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Business Notices

Announcement.

Mrs. A. Capes, of the Lafayette Place Russian and Turkish Baths, takes this opportunity of thanking her patrons for the steady favor shown this establishment and its predecessor in 4th st. during the past thirty years, and to express the hope that under her renewed personal supervision it will maintain its position as the best equipped and finest of its kind (built and conducted by private enterprise) either in this country or in Europe.

She will have the assistance of the present active manager, who has been associated with the Lafayette Place Baths for the past twenty years, and no expense or effort will be spared to maintain its acknowledged high standard and superiority. The corps of expert attendants is composed of accomplished masseurs, most of whom have held their positions with the Lafayette Place Baths for more than fifteen years.

The hotel department of the Baths is conducted upon the best approved models of the day, with Restaurant, Café, and superbly appointed rooms for gentlemen on very reasonable terms by the day or week. In all departments every courtesy and attention will be extended to secure and maintain the approval of the patrons.

Mrs. A. CAPES, Proprietor.

Mr. B. FRANK TERWILLIGAR, Manager.

Ambitious Business Man may secure absolutely safe, valuable $10,000 partnership; one quarter cash, with good reputation, required; balance from guaranteed profits, first-class house; well rated; established 26 years; staple specialty patented; absolute necessity; sales $100,-000; no competition. Post Office Box 15.

Carl H. Schultz, 440 First-ave., New-York. Pure and correct mineral waters, manufactured from DISTILLED WATER and chemically PURE SALTS.

New-York Daily Tribune

SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 1898.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN.—Pressure by the Powers of Europe, it is said, is being brought to bear on the Queen Regent and the Cabinet of Spain in the hope of averting a war with the United States. ==== A Madrid dispatch announced that the Spanish torpedo flotilla had only reached the Cape Verd Islands, two thousand miles from Porto Rico; the vessels would coal and proceed. ==== Lieutenant-Commander Colwell purchased for the United States an 1,800-ton cruiser in England; a crew was obtained, and the vessel will go to sea within three days. ==== Orders were received by the wreckers at Havana directing that salvage operations on the Maine be suspended. ==== A Peking dispatch says that the British Minister there had demanded for Great Britain important compensatory concessions from China, to maintain the balance of power in the East.

DOMESTIC.—The relations of the United States and Spain remained unchanged, no further communications having been exchanged between Washington and Madrid. ==== President McKinley began the preparation of his Message to Congress; it is not likely to be sent in before Tuesday. ==== The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations decided to report favorably Mr. Foraker's resolution recognizing the independence of Cuba and declaring for armed intervention if necessary, with an amendment fixing responsibility for the Maine disaster on Spain. ==== Secretary Gage and Chairman Dingley had a conference with the President in regard to war revenue measures. ==== Members of Congress were in a calmer frame of mind, but not less determined to vote for forcible intervention in Cuba.

CITY AND SUBURBAN.—The Board of Trade and Transportation unanimously passed resolutions indorsing President McKinley's stand in the present crisis with Spain and calling upon Congress and the people to sustain him. ==== A meeting under the auspices of the Central Cuban Relief Committee was held in Chickering Hall, and Randolph Guggenheimer, the Rev. Dr. Newton and others spoke. ==== A loving-cup was presented to Major-General Roe by Squadron A at a dinner of the organization, at which he was the guest of honor. ==== John Fox gave a dinner at the Democratic Club for Richard Croker, with the object of bringing together Tammany and the McLaughlin Democrats of Brooklyn.

THE WEATHER.—Indications for to-day: Fair. The temperature yesterday: Highest, 49 degrees; lowest, 38; average, 42⅞.

RAPID TRANSIT AND THE PEOPLE.

It cannot be denied that the Tammany administration, though defeated through the Governor's firmness in its purpose to get control of the rapid-transit situation and make a huge job out of its opportunity to play fast and loose with public requirements, still has power to put serious, if not fatal, obstacles in the Commission's way. Moreover, having the power, Tammany clearly intends to exercise it. We are not referring at this moment to the opinion of the Counsel to the Corporation in the matter of the debt limit, for that is a question involving complicated issues as to which respectable legal authorities differ. Our meaning is that the whole course of the Administration since it came into office shows its determination to antagonize to the limit of its authority and influence an undertaking which it is not permitted to direct, and that it has formidable resources for the execution of that programme, derived from the Rapid Transit act itself.

