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—The Telephone Girl.
DALY'S THEATRE—8:15—The Geisha.
EDEN MUSEE—Wax Works. Grand Concerts and Cinematograph.
EMPIRE THEATRE—8:30—A Marriage of Convenience.
FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE—8:20—The Royal Box.
GARDEN THEATRE—8:15—The Nancy Hanks.
GARRICK THEATRE—8:20—The Little Minister.
GRAND OPERA HOUSE—8—A Hot Old Time.
HARLEM OPERA HOUSE—8:15—Never Again.
HERALD SQUARE THEATRE—8:15—The French Maid.
HOYT'S THEATRE—8:30—A Stranger in New-York.
IRVING PLACE THEATRE—8—The Model.
KNICKERBOCKER THEATRE—8:20—An American Citizen.
KOSTER & BIALS'—8—Vaudeville.
LYCEUM THEATRE—8—The Princess and the Butterfly.
MANHATTAN THEATRE—8:15—The Ballet Girl.
MENDELSSOHN HALL—2:30 p. m.—Concert.
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.

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Business Notices.

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

Carl H. Schultz's Distilled Waters
The only PURE and CORRECT mineral waters.

New-York Daily Tribune.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1897.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN.—The Russians have occupied Kin-Chau, an important point north of Port Arthur; Prince Henry's German squadron arrived at Gibraltar on its way to China. ==== A London newspaper declared that Great Britain had no intention of securing the Danish West India Islands by purchase. ==== It is expected that the new Cuban Cabinet will be named next week, with Señor Galvez for Premier; the Spanish Government issued a note with a view to allaying the excitement of the Spanish newspapers over the latest note from the Washington Government; General Ruiz Rivera, the captured Cuban leader, arrived in Spain, and will be imprisoned indefinitely in a fortress. ==== The Governor of the Cameroons reports that the Germans have defeated the Mboulles tribe of natives, and occupied their capital. ==== Kurdish raiders have massacred eight hundred people of a Persian Christian town.

DOMESTIC.—The State Department makes another appeal for relief of the reconcentrados in Cuba, many thousands of whom are in a starving condition. ==== It is expected that the President will appoint S. N. D. North, of Boston, Superintendent of the Census. ==== The report that the United States had attempted to secure land in Greenland for a naval coaling station was denied in Washington. ==== Dr. James B. Angell, Minister to Turkey, is not expected to resume his work at Michigan University when his year's leave of absence expires. ==== The manufacturers in Fall River declined the proposition of the mill hands to make the wage reduction 5½ instead of 11 1-9 per cent. ==== The Overman Wheel Company, of Chicopee Falls, Mass., made an assignment.

CITY AND SUBURBAN.—The sub-committees of the Committee of Fifty-three, on constitution and on enrolment, began their work. ==== H. G. Burt, third vice-president of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad, was elected president of the Union Pacific. ==== The city decided to settle certain claims of Aqueduct contractors for about $700,000. ==== Magistrate Job E. Hedges announced that he had handed his resignation from the Police Court bench to Mayor Strong. ==== The members of the Lenox Avenue Unitarian Church gave a reception for the Rev. Merle St. Croix Wright in celebration of the tenth anniversary of his ordination and of the beginning of his pastorate.

THE WEATHER.—Forecast for to-day: Fair and colder. The temperature yesterday: Highest, 35 degrees; lowest, 27; average, 31.

THE CANALS.

The people of the State have not been required to wait until the beginning of the legislative session for information concerning the progress of canal improvement, on which they voted in 1895 to expend $9,000,000, and for an explanation of the demand for $7,000,000 more to complete the work. The response of the State Engineer and Surveyor, approved by the Superintendent of Public Works, to the inquiry of the Canal Committee of the Chambers of Commerce is a clear and seemingly candid statement of the main facts in the case, affording a good basis for the discussion to which the whole subject should be submitted. It represents that the calculations laid before the Constitutional Convention in 1894 were necessarily made in a hurry, and were well known to be little more than guesswork; that every effort has been made to bring the cost of the work within the authorized amount, but that it is now sure to correspond closely to the estimates made after the thorough surveys of last year, and that with an additional sum of $7,000,000 available the entire improvement can probably be finished in the spring of 1899. As an illustration of the conditions which have made the operation far more expensive than it was originally expected to be the fact is cited that material excavated was unfit for use on the banks, and as a proof of care and economy it is asserted that most of the contractors have lost money.

