Amusements.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC—8:10—'Way Down East.
AMERICAN THEATRE—8:15—Die Fledermaus.
BIJOU—8:15—Sister Mary.
BROADWAY THEATRE—8—Ben-Hur.
CASINO—8:15—The Singing Girl.
CRITERION THEATRE—8:30—Barbara Frietchie.
DALY'S THEATRE—8—The Manœuvres of Jane.
EDEN MUSEE—9 a. m. to 11 p. m.—Waxworks, Grand Concert and Cinematograph.
EMPIRE THEATRE—8:15—My Lady's Lord.
FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE—8:15—Three Little Lambs.
FOURTEENTH STREET THEATRE—8—The Village Postmaster.
GARDEN THEATRE—8:30—The First Violin.
GARRICK THEATRE—8—Sherlock Holmes.
GRAND OPERA HOUSE—8—Because She Loved Him So.
HAMMERSTEIN'S VICTORIA—8:30—Chris and the Wonderful Lamp.
HARLEM OPERA HOUSE—8—The Christian.
HER[illegible] SQUARE THEATRE—8:15—Primrose & Dockstader's Minstrels.
[illegible]CE THEATRE—8—Die Gypsfigur.
[illegible] Continuous Performance.
[illegible]RBOCKER THEATRE—8:15—The Cowboy and the Lady.
KOSTER & BIAL'S—8:15—Vaudeville.
LYCEUM THEATRE—8:30—Miss Hobbs.
METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE—7:45—Die Walkure.
MADISON SQUARE THEATRE—8:30—Wheels Within Wheels.
MURRAY HILL THEATRE—8—All the Comforts of Home.
NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DESIGN—Exhibition of Oil Paintings.
NEW-YORK THEATRE—8:15—Man in the Moon, Jr.
PASTOR'S—Continuous Performance.
WALLACK'S—8:15—The Ameer.

Index to Advertisements.

	Part.	Page.	Col.
Amusements	1	10	5-6
Bankers and Brokers	2	3	2-3
Board and Rooms	1	10	4
Business Chances	1	10	4
Business Notices	1	6	1
City Property for Sale	1	10	3
Copartnership Notices	2	3	3
Dividend Notices	2	3	4
Domestic Situations Wanted	1	10	5-7
Dressmaking	1	10	4
Financial	2	3	1
Financial Elections	2	3	3
Financial Meetings	2	3	4
Foreclosure Sales	2	3	6
Furnished Rooms	1	10	4
Help Wanted	1	10	4
Instruction	2	3	5
Lost	1	10	4
Marriages and Deaths	1	7	5-6
Miscellaneous	1	10	3-6
Notice to Creditors	2	3	1
Ocean Steamers	2	4	4-5
Pianos and Organs	1	10	4
Railroads	2	4	5-6
Real Estate	1	10	3
Savings Banks	2	3	4
School Agencies	2	3	5
Special Notices	1	7	6
Steamboats	2	3	5
Surrogate's Notices	2	3	4
Teachers	2	3	5
Tribune Subscription Rates	1	7	6
Trust Companies	2	3	2-6
Winter Resorts	2	3	5
Work Wanted	1	10	4-5

New-York Daily Tribune.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 1900.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

CONGRESS.—Senate: Consideration of the currency question was begun, Senator Aldrich making an elaborate explanation of the Finance Committee's bill; Mr. Beveridge gave notice of a speech on the Philippine question next Tuesday. ═══ House: A resolution calling on Secretary Gage for information as to deposits of public funds in National banks and the sale of the New-York Custom House was unanimously adopted. ═══ Both houses adjourned until Monday.

FOREIGN.—The British seized the German steamer General at Aden, and compelled the ship to discharge her cargo; the seizure has intensified the anti-British feeling in Germany; fighting in the hills of Northern Cape Colony continued between the Boers and the forces of Generals Gatacre and French; there is intense anxiety in London as to the issue of the expected great battle in Natal. ═══ The French High Court (Senate) sentenced MM. Déroulède and Buffet and the Marquis de Lur Saluces to ten years' banishment; M. Guérin to ten years' confinement in a fortified place; the prisoners made theatrical displays before the High Court. ═══ A final effort to float the Hamburg-American liner Patria, ashore on the Kent coast, proved disastrous, five persons being drowned. ═══ On floating the steamer Paris, it was found that she was filling from an undiscovered leak. ═══ The Rev. Mr. Brooks, of the Church Missionary Society, has been murdered at Ping-Yin, in the Province of Shan-Tung, China. ═══ Prizes at the Vienna chess tournament were awarded to the successful players.

DOMESTIC.—The State Department received a favorable response from Italy to Secretary Hay's note regarding the open door in China, completing the list of great Powers to which representations were made by this Government. ═══ It is said that while no negotiations for the purchase of the Danish West Indies are now in progress, a joint resolution authorizing the President to acquire them may soon be introduced in Congress. ═══ Investigation of the Roberts case was resumed by the special committee of the House of Representatives. ═══ Elaborate preparations have been made for the funeral of General Lawton at Arlington National Cemetery. ═══ The report of the Commission on the unification of educational systems of the State was made public; the members favored the general plan of the proposition, but were not unanimous on the plan to place the administration of offices under partisan control. ═══ Governor Crane of Massachusetts was inaugurated.

