Index to Advertisements.

	Part.	Page.	Col.
Amusements	1	10	4-6
Art Dealers	2	9	1
Art Stores	2	9	1
Awnings	2	7	4-5
Bankers and Brokers	2	9	2
Board and Rooms	2	9	1
Books	2	9	1
Bookbinders	2	4	2-6
Brooklyn Advertisements	2	5	2-6
Brooklyn Advertisements	2	10	3-6
Brooklyn Advertisements	2	9	1
Business Chances	2	6	1
Business Notices	1	7	5
Business Opportunities	2	7	5
City Hotels	3	9	4
City Property to Let	1	8	4
City Property for Sale	1	8	3-4
Country Board	1	7	6
Country Property for Sale	1	8	4
Dancing Academies	2	7	5
Dressmaking	2	9	2-3
Excursions	2	1	8
Employment Agencies	2	9	3
Financial Elections	2	7	3
Financial	2	7	3-4
Furs	2	9	4
Foreign Resorts	3	10	5-6
For Sale	2	9	3
Furnished Rooms	2	9	3
Furnished Houses Wanted	1	8	4
Help Wanted	2	9	6
Horses and Carriages	1	8	6
Instruction	2	7	5
Lost	2	9	5
Marriages and Deaths	1	7	5-6
Ocean Steamers	3	9	4-5
Ocean Steamers	2	7	6
Pianos and Organs	2	9	5
Public Notices	2	7	5
Railroads	3	9	5-6
Real Estate	1	8	4
Religious Notices	1	7	6
School Agencies	2	7	6
Special Notices	1	7	6
Steamboats	3	9	4
Teachers	2	7	5
Tribune Subscription Rates	1	7	6
Unfurnished Apartments to Let	1	8	5-6
Winter Resorts	2	7	6
Work Wanted	2	9	6-8

Business Notices.

Over 750 physicians continually using CARL H. SCHULTZ'S waters in their families is GUARANTY of their PURITY and WHOLESOMENESS.

No Holiday Presents More Highly Prized than Blair's Ink Making Fountain Pens. 163G, B'way.

New-York Daily Tribune.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1899.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN.—General Buller reports that his losses in Friday's fight at the Tugela River were 82 killed, 667 wounded and 348 missing, a total of 1,097; among the wounded was Captain Roberts, a son of Lord Roberts; there was renewed shelling of the Boer position at Magersfontein by General Methuen on Friday; in behalf of the Queen the Duke of Connaught presented a Union Jack to the American hospital ship Maine. ═══ Major Peyton C. March, of the 33d Infantry, has reached Bagnen, in the heart of the Grand Cordillera, Luzon, having abandoned his pursuit of Aguinaldo. ═══ The race between the United States warships to Manila was won by the Brooklyn, the New-Orleans sailing from Singapore yesterday.

CONGRESS.—The Senate was not in session. ═══ House: The debate on the Currency bill came to an exciting and dramatic close; the bill was reported from Committee of the Whole to the House without amendment, and the final vote will be taken on Monday.

DOMESTIC.—The Republican National Committee in Washington adjourned to meet again at the call of the chairman; Mr. Payne, in the interest of party harmony, decided not to offer his resolution providing for a change in the basis of representation in National conventions. ═══ The Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections gave a hearing to counsel in the Quay case. ═══ The Philadelphia committee which secured the National Republican Convention for that city is making an effort to get the National Committee to establish its headquarters there. ═══ The new steamship Philadelphia, of the Old Point Line of the New-York, Philadelphia and Norfolk Railroad, was launched at Chester, Penn., where she was built at Roach's shipyard. ═══ Governor Roosevelt favored the school unification plan presented by the Commission. ═══ As a result of the Squire Company failure in Boston the Broadway National Bank of that city closed its doors and went into the hands of a receiver; the failure of another packing firm was announced.

CITY.—Stocks were weak at sharp declines. ═══ It was said that Louis F. Payn was sorry for some of the things he said in his recent interview and was not anxious for a fight with the Governor and the Republican organization. ═══ Major General Leonard Wood, U. S. V., the newly appointed Military Governor of Cuba, sailed for Havana. ═══ It was announced that Mr. Kinsley, the handwriting expert, would again be submitted to a cross-examination tomorrow.

THE WEATHER.—Forecast for to-day: Fair and cold. The temperature yesterday: Highest, 35 degrees; lowest, 26; average, 30⅝.

BRITISH DISASTER.

