IN MEMORY OF ANTON SEIDL

SOLEMN FAREWELL TRIBUTE PAID IN A BEAUTIFUL SERVICE OF MUSIC.

THOUSANDS OF FRIENDS IN THE METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE, WHERE HIS BODY LAY—THE COFFIN COVERED WITH FLOWERS—THE ADDRESS DELIVERED BY THE REV. MR. WRIGHT—ELOQUENT DISPATCH FROM COLONEL INGERSOLL—THE BODY TAKEN TO FRESH POND.

In a beautiful, dignified and simple service of music, a solemn farewell tribute was paid yesterday to the highest master of music of this time and country. The body of Anton Seidl lay where the body of his great predecessor, Dr. Leopold Damrosch, lay thirteen years ago, in the presence of a congregation of thousands of even more deeply affectionate and devoted admirers. It lay, too, on the spot where Anton Seidl, while he lived, with these same thousands about him, stood so often in the performance of his mission of cheering and uplifting and ennobling their lives, through the ministry of the grand harmonies which he recreated. The many thousands who will remember him through their lives will think of him most often as standing in that place, and the few thousands who were in the Metropolitan Opera House yesterday will think of him again as lying in that place. Beside his coffin was a music-stand, built of flowers, and on it hung the master's baton. It was the summit of a mound of flowers, and all around were banks of them. Behind was the stage, set as a cathedral, and in front was the great gathering of people, a more eager and sympathetic one than ever sat in that house on the most memorable of opera nights.

There was not a feature of the inspiring service that did not involve a genuine and heartfelt tribute from some one or from many who had looked up to the great musician while he lived. The use of the Opera House was the gift of the directors. The music was performed by organizations which felt, every man of them, that they had lost a leader who could never be replaced. The words which were spoken were faithful expressions of admiration and honor. The flowers were the special symbols of the sorrow of those who felt that such gifts could most adequately convey their sentiment. The multitude which filled the house was made up of those whose most appropriate tribute of respect was their presence, and there were thousands more who would gladly have paid the same if the house had had room for them.

THE PLACE THE RIGHT ONE.

A simpler or a more appropriate ceremony for the funeral of such a man as Anton Seidl, or one more impressive and more memorable to those who had the privilege of being present could scarcely be devised. The place was the right one, where his greatest triumphs had been won. And all was arranged with the best of taste and with the most telling effect. The stage, as had been said, was set as a cathedral. At the back was the altar rail, with the light of many candles. The space in front of this was occupied by the musicians. The orchestra pit was floored over and the surface was carpeted with black. In the middle, in the place of the conductor's seat, was the catafalque, and all the rest of the space, as well as the front of the stage, was covered with flowers. The floral designs were without exception tasteful and beautiful. Among them were a huge lyre from the Philharmonic Society, a wreath, still larger, from the Metropolitan Permanent Orchestra; a broken column from the Arion Society, a victory wreath of laurel and orchids from Colonel and Mrs. Robert G. Ingersoll, a large wreath of violets from Jean and Edouard De Reszke, another from Mme. Melba, a large wreath from Steinway & Sons, a monogram, "S. S.," from the Seidl Society, a lyre from the German Liederkranz, another from the Metropolitan Opera and Real Estate Company, a scroll of honor and wreath from the Aschenbrödel, a lyre from the Musical Mutual Protective Union, and pieces from the German Polyklinik, the German Press Club, E. Francis Hyde, the president of the Philharmonic Society; Heinrich Conried and many others. The floral music-stand, which stood on the catafalque, was from the Maurice Grau Opera Company.

THE PRINTED PROGRAMME.

The printed programme of the exercises was as follows:

METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE.
Thursday, March 31, 1898.
MEMORIAL SERVICES,
ANTON SEIDL,
Born May 7, 1850. Died March 28, 1898.

ORDER OF EXERCISES.

Dirge.....Musical Mutual Protective Union
Conductor, Nahan Franko.
"Wenn Zwei Freunde Scheiden,".....Male Chorus
Arion Society, Conductor, Julius Lorenz.
"Adagio Lamentoso," from Symphonie Pathetique.....Tschaikowsky
Philharmonic Orchestra.....Conductor, Richard Arnold
"Helden Requiem,".....H. Zoellner
Deutscher Liederkranz. Conductor, H. Zoellner.
Address by the Rev. Merle St. Croix Wright.
"Siegfried's Funeral March,".....Wagner
Philharmonic Orchestra. Conductor, Henry Schmitt.

The simplest possible ceremony was that performed at the home of the dead man, No. 38 East Sixty-second-st. It consisted only of the reading of a few selections by the Rev. Merle St. Croix Wright, of the Lenox Avenue Unitarian Church. The house was filled with the closest friends of the family, and many persons waited outside in the street to see the removal of the body to the opera house. Just as the service was about to begin the following dispatch from Jean de Reszke, in St. Petersburg, was received:

"Deeply affected by the great loss of the greatest Wagner conductor of the day."

