AMERICAN PICTURES.

THE ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF THE ACADEMY OF DESIGN.

The regular autumn show of the Academy of Design, a little belated this year, opens in new quarters in the galleries of the Fine Arts Building in Fifty-seventh-st. It is an interesting transition. No doubt there is eagerness among the academicians for the creation of their new building on Morningside Heights; but in the mean time the disinterested observer cannot help noting with pleasure the effect of a typical Academy display within walls accustomed to other collections. Imagination, perhaps, plays its part. One exhibition of American pictures is not so very unlike another. But the Academy would not be the Academy if its exhibitions did not wear an aspect of their own, and there is a novel atmosphere in the Fine Arts Building that is distinctly attractive. After many years, during which the Hanging Committee has had to do the best it could with unmanageable wall spaces, it is good to see the three hundred paintings contributed this season nearly all placed with advantage to themselves and to the improvement of the ensemble.

In one respect this exhibition repeats most of its predecessors in the same galleries—portraiture fills in it a commanding position. The older and the younger schools are both represented, the former by Mr. Daniel Huntington and Mr. Eastman Johnson, the latter by Mr. W. H. Hyde, Mr. W. J. Rice and several others. In the first gallery the latter artists provide the centres of the various long panels, and do so, it may be said, in excellent fashion. Mr. Rice's portrait of a man is capital in its unconventional way, and Mr. Beckwith, in his portrait of Dr. Wood, gives us some really exhilarating work, the modelling of the head is so vigorous and so true, the whole canvas has such vitality and freshness. In a similarly firm and realistic vein is Mr. Franzen's portrait of William M. Evarts, though in this case a little more flexibility in the handling would have been welcome. There is good, flowing execution in the portrait study of Mr. Von Zaltba, and Mr. Hyde, in his "Sylvia," the portrait of a child, seems to have worked with more ease and to a more pleasing end than in any other canvas of his we have seen of late. Mr. Huntington's portrait of Carl Schurz, painted in his characteristic conservative manner, for the Chamber of Commerce, occupies one corner in this room, and another is given to the large canvas on which Signora Duse has been portrayed by her compatriot, Eduardo Gordigiani. This is a persuasive study of the famous actress. The pose and the facial expression both seem faithful interpretations of the original. Technically the portrait is uneven. There are some creditable passages in the treatment of the dress and the head is fairly well done, but the painting, as a whole, lacks harmony and the finish that would have been quite consistent with the artist's free style. To his father, by the way, is due the "Page de Louis XIII," one of the most prominent portraits in the north gallery. In this production finish is carried to excess, but if the spectator can ignore the polish which gives a meretricious effect he will derive a more agreeable sensation from the rendering of the textures in the back of the old chair. These are painterlike in the best sense of the term, and make us regret the more those too elegant touches which have been lavished upon the face and hair. The draughtsmanship is correct, pure, but it is too mechanical and stiff. The labored style is in sharp contrast to the breadth and solidity of Mr. Eastman Johnson's three portraits, two hanging near by and one placed directly across the long gallery.

Figure compositions are not very numerous. Mr. Barse, in "The Awakening," arrests attention by virtue of his suggestive composition and generally capable workmanship, but the shadows are painted with a somewhat dry, staccato touch, and there are unhealthy notes of color, both in the flesh and in the draperies. Mr. W. St. John Harper, also, in "The Silent Snow," spoils the effect of a good design and of the light and air he has put into the work by colors innocent of quality. In fact, good color, properly managed, is the one thing for which we look in vain among the figure pieces. Mr. Schreyvogel's spirited military subject and Mr. Gaul's interesting study in much the same field would be among the best things in the show if only their tones were not so hard. And when we find tolerably good color it is damaged by defects in other directions. Witness Mr. Hassam's "Flower Shop," which needs but to have more suave draughtsmanship and tones more transparent to become a really charming painting, or Mr. Bell's engaging interior with a harp player, "At Twilight," wherein a scheme of much delicacy and feeling is damaged by the poor drawing of the model's profile. Again, Mr. John Donaghue's "Sylvia" trembles on the brink of being an altogether satisfactory performance—and does not quite fulfil the artist's aim. The wine-red drapery is painted with skill and taste, the head and face with genuine feeling, but in just those points where subtlety and tenderness are essential Mr. Donaghue appears to have been unable to shake off a certain rigidity of manner. The only picture in which design, atmosphere and draughtsmanship are fused into an attractive unit is Mr. Millet's page from old English tavern life, "The Card Players." This may have surfaces too glittering, but the effect is nevertheless artistic, because it is harmonious and is secured obviously by authoritative means.

