Amusements.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC—2—8:10—'Way Down East.
AMERICAN THEATRE—2—8:15—The Beggar Student.
BIJOU—8:15—Sister Mary.
BROADWAY THEATRE—2—8—Ben Hur.
CASINO—8:15—The Singing Girl.
CRITERION THEATRE—8:20—Barbara Frietchie.
DALY'S THEATRE—2—8—The Manœuvres of Jane.
EDEN MUSEE—9 a. m. to 11 p. m.—Waxworks, Grand Concert and Cinematograph.
EMPIRE THEATRE—2:15—8:20—My Lady's Lord.
FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE—2—8:15—Three Little Lambs.
FOURTEENTH STREET THEATRE—2—8—The Village Postmaster.
GARDEN THEATRE—8:30—The First Violin.
GARRICK THEATRE—8—Sherlock Holmes.
GRAND OPERA HOUSE—2—8—Shore Acres.
HAMMERSTEIN'S VICTORIA—8:20—Rogers Brothers in Wall Street.
HARLEM OPERA HOUSE—8—Zaza.
HERALD SQUARE THEATRE—2—8:15—Primrose & Dockstader's Minstrels.
IRVING PLACE THEATRE—8—Blittmaedel.
KEITH'S—Continuous Performance.
KNICKERBOCKER THEATRE—2:15—8:20—The Cowboy and the Lady.
KOSTER & BIAL'S—8:15—Vaudeville.
LYCEUM THEATRE—8:30—Miss Hobbs.
MADISON SQUARE THEATRE—2:15—8:30—Wheels Within Wheels.
METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE—8—Don Giovanni.
MURRAY HILL THEATRE—2—8—Men and Women.
NEW-YORK THEATRE—8:15—Man in the Moon, Jr.
PASTOR'S—Continuous Performance.
WALLACK'S—8:15—The Ameer.

Index to Advertisements.

	Page.	Col.		Page.	Col.
Amusements	12	5-6	Horses & Carriages	4	1
Announcements	12	4	Instruction	4	5-6
Auction Sales R. E.	10	3	Lost	4	6
Bankers & Brokers	9	5	Lost	10	5
Board & Rooms	10	4	Marriages & Deaths	7	5-6
Books & Publications	3	3-4	Miscellaneous	11	5
Brooklyn Property for Sale	10	2	Ocean Steamers	11	6
Business Chances	10	4	Public Notices	10	6
City R. E. for Sale	10	2	Purchase & Exchange	10	5
Country Board	10	3	Railroads	10	3-6
Dividend Notices	9	5-6	Real Estate	10	3
Dom. Sits. Wanted	10	7	Religious Notices	11	6
Dancing Academies	4	6	Savings Banks	9	2
Dressmaking	10	4	School Agencies	4	6
Employment Agencies	10	4	Special Notices	7	6
European Advts.	3	4	Steamboats	11	5
Financial Elections	9	3	Storage Notices	2	6
Financial Meetings	9	2	Surrogate's Notices	10	3
Financial	9	3-4	Teachers	11	6
Foreclosure Sales	10	3	Tribune Sub'n Rates	4	6
Foreign Resorts	3	4-6	Trust Companies	9	4-5
For Sale	10	5	Winter Resorts	10	2
Furnished Rooms	10	4	Work Wanted	10	6-7
Help Wanted	10	6			

New-York Daily Tribune.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1899.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN.—A message from Ladysmith gives lists of deaths from disease, and ten killed and nineteen wounded of the garrison, the wounded including several officers of the 5th Lancers; General Methuen remains undisturbed at his camp on Modder River; General Gatacre reports that Cape mounted police have occupied Dordrecht; siege guns have arrived at Cape Town, and it is supposed they will be forwarded to General Buller on the Tugela River. ═ The American forces in the Philippines have broken up several rebel bands in recent fighting, killing and wounding many of the enemy. ═ The action of the Bank of Venezuela in refusing to permit an official examination of its books caused a panic in Venezuela. ═ The prosecutor's remarks at the conspiracy trials in Paris created great disorder before the High Court, and two prisoners were expelled from the sessions. ═ The French Cabinet took measures to prevent a coal famine arising out of the labor troubles in France. ═ Seven Indians were drowned while crossing Thompson River, near Ashcroft, B. C., in a canoe.

DOMESTIC.—Secretary Gage denied rumors that he was to become president of a semi-Governmental bank, and as to the relations of the National City Bank with the Treasury. ═ The first treaty ever negotiated between Mexico and China was signed at the Mexican Embassy in Washington. ═ Mr. Roberts, the Director of the Mint, gave his views on the financial situation and the causes of the recent panic in Wall Street. ═ State Department officials discredited reports that Fenians in the United States were planning raids into Canada. ═ Two aunts of Anson Phelps Stokes, jr., have presented Yale with a new building to cost $750,000. ═ The funeral of Dwight L. Moody took place at East Northfield, Mass. ═ Governor Roosevelt signed the Astoria land grant, and wrote a letter to the Commissioners explaining his reasons for doing so. ═ Governor Roosevelt has formally offered the place of adjutant general to Colonel Hoffman, of Elmira.