The worst week in British military history for forty years and more. That is the undisputed record of the week just past. It began with the news of General Gatacre's mishap at Stormberg. At midweek came the news of General Methuen's costly repulse at Magersfontein. And at the end came that of General Buller's reverse at the Tugela. Standing alone, any one of these affairs would be deemed serious. Taken together, the three come fully up to the sum total of disaster. Several thousand men and nearly a score of guns have been lost, and not an inch of ground has been gained. Prestige has been lost. Disaffection in Cape Colony has been increased. Sympathy with the valiant Boers has been increased. From the British point of view the scene is one of unrelieved gloom. The personal heroism of the British soldier is, of course, untarnished and unquestioned. But the discretion and the skill of some of Great Britain's most trusted generals are in eclipse. No soldiers in the world could have fought more gallantly. None, it must be confessed, could have been more indiscreetly led. It is, we know, far easier to criticise at a distance than to lead an army on the field of battle. But when, over and over again, the various divisions of an army are led into the same old trap, what are we to think of the leadership that makes such repetition possible?

Precisely that is the record. The story of Nicholson's Nek—indeed, we might say the story of Majuba Hill—has been thrice repeated in a week. In each of these three engagements the British force has been sufficient to have won. In each the British force has fallen into an ambuscade or in some way been surprised. And in consequence of the latter fact in each the British have suffered repulse and heavy loss. And these results have come in steadily increasing ratio. General Gatacre's defeat was a comparatively small affair, though yet serious. General Methuen's was much worse, in itself and in its moral and other effect. General Buller's is by far the worst of all. Nor will it escape notice that the British plan of campaign is thus developed in disaster. There have been blows, almost simultaneous, all along the line at the three salient points. But each has been given with a boomerang, which has recoiled upon and crushed the hand that cast it. "Wait for Buller!" was the cry when Symons fell, and when White was smitten and imprisoned, and when Gatacre was ambuscaded, and when the fiery Methuen was driven back. Well, the great General upon whom the hopes of the campaign were placed has come and fought and been beaten worst of all. For whom else are they now to wait?

The fact is, as Sir Henry Stanley sets it forth in the letter which we print elsewhere in this morning's paper, that not only these British generals but the whole British Government and people have been led, or misled, into a trap. We do not mean that they have been misled as to the general principles of the cause in which they are fighting, but as to their own strength and the strength of the antagonist they are fighting. They lived for a time in a fool's paradise of belief that they could "bluff" "Oom Paul." When they were undeceived upon that point and found that the old voortrekker meant to fight before yielding they imagined that a few regiments of theirs could soon make a military promenade to Pretoria and settle the whole matter. Upon this latter point the disasters of last week must surely at last have undeceived even the most sanguine of them. If they had known what military potency there was in the Boer States, beyond question they would have proceeded far differently. Nor is it any excuse to say they did not know. It was the business of somebody to know. It was not short of criminal negligence on some one's part not to know. If a man does not build a house without first counting the cost, what is to be said of those who rush into war all unprepared and ignorant?

The penalty is being paid. The price, as "Oom Paul" threatened, does stagger humanity. But it is being paid. England has set her hand to the plough and she does not look back. Her bravest and her best are sacrificed. Her choicest regiments are decimated. Her households are made desolate. But her resolution is unshaken. What though her "wounds are never healed" and her "weary race is never won"? What though Cromwell's England must indeed "yield for every inch of ground a son"? She falters not. There is no wild cry of "We are betrayed!" There is no clamoring for a scapegoat, no railing against government or staff or commander. All that can wait for after dealings. The present duty is to retrieve disaster and to win the victory. To that, and to that alone, is her every thought now given. It is a dreadful price to pay, and it is all the harder to pay because it is not so much the price of empire or of freedom as it is of unreadiness and blundering. But the proud and steadfast and self-reliant manner in which the British nation rises up to pay it will command general admiration.

SUPPORT FOR THE RAMAPO INQUIRY.

Since the Merchants' Association secured for the city a respite of three months from the completion of the Ramapo contract, and undertook to investigate and make an impartial report on the subject, the citizens of New-York have felt a great relief. Unfortunately, they have not seemed to feel any incentive to take advantage of the opportunity to protect their interests. The people who were indignant at the thought of this $200,000,000 contract, and almost frantically anxious to stop it, seem utterly indifferent to their chance. This apathy is one of the most discouraging things about any attempt to save New-York taxpayers from the thieves they complain about but will not lift a hand to repress. It is really surprising that organizations of disinterested citizens should year after year work to save from the consequences of their own lack of public spirit business men who have far more at stake in the success of enterprises they will not support than those who carry them on.

The Merchants' Association needs $30,000 for the investigation it has undertaken. It has sent out thirteen thousand circulars asking for contributions and has received less than $500 in reply. Does a city which has no more interest in its own welfare deserve to be saved from itself? What right has it to complain if its officials do make a contract with a private company and distribute water without adequate guarantees of its purity or adequate power of enforcing it by control of the sources? Why should the city officials be afraid of such a people? They believe, and have good reason for doing so, that they can go on recklessly to misgovern and that no effective public sentiment will call them to account. When they first spring a job on the community they calculate on a nine days' wonder, a speedy weariness and a quick forgetting. They can levy on officeholders and collect blackmail for all the private work of forming conspiracies against public interest. Those who try to counteract them must depend on public support, and they do not get it.