There is no injustice to the men in charge of this great work in saying that their report is a statement rather than a demonstration, and that it will be necessary to subject it to a thorough scrutiny before accepting it as a satisfactory vindication of their skill and prudence. We assume that they will welcome a full inquiry and discussion; for doubtless the first impression produced by the discovery that $16,000,000 is not more than enough to complete an undertaking for which $9,000,000 was asked is an unpleasant impression. Taxpayers will want to know why the facts were not disclosed sooner, and whether it is virtually certain that the additional amount demanded will answer the purpose. It was repeatedly intimated during the session and campaign of 1895 that from $18,000,000 to $20,000,000 could be advantageously expended on the canals, and that the improvement then under discussion might lead to more extensive operations; but we do not find any evidence either that the particular scheme of improvement then proposed was expected to cost more than $9,000,000 or that the work now actually in progress is of larger scope than that on which the people voted. It appears, in brief, that an error, however natural and excusable, of at least $7,000,000 was concealed in the estimates, and that such an expansion of the canals as some persons have from time to time advocated is no part of the present programme. The additional expenditure, therefore, which the Legislature will be asked to sanction will do nothing more than finish the work—complete in one sense and initial in another—which the people authorized two years ago.

As we pointed out a week or two ago, when this question of a further outlay of $7,000,000 first came up, the vote of 1895 was a decisive expression of public opinion. The poll on the canal improvement proposition, which was only about 200,000 less than the total vote for the head of the State ticket, indicated remarkable interest in the subject, and there was a majority of more than 240,000 in favor of the expenditure. The vast importance of the canals to the State and especially to the commerce of this port was publicly proclaimed before the election by many of our most sagacious citizens of both parties, and that view generally prevailed, though some interior counties off the line of the canals voted in opposition to the improvement. There is little or no evidence that there has been a change of opinion since that time, but it is rather discouraging, if not disquieting, to be confronted with the fact pointed out by our Albany correspondence yesterday that the tonnage of the canals was smaller by nearly 100,000 this year than last. Nobody pretends to doubt that its investment in these artificial waterways has been enormously profitable to the State. Down to the abolition of tolls in 1883 they had produced a total revenue far exceeding their total cost, and there is still a balance to their credit, no account being taken of the inestimable contribution which they have made to the development of the Commonwealth. That the general advantage requires that they should be put and kept in a condition of thorough efficiency, as a general proposition, would probably be denied by scarcely anybody; but when we proceed from the general to the specific we are sure to encounter widely divergent views of what constitutes thorough efficiency. In the present instance it seems pretty clear that in order to obtain any considerable return from the $9,000,000 already devoted to canal improvement the taxpayers will have to spend about $7,000,000 more. How cheerfully they will spend it remains to be seen. They are certainly entitled to know just what they will get for it. And we are inclined to think that the incident forcibly suggests the advantage of formulating a more definite policy for the canals than has been pursued hitherto, based upon all the knowledge that is obtainable concerning their place and prospects in the commerce of the State.

"Q" OR "K."

A discussion projected by "The Philistine," a monthly magazine, concerning the uselessness of the letter "Q" as a member of the alphabet is now in progress. It is asserted not only that it has no right to the tail which accompanies it as a printed symbol, but that the letter itself is of no account, cannot be used alone, has always to be followed by the letter "u" to give it any significance, and is actually of no practical value. On the face of it the discussion appears to be purely academic. But thoughtful persons, who keep in touch with political events and know something of the circuitous methods and deeplaid plans by which politicians pursue their purposes, are not deceived by appearances. They look below the surface. They see no reason why the letter "Q" should be attacked at this particular juncture, except for something it has had to do with recent political events. In and of itself it has done nothing worthy of censure—certainly nothing that calls for its elimination from the alphabet and the substitution for it of "Kw," as has been proposed. And we violate no confidence in saying that there is a suspicion abroad that the proposition to substitute "Kw" for "Qu" is aimed at Quigg.

If this suspicion is well founded, we have no hesitation in saying that the promoters of the discussion ought to be ashamed of themselves. It is true that Quigg has ambition and that in the furtherance of his aspirations he has done some things that we could not well approve. But he has a right to be ambitious and to fly high, and the opposition to his candidacy for United States Senator or Governor or President should be conducted fairly. The effort to clip his wings by eliminating the letter "Q" and compelling him in consequence to spell his name "Kwig" should be frowned down by all honorable men. We have no idea who inspired the attack of "The Philistine." It may have been "Lou" Payn or it may have been "Charley" Murray. But whoever this particular "Philistine" was, we take leave to remind him that he is on a very dangerous enterprise. Mr. Quigg has a weapon with which, sacred history tells us, thousands of Philistines were once slain, and this community does not need to be told that he knows how to use it.

THE JAPANESE CRISIS.