There are several fine landscapes and sea pieces. Among the former we note Mr. Appleton Brown's winter scene, "The Mill Pond"; the poetic "Valley at Sunset," by Mr. C. W. Eaton; Mr. Ochtman's luminous "Moonlight on the Sound"; the silvery canvas by Mr. C. H. Eaton, "Along the River"; the picture of "Hollyhocks," into which Mr. John F. Weir has poured some exquisite sentiment as well as veracious color; the small landscapes by Mr. Minor, Mr. J. F. Murphy and Miss Phœbe A. Bunker—to whom the Norman W. Dodge prize has deservedly been given—and the sparkling "Long Island Road," in which Mr. Irving R. Wiles seems to have put to good purpose hints gathered from Signor Boldini. An honorable mention should be given to Mr. Beal's "Training Ship Essex at Newport," the treatment of the rigging and of the water being uniformly spontaneous and sure. But there are two other sea pictures which, with one landscape, should have a place apart. The first of these is Mr. G. H. Bogert's "Approaching Storm," which might, perhaps, never have existed if Dupré had not lived to give the artist some ideas on the subject, but which is intrinsically so truthful and so beautiful that the hint of a borrowed inspiration is forgotten almost as soon as it is felt. The companion to this work is "The Breakers," by Mr. Potthast, who has just been elected an associate of the Academy and shows by this work how well he deserves the honor. It is a bold, individualized painting, brimming over with movement, with true sympathy for the theme attacked, and containing some admirable color. It seems unfortunate that while Mr. Potthast is able to paint a picture like this one he should care to waste his time over canvases like "The Ox Team." There is thorough and clever workmanship in this, but not an atom of beauty. Mr. Will S. Robinson, the last of the trio, is willing to sacrifice realism to beauty. There is danger in the practice for artists insufficiently gifted, but the painter of "A Village in Picardy" shows that on this occasion at any rate he can afford to let the verities go by the board. His tree trunks are weak; his handling of foliage is weaker; but the general effect commands high praise. Here is a man who has felt the pervasive charm of his motive, who has detected the hidden loveliness in the group of old tiled roofs shadowed by masses of trees; the scene has left an impression upon him that is new and strong, he has perceived all the sensuous and æsthetic relations of the mere facts before him, and he transfers to his canvas the essence of it all. "A Village in Picardy" has faults—the faults of inexperience—but Mr. Robinson has the root of the matter in him and is to be congratulated. There is a reception at the Fine Arts Building to-day. On Monday the galleries will be open to the public. They will not close until Saturday, January 27, and on the intervening Sundays admission will be free.

FEARS AS TO MR. BOUTELLE.

HIS PHYSICIAN QUOTED AS SAYING THAT HE MAY NEVER BE THE SAME AGAIN MENTALLY.

Boston, Dec. 29.—To all those who inquired after the condition of Congressman Charles A. Boutelle at the McLean Asylum to-day, the only reply given was that he was getting along well and was improving in strength. Dr. Daniel A. Robinson, the physician who came up from Bangor to attend him after he was stricken with illness at Young's Hotel, says that while the Congressman may recover his physical health and vigor it is possible that he may never be the same again mentally.

THE HILTON "PEACHBLOW" VASES.

WHY A NUMBER OF CHEAP ONES ARE IN HIS COLLECTION.

In the Hilton painting and art collection, which is now being catalogued preparatory to its sale at public auction, there are half a dozen or more so-called peachblow vases. They are cheap, costing less than a dollar apiece, and their presence among Judge Hilton's costly objects of art furnishes an interesting story. Judge Hilton gave away a number of these vases, but it is not believed that the recipients were ever deceived into thinking that they were really peachblow vases. The vases are eight or ten inches in height, and at a distance of six feet look like valuable examples of porcelain. Judge Hilton, as is well known, was an enthusiastic collector of Sèvres vases, and there are several in the house at No. 7 West Thirty-fourth-st. which cost thousands of dollars. Ten or twelve years ago much was being said and printed about peachblow vases. One was said to have been secured by Mrs. Morgan, of this city, for $18,000, and when Mrs. Morgan's art collection was sold interest in peachblow vases was revived. Judge Hilton got thoroughly tired of hearing so much about peachblow vases. Perhaps he thought his Sèvres vases were being neglected. Anyway, it was about that time that he purchased a dozen or two of imitation peachblow vases at 90 cents apiece. Whenever a visitor began to grow rapturous over peachblow vases Judge Hilton would shrug his shoulders and say:

"Humph! Peachblows! Why, I'll give you one," whereupon the astonished visitor would receive a peachblow vase, but invariably would go away with a diminished regard for them as rare objects of art. Just how many the Judge gave away no one knows, and perhaps the story would never have become public save for the discovery of several peachblow vases when his bric-à-brac was being got together to be catalogued.

The Hilton art and bric-à-brac collection contains an unusually large number of costly clocks. There are probably fifty. For one of them $5,000 was paid. It is made in part of Algerian onyx, and is surmounted by two sculptured black figures. The woman is crowning her mate with a wreath of gold. There are side pieces in the form of candelabra. When all the clocks strike the hour the house from basement to the upper floors is full of tinkling notes.

FOUND A LOST PATROL WAGON.