The taxpayers of this city ought to raise this $30,000 without delay. The political parties raise hundreds of thousands here for their campaigns, and in some cases, as in 1897, combine to give us the bad government from which it is necessary for private enterprise to protect us. The Merchants' Association has formed committees of well known citizens, who are giving their services voluntarily, with the understanding that experts shall be employed to study all the details and present a report which will command confidence and make it difficult, if not impossible, for the administration to do anything which is revealed to be bad. This work cannot be done for nothing. When it was announced that the association had undertaken the task there was much public congratulation. But if public support means only words and no solid backing, the rejoicing was premature.

STREET OBSTRUCTIONS.

Prior to the recent period of its exclusion from power, indifference to the general convenience and welfare had always been characteristic of government by Tammany Hall, and there is constantly increasing evidence that its defeat in 1894 did not inspire the organization with any new desire or purpose to serve the public more attentively in case it should regain control of the city. The municipal administration has been conclusively convicted of many great offences, but our present intention is not to dwell on that record. We have in mind one of the minor defaults which make life in New-York less agreeable and comfortable than it ought to be. We refer to the obstructions which builders are permitted to maintain in the streets, without necessity and to the great annoyance of all the inhabitants.

This is, in a remarkable degree, an era of construction and especially of reconstruction in New-York. From the date of the appearance on the upper West Side of various types of domestic architecture new to this city a disposition almost amounting, it would seem, to a passion, to remodel houses which had satisfied the wants of a former generation has been increasingly manifested on every hand. Not long ago we quoted the remark of an observing foreigner who, on being asked what most impressed him in New-York, said that it was the habit of tearing down costly and substantial houses in order that they might be replaced by houses of a different pattern. The fact, which must have attracted universal notice, is forcibly illustrated in the experience of a resident who said the other day that he had lived for five years in one of the best blocks in the city and during that time had never had unobstructed access to the avenue on either side of his house.

Now, this process of reconstruction in the older parts of the city and the building up of the newer parts in a superior manner count for much in the improvement of the city's appearance; but it cannot be denied that a great deal of temporary inconvenience is caused by such expansion and rehabilitation. That would inevitably be the case, even if suitable regulations as to the use of streets by builders were rigidly enforced. Even then many a householder would sigh for an interval of repose in his immediate neighborhood and everybody would realize that improvements involve discomforts. But proper requirements do not exist, or, if they exist, they are constantly neglected with the virtual consent if not the actual connivance of the authorities. An excessive proportion of the street in front of the private property with which they are dealing is commonly taken possession of for their own purposes by builders, and the sidewalk is often made almost impassable. There is no reason for this excepting the convenience, selfishly consulted, of the contractor. Such a gross abuse of the rights of others would not be tolerated for a moment in the great cities of Europe, or, we believe, in many cities of the United States. It ought not to be permitted here, and would not be under a municipal government which felt any sense of obligation to the community. In fact, under the Strong administration, either because particular attention was paid to this point or because its general character and methods bred a feeling of responsibility by inculcating a fear of consequences, the streets were not obstructed to anything like the extent they had been before and have been since.

We began by saying that this practice of encroachment on the public thoroughfares was a comparatively small matter; but it is only by comparison that it seems unimportant. In reality it is a serious nuisance, against which a general protest ought to be made with whatever emphasis may be required to compel official attention. It is bad enough in mild weather, but winter conditions make it far worse. There is ample authority to abate it, while here and there the example of a conscientious builder shows how little hardship the enforcement of proper restrictions would inflict.

SOME NOTES ON WATER.

Four items in the news of Friday, entirely distinct and separate, were closely related in their bearing upon one of the most important questions now before this municipality. One was the utterance of Dr. Biggs, of New-York University, at the City Club, in which he reminded us of the fact, of which no civilized people should need to be reminded, that the quantity and quality of the water supply of a city are prime factors in determining the standard of public health. The introduction of an abundant supply of pure water will, he added, often decrease the death rate a number of points. These authoritative words of Dr. Biggs are, of course, abundantly corroborated by the records of many cities, New-York included. By an interesting coincidence it was confirmed by the second of the items to which we have referred in the same paper, namely, a dispatch from Berlin stating that Dr. Leidy had found that city to be entirely free from typhoid fever—a condition attributable directly to the purity of the water supply.

