late George B. Roberts.

CITY.—Addison Cammack, the well-known operator in Wall Street, sold his seat in the Stock Exchange. ==== H. F. Colman, a Government clerk, was arrested on a charge of being connected with a big theft of stamps. ==== The Police Board dismissed the charges against Captain Chapman, of the Nineteenth Precinct, growing out of his invasion of Sherry's at the time of the Seeley dinner. ==== Stocks were dull and generally higher.

THE WEATHER—Indications for to-day: Cloudy, with stationary temperature. Temperature yesterday: Highest, 36 degrees; lowest, 30; average, 33¼.

THE TARIFF AND BUSINESS OUTLOOK.

All now understand that the business prosperity of the country largely depends upon the promptness of Congress in acting upon the tariff. The revenue is deficient, and while continued exports of products will probably prevent an adverse trade balance for some months longer, and the credits against London represented by long exchange held on this side may cover an adverse balance of $15,000,000 monthly for two months, and the surplus of gold in the Treasury is about $15,000,000 more and by judicious financial methods could be husbanded, it is at least possible that a considerable outgo of gold to Europe, and consequent reduction of the Treasury balance, would come before the end of May without new legislation. In that event, business is liable to be disturbed again by apprehensions which the disasters of the last four years, and still more the constant undermining of public confidence by President Cleveland and his followers, have done so much to produce. This possibility would become a strong probability, if Congress should fail to make provision to prevent heavy imports in anticipation of new duties, because such imports might easily create a large adverse balance and a rapid drain of gold in the months of April and May.

But for the passage of such a preventive measure a clear majority in the Senate will be as necessary as for the final enactment of a new tariff. Thus extremely weighty consequences may depend upon the result of Senatorial elections. It is reported from Washington that the committee is not disposed to favor the claim of Mr. Dupont, of Delaware, not from any view of the merits of the case, but in the usual leaning toward maintaining the sacredness of every decision the Senate has made, right or wrong. It was only by an outrage, perpetrated by a State officer but not redressed by the Senate, that a Republican Legislature in Delaware was deprived of its right to fill the vacant seat. According to recent reports, the other vacancy will soon be filled by Governor Bradley of Kentucky, who will appoint as soon as the term of Senator Blackburn expires, and thus will add to the Republican strength, making 44 votes for a tariff bill. The decision in Oregon is expected to add another, and with one seat vacant from Delaware 45 would be a majority, or with the Senate equally divided the casting vote of the Vice-President would pass a measure.

But there are several other Senators whose declarations warrant the expectation that, on the tariff question if not on any other, they will act with the Republicans. Senator Jones has been explicit in this statement, and Senator Cannon, of Utah, is so quoted, and three of the new Senators—Turner of Washington, Heitfeld of Idaho and Harris of Kansas—are believed, on account of their expressions and their antecedents, likely to support a protective measure. Besides these there are Democratic Senators who thoroughly understand what it would mean to leave the Government any longer without adequate revenue, and to expose business to another spasm of apprehension. Several of them have declared their intention to smooth the way so far as they can for the speedy passage of such a revenue measure as the Republicans may prepare, and Mr. McEnery, of Louisiana, assured his constituents that he would support a protective bill.

These conditions are believed to make it well-nigh certain that the Republicans will have votes enough to pass any tariff bill upon which they may agree, and the same votes might with reason be expected to support a measure to prevent excessive imports in anticipation of new duties. The progress of the House Committee in framing the new bill appears highly encouraging. From all that is known of the conclusions reached, it seems probable that the bill will be a judicious compound of moderation respecting branches of industry which need less defence than they needed six years ago, and intelligent firmness respecting others. There is therefore good reason to hope that the desired result may be reached, if Congress takes care to prevent partial defeat of the new tariff by excessive imports while it is still pending, before any turn in the tide of trade can cause new disturbance.

THE ANTI-PAYN SENATORS.