CITY.—Stocks were strong and higher. ═ At the Molineux trial the cross examination of Henry L. Tolman was completed and the direct examination of Daniel T. Ames, the veteran handwriting expert, was begun. ═ It was said that Frank Moss had written to Chairman Mazet explaining the premature publication of his report. ═ Three men were wounded, one seriously, in a fight among negroes in a trolley car in The Bronx.

THE WEATHER.—Forecast for to-day: Fair and cold. The temperature yesterday: Highest, 26; lowest, 22; average, 23.

THE TREASURY AND THE STOCK PANIC.

The cause and cure of the stock panic will evidently be discussed and misrepresented as much as any financial event of the last decade, not excepting President Cleveland's sales of bonds. Secretary Gage refers to the disturbance as fresh evidence of the inadequacy of the existing monetary system, but possibly fails to see how it may be regarded by those who may criticise his action in a spirit not wholly friendly. For they will cite statements by the Secretary himself, the very day before his first interposition to relieve stringency in Wall Street by purchase of bonds, as conclusive proof that this step could be justified only by interests of the Government, as he held that no emergency existed in the money market which justified interference. If there was not such an emergency then the difficulties of speculative interests are scarcely evidence that the currency system was not adequate for public needs, and the critic may say that the offer to purchase bonds without a compelling emergency was liable to be construed as an assurance that the Street could look to the Treasury for help through purely speculative troubles.

The historical fact is that the speculators did not then liquidate, nor were they compelled by the banks to liquidate, as they have done since. Possibly both did rely, the critic may say, upon further interposition by the Treasury, which came when the deposits of internal revenue receipts in the banks were largely increased. But this step also was either beneficial to the interests of the Treasury or it was not. If it was, then it need not be regarded as a step for the relief of the money market in an exigency justifying Government interposition. If it was not, then the steadily growing difficulty in the money market had clearly rendered the step as justifiable one or two weeks earlier as it was when actually taken, and the unfriendly critic may say that it was in fact so timed as to serve speculative rather than public ends.

The kindly disposition of the Secretary to make such use of his powers as to aid business interests surely deserves no criticism. Doubtless he believes most sincerely, as his friends do, that the measures taken by him are entirely proper for the Treasury, and, if so, they are not to be blamed merely because they incidentally help some operators in securities and many banks. But the point which needs attention is that these steps form a legitimate part, in that case, of the monetary system which now exists and has been so much censured. If it is adequate with these it has needed only earlier and fuller use of these powers to prevent the disorders which they have helped to cure. If it is well for public interests only to keep a large part of the receipts from internal revenue in depositary banks there is no reason why any surplus of revenue beyond the Government redemption fund and a moderate working balance should not be thus kept at the service of commerce until needed by the Treasury, so that what has been called a great defect of the existing monetary system would appear to be only a defect in the management of the Treasury until last week.

As a matter of fact, the general business of the country has not suffered from any monetary stringency. The most positive testimony to that effect is given by many of the leading bankers who united to relieve the stress arising from speculation. It was eminently fit that this remedy should be applied by the bankers themselves, because it was by loans of the banks that excessive speculation was fostered. Nor is there any evidence whatever that if the banks had known from the first that they alone and without aid must meet and cure the evils of excessive speculation fostered by their lendings their rallying to control the money market would not have been more effective than it has been, and early enough to avert disasters from many of their customers. It is still as much a question as it was months ago whether any steps taken by the Treasury to remedy such mistakes of banking management can in the long run do more good than harm.

WAR NEWS.

There is no room in present war reporting to cry "Farewell, Romance!" We are not sure that the war itself is less picturesque than those of old. The "gentlemen in khaki" present a different appearance from mail clad knights, but their bayonet charge against a fire fringed rampart is every whit as thrilling as any deadly tourney led by Lancelot. However that may be, we are quite sure that the transmission of war news was never more picturesque, romantic and fancy inspiring in its ways and means than it is in this practical and commonplace day. The dove, transformed from bird of peace into a messenger of war, flying from the beleaguered city over the battlefield to the advancing army; the lithe native runner stalking the foeman as the hunter does his quarry and wending his sinuous way, snakelike, from rock to thornbush, from anthill to cactus, if so he may traverse the zone of death unnoticed; the searchlights which, blazing from earth to heaven, literally "splash "at a ten league canvas with brushes of comets' "hair," writing upon the clouds the messages read many a mile away—these are some of the agencies which have displaced the stately herald and the swift footed messenger of Marathon.

