Amusements

ACADEMY OF MUSIC—8:15—The White Heather.
AMERICAN THEATRE—8:15—Queen's Lace Handkerchief.
BIJOU THEATRE—8:15—The Swell Miss Fitzwell.
BROADWAY THEATRE—8:15—The Highwayman.
CASINO—8:15—The Belle of New-York.
DALY'S THEATRE—8:15—Taming the Shrew.
DORIS'S WINTER CIRCUS—8:15—Circus.
EDEN MUSEE—Wax Works, Grand Concerts and Cinematograph.
EMPIRE THEATRE—8:30—A Marriage of Convenience.
FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE—8—The Royal Box.
GARRICK THEATRE—8:20—The Little Minister.
GRAND OPERA HOUSE—8—The Secret Enemy.
HARLEM OPERA HOUSE—8:15—A Lady of Quality.
HERALD SQUARE THEATRE—8:15—The French Maid.
HOYT'S THEATRE—8:30—A Stranger in New-York.
IRVING PLACE THEATRE—8:15—The Cooing Dove.
KNICKERBOCKER THEATRE—8:20—An American Citizen.
KOSTER & BIAL'S—8—Vaudeville.
LYCEUM THEATRE—2—8—The Princess and the Butterfly.
MANHATTAN THEATRE—8:15—The Ballet Girl.
PASTOR'S—12:30 to 11 p. m.—Vaudeville.
PLEASURE PALACE—1:30 to 11 p. m.—Vaudeville.
PROCTOR'S—9 a. m. to 11 p. m.—Vaudeville.
WALLACK'S THEATRE—8:15—A Ward of France.
WEBER & FIELDS'S MUSIC HALL—8—Burlesque—Pousse Café.
14TH STREET THEATRE—8:15—An Irish Gentleman.

Index to Advertisements.

	Page.	Col.		Page.	Col.
Auc. S. Real Estate	14	2	Instruction	10	3
Amusements	10	2	Marriages & Deaths	7	6
Announcements	18	5	Miscellaneous	10	4
Bankers & Brokers	6	6	Ocean Steamers	13	6
Dividend Notices	6	5-6	Proposals	14	3
Dom. Sits. Wanted	10	7	Public Notices	14	4
Dancing Schools	10	3	Railroads	14	4-5
Dry Goods	10	3	Real Estate	14	1-2
Excursions	14	3	School Agencies	10	3
European Advts.	13	5	Special Notices	7	6
Financial Elections	6	6	Steamboats	13	6
Financial	6	4-5	Tribune Sub'n Rates	7	6
Help Wanted	10	5	Winter Resorts	14	3
Hotels	14	2	Work Wanted	10	7

Business Notices.

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

New-York Daily Tribune.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1897.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN—Great Britain has demanded from China similar concession to that permitting the Russian squadron to winter at Port Arthur; it is suggested that the British and Japanese occupy Wei-Hai-Wei jointly. ═══ General Weyler declared that if the Spanish Government persisted in its policy of autonomy for Cuba, the island would be lost to Spain. ═══ An explosion of firedamp took place in a mine at Dortmund, Prussia; eight bodies of miners have been recovered and seven badly injured men taken out; five men are still missing. ═══ Premier Banffy created an uproar in the Hungarian Parliament by a speech on the Ausgleich bill. ═══ Bourtzeff, the Nihilist editor who tried to bring about the killing of the Czar, was arraigned in court in London, with Wierzbecki, his printer; both were remanded. ═══ "Mad Archer," the assassin of the actor Terriss, was arraigned in court in London and again remanded.

DOMESTIC.—Secretary Gage has written a letter to Samuel Gompers, replying to the denunciation of his currency bill by the American Federation of Labor. ═══ Rapid progress on the plans for the Klondike relief expeditions is being made, under the direction of Secretary Alger. ═══ The funeral of Miss Leila Herbert took place in Washington, and the body was taken to Montgomery, Ala., for burial. ═══ Armour delivered another large quantity of wheat to the bull crowd in Chicago, who will have to pay cash for 8,000,000 bushels. ═══ State officials say it will cost $7,000,000 more to complete the canal improvement. ═══ The Government at Washington has been sounded as to its interest in China. ═══ The Illinois Supreme Court decided that only the five heads of departments in Chicago were not amenable to the Civil Service law. ═══ Details of the killing of two American sailors in Japan were received at the State Department. ═══ Daniel S. R. Lambert, who was shot by a burglar in Wilton, Conn., last week, died. ═══ The sleet storm in Texas has had a disastrous effect on stock. ═══ The Jury Commission law of Illinois was declared constitutional by the Supreme Court of the State.

CITY—The annual dinner of the New-England Society was held; eloquent speeches were made. ═══ Arthur Maurice, a wealthy broker, was found dead from heart disease in his rooms at the Winthrop Hotel in upper Seventh-ave. ═══ William H. Kent, a Brooklyn lawyer and a prominent member of Plymouth Church, was arrested on a charge of forgery. ═══ Stocks were dull and strong.