CITY.—Stocks were irregular, but generally higher. ═══ In the Molineux trial, Dr. Henry Beaman Douglass testified that he did not believe that Henry C. Barnet died from mercurial poisoning. ═══ The Chamber of Commerce decided to ask Congress for an increase in the force of artillerymen at the coast defence forts. ═══ Controller Coler wrote the Mayor asking that the Commissioners of Accounts be employed to prepare the payrolls of the teachers, and the request was granted. ═══ There was still some uncertainty as to the effect on the gas war of the big light and power deal. ═══ Colonel John F. Gaynor and the other contractors indicted for frauds in the improvement of Savannah Harbor obtained an adjournment in the hearing of the case for their removal to Savannah.

THE WEATHER.—Forecast for to-day: Increasing cloudiness. The temperature yesterday: Highest, 33 degrees; lowest, 20; average, 27.

RAPID TRANSIT TO BROOKLYN.

For a year or two prior to consolidation the people of Brooklyn were represented as being almost unanimously opposed to the project. There was probably some exaggeration in the estimate of their hostility which was adopted and proclaimed by those who assumed charge of their interests, but we have never doubted that during the period referred to a large majority of them would have voted against a surrender of municipal identity if they had had the chance. After the passage of the charter that part of the opposition which had been vociferous suddenly, though not mysteriously, became silent. Latterly, however, it has found its voice again, and is now urging that the statutory union ought to be made organic by the multiplication of transit facilities over or under the East River. In its latest manifestations this desire has taken form in support of the Controller's interesting proposition that the Rapid Transit Commission should extend its plans to include a tunnel railroad from the Battery to South Brooklyn.

Mr. Coler is evidently in earnest. Though the idea seems to have been suggested to his mind by the failure of his efforts to convert his colleagues in the city government to his faith in the general superiority of tunnels to bridges, his proposal ought not to be disparaged on that account. On first consideration it appears to possess intrinsic merit, and we are glad to learn that the Commission is prepared to listen in a hospitable spirit to the arguments which he will present at the special meeting next Monday afternoon. It is said, indeed, that Mr. Orr and Mr. Rives are already favorably inclined toward the plan of a Brooklyn extension, and do not doubt the legal power of the Commission to enlarge its operations in that manner. Of course, this is a question which cannot be decided offhand, and which is not unlikely to be taken into court for final determination; but we are glad to observe that the Controller's project has not thus far aroused the opposition which it was expected to encounter. If this is due to the discretion of his advocacy, it is by no means the only proof of Mr. Coler's growing usefulness as a public servant.

He certainly talks on the subject with excellent sense and understanding, and if there is a disposition on the part of some of his Brooklyn neighbors to make the suggestion of an East River tunnel road an embarrassment rather than a help to the main scheme of underground roads in Manhattan and The Bronx, he evidently does not share it. He said yesterday:

The contract for the section of the underground from the City Hall to Forty-second-st. is to be let on January 15. I am in favor of starting this as soon as possible. Then I am in favor of letting two additional contracts as soon thereafter as possible, one for an extension from the City Hall south to the Battery and under the East River to South Brooklyn, the second north from Forty-second-st. toward The Bronx. The South Brooklyn tunnel extension will increase the money making capacity of the Manhattan and Bronx underground enormously, and will practically double travel on the road. It will have the effect of lessening the cost of operation of trains to an equal extent, since the trains will secure travel at all hours both ways. The proposition is simply to build the rapid transit road in both directions from the natural centre of the city's business life. With a connection to South Brooklyn access is had to a district comprising more than half of the territory of that borough and a population of 500,000. The trains that will bring these crowds from The Bronx and northern Manhattan downtown will run right to South Brooklyn, but on their return will convey the thousands from that section across the river and drop them in the Wall Street and City Hall districts of Manhattan. The conditions will be exactly reversed in the afternoon and early evening. Southbound trains will carry Brooklyn passengers, northbound those who live in the city's northern districts.

These are substantial arguments, tending to make the franchise for which bids are shortly to be opened more attractive to capitalists by bringing to their consideration the facility with with a Brooklyn extension could be operated and the important contribution which it would presumably make, under specially convenient and economical conditions, to the earnings of the system.

GOVERNMENT BY COMMISSION.

When the executive or legislative officers of this State do not know what to do on any subject, or do not have the courage to do it, they hand it over to a commission. That means delay, avoidance of responsibility and a saving for politics or other congenial occupation of the time required to achieve real statesmanship and a mastery of the details of State government. It also means taxes, large and ever increasing taxes. For some twenty years now this system of government by commission has been endured, and it is time to take account of stock. The taxable wealth of the State has not quite doubled since 1880, but the burden of State taxation has more than trebled. And there is no end in sight. Still the call is for commissions. No new question comes up but it must be examined by a commission. No new work is to be done but it must be intrusted to a commission with a large and highly paid staff, instead of being devolved upon some existing department to be performed by a few additional low priced clerks. It was once the theory that the agencies of government could not delegate their functions, but by fictions we are long past that. Now the constitutional officers vote and sign, but the real wrestling with public questions is done vicariously. It is as if the men chosen by the people to rule them found the task of government too great and, like indolent Merovingians, must have appointive functionaries for every task. The old recognized officers of the State once actually carried on almost the entire government, while to-day a mere fraction of the State's activities is performed in their departments.