Nor is the transmission of the news from the Cape to The Tribune's readers less noteworthy in manner. It is a passage through three zones and through three seasons, and one which seems to do the impossible act of turning Time backward in his flight. It is an early morning in early summer there. At the same moment it is a late evening of early winter here. The Cape Town news of sunrise, flashing along nine thousand miles of the dark, cold sea floor, lies on our desks at midnight of the night before! And when the blazing heat of the early afternoon makes the Afrikander pause in his labor the myriad Tribune readers in the crisp winter morning of the same day peruse the tale of his campaigning. What is there in fairy lore or in magician's art to match so plain a tale? It is the strangeness of truth surpassing all the strange witcheries of fiction.

Above all, truth. It has been the happy fortune of The Tribune to serve as one of the most important links in this world circling chain of information, and as such we may justly claim that its old repute of accuracy and enterprise has been well maintained. It is now nearly a generation since this paper marked a new epoch in war news reporting, with its unique achievements in the Franco-German war. The standard then set up has been, according to our belief and according to the testimony of innumerable readers, maintained in ample measure. It was evident at the beginning, as has since been proved, that whatever rumors and fancies might elsewhere arise, all actual news must of necessity pass through London. There, then, was the point at which to tap the current. Thence we have daily drawn a brimming measure containing all that was essential and nothing that was extraneous.

The direction of this undertaking in all its multifarious details, and indeed the personal execution of the major part of it, has devolved upon our regular London correspondent, Mr. I. N. Ford. His work, by cable and by mail, has for years been one of the most valued features of our columns. In the present emergency, it is only just to say, he has risen—if rising was indeed necessary—to the full height of the occasion. It is no mere expression of journalistic pride, but, we are well assured, a faithful reflection of the opinion of myriads of thoughtful readers, for us to record that his daily contributions to our columns during this war have been noteworthy, at once and equally, for fulness of volume, for accuracy of detail and for charm of style. Never attempting to concoct or to foster impossible sensations, yet never behindhand in a single item of real news, Mr. Ford has combined enterprise and discrimination, energy and judgment in a manner that has shown him an unsurpassed historian of current events, and has made The Tribune and the considerable number of important journals, from Chicago and St. Louis to Toronto, which have arranged with us for the simultaneous publication of our special dispatches from London, unsurpassed daily recorders of the progress of the war. It is thus that the dove borne message from Ladysmith, the budget brought by the fleet Bechuan from Mafeking and the news written in fire upon the clouds at Kimberley reach and pass through the linotype machine and the perfecting press and are laid upon the breakfast tables of the American Nation.

MR. MOSS ON PLATT-CROKER DEALS.

When Mr. Platt and Mr. Mazet look over the report of Mr. Moss, which was published before they had a chance to blue pencil it, they will find even more reason to be disgusted than when the sudden adjournment of the committee was taken to avoid inquiring into the Republican machine side of the city deals. As "paid counsel" to the committee Mr. Moss was not expected to talk about unpleasant subjects. He was to take the word of his "employers" that they had nothing to do with the city government, and know that it was none of his business to go plunging into the private affairs of Mr. Platt's followers in the conduct of corporations created at Albany, where Mr. Moss was not invited to investigate. But Mr. Moss, though obliged to yield in the main to the "employers" who a few months ago were proclaiming that he was untrammelled, nevertheless desired still to maintain his self-respect for as much impartiality as circumstances would allow, and so he gives this slap at the Platt method of company promoting:

> The presence of prominent members of both parties in these companies, based directly on State legislation by special acts, and which are not designed to do business by themselves and without city support, causes public suspicion that combinations exist to secure public action on both sides of the line of political division, and leads inevitably to scandal.

That is not especially severe. In fact, it is mild and deferential in manner. It does not make any specific charges against anybody. But it goes direct to the heart of an abuse which Mr. Platt is doing his best to intrench, and not even Mr. Platt can fail to understand its significance. It is Mr. Moss's public justification of his desire to call Mr. Platt, no less unmistakable because indirect. It is his acknowledgment of the justice of Croker's taunt, "Why don't you call Platt?" It is the official report of the counsel to the Mazet Committee, who entered upon his work with the specific guarantee that he should not be hampered in pushing his investigation in any direction, that the work of Mr. Platt and his followers in the Legislature has a direct bearing on the problem of city government which he was set to study, and that Mr. Platt and his legislative agents were essential witnesses to the discovery of the evils of New-York City administration.

The comment of Mr. Moss on the scandal of combination to secure from Republicans in Albany gifts which Tammany makes valuable here is based specifically on the Ramapo deal, so nearly carried through by Mr. Lauterbach. He also mentions certain bridge and tunnel companies as basking in bipartisan favor. It is a pity that while he had a chance last summer he did not investigate this subject and show the public the facts which lead to these conclusions. It is a pity, too, that he did not get a little further light upon the conduct of the telephone business, which under the beneficent auspices of Mr. Lauterbach has enjoyed legislative protection in charging unreasonably high rates and the favor of Tammany in the practical monopoly of the public conduits. Nevertheless, it is interesting to have him avow his view about a matter which he pushed far enough to suggest some opinions to the public, and himself learn more than he let the public know, even if he did not or could not push inquiry to the end. His remark completely justifies all that has been said in criticism of the refusal of the Mazet Committee to take up these questions.