The law, for example, provides that contracts entered into by the Rapid Transit Commission must be approved "as to the form" by the Counsel to the Corporation. Obviously this was not intended to mean that the city's legal adviser might refuse to approve them for any reason that suited his purposes; but practically he could, at least for a considerable time, do that very thing. Ultimately he might be judicially constrained to yield, but he could certainly cause great delay. We do not insinuate that Mr. Whalen would deliberately stretch his authority to cover the substance as well as the form, but in such a case self-deception is a common fault. The law also provides that, for the fulfilment of a valid contract, the Board of Estimate and Apportionment shall, upon the requisition of the Rapid Transit Commission, direct the Controller to issue bonds. But here there are two chances for effective opposition. Neither the Board of Estimate and Apportionment nor the Controller is compelled to act quickly, but either or both in succession can accomplish a virtual "hold-up" for an indefinite time. Ultimately the courts might, and probably would, be invoked, but again delays would inevitably result. It is true that the Commission has an important legal advantage over ordinary litigants, for the law provides that every action or proceeding brought by the Commission, as well as every action or proceeding brought against it, "shall have a preference above all causes not criminal on the calendar of every court, and may be brought on "for trial or argument upon notice of eight days "for any day of any term on which the court "shall be in session." So that if for the removal of any impediment put in its path the Commission should determine to appeal to the courts it could soon obtain the right of way; but much time would probably be wasted before such a determination was reached. These are examples of the opposition which the Commission is altogether likely to encounter in its straightforward endeavor to carry out the will of the people.

The situation, however, is not so hopeless as it might appear, for a consideration of the fact that the Commission is indisputably trying to carry out the will of the people suggests the encouraging reflection that the people when they are sufficiently in earnest always have their way. The very act under which the Commission is working bears testimony to this truth. It was not passed without difficulty, and Governor Flower for a time was confidently expected to veto it. But the popular demand, based upon wellnigh universal recognition of the popular necessity, was a compelling force which could not be resisted. Within recent years the power of public opinion has been repeatedly revealed in a still more impressive manner. It brought the boodle Aldermen to trial and conviction, it has saved the parks from spoliation a score of times, it secured the repeal of the act giving Tammany license to demolish the City Hall even after plans for a monstrosity to take its place had been submitted. Similarly there is not the slightest doubt that public opinion need only find adequate expression in the matter of rapid transit to reduce an obstinately hostile administration to docility.

And there is every reason why such an expression should be delivered. The demand exists. It was overwhelmingly recorded in the vote of 1894, and every subsequent day has made more imperative the necessity which was then obvious to a great majority of the taxpayers. Momentous interests of another sort engross public attention for the time being, but this indispensable requirement of the people of New-York will not long occupy a subordinate place in their thoughts. It only remains for them to declare their will in the tone that is invariably understood the moment it is heard by public functionaries. Before a mandate of that sort official opposition would swiftly vanish. And we believe that the people will speak after that fashion when they have once become convinced that the occasion has arrived.

WAR AND PEACE.

War for war's sake is preached. Men of supposed light and leading openly proclaim it. They declare that civilization does indeed get forward upon a powder-cart, not only in the conquest and settlement of savage regions, but in the moral and spiritual development of enlightened nations. In prolonged times of peace virtues decay. Men's minds become narrow and petty, their passions sordid. Patriotism declines. Heroism fades away. The rude shock of war is needed to rouse the people from stagnation, to renew the nobler spirit, and to purify and elevate the national life. The most eloquent singer of our time has sung:

> Is it peace or war? Better, war! Loud war by land and by sea.

And again he has exulted that

> No more shall commerce be all in all, and Peace
> Pipe on her pastoral hillock a languid note,
> And watch her harvest ripen, her herd increase.
> . . . .
> Hail once more to the banner of battle unroll'd!
> And many a darkness into the light shall leap,
> And shine in the sudden making of splendid names,
> And noble thought be freer under the sun,
> And the heart of a people beat with one desire.

So much the poet, so much the politician. But let us see the fact. It is not difficult to find. It is writ large on history's page. War is not purification. It is debauchery. War is not an uplifting. It is a degradation. War does not lead the national mind to higher thoughts, but to lower and less worthy ones. It does not promote spirituality, but bestiality. And whatever good it does it does in spite of itself and not because of itself. If one wants proof of that he has only to look at the record of the very war which the British laureate so eloquently acclaimed. It destroyed more splendid names than it made; it did not free noble thought, but unloosed vileness; it did not make the heart of the people beat with one desire, but rent it asunder. "The smooth-faced snubnosed rogue" did not leap from his counter and till and strike brave blows for the Fatherland, but stayed where he was, to grow dishonestly rich on Government contracts while the victims of his rascality whitened the Crimean valleys with their bones. Nay, we have to look only at our own last war, within the memory of men not yet grown old. Never was war more righteous than that for the preservation of the Union. But what a legacy of woe it left to the Union it preserved! Disordered currency, reckless speculation, unsound business, social shoddyism, industrial discontent, political corruption, a National demoralization that we shall scarcely outgrow in three generations. It is not too much to say that nearly every great social and political evil from which the Republic now suffers was sent upon it, or vastly aggravated, by the war.