In 1880 there were two State commissions created—the State Board of Health and the Game and Fish Protectors—and they drew $3,577 27 from the State treasury. In 1899 there were thirty-one commissions and offices in existence which were unknown before 1880, and they drew $6,562,976 20 from the State treasury. In those twenty years these new instrumentalities of administration have cost the people of New-York $38,423,109 98. It is to be conceded that some of these additions to the machinery of government are useful and even necessary. Thus nearly $4,500,000 was spent last year through the Commission in Lunacy for the State care of the insane, a burden formerly borne by the counties. So a large part of that sum is levied on the taxpayers merely in another form, and the rest of it is perhaps fairly compensated for by the better results achieved. Nevertheless, the habit of creating new boards and bureaus has resulted in enormous expenditures by the State quite out of proportion to the increase of wealth and population. Moreover, when the State assumes a new duty it almost always performs it at greater cost than the cities or counties.

Of course, there were a number of boards in existence before 1880, but the era of extravagance appears to have dated from that time, coincident with the introduction of the indirect tax system. This was intended to relieve the people of direct taxes for State purposes, and would have done so before this had strict economy been practised. In 1880 the State tax amounted to $9,232,542 33. Then the first important indirect tax was levied, amounting in 1881 to $992,725 16, and the direct tax was reduced to $6,032,829 61. The total State tax was thus $7,025,544 77. The next year indirect taxes brought in $1,583,445 86, and the direct levy amounted to $6,820,022 29. From that time on, though new indirect taxes have been levied on corporations, on inheritances, on liquor sales, and the income from such sources has steadily increased, yet the direct tax burden has gone on growing. Only once, in 1891, has the direct levy been less than in 1882, and in 1899 it reached the enormous sum of $12,640,228 09, while the indirect tax yielded $9,673,100, making the total tax levy for 1899 $22,313,328 09. Thus the indirect tax alone of last year was somewhat larger than the total tax of 1880, more than $2,000,000 larger than the total of 1881, and more than $1,000,000 larger than that in 1882. Yet the direct tax receipts of 1899 were almost double those of 1882, and the rate itself was higher. It is to be expected that with the growth of the State the expenses of government should increase, but when in addition to these millions from indirect taxes the State goes on levying direct taxes at a rate higher than in 1882 it is evident that the expenditures have vastly outrun their natural rate of increase. The additional millions spent are largely the price of undertakings not properly belonging to the State, or, if belonging to it, then wastefully administered.

It is easy to see why money is spent thus lavishly when the readiness with which new enterprises have been undertaken since 1882 is considered. In 1883 six new bureaus or departments were established. By 1894 ten more new ones were to be found in the list, while one had been abolished. Then they began to spring up like mushrooms. In 1895 five more were created and two consolidated, and since then eight more have been established, while four others have been consolidated. Naturally this generous habit of doing anything that any theorist called for, from taking an expensive hand in labor disputes to assuming supervision of New-York City elections, could not be indulged without lavish expenditure in other ways. The departments existing prior to 1880 have had to receive their share, and last year cost the State $8,724,797 12 more than they did twenty years ago, while the new enterprises since undertaken cost $6,562,976 20. Yet will anybody say that, excepting for a few works such as the care of the insane, the people of this Commonwealth are any better off for this trebling of their taxes?

Where is it to end? Instead of reduction and consolidation new bureaus are proposed, and, for instance, it is urged that the corporation tax work now done by the Controller be given to a new Tax Department. Nor is it merely the permanent commissions that are demoralizing. The continuous succession of temporary committees to revise this law, draft that measure and examine into this other proposed reform, all tend to make the government loose and careless in its operations. Even when these anomalous bodies—on some of which the Governor has lately been lavishing profuse eulogies—do not involve great expense, they diffuse responsibility, encourage the constituted authorities to shove off all extra or troublesome matters on somebody else, and create the habit of looking to new officers with new salaries as the only agencies for doing a new piece of work. The inevitable consequence is extravagance, and unless this State is to go on for another twenty years piling up taxes in carrying out unnecessary schemes of faddists it is time to call a halt.

PASSAIC SEWERAGE AGAIN.

We regret to observe that our usually well informed and sweetly reasonable contemporary, "The Sunday Call," of Newark, N. J., was displeased in advance with the report of the New-Jersey State Sewerage Commission concerning the Passaic River problem, and incidentally was also displeased with The Tribune's attitude toward it, going indeed so far as to reckon our comments "an example of decay." The "decay" consisted, we are told, in "starting with a false statement as to the situation" and proceeding "through half a column of misrepresentation to "the conclusion that they do these things better "abroad." As a sort of postscript we are informed that The Tribune a couple of years ago took the other side of the question. All of which would be interesting if it were true.

The "false statement as to the situation" with which we started was that the condition of the Passaic had become intolerable, but that unhappily the Sewerage Commissioners were not agreed among themselves as to what should be done about it. Well, the report of the Commission declares in the directest manner that the pollution of that river should be stopped, and urges prompt legislative action to that end; which seems to confirm what we said about the magnitude of the evil and the urgency of the demand for its abatement. And then, instead of recommending some one plan for doing the work, the Commission reports various alternative plans, and suggests further investigation and consideration to determine which of them should be adopted. We really think that gives at least a slight tinge of color to the assumption that the members of the Commission were not fully agreed among themselves as to the best plan of abating the evil.

