TO SUCCEED DR. R. R. BOOTH.

AN IRISH CLERGYMAN WINS THE PRIZE.

THE REV. SAMUEL MCCOMB, OF BELFAST, ABOUT TO BE CALLED BY THE RUTGERS RIVERSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AT A SALARY OF $8,000.

When the Rev. Dr. Robert Russell Booth, the pastor of the Rutgers Riverside Presbyterian Church, resigned in the fall of 1895, a large committee was appointed to secure his successor. Many candidates have been heard by the members of this committee, representing the various boards of the church. It was decided at the outset that no candidate should be invited to preach in the pulpit while it was vacant. Unwittingly, however, the congregation has heard the man whose name has been agreed upon by the committee, and is to be submitted for the approval of the church and congregation at a meeting to be held this evening.

Early in January the Rev. Samuel McComb, formerly pastor of the Elmwood Presbyterian Church, of Belfast, came to this city for a brief visit. He was invited to preach in three or four of the leading Presbyterian churches of the city, including the Fifth Avenue, the Fourth Avenue, the Scotch, the Park and the Rutgers Riverside, serving simply as a pulpit supply in the latter. At nearly every service the committee from the vacant church was present in more or less force, and the favorable impression received at the first hearing was deepened on each successive Sunday, until the committee offered him the pulpit at a salary of $8,000, subject, of course, to the approval of its action by the church. At the last meeting of the Presbytery Mr. McComb was introduced by the Rev. Dr. John Hall, and was invited to sit as a corresponding member. At the January meeting of the Presbyterian Union, in the Windsor Hotel, he was also present, and was introduced to many of the clergymen and church officers.

Mr. McComb was born in 1864 in Londonderry, under the shadow of the cathedral there. His parents were members of the Great James Street Presbyterian Church, his father being an able lay theologian, deeply attached to the Calvinistic faith. The son's characteristics are thus described by one who knows him: "His clear, logical, analytical mind, and his keen love of truth, he owes to his father; but his sensitiveness, sympathetic nature, kindheartedness and generous impulses are the gifts to him of a mother to whom he is devotedly attached. Mr. McComb received his education in Magee College, Londonderry, where he carried off prizes in Latin, Greek, logic, metaphysics and Hebrew, and where he invariably won the first theological scholarship of his year. Later he went to the Assembly's College, in Belfast, where he also captured the most highly prized theological scholarships, and also was first on the lists at both theological examinations held by the General Assembly for the Irish Presbyterian divinity students.

Mr. McComb was licensed to preach by the Presbytery of Londonderry, and was first settled at Reading, England. While engaged there in the work of a busy pastorate he entered Oxford University and was graduated with honors. Two years ago he read a prize essay on "The Immortality of the Soul" before the university. From Reading he was called to Armagh, the birthplace of Dr. Hall, and later to the pastorate of the church in Belfast from which he has recently resigned.

BISMARCK COMPLAINS OF LONELINESS.

THE AGED STATESMAN SAYS THAT NOTHING HE SEES GIVES HIM PLEASURE.

Berlin, Feb. 4.—The "Dresden Gazette" publishes an article on Prince Bismarck, in the course of which it says that the Prince recently said:

"I feel tired, but I am not sick. My complaint is uneasiness of life, in which I no longer have any object. Nothing that I see gives me pleasure. I feel lonely. I have lost my wife, and my sons have their own business to attend to. Agriculture and forestry have lost interest, and politics are beginning to bore me."

Speaking of Count Muravieff, the new Russian Foreign Minister, Prince Bismarck, according to the "Gazette," said he was the very man he always hoped to see occupying that post.

DAMAGING TESTIMONY AGAINST KNEEBS.

Berlin, Feb. 4.—The hearing of the appeal of Robert T. Kneebs, the American trotting-horse owner, against the judgment of the Court condemning him to nine months' imprisonment for "ringing" the mare Bethel on the German tracks under the name of Nellie Kneebs, was continued to-day. The defence opened the proceedings by reading a number of American testimonials to Kneebs's integrity. United States Ambassador Uhl and Secretary Jackson, of the American Embassy, were present.

Herr Jeserich, an official chemist, gave evidence that was damaging to Kneebs. He testified that the word "Bethel" in the agreement had been crossed out later than the names of two other horses. The ink used for writing in the interpolations was different from that with which the body of the agreement was written.

THE KAISER SINGS THE CZAR'S PRAISES.

Berlin, Feb. 4.—The Emperor Alexander Regiment, so named for the late Czar of Russia, paraded in the Lustgarten to-day and received ribbons which Czar Nicholas had sent to decorate the standards. The parade was attended by Emperor William and a number of high officials. Later a luncheon was given by the officers of the regiment. The Emperor was present and proposed a toast in honor of the Czar. He begged the messenger who had brought the Czar's gift to Berlin to convey his thanks to His Majesty. He recalled the brotherhood of arms of the Russian and German armies, and referred to the Czar heading at Breslau recently the regiment whose name would ever be a symbol of the relations between their respective ancestors.