The fall of the Matsukata Ministry in Japan may be regarded as a bit of the proverbial irony of fate, which the return of Marquis Ito to office would make complete. The latter was formerly Prime Minister. He was, in fact, the "Great Minister" who was foremost in the establishment of constitutional government, and who brought the country successfully through the war with China and placed it indisputably among the great Powers of the world. After that war, however, he declined to enter into another war with Russia, and perhaps Germany, too, for the retention of Leao-Tong, but submitted, with a dignified protest, to the modification of the Treaty of Simonoseki which those Powers, together with France, united in demanding. This was undoubtedly an act of wisdom on his part, and there is reason to think that the Marquis so regarded it, he having grave doubts of the desirability of acquiring territory on the continent, and thus impairing the security of a purely insular position. Nevertheless his yielding to the Powers gave great offence to the Jingoes of Japan and strengthened the hands of his enemies, who had long been working for his overthrow. The crisis came when he made Count Itagaki, the Radical leader, Minister of the Interior, apparently in return for the support of the Radical party in the Leao-Tong matter. Violent agitation arose, and at the end of August, 1896, Marquis Ito and Count Itagaki resigned. Count Kuroda conducted a stopgap Ministry for a month, and then Count Matsukata became Prime Minister and Count Okuma Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Whatever were the actual plans of these new Ministers, there is no question that a particularly aggressive foreign policy was expected of them. The newspapers which were supposed to express their opinions made open declaration of that fact. Corea was to be controlled. The Philippine Islands were to be acquired. Hawaii was to be annexed. Colonial expansion was to be carried to Australia and New-Zealand, to the west coast of South America, and even to California, and perhaps there would be territorial conquests in some of those regions. These utterances seemed preposterous to other nations at the time, and probably do to their authors now. There is little reason to suppose that the Matsukata Ministry was responsible for them or sympathized with them to any considerable degree. But that Ministry probably did intend to conduct a more vigorous foreign policy than its predecessor, and a large proportion of the people undoubtedly expected it to make Japan, offhand, the mistress of the Eastern Hemisphere. From such dreams there now comes an awaking. Japan realizes that the rights of other nations, especially of that one which introduced her into the circle of civilized Powers, must be respected, and that her own interests are best to be served by respecting them.

And now, confronted with the most serious foreign problem in her history, she dismisses the "Progressist" Ministry, from which so much was expected, and returns to the old policy of conservative liberalism under which her greatest victories were won and her greatest progress was achieved. Upon this she is to be congratulated. There is no reason to speak anything but good of the retiring Ministry. It has done well for the domestic interests of Japan, and has conducted its foreign affairs with dignity and prudence. Probably the Ministry has disappointed its less judicious supporters—those who looked to see it "thrash all creation." In doing so it has gratified the better sentiment of Japan and the friends of that Empire throughout the world. The present change of Ministry denotes, probably, a change of popular sentiment rather than of Government policy. The people have come to realize that the old policy was the best, after all, and so the old leaders are recalled to conduct it. But it is really the same policy that the retiring Ministry pursued, receiving it unchanged from its predecessor, which now, as its successor, receives it back again. There is no nation in the world whose progress is more full of interest than that of Japan, and there is none to which the friendly sympathy of this country more readily goes out. In the present crisis there is, happily, no cause for apprehension, but only for renewed and strengthened confidence in the stability and substantial progress of the Land of the Rising Sun.

A "CAMPAIGN OF EDUCATION."

The chairman of the Democratic State Committee of Connecticut has just issued an official address to the voters of that State by way of a starter for the campaign of 1898. The election of 1898 is ten months off, and the early opening of the campaign naturally suggests the possibility that the committee may have made the mistake the man did who took a half-mile start to jump a three-foot brook. By the time he reached the brook he was so tired he had to sit down and rest. The long start, however, is explained by Chairman Troup upon the theory that the voters of Connecticut are in such a state of besotted ignorance upon political questions, and especially upon the vital subject of finance, that it will take at least ten months of hard work by eminent lecturers to make them understand the merits of free coinage at the ratio of 16 to 1. He proposes a campaign of education to cover the entire time. An address is to be "prepared and sent out in the early spring" for one thing. From the time to be occupied in preparing it we infer that it is intended to be an uncommonly powerful document. For another thing, they are to have lectures. This, however, is not entirely clear. The announcement is in these words:

> The advisability of giving a series of popular lectures on the currency question by the leading advocates of bimetallism in this country during the winter in different parts of the State are to be arranged for.

The "advisability," it will be noticed, "are to be arranged for." It would consequently seem that if the advisability are not arranged for the lectures will not be given. Another feature of the "campaign of education" is set forth as follows:

> The preparation of a Democratic hand or year book, containing all desired information for chairmen of town committees, registrars of voters and others interested in political affairs, will be compiled and issued just before the holding of the State Convention.