No doubt Mr. Platt's followers will sniff at the report of Mr. Moss as the mere talk of the committee's "hired man." They may attempt to discount it by treating his recommendations with contempt, and perhaps will get the committee to make a report of such character as to show that it regards Mr. Moss as a squeezed orange. Emphasis will now be laid on the committee. But it will not make men forget that when the committee was trying to gain some public confidence the emphasis was laid on the counsel. And it will not make them forget that at the end the committee ran away from the revelation on the witness stand of the truth which Mr. Moss sums up in his report.

PREPARING PROOFS IN CUBA.

One of the first items in General Wood's scheme of improvements for Cuba is the reconstruction of the public highways, and it is interesting to find it grouped in a dispatch from Havana with the reorganization of the school system and the correction of abuses in the administration of justice. It is significant of the new Governor General's practical sagacity that he should have determined to begin his rule with a demonstration of the far reaching utility of good roads, having in view also the immediate advantage of giving employment to a large number of men who need it. The condition of its highways has been pronounced a fair test of a country's civilization. In the case of Cuba a pretty extensive improvement of the roads may precede a general recognition of the necessity and the benefit, for a military government with a man of high intelligence and capacity at the head of it possesses superior facilities for getting desirable things done. It does not have to wait until public sentiment demands what it wants to furnish.

In consideration of his circumstances it would not be astonishing if the operations of General Wood in Cuba should come ere long to be cited as impressive object lessons for the instruction of our own people concerning the profitableness of good roads as an investment. We hope it may be so, for illustrations of the fact are welcome from any source. It is true that one mile of properly constructed and well kept highway is far more convincing to those who use it than the most accurate account of what has resulted from building a hundred miles of the same sort in some distant region. Nevertheless description and argument have been persuasion enough to start a progressive movement, or else it would never have been started at all, and from a centre of improvement light does spread, however slowly. It must be admitted that in this country the process of diffusion has been sluggish, keen and observing as its people are. Something has undoubtedly been accomplished in the State of New-York under the latest statute, though relatively little. Massachusetts has done more, and New-Jersey, perhaps, most of all States in this direction. And the leaven is unmistakably at work.

The most encouraging feature of the case is that there is never a step backward. No doubts arise to disturb the faith and diminish the satisfaction of those who have once been convinced that good roads pay. The testimony of witnesses who are in a position to know is decisive on that point. They say that literally without exception men who have seen believe and thereafter never waver. It follows that the number of good roads propagandists is increasing constantly, and that they must sooner or later constitute a majority everywhere. It will not be the least of General Wood's various distinctions if he succeeds in making Cuba contribute largely to the advancement of a cause that is really more important than most Americans yet conceive it to be.

CLEANSING OR FOULING?

The project of redeeming the Passaic River from the unspeakable pollution of which it has long been the victim and from which the property owners and residents along its lower reaches have suffered untold discomfort, loss and impairment of health appears to have come to a deplorable deadlock. The State Sewerage Commission is divided in opinion concerning it. There is no disagreement as to the urgent need of relief. Any one who should dispute that need would set himself down as a madman. The dispute is over the manner in which relief is to be secured. The majority of the Commission is reported to be in favor of requiring each town or city that discharges sewage into that river or any running stream first to purify such sewage so as to make it innocuous and inoffensive. The minority, on the other hand, strenuously insists that the best plan is to divert the whole volume of sewage from the river into a great trunk sewer, which shall carry it down and discharge it into some of the tidal waters of New-York Harbor.

Between these two plans, it appears to us, the choice should be made without a moment's hesitation in favor of the former. That plan means cleansing. The other means continuation of the fouling, with the results thereof passed on to some one else. It is admitted that Paterson should not send down its sewage to befoul the Passaic River at Passaic and elsewhere. What right has it and what right have all the cities and towns in that region to send down a filthy flood into Arthur Kill, to be a nuisance to the people who dwell along its shores? Those people have a right to the use of the Kill for boating, fishing and bathing, and they should be protected in that right against the stench and filth and poison of the output of Paterson sewers. The principle of robbing Peter to pay Paul may be convenient, but it is not moral, and in the long run it is not profitable. There is nothing more certain that that such a plan, if adopted, would be a mere makeshift. It would soon prove unsatisfactory. It is by no means inconceivable that it would be prohibited as illegal.