SHOT AND KILLED A FEDERAL DEPUTY.

Port Townsend, Wash., Feb. 4.—The steamship Alki, from Juneau, Alaska, arrived last night, bringing details of a tragedy on Admiralty Island.

"Slim" Birch, under sentence for mayhem, was released from the United States jail by an ex-convict named Shell and two other unknown men. A posse started in pursuit, and found the outlaws camped in a deserted cabin in the centre of Admiralty Island. Under the leadership of Deputy United States Marshal Watts an attempt was made to break down the doors of the house, when a volley was fired from the cabin, and Watts fell mortally wounded, and Marshal Hale and the jailer, Baise, were badly wounded. Birch and Shell were captured and taken to Sitka and placed in jail.

JAMAICANS FOR THE PANAMA CANAL.

Colon, Colombia, Feb. 4.—The mission of Mr. Mange, director of the Panama Canal Company, to Jamaica for the purpose of obtaining laborers to work on the canal has been successful. The men that he has secured will be paid $1.20 currency a day, and the Government of Jamaica will receive $3 for each laborer as a guarantee that the men will be returned to Jamaica upon the expiration of their contracts. A large number of Jamaican laborers are expected to arrive here shortly.

MRS. CAREW ESCAPES THE GALLOWS.

Yokohama, Feb. 4.—The sentence of death imposed by the court upon Mrs. Carew, convicted of having caused the death of her husband, Walter Raymond Hallowell Carew, secretary of the Yokohama United Club, by poison, which was subject to revision by the British Minister to Japan, has been commuted by that official to imprisonment for life, and the unfortunate woman thus escapes the gallows.

MISHAP TO OCEAN VESSELS.

London, Feb. 4.—The British steamer Mohawk, Captain Gates, from New-York January 23 for London, has arrived at Gravesend, damaged, though the extent of her injury is not yet known. The Mohawk came into collision last evening with the British steamer Duke of Buckingham, bound for Brisbane, which was anchored at Holehaven. The Duke of Buckingham has returned to the Thames. Her stem and port bow are damaged, and she is leaking in her forepeak.

The Norwegian bark North Star, Captain Amundsen, from Brunswick December 15 for Harbourg, has been wrecked off Boulogne, France.

A SOUTH AFRICAN RUMOR DISCREDITED.

London, Feb. 4.—"The Globe" this afternoon published a rumor that a serious disturbance had taken place at Johannesburg, in the Transvaal. Nothing has been received to confirm the rumor, and it is generally believed that it is a Stock Exchange canard, circulated with the object of depressing the prices of mining securities.

PROGRESS OF THE EDUCATION BILL.

London, Feb. 4.—The Education bill passed its first reading in the House of Commons to-day.

REORGANIZATION OF THE BRITISH ARMY.

London, Feb. 4.—In the House of Lords to-day the Marquis of Lansdowne, Secretary of State for War, explained the Government's scheme for the reorganization of the army with a view of bringing the battalions at home to a higher state of efficiency and augmenting those abroad in respect of fulness of ranks and numbers of organizations. The scheme which the Government had formulated, he said, included among other changes the addition of two battalions to the Guards, making nine battalions in all, and the employment of three of them abroad. It was also intended to add a battalion each to the Highland, Malta and West Indian regiments and 5,000 men to the garrison artillery. The Prince of Wales was an attentive listener to the debate on the measure.

NEARLY WRECKED ON SUGAR.

NARROW ESCAPE OF THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT FROM DEFEAT IN THE CHAMBER.

Paris, Feb. 4.—It was only through the strenuous efforts of M. Méline, Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture, that the Government was saved from being overthrown by the Chamber of Deputies to-day. On Tuesday, in the debate on the clauses of the Sugar bill, M. Habert moved that bounties should only be paid to growers three-quarters of whose employes were French. The Government opposed the motion, but the Chamber, by a vote of 221 to 219, decided to consider it.

The motion was discussed to-day and it found many supporters. It looked at one time as though the Government would be defeated, but eventually, through the active work of M. Méline, enough votes were secured to defeat it, but only by an extremely narrow margin. The vote in favor of the motion was 292 to 234 against it, the Government thus having a majority of only two.

Eventually the bill in its entirety was agreed to by a vote of 282 to 239.

THE POPE HAS A FAINTING FIT.

HIS PHYSICIAN SAYS THE PONTIFF HAS FREQUENTLY HAD SUCH SPELLS.

Rome, Feb. 4.—Dr. Lapponi, the Pope's personal physician, was hastily summoned to the Pontiff's bedside at 8:30 o'clock this morning, and found that he had fallen into a fainting fit, from which, however, he soon recovered. Dr. Lapponi has assured inquirers that the faintness of the Pope is not a serious matter, as latterly, in consequence of his advanced age, he has frequently had such spells. Nevertheless the doctor has forbidden that the Pope hold any receptions for the present.