This second item is worth considering. Berlin was once a notoriously unhealthy place. It was infested by typhoid fever. The water supply was both scanty and impure. It was also provided by private corporations similar to Ramapo. Twenty years or more ago the municipality established its own plant. It now provides an ample supply of water for all purposes. The cost to the people is slight. But the income from water rates pays the cost of operation and maintenance, interest on bonds, creates a sinking fund and turns in some millions of marks a year net profits. It is also to be observed that although Berlin is most unfavorably situated in respect to obtaining pure water the supply is exceptionally pure, being made so by an elaborate system of filtering. It is to the filtering of its water, then, that Berlin is to attribute its immunity from typhoid fever.

The other items referred to are, first, that two weeks ago the Sanitary Superintendent of the Health Board submitted a report favoring the construction of filters for the Croton water system, and, second, that Mr. Moffett, Deputy Water Commissioner, states that millions of gallons of water are going to waste within reach of Brooklyn for lack of filters which would make it fit for use. Now, filters may not be urgently needed for the Borough of Manhattan, for its water supply is ample, despite the drouth, and is of reasonably good quality, though filters would undoubtedly improve it by ridding it of the flavor of fish and vegetation and making it clear instead of semi-turbid. But in The Bronx and in Brooklyn the case is different. They are menaced with water faminé. They have also been menaced with epidemics caused by impure water. Indeed, the millions of gallons that are now going to waste at Springfield used to be turned into the Brooklyn mains. But it was found that the supply there was polluted, and so it was shut off. And partly because of that very shutting off Brooklyn is now suffering from a scanty supply and is menaced with actual famine.

What is the logical conclusion? It is perfectly simple. The city should utilize the supply which it has already at hand by protecting it from pollution and by purifying it where necessary, instead of going off on speculative excursions to the Ramapo and Catskill Mountains. It is not a creditable fact, yet it is a fact, that the city has recently actually decreased its supply by simply shutting off one important source just because the latter was polluted. Of course, impure water should not have been taken. But the proper remedy was purification, not mere exclusion. Until we make the best possible use of that which we now have it is idle to seek more.

A NEW CHEMICAL ELEMENT.

Six or eight permanent additions to the list of chemical elements have been made within the last three or four years. None of them, however, possess such immediate practical importance as the discovery of radium. The finding of helium in terrestrial minerals awakened a peculiar degree of interest, because it afforded fresh evidence that the earth and sun are made of substantially the same materials. Still, no one has yet found any use for helium. It was a little startling to learn, as the world did from Ramsay's isolation of argon, that the atmosphere contained one more constituent than had previously been supposed. Yet, so far as is known, argon is as useless as helium. And so on through the list of recent discoveries, until radium is reached. Regarding this element, Professor Barker showed in Philadelphia last week that on account of the invisible radiance which it emits it is a more convenient and economical agent for surgical exploration than that which made Röntgen famous.

The investigations of M. and Mme. Curie, which resulted in the finding of radium, began early in 1898, if not before, and were doubtless stimulated, if not suggested, by the Bavarian professor's brilliant achievement. Röntgen's work naturally called to mind the observations of Becquerel, that uranium and its salts exerted a very feeble photographic influence. By experimenting with pitchblende, the mineral from which uranium is obtained commercially, M. and Mme. Curie found that the former yielded the same effect much more conspicuously. This led them to suspect that they were on the track of a new element. They even went so far as to name it provisionally, although much difficulty was experienced in separating it from the substances with which it was associated. Just before the close of the year, with the co-operation of M. Bemont, they obtained indications of still another new element. The first they called "polonium" and the second "radium." Polonium is believed to surpass uranium and its salts in emissive power five hundredfold, but Professor Barker estimates the efficiency of radium at one hundred thousand times that of uranium. For this reason, and because of its comparative cheapness and simplicity, the second of the Curies' discoveries seems destined to replace the costly and complicated X ray apparatus in the realm of surgery.

One important distinction is to be noted between the behavior of the Crookes tube and that trait of radium which is now for the first time being exploited in this country. The practicability of deriving one form of energy—heat, light, electricity or chemical action—from some other has long been recognized, but it is axiomatic that none of them can be produced except by that method. It is believed that the most man can do is to transform. It is thought that he cannot, in any true sense, create. Röntgen obtained his X rays only by a conversion of force previously existing in the form of electricity. But a radiance which will penetrate opaque bodies and act upon the chemicals on a photographic plate is secured from radium without the apparent use of any known species of energy. The phenomenon may yet be explained. But at present it looks very much like what has long been regarded an impossibility, the spontaneous generation of force.

The fact is not altogether unique, however. Within the last two years an Englishman, named Russell, has been calling attention to the exceedingly slow but well defined action on a photographic plate of several familiar substances, among them printer's ink, of which he regards the varnish the potent factor. The protective covering which he placed on his plate seemingly precluded any chemical action by the ink, or any invasion of his plateholder by true light rays. And as he was able to observe the effect when he used specimens of print over a century old, it is hard to say how long this mysterious power may continue to be exerted by the ink. This fact, taken with the discovery of M. and Mme. Curie, opens up a fascinating, and perhaps fruitful, field of speculation as to the existence and nature of yet unrecognized physical forces.