SMALL BOY MANAGES TO MAKE IT A MEANS OF PERSECUTION FOR HIS ENEMY, THE "COP."

Policeman Patrick Sweeney marched along that part of Seventh-ave. near Forty-eighth-st. which the police regulations describe as his "post" last night, at peace with himself and all the obsequious citizens who, in that district, recognize the justice of his rule. He was in the middle of an estimate of the days that must go before he is to be a roundsman, and was well convinced that the time was pretty near at hand. Just then a small boy ran up to him and, saluting with mock gravity, called out:

"Say, dere's a patrol wagon in Forty-ate-st. wot is lost. De folks is goin' to smash it up if youse cops don't pertect yer property." Sweeney made a swing at the small boy for his audacity, thinking he was trying to have some fun with him.

But the boy would not go, and insisted that an abandoned patrol wagon was in Forty-eighth-st. and in danger of destruction by the people, whose regard for that emblem of law and order is none too great.

Sweeney decided to follow the lad. Turning into Forty-eighth-st. he saw a crowd of possibly twenty men and women in the street, all talking and gesticulating. But there was no evidence of a patrol wagon. Sweeney had gone too far to back out, however, and he marched boldly up to the crowd.

"Move on, youse!" he commanded. "What are youse doin' here?"

The crowd fell back with a murmur, and Sweeney then got his first view of the object of their interest. In the centre of the street he found a small boy's wagon, about large enough for one to ride in. It had a yellow body and blue box, while in big gilt letters on both sides were the words, "Police Patrol."

Sweeney got red, and the crowd laughed.

"Who owns this thing?" he demanded. But no one would claim title to it. It was evidently lost property, and under the regulations Sweeney had to take it to the station.

It was too big to carry, so Sweeney took hold of the little wagon pole and started down the street, the wagon rattling at his heels. A score of men and small boys followed, giving advice.

"W'y don't youse ride?" one asked.

"W'are's yer prizner?" another funny person demanded. And until the wagon reached the station the volley of attempted jokes and an occasional expression of contempt for the police on general principles were kept up.

An alarm for the owner of the lost toy was sent out.

DAUGHTER GETS SHARE OF ESTATE.

HER SISTERS SAID THAT SHE WAS TO GET ONLY $5—FATHER'S WILL WAS DESTROYED.

Frances Belz, who was cut off with $5 by the will of her father, William Duckgeischel, who died in 1878, has succeeded in a suit brought by her in the Supreme Court by which she upset the probate of the will, and she will therefore fall in for one-fourth of the estate, which is considerable. She alleged that the will was destroyed by her sister Margaretha, and could not therefore be established.

Duckgeischel left a widow, one son and three daughters. Mrs. Duckgeischel died on August 26, 1892. Margaretha found her father's will subsequently and burned it. Mrs. Belz then brought an action through her lawyer, George H. Kracht, for a partition of the estate, and maintained that as the will had been destroyed without being admitted to probate her father's property went to his four children in equal shares.

Her two sisters filed an answer alleging that the will could be proved and established, and that Mrs. Belz was only to receive $5 by the will. The case was sent to George E. Mott, as referee, to take testimony and report to the court. He did so, and decided that the will had been destroyed by Margaretha Duckgeischel, that it could not be established and that there should be a partition of the estate.

It was testified by Margaretha Duckgeischel on the trial that she had burned the will of her father, and she and her other sister, Mary Vetter, swore that they had read the will and that Mrs. Belz was only to receive $5. A. H. Duckgeischel, their brother, testified that he had read the will and that he and his three sisters were to divide the estate equally.

The Supreme Court confirmed the referee's report and Judge Glegerich yesterday granted the final judgment for the partition of the estate.

MAINE VICTIM LYING IN STATE.

The body of Frederick C. Holzer, one of the victims of the battleship Maine, was removed from Copp's undertaking establishment, in Eighty-seventh-st., near First-ave., yesterday morning to Cecilia Hall, at No. 1,584 Avenue A. It will lie in state there until this morning, when it will be taken to St. Joseph's Church, in Eighty-seventh-st., near First-ave., where a solemn requiem mass will be celebrated. It is hoped that the Rev. Father Chidwick, the chaplain of the Maine, will conduct the service. The body lies in metallic coffin, inside of a rough redwood box.

At 9 o'clock this morning the body will be taken from the hall to the church. An escort of sailors and marines will accompany the coffin. These have been furnished by Admiral Philip, and will be landed from a tug at East Seventy-ninth-st. A detail of eight men will accompany the body to the grave, at St. John's Cemetery, and fire a salute.

PHILIPPINE POLICY UPHELD.

PROFESSOR GROSVENOR DEFENDS THE PRESENT AMERICAN COURSE.