THE BEHRING SEA COMMISSION.

TO MEET IN MONTREAL ON JUNE 16 AND HEAR THE FINAL ARGUMENT.

Vancouver, B. C., Feb. 4. Mon real has been chosen as the scene of the final argument and award of the Behring Sea Commission, and when the members of that important international body left here yesterday it was with instructions to meet at the Canadian metropolis on June 16.

The claims, including personal damages sought, aggregate $567,000, and the costs and counsel fees will bring the total well into $750,000.

DEMANDS ON THE WHITEWAY MINISTRY.

NEWFOUNDLAND FISH MERCHANTS WANT RECIPROCITY WITH THE UNITED STATES.

St. John's, N. F., Feb. 4.—An influential deputation from the Chamber of Commerce and from merchants representing the entire fish trade of the island waited upon the Whiteway Ministry to-day to urge them to enforce the law prohibiting the sale of bait to French fishermen, whose competition is destroying the sale of Newfoundland fish in the European markets, and to compensate local bait-catchers, whose living would be destroyed owing to this prohibition.

The deputation also expressed hopes that negotiations would shortly be taken up between the colony and the McKinley Administration, with a view to putting into operation the reciprocity arrangement, known as the Bond-Blaine convention, whereby Newfoundland fish would be admitted free to the American markets. They urged that salted bulk fish exported from this colony be included in the arrangement.

Popular agitation will probably force the Government to speedy and vigorous action.

DISCIPLINE IN THE IRISH PARTY.

London, Feb. 4.—At a meeting of the Dillonite (Anti-Parnellite) section of the Irish Parliamentary party held to-day the sum of £2,500 was allotted to twenty-one members, who subscribed to the terms of the resolution passed at a recent meeting of the party pledging loyalty to the party and obedience to its discipline. On motion of Michael Davitt Edmund M. F. Knox, Anti-Parnellite member for Londonderry City, was expelled from the councils of the party for having written a letter declaring his independence of the required discipline.

A SON BORN TO LADY BERESFORD.

London, Feb. 4.—Lily, Dowager Duchess of Marlborough, wife of Lord William Beresford and formerly Mrs. Louis Hamersley, of New-York, gave birth to a son to-day at Deepdene, Dorking. Mother and child are doing well.

PLAGUE MORTALITY IN BOMBAY.

Bombay, Feb. 4.—The official returns of the health authorities show that up to to-day there have been 5,068 cases of the plague and 3,841 deaths from the disease in this city.

London, Feb. 4.—The Bombay correspondent of "The Daily Mail" cables that much alarm is felt throughout India owing to the spread of the plague. Cases have been reported as far north as Delhi and as far south as Bangalore.

GLASGOW SHIPBUILDING WORKS BURNED.

Glasgow, Feb. 4.—The Fairfield Shipbuilding Works, in this city, were burned to-day. The loss is £50,000, and 5,000 men are thrown out of employment.

BANK OF ENGLAND RATE REDUCED.

London, Feb. 4.—The Bank of England reduced its rate of discount to-day from 3½ per cent to 3 per cent.

A CITY RELIEVED OF LIABILITY.

Victoria, B. C., Feb. 4.—The British Columbia Court gave judgment Tuesday allowing costs in the appeal of Victoria City against the judgment of Justice Drake in the case of the Consolidated Railway against the city, in reference to the Pine Bridge across the arm. A most important feature of the judgment is that it distinctly denies the liability of the city for any damages in connection with the bridge disaster during the last Queen's birthday celebration, by which fifty-six lives were lost.

A CONSERVATIVE MEMBER RESIGNS.

London, Feb. 4.—Charles Harvey Combe, who represented the Chertsey division of Surrey in the Conservative interest, has resigned his seat in Parliament, owing to ill-health.

NEW-HAMPSHIRE WANTS THE TREATY.

Concord, N. H., Feb. 4.—In the Senate to-day the following was adopted and sent to the House for concurrence:

Whereas, There is pending in the Senate of the United States a treaty between the United States and Great Britain for the arbitration of matters in difference beween the two countries;

Resolved, That the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of New-Hampshire hereby declare their unqualified approval of this most beneficent attempt to avoid wars or threats of war, and in place thereof to set up the principles of Christianity and humanity that call for peaceful settlement of international disputes; and

Resolved, That we urge the Senators of the United States from New-Hampshire to use their utmost endeavors to bring about the ratification and approval by the Senate of any treaty which shall honorably consummate this method of adjusting international difficulties between the two nations.

FOR THE TREATY WITHOUT AMENDMENT.

Lincoln, Neb., Feb. 4.—In the Senate yesterday a concurrent resolution was introduced requesting the two Nebraska Senators to support the pending Anglo-American Arbitration Treaty without amendment. It was referred to a committee, and will be called up later. It is believed it will be passed.