THE WEATHER—Forecast for to-day: Rain or snow. The temperature yesterday: Highest, 40 degrees; lowest, 33; average, 36¼.

PRIMARY REFORM ESSENTIAL.

The individual as an individual was never so helpless politically in New-York State as he is to-day. If he belongs to one of two small privileged classes of citizens he has weight in the choice of his rulers. These two circles arrange alternative schedules of government functionaries, and those outside are permitted to say which of the two they will submit to, but any wider range of selection is not for a moment allowed. When any body of citizens attempt it, even in the selection of local officers, the two cliques combine to attack as infamous and ridiculous the proposition that they have a right to do it, as they did in this city last autumn. Either clique prefers to surrender to the other rather than have the nominating power controlled by the people, for in such control it sees a destruction of its dictatorship, while the enemy's possession of office may be only temporary.

This system makes of the State no longer a republic, but an oligarchy. Under it citizens have not equal rights. The most essential rights of suffrage, without which those that remain are less than half effective for accomplishing popular will, are taken away from the body of voters and lodged with a handful of men who by a mockery of law are assumed to represent them. The wronged citizen cannot by any honest effort exercise effective influence in nominating, or by court process compel those who have secured the power to represent him to do so in reality. He is a member of a party which promises to act according to certain laws. The men intrusted with executive authority under those laws usurp absolute power, disobey the laws, by trickery or force cheat him out of his right of representation, and then add insult to injury by proceeding in his name to perform quasi-governmental acts in opposition to his will, even though his will may be that of a majority of the enrolled members of the party.

Nor can he discharge these unfaithful servants. They are held by the courts to be their own judges. He may protest, and they will laugh. He may carry a convention against them, and they will declare the convention "irregular." He may secure a nomination, and they will select somebody else and place his name on the official ballot in defiance of the wish of the party. If he does not like it he can get out. Getting out makes him a supporter of candidates nominated by the other oligarchy in the same fashion, and utterly opposed to his political policy. Between the two he is helpless. The law pretends to give him the right of independent nomination, but that is no recompense for permitting him to be cheated in his party, particularly when in many divisions of the State such nominations are physically and in some even legally impossible. So the highest party bodies are really our government, and are an irresponsible government at that, since they can perpetuate themselves regardless of their constituents. In form we have a republican system, but that has become a pure fiction.

The remedy is only to be found in putting the party machines under legal control corresponding to their legal powers. When parties were merely advisory voluntary associations they were naturally left to themselves, though the cheating in them then so menaced the State that some few regulations had to be provided. But we have now erected states within the State. Then we have freed them from responsibility to court or people. The party organization has privileges under the ballot law beyond those conferred on other associations of citizens. It designates election officers, it recommends candidates for bipartisan boards with a certain authority. It must be held to perform these functions lawfully and justly, or it is made an instrument of governmental wrong and oppression. The restoration to the body of citizens of the management of parties must be a chief concern of all who would preserve our institutions from the usurpations which have always proved the greatest danger to republics.

THE PRESIDENT'S PLAN.

Some captious persons, it may be observed, find fault with the President's recommendation regarding currency reform, on the ground that it contemplates indefinite postponement of action. He proposes, they say, certain action "as soon as the receipts of the Government are "quite sufficient to pay all the expenditures of "the Government," but, according to their notion, that time will not come until there has been another reconstruction of the revenue laws. This criticism is altogether unjust to the President, for his language must be interpreted in the light of his known beliefs. As he maintains, in common with most Republicans, that the present revenue law will prove sufficient for the needs of the Government when its full efficiency as a revenue-producer has been attained, it is but honest to recognize that his language implies no vague or indefinite postponement of action.

Opinions differ more or less in regard to the time which must elapse before the full efficiency of the new law can be attained. It is evident that something depends upon future developments which cannot be anticipated to the hour with certainty. How far foreign manufacturers may continue to send their goods to this market, often much undervalued at serious risk to themselves, in order to evade in part the provisions of the new tariff and to compete more effectually with American products, is yet to be determined. Nor can it be stated with exactness when the imported supplies of wool and woollens and sugar will be exhausted, but fair men understand that neither the President nor anybody else anticipates that such impediments to the efficiency of the new law will last long.

Another element is the restoration of general prosperity and the expansion of the consuming demand, upon which depend in large measure both the increase of customs duties and the increase of internal revenue. The President refers in his Message to the hope which he entertains with other Republicans that the revival of prosperity will continue and be complete. But it may be much hastened or retarded by circumstances which cannot be precisely calculated. It would not be wise for the President to base most important recommendations wholly upon hopes which might not be realized as speedily as he now believes, and it was obviously necessary to leave with Congress the question whether, at any given time during its session, the financial future had become so far clear that a positive sufficiency of revenue could be expected.