THE GOOSEBONE CONTROVERSY.

It is not surprising that the goosebone weather prophets are all at sixes and sevens this year; for the weather, like the average human sinner, has been doing those things it ought not to have done and leaving undone those things it ought to have done, according to the calendar. Not that we mean to criticise the weather we have been having; very far from it. Our only object is to call attention to its "uniquity," not its iniquity. Yet we know that in doing so we lay ourselves open to correction and even rebuke. For have not sundry and several papers in various parts of the country published letters from "Old Inhabitant," "Constant Reader" and even "Scrutator" telling how often just such an open winter as this has occurred? As one "Scrutator" whose vigorous epistle we have perused puts it, "This "talk about unusual weather gives me the mulli-"grubs. There is no unusual weather in our "glorious country."

Still, the fact remains that the weather, whether unusual or not, has divided the goosebone prophets into two opposing schools of thought, each having a propaganda and a literature of its own and each quite sure that the other is held in the embrace of pernicious error. Will this unfortunate schism be happily healed? Or will the Nation be called upon to divide on another burning question? Such is the issue that confronts us at the present moment. Here, for instance, is "Mike" S. Seitz, of Grand Rapids, Mich., known of all men in the vicinage to be a most alert weather prophet with a long series of predictions to his credit, who has examined the breastbone of a young and innocent goose, and who declares that "it is the darkest I have seen for twenty years." Of course, everybody knows, or ought to know, what that means. But that the wayfaring man, though a fool, need not err, Mr. Seitz gives the interpretation thereof as follows: "We will have an early, steady, cold winter. February will be the coldest month." Doubtless those pestilent fellows, the higher critics, would raise a question of fact about this prediction and attack the goosebone cult by declaring that the winter is unusually late instead of early; but they have been so frequently drubbed by our valued religious contemporaries that they needn't be taken into account. Shall we allow a little thing like a fact to come between us and our faith in the goosebone? Perish the thought!

But alas and alack! the very high priests of that faith, consecrated by the testimony of a long line of revered geese, are delivering contradictory messages. Elias Hartz, the celebrated goosebone prophet of Reading, Penn., has examined the breastbones of three geese and found them to be white, except a bit of purple on the tail ends, indicating cold weather in March. From this Mr. Hartz infers that "there will be no winter at all." Some people, he adds, may need the testimony of three bones, and there is no harm in having as many bones as you can get, provided, of course, they tell you what you already believe. "But," he concludes, in the plenitude of a robust faith, "one bone is enough "for me. In the last fifty years in which I have "made an annual test the bone has never failed "once. The weather always came to pass as in-"dicated by the goosebone. So you need not ex-"pect much snow or ice or cold weather until "next March. The winter will be the mildest on "record."

So here we are called upon to decide between Seitz and Hartz, with no end of other burning questions still unsettled. It is really most unfortunate. There is, however, one way out that suggests itself to us. Let these two gentlemen exchange bones. Or, if that would seem to be an inconclusive proceeding, let them call a general council of goosebone prophets to pass on the question which of these bones tells the truth.

When the British invite the Boers to come out and be shot at, the Boers decline. When the Boers invite the British to walk into an ambush, the British do it, every time.

The action of the Brooklyn Library in establishing branches in various parts of the borough is commendable. So, however, is that of the Park authorities in declining to let any more such branch libraries be placed in the parks. The principle that a park is not a building site ought to be patent and conclusive to everybody, yet there are few facts connected with parks that are so often ignored. Libraries and baths and other institutions are good things. But place should be found for them elsewhere than in parks. One good thing should not be sacrificed for another.

The encouraging feature of the growing popularity of Indian corn abroad is that the United States need fear no rival in the production of that grain. The lands which are our most formidable rivals in wheat culture cannot produce corn.

The man in Connecticut who pulled down a fine house rather than sell it and have the trees around it destroyed is to be commended as the possessor of admirable taste and judgment, and of a rare degree of enlightened public spirit. There are entirely too many men who are ready at any time to destroy the noblest trees for the sake of fences or trolley wires or a "vista." In an hour they will do harm that fifty years cannot undo. Among them, with their pernicious activity, this man's example of wise conservation shines effulgent and worthy of all honor and emulation.

British armies may be ambuscaded, but the British nation is not to be stampeded.

A Brooklyn Congressman yesterday made a one minute speech on the Currency bill. He ought to become a fashion. If silence is golden a one minute speech must be good yellow metal not unreasonably alloyed for practical use. Persons familiar with the long winded silver shouters who have added a new pang to lawmaking will find this orator a most effective advocate of the gold standard.