When this "preparation" is "compiled" and "all desired information" has been absorbed by the chairmen of town committees, registrars of voters and others interested in political affairs the "campaign of education" will be complete, and everybody will understand just how and why 50 cents in silver make a dollar. It's an entirely new arithmetic, and we judge from the construction of the committee's address that an entirely new grammar goes with it. At first blush it seems almost revolutionary, but upon reflection who shall say that fooling with the currency is not properly and logically associated with monkeying with the mother tongue? The progress of the "campaign of education" in Connecticut will be watched with profound interest by scholars all over the world.

COTTON AND WAGES.

The recent reductions in prices of cotton goods are not made, as some of the workers apparently think, mainly to supply a pretext for reducing wages. On the contrary, they barely place cotton goods relatively in line with the present cost of cotton. Though the goods average a little lower than at any previous time, while cotton has been lower in the past with goods selling at better prices than they now command, that state of things was but temporary, and was not expected to last. On March 1, 1895, cotton sold for a few days at the lowest point ever reached—5.5⅝ cents—and the average of prices for cotton goods was practically the same as on December 1, before the recent reductions, which have averaged about 4 per cent, including some goods that have not yet declined. No one supposed in 1895 that there was much margin for profit in the goods, and in fact the mills were by no means working at full capacity. The actual consumption of cotton in Northern mills was for that entire crop year fully 13 per cent below that of the previous year. Prices somewhat lower are made to-day because it has become necessary to clear off accumulations of goods manufactured from high-priced cotton before the mills can expect to do business with profit.

This manufacture has barely kept up with the woollen industry in reducing the cost of goods in proportion to the cost of material. Though it was in factory development far ahead of most other industries, and had cheapened products remarkably before 1860, it has gained about as much more since that time as other industries, excepting the iron manufacture. Most products of iron and steel are now barely a third of their cost in 1860, with pig-iron 44½ per cent of its cost at that time. Even the infant tinplate manufacture is now selling plates at a greater reduction from the price of foreign plates in 1860 than has been realized in the price of the pig-iron from which the plates are made. But the iron manufacture has done wonders in reducing the cost of production, and very much has been accomplished since the tariff of 1890 was enacted. The woollen industry, with wool even now 36.2 per cent below its cost in 1860, is selling goods 38½ per cent below their cost at that time. The cotton manufacture, with its raw material 46.6 per cent below the cost January 1, 1860, is selling goods since the last reduction 49.2 per cent below the price at that date. Each industry is selling goods relatively lower in proportion to the cost of materials, and the relative gain has been 2.3 per cent at present prices of woollens and wool, while it has been but 2.6 per cent at present prices of cotton goods and cottons.

These comparisons show that there is no ground for the belief that cotton goods have been disproportionately reduced in price as an excuse for reduction of wages. They leave the fact apparent that the manufacture of a great quantity of goods from comparatively dear cotton involved the mills in losses, so that fifteen of them at Fall River alone have passed their last dividend this year, and forty-five out of 101 in New-England. Nor is there sense in the claim that the trouble comes because exports of cotton goods have somehow been checked by the new tariff. The same expectation of lower prices which has retarded domestic buying has also affected the foreign trade. Yet the quantity exported in the months August-October, inclusive, after the new tariff went into effect, was much larger than in any like time either before or after the McKinley tariff went into effect, and more than a quarter larger than after the Wilson tariff went into effect, and, although foreign markets had been overloaded by unprecedented exports of goods in previous months this year, yet the exports in August-October, inclusive, were but 17,700,000 yards smaller than in the same months last year—not 0.6 per cent of the production of cotton goods. But the accumulation of unsold print-cloths alone at Providence and Fall River since July 24 has been 690,000 pieces, indicating a home consumption about one-sixth less than usual. That decrease, largely due to certainty that prices of goods must decline with the price of cotton, is the main cause of difficulty.

No economic policy, however wise, can shelter men from the consequences of errors in judgment. No wise economic policy attempts to do any such thing, but leaves Nature's laws to supply the correction if the production of goods made from high-priced materials, notwithstanding heavy stocks accumulated, proceeds to accumulate still more on a falling market. It is in order to sympathize with the workers who must now suffer or take lower wages because they were too fully employed when cotton was dear, but they are not helped in the least by false ideas of the cause of difficulty. The manufacturers probably misjudged in the summer, just as the cotton market did, which paid 8 cents for cotton on the last day of August, when the new crop began to come forward, and 6 cents on the last day of October, with as low or a lower price every day since. If the manufacturers had been wise enough to stop production on September 1 until the market had taken their accumulated stocks, and sold their old goods without hesitation at prices proportioned to the price of cotton, they would have accepted a loss certainly not greater and probably somewhat less than they have actually incurred.