No; the truth is that expressed by the Yankee poet when he wrote:

> Ez fer war, I call it murder,—There you hev it plain an' flat;
> I don't want to go no furder Than my Testyment fer that;
> God hez sed so plump an' fairly, It's ez long ez it is broad,
> An' you've got to git up airly Ef you want to take in God.

And the mark and the curse of the murderer Cain will unerringly be placed upon whatever nation wantonly makes war against its neighbor. It is a monstrous thing to choose war as a means of gaining what peace would secure as well. It is a monstrous thing to make war as a means of getting rid of evils, unless those evils are known to be greater than those which war itself would bring. And the magnitude of the evils of war is such as to command the utmost long-suffering before incurring them. The time comes, now and then, when war is inevitable. That is only when every other resort has been tried to the end and has failed. The man who would deliberately choose war before that time may pose as a patriot. He is a traitor to the Fatherland. He may be known as a philanthropist. He is an enemy of the human race.

Nevertheless, there is a time for war, as there is a time for peace. It comes to the peace-loving nation when it has tried every possible means of avoiding war in vain, and finds war forced upon it by its foe. Then it is fitting to enter upon the conflict, not with a light but with a serene and confident heart, finding in the very monstrousness of the wrong thus imposed upon it the amplest justification for striking back with all the might that righteousness can add to zeal. If on the morrow, as now seems to many probable, Spain shall force this wicked thing upon us, the challenge will be accepted without hesitation and without fear, and the campaign be pressed without relenting to an issue that shall warn all the rest of the world never again to wage unholy war against a great Nation that loves peace much, but loves still more humanity, and honor, and everlasting justice.

THE AUTONOMIST PLEA.

One of the latest pleas put forth by Spaniards for delay is that the Autonomist Government in Cuba ought to be consulted. That plea cannot be well taken. Spain may consult that so-called Government all she pleases. She has already had ample time to do so. This country cannot be expected to do it. Its diplomatic dealings are with Spain, and with Spain alone. It sends no Minister to Havana and receives none from that capital. It can take no cognizance of the wishes of the Autonomist Government save such as it obtains through its Minister at Madrid or through the Spanish Minister at Washington.

Nor, indeed, apart from such consideration, can the Autonomist Government command serious attention in this country. The scheme on which it is based deprives it of adequate authority to speak for all Cuba. The manner of its formation does not invest it with more authority. It is a Spanish, not a Cuban, institution. There has been no acceptance of it by the Cuban people. On the contrary, the best representatives of those people have declared their unalterable rejection of it. Nor is it even accepted by all the Spanish population of the island. The Autonomists, or some of them, stand by it. The Conservatives have denounced it and refused to abide by it. There is reason to think that if it were submitted to the vote, free and untrammelled, of the Spaniards in Cuba it would be promptly rejected. How, then, can it be supposed that this country will regard it as the incarnation of truth and law?

There is reason, also, to believe that the Spaniards of Cuba realize the failure of the scheme, and are preparing to abandon it, and with it their hold upon the island. They know, better than the Peninsular Spaniards, the determination of the insurgents to accept nothing short of independence. They know, too, the hopelessness of Spanish endeavors to suppress the insurrection. That they are becoming resigned to the prospect of losing Cuba is entirely credible, and no less creditable to their common-sense.

ZOLA FREED.

The Court of Cassation has quashed the sentence of one year's imprisonment and 3,000 francs fine imposed on Emile Zola, and has relieved him from all penalties. This action is based on the technical ground that the charges should have been made by the president of the Esterhazy court-martial instead of by the Minister of War, since it was not the army but the court-martial which was assailed by Zola. This is a good enough pretext, but the fact that the Court fails to order a new trial in setting aside the first one would seem to show that the grounds alleged were only a pretext, and that the real reason was a desire to have done with a troublesome case.

On the other hand, the charges of the "Aurore" that General Billot attempted to coerce the Court of Cassation into sustaining the sentence point toward a Government desire to punish Zola and a willingness to deal with the subject of future agitation for him and for Dreyfus. If the reversal was contrary to the desire of the Ministry, and dictated solely by regard for law, it becomes remarkable to the Anglo-Saxon mind for being based on what would here seem to be the most unimportant error among all which were alleged. That only emphasizes the almost inconceivable gap between French and Anglo-Saxon jurisprudence. The wonderful jumble of hearsay evidence, oratory from the witness-box, appeals for "the honor of the army," refusal of officers to testify to material matters, and indulgence by these same officers in most immaterial statements to influence a case about which they refused to tell the truth, is so utterly foreign to the possibilities of evidence with us that it is difficult to understand how an appellate court could fail to denounce such methods. But as there are actually no rules of evidence in French jurisprudence, the greatest license is allowed even in ordinary cases, and the chance of overthrowing a verdict on the grounds of improper testimony are slight. Zola did protest in his appeal against the character of the testimony, pointing out the violation by the President of the Assizes of the rights of the defence in refusing to allow counsel to ask certain witnesses questions, and by refusing to do so even before counsel had announced what questions he had desired to put. He likewise protested against the refusal of witnesses to answer questions the answers to which could not have revealed official secrets, and also against the judgment of the Court on the first day of the trial in eliminating from the inquiry everything relating to the Dreyfus case. But the appeal on these points is ignored, and the Court of Cassation finds it convenient to reverse the judgment on a technicality which at least does not discredit the Ministry or give new ammunition to those who denounce its conduct. The Government may congratulate itself that only its procedure, and not its intimidation of juries and denial of justice, is denounced.