The effect of it, moreover, on the Passaic itself is to be considered. At certain seasons, according to official authorities, as much as 70 per cent of the flow of that stream at Dundee has passed through the sewers and drains of Paterson. Probably nearly half of it, the year round, thus proceeds from the sewers. Then if all, or most, of that flood should be turned away from the river into a trunk sewer, what would be the result? The river would be cleansed, but it would be diminished to a mere rivulet, too small to fulfil any of the purposes for which the public has a right to use it. That would be cleansing by destroying the thing that was to be cleansed. On the other hand, the plan of purification would leave the volume of the stream undiminished. The sewage would be treated, chemically or otherwise, and the great bulk of it, in the form of limpid if not actually potable water would be poured back into the river. The Passaic would be kept at its normal volume and restored to something like its original purity, and nobody, either at Passaic or at Perth Amboy, would be subjected to the nuisance of having a tide of filth flowing past his home.

The objection to this latter plan is that it is not practical. There is in fact no plan more practical. Cities large and small in England, France and Germany adopted it long ago and have practised it ever since with the most satisfactory results. In at least one of them the water that is poured back into the river from the rendering works is actually more free from dirt and bacteria than the water that is supplied to the city for drinking. In all of them the system is found eminently practical and profitable, too. A proposition to any of them to abandon it and to go back to the old filthy, wasteful and barbarous method of pouring the sewage into the river would be deemed at par with a proposition to abandon electricity and gas and go back to tallow candles. To question the practicability of such a system, especially in places so favorably situated for its operation as are the cities and towns along the Passaic, is equivalent to questioning the practicability of electric traction for streetcars. It would be an unspeakable reproach to New-Jersey to let the present state of affairs in the Passaic continue indefinitely. It would be scarcely less a reproach to seek a remedy by passing the nuisance on to some one else. The way to cleanse the river is to cleanse it, not to befoul some other water.

"I don't know Moss; I never met him," says Mr. Platt. It's a pity, Senator, that you couldn't be induced to make his acquaintance on the witness stand. It isn't chiefly Mr. Moss's fault that you don't know him and never met him.

The appointment of General Edward M. Hoffman to the position of Adjutant General is a recognition on the part of Governor Roosevelt of years of good, faithful services. General Hoffman has inspected every National Guard organization in the State, he knows the requirements of the Guard and will enter on the discharge of the duties of his new office with more real information on the subject of the State soldiery than is usually possessed by a new Adjutant General.

The old adage has it that "when the days begin to lengthen, then the cold begins to strengthen." The saying has come true this year, but it must be admitted that the conditions were uncommonly convenient for its verification.

PERSONAL.

The Rev. J. Wilbur Chapman has been engaged to write a life of D. L. Moody, to be published by John C. Winston & Co., of Philadelphia.

W. E. Curtis, the Washington correspondent of "The Chicago Record," says: "During the discussion of the Briggs heresy case some years ago I sought an interview with Mr. Moody on 'higher criticism.' 'I'm not up to that sort of thing,' he said, with a twinkle in his eye. 'You see, I never studied theology, and I'm precious glad I didn't. There are so many things in the Bible that everybody can understand that I'm going to preach about them until they are exhausted, and then, if I have any time left, I'll take up the texts I don't understand.' 'Aren't you ever asked to discuss difficult passages of Scripture?' I inquired. 'Mercy, yes,' answered Mr. Moody, 'almost every day, but I always answer people just as I have answered you, and tell them that there is satisfaction and consolation enough in the promises of the Saviour, all that anybody can want. The single verse, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest," contains all the theology and religion that I need, or any other man or woman.'"

The anonymous "Australian," who gave £10,000 to the Mansion House Transvaal War Fund is said to be Sir Daniel Cooper, Bart., one of the richest Australian merchants and landowners, a prominent subscriber to the Crimean fund and later to that for the relief of the Lancashire cotton famine.

Dorsey W. Shackelford, who has taken Bland's seat in Congress, is a rich man. He made his money in the large zinc and lead mines of Camden County, Mo., of the best of which he is practically the owner.

James Lyman Whitney has just been elected librarian of the Boston Public Library. He has been connected with the library for over thirty years, and most of the time has been at the head of the catalogue department. He was born at Northampton, Mass., on November 28, 1835, and was graduated from Yale in 1858. One of his brothers was the late William Dwight Whitney, the philologist and Sanskrit scholar, and another was the late Josiah Dwight Whitney, the eminent geologist and professor in Harvard. Among his many bibliographical works the most celebrated is "The Ticknor Catalogue of Spanish Literature." He has been acting librarian since Herbert Putnam became librarian of the National Library.

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

"The London Tablet," the organ of the English Roman Catholics, severely censures the "Osservatore Romano" (Roman Catholic), of Rome, for reiterating the old charge against the Jews of killing Christian children to drink their blood.

The most touching memorials made by hands are not the statues, tablets and inscriptions erected over the dead, but the simpler offerings of spontaneous affection.