The big hall of Cooper Union held about fifteen hundred persons last night, who had gathered to hear Professor E. A. Grosvenor of Amherst College lecture before the People's Institute upon "The Philippine Problem—A Defence of the Present Policy." Charles Sprague Smith, president of the Institute, made a few preliminary remarks, in which he repeated what he had said in the afternoon to a Tribune reporter regarding the false reports which have been published concerning the reason why Attorney General Monnett of Ohio did not lecture upon "Trusts" before the Institute on Thursday night. Mr. Smith's explanation will be found in another part of this paper. When Professor Grosvenor was introduced he was greeted with much applause, and in the course of his remarks he said:

In 1803 we purchased from France for $15,000,000 the vague, unbounded territory of Louisiana. We forced the cession of both Floridas in 1819. Texas revolted from Mexico and was admitted into the Union. In 1867 we bought from Russia for $7,200,000 Alaska. Regarding these acquisitions there are certain facts important to notice. The first is that in no case did we consult or pretend to consult the wishes of the native inhabitants of the territory which passed into our hands. The second is that these acquisitions have brought us infinite trouble and unutterable woe. And the third fact is the exceeding difficulty of finding warrant in the Constitution for such acquisitions. If not unconstitutional, it may be asserted they are extra-constitutional in the sense of being outside of it and nowhere provided for by it. The fourth fact is that every one of these successive acquisitions was bitterly opposed at the time by many American citizens. The fifth fact is that the opponents of these territorial acquisitions have been almost always beaten. One fact more—the crowning, transcendent fact of all—though each acquisition has been retained to the present hour, and has become an integral, indissoluble part in the Nation's geographic being, the whole land rejoices in it, and the country is not only larger in area, but stronger in purpose, a truer republic and a truer democracy because its boundaries have been broadened with each one of these successive acquisitions.

Professor Grosvenor then enumerated and refuted, one by one, all the familiar pessimistic arguments which the anti-expansionists have urged against the acquisition of the Philippines. When he came to the argument that the inhabitants of those islands are fighting for liberty and would rather die than submit to American supremacy he said:

This is a solemn and most weighty statement. It demands a serious and honest answer. We stretch our hands across the ocean to any people, however ignorant or humble, which loves liberty. We have held through all our trouble and expanding history that governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed. We hold that imperishable doctrine now. If the statement is true that the Philippine people are united against our rule, and that Aguinaldo is a Philippine Washington incarnating in himself the deathless desire for freedom of all those Eastern races, let us pray that in some manner we may even yet get rid of an iniquitous acquisition. But how are you and I, so far from that island group of discordant races and languages and religious faiths, to know the truth?

Faithful to the duties of his office, the President desired the most accurate and unbiassed information he could obtain. He appointed a commission of five gentlemen to proceed to the Philippines, study the situation on the spot, report on the conditions there and recommend what should be done. These gentlemen spent months in investigation and conference on the ground. On November 2, 1899, they presented their preliminary report. It declares that since the first gun was fired there has been no moment when the United States could have withdrawn from the islands with decency and honor; that no alliance was entered into with Aguinaldo, nor was any promise of independence made to him then or at any other time; that the war in which we were engaged with the Tagals was unavoidable, and that no alternative was left us except fight or ignominious retreat; that hostility to the Americans was confined to the Tagal provinces, and that even there the people were not united in this hostility; that never in the worst days of Spanish misrule had the people been so overtaxed and so badly governed as in the districts where the authority of Aguinaldo prevailed; that instead of being a Tagal Washington, the Tagal leader aimed to establish his own dictatorship throughout the archipelago; that instead of riding roughshod over the governed we were protecting the great majority from the unscrupulous despotism of a single tribe.

Let me quote from only one of the signers of this report, Admiral Dewey. He said: "I wish you would say for me that I indorse every word of the Commission's admirable report. On every conclusion reached we were unanimous. It is an absolutely truthful representation of all that has happened, and of the existing situation."

TO MAKE AMPUTATIONS PAINLESS.

SOME OF THE INTERESTING POINTS BROUGHT OUT AT THE FINAL MEETINGS OF THE SCIENTISTS.

New-Haven, Conn., Dec. 29 (Special).—To-day ended the three days' session of the ten scientific societies that have been in convention here this week. This morning the archæologists, physiologists, psychologists and Folklore Society met, and all of the programmes were finished this noon. The psychologists have held the most largely attended meetings this week, and have attracted the most attention, partly on account of the boy arithmetician who appeared before the society and partly because the psychologists discussed some of the most interesting topics of the session.

This morning Professor Scripture, who is well known as the head of the Yale Psychological Laboratory, presented the results of a year's work in the Yale laboratory, and showed some of the new apparatus he has arranged and built for his work. His most interesting apparatus was an electrical contrivance for the production of an anæsthesia on any given part of the human system. Professor Scripture has been at work on his apparatus for years, but has been unable until recently to perfect his system to any approach to what he desired. He introduces the electric current beyond and above the part desired to be acted upon, and cuts off the nerve for that section, rendering it numb for the time of the operation. Needles can be thrust deep into the arm while under this influence without pain to the subject.