TAKEN TO THE OPERA HOUSE.

After the service at the house the body was taken to the Metropolitan Opera House, accompanied by Mrs. Seidl and the friends who had been present. The procession moved through Sixty-second-st. to Fifth-ave., and then down to Fortieth-st., through which it made its way to the opera house. The hearse was met at the opera house by a band of 150 members of the Musical Mutual Protective Union, which played while the body was received and borne into the house.

By this time the opera house was comfortably filled. The police arrangements were excellent, as, indeed, were all the arrangements for the affair, and the house was not allowed to become overcrowded. At the opening of the doors there was inevitably some crowding by persons who were overanxious to get in first and secure good places, but with this exception perfect order was preserved. As far as it was possible to control the distribution of tickets they went to the persons who had the best right to them, and though there were many who were disappointed in not being able to gain admission, and many, too, whom the committee would gladly have admitted if there had been more room, there was little complaint of unfairness.

The coffin was borne into the auditorium on the shoulders of four men, preceded by the pallbearers, who were A. Schueler, Oscar B. Weber, E. Francis Hyde, David Liebmann, Richard Arnold, Henry Schmitt, Albert Stettheimer, Henry T. Finck, Walston H. Brown, Louis Josephthal, H. E. Krehbiel, Xaver Scharwenka, August Spanuth, Albert Steinberg, Carl Schurz, Charles T. Barney, Rafael Joseffy, Julian Rix, James Speyer, Edgar J. Levey, Dr. William H. Draper, Richard Watson Gilder, Paul Goepel, E. M. Burghard, Eugene Ysaye, Victor Herbert, George G. Haven, Zoëton Dôme, E. A. MacDowell and Carlos Hasselbrink.

The lid of the coffin was heaped high with flowers, Easter lilies, red and white roses, lilies of the valley and violets. It was carried down the aisle and placed on the catafalque, where some of the smaller floral pieces were piled around it. The body was brought into the house at 1:15, the orchestra on the stage playing a dirge. When this was ended the chorus of the Arion Society took its place on the stage, and, led by Julius Lorenz, sang "Wenn Sich Zwei Herzen Scheiden." The title of this selection was incorrectly printed in the official programme, which has been exactly reproduced earlier in this report. Tchaikowsky's "Adagio Lamentoso" was next played by the Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Richard Arnold. H. Zoellner's "Helden Requiem" was sung by the chorus of the German Liederkranz, led by Mr. Zoellner, with a solo by Miss Bernardine Sargent.

ADDRESS OF MR. WRIGHT.

The Rev. Mr. Wright then made his address, in the course of which he said:

"What is the mind of man to music? How can his words be heard besides its mighty voice? Yet music was his speech. Music is great, because man, its maker, is first great. Yet there is but one mind and one voice that might be desired here to-day, and that is mute. He lies dumb here among the tributes of sorrowing friends. To-day we honor a man who first honored himself, who honored us, honored our city and honored our country by making America a worthy member of the great international musical family. He, as director of the opera, had the courage to give music a new birth, and he may justly be called the premier of the music of America.

"As the soldier is carried to his grave with flags lowered and amid the volleys, so it is but just that he should lie here amid the scenes he loved so well. This, our fellow, was a creator. His magic touch and enchanting sympathy opened a new world. One such work as he has performed is sufficient achievement for one life. He was a foreigner, and of that class of foreigners who make a country native to our souls. A citizen of this country preferring America and by America preferred. He was a leader perpetual in that everlasting war against evil, selfishness and lust, his only thought to uplift and ennoble men.

"Though dead, he lives. His influence over music is imperishable. As music is the mother of arts, and father of substantial character, so he brought his inspiration and comfort to our wearied souls. Music heals, unites, connects, completes and frees man to his true self.

"All honor to Anton Seidl. He is mourned by two worlds because he brought to each a new world, the inward revelation of the spirit. There lies his baton. No man shall take it up. Anton Seidl was unique. Anton Seidl forever."

DISPATCH FROM COLONEL INGERSOLL.

After this address H. E. Krehbiel, the chairman of the Committee of Arrangements, read the following dispatch, sent by Colonel Robert G. Ingersoll from Wheeling:

In the noon and zenith of his career, in the flush and glory of success, Anton Seidl, the greatest orchestral leader of all time, the perfect interpreter of Wagner, of all his subtlety and sympathy, his heroism and grandeur, his intensity and limitless passion, his wondrous harmonies that tell of all there is in life, and touch the longing and the hopes of every heart, has passed from the shores of sound to the realms of silence, borne by the mysterious tide that ever ebbs but never flows. All moods were his. Delicate as the perfumes of the first violet, wild as the storm, he knew the music of all sounds, from the rustle of the leaves, the whisper of hidden springs, to the voices of the sea. He was the master of music, from the rhythmical strains of irresponsible joy to the sob of the funeral march. He stood like a king with his sceptre in his hand and we knew that every tone and harmony were in his brain, every passion in his heart, and yet his sculptured face was as calm, as serene as perfect art. He mingled his soul with the music and gave his heart to the enchanted air. He appeared to have no limitations, no walls, no change. He seemed to follow the pathway of desire, and the marvellous melodies, the sublime harmonies, were as free as eagles above the clouds with outstretched wings. He educated, refined, and gave unspeakable joy to many thousands of his fellow-men. He added to the grace and glory of life. He spoke a language deeper, more poetic than words—the language of the perfect, the language of love and death.