In the crypt of St. Paul's Cathedral in London lies buried Lord Nelson, chief among the naval heroes of England. Leaning against the marble tomb is a small square perforated cardboard worked as a sampler, which for six years has remained there undisturbed.

It bears these words, spelled in worsted letters: "In loving memory of dear Lord Horatio Nelson. 'Thy will be done,'" and was brought thither by a child whose heart was in this tribute to his hero.

The rules forbid the encumbrance of the stones by miscellaneous offerings, but the verger stood by and watched the offence committed, and the authorities have never ordered this true "In Memoriam" to be removed.—(Youth's Companion.

TO A WHITE CARNATION AT CHRISTMASTIDE.

When fields are bare, and woodlands feel the blight
Of biting winds that wildly through them roam;
When birds have left us for their Southern home,
And tender flowers have faded from our sight;
When planets wheeling through the azure dome
Announce the coming of God's holiday,
Then dost thou waken from the year's long night,
And, smiling, deck thyself in robes of white,
As some chaste nun puts on her white array.
Then all sad thoughts of winter pass away,
And gone are all its dreary days of gloom.
The Christmastide is symbolized in thee,
And saints may emulate the purity
Of thy white soul when it bursts into bloom.

SAFFORD GOODWIN PERRY.

Hospitality.—"Use one teaspoonful of this cocoa in hot water every day. The can will last thirty days."

"But suppose there's company, missis?"

"Why, then, of course, use more hot water."—(Fliegende Blätter.

Nearly two thousand letters addressed to Santa Claus have been received this year at the Dead Letter Office.

Husband—My dear, I want to ask you one favor before you go off on that long visit.

Wife—A thousand, my love. What is it?

Husband—Don't try to put the house in order before you leave.

Wife—It isn't hard work.

Husband—Perhaps not; but think of the expense of telegraphing to you every time I want to find anything.—(Collier's Weekly.

"Our men are in good health," writes Captain Goldman, of the 32d Kansas, now in the Philippines, "and if we can keep them exercising horse sense they will remain as healthy, if not healthier, here than at home. But they started in to-day trying to get sick. They discovered an old sugar mill that had been abandoned by the insurgents, with several tons of crude sugar lying around, and proceeded to fill themselves full of it. One company had seventeen men immediately sick. One man of my company ate a lot of green nuts, and was pretty sick for awhile, and so it goes. We have to watch them like a lot of schoolboys."

Rival Revolutions.—Dom Pedro of Brazil once made a witty speech, and fate has since added a bitterly ironical comment upon it.

He was not an ex-emperor in those days, and when he was shown one of the mechanical wonders, which always interested him more than the cares of government, a cotton spindle, which made countless revolutions a minute, he said, "Why, it actually beats our South American republics!"—(Youth's Companion

THE PASSING THRONG.

"The old manor houses and castles throughout England," said Joseph Ferris, of Boston, yesterday at the Fifth Avenue Hotel, "have innumerable stories of ghosts, which the old colored 'mammies' used to call 'hants,' attached to them. The most famous of them all is perhaps the one connected with Glamis Castle, the country seat of the Earls of Strathmore, in Forfarshire. This is the most ancient inhabited castle of Scotland, although of course little of the original structure still survives. It was here that Macbeth, one of the minor kings of Scotland, murdered Duncan, and the principal scenes of Shakespeare's 'Macbeth' are laid within and without the castle walls. It came into the hands of the Lyon family, the present owners, about 1371, and from then on a long series of tragedies marked the progress of that family.

"The ghost that hovers about Glamis is a mysterious one, and the exact character of the manifestations is little known, but the point that makes it of thrilling public interest is the well known fact that there is a family secret in the Lyon family, which only three living people share at the same time—the holder of the title, the heir apparent, if he has attained his majority, and the factor of the estate. Why the latter shares in the secret is not the least part of the mystery. On the day before the heir apparent attains his twenty-first birthday (or if the then Earl be sonless, the heir presumptive) he is solemnly initiated into the mystery. The opening of some hidden room or passage is connected with this initiation, and this has given rise to a legend in Scotland that a certain Earl Beardie of past times played a game of cards with the devil 'in propria persona,' lost the game and his soul at the same time, and the sealed chamber in Glamis is the one wherein the game was played. This is only one of many stories which purport to account for the mystery.

"As generation after generation has been initiated into the dread secret it has become widely known and advertised, and it is said in England that more than one of the heirs, when on the eve of coming of age, has promised his friends and cronies to reveal the mystery, but so far no such promise has ever been kept, nor has any factor of the house ever proved false to the trust reposed in him."

THE SECRET OF GLAMIS.