Professor Scripture said that he desired to perfect his system so that the most difficult operations could be performed without inconvenience to the subject, and legs and arms amputated without the least pain to the patient. He has not yet been able to put the head under the same influence and make dentistry painless, but hopes to be able to do this later. His methods drew forth great praise from the scientists this morning.

MORE TROOPS MAY GO TO ALASKA.

RUSH TO THE GOLD FIELDS EXPECTED TO REQUIRE AN INCREASED FORCE.

Washington, Dec. 29.—After the Cabinet meeting to-day several members said that nothing of importance had occurred. Much of the time was occupied by Secretary Wilson in discussing the agricultural possibilities of Alaska. It may be decided to increase the number of troops in Alaska, on the ground that the constantly increasing population demands additional protection. Reports indicate that the rush next year to Alaska, especially to Cape Nome will be large, and more troops will probably be required. It is probable that one or more additional posts will be established at Cape Nome, but none of the details have yet been worked out.

COALING WARSHIPS AT SEA.

THE SYSTEM TESTED ON THE MASSACHUSETTS TO BE ADOPTED.

Washington, Dec. 29.—The Naval Board which conducted the trial of the Miller coaling system has submitted its report to Admiral Bradford, chief of the Equipment Bureau. The Board conducted these experiments with the battleship Massachusetts and the collier Marcellus, the battleship towing the collier, which supplied the former with coal in 800-pound bags by means of the towing lines, which made an aerial trolley.

The tests were conducted under varying conditions of weather, and, in the opinion of the Board, were eminently successful. In weather as heavy as it was practicable to coal ship under any conditions the device transported about twenty tons an hour safely. Altogether the Board concludes that the apparatus will be of value in war times, and consequently the plan under which the experiments were conducted will be paid for by the Government according to the terms of the contract made last summer.

JAMES GORDON GULICK'S DEATH.

ERRONEOUS REPORTS OF ITS CAUSE CORRECTED.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Extended comments have been made upon the death of James Gordon Gulick, who died upon the United States transport Burnside, on his way home from Puerto Rico, where he recently went to fill a position in the education department under the United States Government. The published statements are so erroneous, unkind and unjust that it is due to the living and the dead to correct them. Mr. Gulick's death was caused by meningitis, which came upon him in San Juan. He received no injuries on the transport or at any other time, and his death was due to exhaustion, as reported by the physician under whose care he was at the time. He had never shown any tendency to insanity, nor was he at all unbalanced while in Harvard University or elsewhere. He was a young man of rare ability, promise and mental strength, according to the testimony of President Eliot and the faculty at Harvard University and all who knew him.

J. H. ROSS.

Boston, Dec. 27, 1899.

THE PASSING THRONG.

Professor E. A. Grosvenor, of Amherst College, was in town yesterday. Speaking of the anti-imperialists in New-England he said their ranks were thinning daily, and he considered that the abuse which they were at present using in the place of rational arguments showed their faction was at its last gasp. He visited Boston recently and was agreeably surprised to learn by personal observation that many of the most refined people there who had at first been disposed to adopt the views of the anti-imperialist prophets of that city were now repudiating those opinions.

THEIR RANKS THINNING.

"I was down South shooting," said Frank Wiggins, of Buffalo, at the Hotel Imperial last night, "and I met one of the strangest characters there that I ever saw in my life. This man was a farmer, and owned thousands upon thousands of acres of wild land in North Carolina. He was a former New-Yorker, a college graduate and a man of education. He was a Southerner by birth, and fell heir to this land. He 'went the pace' when he lived in New-York, got into financial difficulties and finally became a pessimist, and decided that nothing in the world was worth while. He gave up everything and went to his wild estate. He took a little money, and developed certain portions of it. He built a substantial and comfortable house, commodious and comfortable stables, secured a few first class servants and started in to live the life of a recluse. The old habits hung to him, however, and he took the various magazines published as well as some dailies, and with what little was left to him, together with what he could eke out of the property, he managed to struggle along. When I got down there with some friends I was stunned to see upon this apparently deserted wilderness a well laid out golf links, with signal flags and all. When we asked permission to shoot over his grounds the man nearly fell upon our necks. He asked permission to join us, insisted upon our being his guests, and said that he never had any company from one year's end to another. He had some fine whiskey, good things to eat, several sets of golf clubs, good guns and dogs and thoughtful servants. The only thing he seemed to hunger for was company, and we gave him all of that he could stand. We had a royal time. Imagine playing golf in the wild hills of North Carolina and sitting down to a dinner that for 'mode' and excellence could not be surpassed in New-York. It wouldn't be fair to mention names, but it was great. We tried to win him back to the world, and he has promised to come up and see us, and I am interested to see whether he does. If he doesn't I am going to go back there and have another fling. I think I should be a recluse if I could have all the comforts and happiness that he apparently has."

GOLF IN A WILDERNESS.