But he is voiceless now; a fountain of harmony has ceased. Its inspired strains have died away in night, and all its murmuring melodies are strangely still. We will mourn for him, we will honor him, not in words, but in the language that he used.

Anton Seidl is dead. Play the great funeral march, envelop him in music. Let its wailing waves cover him; let its wild and mournful winds sigh and mourn above him. Give his face to the kisses and its tears. Play the great funeral march, music as profound as death, that will express our sorrow; that will voice our love, our hope, and that will tell of the life, the genius, the triumphs, the death of Anton Seidl.

As the reading of the dispatch ended the Philharmonic Orchestra began playing the funeral march from "Die Götterdammerung," which brought the service to an end. It had lasted for only a little over an hour. The lines of the pallbearers were reformed, the coffin was raised and borne out of the house, and the hearse started for the crematory at Fresh Pond.

MR. SEIDL AND THE LOTOS CLUB.

The following dispatch was received yesterday at the Lotos Club from the president of the Club, who is at Old Point Comfort:

John Elderkin, Esq., the Lotos Club.

The sudden death of our friend and companion, Anton Seidl, has shocked me deeply. We loved him, not alone for his genius, but for his blameless life and for the gentle kindliness of a noble disposition. Long and earnestly we shall mourn the loss of this prince, both among musicians and among men.

FRANK R. LAWRENCE.

The Lotos Club was represented at the funeral of Mr. Seidl by a committee consisting of John Elderkin, William H. Hume, William Jay Ives, Willard Parsons, H. G. Fiske, F. T. Murray, F. S. Pegram, W. A. Ireland, Henry E. Duncan, F. L. Montague, Stanley A. Cohen, Chandos Fulton, Edwin H. Low, George H. Daniels, Dr. S. G. Perry, W. C. Davis, William Brookfield, Henry W. Ranger and E. P. Cone.

CONVICT LABOR IN GEORGIA.

EXPECTED THAT THE NEW SYSTEM WILL GIVE THE STATE A PROFIT OF ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS.

Atlanta, March 31 (Special).—The contracts for the Georgia convicts under the new system will be made to-morrow. The bids now before the Prison Commission make it certain that the hire per capita will be between $6 and $8. It is believed that an average of $7 will be received, and the total sum paid the State for the hire of the eighteen hundred convicts will therefore be $151,200. Under the old law Georgia received $25,000 for the lease of her convicts, and after all the expenses of the Department had been paid a profit of $16,000 remained. The convicts were leased at the rate of $1 a month per capita. It is stated as certain that the State will make $100,000 a year by the new system.

MME. SORMA AS KATHERINE.

Mme. Agnes Sorma appeared in yet another part at the Irving Place Theatre last night, the last in which she will be seen before her departure on her Western tour. It was that of Katherine, in "The Taming of the Shrew." It is not to be supposed that those who have seen Miss Ada Rehan play this part will ever be satisfied with the performance of it by any other. Mme. Sorma interprets it with the skill of an accomplished artist, expert in the resources of her art. Her small figure forbids her to give imperiousness to the character, and her treatment of it is vixenish and feline. In the latter half of the play she is better than in the former. She plays the scene in Petruchio's house, in which she yields and acknowledges his conquest, with much prettiness, and the last speech of the play, on the duty of wives, is sweetly and gracefully delivered.

A vigorous and excellent performance of Petruchio was given by Bernhard Vorwerk, and the minor parts were almost all excellently played, though with more farcical tendency than would be expected on the English stage. The play will be repeated to-night.

A CLERGYMAN ON "WONDERFUL ALASKA."

The Rev. Dr. E. Homer Wellman, rector of the Church of the Atonement, Brooklyn, delivered a lecture on "Wonderful Alaska" to a large audience in the school building at Twenty-eighth-st. and Ninth-ave. last night. Dr. Wellman has seen much of what he described, and he made Alaska's mighty glaciers and gold fields seem exceedingly real to his hearers, and dates and statistics interesting and easy to remember. There was some humor in the lecture also, and the audience apparently did not find his address tedious for a moment.

DR. W. H. MAXWELL HONORED.

A dinner in honor of Dr. W. H. Maxwell, who was recently chosen Superintendent of the Public Schools of this city, was given at the Hamilton Club, Brooklyn, last night by the members of the club. The dinner was intended as a testimonial to the esteem in which Dr. Maxwell is held by the members of the Hamilton Club and by many other persons who have known him intimately for many years. The speakers included Dr. Maxwell, Dr. A. S. Draper and Charles R. Skinner, State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Among the guests were R. C. Ogden, A. C. Barnes, Walter S. Logan, F. L. Eames, Judge Edward B. Thomas and George Foster Peabody.