"When General Grant was President," said Henry Willetts, of Washington, at the Hotel Imperial yesterday, "a certain friend of his came out of the West to see him. One day, just after leaving the White House, this friend fell in with a fellow Westerner in the White House grounds, and a heated encounter took place, which suddenly terminated by the General's friend knocking the other man down and out. The matter was hushed up, but the General, naturally indignant, called his friend to account, saying, 'John, you've treated me and the office I hold with much discourtesy. Why did you do such a thing?' 'Well, it was this way, General,' replied the now thoroughly penitent one, 'you know there was bad blood between us, and he had set all sorts of stories going about me. Just after leaving you I ran into him, and he at once accused me of doing a certain thing. As it was a lie, I only laughed at him. Then he accused me of something else, and that being also a lie, I jeered at him again, but his third accusation was true, and by gad, sir, I couldn't stand that, so I knocked him down.'"

FOUGHT WHEN THE TRUTH WAS TOLD.

Walter Kemp, of Montreal, who has just returned from Europe, said yesterday at the Waldorf-Astoria: "It is very exciting in London just now. Everybody is on the qui vive, and on all sides you hear people airing their opinions, who pretend to be in the know as to what the Government will do next. One thing is certain, and that is Great Britain is concentrating an enormous and powerful fleet in the Mediterranean, probably on the principle that 'an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure,' a principle she certainly has not so far followed in dealing with the South African question.

"While in London I was fortunate enough to witness the departure of a portion of the Royal Horse Guards. This is the regiment of Household Cavalry known as the Blues, and is one of the crack—I was told 'the' crack—regiments of the English army. The morning I saw them pass through Sloane-st. they were certainly a magnificent and businesslike looking lot, in their khaki uniforms and helmets. The street was literally jammed with a struggling and enthusiastic mass of humanity, and as the Guards came along their mounted band, which was at the head of the procession, struck up Sir Arthur Sullivan's setting of Kipling's 'The Absent Minded Beggar.' The crowd made such a row that at first you couldn't make out what the band was playing, and I must say it made one feel pretty sad to think what that superb-looking body of men was going to face and how many of them there were there who would never see the streets of London again, and then some other lines of Kipling's flashed into my mind:

> Ere's all they desire, and if they require
> A speedy return to their 'ome.
> (Poor beggars! they'll never see 'ome!)

"The two popular war songs in England seem to be 'Tommy Atkins' and 'The Absent Minded Beggar,' although the American song, 'There'll Be a Hot Time in the Old Town To-night,' is also frequently played."

ROYAL HORSE GUARDS' DEPARTURE.

TAMMANY ALDERMEN'S CAUCUS.

DEMOCRATS HOLDING OFFICE IN THE BOARD TO BE RETAINED NEXT YEAR.

The Democratic members of the Board of Aldermen for 1900 held a caucus in the City Hall yesterday to agree upon officers to be elected. It was agreed to keep the Tammany men now holding the offices in their places next year. Thomas F. Woods will be president of the Board, John T. McCall will be vice-president and leader of the majority on the floor, and Robert Muh will be chairman of the Finance Committee.

Michael F. Blake will keep his well paid berth as clerk. Thomas Coakley will continue as sergeant-at-arms, with John McGuire as assistant. The Brooklyn Democrats in the Board of Aldermen will have a caucus by themselves to-day to agree on what committees they are to serve on.

MEXICAN-CHINESE TREATY SIGNED.

THE TWO COUNTRIES FOR THE FIRST TIME ENTER INTO OFFICIAL RELATIONS.

Washington, Dec. 26.—The negotiations which have been in progress for some time between China and Mexico for a general treaty of trade, navigation and immigration have been brought to a successful conclusion here, and the formal signing of the document took place to-day at the Mexican Embassy. Señor Azpiroz, the Mexican Ambassador, signed for his country, and Minister Wu Ting Fang for China. The ceremony was witnessed by the staffs of the Mexican Embassy and the Chinese Legation, and was followed by hearty congratulations on both sides, as this is the first treaty ever entered into between these countries. Three copies of the instrument were made, one in Chinese, one in Spanish and one in English. This is a new departure in diplomatic usage, as the extra copy is usually in French, that being the recognized language of diplomacy. In this case, however, it was determined that English should be the official text for determining any differences of construction between the other texts.

The chief feature of the treaty is in establishing official relations between China and Mexico for the first time, thus giving promise of development of trade relations between them. Each side has favored nation treatment in the matter of imports, and Mexico is to have extra territoriality in China, the same as is now enjoyed by other first class Powers. Immigration is left unhampered, and under this provision it is expected that the resources of Mexico will be developed by Chinese labor. The signed copies of the treaty have been forwarded to Peking and the City of Mexico for ratification.

TO TAKE THE CALL TO DR. PURVES.