Our "half column of misrepresentation" consisted in an argument in favor of so treating the sewage of the cities along the Passaic that it should be freed from its most objectionable elements before being poured into that river. We observe that the plan of action to which most attention is given in the Commission's report provides for precisely such disposal of the sewage. If our Newark contemporary does not approve that plan, it has the right to dissent from it. But certainly its quarrel is with the Commission and its report fully as much as with The Tribune's article based thereon. The members of the Commission are men of ability and experience, and they have given much time and labor to the work, and it really seems to us they are entitled to a little more grateful treatment than to be summarily dismissed as guilty of wholesale misrepresentation.

As to The Tribune's conclusion, however, our contemporary suffers from a misapprehension. It was not so much that they do these things better abroad as that what some men can do other men ought to be able to do. We do believe that the sewerage systems of some European cities are better than those of some American cities. But over and above that we believe American cities are capable of providing themselves with the best systems in the world. We do not believe in sitting down in the mud and saying a thing is impracticable or "can't be done," when, as a matter of fact, it has been done and is being done successfully by other cities. We believe that what Berlin can do, New-York can do; what Breslau can do, Newark can do; what Frankfort-on-the-Main can do, Paterson on the Passaic can do. It is not a question of ability, but of willingness, of enterprise, of "gumption." That was the conclusion of our argument.

Finally, as to the postscript, we are afraid our contemporary has not read The Tribune in late years with informing care. Otherwise, it would have been impossible to make such a blunder as to say that a couple of years ago we took the other side—meaning, if anything, that The Tribune then opposed a system of sewage rendering and purification. The fact of record, as our files attest, is that The Tribune's attitude to-day is exactly what it was two years ago, and several times two years ago, and, in fact, ever since this question arose, namely, that rivers—whether the Passaic, or the Illinois, or Piper's Brook—should not be polluted by pouring crude, undiluted sewage into them, but that the sewage should first be purified by chemical or mechanical treatment, and nothing but the innocuous watery part discharged into the streams. That was our contention two years ago, based upon the information which our critic credits us with then possessing. That is our contention now, based upon the same satisfactory information.

A RARE BOOK OF REFERENCE.

It has long been conceded that the next best thing to the actual possession of knowledge is knowing where to procure it on a moment's notice. Indeed, many people are so constituted that they would much prefer the latter method of getting hold of a large share of the information for which they have any use. So inaccurate is the human memory at times that it is often better to consult a record than to attempt to carry a fact in one's mind. Besides, there is a vast array of facts relating to politics, commerce, education, religious organizations, foreign affairs, sports and benevolent and patriotic societies which one can only obtain in this way, because they are either not published in the daily papers at all, or are not saved by the reader at the time of publication. Hence the need of a volume like The Tribune Almanac and Political Register, with its infinitely varied contents, all reduced to the least possible compass and put in the simplest and most intelligible form.

But the world moves. History is made afresh every day. Parties make new expressions of purpose. New officers are chosen or appointed in governments and societies. New records are made in sports. The volume of trade grows or diminishes. And in countless other directions change is constantly occurring. It thus becomes necessary that such a book of reference shall be brought up to date, by the modification of statements that require revision, the elimination of matter that has ceased to possess a live interest, and the addition of facts that have only recently become known. Properly to exhibit the progress of the times an annual overhauling of the most thorough character is needed.

All these requirements are met in an excellent manner by that standard work which, first under the name of the Whig Almanac, and then as The Tribune Almanac, has appeared annually for more than sixty years. Of course, in this time it has developed greatly in size and quality, keeping pace with the advance of civilization during the same period. A critical inspection of the Almanac for 1900, now just issued from the press, will fully justify this boast and reveal the alertness, thoroughness and care of its editor, Henry Eckford Rhoades.

Those who are familiar with The Tribune Almanac will quickly perceive that all of its strongest features have been preserved in this latest number. The same abundant summaries of legislation by Congress and the New-York Legislature, the platforms of State and National conventions, the lists of colleges and numerous social organizations, statistics concerning popular sports, the record of events in foreign lands, election returns, and a host of other useful and interesting facts will be found in their old places.

But a great deal of new matter is also afforded between the 388 pages of the Almanac for 1900. Much of it is directly or indirectly connected with the war with Spain, and the consequent entrance of the American Nation into the field of imperial activity. The peace treaty, the progress of military and diplomatic operations in the Philippines, the restoration of order and health in Cuba and Puerto Rico, the report of the Army Beef Scandal Commission and the adjustment of the Samoan troubles are contributions to this important chapter of history. The status of the Alaskan boundary question, the outcome of the Venezuelan and San Domingan revolutions, the causes that led up to the war in the Transvaal, the report of the Mazet Committee and a summary of the mineral products of this country are among the other novelties of this year's issue. Not the least of the Almanac's attractions, by the way, is the picture, on the front cover, of the beautiful Dewey Arch.

Perhaps the real excellence of The Tribune Almanac is best revealed, however, when it is compared with other publications which aim to meet the same popular demand, but in which—owing to haste in seeking a market and to other causes—completeness has been rather recklessly sacrificed. It is possible to find, for instance, in some of these premature publications ridiculously inadequate accounts of the Alaskan boundary matter, the Filipino outbreak and the trouble between Great Britain and the Boers. And one may hunt in vain in certain annuals for any statement whatever of the work of the Mazet Committee, the Dreyfus trial, the official surrender of Cuba to the United States authorities, the principal officers of the various State administrations, the vote for Assemblymen in this State, and other almost equally important information. The superiority of The Tribune Almanac in this and other respects that might easily be specified will richly reward the many readers who have waited with impatience for its issue.