The nine Republican Senators who voted against the confirmation of Louis F. Payn as Superintendent of Insurance, though they failed to defeat that unwise nomination, deserve to be held in grateful remembrance by all Republicans to whom the honor of the party is dearer than the success of any political machine. They were all subjected to the stress of great temptation. Blandishments and threats alike were brought to bear upon them. Though it is doubtless true, as alleged, that Governor Black personally made no promise and uttered no threats, the merest tyro in politics could not help knowing from the unusual interest he manifested in the matter, and his personal solicitations to Senators for their favorable action, that discrimination in the distribution of Executive favors would inevitably be exercised to the advantage of those who complied with his wishes. To this it may be added that the conduct and bearing of Mr. Payn's active champions in the Senate, and the arrogant tone of their prepared speeches in his behalf, left no doubt of a purpose on the part of the machine leaders to subject the opponents of Mr. Payn to rigid party discipline, if not to put them under the ban and crush them. It is greatly to the credit of these nine self-respecting, loyal Republican Senators that they so manfully stood up for their convictions, regardless of fear or favor. Their action, though apparently and for the moment inefficacious, will not be without a wholesome influence. It will serve to retain in some degree the confidence which the mass of voters repose in the party, and for some time to come will "shine like a good deed in a naughty world."

It remains to be seen whether any attempt will be made directly or indirectly on the part of the Governor and his obedient followers in the Legislature to punish the nine recusants for their temerity in maintaining their own convictions against Executive dictation. Governor Black has accomplished his purpose. He has put his friend into the office of Superintendent of Insurance. But he knows what effort it cost him, and he must know as well that it has not been without considerable damage to his reputation and sacrifice of personal popularity. He has signified his loyalty to the machine, and has demonstrated his gratitude to the individual to whom he is alleged to owe his nomination. So far as that is concerned, his debts are paid. That he has not up to date promoted harmony in the party, but, on the contrary, has brought about dissatisfaction and dissension, is evident. It depends upon him alone to show by his action in the future whether he has the wisdom and breadth of view to cultivate harmonious relations with a united party and a reasonable understanding with Republicans who do not upon all points agree with him, or, following the instincts of the petty machine politician, will put his own future and the success of the party in peril by seeking to gratify his resentments.

The appointment of Payn has created a feeling of dissatisfaction that must inevitably produce a breach in the party, if the animosities it has engendered are kept alive by his friends instead of being suffered to cool and disappear with the lapse of time. A report is in circulation that since his confirmation Mr. Payn has signified his intention to administer the office with such efficiency and fidelity as to vindicate the Governor's choice and refute the charges which have been brought against him. We certainly hope that the report is true, and that he will succeed in his most laudable purpose. He can make a good beginning toward establishing himself in public favor by dismissing any feeling of resentment he may have toward those who opposed his appointment. And his friends who advocated his confirmation with such unnecessary heat will do a good thing for themselves and the Republican party if they imitate such an example.

SOME BAD REASONS.

If General Tracy had no better reason to give for the creation of a municipal assembly with two chambers of large membership to share in the government of the Greater New-York than that without it the people "are powerless "to a degree that should not exist anywhere in "a professed democracy; that they have no "medium through which they can effectively in-"fluence and direct their municipal government," but must submit themselves to unrepresentative bureaucrats, he might better have followed the advice given to the country justice to make his decisions and say nothing, for if he began to give reasons for his action he was lost. General Tracy's reasons are of the kind that call attention to all the weaknesses of a municipal assembly, and add to the conviction that it is an experiment—as he himself admits—and, moreover—as he fails to note—an experiment which all experience shows will not be successful.

We are asked to intrust a mass of municipal functions to two bodies of councilmen, on the ground that the government will thus be brought nearer to the people. Otherwise they "are com-"pelled to stand aloof voiceless, while their funds "are appropriated, their taxation decreed, and "their streets torn up at the will of a Commis-"sioner of Public Works." It is for fear of this awful tyranny that General Tracy says a municipal assembly "is the only feature of the charter to which I am irrevocably committed." Such a conclusion cannot have been reached without a study of precedents, but it would be interesting to know where these great virtues of an assembly have been seen. Certainly not in New-York or Brooklyn, which it is proposed to govern with this new body. In both of these cities bitter experience has compelled us to deprive councilmen of their powers, and has led us to turn to "bureaucrats" as the only refuge from popular representatives who made it their business to run counter to popular sentiment in the promotion of jobs.