Neither is there ground for saying, as some do, that the proviso as to sufficiency of revenue might as well have been omitted. Not only the President, but others who entirely agree with his recommendations, have fully recognized the fact that a sufficient revenue will be required to render any essential change of the currency system a success. While urging that the currency is all good now, as sound as the faith and resources of this great Nation can make it, the President points out that a deficiency of revenue might at any time revive distrust enough to stimulate further withdrawals of gold in exchange for notes, and in that contingency the notes would soon be needed to meet current expenditures. The recommendation of the President has the most conspicuous merit of statesmanship in that it does not propose a step which cannot be accomplished, nor at a time when its accomplishment would involve harm rather than good.

SCANDINAVIAN COMPLICATIONS.

The report is extant that Sweden is at the point of attempting to intervene in Norwegian affairs with force and arms. This is probably exaggerated, for Sweden has, of course, no right to do any such thing. It would be nothing less than waging war against a neighboring Power, and, although Sweden is the larger of the two and might therefore win if the war were confined to the peninsula, the probabilities of more extended complications would be so great as to make the war a serious menace to the general peace of Europe. The fact that the same report says Sweden is looking for German assistance shows how closely connected Scandinavian affairs are with those of the rest of Europe. Pressure would doubtless therefore be brought to bear upon the two kingdoms to keep the peace, were there real danger of their breaking it.

Nevertheless, relations between Sweden and Norway have for years been in a notoriously unsatisfactory condition. Each has been jealous of the other, but Norway has especially cherished grievances against her neighbor. This has been partly because Norway thinks the foreign affairs of the two kingdoms are too much monopolized by Sweden, which may or may not be true, and partly because there has arisen in Norway, under the leadership of Mr. Björnstjerne Björnson and others, a powerful party, that is not merely hostile to the Swedish alliance and to the Bernadotte dynasty, but to monarchism itself. Its aim is to upset the throne and to establish a Norwegian republic. In this it seeks, curiously enough, the aid of the most anti-republican of all European countries, Russia. There have been for some years close relations between the Radical leaders in Norway and the Russian Court, and the opinion has more than once been openly expressed by men of influence in Norway that an alliance should be formed with Russia against Sweden, and it has actually been proposed to cede to Russia a part of Northern Norway, including an ice-free Atlantic port, as the price of that support.

Now, there may not be much danger of Norway's actually proceeding to so extreme and probably suicidal a step. The majority of her people may be more sane than the leaders who suggest it. But the fact that it is proposed at all is enough to rouse the gravest suspicions and most violent resentment in Sweden. For the latter both fears and hates Russia above all other Powers on earth. What Schleswig-Holstein is to Denmark and what Alsace-Lorraine is to France, that is Finland to Sweden, and with cause. For ten centuries there has been enmity between Sweden and Russia. And the Swedes remember well that the Eastern colossus has not always been the victor. The great Gustavus taught the Russians to tremble at the sound of his name, and it was not Russian armies but a Russian winter that crushed Charles XII. Nor do the annals of European wars contain many more heroic chapters than that which tells of Sweden's defence of Finland against overwhelming aggression in 1808-'09. To this day annual pilgrimages are made from Sweden into Finland, defying Russian wrath, to lay wreaths of laurel upon the graves of the heroes of that holy war, and there is not a Swede who does not deeply cherish their memory and a stern ambition to avenge their fall and to restore to his Fatherland the fair province so ruthlessly torn away.

Nor is that all. For years Russia has had her eye fixed upon Norrland, the Swedish province adjoining Finland, and is now suspected of a desire to seize it and add it to her own realm. This she could easily do, for the province is practically defenceless. Sweden realizes this, and is at present making vigorous efforts to secure her eastern frontier. She is reorganizing her army, constructing fortresses and building new warships. More than that, she has, with what result is not publicly known, made confidential inquiries at the British Foreign Office with a view to ascertaining what the British attitude would be in case of a Russo-Swedish war, and also to intimating that in such an emergency the Stockholm Government would not be averse to British occupation of various strategic points on or near the frontier. Some approaches were also made to the Berlin Government, not, as now intimated, to get German aid against Norway, which is not needed, but to ascertain what Germany would do in the event of the larger war. The recently established understanding between Denmark on one side and France and Russia on the other adds another serious complication to the problem, for such an understanding, if not actively hostile to Sweden, must at least be more friendly to Norway. With all these elements of wide disruption within reach, Scandinavian statesmen are likely to proceed cautiously in all dealings between the two kingdoms, and not, without the most imperative necessity, provoke a conflict which might remake the map of Europe.

A TERRIBLE PUNISHMENT.