"I am expecting a visit from Dewey to-morrow," said Samuel Reardon on board the steamer Chalmette yesterday. "No, not the Admiral. This particular sailor is a cat, and, I take it, he is about the only feline tramp on record. He was not always a vagrant, though. For several years he lived contentedly on El Norte, of the Morgan Line, and was as respectable a cat as you could imagine. He was the pet of Commodore Hawthorne, of the line—the Commodore, you remember, was lost off Cape Canaveral when the General Whitney went down. A short time before that El Norte had been put into the Government service, her name being changed to the Dixie. She was manned by the Naval Reserves. That was too much for the cat. He was too good a sailor to stand for the sort of things he saw some of those amateur tars doing. So he left the ship, and from that day he has had no regular place of abode. The peculiar thing is that he won't ship on any but old vessels, and he never makes a second voyage on the same ship. As soon as he gets into port he scutties out and boards all the ships. He goes all over, from scullery to cabin, and by his keen sense of smell is able to tell whether the boat is new or old. He is on his way here now on El Sud, which is a new vessel, but he would not be on board, you may be sure, if he was not in durance vile. He'll make a break for shore as soon as she reaches the pier. That's why I am sure of a visit soon from my old friend Dewey."

A TRAMP CAT.

HARPERS' AND COUNTRY BANKS.

THOSE HOLDING THE FIRM'S PAPER MAY FORM A PROTECTIVE COMMITTEE—A TALK WITH COLONEL HARVEY.

Harper & Bros.' indebtedness to country banks, it was said yesterday by those familiar with the reorganization affairs of the company, would amount to $1,700,000, and negotiations are under way for the organization of a protective committee representing the banks holding the paper of the firm. Many of the banks purchased the paper of Harper & Bros. without investigation, and it follows now that they have a number of unsecured claims. Colonel George B. M. Harvey was quoted yesterday as saying that the committee of creditors of the company had sent to all of the creditors a blank form of an agreement providing for the deposit with this committee of the claims against the firm for the purpose of bringing about a reorganization of the business in the interests of the creditors.

"Most of the creditors are banks," said Colonel Harvey to a reporter yesterday, "and they will see from the report of the committee, which is made up of eminently hard headed business men, that the proposed course is the only one worth taking. The accountants' estimate of 22 per cent of assets against the unsecured liabilities is certainly too high. Mr. Orr told the committee that in a forced sale he believed these assets would not amount to even 10 per cent of the unsecured claims. The assets of the firm have never been figured correctly. Books with no sales, plates, manuscripts, and the like, have been rated as assets at their original cost, without regard to what they would bring in a sale. These things should have been charged off periodically, but instead of that a lot of dead matter has continued to appear as assets. If we can keep the control of the firm in the creditors' committee, I believe the firm can get upon its feet again."

Colonel Harvey said that with the best of progress that could be hoped for it would take four or five years at least to satisfy all claims against the company. He said that everything would be done to develop the business in the direction of new work, and everything useless would be cut out remorselessly.

INCREASED CUSTOMS AT HAVANA.

WHOLESOME EFFECT OF THE ARREST OF SUSPECTED APPRAISERS.

Havana, Dec. 29.—The Custom House receipts yesterday were exceptionally large, amounting to more than $100,600. In view of the fact that no more ships than usual have arrived during the last few days, this notable increase is significant as showing the good effect of the recent arrest of Custom House appraisers. The total receipts for the year, including yesterday, exceed $11,000,000, whereas the highest estimate made by the War Department for the year's returns was $9,000,000.

FRENCH NAVAL PROGRAMME.

A GREAT SUM TO BE DEVOTED TO STRENGTHENING THE FLEET.

Paris, Dec. 29.—The Government will submit to the Chamber of Deputies at the beginning of January a bill providing for the defence of the French coasts and colonies and to increase the strength of the fleet. This does not involve an increase in the expenditure. The cost of the defence of the coasts and colonies is estimated at 120,000,000 francs, spread over two and a half years. This sum will be provided for by 50,000,000 francs annually, set aside to pay off certain bonds, and which becomes free this year by the final payment of these bonds. The expense of the increase of the fleet will be met by utilizing 55,000,000 francs out of the 105,000,000 francs annually devoted to the construction of new vessels. At the end of two years the whole 105,000,000 francs can be devoted to the new naval programme.

THE FAMINE IN INDIA.

THREE MILLION PEOPLE RECEIVING GOVERNMENT RELIEF.

Calcutta, Dec. 29.—Almost three million persons are receiving famine relief. The Government is spending nearly two lakhs of rupees daily. It is estimated that the cost of the relief to the end of March will be three crores of rupees. Owing to the rapid increase in the numbers of people seeking relief the Viceroy, Lord Curzon of Kedleston, invites a closer scrutiny of the claims of the applicants.

INDIAN CONGRESS DISSATISFIED.