General Tracy says that with the "bureaucrats" the people, having cast their votes, have "no further share in the control of public affairs "until the return of the same privilege at the "next election." It is difficult to see how they have any greater share in the doings of councilmen. Neither history, nor logic, nor analogy throws any light on the question. Our Aldermen in the past have been more irresponsible and defiant than any Mayor, or even than any appointed department chief. There is no reason to expect that an Alderman will be more sensitive to public opinion than a Mayor; in fact, every reason to expect the contrary, for the Mayor must act in the open, and assume responsibility for his deeds and answer for them to the whole community, while the Alderman can work in secret, make others share his responsibility and "work" a small district for re-election. And if an argument from analogy is needed, the New-York Legislature furnishes it with special emphasis just now. Does General Tracy think the State Senate paid much attention to popular sentiment when it confirmed Payn against the protests of the most thoughtful voters in the Republican party? He cannot be ignorant of the fact that the general public in this and other States has come to look upon Legislatures, though necessary because of the essential governmental functions they perform, as dangerous because intrusted with power which may be and frequently is exercised from selfish motives in cool defiance of those they are supposed to represent. Year after year we see the moral sentiment of this State having no more influence in Albany than upon the deliberations of a foreign Parliament, and yet General Tracy wants two great municipal assemblies because they will reflect popular desires!

He admits it is to be an experiment, but he thinks the people have been educated in the last twenty years and morally stimulated by revelations of municipal corruption. But why try experiments in the direction of exposing them to new corruption? Why, when all education in municipal affairs teaches that city government is an administrative and not a legislative function, open the doors for deals and irresponsibility? General Tracy may rightly be convinced that a popular assembly, responsive to the sentiment of the electors, with an electorate alert to hold representatives to account, is an ideal method of government; but he is engaged in drafting a charter not for an Arcadian metropolis, but for the people of New-York and Brooklyn, with all their faults and limitations, and the last thing those people have ever shown themselves capable of doing is to watch minutely the action of a body of representatives and reward each one for his deeds regardless of irrelevant considerations. They have more than once held a Mayor or a Governor to a stern accounting, but they never have made a municipal council really responsive to their aspirations.

ARBITRATION AND THE CANAL.

Of all the specific objections thus far made against the pending Arbitration Treaty with Great Britain the most serious is that it would imperil American control of the Nicaragua Canal. That, if true, might well be deemed sufficient cause for radically amending, if not for rejecting, the treaty. This Nation would not be pleased to see a canal connecting its own Atlantic and Pacific coasts controlled in whole or in part by an alien Power. Whether such a canal should be constructed at all is a question open to fair dispute; but if it be constructed, there is no doubt that it should be under the control of this country, whose interests would be affected by it vastly more than those of any and all other nations. It is necessary, therefore, to consider what bearing this treaty would or could have upon the control of the canal. Ex-Senator Edmunds, in an incisive discussion of the matter, holds that it would have none. For the treaty submits to arbitration nothing but "matters in difference, "in respect of which either of the high con-"tracting parties shall have rights against "the other"; and, according to the legal definition of the term, Great Britain could claim no rights against the United States in regard to the latter's operations in Central America, any more than the United States could have against Great Britain in regard to British operations in Abyssinia. That logic seems irrefutable and conclusive, and is, on the face of it. But there is just this flaw in it, that this country has in terms, by solemn treaty, given and conceded to Great Britain those very rights which, under international law, the latter never could have acquired. That is the troublesome point which gives force to this objection to the treaty.

Half a century ago, when the construction of the Nicaragua Canal was being considered, Great Britain made some pretension to ownership of the Nicaraguan coast lands where the eastern terminus of the canal must be. The pretension was baseless. But the United States, instead of boldly denying and resisting it, contented itself with asking Great Britain for permission to construct the canal through the land in question. Great Britain refused, but offered to enter into a treaty for a joint protectorate over the canal. To this the United States weakly agreed, and the notorious Clayton-Bulwer treaty of 1850 was the result. Under that instrument the two Governments agreed that neither should ever have "any exclusive control over the said ship canal," or "erect any fortifications commanding the same, " . . . or assume or exercise any dominion "over . . . any part of Central America; " . . . or use any influence that either may "possess with any State or Government "through whose territory the canal may pass "for the purpose of acquiring or holding, di-"rectly or indirectly, for the citizens or subjects "of the one, any rights or advantages . . . "which shall not be offered on the same terms "to the citizens or subjects of the other." Now, that called upon Great Britain to abandon her untenable claims to the Nicaraguan coast; though as a matter of fact she did not do so. But it did worse than that for the United States. It prevented this country from constructing the canal on its own account. It subjected this country's dealings with a neighboring American Republic to the supervision of a European Power. And at the present day it is, morally at least, a bar to American construction and control of the canal; it gives to Great Britain the rights against this country which Mr. Edmunds says she has not, and which in justice she should not have; and it gives this Arbitration Treaty a bearing upon the canal which must be regarded as incompatible with American interests.