Governor Roosevelt thinks a very gratifying feature of the present prison laws is the rapid diminution in the population of the prisons. Yes! If he is sure that there is not a corresponding increase in the number of persons at large who ought to be locked up.

Hawaii's ambition for representation in National conventions raises the pertinent inquiry why men should have a voice in choosing a candidate when they can never hope to vote for him. It might also be asked why the polyglot islanders of the sea should have anything to say about the choice of a President of the United States of America.

The Government recognizes the importance of affording agricultural instruction to the inhabitants of our new island territories, and will at once proceed to establish stations in Puerto Rico, Cuba and the Philippines, where the natives can receive education in farm work and obtain all the industrial information they are found capable of assimilating. Whether the plan succeeds or not, it demonstrates the helpful disposition of the Government, willing to take up the white man's burden to the fullest extent wherever its authority reaches.

PERSONAL.

The Carew lecturer at Hartford Theological Seminary for 1899-'00 will be the Rev. Dr. Albert J. Lyman, of Brooklyn. His subject will be "Preaching in the New Age; Its Office and Art." The Carew lecturer for 1900-'01 will be the Rev. Dr. Alexander Mackennal, of Bowden, England. His subject will be "Sources of English Congregationalism." Dr. Mackennal was one of the delegates to the International Congregational Council in Boston last September, and read an essay against war.

Mr. Moody was strongly opposed to faith healers. Not long ago, in Chicago, he said: "God heals through doctors and through medicines. Do not be carried away through ravings of fanaticism. We have a new 'ism' in America about every year—beware of the 'isms'! What would I do if I fell sick? Get the best doctor in Chicago, trust to him and trust to the Lord to work through him. The doctors have done wonders as their knowledge has grown; they have reduced the dangers of death from diseases that once slew all they touched; and the doctors, if God helps them, will yet find a way to stop the ravages of other terrors."

The new Boden professor of Sanscrit in the University of Oxford, in succession to the late Sir M. Monier Williams, is A. A. Macdonell, of Scotland. He is a graduate of Leipsic, and is ranked as one of the greatest Sanscrit scholars in Great Britain. Through his mother he is descended from the Macleans of Coll, the Mackenzies of Apple Cross and the Macleods of Raasay, and his grandfather, Colonel Donald Macdonell, of Lochgarry, was one of the most uncompromising supporters of Prince Charlie in 1745.

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

Sidney O'Brien, an Irishman, of Washington, in a letter to "The Detroit Free Press," makes some statements concerning the Boers that will seem to most people incredible. "Any Roman Catholic," he says, "who may stray into the ranks of the Boer volunteers should leave all trace of his religion behind, wear no scapular or beads, and forget his religion, even at moments of peril or suffering—for should he unfortunately betray his religion, although fighting for the Boers, they will hang him to the nearest tree.

"It came to the writer's immediate knowledge that a poor, illiterate Irish teamster was badly (probably fatally) crushed by his wagon, and in moments of agony he beseeched those around him to 'bring a priest.' This was overheard by some Boers, and that night the suffering Irishman was dragged from his shelter and hanged on the gable of a cabin. For a Catholic to be allowed to die on his bed would be a crime in that land of heretics. God help the wounded British of the faith. The Boer stipulated at Modder River that only clergymen of the Reformed Church should officiate at the burial of the British dead.

"The feeling is abroad that the A. P. A.'s are willingly supporting the Boers, because of their intense hatred of Catholics, for they (the A. P. A.'s) think any country or constitution should be upheld that will try to crush Roman Catholicism. Is this right in a land of freedom?"

Fulfilled.—"You will have trouble, miss," said the fortune teller, "with a tall, dark man." And on her way home she was held up by a gigantic African and robbed of all the money she had failed to give the fortune teller, amounting to 30 cents. —(Chicago Tribune.

The "Internationales Criminal-Polizeiblatt," just started in Mayence, Germany, will furnish the police all over the world with the description of criminals who are "wanted" by the various governments. The paper is published in German, French and English, and is embellished with the photographs of villanous looking ruffians. The English section is a marvel of original composition. For instance, a fugitive errand boy is thus described: "Height, ca.1.65. m.; darkfair hair; a beardless beard, an ordinary nose and a round chin. The Royal State's Prosecutor wants us to deliver him to the nearest Court's prison by notice-giving hither." An insurance agent is described as being "of broad-shouldered stature, with a full-beard beard which grows only since a short time, a gray tippet for dressing, and as particular marks spectacles in a white frame."

"Everything has its use in this world," said the gentle philosopher with a smile.
"Humph!" replied the frowning friend, "I suppose you'd say that even this beginning of the century controversy has some use."
"Emphatically. I have no doubt that it has kept thousands of people from writing '1899' on their letters instead of '1900.' "—(Washington Star.

"The Memphis Commercial Appeal" says: "We expect to see it claimed in the not very distant future that Joubert was bred in Old Kentucky, that he was an Indiana Hoosier, that he was a Georgia cracker, that he served under Gomez, that he is the man who struck Billy Patterson and all the rest of it; but as a matter of fact all these claims are wrong. We are reliably informed that General Joubert is an Irish-American, and that he was born in Pinch. He was one of the founders of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, it is said, and his name originally was Mulcahy, but by a process of elision, ellipsis, erosion and catalepsis well known to the philologists, his name of Mulcahy drifted by easy stages into Joubert. The house in which he was born in Pinch can still be seen, and all those who are sceptical can visit this place and set their doubts at rest. We trust now that General Joubert's nationality will remain located, and that his birthplace will cease to wander."