The suggestion is made that on trolley lines on which cars are run at long intervals, of fifteen minutes or more, time tables should be arranged and published, so that the public may know at what time to expect a car to reach a given point. Such a table would not, of course, give the time for each street corner, but for the principal streets, half a mile or so apart. Time tables are in use on suburban steam roads on which the trains are as frequent as the trolley cars are on some lines, and there seems to be no good reason why they should not be used on the latter. They would save many a weary wait of ten or fifteen minutes on an inhospitable street corner.

PERSONAL.

Among those who represented the Oppidans at Eton in the annual match of Collegers vs. Oppidans on St. Andrew's Day was Lord Dalmeny, Lord Rosebery's eldest son, who has come out strongly as a football player in his later Eton days. Lord Rosebery achieved no such distinction himself at school, but he has recently developed a very great interest in football, and witnessed the last two finals of the Association Cup at the Crystal Palace, giving away the cup in 1898.

Mrs. Roy Devereaux, of London, who is visiting friends in Cincinnati, is the author of "Side Lights in South Africa." She is a friend of Cecil Rhodes, and considers him the most remarkable of living Englishmen. As correspondent of "The London Morning Post" she spent a year in the Transvaal, and says Krüger is regarded by the best of his countrymen as ignorant and a fanatic.

James P. Lee, the inventor of the Lee-Metford rifle, recently revisited the town of Galt, Ontario, where he spent his childhood. After completing his education there he moved in 1851 to the neighboring town of Chatham, where he started in business as a watchmaker. In 1860 he took charge of a gun factory in Milwaukee, and it was there that he began his career as an inventor. Mr. Metford, the well known amateur marksman, whose name is associated with Mr. Lee's, died recently.

The memorial statue of the late Professor Huxley, on which Onslow Ford has been engaged, is now finished, and will soon be moved from the sculptor's studio to its permanent home, at the Natural History Museum, at South Kensington. The unveiling will probably take place early next year, and be the occasion for holding a great scientific durbar representing all the ends of the earth.

Matthew White-Ridley, who will stand as the Conservative candidate for Stalybridge at the next election, is the eldest son of the British Home Secretary, and has served for some time as secretary to his father at the Home Office.

A. P. Brigham, professor of geology and natural history in Colgate University, has returned to his college duties after a year's leave of absence, which he has been spending in study at Oxford University.

One of the most significant features of the George Washington Memorial Association celebration the other day at Washington was the presentation of a letter from Cardinal Gibbons by Professor Charles Clinton Swisher, of the Columbian University. Dr. Swisher is the ideal type of the nineteenth century college professor, with a tact and breadth of view which extensive travel and large experience with men and affairs have given him. His speech of introduction was the most appropriate and graceful of the occasion. With a warrantable stretch of imagination he alluded to the most Reverend John Carroll as the "Prelate of the Revolution, the life long friend of Washington, the trusted colleague of Franklin, whose priestly robe but ill concealed the diplomat and statesman." Dr. Swisher spoke eloquently of the Puritan of New-England, the Catholic of Maryland, the French Huguenot and the German Lutheran, whose antagonisms had been harmonized by the tolerance of Washington, and lauded the farsighted statesmanship of the early Catholic settlement of Maryland, whose colonial assembly was the first political body on this continent to establish complete religious toleration.

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

A new advertising scheme was recently employed by a firm in a Southern city. The junior partner of the firm swore out a warrant for the arrest of the senior partner on the ground that he was selling goods below cost, and that the firm was constantly losing money thereby.

The case came up in court, and the counsel for the senior partner asked for a postponement in order to have more time to prepare his case. The Judge granted the request, bail was fixed, and the senior member released. As he left the courtroom the junior partner arose and exclaimed, "If he is released the sacrifice will go on!"

The news soon spread and the firm did a better business.

When the case was again called no plaintiff appeared and the charge was dismissed. The firm had succeeded in their object—advertisement.

An Early Rescue.—"Yes, lady," said Weary Walker, "I was rescued from drink in me early youth be me dear ole mother, an' I had fell pretty low, too."

"Here's a quarter for you, poor man. Tell me more about it."

"T'anks. Oh, they ain't no more ter tell. When de ole lady heerd me yellin' from de bottom o' de well she jist yanked me out. Goodby, kind lady."—(Catholic Standard and Times.

"Collier's Weekly" says that when Lord Charles Beresford was a boy of thirteen his father told him that he must make choice of a profession.

"What is it to be, my boy—the army, the navy or the Church?"

"The navy, sir."

"And why the navy, boy?"

"'Cause I'd like to be an admiral, like Nelson."

"Pshaw! Like Nelson! Why Nelson?"

"'Cause I want to."

"But even if you were to join the navy, why do you think you will ever become an admiral, Charlie?"

"'Cause I mean to," was the blunt reply. He had his wish and entered the navy.