A radical solution of this difficulty is, however, suggested. It does not lie in the rejection of the Arbitration Treaty or in any material modification of that instrument. It does lie in the prompt abrogation of the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty. That treaty, it is argued, was based on error. It has operated to the advantage of neither country, but really to the disadvantage of both. It has delayed to this late date the construction of the canal. It has been violated, in spirit and in letter, by Great Britain, and it has been violated in spirit, and may soon be in letter, by the United States. Both countries have, more than once, expressed a desire for its abrogation, though neither has yet taken the technical step necessary to effect that end. Among all our treaties there is not one more discredited, despised and obsolete. Its continued existence can do no good, but may, as now appears, cause irritation and trouble between the two great nations whose intercourse should be most friendly. The proposition is therefore made to abrogate it. Then, if this country decides to proceed with the construction of the Nicaragua Canal, it may do so under its own exclusive control, without a shadow of doubt upon its moral title so to do; and it may ratify this Arbitration Treaty without fear of its control of the canal being imperilled or challenged thereunder. That is a proposition to which the Senate and Executive will, no doubt, give careful consideration.

FORRESTER BOBS UP AGAIN.

Forrester has broken out again. Orrion L. Forrester. The same Forrester who had a bill introduced in the Assembly providing that he, as an Assemblyman, should be entitled to special and peculiar privileges; in particular, that he should not be obliged to pass the regular examinations prescribed for persons desirous of being admitted to the bar of the State. The latest object of Forrester's attack was the Annual Appropriation bill. When it was brought up the other night he moved to strike out the enacting clause. This singular proceeding naturally led to an explanation, in the course of which it appeared that the man from Kings County was butting his head against the bill of last year.

When attention was called to this painful and, to an ordinary man, embarrassing fact, was Forrester disconcerted? Not a bit of it. That's not the sort of man he is. Instantly he proceeded to unburden his soul by letting his fellow-legislators know what he was driving at. Raising his voice, he declared that the point he was trying to make was that he was opposed to the Civil Service Commission. "I would not vote," said Forrester, "a two-cent piece for the "maintenance of this or any other Civil Service "Commission." And then he capped the climax by adding: "I don't want any Civil Service." Forrester's attitude is entirely clear, and characteristic. Of course such a man has no use for Civil Service Reform. A man who wishes to dispense with the Regents' examinations for would-be members of the bar naturally has contempt for examinations of all kinds. "No Civil Service in his."

It is just as well, perhaps, for officials of this stamp to let the people know exactly what their position is. Forrester has already made a record in one direction which he can scarcely point to with pride. His fellow-citizens have not forgotten that he went back tectotally last year on the pledge he made previous to his election in reference to consolidation. That he should appear as a candidate for re-election after that performance showed astonishing assurance. Still, he does not shrink from putting himself frequently in the bright light of publicity. He is not in a shrinking mood. And now we know just where he stands on the Civil Service question.

SCARE TALK ABOUT THE PLAGUE.

The men responsible for letting into this city without disinfection some mailbags from Bombay are deserving of severe censure. They were negligent, and disobeyed orders, and negligence and disobedience are always culpable. The fact that no harm was done, or was likely to be done, to the public health does not matter. It was their duty to disinfect the mail, and they should have done it. But just because they did not do it is no reason for alarm or for any scare talk about danger from the "fearful bubonic plague." No such danger exists or probably would exist if our Quarantine were abolished altogether. The man who is afraid of the bubonic plague in New-York had better keep away from the North Pole for fear of dropping into Symmes's Hole.

There has been an extraordinary amount of nonsense talked and published about this plague; much of it is not only foolish, but criminal. A few weeks ago we were solemnly told that one-fifth of the entire population of Bombay was dying every week. That would mean that Bombay had been reduced from a city of 800,000 to a town of 5,000, the other 795,000 having died of the plague! As a matter of fact, the death rate, instead of being one-fifth, has never been more than one-two-thousandth, and instead of 795,000 persons having perished, the total death roll from the plague for four months in a city of 800,000 is less than 4,000. In other words, the mortality from plague in Bombay has been proportionately far less than from numerous recent epidemics of typhoid, influenza and other diseases elsewhere, and both proportionately and actually far less than from smallpox and other epidemics in Havana at the present time.