Bombay, Dec. 29.—The Indian Congress has declared its dissatisfaction with the currency measures of the Government, alleging that these have the effect of depreciating the value of the savings of the masses, virtually enhancing rents and indebtedness and injuriously affecting manufactures.

AQUEDUCT ENGINEER'S SALARY CUT.

The salary of William R. Hill, the new chief engineer of the Aqueduct Commission, has been fixed at $8,000 a year. His predecessor got $10,000. The salary of Hermann Blumenthal, clerk to the Aqueduct Commission, has been increased from $1,500 to $1,620.

USE OF THE FORD BEQUEST.

The Rev. William C. Bitting said last night with reference to the legacy given to the American Baptist Home Mission Society by Daniel Sharpe Ford, of Boston, publisher of "The Youth's Companion," that the money would probably be used for general purposes, as no specific purpose was mentioned in the will.

OBITUARY.

THOMAS MACKELLAR.

Philadelphia, Dec. 29.—Thomas MacKellar, senior member of the firm of MacKellar, Smith & Jordan, typefounders, died to-day from pneumonia at his home, in Germantown.

Mr. MacKellar, who was a printer, poet and author, was born in New-York, August 12, 1812. At the age of fourteen years he evinced an adaptability for the printer's craft, and received employment in the office of "The New-York Spy," and later in the publishing house of J. & J. Harper. In 1833 he came to this city, and secured employment as proofreader in the type and stereotype foundry of Johnson & Smith. In 1845 he was taken into the business as a partner. On the death of Mr. Johnson a new firm was formed, under the title of MacKellar, Smith & Jordan. Mr. MacKellar received the degree of doctor of philosophy from the University of Wooster, Ohio. He was the author of numerous books, poems and hymns, his most successful venture in the literary line being "The American Printer," a treatise on practical printing. He was president of the Typefounders' Association of the United States, and was a member of many other organizations.

SMITH W. WHITEHEAD.

Elizabeth, Dec. 29 (Special).—Smith Winans Whitehead, seventy-five years old, died to-day at his home, No. 98 Broad-st. He was the oldest druggist in this city, having been in the business about forty-seven years. Many years ago Mr. Whitehead was associated with his father in the chemical business, having a large factory in the outskirts of Elizabeth. Afterward Mr. Whitehead entered the drug trade in partnership with Robert B. Hooker, of Elizabeth. For more than half a century Mr. Whitehead was a member of Washington Lodge of Freemasons, in this city, and was one of its past masters. He was a widower, and leaves one daughter. Mr. Whitehead was one of the founders of Westminister Presbyterian Church, Elizabeth, and a subscriber to The Tribune for forty years.

GEORGE A. POWERS.

George A. Powers, at one time a large real estate owner and a well known horseman of Brooklyn, died at his home, No. 385 Washington-ave., on Thursday last after an illness of eleven years. The funeral will be at the home of the family to-morrow morning. The body will be buried in Greenwood.

Mr. Powers was eighty-one years old. At one time he owned nearly all the property bounded by De Kalb-ave., Fulton-st. and Hudson-ave. He also owned other large tracts of land in Brooklyn. In his younger years he took a keen interest in the turf and kept a fine stable of his own. He leaves three sons and two daughters.

J. W. M'ANDREWS.

Elgin, Ill., Dec. 29.—J. W. McAndrews, the old time "watermelon man" of the Haverly Minstrel Company, died at the Elgin Asylum to-day, aged sixty-four.

DR. GUSTAVUS S. WINSTON.

Dr. Gustavus S. Winston, son of the late Frederick S. Winston, who was for many years president of the Mutual Life Insurance Company, died last evening at his home, No. 42 West Thirty-ninth-st., from apoplexy, superinduced by gout. Dr. Winston was born in New-York in 1833, and was a graduate of Columbia and the College of Physicians and Surgeons. In the Civil War he was surgeon of the 8th Regiment, and was captured and confined in Libby Prison. He escaped from the prison through a friend of the Winston family, who, although Southerners, sympathized with the North.

Dr. Winston was medical director of the Mutual Life Insurance Company for about twenty-five years, and a great part of the time was the chief director. In 1886 he married Miss Jeannie Lewis, of this city, who survives him, with two young sons, Owen and Eric. Dr. Winston was a member of the Union, Union League, University and New-York Yacht clubs and the Players', and was fleet surgeon of the New-York Yacht Club about twenty years ago. He was a charter member of several medical societies, and was a member of the Academy of Medicine and visiting physician to St. Francis's Hospital. Dr. Winston was a man of exceptionally fine social qualities and had hosts of friends in many circles.

MRS. FLORENCE M. WORTH.

Mrs. Florence Mansfield Worth, the wife of Brigadier General William S. Worth, U. S. A., died on Thursday at the quarters of her brother-in-law, Captain William H. Coffin, at Fort Hamilton, from nervous prostration. The funeral will be held at Fort Hamilton to-day, and the body will be buried at Nyack.