It is also to be congratulated if thus simply it has found an end to the affair. With the populace behind it inflamed by insane prejudice against the Jews and by hysterical worship of the military organization, it can apparently defy all further demands of justice and humanity in the case of Dreyfus. Its danger was and is any incident tending to force the truth from the generals and members of the Dreyfus and Esterhazy courts-martial. In spite of all precautions, any new trial might bring out something which would compel revelations, and perhaps precipitate a storm. So the Ministers and the army can afford to drop the subject. As for the friends of Dreyfus, with the mob as well as the officials against them, they apparently have no choice but to drop it, at least for the present.

THE GOD OF BATTLES.

Every nation when waging a war naturally and properly invokes the aid of its deity. And if victory finally crowns the struggle, the victors just as naturally believe that the victory was due, among other things, to the goodwill and help of their deity. The cynical remark of Napoleon that God is on the side of the strongest battalions is never quoted by religious men except in condemnation. So firmly rooted is the idea that somehow or other, in spite of the stable order of the universe, the Deity may, and sometimes does, interpose in the affairs of mortals. Indeed, this thought of Divine interposition is much older than civilization. It is, in fact, strongest among simple and primitive peoples; for civilization and intercourse have a tendency to raise the question how the Divine Being can answer the prayers of two nations warring with each other, not to speak of the difficulty of attributing to Him a victory which, like that of Turkey over Greece, is a victory of wrong over right. This difficulty is enormously increased when the two nations at war not only worship the same God, but profess the same creed and observe the same ritual forms of worship. Mediæval Europe, which was Catholic, was in a state of constant internal turmoil; each faction believed itself especially favored by the God who was equally the God of all its enemies; and no matter how unrighteous the war was, a victory was always marked by the singing of a solemn "Te Deum."

No such difficulty, however, puzzled the semi-savage Hebrew clans after their escape from Egypt. They regarded their Jehovah as a tribal God—one of many similar deities—but immeasurably better and stronger than any of the others. They liked to think of this Jehovah as literally marching at the head of their armies, and they made this belief seem more real by carrying with them some visible symbol of His presence, such as the Ark of the Covenant. If they conquered in the fight the credit was due to Jehovah, who was for that reason especially honored by splendid sacrifices. If, on the other hand, they were conquered, it was a sign not that Jehovah was weaker than the other gods, but that for some reason He was angry with His people, who, therefore, were called upon by the priests to make some sort of expiation to Him. It was not at all a question of relative strength, skill or endurance; nor was it even a question of moral worth as we understand the term. It was not until the age of the Prophets that the moral basis of religion was clearly understood. Religion with the primitive worshipper of the tribal God was a matter of loyalty and devotion to the tribal God, which loyalty and devotion were best manifested by sacrifices and burnt offerings at the proper times and places.

But, it may be asked, what does Christianity to-day have to say about war? Does it bid the American followers of Christ to go to their churches this morning and pray that our soldiers shall be assisted by God to compass the death of many Spanish soldiers in case of war between this country and Spain? Or, to look at the question from the other side, does Christianity authorize the bishops and priests of the Spanish Church this morning to pray for the death of many Yankee soldiers in case of war? For that is what the euphonious verbiage of all such prayers really amounts to. Though the religious formularies are different, the same God is worshipped in the United States and in Spain. In case of war, both peoples will pray to this God for victory, and when we conquer, as we will, American Christians will thank Him for His help. This is the universal practice of Christian lands. And from the point of view of each nation it is right. Purblind creatures of a day that we are, we cannot see far beyond our own immediate interests. Only Omniscience can sit on the floodgates of eternity and pronounce the everlasting yea and nay of unchanging right. It is enough for us that we see our duty in those divinely ordered relations of family and country which for every son of man make up the sum of social life.

THE PRESS AND RELIGION.

The Rev. Dr. J. B. Remensnyder, of this city, complains in "The Christian Advocate" that the great journals of the country, among which he names The Tribune, while nominally on the side of Christianity, are, in point of fact, intensely hostile to the Church as at present organized. So far as The Tribune is concerned this is not true, and we do not believe that it is true of any reputable paper in the country. Indeed, we can go further, and say that even disreputable journals are not hostile to the Church. They may be vulgar and mendacious, but in treating of matters relating to Christianity they at least try to be respectful.