The bubonic plague is a bad thing, no doubt. So is anything that kills folk. But to say it is the most contagious and deadly scourge ever known to mankind is exaggeration. The fact is, as now widely recognized, that it is not contagious at all in the ordinary sense of the term, as smallpox or measles is, and in a large proportion of cases it yields readily to medical treatment. A healthy person may live in the room with a plague patient, and nurse him and come in the most intimate personal contact with him, and run no risk of contracting the disease. There is incomparably more danger of catching smallpox, or yellow or scarlet or typhus fever, or any one of a dozen other maladies, than there is of catching the plague; some of them are quite as deadly as the plague when contracted, and their greater powers of spreading make them more formidable. All the deaths that have occurred at Bombay from the plague are but a handful compared with those in the United States from an outbreak of yellow fever, and the appearance of a single case of fever in Florida would be greater cause for alarm than the arrival of a whole shipload of plague patients in the harbor of New-York.

The plague at Bombay to-day, as it was in London in Defoe's and Pepys's time, is a filth disease, pure and simple. It is propagated exclusively by germs, which do not exist in the air, but must be conveyed into the system in food or drink through the alimentary canal. Two centuries ago, in London, people of clean lives, who ate proper food and lived in sanitary conditions, were exempt from the plague. Two years ago, in Hong Kong, the same was true. It is true to-day at Bombay and Kurrachee. It would be true in New-York. Those who are stricken with it at Bombay are the poor and ignorant, who are crowded in squalid hovels swarming with rats and vermin of all kinds. No Europeans are stricken, nor any of the better classes of Hindoos, Parsees and Mahometans, nor is there any reason to fear they will be. It is well, of course, to suspend the pilgrimages to Mecca, as has been done, and to exercise all possible precautions against the extension of the epidemic; and no port in the world should be guarded more carefully than that of New-York. But if ever an unfumigated mailbag gets in, or even a ship with plague patients aboard should come to port—though the odds are a thousand to one against the latter ever occurring—it would be folly of criminal proportions to get up a panic over it. No matter what may or may not happen, New-York will not be stricken by the plague.

The signing of the Venezuelan treaty marks the beginning of the end of a controversy that has dragged on for half a century, and that might have gone on for half a century more had not the United States taken a hand in it to good effect.

With corn down to 21⅝-¾, the May price just registered in St. Louis and the lowest known, and transportation so cheap and rapid, famine ought not to exist long in any quarter of the world. Low as the price of the grain is, the poor, starving Hindoos have not the money to pay for it, nor is it a food substance with which they are familiar. But if it were given to them, carriage paid, it might help them in their extremity. It would be a deed of charity, blessing those that gave and those that took, to send a fleet of corn-laden ships to the starving, remembering the while the proverb that he gives twice who gives quickly.

The Tammany braves, like their shillalah-swinging ancestors, are still "fighting like devils for conciliation and hating each other for the love of God."

A Kentucky paper describes the funeral of a prominent citizen who had been shot to death after himself shooting to death two of his neighbors, and says that the congregation broke up after singing the "docksology." It was an appropriate and timely choral diversion, one of the blessings intended in the chant of praise being no doubt the removal of a citizen so capable of holding up his own end in a controversy. The markmanship in that commonwealth is quite unerring, whatever may be said of its orthography.

The right way to finish the Capitol at Albany is by contract. On that point there cannot be two opinions, although men may differ as to the wisdom of intrusting the work to Superintendent Aldridge. No more days' work is a rule that should be strictly adhered to from this time on.

Premier Laurier cannot leave business to attend and make a speech at the coming Washington Birthday banquet in Chicago, but he would perhaps read the Declaration of Independence and Hail Columbia to the Ottawa Legislature if formally invited to do so. This is the era of good feeling between the countries, to be signalized in a proper manner on all occasions. Washington's Birthday ranking always as an occasion of the highest class. In the interest of freedom and virtue at large it is entitled to Canadian as well as home recognition.

William J. Bryan does not approve of Lyman J. Gage. This is not important, but so far as it goes it is satisfactory.

The Pamirs are the roof of the world, and travellers in these high regions have always discovered curious things, many of which were not there. Two Danish officers have just returned thence, giving report of hitherto unvisited districts containing dwarf tribes not only of human beings but of animals, the sheep being the size of a French poodle and the donkeys about as large as a good-sized pointer. Among these tribes the use of money was unknown, but women were bartered for sheep, the rate being as one to fifteen in favor of the woman. The wonders of the world are not yet exhausted, and it still contains an unexplored corner here and there to keep alive the interest of travel and supply the string for the longbow which the traveller has been in the habit of drawing since the time of Sir John Mandeville and Lemuel Gulliver, and perhaps before.