INTERESTS IN CHINA.

Great Britain has vast interests in China. Her commerce with that Empire amounts to $172,000,000 a year, in a total of $258,000,000, or just two-thirds of the whole foreign trade of China. Of the 37,132 ships entered and cleared at treaty ports in 1895, 19,579 were British and only 2,681 were German. The tonnage of the former was 20,525,798, and of the latter only 2,442,185. Naturally, Great Britain desires to retain this profitable trade, and does not relish the idea of China's being partitioned among other Powers, which are not only her rivals, but are actually hostile to her in spirit, and will be sure to injure her trade by adverse tariff regulations. No wonder that there is a general expectation that Great Britain will insist upon taking a hand in the game of wholesale grab which has now been started in the East, either to check the rapacity of the others or to secure a lion's share of the spoils herself. Nevertheless, the question may well be asked whether Great Britain had not better be content with the worldwide empire she already possesses, and which is now taxing her severely to hold and to administer. Would it not be wiser to save her West Indian colonies from the ruin that is so remorselessly descending upon them, to cure the growing discontent of Hindostan, and to "cultivate and improve the neglected estates of the Empire," as Mr. Chamberlain promised to do, but has not yet done? The "weary Titan" is already overloaded. Is it wise to add to his burden? Is Great Britain perpetually to be one "whose wounds are never healed, whose weary race is never run"?

Japan, too, has great interests in China, and has had ever since she beat back the invading legions of Kublai Khan and established her right to independence of her giant neighbor. She stands second to Great Britain in magnitude of trade with China, having $25,000,000 a year—far more than Russia, or all the rest of Europe put together. Naturally, she wants to retain that trade and increase it. But in her case, too, there is room for grave questioning whether it would be wise to increase her territorial possessions by seizing a province or two on the mainland. At present Japan is secure in her island home, just as Great Britain is. She has merely to keep control of the sea about her to be safe from invasion. There are only two Powers in the world to-day that could beat her in a naval war, and if she keeps up her present rate of naval progress there will probably never be any more. But if she had an empire on the Continent to defend she would be subject to land attack from the overwhelming forces of Russia, and she would also have to divide her fleet in such a way as actually to put her island home itself in danger of invasion. It would be a fine thing in many respects to annex some Chinese provinces, but such possessions would be a source of weakness that might in time prove fatal.

The United States, too, has great interests in China, and hopes to have greater when the annexation of Hawaii and the laying of a telegraphic cable shall have helped this country into the dominant rank in Pacific commerce to which it is naturally entitled. Its trade with China is now over $16,000,000 a year—exceeded only by that of Great Britain and Japan. It is eminently desirable that that trade should be preserved and increased. But that end is not to be attained by going to war with the partitioning Powers, nor by seizing for this country a share of the crumbling Empire. There is no lack of suggestions that we should adopt such a course. Those who disputed the right of this country to express any interest even in Venezuela, who talk about "Yankee insolence" in Cuba, and who weep crocodile tears over the awful blunder we shall make in annexing Hawaii, are daily urging this country to interfere in the partition of China. The trick will not work. The Monroe Doctrine cannot be stretched to cover Asia. The United States will not, by meddling in the affairs of European Powers, invite and justify the meddling of European Powers in American affairs. Doubtless the legitimate rights of the United States in China ought to be and will be safeguarded. But that is to be done by peaceful negotiations with the Powers under whose control China passes, exactly as Japan's rights in Hawaii will be secured by treaty with this country when this country has annexed those islands. And it is by no means impossible that this country may get more real profit out of China than any of the Powers that so arbitrarily oppress her and divide her lands among them.

It is just as well to remember that Shanghai is about the least trustworthy source of news in the whole East.

A short time ago it was the whole of Greenland that this country was about to purchase from Denmark. Now it is only a narrow strip in the northwestern part of that northern Sahara. To-morrow it may be nothing but a single iceberg which we want to tow down here to use in cooling superheated imaginations.

Perfervid Spanish editors "resent the American pretension to interfere in the Spanish West Indies." But did they resent it when such interference was all that saved Cuba from being forcibly taken from Spain by another European Power? Every reader of history, and every man with a memory half a century long, knows full well that Cuba would thus have been lost to Spain had not this country prevented it and declared in unmistakable terms that no other European Power than Spain should ever possess that island. The United States has long been Spain's best friend in Cuban affairs, and if it now and then assumes the part of counsellor or even critic as well, that surely ought not to be cause for wrath.