Have the Aldermen of Harrison violated the Constitution of New-Jersey? This is a serious, nay, a momentous, question, and it should be discussed with all the deliberation and thoughtfulness that its importance warrants. The Constitution says that "cruel and unusual punishment shall not be inflicted." Now, let us see whether or not the punishment meted out to Chief of Police Callaghan comes within the scope of that inhibition.

Callaghan was accused of permitting gambling-dens and other unlawful institutions to flourish in his bailiwick, and this was supplemented by divers other charges of neglect of duty. The Aldermen were appalled when they looked into the case. They decided that public morals required a prompt and terrible example to warn negligent officials. Libraries were ransacked in search of something adequate. Books on Chinese penalties and exhaustive treatises on the tortures of the Spanish Inquisition were overhauled, but in vain. Finally one Alderman had a dream, and in this came the suggestion subsequently adopted. At first his colleagues were reluctant to give assent to the proposition. They feared that it might arouse sympathy for Chief Callaghan and make a martyr of him. But after much prayerful consideration they resolved upon indorsing the plan of punishment submitted, and so this order went forth:

"Hereafter Chief Callaghan must wear his uniform eight hours a day."

Whether the Chief will get over that it is too early to predict. Already, however, the populace are denouncing the unheard-of barbarity of the Aldermen, and the latter appear to be somewhat dazed by the outburst against their action.

COTTON SPINNING IN MASSACHUSETTS.

The Fall River cotton manufacturers state a great deal of truth in their answer to the proposal of the workers. The mills had announced a reduction of wages on January 3 from 18 to 16 cents. The men replied that lower wages were not a remedy for an overloaded market, and proposed running part time for a while. The manufacturers answered that mills running part time could not make profit, while competitors in other States delighted to increase production as much as Massachusetts mills diminished it, and that the laws of Massachusetts enacted in the interest of labor restricted the running of the mills to fifty-eight hours, while in neighboring States mills ran sixty hours, and in Southern States from sixty-six to seventy-two hours a week, and in some cases day and night, with cheaper labor and lower taxes. The Massachusetts laws, they say, have in fact driven capital to invest in Southern mills, and thus have built up there a competition from which Massachusetts laborers are now suffering.

The workers ridicule this statement, and claim that their labor is worth so much more than labor at the South as to make up for the difference in wages and hours. But the difference in hours machinery is permitted to run is a definite one in production from the same machines, and the labor of tending those machines is not of such a character that a wide difference can exist between the efficiency of French-Canadians and other immigrants largely employed in Massachusetts and of the native inhabitants of Southern States. In forms of labor requiring the highest skill and intelligence hours count less than brains, but in tending spinning machinery the hands can to only a slight extent make up by superior knowledge or training for hours of enforced idleness throughout the factories. The law was enacted as necessary to the well-being of the State, but it obviously raises up in other States a competition which, the manufacturers now urge, must cut down the number of hands employed in cotton spinning in Massachusetts or else their wages.

This answer does not cover the whole story, but presents considerations which merit the profound attention of wage-earners in Massachusetts. Evidently the restrictions which render capital less profitable in one locality or State than in others must operate to build up a competition which in the end proves costly to the wage-earners also. The Fall River mills have paid this year little over half the amount paid in dividends last year, and about 40 per cent of the amount paid in 1895, and eleven of the Fall River mills have paid no dividends this year, while just across the line, in Rhode Island, the Bourne Mill has paid 1½ per cent a month, though included in the Fall River list and doing business in the Fall River market, being subject as to labor to Rhode Island laws. The issue closely resembles that raised by the engineers' strike in England, for regulations there have already turned away much of the work from English establishments to others across the narrow channel, and the demand for eight hours' work at present pay would only increase the advantage of foreign competitors.

The cotton manufacturers do not tell the whole story, and might plead that their present embarrassment and loss of dividends are in some measure due to mistaken efforts to keep hands employed, even when the demand for goods was not sufficient to take the quantity produced. Doubtless some of them were influenced by considerations of humanity, and by desire to avoid prolonged suffering among their employes, though others appear to have believed that the market would presently demand all the goods they were accumulating. From any point of view it was a mistake of judgment, even as respects the interests of the workers, to pile up enormous stocks of goods made from cotton costing 7½ to 8 cents; but those who were influenced to that course by consideration for employes do not seem to receive consideration in return, when the question is whether they shall run without dividends or reduce wages to compensate for the enforced reduction of hours by State laws. It is a difficult situation at best, and one in which employers and employed really have a common interest, if they could only see it and work together.

A HEAVY TAX ON FUN.