PERSONAL.

The Rev. J. Ross Stevenson, of McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, has declined the call to the pastorate of the First Presbyterian Church of Chicago.

E. A. Fitzgerald, who recently attempted to ascend Mount Aconcagua, in South America, but was obliged to abandon the task while 2,000 or 3,000 feet below the level of the summit, had previously announced his intention of making this trial with a view to watching the effect of various altitudes on the human system, for guidance in making still higher climbs in the Himalayas. Unless he shows greater power of endurance elsewhere than in the Andes, he is not likely to do any record-breaking. His guide, Zurbriggen, who did reach the top of Aconcagua, has also reached loftier heights in Asia than Fitzgerald has attained.

General Craighill, who has just been put on the retired list, is being talked of for the presidency of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, according to "The Boston Transcript."

Francisque Sarcey, the distinguished Parisian dramatic critic, was the object of a disagreeable manifestation recently. He was delivering a lecture in the Odéon, to precede a matinee special performance of Plautus. Several students began to ask the lecturer questions, and from questions proceeded to scurrilous epithets, and even to catcalls. M. Sarcey took the disturbance calmly, shrugging his shoulders and remarking that his enemies in the audience were entirely lacking in originality. The audience was impatient at the interruption, but it was not till several policemen were called that the lecturer could go on, which he did with the greatest coolness. After his discourse was finished he was met by a crowd of students at the theatre exit, but his smiling good nature quite disarmed them, and no further disturbance was attempted.

Miss Kate Fay Ewing, who founded the first children's home in the United States, is in a hospital in Toledo, Ohio, suffering from an incurable disease.

The Rev. Dr. James E. Quigley has received the Papal brief appointing him Bishop of Buffalo.

Miss Jane Addams, of Hull House, Chicago, will speak at Trinity Chapel, Boston, on Friday, February 12. Her topic will be settlement work, but with special reference to Elizabeth Peabody House and kindergarten work.

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

At a recent meeting of a medical society in Germany a physician reported a curious experiment made by him with the X rays. He had heard of another man who had become bald in consequence of exposing his head to their influence. Not long afterward the doctor had a patient, a child, who was bothered by an excessive growth of hair on its back. Thereupon he employed the X rays for depilatory purposes and secured gratifying results. Photographs were exhibited to the society showing the condition of the patient "before and after taking" this novel treatment. The physician's name was Freund.

Teacher—Johnny Jones is ten years old, and his sister is fifteen years older than Johnny. Now, how old is Johnny's sister?

Pupil—Nineteen.

Teacher—How can you be so stupid?

Pupil—Guess I know what my sister says, and she's fifteen years older than me.—Boston Transcript.

A French naval engineer, D'Humy, has devised a method of converting petroleum into a hard, fibrous, solid compound, so that it may be used for fuel more conveniently and cannot escape if the tank which holds it is punctured by a cannon shot.

A sergeant of a company of British infantry quartered in a Dacoit-infested part of Burmah a few years ago was a firm believer in destiny. No amount of argument with his more sceptical comrades could shake his belief in the slightest, he invariably closing the controversies with the rather illogical assertion that "when a man's last day comes, it comes."

One evening, when dressing, preparatory to taking a stroll, in the jungle, he was noticed by a corporal, a persistent opponent of the destiny theory, to quietly slip a revolver into his pocket.

"Hello!" shouted the corporal, who saw a chance of ridiculing the sergeant, "what are you taking the revolver with you for? That won't save you if your time has come."

"No," replied the sergeant without a moment's hesitation; "but, you see, I may happen to come across a Dacoit whose last day has come."—Answers.

In the current number of "The Engineering Magazine" Colonel Waring says that the cost of sweeping the streets of this city in 1896 was about $1,155,000, but this amount could be reduced half a million dollars if New-York had perfect asphalt pavements and the best form of car-rails.

Watts—Let's walk along until a car overtakes us.

Potts—No. Let's walk the other way until a car meets us. We will catch it sooner, we will go downtown just as quick, and we get more ride for our money.—Indianapolis Journal.