"BILLY" EDWARDS BEGINS SUIT.

"Billy" Edwards, who was the private detective of the Hoffman House for many years, has brought a suit for damages against John P. Caddagan, the manager of the hotel, on account of the enforcement of a rule against gambling in the billiard-room. Edwards says that he was barred out of the room by order of Mr. Caddagan, but Mr. Caddagan says he simply gave orders to prevent betting openly in the billiard-room, and had a stipulation with the manager of the room that persons who made a practice of laying wagers openly there should be excluded.

THE YELLOW FEVER CAMPAIGNERS.

From The Brooklyn Standard-Union.

The rabid push of a lot of Congressmen on the subject of Cuba lacks many elements of good sense. We are at the time of year when the Spaniards, acclimated in Cuba and living on beans and pork, keep in their forts and send dispatches about marches and combat that not made. Their real occupation is not to get the yellow fever. The Cubans on the warpath are so much scattered that only a few small bands are in sight. Their fighting is done in bulletins from Key West, as that of the Spaniards from Havana. There is a scarcity of pigs and chickens, but some food in the ground and on the trees. Cubans are away from the yellow fever nests, and have other fevers. As to the famine, there is no objection to feeding the perishing in the camps. These poor people have no homes. Gomez burnt them out of employment and Weyler destroyed their villages. If Cuba was independent to-morrow, the crowds in the camps have no place to go.

There is one thing the Spanish Government will certainly not do—that is, it will not surrender to the Cuban Junta. They may retire before the United States as the French did from Mexico.

There is no speculation, political or pecuniary, in running into war at top speed. First, we are in the midst of very much needed preparations. We want time to make our fleet decidedly superior to the combined Spanish squadrons. Time is in our favor, why should we not take a little of it? Time is not only favorable to us, it is against the Spaniards. We have vast resources. They are suffering from scanty supplies. They are on the verge of exhaustion; we are only beginning to put forth our strength.

The rainy season and the hottest of the yellow fever in Cuba—a frightful combination—are at hand. The invasion of the island, an attack upon Havana, would be our inoculation with the plague.

Some Southern Congressmen have had and experiences with the yellow fever. Do their constituents want it as early as it can be had this season?

EARTHQUAKE'S DAMAGE.

LOSSES TO PROPERTY IN SAN FRANCISCO AND NEARBY TOWNS.

NARROW ESCAPES IN THE COLLAPSE OF A TENEMENT—THE SHOCK TO SHIPPING SEVERE—TIDAL WAVE FOLLOWS THE DISTURBANCE.

San Francisco, March 31.—This city and a portion of the State were shaken at 11:42 o'clock last night by the most severe earthquake experienced here since 1868, when several persons were killed. This time, however, no fatalities have been reported.

Five families narrowly escaped being buried in wreckage by the collapse of the tenement-house, No. 445 Clementina-st., which followed the rocking tremor. Propped up on the frailest of supports, with practically no foundation, the flimsy structure sank three feet below the sidewalk in shifting sand and now stands a misshapen mass, ready to tumble like a pack of cards at the first disturbance. The occupants, most of them awakened from sleep, were caught as in a trap. Doors warped out of shape would not open and windows were jammed. While the wildest excitement prevailed within, neighbors, attracted by the crash and the screams of women and children, were doing their best to liberate the unfortunate prisoners.

The doors were finally burst open and the women, many of them scarcely able to walk, were conveyed across the way and cared for by friends. All were luckily got out without injury, except W. F. Howe, who was badly injured by falling timbers. Mrs. J. N. Davis, a woman of seventy-five years, and Mrs. Herman Kaiser, the latter an invalid, had to be carried from their wrecked homes.

A house at Fifth and Tehama sts. was thrown down, and the great crane at Garrett's foundry was sent crashing to the ground.

Along the water-front and among the shipping in the harbor the shock was very severe. Windows were broken, glasses and crockery were shattered in the saloons and residences, and exciting personal experiences were related by many. Out on the bay a violent tidal wave lifted small boats high upon its crest and threatened death to their occupants.

In the Strathmore House, in Larkin and Fulton sts., the plaster was shaken off the walls by the severity of the shock. The old Supreme Court building, on the corner of McAllister and Larkin sts., was shaken up considerably, the visible signs of the seismic visitation being one chimney tilted at an angle of fifteen degrees from the perpendicular, and another turned almost completely around from its original position. In the Merchants' Exchange a quantity of plaster was shaken down, but no great damage was done.

The nineteen-story Claus Spreckels Building was not injured in the least, though it swayed like a great tree in a storm. At least one hundred stores south of Market-st. suffered severely, chiefly by the breaking of frail articles. At the store of H. Van Costelbeck, in Market-st., several hundred dollars' worth of interior decorations were injured.