The difficulty with good men like Dr. Remensnyder is that they expect the secular press to champion denominational Christianity. Of course, it cannot and will not do that. It is not competent to judge between the rival claims of the various sects, and even if it were it would get itself into no end of trouble by pronouncing any such judgment. Nor is that all. Every secular paper of large circulation is read by people who are not Christians at all, and some of whom profess a religion different from Christianity. Their feelings, and even prejudices, are to be considered by the editor just as much as the feelings and prejudices of Dr. Remensnyder, and the only way to do this is to give the news relating to all the churches without becoming the champion of any.

Secular journals, as a rule, discuss religious topics honestly, respectfully and with a regard for the facts in the case that a partisan denominational paper does not always manifest, and, indeed, cannot be expected to manifest. And so far as The Tribune is concerned, we believe that fair-minded religious people of every denomination who read it see no evidence of hostility to the Church in its comments on religious questions.

TUNIS UNDER FRENCH RULE.

A couple of years before Great Britain assumed control of Egypt, with such profit to the latter country, France took possession of Tunis. The matter attracted much attention at the time, and some features of it gave rise to no little scandal. To avoid possible objections from other Powers, especially from Italy and Great Britain, the French Government disclaimed any intention of actually annexing Tunis or of creating there any fortified naval station. Then the whole matter lapsed into temporary oblivion, to be recalled therefrom only last year, when France requested other nations to modify their treaties so as to recognize Tunis as a full colonial possession of hers. Such it has indeed become. More than that, France has made of its chief port one of the strongest fortified naval stations in the Mediterranean. All of which was, of course, to be expected at the outset, diplomatic protestations to the contrary notwithstanding.

But France has done more than that. She has civilized and rehabilitated the ancient land to a degree almost comparable with that done by Great Britain in Egypt. When she took hold of it there was no security for life and property. Now they are as safe as in France itself. Then there was no taxation but plunder and the province was bankrupt. Now taxation is equitably assessed and honestly collected, and the treasury shows a surplus every year. Then there was not a yard of good road and no harbor which large vessels could enter. Now there are splendid roads connecting all important towns, and one of the best harbors on the whole Mediterranean. Then there were three lighthouses on the coast. Now there are fifty. Railroads have been built, hotels opened, wells sunk and an abundant water supply has been secured, the famous old Roman marble quarries have been reopened after twelve hundred years, land has been placed under cultivation, the locust plague abated, and the country generally made more prosperous than for a thousand years.

No less interesting is the change in foreign commerce. In 1880 the total trade was less than $5,000,000 a year. In 1896 it was more than $15,000,000. Nor is it by any means monopolized by the French, as the British feared it would be. At first British trade declined. It was $1,500,000 in 1876, and only $1,000,000 in 1882. But then the general improvement in the condition of the country began to be felt by British as well as by French merchants, and British trade rapidly increased again, until in 1897 it was about $3,400,000. Evidently the French are making a success of their colony, and, as is usually the case, the whole world shares in the benefits of the advance in civilization they have effected.

The Spanish torpedo-boats, wherever they are, are where at present they have a right to be, though the rash advocates of precipitate action choose to ignore that fact.

It was nearly half a century ago that Tennyson wrote:

> Gigantic daughter of the West,
> We drink to thee across the flood,
> We know thee and we love thee best,
> For art thou not of British blood?

But the lines appear to be just as true now as then.

The President is bearing a tremendous burden with admirable moral fortitude, and thus far with few signs of physical weariness. There is every reason to believe that his tranquillity will continue to be proof against the malice of a few turbulent detractors.

There must be a monumental liar somewhere. Whether he is at Porto Rico or the Cape Verd Islands, or both, it is difficult to say.

The bill offering a continuance of invalid pensions to veterans who again enlist for service suggests the thought that an unsound person who draws an invalid pension is not well adapted for a soldier, and that a sound man able to bear arms does not draw an invalid pension except by fraud.

The Spanish torpedo-boats were at Las Palmas on March 23, and reached the Cape Verd Islands on April 2. Time, ten days. Distance, 1,100 miles. Rate, 110 miles a day. From the Cape Verd Islands to Porto Rico is 2,700 miles, and from Porto Rico to Havana, 1,200 miles. The boats may, therefore, barring accidents and opposition, be expected to reach Porto Rico about April 26 or 27 and Havana about May 7 or 8. A good many things may happen before then materially altering the aspect of their errand and the circumstances of their reception.

The sober, patriotic sense of the American people is impressively represented in the declarations of confidence and approval which are going to the President from organizations of every sort in every part of the country.

A LEAF FROM HISTORY.