The latest improved "rapid fire" gun of Hiram S. Maxim weighs twenty-five pounds, is mounted on a tripod weighing only fifteen, and discharges 600 shots a minute.

"I think Julia and Jack are engaged."

"Why? Does she pick lint off his coat collar?"

"No; she has quit."—Chicago Record.

REAL OR SHAM PAYN?

Now Black has made us blue with Payn,
In spite of many a protest vain
And public clamor.
The men supporting him are mum—
Perhaps because their caputs hum
With "katzenjammer."

Oh, Louis! If the Gordian noose,
Which bound you fast to methods loose,
Is cut asunder,
Your future policy is plain,
And then, insured against sham Payn,
You'll be a wonder!

"Don't you want to get into this National Encyclopaedia of Prominent People—cost you only $25?"

"No, sir; don't like the way it is run—look at George Washington and John Quincy Adams getting in for nothing."—Chicago Record.

The Convict bill just passed by the Alabama State Senate is a radical measure. At present the convicts are being worked in the coal mines. This bill proposes that three-fourths of the State convicts and all of the county convicts be taken out and worked on the farms, in the brick yard and cotton factories belonging to the State. The theory is that the new plan is more humane and more equitable, because the convict competition is distributed and will in the end be more profitable financially.

When He Was Honest.—Babbling Brooks—See here, Dobbs; aldough dere may be a feud in yer fambly agin soap, I wisht yer'd drop de subjec'. I onc't lived a week on a bar uv soap w'en I wuz honest.

Dusty Dobbs (incredulous)—D'ye mean ter say yer eat it?

Babbling Brooks—Nit! I cut it up in little squares an' sold it ter farmers' wives as de "Sure-cure corn-salve."—Judge.

One of the English bishops is also a geologist. Being asked to say grace at a swell private dinner, he stood up and performed that function, but went straight on while on his feet with a geological disquisition which he had been pouring into the ear of his neighbor when interrupted by the summons.

Aunt—What! sitting up writing at this hour?

Niece—Yes, auntie; it's only a little note to Harry.

Aunt—Why, Harry left you only five minutes ago.

Niece—Yes; but there is something I forgot to ask him, and it's very important.

Aunt—Yes?

Niece—I asked him if he loved me, and he said "Yes," but I forgot to ask him if he would love me always.—Answers.

AMERICAN WATER COLORS.

THE EXHIBITION AT THE ACADEMY OF DESIGN.

The thirtieth annual exhibition of the American Water Color Society in certain ways marks an advance upon the records of preceding years. Pictures have before this been displayed which were more remarkable than anything now brought forward, but never has the average been better than it is this year; never have the galleries been so evenly commendable. Moreover, there is a more exact balance struck between the landscape and genre contingents than has been customary in the past. As a rule it has been impossible to set good figure pieces abreast of good landscapes in equal numbers, but upon the present occasion the effect is of variety, from the corridor to the last corners of the remaining rooms. It may be observed, by-the-way, that the latter have been most ingeniously adorned by Mr. Walter Satterlee, who has had sole charge of the decorations. He has, indeed, brought the society back to a realization that the purpose of the exhibition is to show pictures to advantage, not to flaunt draperies and bric-à-brac. Not seldom the galleries have been overburdened with curios and hangings. It is good to see them at last treated in a reposeful and really decorative manner.

Gayety has been the most pronounced characteristic of many previous water-color shows at the Academy, and with much justice, inasmuch as the medium is fitted to the exploitation of light and airy moods. But there seems to have been a tacit agreement among the contributors to the latest display that they would adhere to a key of mild and gentle color, to styles more workmanlike than snappy, to subjects more sedate and familiar than original or startling. The result is a very companionable gathering of pictures. Mr. George Wharton Edwards, in his studies of the picturesque maidens of Holland, pleases by a pretty vein of domestic sentiment at the same time that he registers a note of direct and forcible execution. Mr. Abbey portrays a stately young matron of the Puritanical era and charms by the subdued emotion in his figure, by the simplicity of his design and the sobriety of his color. The only picture in the collection that approaches undue emphasis of light color is the "Torch Bearer" of Mr. Francis C. Jones, and here the effort to be brilliant when brilliancy is not within the artist's grasp has not destroyed the sprightly and sensuous effect with which he should have been content. Of another essay along rather high-pitched lines, the work with which Mr. Wiles has won the Evans prize of $300, we cannot speak so cordially. "The Green Cushion" is a crudely designed and roughly painted water color, with nothing to recommend it beyond its bold brush work. It wears uneasily the honors bestowed upon it, filling the post of honor in the south gallery with loudness and cheap cleverness.