The drug store of E. Happensburger, on the northwest corner of Mission and Sixth sts., was damaged severely. The rear room was a mass of broken bottles, the contents of which almost flooded the store.

The entire electric light system on all the floors of the White House, in Kearney-st., was thrown on by the vibration, and the building was brilliantly illuminated. Telegraph and telephone wires were badly crossed and communication was interrupted.

In the Winchester House, No. 44 Third-st., the windows broke, walls and ceilings cracked, scattering broken glass and plaster. A coal oil lamp upset in the house of Mrs. Hayes, No. 123 Minnesota-st. The oil was ignited, but was soon extinguished.

The shock was apparently confined to Northern California, the southern part of the State reporting this morning that no shock was felt there. Vallejo and Mare Island suffered much damage. The Naval Hospital was wrecked, and the Government sawmill was blown down. In the town of Vallejo, just across the channel, the loss runs into the thousands. At the University of California, in Berkeley, the seismograph at the students' observatory shows that the shock lasted between thirty and forty seconds. The general direction of the vibration was from east to west. The instrument shows that the shock was very heavy in a small area. A slight vertical vibration was also recorded by the instrument.

Professor Davidson, the eminent scientist, declares that the earthquake has seldom or never been exceeded in violence here, and considers it remarkable that no loss of life or great damage to property was occasioned.

MARE ISLAND YARD IDLE.

LOSS ESTIMATED AT $100,000—ONLY TWO BUILDINGS ESCAPED DAMAGE—WARSHIPS UNINJURED.

Mare Island, Cal., March 31.—The earthquake was very severe here. The sawmill was prostrated and is a complete wreck. The Government hospital and several shops were badly damaged. The Navy Yard employes were roused from their beds and made a hasty inspection of the grounds and the warships in course of repair, but it is not thought the vessels suffered any harm, or that the valuable plant of machinery was affected.

San Francisco, March 31.—After the Board of Survey had made a partial examination of the state of affairs at the Mare Island Navy Yard today, it was announced that the damage sustained by last night's tremble had been somewhat exaggerated. While the survey has not yet been completed, the Board is of the opinion that the damage will not exceed $100,000. Work has, however, been discontinued, and in all probability will not be resumed for several days. Seventeen hundred men are employed at the yard. The cruiser Charleston, which is in drydock, did not sustain any material damage, although the blocks upon which she rested were disturbed and will have to be reset.

In Vallejo, near by, the damage was widespread. The City Hall, public schools and St. Vincent's School suffered severely. Several small fires added to the excitement. Five lamps were overturned in one house.

Washington, March 31.—Information received at the Navy Department from San Francisco shows that the yard at Mare Island suffered severely from last night's earthquake shock. The sawmill and paint shop of the Bureau of Construction and Repair were entirely destroyed and considerable other damage was done. The Charleston is in drydock, but appears has sustained no serious damage. Commodore Hichborne, Chief of the Bureau of Construction and Repair, says the loss sustained will result in a month's setback to the work in hand.

HEAVY SHOCKS IN SAN JOSE.

EARTH MOVED A QUARTER OF AN INCH—TREMORS LASTED FORTY SECONDS.

San José, Cal., March 31.—One of the heaviest earthquakes ever experienced in this section occurred last night at 11:42 o'clock. From the weather observatory, on Mount Hamilton, it was reported that the duration of the tremors was forty seconds, and after the first twelve or thirteen seconds they were more violent than ever before recorded in the history of earthquake observations. The greater motion was southeast and northwest, and approximately the earth moved one-quarter of an inch.

STOCKTON'S BUILDINGS SHAKEN.

Stockton, Cal., March 31.—At 11:40 last night Stockton experienced the heaviest earthquake shock of its history. Windows rattled and people in the upper stories of houses had some difficulty in keeping their feet. The shock was from east to west, and the swaying of chandeliers told of its visit for five minutes after the shock had passed away. No damage is reported save the breaking of telegraph wires.

SLIGHT SHOCKS IN THE OTTAWA VALLEY.

Montreal, March 31.—A slight shock of earthquake was felt at several points in the Ottawa Valley at 1:10 o'clock this afternoon. At Como, the shock was reported as quite violent, and at Hudson it is said there were two shocks, one following the other closely. No damage is reported.

NO DAMAGE IN SACRAMENTO.

Sacramento, March 31.—At 11:30 o'clock last night three shocks of earthquake were felt here. They were of an easy, undulating motion and seemed to be from southeast to northwest. There is so far no damage reported.

POUGHKEEPSIE ARCHITECT'S SUICIDE.

THE DEED COMMITTED IN THE MASONIC TEMPLE WITH A PISTOL.

Poughkeepsie, N. Y., March 31.—Arnout Cannon, a prominent architect of this city, went to the Masonic Temple to-day and committed suicide by shooting himself through the heart. Before him on a table lay a revolver, with which he had committed the deed, and a note addressed to an undertaker, giving instructions as to his burial.