Lenna Winslow, of Kansas City, Kan., was initiated into the Order of the Maccabees some time ago. The boys were feeling pretty good on the night of the initiation, and added to the august ceremonies prescribed by the ritual some frolicsome ideas of their own, over which they laughed immoderately, one member going so far as to remark that he hadn't "had so much fun since Gibbs was hung." But Mr. Winslow does not appear to be highly dowered with a sense of humor. He didn't join in the laugh over the uproarious fun of the initiation, and in fact went so far as to remark that he didn't think "the durned old initiation was so blamed funny, anyhow." Further reflection and the discovery that one of his ribs had been broken—accidentally, of course—in the course of the ceremonies only served to confirm him in his view. That is always the way with men who are deficient in a sense of humor. They allow themselves to be swayed by mere facts. Mr. Winslow permitted a broken rib to stand between him and an appreciation of a funny initiation. What really is a little thing like a broken rib between friends, especially when you have twenty-three sound ribs left? But instead of asking that question and giving it the proper answer, Mr. Winslow haled the funny fellows of the lodge before a court of law, asking for personal damages to the extent of $25,000. They had called him brother and had led him from darkness to light, after he had tried with somewhat poor success to make the trip himself while blindfolded; and this was how their fraternal efforts were rewarded. Truly this is a curious world, when the good deeds of men are thus misunderstood.

But the worst remains yet to be told. Instead of chuckling over the frolics of the initiation, the jury strangely enough took Mr. Winslow's view of it and awarded him damages to the extent of $10,000! It is thought by some that the people of Kansas are already inclined to take life too seriously; but how can we expect them to be funny when courts and juries put such a heavy tax on fun? For not more than an hour's fun, at most, these good citizens of Kansas City, Kan., are now compelled to shell out $10,000. It would not be at all surprising if, under these circumstances, they sternly resolved never to be funny again.

The steamer New-York was delayed in this harbor yesterday for two hours because there was not water enough on the Bar to let her pass out. That is a fact that ought to rouse the spirit not only of every citizen of this city, but of every American who has pride or interest in the commercial welfare of this country. The Nation's chief port should have a waterway deep enough for the entrance or exit of any vessel in the world at any state of the tide. Anything less is a menace to prosperity and a reproach to enterprise.

General Collis is still devoted to the promotion of patriotism at Central Park Plaza, regardless of the canons of art.

George Fred Williams has points of resemblance to Thomas C. Platt. Mr. Platt just before the election here declared that betting on Tracy was like picking up money in the street. Mr. Williams put his predictions about the Boston Mayoralty contest into figures. Riley, he said, would have 7,000 votes. Riley received 2,885 votes.

Russell Sage has been consulted on charity, and says, first, that the kind he practises is not like silence, and never gives assent. But he remarks that it is like a top, and begins to hum. It is also like the brooding mythological snake of the Hindoo, with its tail in its mouth, and ends where it begins. The old sort, which suffereth long and is kind, which believeth all things and hopeth all things, he does not take much stock in. No more does he approve "existing systems" of the same, as now practised by the municipality, thinking that they do more harm than good. For a really expert opinion on charity they could not have gone to a higher authority than Father Russell, who, though he spoke with the tongues of men and angels, without the endowment of that attribute which distinguishes him, would become but as sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal. His point of view is that of a disinterested outside observer not biassed by a loose addiction to the practice in any of its open or insidious forms.

Present indications are that Christmas weather will be of the kind described by the late Henry Shaw as "cold, but hot."

Night sticks are not to go, but every policeman who uses one improperly should go, and wait not on the order of his going. Any man to whom the possession of such a weapon is an irresistible temptation to use it is unfit to be on the force.

The last "Lexow case" was dismissed yesterday. Nine days hence Tammany Hall will resume control of the city with a clear field for action.

It is no longer "bleeding Kansas," but prosperous Kansas.

China asks Russia to defend her against Germany, and Russia replies by appropriating ten miles to Germany's one. "'Twas ever thus."

College football on college grounds actually pays better, in dollars and cents, than when it was taken "hippodroming" around the country. Some persons may say that this is an argument against the change, but if it is it is the only one.

The Argentine Republic declines to enact retaliatory tariff legislation against the United States, in spite of the invitation of our free-traders.

The spectre of Bryanism did not cut much more of a figure in the Boston municipal contest than in that of New-York.

The demand of drug clerks for shorter—or fewer—hours of labor is worthy of serious consideration. The labor of drug clerks is not physically exhausting. But it taxes the mind severely, and it is an important question whether their continuous employment for twelve or fourteen hours does not tend to the commission of errors in their work. The first requisite of a druggist's work is accuracy, and anything that impairs that in the slightest degree is an evil.

At the hour of going to press there are no indications that General Weyler's displeasure will drive the President of the United States to resign his office.

PERSONAL.

Miss Julia M. Bracken, a sculptor of Chicago, has been successful in making a death mask of the late Washington Hesing, of Chicago.

Mrs. Grant denies a recently published statement that she was engaged to Alfred Sandford, of St. Louis, before her marriage to General Grant.