It is the more regrettable that a picture like "The Green Cushion" should have been singled out for the distinction of a prize, inasmuch as, besides being intrinsically of poor quality, it is not in any way representative of the exhibition as a whole. More unanimously than ever before the water-colorists have taken their art with becoming seriousness, and their well-made pictures, many of them uncommonly true and sensitive, put to shame the gaudy performance upon which we are asked to congratulate Mr. Wiles. It is more to the point to congratulate Miss Woodbury for her picturesque and sympathetic representation of two Dutch women at work and in repose, "Mother and Daughter." In work like this there is purpose, dignity, and, at the same time, there is artistic temper. Again, there is a crispness about Mr. Earle's portrait of "A Young Venetian" and his "Pensioner," which is good in itself, and shows to instructive advantage when placed beside the shallow facility of work more "catchy" than intelligent. Some of the more intelligent sketches in the show are Mr. Smedley's. He pours forth, year after year, a stream of social vignettes which seems endless, but he has not yet begun to stereotype his designs. On the contrary, there is a wonderful freshness about his four drawings here presented, all contemporaneous in theme. It is in work like this, reflective of current types and manners, that the water colorists are happiest. Here and there a more adventurous vein is disclosed, as in the piquant "Fairy Tale" of Mr. Flagg, the graceful "Huntress" of Mr. Cookman, the somewhat florid "Sultanetta" of Eugene Grivaz, the two fanciful designs—more fanciful than artistic—of Albert Herter, the quaint costume studies of Mr. E. H. Henry, with his "Sunday Morning" and in "The Morans," with their fragments of old-fashioned life, their beaus and their belles. But more frequent, and, on the whole, more admirable, are such exhilarating open-air sketches as Mr. Volkert's "Fishing on Lake Erie" and "Selecting," or such a quiet, masculine piece of work as Miss McChesney's "Mother and Child." In the portrait of "Otero," by Mr. Symington, in Mr. Josephi's "The Gossip" and in Mr. Arter's "The Gossips," the characteristic merits of this exhibition are typified—merits of straightforward reality and of wholesome delicacy in color and modelling. An artist like Mr. Louis Rhead may surprise the visitor by some such sudden apparition as his "Portrait of Mrs. Rhead," a design of almost grotesque style, with its hot background and its fantastic linear effect, and Miss Maud Stumm may captivate momentarily by the freshness and vivacity of her small water colors; but, in the long run, these artists have less to say to the public than a man of Mr. Edwards's study characteristics or of Mr. Francis Wheaton's semi-pathetic feeling. The latter, in fact, has painted in his "Invocation" one of the most effective and persuasive pictures of the season. He has gathered a number of hungry sheep around a scarecrow that lifts two imploring arms above the nibbling animals and the dreary plain. The atmosphere is one of gloom and cold. The composition, though thoroughly artless and spontaneous, is admirably balanced. Altogether, this is a most poetic and interesting picture, one that stays in the mind with an air of originality and distinction. We suppose that as much could have been said for Mr. Church's "Song of the Jungle" a number of years ago, but, as it is, he has been painting his tigers so long and so methodically that he fails to touch the imagination in his most recent work.

To have done this and to have excited not only the imagination, but one's sense of every-day familiar delights in rural paths, has been the special privilege of Mr. Ochtman, Mr. Eaton, Mr. McIlhenny and several others. The landscapists, in short, are at their best in this exhibition, with Mr. Ochtman at their head. Mr. Palmer is a worthy companion to this artist, as witness his "Brook in Winter," and there is a "Midwinter" by Mr. Charles Warren Eaton in the south gallery which comes near to Mr. Ochtman's "Winter Symphony" in the interpretation of chill, snowy landscape. But the latter is without question the star picture in the galleries, a work so full of quivering light, so full of the strange winter air that hovers on the borderland between dazzling clearness and the vaguest mist, that it brings into the room an actual shiver, as of the veritable scene which it depicts. There are other good snow scenes shown in addition to this and the other studies mentioned above. There is, for example, Mr. Ross Turner's vigorous sketch of a railroad yard, in the corridor, a painting which carries him at a bound far above the level on which he has hitherto been standing. Mr. Turner flanks the doorway on one side with this winter scene, on the other with "The