Mr. Cannon was fifty-eight years old. He was a Mason, an Odd Fellow, a member of the Royal Arcanum, the Loyal Legion and the Grand Army of the Republic. In the Civil War he was promoted from a private to lieutenant-colonel of the 97th United States Infantry.

MENOCAL COURT-MARTIAL POSTPONED.

Washington, March 31 (Special).—The court-martial of Civil Engineer A. G. Menocal on charges growing out of the construction of drydock No. 3, at the New-York Navy Yard, has been postponed until May 5 to allow him to prepare his defence.

RUSSIA'S PROMISE TO ENGLAND.

PORT ARTHUR AND TALIEN-WAN TO BE KEPT OPEN TO FOREIGN TRADE.

London, March 31.—In the House of Commons to-day the Parliamentary Secretary of the Foreign Office, George N. Curzon, said that Count Muravieff, the Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs, on March 16 authorized the British Ambassador at St. Petersburg, Sir N. R. O'Conor, to inform Her Majesty's Government that in the event of China consenting to lease Port Arthur and Talien-Wan to Russia, both ports would be open to foreign trade, on the same basis as the other Chinese ports.

"The Globe" this afternoon says it understands there is a hitch in connection with the Chinese loan, owing to the Stock Exchange Committee refusing it quotation until the Emperor of China ratifies it. France and Russia, "The Globe" adds, are straining to prevent the ratification, and it is possible the matter may yet require the intervention of Germany and Great Britain.

Peking, March 31.—Li Hung Chang has been invested with full powers to proceed to Port Arthur to delimitate the territory recently leased to Russia by China.

AN ALLEGED REQUEST BY JAPAN.

ASKS THIS COUNTRY'S SUPPORT FOR THE MIKADO'S GOVERNMENT—THE RUMOR DISCREDITED.

London, March 31.—It is rumored here that Japan has asked the United States to join Great Britain in supporting Japan's refusal to withdraw from Wei-Hai-Wei after the payment of the Chinese war indemnity, in view of the possibility of Russia seizing that port.

Washington, March 31.—At the Japanese Legation here it is said that no advices have been received on the line of the London rumor about Japan's request. The rumor is not credited at the Legation. The only communication received here has been the recent official announcement by Russia regarding her occupation of Port Arthur, and Japanese mail advices show that was known and discounted in Japan some weeks ago, and caused no excitement. Japan, it is believed here, is more concerned about the payment of its indemnity than any territorial occupation of Wei-Hai-Wei, needing the funds for her largely increasing expenditures to add to her naval strength.

FOUND THE DERVISHES IN FORCE.

AN ANGLO-EGYPTIAN COLUMN SHELLS THE ENEMY AND RETIRES.

Cairo, March 31.—It is announced in a dispatch from Atbara, on the Atbara River (Black River), a branch of the Nile above Berber, that an important reconnoissance was started by the Anglo-Egyptian troops on Wednesday. Eight squadrons of cavalry, four Maxim guns, a battery of horse artillery, two battalions of infantry and the whole of the mounted troops reconnoitered the Dervish position, eighteen miles from Atbara, this morning, and encountered five hundred of the enemy's horsemen, whom they drove in and, pressing forward, found Mahmoud's position in the heavy brush and strongly intrenched, with pits filled with riflemen and protected by a thick zereba. In the centre was a small hill, with three tiers of intrenchments filled with spearmen. The whole position was swarming with Dervishes alert for the attack.

The artillery opened fire at one thousand yards. The effect was apparently good, but it was difficult to judge to a certainty, owing to the thick bush. The Maxims also swept the front of the position. The Dervishes, however, did not reply, evidently awaiting an attack at close quarters. Having ascertained the enemy's position, the reconnoitering force retired, followed by the Dervish horsemen, who did not attack, but retreated under shell fire.

ZOLA'S APPEAL HEARD.

A BELIEF THAT THE CASE WILL BE ALLOWED TO DROP OUT OF SIGHT.

Paris, March 31.—The Court of Cassation to-day began hearing the appeal of M. Emile Zola against the sentence of one year's imprisonment and 3,000 francs' fine imposed on him on February 23, after he had been convicted of making libellous charges in the "Aurore" against the conduct of the Esterhazy court-martial, which was an outcome of the attempts to prove that Alfred Dreyfus, condemned to imprisonment for life for betraying French military secrets to a foreign Power, should have a new trial. Councillor Chambareaud, who was appointed to examine the arguments, reported in favor of M. Zola's main plea, namely, that his trial had been irregular because the suit was brought by the Minister of War, instead of the president of the court-martial which M. Zola had libelled. If the Court, as is probable, accepts M. Chambareaud's report, the case will not be retried. The condemnation will remain, but the sentence will not be executed. This result is believed to be acceptable to the Government, as it is hoped it will stop the agitation on the subject.