IMPRISONED MINERS PERISH.

Detroit, Mich., Feb. 4.—A dispatch to "The Journal" from Houghton, Mich., says: "The report that all four miners who were entombed in the burning Tamarack mine had escaped in safety was an error. At midnight last night the dead bodies of William and Antonio Tomoczchevski were found at the bottom of the shaft by the searching party which had been looking for them since early in the afternoon. It is supposed that the men became confused when the fire broke out, and fell from the eighth level to the bottom."

BUSINESS EMBARRASSMENTS.

Selma, Ala., Feb. 4.—Maas & Schwartz, cotton commission merchants, and S. Maas & Co., kindred firms, doing a wholesale grocery business, made an assignment this morning, naming M. S. Smith as assignee; liabilities, $300,000. The creditors are New-York banks, who rediscounted paper for the defunct Commercial Bank of Selma, the failure of which made necessary the assignment. Assets are not stated.

Cincinnati, Feb. 4.—The Consumers' Ice Company assigned this morning without preferences, owing to a disagreement among stockholders. The assets are placed at $107,000 and the liabilities at $81,000, and the persons interested say that the concern is solvent.

Boston, Feb. 4.—George C. Dickson, assignee, says with respect to the failure of E. C. Hodges & Co.: "I have ascertained that the liabilities of the firm in round numbers are between $225,000 and $250,000, generally secured by collateral. The statement of assets cannot yet be made. There will be a creditors' meeting on February 12."

THE GERMAN CHARITY BALL

HELD AT THE METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE.

ANOTHER GREAT SUCCESS—MORE THAN $10,000, IT IS ESTIMATED, WILL BE DIVIDED AMONG DESERVING INSTITUTIONS AS A RESULT—SOME OF THE GUESTS.

The annual German Charity Ball was held last night at the Metropolitan Opera House. Under the auspices of the Bachelors' Circle of the German Liederkranz, Jung Arion and the Beethoven Bachelors, the ball has been held annually for six years, and in that time through it nearly $60,000 has been distributed among various deserving German charities. That of last night was a great success, and it was estimated that more than $10,000 will be divided as the result of this year's entertainment among the societies.

The Opera House was decorated with American and German flags, and immediately over the proscenium arch was the legend in electric lights, "German Charity." The ball was opened by Mrs. Max Ams, whose interest in the furtherance of German charities is well known, and Charles Brandt, jr. The management of the floor was given into the care of Frank A. Ehret. O. B. Weber was chairman of the Press Committee.

Among the box-holders were Charles Brandt, jr., Otto Huber, W. M. Schwenker, Joseph Liebmann, George H. Chatillon, John G. Gillig, Max Ams, R. F. Amend, A. Doelger, William Kramer, Mrs. A. Woerishoffer, C. Graef, O. Ottendorfer, Mrs. O. Wessell, J. G. C. Huepfel, F. A. Ringler, R. J. Schaefer, A. Weber, E. M. Burghard, H. B. Scharmann, G. Ehret, S. Bergmann, O. M. Eidlitz, E. G. W. Woerz, L. Fleischmann, H. Co ls, P. Doelger, Mrs. Pauline Keppler, C. O. Peters, Dr. J. H. Senner, H. Wesendonck, George H. Diehl, R. Katzenmayer, A. von Briesen, A. Hartman, H. F. Poggenburg, Charles Meyer, C. M. Von Baur, J. M. Ommels, F. Rohe, O. F. Zollikoffer, Mrs. C. Bechtel, John Stemme and Sheriff Tamsen.

Among those who were present were Mrs. M. Berg, A. Beal, Mrs. Regina Bungi, Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Burghard, Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Cillis, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Dodge, Mr. and Mrs. George Ehret, Miss Julia Ehret, Mrs. John Eichler, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Fleischmann, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Forster, Mr. and Mrs. John S. Gillig, Miss Gillig, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Guldon, Mr. and Mrs. John B. Hasslocher, Mrs. J. F. Henes, Miss Henes, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. G. Huepfel, Miss Anna Huepfel, Miss Lucy Kammerer, Mrs. George Kelm, Mrs. E. Naumberg, Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Neuman, Mrs. Hugo Reisinger, Mr. and Mrs. Hermann Ridder, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Ruppert, Mrs. Francis Schneider, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Schwarzwaelder, Mrs. Ernst Stangen, Mrs. von Zedlitz-Leipe, Mr. and Mrs. Adam Weber, Miss Mathilde Weber, Miss Lina Weber, Mr. and Mrs. G. J. Wicke, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Woerz, Mr. and Mrs. E. G. W. Woerz, Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Doelger, and Freifrau Shertel von Burtenbach.

ONE OF TAMSEN'S DEPUTY-SHERIFFS.

SO PROTESTED A MAN, MUCH THE WORSE FOR LIQUOR, WHEN TAKEN INTO CUSTODY.