At the White House one day some gentlemen were present from the West, excited and troubled about the commissions or omissions of the Administration. The President heard them patiently, and then replied: "Gentlemen, suppose all the property you were worth was in gold, and you had put it in the hands of Blondin to carry across the Niagara River on a rope, would you shake the cable or keep shouting out to him, 'Blondin, stand up a little straighter; Blondin, stoop a little more; go a little faster; lean a little more to the north; lean a little more to the south?' No, you would hold your breath as well as your tongue, and keep your hands off until he was safe over. The Government are carrying an immense weight. Untold treasures are in their hands. They are doing the very best they can. Don't badger them. Keep silence, and we'll get you safe across."—(Raymond's "Life of Abraham Lincoln," page 752.

PERSONAL.

Thomas Sergeant Perry has accepted the professorship of English language and literature in the College Keiogijuku in Tokio, and will leave Boston for Japan on Monday, April 11. The engagement is for three years, and the family of the professor will follow him in the autumn to his new post.

Mr. and Mrs. G. P. Lord, who gave to Elgin, Ill., the park bearing their name and have been liberal doners to all objects of a public nature, have offered to give the Elgin Young Men's Christian Association $10,000 toward a building fund, providing the $20,000 more required be raised by subscription by July 1.

The Marquise des Monstriers-Merinville, who, with her husband, will soon visit this country, was Miss Mary G. Caldwell, of Washington.

Van Dyck, the noted tenor of the Vienna Opera, has finished his engagement with that institution, and it has not been renewed. Reports from Vienna as to the reason are conflicting, some attributing it to the tenor's desire to regain his freedom and others to disagreements with Herr Mahler, the new conductor. His last appearance at the Vienna opera was the cause of a tumultuous demonstration.

If all plans are carried out Paris will be largely enriched in the number of her public monuments in the near future. Among the statues nearly finished and soon to be erected are those of Victor Hugo, by Barrias; Alfred de Musset, by Mercié; Leconte de Lisle, by Puech; Verlaine; Sainte-Beuve; Alexandre Dumas; Jules Simon, by Frémiet, and Louis Veuillot, by Fagel. In addition committees are actively at work collecting funds for statues of Paul de Kock, Paul Arène and Alphonse Daudet.

Bishop Fowler (Methodist) indignantly denies a recent report that he was once engaged to the late Miss Frances E. Willard.

George C. Gorham, ex-Secretary of the United States Senate, has completed his biography of Edwin M. Stanton, on which he has been engaged for some years. The great Secretary's only son, Lewis H. Stanton, is practising law in New-Orleans. One of the daughters is married to an Army officer and stationed somewhere in the West. The other daughter is married and living in an Eastern State. The family placed all of Mr. Stanton's correspondence and private papers and other biographical material in Mr. Gorham's hands, and he has also had access to the archives of the War Department and the records of the Rebellion. The biography will be published in two volumes of five hundred or six hundred pages each.

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

"The Glasgow News" says: "Away in the south-west of Scotland somewhere there lives, moves and has her being a little girl named Mona MacBean. On March 1 Mona was late in arriving at school and was detailed off to write her name fifty times. When the task was completed and presented to the teacher, the latter was horrified to find the name written, page after page, 'Boda Bakbade.' 'You naughty girl, that's not the way to spell your name! Spell it properly!' The reply was an astounder. 'Please, bab, I've dot a cold add I cad odly say Boda Bakbade.'"

In Salem, where Nathaniel Hawthorne wrote some of the finest English sentences ever composed by an American, the city marshal apparently hired a German to write the warning, "Loafing in front of this building is by a city ordinance strictly forbidden."

He in a German university his of English sentences arrangement learnt probably had.—(Boston Globe.

A Maine man who thinks that there will soon be another flood is building an ark. But he says he won't take any beasts in it unless the owners pay him well for the accommodation.

Hicks—Talking about horseless carriages, we've got one up at our place.

Wicks—That so? Say, I should like to have a ride in it.

Hicks—You can.

Wicks—All right. I'll come up this afternoon.

Hicks—Not to-day. You'll have to wait, you know, till we have bought a horse.—(Boston Transcript.

In Cambridge, Harvard professors are usually spoken of as "Mr." instead of "Professor or "Dr."

The Result Accomplished.—Deacon Jones—What! Not going to church any more? I thought you told me not long ago that you hadn't missed a Sunday in three years?

Farmer Corncrib—So I hadn't. So I hadn't. But what's the use now? Times air gittin' as good as they ever was.—(Judge.

The people of Kansas City have determined to build a convention hall of mammoth proportions. It will hold sixteen thousand people, and will be ready for the October festival and the Priests of Pallas ball.

Edith—Mrs. Mauve appears to be a regular iconoclast.

Bertha—Yes?

Edith—You know she used to say that her husband was the idol of her heart?

Bertha—I know.