"I just heard of a good property for Senator 'Billy' Mason to buy."
"What is it?"
"It's a country newspaper office where they recently ran out of the capital U, and have to print United States like this—'united States.' "—(Cleveland Plain Dealer.

FOR A TRANSFER STATION.

MUNICIPAL ART SOCIETY INVITES COMPETITION FOR A DESIGN.

PRIZES TO BE OFFERED, AND IF A WORTHY PLAN IS OBTAINED THE METROPOLITAN TRACTION COMPANY WILL BE URGED TO USE IT.

The Municipal Art Society of New-York invites a competition for a design for a public street refuge or transfer station, to be placed at the Central Park terminus of the Broadway line of the Metropolitan Traction Company, Seventh-ave. and Fifty-ninth-st. The society has in mind a stone platform wholly or in part covered with a roof. The material to be used must be fireproof, and the openings large and so arranged as to allow an unobstructed view from all sides.

The cost should not exceed $5,000, but it is not expected that this sum will cover the cost of the architect's commission. In instituting this competition the society does not undertake to erect the shelter, nor pledge itself in any way otherwise to recompense the successful competitors than by the payment of cash prizes. It is not considered impossible, however, that should a worthy design be obtained it might be adopted by the city government or the traction company, to which it will be warmly recommended by the society. The competition will be judged by a jury of fifteen members, consisting of three architects, seven painters or sculptors and five laymen.

Each competitor must submit a typewritten specification with his design, describing such portions thereof as are not fully shown by it. The design must bear no marks whatever to reveal the identity of the designer, but must be accompanied by a plain white envelope containing his name. The designs and envelopes accompanying them will be marked numerically in the order in which they are received, and must be sent to the National Arts Club, No. 37 West Thirty-fourth-st., on February 15.

The following prizes will be awarded: First prize, $300; second prize, $200, and third prize, $100. After the prizes have been awarded a public exhibition may be held of all the designs submitted. A plan of the proposed location of the public street refuge or transfer station may be obtained on application from E. Hamilton, secretary of the Municipal Art Society, No. 424 Fifth-ave.

In October, 1898, a competition was invited by the society for a bronze base for a standard similar to those in the piazza of St. Mark's, at Venice. The society proposed that the completed pedestal should be erected in the plaza before or on the steps of the City Hall in New-York. The successful competitor was Charles A. Lopez. The society intends to set up in the City Hall Park a model of the design in the hope that some public spirited citizen will contribute the necessary funds, about $3,000, for casting the standard in bronze.

THE PRESIDENT DECLINES INVITATIONS.

CANNOT ATTEND NEW-YORK BAR ASSOCIATION DINNER OR YORK COMMANDERY RECEPTION.

Washington, Jan. 4.—Senator Platt, of New-York, called at the White House to-day and invited the President to attend the annual banquet of the New-York State Bar Association, to be given at Albany on the evening of January 17. The President expressed his regret that the pressure of public business would prevent his acceptance of the invitation. Later in the day the President received an invitation to attend the twenty-seventh annual review and reception to be given by York Commandery, Knights Templar, in Madison Square Garden, New-York, on January 16, which he was also compelled to decline.

CINCINNATI SEEKING CONVENTION.

TO OFFER INDUCEMENTS TO THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE.

Cincinnati, Jan. 4.—Cincinnati to-day took positive action toward extending an invitation to the National Democratic Committee at its meeting on February 22, to give the next National Democratic Convention to this city. At the invitation of the Cincinnati League, an organization whose special object is to induce conventions to come to Cincinnati, a conference was held of representatives of the Chamber of Commerce, the Manufacturers' Association and other like organizations. There was a unanimous agreement that an invitation should be sent to the National Committee, and that assurance could be given that in Cincinnati perfect fairness would be given to all aspirants for honors before the convention. It was also agreed that it was well to claim the convention for Cincinnati, not alone because of her absolute impartiality toward candidates, but also on account of her central location and accessibility from all parts of the United States. It was the sense of the meeting that a good guarantee fund should be provided to meet the expenses of the convention, and arrangements were made for the appointment of committees to push the work of raising the fund.

MEETING OF STATE BAR ASSOCIATION.

Albany, Jan. 4.—The committee having in charge the arrangements for the annual meeting of the New-York State Bar Association has announced that the meeting will be held in the Common Council Chamber, in the City Hall, on Tuesday and Wednesday, January 16 and 17, at 2 p. m. At 8 o'clock in the Assembly Chamber the annual address before the association will be delivered by Justice Brown, of the Supreme Court of the United States, on "The Liberty of the Press."

HARVARD TRUSTEES WIN A SUIT.

Boston, Jan. 4.—The full bench of the Supreme Court has handed down opinions in two cases where college trustees are seeking to recover back taxes assessed on houses occupied by officials and professors. In the case of Phillips Academy the matter is sent back to the Superior Court for retrial. In the case of Harvard the decision of the Superior Court for the plaintiffs is affirmed.

NEW SPELLING FOR CHICAGO UNIVERSITY.