KING GEORGE'S ASSAILANTS TO DIE.

TRIAL AND CONVICTION OF THE TWO WOULD-BE REGICIDES OF GREECE.

Athens, March 31.—At the trial of Karditzi and Giorgli to-day on the charge of an attempt to assassinate King George of Greece on February 26 last, when His Majesty, accompanied by the Princess Marie, was returning from Phalerum to Athens, a large number of the leading Greeks and many members of the diplomatic corps were present.

Karditzi, who is ill with consumption, said he was impelled to the act by newspaper articles declaring King George responsible for the misfortunes of the country, and he declared that if he had succeeded in killing the King he would have tried to kill M. Theodor Delyannis, the former Premier.

Georgli declared that he fired into the air.

Both prisoners were condemned to death.

On the day of the unsuccessful attempt made by Karditzi and Georgli upon his life, King George was returning from Phalerum in a landau, about 5 o'clock in the afternoon, when the two men, who were hidden in a ditch near the road, opened fire with guns upon the occupants of the carriage. The first shot missed, but the second wounded a footman in the arm. When the latter shot whizzed past the carriage, King George rose and stood in front of his daughter in order to shield her. The coachman whipped up his horses, and the royal party dashed away at a gallop, followed by seven more shots, none of which took effect. The action of the King in shielding the Princess at the risk of his own life aroused great enthusiasm among the Greeks. Karditzi was a minor employe in the office of the Mayor of Athens. He was formerly a non-commissioned officer in the army, belonging to a class of doubtful repute, locally designated as the Koutzavantis.

Giorgli, who made a confession shortly after his arrest, is a Macedonian workman. He declared in his confession that he acted at the instigation of Karditzi, who had represented to him that to kill King George would be an act of great courage and glorify them both. He said his part of the plot was to shoot the horses, but his courage oozed out at the last moment.

AMERICAN PILGRIMS AT THE POPE'S MASS

Rome, March 31.—Thirty American pilgrims, who have been to Palestine, attended the Pope's mass this morning.

PROBABLY LOST WITH ALL ON BOARD.

Newcastle, March 31.—The British steamer Leechmere, Captain Butter, is believed to have been lost with all hands. She left the Tyne on March 23 for London, and has not been heard of since.

The Leechmere was an iron steamer of 724 tons, built at Sunderland in 1876. She was owned by W. Cory & Son (Limited), and hailed from the port of London.

THE AUSTRIAN BUDGET.

Vienna, March 31.—The Austrian budget was submitted in the lower house of the Diet to-day. The estimated revenue is 722,271,982 florins, and the expenditure is estimated at 717,946,604 florins.

NEW GERMAN CRUISER LAUNCHED.

Kiel, March 31.—The new German cruiser Gazelle was launched here to-day. She was named by Princess Henry of Prussia, and the ex-Empress of Germany was among those present at the ceremony. Admiral von Tirpitz, Secretary of the Imperial Navy, alluded in a speech to the husband of Princess Henry of Prussia as "upholding the sea power of Germany in the Far East."

TO MANAGE THE PRINCETON GLEE CLUB.

Princeton, N. J., March 31.—At a meeting of the 'Varsity Glee Club organization to-day Burrows Sloane, '99, was elected manager, to succeed P. D. Stockley, '98, resigned.

IN HONOR OF MR. JEFFERSON

A DINNER GIVEN FOR HIM BY THE COLONIAL CLUB.

A WITTY AND ELOQUENT SPEECH BY THE VENERABLE ACTOR—HIS VIEW OF THE SUBSIDIZED THEATRE—ADDRESSES BY WILLIAM WINTER, ST. CLAIR MCKELWAY, THE REV. MR. SLICER AND WALTER S. LOGAN.

In his long and brilliant career many dinners and entertainments have been given in honor of Joseph Jefferson, but there have probably been few occasions upon which more earnest and generous efforts to entertain him, or more graceful and sincere encomiums were passed upon his achievements and the art of which he is so distinguished a representative, than at the dinner given for him last night by the Colonial Club. The large banqueting hall of the club was turned into a veritable bower of foliage and flowers, and, commodious as it is, it could not comfortably contain the many men of prominence and of all professions who gathered to honor the venerable actor. L. Laflin Kellogg presided, and in addition to Mr. Jefferson, who sat at his immediate right, there were also at the head table William Winter, Charles A. Moore, E. T. Bartlett, Horace White, the Rev. T. R. Slicer, St. Clair McKelway and Walter S. Logan. There were in addition about two hundred members and guests present. In the course of the dinner there were several repetitions of that genuine spirit of patriotism that rendered notable the Washington Birthday dinner of the club. Frequently the members paused in the middle of courses to rise and sing in unison the words of National songs played by the band.

The address of welcome with which the president opened the evening's oratory was couched in particularly cordial terms. The artistic and natural portrayals which Mr. Jefferson gave to his conceptions; the life and spirit with which he dressed his characters; the purity of thought and character which he breathed into every play in which he had taken part, were among the attributes which Mr. Kellogg spoke of as belonging to the guest of the evening, and in honoring Mr. Jefferson, he said, the Colonial Club honored itself.