There really is not much news in the "revelations" just made concerning Monte Carlo. It has long been known to all who cared to know it that the proprietors of the gambling hell pay the expenses of the judiciary, police, clergy, etc., of the little principality, besides subsidizing a certain part of the European press and paying the funeral expenses of the numerous suicides. The only wonder is that the Prince, who is a man of high attainments and fine mind, can bring himself to accept such a revenue.

"The fool that Charles A. Dana begat" must be at home again and in charge of "The New-York Sun." Nothing else would account for the rash of foolish and incoherent little lies that has broken out, like malignant pustules, all over its surface. Newspaper men will remember that when the late Charles A. Dana wished to express his contempt for what he considered merely stupid abuse in "an esteemed contemporary," his sole reply was, "Yes; and the late George Jones, he begat a fool." The poor man never dreamed then how accurately his angry words described his own pitiable fate, and would return to brand his imbecile offspring. Why doesn't the ruined concern stop making faces and go on with its dying?

The year's statistics show that the tonnage passing through the Sault Ste. Marie Canal is more than twice that passing through the Suez Canal. The Great Lakes rival the best of the "Seven Seas" as a highway of commerce.

PERSONAL.

M. Hanotaux, the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, who has made a careful study of Cardinal Richelieu and his times, was recently permitted to see and examine a number of contemporary documents in the office of an old notary in Paris. He considers these papers a great find, as they are said to contain all the "actes civiles" of the great priest-statesman.

The Rev. Dr. Frank Gunsaulus, of Chicago, has returned home from the sanitarium where he has been for some time, and is able to walk about with the help of a cane.

"The United Service Magazine" has unearthed the libretto of a cantata which was written by the Duke of Wellington. The subject is "Pandora and Prometheus."

A member of the Board of Regents of the University of Michigan denies the report that Minister Angell will soon return from Turkey to resume the presidency of the University. He says: "From word that we have received from Constantinople, both directly and indirectly, we consider it most probable that he will not return to his former position at the head of the University of Michigan at the end of the year's leave of absence given him. We do not expect him, and, in fact, will consider it odd if he should give up the duties of his present position to return to the University. In his place now as president of the institution is Harry L. Hutchins, whose work is magnificent. The executive end of the college has never been handled better than he is handling it. He is Dr. Angell's logical successor, and in case the latter does not return, and we are of the opinion that he will not, I may say, in frankness, that it is more than probable that Mr. Hutchins will be named his permanent successor. Mr. Hutchins has done more to systematize the work of the big school than has ever been done in the past, and to do anything but appoint him to the permanent presidency would not only be unjust, but injudicious as well."

At the session of the Académie des Sciences, held at Paris on December 13, the Cuvier prize of 1,500 francs was awarded to Professor O. C. Marsh, of Yale University. This prize is "awarded every three years for the most remarkable work either on the animal kingdom or on geology."

The French painter Edouard Chantalat, is preparing for the exposition of 1900 a large canvas representing the "Reception of the Emperor and Empress of Russia at the Hotel de Ville." The young artist has grouped around the sovereigns and the President of France the Ministers, the members of the Municipal Council, the Russian notabilities, the members of the Institute and prominent representatives of Parisian society.

The last of the sons of Garibaldi, Manlio, a lieutenant in the Italian Navy, has just sent in his resignation on account of the precarious state of his health. He has been taken to the neighborhood of Genoa, where he will spend the winter.

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

Here are a few testimonials that patent medicine men might use: "I have been unable to walk without crutches for many years, but after using your liniment I ran for office." "I lost my eyesight four years ago. I used a bottle of your eye-wash and I saw wood." "I have been dumb ever since I was married, but the day after using your remedy I had a speaking likeness taken at the photographer's." "Some time ago I lost the use of both arms. Shortly after buying a box of your pills I struck a man for ten dollars." "I have been deaf for many years, but after using your ointment I heard that my aunt had died and left me ten thousand dollars."

"What do you think? My wife's father told me before we got married that he would give me a handsome present on our wedding day."

"And didn't he?"

"Well, I waited over a week, and as he didn't mention the subject, I asked him for it; and all he said was, 'Why, didn't I give you my daughter?'"—(Philadelphia Bulletin.

When Dr. Fitchett was a member of a Colonial Parliament in Australia a certain eccentric and elderly member named Taylor insisted on making a speech on education. The oration consisted of a hyperbolical eulogy of the Board of Schools in Mr. Taylor's constituency. Dr. Fitchett interjected some jocose expression of doubt. "Why, sir," said the irate Taylor, turning upon him, "at this very moment I have a school in my eye"— "No, only one pupil, Mr. Taylor," retorted the doctor, and the orator's eloquence was drowned in laughter.