Policeman McGrane, of the West Thirtieth-st. station, found an old man lying in front of No. 41 East Twenty-eighth-st. early last evening. He was badly intoxicated and his face was cut in several places. A patrol wagon was called and the man was taken to the station. When arraigned before the sergeant the man said his name was Joseph Durvrow, seventy-nine years old, of No. 841 Third-ave. He said that he was a deputy-sheriff under Sheriff Tamsen. When searched $100 in bills were found in the pockets of the prisoner. He wore expensive clothing and appeared to be in prosperous circumstances. In one of Durvrow's pockets was a flask of whiskey.

An ambulance was summoned and Durvrow was sent to Bellevue Hospital. Upon his arrival there, however, he became so boisterous and abusive that the hospital authorities, after dressing his wounds, decided to send him back to the station-house, where he was locked up in a cell. A deputy-sheriff's badge was found pinned on the inside of Durvrow's waistcoat. It was said that the prisoner was in charge of the store of Sypher & Sons, dealers in antiques, at No. 246 Fifth-ave.

At the address given by the prisoner no information concerning any one by the name of Durvrow could be obtained. It is thought that the name is assumed.

SEEN FROM A LOFTY WINDOW.

THE FANTASTICALLY WHIRLING SNOW AND THE UNFROZEN WATER TANKS.

The wind played many fantastic tricks with the snow in a recent storm, especially as seen from the upper windows of some of the tall buildings in the lower part of the city. Its prevailing direction was from the West, as indicated by the numerous jets of steam that curled off gracefully toward the East River. But this did not prevent currents from being turned in the opposite direction. The effects of some such currents were plainly visible on the roof of an eight-story building on the east side of Nassau-st. A drift was slowly but surely formed on the side next the street, and soon after noon extended fully two feet over the sidewalk. It was an object of special interest to the watchers in the fifteenth story of a neighboring skyscraper, who anxiously awaited the moment when the power of gravitation would prove too strong for the cohesive force of the light snow and the overhanging mass would fall, to the confusion of whoever happened to be passing at the moment.

"When I was in Boston," said one of the watchers, "avalanches from the roofs were frequent, but there are many steep roofs in that town. New-York is built on a different plan, and I have never seen anything of the kind happen here. When those avalanches came down, woe unto any one passing below with a silk hat, and if a man was carrying an umbrella there would be nothing left but the ribs when he came out of it. As soon as the roofs got warm the great piles of snow on them would slip off, sometimes striking the ground with force enough to shake the buildings in the neighborhood."

"Here is something that has impressed me, in looking out from this great altitude," said another of the little group, all of whom keenly appreciated the contrast between looking at the whirling snow from a comfortable upper chamber and a face-to-face struggle with it down in the street, "and that is that the water in the big tanks on the building next to this one never even freezes over in the coldest weather. One would suppose that it would freeze hard and perhaps split the tanks open. Of course it is pumped up every few hours into one of the tanks and is sent by siphons into the other, but after standing there throughout a cold night I should think it would freeze up by morning. They may run it down pretty low at night, but by the time I take a look at the tanks in the morning they are always full, and I have never yet seen any ice in them."

MR. BISPHAM'S COLD.

HE KNOWS HOW HE GOT IT, AND ENTERS COMPLAINT AGAINST AN AMERICAN CUSTOM.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: I, among thousands of others, am a sufferer from the most injurious of our American customs—ice-water and appendicitis are nothing to it—namely, artificial heat, and a consequent incapacitating cold.

I know that in winter we are only holding the mirror up to nature as exemplified by summer; but why hark back to such experiences, or why forecast our own possible, individual, eternal states? Let us not borrow trouble, but rather try to make ourselves comfortable while it is in our power—control the heat while we may, for our Adversary may not agree with us when we find ourselves in the way with him.

I was nearly put off the elevated road the other day for daring to protest against the closed back door of the car, though it was thawing hard outside; and I was informed by a sleeping-car porter the other night, when the woodwork at our end of the car was hot to the touch, that the only heat came from the gas (!), and that dooking at the thermometer) "dis caw is jest de right tempature, sah; it's exackly eighty-fo'!" But why should the opinion of this son of equatorial regions be taken in these latitudes? Every one cries out against the system of overheating, much illness is the result of it, and yet people do not seem to comprehend that they would not "catch cold" unless they caught hot first.

We poor singers, however, are expected to live up to our engagements through it all; and, on the whole, we succeed pretty well; but once in a while we run foul of a drop of sixty degrees when we are not watching our comings in and goings out, and then goodby voices for dear knows how long, and Mr. Grau or Mr. Damrosch is placed in a position known only to the opera manager, while "a sudden hoarseness"—how foolish that sounds!—is the too frequent explanation vouchsafed the public for the artist's apparent breach of faith.

Hoping that the common-sense of America, so frequently shown in almost every other direction, may suggest a remedy in this respect, I am, sir, faithfully yours, DAVID BISPHAM.