The committee from the Session and the one from the congregation of the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church will to-morrow afternoon take to the Rev. Dr. George T. Purves, at Princeton, the formal call from the congregation to become their pastor. The committee will doubtless be a large and representative one, and H. Edwards Rowland will probably act as its chairman. It is hoped by some of the members of the committee that they will come away from Princeton with the assurance that Dr. Purves will accept the call, but if they do not succeed in getting an intimation from him to-morrow they expect it before Saturday night. If Dr. Purves accepts an invitation to preach in the Fifth Avenue Church on Sunday next it will be accepted, according to Dr. R. R. Booth, as a certain signal that he intends to accept the call to become its pastor.

TRANSATLANTIC TRAVELLERS.

Among those sailing to-day for Southampton on the American liner St. Paul are Colonel and Mrs. John Jacob Astor, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Bailey, Mr. and Mrs. John Munroe, Miss Marion Strauss, Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Webster and Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton Webster.

Some of those booked for Liverpool by the White Star liner Teutonic are P. H. Burton, J. R. Callender, A. G. C. Dinnick, Captain and Mrs. M. L. Fielden, William Geddes, E. J. Henderson, Thomas Ritchie, Professor Josiah Royce, P. C. Stewart and Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Watt.

GRELL SWORN IN AS SHERIFF.

William F. Grell, the Sheriff-elect of New-York County, took the oath of office yesterday before Justice Giegerich in the Supreme Court. He was accompanied to the courtroom by George H. Fahrbach, the Deputy County Clerk. After administering the oath Justice Giegerich said he hoped Mr. Grell's success in office would be as great as that of Thomas J. Dunn. Mr. Grell will be installed in the Sheriff's office on New Year's Day.

Ex-Coroner Ferdinand Levy is expected to receive appointment to the office of Tax Commissioner vacated by Mr. Grell.

PUNISHING REBEL BANDS.

SCATTERING THE EMBERS OF THE PHILIPPINE INSURRECTION.

Manila, Dec. 26.—Colonel J. Franklin Bell, of the 36th Infantry, encountered 150 Filipinos on Thursday near Alaminos, Province of Zambales, and killed, wounded or captured twenty-eight of them. Our troops also obtained possession of a number of rifles and a quantity of ammunition. One American was wounded.

A detachment of the 34th Infantry encountered a band of the enemy Saturday at Aritao, Province of Nueva Viscaya, and routed them, killing two and wounding or capturing thirteen. The Americans also seized a quantity of ammunition.

The 21st Regiment attacked a Filipino outpost Sunday near Calamba, scattering them and killing five of the enemy.

The 32d Regiment on Sunday had a brush with the enemy from the mountains northwest of Dinalupijan. One American was wounded. The troops captured 125 head of cattle and brought them to Orani, Bataan Province.

In the island of Panay Captain Brownell's company of the 26th Infantry fought the enemy near Sala. The rebels lost heavily, and the Americans captured a number of rifles.

The rebels who fled from Panay to Romolon Island are surrendering to the American garrison from Panay.

The funeral of Major General Lawton will take place December 30. The body will be embarked on the transport Thomas.

REPATRIATION OF SPANIARDS.

THE CABINET DECIDES TO CONSTRUE THE PEACE TREATY LIBERALLY.

Washington, Dec. 26.—At the Cabinet meeting to-day it was decided to construe that portion of the treaty with Spain regarding the return of Spanish soldiers and prisoners of war in the most liberal way. By the terms of the treaty the United States agreed to transport all Spanish soldiers and prisoners of war serving in the conquered territory to Spain. A number of disputed questions have been raised in connection with the repatriation of the Spanish soldiers serving in the Philippines, and they have been the subject of considerable correspondence between General Otis and the Spanish representatives at Manila. In the Peace Treaty various terms are used: "Spanish soldiers," "Spanish prisoners," "prisoners in the hands of insurgents," etc. After discussing the question to-day the Cabinet decided to construe the language of the treaty liberally; indeed, to stretch it not only to cover all Spanish prisoners in the Philippines who are now falling into the hands of the United States, but their families, and all Spanish civilian officials and their families. They will be transported to Spain at the expense of the United States. Secretary Root has no information as to how many Spanish prisoners remain in the islands.

OTIS REPORTS MINOR ENGAGEMENTS.

Washington, Dec. 26.—Under to-day's date General Otis gives some details of engagements with the insurgents following the death of General Lawton. His dispatch follows:

Following recent minor engagements: Capture San Mateo December 19, General Lawton killed; Captain Kinan, 29th Infantry; Lieutenant Breckinridge, 7th Infantry, slightly wounded; four enlisted men slightly wounded. Capture same date Montalban; Lieutenant Cotchett, 11th Cavalry, and six enlisted men wounded, mostly slight; enemy's casualties heavy. In Northern Zambales, 21st inst., Bell struck 150 insurgents; killed, wounded and captured twenty-eight and twenty rifles; Lieutenant Read, 36th Infantry, wounded right thigh, moderate. Hughes, Iloilo, reports insurgent band attacked Br