Edith—Well, by her extravagance that idol is dead broke.—(Boston Transcript.

A recent rural visitor to the White House made a bull's-eye shot at a telephone and walked off, muttering that he thought it was an insult to a free people for the Administration to nail the cuspidors to the wall.

Political Grammar.—"What are your views on the Spanish question?" inquired the alert interviewer.

"My friend," replied the Member of Congress, "I am very much inclined to think that in a few days there will not be any such thing as a Spanish question. It'll be a declaration."—(Washington Star.

Captain J. W. Holmes of the American ship Charmer has just arrived at home for the seventy-sixth time. The Captain is seventy-four years old, has been at sea since he was ten, and has never been shipwrecked. This immunity from disaster is all the more remarkable, considering that he never consults a barometer, but crowds on sail at all times, depending on his own weather wisdom for the safety of his ship and crew.

Doctor—Well, it's ten to one you won't see me to-morrow.

Patient—What! Any d-danger, Doctor?"

Doctor—Oh, no. Those are merely my office hours.—(Harper's Bazar.

"We have often commented," says "The London Globe," "upon the unsuitability of the names selected by the Admiralty for our warships, and yesterday the climax was reached in the christening of our latest battle-ship Goliath. There never was a reputed mighty warrior who so completely went under to an apparently insignificant antagonist as Goliath, and the omen must be in the minds of all who hear the new vessel's name. It would not cost very much to rechristen the vessel, and this ought to be done, if only to deprive other nations of the opportunity of christening some swift and powerful cruiser the David."

The Berlin Zoo is to be enriched by a remarkable elephant. This creature, which is eighty years of age, has long played the part of executioner in an Eastern country where criminals may not be put to death by human means. Hence, an elephant is retained to crush the victim's head.—(London Globe.

MUSIC.

THE LAST PHILHARMONIC CONCERT.

Under external conditions of utter grievousness the last concert of the fifty-sixth season of the Philharmonic Society took place in Carnegie Hall last night. The preparations for the concert, which were approaching completion a week ago, were thrown into confusion by Mr. Seidl's death. Save the lyric dramas of his master, no composition appealed to the conductor's sympathy, fiery imagination and ambition more forcibly than Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. In his comparatively brief career as conductor of the Philharmonic Society, he had brought the work forward twice, and the first time, at least, achieved a notable success with it. He was justified in looking forward to its aid in a brilliant close of the seventh year of his directorship. And had he lived to conduct last night's concert he would doubtless have provided material for reflection for all the music lovers who are given to thought. The choral symphony is not only monumental in dimensions, it stands alone in symphonic literature for the scope that it offers to the creative capacity of the conductor. The two foremost orchestras in the country had played the three instrumental movements in New-York only a short time before, and it would have been Mr. Seidl's opportunity to show to what extent the genius of an interpreter might make good the inferiority of his medium. Besides, the work was to be given in its integrity—that is, with the choral portion, which is essential to the rounding out and elucidation of its poetic contents. There was much, therefore, to look forward to in the concert, and little cause for wonder that the death of Mr. Seidl carried a double measure of dismay to the Philharmonic Society's subscribers.

This dismay was as nothing, however, compared with the distressful state into which the directors of the society were plunged. Reverence for the memory of the dead man prompted a postponement of the concert until the poignancy of the public grief had been mitigated by time; but this was found to be impracticable, if not impossible, and the public was informed of the fact. Then a conductor for the concert had to be engaged, and he was found in Mr. Van der Stucken, who had to come from Cincinnati. Only one day was left for rehearsals, and that the day of Mr. Seidl's funeral. Then there arose a public clamor which called for either a postponement or an abandonment of the concert. Those who raised the cry were not many, nor were they as gentle and considerate as the sentiment which they professed ought to have made them. They asked the subscribers to pronounce condemnation on the directors of the Philharmonic Society by remaining away from the public rehearsal and concert. If they were subscribers who wished this they were either a very small minority or they did not practise what they had preached. There were one hundred and fifty absentees from all causes on Friday, and perhaps as many last night. But Friday's audience was the third largest of the season. The cry was in questionable taste. Is it certain that the manes of Anton Seidl would have been more honored by an abandonment of the concert than it was by the performance? Plainly, nearly five thousand people thought not; and it was more respectful to the dead to do justice to the five thousand than to humor the three hundred. Shall a musician be honored by silence? Is a concert set apart for such music as Bach and Beethoven as made up the greater part of last night's programme—compositions permeated with the loftiest feelings of religion—to be looked upon in the light of a diversion, a merry-making, or mere amusement, in the idle sense, which obtains since we have forgotten the origin of the word? Anton Seidl would have had a small opinion of any friend who exhibited so mean an appreciation of his art.