There are many Joneses in this world, but perhaps not quite so many as people think. Not long ago two friends met who had not seen each other for ten years, since their school days.

"Whom did you marry, Billy?" asked one.

"A Miss Jones, of Philadelphia," replied Billy, who was a trifle sensitive.

"You always did take to the name 'Jones.' I can remember when we went to school together you used to tag around after a little snubnosed Jones girl."

"I remember it, too," said Billy. "She's the girl I married."—(Youth's Companion.

The analytical commission appointed by "The London Lancet" to investigate the composition of American cigarettes, as well as that of the most popular English makes, reports that the tests failed to show opium, arsenic, phosphorus or mercury in a single instance. "There is not a single scintilla of evidence," says "The Lancet," "on which can be fairly based the allegation of the presence of any substance injurious to health."

An Era of Doubt.—"I guess I'll throw it away," said the fair girl despondently.

"What are you going to throw away?"

"My autograph album. Affairs are getting so that people don't believe in any signatures until you have called in a whole lot of handwriting experts."—(Washington Star.

Judge Clark of the North Carolina Supreme Court had to open court at Oxford one winter. When he got to Henderson he found a deep snow on the ground, and the railroad from that place to Oxford in those days did not run in such weather. So the Judge set out in a buggy, with a driver whose customers had theretofore been commercial tourists. He took the Judge for a drummer, and tried to beguile the tedium by talking over the hardware line. Not finding him exactly well posted on that, he took up the drygoods business. Not doing much better with that, he successively tried him on notions, groceries, liquors and others. Having exhausted all the "lines" he could think of, he finally asked, "You are a drummer are you not?" "Yes," said the Judge, "I am somewhat in that line." "Well, what is your line?" said the driver. "I am a drummer for the State penitentiary." The driver, saying to himself, half aloud, "You are the first one in that line that ever came along here," drove the rest of the way in silence. When the conveyance drove up to the hotel in Oxford the landlord ran out to greet his guest. When the driver heard his passenger called "Judge" the point dawned on him, and he dashed round the house, scattering a cloud of snow with his wheels.

Heartless Critic.—Playwright—I suppose you saw the premier performance of my comedy last night?

First-nighter—Yes, I was there.

Playwright—How did you like the climax of the first act?

First-nighter—Really, I didn't see that.

Playwright—Too bad! Got there too late, eh?

First-nighter—No. Went away too soon.

—(Catholic Standard and Times.

"There died last month," says "The Chicago Tribune," "a man who had done much to shake belief in the legend of Jonah. William Simpson devoted his life to a study of the narrative, and wrote a book to prove that the Biblical story is due to an initiatory ceremony connected with the religion of the Assyrian fish god, who was akin to the Dagon of the Philistines. Recent researches have brought to life hundreds of pieces of Assyrian sculpture containing representations of human beings draped in fish skin or protruding head and shoulders from the jaws of the fish. A man who clad himself in fish skin was supposed to be endowed with the attributes of the deity, and after undergoing the rite the novice was supposed to be 'born again.' Simpson argued that in course of time, when the ceremony fell into disuse and its meaning was forgotten, the incidents of the rite were developed into a miraculous story."

"That man is guilty; didn't you notice how his eyes shifted around?"

"How about the other man?"

"Oh, he's guilty, too; didn't you see how boldly and steadfastly he stared at everybody?"—(Indianapolis Journal.

THE WEEK IN SOCIETY.

It might be said that the social week ended on Thursday night in a blaze of glory with the first Assembly Ball of the season, which was given in the grand ballroom of the Waldorf-Astoria. It was in every way one of the most brilliant entertainments ever given by the fifty women subscribers who make it possible to have such an entertainment. Everybody in society was there, and it was a bright, showy assemblage of gowns and jewels that filled the magnificent ballroom. The arrangements for the ball were excellent and were carried out to the letter, while the ballroom itself probably never looked more gorgeous than it did on Thursday night. The supper was up to the usual standard of excellence, and the cotillion, a very large one, was excellently managed by Worthington Whitehouse, who had the assistance of Craig Wadsworth. The gowns were on the whole rich and becoming, and there were several striking costumes, particularly one, which was of fine white gauze showered with golden spangles. The debutantes who have already been introduced and those who are still to make their bow at home receptions were present, and, of course, attracted much attention.

Of the several large dinner parties which preceded the ball on Thursday evening one of the largest was that given by Mrs. Alexander T. Van Nest at her home, No. 31 West Thirty-seventh-st. Her guests were Miss Isabelle Cameron, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel J. Clark, Miss Julia Clark, Miss May Low, Miss Beatrice Post, Miss Laura Hard, Miss Knowlton, Stephen Pell, Goelet Gallatin, Sherman Day, Lawrence Elliman, Alexander M. Hadden, Robert Livingston, Phœnix Ingraham and Arthur Crosby.