Anthony Koziowsky, the leader of the Polish seceders from the Roman Catholic Church in this country, has returned to Chicago from Europe, where he went to be consecrated bishop by a seceding Catholic bishop in Switzerland.

Bishop Ethelbert Talbot's decision to accept the bishopric of Central Pennsylvania will be widely regretted in Wyoming and Idaho, where his unconventional and breezy ways have made him a great favorite with the plain people. No man in the two States is probably better known to the habitues of the saloons and dance halls, for on going to a mining settlement it was his custom to visit all such places at once and explain to the "boys" that he wanted their help in preparing for an Episcopal service, to be held in a hall, or, perhaps, even in a saloon. He never made such an appeal in vain, and in many cases he has been the means of restoring a ne'er-do-well to the ranks of decent and self-respecting citizenship.

The aged Johann Strauss recently reappeared as an orchestral conductor in Vienna, after a long absence from the public view. He conducted in the Musikvereinssaale a performance of his newest waltz, "On the Elbe." The Vienna papers say he looked erect and elastic at the conductor's desk and conducted with all his old-time verve and authority. After his piece had been played, Mark Twain, who was present with his daughters, went to Strauss's box to be presented to the master.

In speaking of William Plume Moran, who has just died in Washington at the age of eighty-seven years, "The Baltimore Sun" says: "No man in the country knew so many officers in the naval service as Mr. Moran, and it is said that there are many old Admirals now on the retired list whose commissions, from the time they entered the Navy until they reached the highest grade, were signed by the former Register of the Navy Department. For nearly fifty-three years he was connected with the Department, and during this time he made out the commissions of every officer in the Navy. During the war Mr. Moran had the closest confidence of Secretary Gideon Wells, all orders passing through his hands. At this time he filled the offices of register and disbursing clerk, as well as performing temporarily the duties of superintendent of buildings."

Speaking of Mrs. Ellen H. Simpson, the widow of the great Methodist Bishop Simpson, who died in Philadelphia on Sunday evening, "The Philadelphia Ledger" says: "She was well known in Methodist and other circles, and always took an active part in the work of the different church organizations. She was the president of the Methodist Episcopal Orphanage, and also of the Home for the Aged. She organized the Woman's Association of the Methodist Hospital, and was its first president. In 1876, during the National Centennial, Mrs. Simpson was one of the women selected by the Commission to represent one of the thirteen original colonies. She started the Silk Culture Association and the Western Temporary Home, West Philadelphia. She was connected with the Indian Association and the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. She was also a trustee of the American University, Washington; one of the directors of the Museum of Art, vice-president of the Home and Foreign Missionary Societies of the Methodist Episcopal Church and a member of the Bible Readers' Society."

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

Albert Hawkins, now seventy-six years old, who was the Presidential coachman from the time of Lincoln until President Cleveland discharged him, will to-day marry a handsome young mulatto woman who is employed in the Treasury Department.

We don't see why Lily Langtry felt compelled to sell her yacht, the White Ladye, merely because she is now in half-mourning. She could easily have changed the yacht's name to the Black and White Ladye.—(Chicago Times-Herald.

It becomes more than ever apparent that the Central American parrot did not cut its eye teeth yesterday, and that it is really a bird of remarkable sapience, putting this and that together with a force of logical cohesion equal to that exerted by the best prepared glue or canned Rhode Island honey. One of them in a Ninth-ave. store the other night screamed so persistently for the policeman that he came at last from several blocks away and discovered that a full ornithological burglar, David O'Brien by name, had obtained entrance to the emporium and hidden himself under the bed, intent to steal and make away with the conversational bird as soon as the coast was clear. The penetration of this beauteous isthmian visitor and its exclamatory talents blocked this little game, and the culprit was carried off and locked up to answer. This particular parrot has without doubt a future before it, and will be heard from, not only by the constabulary and the ancient and dishonorable guild of house-breakers, but other people as well. It is not one of the brooding, uncommunicative kind, which, interrogated as to its talking power, responds, "Talk's cheap. I'm a thinking parrot," but is of another sect altogether, doing credit to the region of its nativity, as well as to Ninth-ave., the social conditions of which it so cheerily enlivens.

One of the many annoying things that happen daily in the House is the pre-emption of the seats of the members by visitors before the House is called to order. Visitors seem to have a mania for sitting in the chairs of Representatives, and, if possible, they always select the seats of the most prominent. It is a very common thing to see a line of a score of persons, mostly women, but often men of all pursuits in life, slowly making their way to the dais, where Speaker Reed holds down a chair during the House proceedings. These visitors act as if they had achieved some great feat after they have succeeded in making themselves the cynosure of all eyes in the hall, by sitting in the Speaker's chair for one brief minute. They get together after the ridiculous performance and offer mutual congratulations.—(Washington Times.

The book number of "The Chicago Evening Post," which has just appeared, is a very complete record of current publications, and is a striking indication of the literary activity of Chicago.