Chicago, Jan. 4.—The University of Chicago will use and advocate the new spelling. By a vote of 20 to 16 the University Convocation placed itself on record to-day as favoring the use of the reformed spelling adopted by the National Educational Association. The vote implies the use of reformed spelling in a number of magazines and papers issued under the auspices of the university.

THE OPEN DOOR IN CHINA.

A FAIR FIELD AND NO FAVOR.

From The Brooklyn Eagle.

The inevitable has been gracefully accepted. Italy is still to be heard from, but Russia, Germany and France have sent open door assurances to Washington, the big northern bear displaying not quite so much alacrity as the other parties to the international contract. This was to be expected. The contract will be known as an understanding. It will be long before all that might be told about it will be disclosed. The proprieties of diplomatic life will keep part of the curtain down.

IMPORTANT IN HISTORY.

From The Philadelphia Press.

Secretary Hay has won a diplomatic triumph of the first magnitude. The Spanish-American War bulks large in the public imagination, but when the results of President McKinley's administration come to be valued in history, it may easily be that the agreement announced yesterday by Secretary Hay in regard to Chinese trade will seem the larger achievement and the more important triumph.

FROM A PRACTICAL SIDE.

From The New-York Herald.

Looking at the practical side of the matter it is an interesting fact that while the whole import trade of China in 1898 increased but 5 per cent there was an increase of 40 per cent in the share supplied from the United States. As our principal exports to the Flowery Kingdom are kerosene oil, flour, provisions and coarse cottons, which we can land there at such low cost as to defy competition, the prospects for the continued growth of this commerce are exceedingly gratifying.

A CONSEQUENCE OF EXPANSION.

From The Troy Times.

It is the direct consequence of the stride which the United States has taken as a world power. The "little American" will refuse to see it in that light, but this country could by no possibility have become such a factor in promoting the peace and civilization of the world had it not been for our success in the war with Spain and our acquisition of the Philippine Islands.

ITS SWEEPING CHARACTER.

From The Boston Journal.

Of course, other nations will enjoy the fruits of our victory, but the victory is all our own. How sweeping it is can be conjectured from the fact that besides equality in customs duties, Secretary Hay has succeeded in having it agreed that there shall be no discriminations against American goods or railways in China, built and financed under foreign authority; that there shall be no discriminating tonnage dues against American shipping; that American citizens shall have equal business opportunities of all kinds.

THE PASSING THRONG.

Elisha Dyer, Governor of Rhode Island, when seen at the Fifth Avenue Hotel yesterday said: "I do not think there is any particular news to tell you about Rhode Island. The State rests safely Republican, and we have just finished a year of great prosperity and are entering upon another that bids fair to prove the same; consequently we are all contented and happy.

RHODE ISLAND'S WATERWAYS.

"Our Legislature convenes on January 30, and at present I am very busy with my annual message. I shall devote a large part of it to the improvement of our waterways, which is a great hobby of mine. In proportion to our size we have a far greater area of waterways than any other State, and it is estimated that the water covered lands of Rhode Island yield a larger income than do the tilled ones. In Massachusetts there is a State Harbor Commission that under certain circumstances has the right to condemn certain tide flowed lands, which can then be filled in and made to yield a large revenue. We want the same sort of a Commission authorized in Rhode Island, where we have a tremendous area of tide flowed lands, which could be made to yield an immense income, both to the city of Providence and the State as well. The leasing of water flowed lands for oyster beds alone in Rhode Island yields $20,000 annually.

"Providence is the natural distributing centre for New-England, and should be actually so. By coming to Providence vessels from points south and west avoid the dangerous shoals, bad weather and fogs that abound around Cape Cod, and which render the trip to Boston a dangerous one. On this account the rates of marine insurance are less at Providence than they are at Boston. There are twenty-three feet of water all the way to the city, and twenty-five the most of it. Already the coal shipments there are simply enormous.

"But we look further afield, and cannot see why a line of European steamers should not run from Providence, and we want to get foreign shipping. Our port charges are very much less than those of either Boston or New-York; so, too, are the wharfage charges, and we can handle the cargoes more cheaply. We have tremendous dock possibilities, and last, but not least, a deep sea pilot can so lay the course of his vessel as to run within ten miles of the city before it will be necessary to take on a local pilot, and this very fact made us extremely uncomfortable in the late war, until we definitely knew the destruction of Spain's warships."

"Who do I think will win?" said John Le Page, of San Francisco, who has recently returned from South Africa, at the Waldorf-Astoria yesterday. "Why, the English, of course. I can't see how they can help it. The trouble so far has been an underestimation of what they had to contend against, together with an insufficiency of equipment in some important particulars, such as artillery. The Boers to-day at Colenso Bridge have the strongest possible position which they could find in that country, outside of the mountain passes. The bridge itself is over a quarter of a mile long, and the hills lying near the river, on the Ladysmith side, afford to the Boers natural defences of tremendous strength, but once they are driven out of there, the English will have them in the open, and the relief of Ladysmith should immediately follow. I do not look for the English to try to force the mountain passes, but rather finally enter the Transvaal through the Orange Free State.

THINKS THE BRITISH WILL WIN.

"There is one thing, though, that will happen, let either Boer or Briton win, and that is that when the war is over the Transvaal is going to be for a while the greatest place to make money in the world. Every Boer that is being killed is a land owner, and his farm will come into the market, and as all of them are valuable it will cause great fluctuations in land values.

"Another thing that is likely to play ballyhoo in South Africa is the possible death of Cecil Rhodes. If this should happen I, for one, would give precious little for the Chartered Company."