New-York, Jan. 30, 1897.

BIG GUSHER STRUCK IN OHIO.

Toledo, Ohio, Feb. 4.—One of the greatest oil wells ever drilled in this State has been struck one mile east of Rising Sun, in the Wood County field. It is now in the sand and uncontrollable, and conservative estimates say that it is good for at least 3,000 barrels daily. Smith & Bowman, of this city, are the owners of the gusher, which adjoins the monster producer of the Sun Oil Company, drilled within a year.

OBITUARY.

JOHN SNEDECOR.

John Snedecor died yesterday from diabetes at his home, No. 24 West Sixtieth-st. He was born on June 11, 1832, and started active life as a looking-glass manufacturer. Later he was in the picture and picture-frame business, and for seventeen years had an office at No. 768 Broadway, where he held a number of sales of paintings which attracted well-known buyers in this city. In 1870 he went to Paris with J. G. Brown, and brought back a number of famous paintings to this country. In 1875 Mr. Snedecor removed his business to No. 176 Fifth-ave. He was one of the oldest picture dealers in the city. He married twice, and leaves a widow, son and daughter.

BREVET MAJOR W. L. VAN DERLIP.

The news has been received at Larchmont Manor of the death in Washington, D. C., of Brevet Major William Leverich Van Derlip, one of the best-known summer residents of the Manor. Major Van Derlip was a member of the Loyal Legion of the United States and of John A. Rawlins Post No. 1, Department of the Potomac, and was at one time captain of Company G, 54th New-York Volunteers. Members of these organizations and a number of his Larchmont friends attended his burial, in Rock Creek Cemetery, near Washington, this week.

MRS. MARGARET HOSMER.

Philadelphia, Feb. 4.—Mrs. Margaret Hosmer died suddenly from pneumonia yesterday at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Helen Hosmer MacDonald, in this city. Mrs. Hosmer was at one time a prolific writer of short stories and a correspondent of San Francisco newspapers. She was born in this city on December 1, 1830, and was the daughter of Thomas Kerr. When she was still a girl her father went to California, and there in 1853 Miss Kerr was married to Granville Hosmer, who for the twenty-five years previous to his death in 1890 was chief coiner for the Philadelphia, Nevada and California mints. In 1866 she wrote "The Morrisons," a book which, although now almost forgotten, was well received at the time. Mrs. Hosmer also wrote many other short stories. She was known on the Pacific Coast as a correspondent from Washington of "The Alta-California" and "The Golden Era," the latter of which she edited with Bret Harte for some time. Besides this she wrote several plays. In 1882 she stopped her literary work, and had since lived quietly in this city.

PROFESSOR R. HARRIS.

Lynchburg, Va., Feb. 4.—Professor R. Harris, of the Baptist Theological Seminary at Louisville, Ky., died in this city this afternoon. Professor Harris was born in Louisa County, Va., on December 17, 1837. At the opening of the Civil War he enlisted as a private in a company of Virginia infantry, and in the campaign of 1861 served under General H. A. Wise in the Kanawha Valley. In 1863 he received a commission as first lieutenant of engineers, and served until the surrender at Appomattox.

THE REV. J. A. BROOKS.

Memphis, Tenn., Feb. 4.—The Rev. J. A. Brooks, a well-known clergyman of the Christian Church, and Prohibition candidate for the Vice-Presidency in 1888, died here last night of heart failure, superinduced by paralysis. In 1886 Mr. Brooks was called to the London (England) Christian Tabernacle. He returned from London recently, having resigned his charge there on account of bad health.

OBITUARY NOTES.

Bridgeport, Conn., Feb. 4.—Samuel R. Wilmot, president of the Wilmot and Hobbs Manufacturing Company, manufacturers of iron and steel, fell dead this afternoon at his home in West-ave. He was preparing for a drive, and was about to leave the house to enter his carriage. He had been in poor health for some time, and since Thanksgiving Day had been unable to attend to business.

Pittsburg, Feb. 4.—John T. Kilgalon, secretary of the Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers since 1882, died to-day after a brief illness from Bright's disease. He was forty-five years old. Mr. Kilgalon was probably one of the best-informed men in the world in matters pertaining to the iron and steel business.

Lynchburg, Va., Feb. 4.—Professor H. H. Harris, of Louisville Theological Seminary, died here this afternoon.

SPECTACLES IN COLD WEATHER.

DISADVANTAGES WHICH THOSE WHO HAVE TO WEAR THEM LABOR UNDER.

The man who wears spectacles with metal bows that hook over his ears is at a disadvantage on a cold morning like several that have recently been experienced in New-York, in comparison with his more fortunate fellows who have no need of aiding their vision by artificial means, or even those who are addicted to the use of eyeglasses supported by compression on the sides of the nose. He finds it a painful fact that the gold, or steel, or whatever metal it may be, cools off more rapidly than the flesh of his ears, producing a sensation that is anything but pleasant, even when the ears have reached such a condition that no nerves of sensation appear to be left in them. Something of the same effect is caused by that part of the spectacle frame resting on the nose.