Immensely Relieved.—"Borus," cautiously inquired Naggus, literary editor of "The Daily Bread," "are you going to write a Christmas story this year, as usual?"

"I have already written one," replied the other, "and sent it to another paper."

"Borus," exclaimed Naggus, impulsively slapping him on the back, "let's go out and take something!"—(Chicago Tribune.

Miss McLean, a woman of Glasgow, has given a fund for mission work among the dwarfs of the Cameroon district, West Africa, and the work of evangelization among them is fairly begun. They are a wandering, hunting folk, here to-day and there to-morrow, not staying long enough in one place to have any agriculture, and until they are instructed in more stable ways of living it will be uncanny for the missionaries to follow them about from place to place and labor among the little wanderers as they find opportunity. In calling for volunteers for this work it is pointed out that such as have a love for plants, insects and birds will find the field a particularly interesting one. The service requires a good constitution and an aptitude for forestry, and some knowledge of medicine and marksmanship are desirable. The apostle who can doctor a sick dwarf and bring down a parrot from the top of a tall tree is said to be of the sort most wanted there, and most likely to exert on these wild little Nimrods an influence favorable to his mission.

"You don't like my book?" timidly ventured the young author who had invaded the lair of the literary editor for the second time.

"No, miss," he said in his gruffest voice. "It's trash! I have been compelled to handle it without gloves, miss."

"I—I see it looks like it," faltered the young author, glancing at the volume that lay on the table in front of the terrible editor.—(Chicago Tribune.

At Ajaccio, the capital of Corsica, the Municipal Council has just voted to remove the local civil and military hospitals and to replace them by a single hospital for both purposes. The particular point of interest in this is the fact that the new hospital will be built according to a plan elaborated by Napoleon I. which has been preserved in the town records ever since. The site to be occupied was also selected by the Emperor himself.

Wise Boy.—He persisted in using a fragment of his broken slate, much to his teacher's disgust.

"Why don't you tell your mother you broke your slate?" she asked. "I'm sure she'd get you a new one."

"Course she would," replied the boy, "and she'd call it a Christmas present. I'd rather wait till next term before I ask for it."—(Chicago Post.

Artesian wells sunk in the desert appear to find an abundant supply of water without going very deep for it, and this fact may in time put a new face on desert conditions, involving important political, climatic and economical consequences. The English have begun sinking them along the Berber-Suakim road, finding water there as abundant as it was in the regions near the Nile when their first experimental wells were put down. Flowing under the Saharan sands there may be water enough to fertilize oases all over its sterile expanse and rescue it in a measure from its historic barrenness and desolation. Some years ago a French engineer proposed to cut a canal from the Mediterranean to the lower desert levels, thus creating a new inland sea, or, rather, restoring an old one; but for some reason the project was abandoned. Local irrigation by means of artesian borings is a more judicious expedient, and, the English having pointed the way in this direction, the French are quite likely to follow it. Only a narrow desert belt separates their possessions in North and Middle Africa, reaching from the Mediterranean to the Niger, and it is quite worth their while to fertilize it and plant it with palm groves and date orchards, if possible, at any rate to provide water enough to supply their present caravans and perhaps their future locomotives.

Bill—I see a Milwaukee railroad has discharged several Indian conductors for appropriating money.

Jill—Perhaps the Indians believed that none but the braves deserved the fare.—(Yonkers Statesman.

CUBAN AUTONOMY ON PAPER

THE WORK OF MAKING THE DECREES EFFECTIVE YET TO BE DONE.

ROOM FOR ALL THE AUTONOMISTS WHO CARE TO SERVE THE STATE—THE POSITION OF SANGUILY—THE GENERAL PUBLIC IN HAVANA NOT DEEPLY INTERESTED IN THE NEW ORDER OF THINGS.

[FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

Havana, Dec. 18.—Autonomy's prologue is spoken by those who have the right to speak it. The historic leaders, bearing in their hands the parchment decree, have apostrophized the success of the cause to which their life-work has been dedicated. That the prologue must be spoken in the bloody staging of domestic war is not their fault. Their apostrophe is a plea for peace and forgetfulness of the past. They summon their countrymen, Cuban born and Spanish born, to the rôle of patriots in the stately drama of colonial history that is to unfold. In this moment of exultation a background of national tragedy is not for them to see. The epilogue may voice the unspoken thoughts and fears of the present. But the epilogue is not for to-day.

These Autonomist leaders and thinkers are fond of parallels. They recall that General Blanco was Governor-General and Captain-General of the island when the movement for colonial home rule had its beginnings, eighteen years ago. Then the rapid progress of events takes them through a period of a dozen years, till that day in December, 1892, when Sagasta succeeded Canovas at Madrid, Maura became Minister of the Colonies, and his comprehensive reforms were projected. Had they been carried out perhaps autonomy would have become an evolution instead of a revolution. Perhaps, too, the evolution would have saved Spain the fearful drain of these last three years in blood and money—in men already more than half the losses of the ten years' war; in money a full half, and in the partial extermination of the Cuban people a loss unparalleled in the crimson history of Spain's colonial possessions.