But this is not all. It was decided to give Beethoven's Ninth Symphony without the last movement. That is, one of respect to the dead conductor, the "Ode to Joy" was omitted. This proceeding, which robbed the concert of the distinction which it was to have had, was a tribute the significance of which can only be measured when it is viewed in connection with other facts. The Philharmonic Society was the first organization to perform the Ninth Symphony in America. The first performance took place in 1846. Since then the society has repeated the work nine times (not counting public rehearsals)—in 1860, 1865, 1868, 1877, 1881, 1886, 1890, 1893 and 1896. Always it was given in its entirety except in 1865, when an example was set for the course pursued yesterday. But on what an occasion! A fortnight before an assassin had robbed the Nation of its President. The land was still mourning for Abraham Lincoln, and instead of the "Ode to Joy," the Philharmonic audience heard the funeral march from the "Eroica" symphony. Last night it was the death march from "Die Götterdämmerung" which took the place of the hymn—Anton Seidl was placed in honor by the side of Abraham Lincoln. Finally the directors issued the following official tribute to the leader, which, on sheet deeply bordered with black, was inclosed in each programme:

ANTON SEIDL.
Died March 28, 1898.

The Philharmonic Society of New-York closes its fifty-sixth season, the most successful and prosperous in its history, in sorrow and mourning, through the sudden decease of its late honored conductor, Mr. Anton Seidl.

After the resignation of Theodore Thomas in 1891 Mr. Seidl was elected conductor of the society and has since continuously served in that position until his sudden demise while actively engaged in preparation for the present concert. Under his leadership the society has uniformly prospered in its attendance and in its artistic results, and the members desire to place on record their profound respect for his consummate attainments as a musician and their deep sense of loss in his decease.

Mr. Seidl's genius for conducting was innate, but was fostered by assiduous study and long early association with the masters of this generation. His remarkable insight into the orchestral works performed by the society and the vitality and charm of these performances under his direction will long be cherished in the memories of those who have been guided by him in their performance and of those who have listened to their interpretation.

Under the circumstances, it would have been unwise to expect a concert marked by special excellence, yet the programme was admirable. The programme consisted of five pieces—first, the familiar orchestral transcription by J. J. Abert, of the C sharp minor Clavichord Prelude, and the G minor organ fugue by Bach, separated by a chorale which, in the ingenious treatment of the transcriber, is afterward made to do service as a cantus firmus under the fugue; second, a dramatic scene, entitled "Cleopatra's Death" the words beginning,

> Give me my robe, put on my crown; I have
> Immortal longings in me,

composed by Henry Holden Huss and sung by Mme. Clementine De Vere-Sapio; third, Weber's overture to "Euryanthe"; fourth, the three purely instrumental movements from Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, and, last, the funeral march from "Die Götterdämmerung." As might have been expected, the music which was best played was that by Weber and Wagner. In the Beethoven numbers, though they were played much more satisfactorily last night than on Friday afternoon (and small wonder, considering that Mr. Van der Stucken's only rehearsals were held before and after the funeral on Thursday), there were a few (surprisingly few) evidences of a want of complete understanding between the leader and his men. Yet the results were in the highest degree complimentary to Mr. Van der Stucken, as the summons from Cincinnati had been in the first instance. Mr. Huss's scene, which through Mme. De Vere's sympathetic interest has had a hearing in the Antipodes, is an ambitious effort on modern lines. Not only does the young composer essay to give musical expression to the general mood of Cleopatra's dying speech, he also seeks to give color and dramatic warmth to each single utterance. Had the vocal part, as conceived, been made to rest upon an orchestral fabric, wrought out of significant phrases, but moving steadily and fluently toward a climax, a gorgeous instrumental song in the manner of the death fancies of Siegfried and Isolde, the want of a continuous soaring melody, which we felt at times in the work, would not have been so obvious. As it was, the many beauties of harmonization and orchestration with which the piece abounds and one or two eloquent melodic conceptions could not efface wholly the impression of fragmentariness and want of continuity of thought which the scene left. It was an honor which any musician might have coveted to have a place on so dignified a musical scheme and to secure so admirable an interpretation for his work as fell to the lot of Mr. Huss. For Mme. De Vere sang with superb power and pathos, and Mr. Van der Stucken conducted with complete devotion. Had the occasion been one free from constraint in the matter of applause it would doubtless have been received with genuine enthusiasm. As it was, it was beautifully honored.

NO DIGEST MADE IN QUIGG'S ABSENCE.

John Sabine Smith, Abraham Gruber, Charles H. Murray, Charles A. Hess and Julius M. Mayer, the committee of machine Republicans appointed to prepare a digest of the new Primary Election law, met in the headquarters of the Republican County Committee yesterday afternoon and compared notes. President Quigg of the County Committee had expected to meet them and revise their work, but he remained in Washington. In his absence no digest was adopted for publication, and no time for calling the next meeting of the County Committee was fixed.