The theory has been broached that the uncomfortable feeling noted in the backs of the ears is due to the operation of the well-known law that metals contract under the influence of cold, thus reducing the size of the segments of circles formed by the hooks, and increasing the pressure on the appendages of the head. But this supposition has not found favor in the minds of scientists whose attention has been called in a personal way to the subject.

There are two or three ways of guarding against the trouble. One is by wrapping the part of the spectacle bow coming in contact with the ears with fine silk. Better still appears to be the suggestion of an uptown oculist that pieces of fine, thin rubber tubing be drawn over the hooks. Chamois can also be used as a protective covering, but is likely to be too thick and clumsy. The objection of clumsiness appertains to all the methods suggested, and to adopt any one of them is so far a choice of evils that many spectacle-wearers prefer to bear the trouble they have rather than invite another that they know not of.

Another drawback to the wearing of glasses of any kind in cold weather is that when one to whom it is a necessity goes from out of doors into a place where moisture pervades the air (as for example a restaurant) the first thing he notices is that the lenses are so covered with vapor that it is impossible to see anything clearly before wiping them. Oculists and opticians say, by-the-way, that most wearers of spectacles and eyeglasses are not particular enough in wiping the lenses often, and seeing that they are kept free from dust, as well as other substances that interfere with clear vision.

GAINS IN ALL DEPARTMENTS.

The forty-seventh annual statement of the Ætna Life Insurance Company, published in another column, will be a source of satisfaction to its numerous policy-holders and the friends of the company. The Ætna Life has again passed through a year of great prosperity, although the depression in business was general in 1896. Gains are shown in every department, as will be seen by a reference to the statement. It is a notable feature of the Ætna Life that it has increased its dividends to its policy-holders without interruption for twenty-five consecutive years. The reputation of this company for safe management and fair dealing is well known, and has gained it the favor of the public at large.

THE BAR'S TRIBUTE TO COLONEL FELLOWS

Services in memory of Colonel John R. Fellows, the late District-Attorney, were held yesterday in the Criminal Branch of the Supreme Court, and were attended by many members of the bar. Eulogistic resolutions were adopted, and addresses were made by Judge Fitzgerald, ex-District-Attorney Nicoll, ex-Congressman W. Bourke Cockran, Edward Lauterbach and Assistant District-Attorney Davis. Justice Smyth presided.

UNLOADING THE CRUISER BROOKLYN.

Chester, Penn., Feb. 4.—The stevedores worked all night unloading the coal from the damaged cruiser Brooklyn at Marcus Hook, and a big hole has been made in the 500 tons to be taken out. Operations on the magazine were suspended at nightfall, but were resumed early this morning by the ship's crew, and about fifty tons of ammunition have been removed. It is probable that the vessel will be ready to leave her anchorage on Sunday, provided there is no freezing weather in the mean time.

TO DEVELOP NEW-MEXICAN MINES.

Saratoga, N. Y., Feb. 4.—The Saratoga Land, Mining and Milling Company has been organized, with a capital stock of $1,000,000, to develop an extensive mining plant in the Navajo Valley, N. M., where the company has secured claims aggregating 400 acres. The officers are: President, R. N. Brezee; vice-president, Harry Crocker, both of this village; secretary and treasurer, J. B. Freeman, of Greeley, Col. The Board of Directors includes the above officers and J. J. Wandell, of Saratoga Springs, and Wilmot E. Broad, of Chama, N. M.

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR CONVENTION.

Boston, Feb. 4.—General Secretary Baer, of the Christian Endeavor Society, announced to-night that it had been finally decided that the railroads' rate for the San Francisco convention be accepted. This means that the International Christian Endeavor Convention will surely be held in San Francisco July 7-12. The desired rate of $51 for the round trip between Chicago and San Francisco has been granted, together with other requirements as to routes, time limits, etc. The tickets will be good until August 15, with certain stop-over provisions, and delegates may choose their own routes.

CHAMPAGNE VERSUS BEER.

DISCUSSION BEFORE THE TWILIGHT CLUB.

NATURALLY THE BRADLEY MARTIN BALL IS TALKED ABOUT, AND CLARK BELL TAKES A SHY AT BEN FRANKLIN.

The Twilight Club celebrated its fifteenth anniversary last evening with a dinner at the St. Denis Hotel. The celebration was only in name, however, for no reference was made to the anniversary by any of the speakers. The Twilight Club has discussed first and last in its own characteristic, informal way pretty much everything from how to square the circle down or up to how to be comfortable in a Harlem flat. All these subjects have been timely at some period or other, and the club tackled another subject of contemporaneous interest last night when it discussed the relative advantages of champagne versus beer. The discussion took on especial importance, in view of the fact that nobody was ever known to drink champagne at a dinner of the Twilight Club.