But it was not given to the reforms of Maura to be the germ from which should develop the system of colonial government. Their failure gave fresh life to the Autonomist agitation, which never lacked the boldness of a definite aim. Manifestoes followed proclamations, the insurrection came, the revolutionary Autonomists were deported by Martinez Campos, the elections of April, 1896, such as they were, retired both the Autonomist and the Reformista delegates. Thenceforth, General Weyler was the politics of Cuba.

THE DECREES ON HAND.

Now the parchment decrees of autonomy, of universal suffrage and of the organic guarantees of the Spanish constitution are here. In making them effective there is room for Montaro, De Castro, Bruzon, Giberga, Galvez and the other leaders who have imagined that in the hour of success the party ought to have factions. Doubtless the Cabinet at Madrid has in mind the value of these names. In the imperious necessity, as it seemed to the Ministry, of giving the Reformistas a share in administration disproportionate to their numbers and influence, there is yet room for all the Autonomists who may care to serve the State. The concession to the Reformistas is one of inner council and of office, rather than of public recognition of services.

The early disinclination of Autonomist leaders to take the responsibilities alike of power and of policy are wearing away. Those at home will not refuse. Those abroad will return. "We have autonomy," says Señor Giberga, from across the water; "what more do we want?" and he arranges to return from Europe and accept the responsibilities of a place in the Cabinet, if that seems good to Sagasta and Moret. Giberga once declared that the Cubans were naturally Separatists when outside of Cuba. He is going to prove the exception to the rule in his own case. His old opponents, the Conservatives, are bringing up radical speeches made by Giberga to show that any Government in which he has a part must necessarily be hostile to Spain's sovereignity, because he denounced the banner of loyalty which they bore as "old, broken and torn." But what Giberga may have said in the past is of less importance than the question of what he may be able to do in the present.

SEEKING PRACTICAL RESULTS.

The Reformistas have not concerned themselves with the prologue of autonomy. As men of affairs, politicians, they are seeking in practical ways to secure results which will justify the recognition given them. Whether Amblard or the Marquis de Rabell shall be in the Cabinet is not of consequence. Both will receive consideration. By this time Señor Amblard may have reached New-York from France. His mission is of some importance, though it is not clear why it was intrusted to a Reformista rather than to an Autonomist. He is to gather together the Autonomists in the United States who are there either through self-banishment or enforced exile, and bring them back to Cuba to share in the new régime. It is not presumed that he will have better success in opening diplomatic negotiations with the members of the Junta than did ex-Minister Canalejas. But he may persuade individual Autonomists to come back and give the new conditions a trial.

Whether the return of General Sanguily as an advocate of autonomy would help the cause among Cubans is an open question. Sanguily was once an Autonomist. The insurgent leaders held that he was himself responsible for being arrested and imprisoned because he wavered at the critical time, instead of taking the field. When he was in prison Gomez and the other insurgent generals gave him little sympathy. Sanguily's friends have always held that he was unjustly treated by the men who began the revolution, and that their negligence caused his arrest without a chance to take up arms. Whatever the truth, the only fact of consequence now is that General Sanguily was never in the field in the present revolution. His return to Cuba as a supporter of autonomy would not have the effect that would come from the adhesion of an insurgent chief who has commanded forces in the field.

THE GREAT NEED OF THE AUTONOMISTS.

The great need of the Autonomists now is to draw to themselves supporters from the ranks of the insurrection. All their powers of conciliation and persuasion have thus far been exerted in vain. Nor can marked progress be reported in the accession of recruits from those not in arms. Followers are still the chief deficiency of the fusion Autonomist and Reformista party, with its many talented leaders.

Regarding the decree of autonomy and the collateral decrees, it has to be said that the general public has shown little interest in them. This may be because of the feeling that their interpretation is a matter of time and study, or it may be due to the conviction that they have no bearing on present conditions. The application of the system is left to the authorities and to the men who began advocating autonomy years ago. Autonomists do not stop to analyze or criticise particular provisions. They accept the decree as a complete code of colonial government, and as such it is satisfactory to them. Details come later. If disappointment lurks here and there, the ground of it is not a vital objection. The principle of autonomy is clear.

Until the agencies of the code are in active operation it would be futile to examine its adaptability or its adequateness for the administration of the affairs of Cuba. With the naming of the Cabinet will come light. Preparations for the elections will afford a further insight. This matter of the elections is so complex that its explanation must be deferred temporarily.

While the decrees from Madrid have been coming the Palace has kept on issuing decrees or "bandas," which are meant to aid in the re-