Mrs. Worth was born in 1863. Her father was the Rev. Dr. Delos Mansfield, of Nyack. In her early childhood the family moved to San Francisco. Having been married to an Army officer who was for many years engaged in service against the Indians, she accompanied him on nearly all his expeditions. At different times she was at Omaha and Fort Robinson, Nebraska, and at Fort McDermott, Wyoming. From 1894 to 1898 her husband was stationed at Governor's Island. Her husband was conspicuous at the battles of San Juan and Santiago, and, having been wounded three times in one engagement, he was retired. Since that time he has made his home in Washington. It was while on a visit to the home of her sister that Mrs. Worth was stricken with her last illness. She wrote an article published at the time of the war with Spain which attracted considerable attention. She took the position that the volunteers had received undue praise, which caused the services of the Regulars to be underestimated.

LOUIS F. PAYN SEES MR. PLATT.

Louis F. Payn, the State Superintendent of Insurance, paid another visit to Senator Platt yesterday. The two men had a long talk together, and Senator Platt said later that he and Mr. Payn were on friendly terms. It has come to be well understood by the politicians that the Republican organization, of which Senator Platt is the leader, will not aid Governor Roosevelt in attempts to put some other man in Mr. Payn's office. Mr. Payn's friends say that he has so many friends in the State Senate pledged to stand by him that no other man can be confirmed for his office, and he will hold over unless he is reappointed.

IN FAVOR OF F. A. HEINZE.

According to a dispatch from Butte, Mont., the first of the suits of F. Augustus Heinze and the Montana Ore Purchasing Company against the Amalgamated Copper Company, the Boston and Montana and others has been decided in favor of the former. It is known as the Pennsylvania case, as it involves questions affecting the "Pennsylvania claim" owned by the Boston and Montana Company. Several other suits are pending. The litigation between the Montana Ore Purchasing Company and the Boston and Montana has been in progress since March, 1897, and involves the ownership of ore of the total value of fully $5,000,000.

THE WEATHER REPORT.

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

Washington, Dec. 29.—Low temperatures continue from the Rocky Mountain region eastward, ranging from 5 degrees to 20 degrees below the seasonal average, being relatively lowest in the Ohio Valley, Tennessee, Virginia and North Carolina. From the Mississippi Valley eastward clear weather is general, except near portions of the great lakes, where there have been light snows. In the extreme West and Southwest cloudy weather prevails, due to a well defined area of low pressure on the Pacific Coast. As a result of this depression rains have been general in the Pacific Coast States, extending into Arizona. In the northern portion of the plateau and Pacific Coast regions temperatures as a rule have risen 4 to 10 degrees, while in the southern portion they have fallen 4 to 16 degrees. Fair and continued cold weather is indicated from the Mississippi Valley eastward Saturday and Sunday. As the prevailing high pressure will continue to dominate conditions over this district for at least two days longer, west of the Mississippi Valley, it is likely that the conditions will be influenced by the eastward movement of the low area now on the Pacific Coast, and increased cloudiness will result, with moderating temperatures. Snow will probably follow Saturday night or Sunday in the central Rocky Mountain region and Lower Missouri Valley, and rain in the Southwest. Snow is also indicated Saturday in Western Montana. For the Atlantic Coast winds will continue fresh west to north.

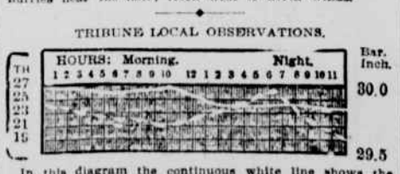
FORECAST FOR TO-DAY AND SUNDAY.

For the District of Columbia, New-Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Eastern New-York, Eastern Pennsylvania, New-Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, West Virginia and Ohio, fair; continued cold to-day and Sunday; fresh west to north winds.

For Maine, colder to-day; fair Sunday; fresh northerly winds.

For Western Pennsylvania and Western New-York, fair; continued cold to-day and Sunday, except probably snow flurries near the lake; fresh west to north winds.

TRIBUNE LOCAL OBSERVATIONS.



In this diagram the continuous white line shows the changes in pressure as indicated by The Tribune self-recording barometer. The dotted line shows the temperature as recorded at Perry's Pharmacy.

Tribune Office, Dec. 30, 1 a. m.—The weather yesterday was fair and cold. The temperature ranged between 19 and 27 degrees, the average (22¼ degrees) being 4¼ degrees lower than that of Thursday and 14¼ degrees lower than that of the corresponding day of last year.

The weather to-day will be fair and colder.

GENERAL DAVIS SUMMONED HOME.

San Juan de Puerto Rico, Dec. 29.—Governor General Davis and Lieutenant Battle, his aide-de-camp, will sail for the United States Saturday on the steamer Ponce, bound for Washington. Orders arrived here on Thursday for the General to report at Washington for consultation with the Secretary of War.

Catarrh is disagreeable and dangerous, but it can almost always be cured with Jayne's Expectorant.

Remember to-morrow