Mr. Jefferson, in rising to reply, was received with prolonged cheers, and the waving of handkerchiefs. The earlier part of his address teemed with witticisms and humorous anecdotes, that constantly kept his hearers in outbursts of laughter. Then, drifting into more serious subjects, Mr. Jefferson, at the request of one of the members, gave his opinion upon the question of the subsidized theatre. He admitted that many advantages would attach to a subsidized theatre for the reason that it would allow of plays to be produced on a more magnificent and perfect scale than the ordinary receipts of a theatre would warrant. But he thought such a scheme would be impracticable. Subsidized theatres were possible in Europe, where there was one unmistakable and central metropolis. But in this country, if there was any attempt to establish a subsidized theatre, the people of Washington, Boston, San Francisco, Chicago and other centres would urge reasons why they and not New-Yorkers should have the privilege of owning the subsidized theatre, and would object to pay a tax for the maintenance of such a theatre in any city save their own.

The address of William Winter, who followed Mr. Jefferson, on "The Poet and the Player," was filled with graceful language and was eloquently delivered. He dwell upon the genius of Jefferson in glowing terms, and spoke of the many precious memories that crowded into his mind from a friendship of nearly forty years with the venerable actor.

St. Clair McKelway drew many interesting comparisons between the editor and the actor, and entertaining addresses were heard from Mr. Slicer and Walter S. Logan.

Praise and credit are due for the admirable arrangements made for the dinner by the following committee: Henry D. Hotchkiss, chairman; Daniel O'Day, George C. Smith, James A. Punderford, George A. Hearn, Eugene L. Bushe, John K. Cilley, John J. Adams, Frank H. Platt, Adlace F. Walker, William E. Webb, Frank Tilford, William T. Evans, Robert E. Dowling, George W. Young, Walter S. Logan, Frederick M. Littlefield, Henry B. Wilson, Charles W. Morse and Everett W. Little.

LOSSES BY FIRE.

North Attleboro, Mass., March 31.—T. I. Smith & Co., manufacturers of men's jewelry; H. H. Curtis & Co., manufacturers of silverware, and J. B. Mainton & Son, enamellers, sustained a loss of $60,000 by fire and water early this morning. All concerns are nearly covered by insurance. More than two hundred persons are thrown out of employment. The origin of the fire is unknown.

OBITUARY.

CHARLES L. FLEMING.

Charles L. Fleming died at his home, No. 845 St. Nicholas-ave., on Wednesday afternoon. He was an old and esteemed member of the Fifth Company, 7th Regiment, and an ex-governor and charter member of the Military Club. He was also a prominent real estate owner and resident of Washington Heights. He was born in this city about sixty-five years ago.

EX-CHANCELLOR JAMES L. WOLCOTT.

Wilmington, Del., March 31.—James L. Wolcott, former Chancellor of Delaware, died at his home in Dover to-day, at the age of fifty-six years. He was a leading member of the Kent County bar and was counsel for the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. He had held the positions of Clerk of the State Senate, Secretary of State from 1879 to 1883, and Chancellor, resigning the latter position to accept the railroad attorneyship.

Mr. Wolcott was for years a leader in Democratic politics and was the head and front of the faction that opposed the Saulsbury wing of the party. In 1888 he entered the field for United States Senator, in opposition to the late Eli Saulsbury, and captured the Democratic primaries in Kent County. But the subsequent Saulsbury bolt defeated Mr. Wolcott's Senate aspirations by electing a Republican Legislature, which sent Anthony Higgins to Washington as the first Republican United States Senator from Delaware.

THE REV. J. A. SHEPHARD.

Santa Rosa, Cal., March 31.—The Rev. J. Avery Shephard, one of the best-known Episcopal ministers in Northern California, died here to-day, aged eighty-two years. He was in Montgomery, Ala., when the Confederate Congress held its first session, and delivered the opening prayer. He was a prominent Mason.

MISS ELEANOR ROBINSON.

Elmira, N. Y., March 31.—Miss Eleanor Robinson, daughter of the late Governor Lucius Robinson and sister of Colonel D. C. Robinson, died here this afternoon, from nervous prostration.

THE WEATHER REPORT.

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

Washington, March 31.—An extensive area of high pressure covers the larger portion of the country extending from the South Atlantic and Gulf States throughout the central valleys to the lake regions and the Northwest. A storm of light energy lies off the New-England Coast. The weather is for the most part clear east of the Mississippi and partly cloudy between the Mississippi and the Rocky Mountains. Snow and rain have fallen in New-England and rain in the Middle South Atlantic States during the last twenty-four hours. The temperature has risen slightly in the central districts of the country, and fallen on the Atlantic Coast and in the Northwest. Fair weather is indicated for all districts Friday, with somewhat lower temper