"Can I see the lady of the house?" asked the canvasser, with candor.

"Yes," she replied candidly, "you can, if you are not a political candidate."

"How can you?" said he. "No, madam, I am selling a can opener which can't be beat. It can open any can that can be opened by any can opener, and any can can be opened by this can opener that can be opened by any can opener, and if you can show me a can, I can"——

"What can't!" cried she, "I wish I had a cannon, and I'll bet you'd canter."

Then she slammed the door in his face.—(Philadelphia Bulletin.

Some young men of Irving, a suburb of Chicago, have formed an anti-marriage association. The member who marries must pay $25 and give a banquet to the members. To visit a girl twice in a week costs $2, and $1 is assessed against those who take a girl home by the shortest route. The members of the association expect to enjoy many banquets in the near future.

A well-known firm of life insurance agents in this city has introduced a method of calling attention to their company that is as novel as it is unique. This firm believes that every man's time is valuable, and that he may be induced to read the prospectus of the company mailed to him and at the same time be compensated for the time thus consumed a check on the Central National Bank for four cents accompanies the prospectus. The letter of explanation which accompanies both check and prospectus reads as follows: "Herewith, please find our check for four cents in payment of two minutes of your time, assuming the same to be worth $10,000 per annum, asking that you devote the same to the careful consideration of the inclosed."—(Philadelphia Record.

There has been discovered near Coliguy, France, on the boundary line between the departments of Ain and Jura, a large bronze statue of Mercury, seriously damaged, but bearing clear evidences of being a masterpiece of sculpture. The pedestal of the statue is ornamented with bronze tablets, covered with inscriptions.

"Is there any necessity of your having quite so many young idiots hanging around here, Mabel?" asked the father in the properly deferential tone of a modern parent. "I am studying human nature, papa," answered the sweet girl. "You know the proper study of mankind—of womankind—is man." "Mebbe it is, but I must say I don't like the way you keep the house littered up with your specimens."—(Cincinnati Enquirer.

"The Atlanta Constitution" tells of an old darky with his arm in a sling who was talking the other day with another darky.

"Yes, suh!" he said with emphasis, "I gone up now, ler sho'! You see dis arm in de sling, don't you?"

"Yes."

"Well, suh," the old man continued by way of explanation, "I'll be eighty years old next harvest; I done see lots of trouble in my day, but by de grace er God I miss de Ku-Klux, I miss de Vigilance Committee, I miss de Whitecaps, en I miss de Regulators, but now, in my ole age, please God, de waxinators kotched en cut me!"

Two Sides—"The morning stars sang together for joy. How unlike a church choir!"

"I don't know. 'The stars in their courses fought against Sisera.' They fought. How like a church choir!"—(Chicago Tribune.

"Married at High Twelve," is the headline over a report of a wedding in "The Tacoma Daily Ledger."

"Everything on earth has its mission."

"How about mosquitoes?"

"They make us think more kindly of flies."—(Pittsburg Chronicle.

THE DRAMA.

"ROYAL BOX" AT FIFTH AVENUE.

CHARLES COGHLAN.

Those persons who enjoy acting of the higher and better kind,—acting that is animated by intellectual purpose, governed and guided by the faculty of taste, and made potential with genial emotion,—should see Mr. Charles Coghlan's impersonation of the wayward actor, in the drama of "The Royal Box," now current at the Fifth Avenue Theatre. The embodiment is one of great interest and of exceptional beauty. The changes that Mr. Coghlan has made, in adapting the old French play to the English stage, while they have not wholly relieved it of extravagance, have invested it with refinement, and with a large measure of credibility. The general modification of the fable is ingenious, and, in particular, the change of nomenclature was a wise expedient,—for to think of Edmund Kean as the hero of such a fiction is to think of an impossibility: besides, it is a safe principle of constructive art that when the incidents of a story are imaginary the persons also should be imagined. It probably was not possible to discard the Prince Regent, but the substitution of the fanciful Mr. Clarence for the actual Edmund Kean makes a wide difference in the result.

The infirmity of the piece is a certain distortion of view, as to the mysterious attribute of Genius. Upon this subject there has always been great diversity of opinion. In the minds of some observers genius, as in the case of Shakespeare, is perfect sanity,—the equilibrium of all the faculties, combined with absolute control of them, and with the power to see the whole of life clearly, and to portray it with equal fulness and beauty. In other minds, genius is a sort of delirium, as sometimes manifested by such men as Christopher Marlowe, Richard Savage, Robert Burns, Lord Byron, George Frederick Cooke, and Edmund Kean. Much, no doubt, could be said on both sides of this question, but every reader can settle it for himself. The actor Clarence, as embodied by Mr. Coghlan, is a type not so much of delirium as of passionate weakness. The attributes of the character are noble, but it lacks poise and self-control. Much that Clarence says is wild, inconsequent, and fatuous, and although his conduct is invariably picturesque it is seldom rational. This consideration would not be important if the drama were not, at several points, freighted with precept and moral reflection.