Mrs. Henry Parish, jr., also entertained at dinner on Thursday evening. The guest of honor was Miss Katherine Hall, the debutante daughter of Mrs. John T. Hall; the other guests at the table were all debutantes of this season. On Friday evening Mrs. Joseph T. Low, of No. 57 West Fifty-second-st., gave a dinner party, her guests being Dr. and Mrs. Edward L. Keyes, Mrs. Alexander T. Van Nest, Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Juilliard, Mr. and Mrs. John Hone, Dr. and Mrs. Wyckoff and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Godfrey.

Of the several coming out receptions of the week one of the largest was given by Amedée de Pau Moran at his home, No. 17 West Fifty-sixth-st., on Tuesday afternoon, to introduce his daughter, Miss Maria L. Moran, who was assisted in receiving by a number of her young friends. Another large reception of the week was given on Thursday afternoon by Mrs. Robert Hoe at her home, No. 11 East Thirty-sixth-st., in honor of her daughter, Mrs. Samuel Morley Evans, who was married in the West Presbyterian Church last spring.

Mrs. Francis Crawford and her daughter, Mrs. John Murray Byers, gave their first at home following the wedding of Dr. and Mrs. Beyers, on Wednesday afternoon last, at the home of Mrs. Crawford, No. 312 West End-ave. The hostess and her daughter were assisted in receiving the guests by Mrs. John Byers, mother of the young bridegroom; Mrs. Craig B. Guerin, Miss Louise Smith, Miss Gertrude Chase, Miss Edith Olds, Miss Estelle O'Meary, Miss May Pinkerton, Miss Leonie Crawford and Miss Bessie Jordan. Mrs. William M. Williams has issued cards for a reception to be held at her home, No. 96 Locust Hill-ave., Yonkers, on Thursday next, December 21, from 4 until 7 o'clock, to introduce her daughter, Miss Alice Mary Williams.

Mrs. George Crocker will give a reception, with music, at her new home, Fifth-ave. and Sixty-fourth-st., on Tuesday evening next. Mme. Emma Nevada will sing. With Mrs. Crocker's card are inclosed those of her daughters, the Misses Rutherford. On the same evening Mrs. Thomas Tuger Pratt will give a dinner dance at Sherry's in honor of her daughter, Miss Henrietta Wright, whose engagement to Count Alexander Mercati, of Greece, will then be formally announced. As already stated in The Tribune, Miss Wright met Count Mercati last summer while travelling in the Far East. He followed Miss Wright and her mother to New-York, arriving here a few weeks ago. Miss Wright and her fiancé will be included in the house party to be given by Mr. and Mrs. Francis Leggatt in the Christmas holidays at their country home, near Hoosick Falls, N. Y.

Mrs. Frederic H. Betts, who spent last summer abroad, will give a reception at her new home, No. 22 East Sixty-fifth-st., on Tuesday afternoon next, in honor of her son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Wyllis Rossiter Betts, whose marriage was celebrated last spring in St. Thomas's Church. Mrs. Betts, the bride, was Miss Ada Godfrey.

Wednesday of this week will be a busy day in a matrimonial way. One of the interesting nuptial celebrations of this day will be that of Miss Mary Woodbridge Tiffany, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Louis C. Tiffany, to Dr. Graham Lusk, son of the late Dr. William T. Lusk, which will take place in the Madison Square Presbyterian Church. At noon on the same day Miss Sophonisba Preston Breckinridge Steele, daughter of Dr. Theophilus Steele, will be married to Ralph Freeman Shropshire, of this city, in All Angels' Protestant Episcopal Church, West End-ave. and Eighty-first-st. The ceremony, which will be performed by the Rev. John Husk, assistant minister at St. Thomas's, and the rector of All Angels', the Rev. S. Delancey Townsend, will be followed by a reception and breakfast at Sherry's. The wedding of Miss Gertrude Tredwell Townsend, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Effingham Townsend, to F. Leopold Schmidt, jr., will take place at the home of the bride's parents, at Williston, Long Island. Owing to illness in the families, both of the bride and bridegroom, the wedding guests will be limited to relatives only. The marriage of Miss Olive Hooper Lunt, sister of Mrs. M. Goldsmith, of No. 334 West Eighty-ninth-st., to Nathan Goodwin Manson, of Boston, will also be celebrated on Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Judson Gould, of No. 130 West Fifty-ninth-st., have sent out cards for the wedding reception for their daughter, Miss Eleanore Frances Gould, to Walter Dana Swan, on Thursday afternoon, December 28, from 4 until 6 o'clock.

The marriage of Miss Olive Beatrice Mine, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Mine, of No. 17 West Eighty-sixth-st., to Dr. David J. Fuller will take place in the Washington Square Memorial Church on