"Did you ever happen to think," said A. V. Rawdon, of Kansas City, at the Gilsey House, yesterday, "of how much better it would be if people would affix stamps neatly and in upright position upon their letters, instead of in the helter skelter manner which is so generally prevalent? Besides, is it treating in fitting manner the memory of those great ones in the history of the Republic whose features are held in living memory by means of the post? The Father of His Country has not come down to us historically as one likely to enter the presence of a lady on his nose, or, even when carrying you a notification that your bank account is overdrawn, to do so while skating along on his left eyebrow.

"STICK YOUR STAMPS ON STRAIGHT."

"Do you think that he who wrote the sayings of Poor Richard and drew up the Articles of Confederation for the Albany Convention would stand on his head, even were he conscious that it was his lot to carry around patent medicine advertisements and book notices? Would the conqueror of Appomattox, after his wonderful trip around the world, rest easy if he knew he was repeating that triumphal progress every day and entering the uttermost corners of the earth on his ear, his eye or flat on his back? Or, again, is it befitting that the stern and rugged conqueror of New-Orleans and uncompromising opponent of the United States Bank should enter your presence prone upon his right or left side? I shudder even to think of him as standing on his head, on account of the agony this position would cause him, due to his spikelike hair.

"By all means, stick your stamps on straight. It looks better and, besides, pays a more fitting tribute to the Nation's dead."

ACADEMY OF MEDICINE MEETING.

THE ORGANIZATION BEGINS THE YEAR FREE FROM DEBT, AND INSTALLS OFFICERS.

At a meeting of the members of the Academy of Medicine, held at the academy, No. 17 West Forty-third-st., last night, Reginald H. Sayre, treasurer of the Board of Trustees, reported that the last item on the academy's list of indebtedness had been paid, and that the organization begins the year free from debt, for the first time since the building of its home. Mr. Sayre said that the debt amounted to $2,000, and was the last of the building indebtedness. The structure cost about $240,000. Dr. W. H. Thompson, the president of the academy, presided.

During the meeting the following new officers were installed: Vice-president, G. L. Peabody; trustee, Abraham Jacobi; treasurer of the Board of Trustees, Reginald H. Sayre, and treasurer of the academy, H. L. Collyer.

At the conclusion of the business meeting the members listened to the reading of the following papers: "Pathology of Migraine," by Dr. Colman W. Cutler, and "Significance of Migraine in Graves's Disease," by Dr. W. H. Thompson. A discussion of the papers followed.

MOODY'S WORK TO GO ON.

HIS SON WILL CONTINUE THE NORTHFIELD CONFERENCES.

Boston, Jan. 4.—W. R. Moody, son of Dwight L. Moody, was in this city to-day on business, and when asked about the prospect of carrying on the educational work founded by the evangelist he said:

So far as I can see, the work will go right along the lines which it has been taking for the last twenty years or more. The financial arrangements for it have always been and will continue to be in trustworthy hands. We have two business men who act as treasurers, Samuel D. Davis, of the Mount Hermon Institution, and General J. J. Esley, of the Young Law Seminary. All moneys received are turned over to them directly.

As to my own part of the work, I may say that in the last few years I have given most of my time to editing "The Record of Christian Works," a journal intended to represent what is called the Northfield teaching. Just before my father died we made special efforts to improve the paper. I am to continue as its editor.

Mr. Moody, alluding to the responsibilities resting upon him and his coworkers, finally said:

Of course, none of us is able or wishes to step into my father's shoes, nor can we accomplish anything of our own strength; but we confidently count on the strength to which he looked. I believe that if we are faithful to the original purpose of the institutions our father's God will stand by the work and not allow it to suffer or to fail. We want and will make any sacrifice to see the work continue.

AT THE IRVING PLACE THEATRE.

Herr Schweighofer made another change of bill at the Irving Place Theatre last night, appearing in the farce "Die Gypsfigur." His part was that of a gay old boy who had become involved with an attractive chambermaid, or thought he had. His wife's suspicions lead to various complications, which are cleverly worked out. Herr Schweighofer found in the broad comedy of the play an excellent field for his abilities, and the audience was kept in a constant roar of laughter. In voice and action he was irresistibly and delightfully humorous. Excellent support was given to him, especially by Georg Baselt, as the timid, middle aged suitor of a young girl, and by Gustav von Seyffertitz, as an Italian sculptor. The play will be repeated the rest of this week and Monday and Tuesday evenings of next week.

THE BARNUM SHOW TO TRAVEL.

London, Jan. 4.—Notwithstanding the kindly reception, hospitable treatment and financial success the Barnum & Bailey Greatest Show on Earth experienced in Great Britain since its arrival here two years ago, the monster affair is about to start soon for the Continent, the management believing that other countries and other peoples will be as much pleased with its manifold attractions. It was resolved a long time ago to visit Germany and countries contiguous thereto, and in pursuance of that plan arrangements are now in progress on a gigantic scale.

The show is now in winter quarters at Stoke-on-Trent, where it was placed last month, but will be brought to the Royal Albert Docks, and there embarked some time about the middle of March, to disembark at Hamburg and begin the Continental tour in that city as early in the spring as the weather will permit. Subsequently Berlin and the large cities of Germany will be visited, as well as Austria, Holland, Belgium and Switzerland. The tour as outlined contemplates a sojourn on the Continent of two years.