Looking at the character for itself, and discarding its parade of wisdom, the spectator sees a compound of imagination, sensibility, tenderness, passion, pride, and generosity, and finds that all these are fused in a personality of exquisite grace. From first to last Clarence is displayed in situations that require splendid dignity of demeanor, chivalrous emotion, great breadth of gesture, animated play of the countenance, most diversified and expressive vocalism, and picturesque and flexible treatment. In each of those situations,—in the attitude of reverential devotion to woman, in that of allegiance and deference to royalty, in that of protection to innocence, in that of fiery scorn for meanness, craft, and villany, in that of tolerant yet not ungracious comradeship, in that of nonchalant and elegant self-possession,—at every point, and with the sustained ease of spontaneity, Mr. Coghlan's acting shows a consummate mastery of his art. It is long since such a picturesque and romantic figure has been seen upon our stage, and those who miss the prospect of it will lose a pleasure and a benefit. The auxiliary performances in "The Royal Box," especially those of the men, are nearly all judicious, spirited, and effective. The female element in the company is not as strong as might be wished. The partial transference of the action from the stage to one of the boxes, while not new, is a somewhat bold experiment, but it has a good effect. Plays that implicate actors and the business of the stage have not generally been successful; "The Royal Box," however, pleases and deserves to please—mainly because of the absorbing interest with which Mr. Coghlan's acting has vitalized it in every fibre. W. W.

"THE GEISHA" AT DALY'S.

AN OLD FAVORITE.

Genial humor, charming music, and pictorial loveliness are good elements for a holiday entertainment, and those felicities, together with mirth and frolic, are combined in "The Geisha," which, last night, was revived at Daly's Theatre, and which will be presented there throughout the present week. Wide public acceptance is not always a guarantee of merit, for the sufficient reason that there is a coarse public for coarse things; but "The Geisha" has been accepted by refined audiences, both in England and America, and its long career may rightfully be considered a proof of its substantial worth. The performance of it at Daly's Theatre is pleasant in every way, and the welcome last night accorded to this old favorite, and to the zealous and spirited performers who carried it upon an incessant tide of glee, was marked with exhilarating cordiality.

MUSICAL MATTERS.

Nothing more fascinating and delightful in every respect has been heard here for years than the performance by Mme. Sembrich at Mr. Bagby's musical morning yesterday of the part of Rosina in Rossini's "Barber of Seville." Ravishing as is Mme. Sembrich's art in the concert-room, it acquires a tenfold potency from her graceful and piquant acting, and she has never sung and acted with more charm than yesterday. It will help to an understanding of how much she pleased her listeners to learn that in the music-lesson scene she sang not only Strauss's waltz, "La Primavera," but also an exquisite romance, "C'est Mon Ami," which is attributed to Marie Antoinette, but in which we shrewdly fancy her master, Gluck, had a finger, and "O luce di quest'anima," from "Linda di Chamounix."

There will be a matinee musical given by Chickering & Sons in their hall this afternoon, beginning at 3 o'clock. The performers will be Miss Adeline Hibbard, soprano; Miss Jeannette Orloff, violin; Frank Taft, organ; John G. Frank, bass trumpet, and Miss Hortense Hibbard and F. W. Riesberg at the pianoforte.

Mr. Rainey, who has been announced to sing the bass solos at the Oratorio Society's performance of "The Messiah" on Wednesday afternoon and Thursday evening, is said to be ill, and his place will be taken by Mr. Bispham.

STAGE AFFAIRS IN GENERAL.

A musical play called "The Telephone Girl" was produced last night at the Casino. Miss Marie Jansen and her professional associates appeared at the Garden Theatre, in a piece called "The Nancy Hanks." The Rays sported at the Grand Opera House, in "A Hot Old Time." Mr. McKee Rankin presented himself at Proctor's Theatre, in "Oliver Twist." The amusing farce of "Never Again" was acted at the Opera House in Harlem.

NOTES OF THE STAGE.

Kat Goodwin was unable to play his part in "An American Citizen," at the Knickerbocker Theatre last night, on account of an attack of the grip. It was not till after 7 o'clock that it was fully decided that Mr. Goodwin could not play, so that no notice of the fact could be given. The audience was dismissed and money was returned at the box office. It is expected that Mr. Goodwin will be able to appear to-night. Mr. Goodwin has decided