But the terms of the subject were only symbolic of the two extremes of poverty and riches, and, of course, the famous Bradley Martin ball came in for consideration. But a Twilight Club man is always free to talk about canals on Mars or the isthmus of Panama, or anything else to which his fancy inclines, and last night some of them took a whack at Benjamin Franklin and his proverbs, to say nothing of Thoreau and his system of diet.

Charles F. Wingate presided and the majority of the Twilight Club men seemed to approve the expenditures involved in the Bradley Martin ball, arguing that while such a method of diffusing large sums of money was not the ideal method it was vastly preferable to hoarding it. S. C. T. Dodd, however, contended that the money thus spent was withdrawn from the banks which had it invested in industries and was disposed of in a much less helpful manner. To this A. T. Skerry replied that on the contrary the banks had been hoarding millions in these hard times, not daring to let it go into circulation for fear of losing it.

Robert Graham told the guests that in his mind men like Cornelius Vanderbilt, J. Pierpont Morgan and Seth Low had solved the problem of the proper use of wealth, and commended their example to the emulation of the Bradley Martins.

Dr. M. C. Holbrook had something to say about the modern expensive way of living. He knew a man, he said, who had lived well for the last five years on three cents a day. He thought pretty well of Thoreau's scheme, too, he added. To this Mr. Skerry retorted that he didn't know the doctor's friend, and he didn't want to. He thought a man was an ass to live like an ass. He knew a man who used to object to paying ten cents for a cup of coffee, but used to go out of his way to get a cup of barley, because he could buy it for five cents, and made the rest of his luncheon out of east wind or something. That man was dead now, from stomach trouble, he said, and his nephew was putting his hoardings into circulation all right enough.

Clark Bell took a chance at Benjamin Franklin, declaring that he was responsible for more false philosophy than any other American. He especially deplored that proverb about honesty being the best policy. It lowered the plane of honor. Honor for its own sake was enough, he said.

Andrew Deyo retorted to the boasts of a previous speaker about the greatness of Brooklyn by saying that the only thing Brooklyn had that New-York didn't have was the other end of the Bridge. He then subsided with the remark that his wife said he talked too much anyhow.

Others who had something to say were A. O. Kittredge, Rufus Scott, Colonel S. J. Albright, Joel Benton, C. A. Watson, Dr. L. A. Coffin and Captain John Codman. The Rev. Dr. Madison C. Peters was expected to be present, but he contented himself with a letter in which he said that wealth was turned from a blessing to a curse when it was paraded before the public gaze and when its owners seemed to have no other ambition than to marry their daughters to titled mendicants. Vulgar displays of wealth, he said, threw contempt upon the virtues of industry and economy.

The next meeting of the Twilight Club will be held in a fortnight, and the subject for discussion will be, "The Hired Servants of the Public."

A BROOKLYN MUSIC RIDE.

CONTESTS ALSO HELD AT THE RIDING AND DRIVING CLUB'S HOUSE.

At the Brooklyn Riding and Driving Club Wednesday night there was an interesting entertainment, beginning with a tug-of-war between the Friday class and the Rough Riding class. The former class won. A music ride followed, in which the following members took part: Colonel J. N. Partridge, Miss Whiting, T. D. Peabody, E. H. Barnes, T. S. Moore, Miss Ethel Moore, M. A. Bowers, Miss Bowers, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Hinrichs, Mrs. S. B. Duryea, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Scharmann, Mrs. Schwarzwaelder, W. E. Thorp, S. T. White, J. L. Heins, H. de Selding, W. Wilson, Miss Kenyon, F. M. Gregory, G. Herbert Potter, W. G. Gilmore, jr., Dr. J. C. Fitzsimmons, Miss Collis, A. R. Hopkins and Miss Burtis.

A jeu de barre contest was next on the programme. W. L. Candee was the defensive rider, and was attacked by G. Herbert Potter and R. B. Woodward. Mr. Candee was the winner.

THE WEATHER REPORT.

YESTERDAY'S RECORD AND TO-DAY'S FORECAST.

Washington, Feb. 4.—The barometer has risen on the Atlantic coast, over the lower lake region and over Texas and New-Mexico. It has fallen in the Mississippi valley and the Northwest. The depression which was central over Indian Territory this morning now covers the lower Mississippi valley and the storm which was central on the North Pacific coast has moved eastward to Northern Montana, where the barometer is unusually low. The barometer is highest in the St. Lawrence valley. The temperature has remained about stationary east of the Mississippi. It is colder over Texas, and warmer at Rocky Mountain stations. The weather continues fair in the Atlantic coast States and the lower lake region. Rain or snow has prevailed in the States of the Mississippi and Missouri valleys, where the weather continues cloudy and threatening. The indications are that rain will prevail from the gulf coast northward to the Ohio valley, with snow or rain in the States of the upper Mississippi and lower Missouri valleys, and north of the