# FIRE HEROINE THANKED.

## MISS SWARTS REFUSES PURSE OFFERED TO HER BY MR. SCANNELL.

Miss Minnie Swarts, the eighteen-year-old heroine of the fire at Nos. 308 and 310 West Fifty-ninth-st. last Wednesday, where so many firemen were overcome, was publicly thanked by Commissioner Scannell and Fire Chief Croker at Fire Headquarters yesterday afternoon.

Miss Swarts is a brunette and rather vivacious. She lives with her parents at No. 641 East Ninth-st. On the morning of the fire she was going uptown to answer an advertisement relative to clerical work. Miss Swarts, while declining to say much about herself, said that she needed work and desired clerical work, if she could get such employment. She is modest about her actions at the fire, and seemed to dislike the notoriety caused.

She got off the car when it was stopped by the hose being stretched across the track, and reached the scene of the fire just as the firemen were being overcome. She took in the situation at a glance, rushed into a neighboring grocery store and bought a gallon of milk. She had this heated, and then took it to the exhausted firemen. She went into the store with Benjamin Stern, whom she ordered to assist her. Stern lives at No. 302 West One-hundred-and-twenty-second-st.

Miss Swarts went into the burning building and helped the firemen in every way she could. She placed her handkerchief over the mouth of one fireman who was being badly overcome by the smoke. She climbed over a fence, and with an axe made an opening for the firemen to drag in their hose. But the most signal achievement was her saving the lives of two men. They had slipped into an opening, and were in danger of falling into the cellar, which was filled with water. Miss Swarts arrived at the place in time to grasp each by a leg and held them until other firemen came to their rescue. She remained at the fire helping those who had been overcome by the smoke until she too was overcome.

Ever since that time the members of the Fire Department, from Chief Croker down, have been singing the praises of Miss Swarts. Members of the department wrote letters to Commissioner Scannell calling his attention to the heroism of Miss Swarts. Commissioner Scannell was so much impressed that he sent for her to come to his office at Fire Headquarters. He set the time for yesterday afternoon.

Miss Swarts appeared at the Fire Headquarters building at a little after 3 o'clock. When the firemen saw her they gathered in a knot and cheered. Several men rushed to open the door for her, and she was escorted to the office of Commissioner Scannell. Chief Croker was talking with Commissioner Scannell when Miss Swarts timidly entered.

"Is Commissioner Scannell here?" she asked.

"Why, here is our heroine!" said Chief Croker, as he advanced and held out his hands to Miss Swarts. "We are glad to see you."

Miss Swarts was seated. Commissioner Scannell expressed himself as delighted with meeting the young woman. After she had been seated he said:

It is very unusual for us to send for any one to thank them for a public service. We are deeply sensible of your disinterested work at the fire. Every man in the Department is praising your heroic conduct. We all feel that we are deeply indebted to you for your kindness and sacrifice. The men you assisted and whose lives you were instrumental in saving feel that nothing can reward you for what you have done for them.

Now, we are the kind of men who believe that there is little in mere thanks and gratefulness by word of mouth. We desire to give something substantial; something by means of which you will have cause to remember that the men of this Department appreciate your good work.

Commissioner Scannell opened a drawer in his desk and took therefrom a purse that appeared to be stuffed with bank notes. He handed it to Miss Swarts, saying:

"We hope you will accept this small token of our regard, and we wish that it was a good deal larger."

Tears came to the eyes of Miss Swarts. Several times she tried to speak, but failed. She placed her handkerchief to her eyes, and then said with considerable emotion:

"No, no; I cannot take the money. I simply did what I thought was my duty to do. I want work, but I cannot take money for that."

Miss Swarts, noticing the look of disappointment on the faces of Commissioner Scannell and Chief Croker, said:

"I beg of you do not be offended. I do not mean to be rude in refusing your kindness. I assure you I appreciate your kindness, but really I cannot take money."

Commissioner Scannell then spoke kindly to her, saying:

We do not mean to offend you by offering money. If it was possible for me to make a place for you in this Department I would do it at once, but the Civil Service laws forbid. But I want you to remember that if I or any member of this Department can serve you in any way by getting a place we will do it. Every member of the Department will strive to be of assistance to you. Your action at the fire serves to show that the women of New-York have the welfare of the firemen at heart, and your conduct has served to give the firemen incentive to deserve the good opinions of the women of this city.

Miss Swarts was asked if she would accept an engrossed resolution of thanks, and she signified her willingness to do so.

## MUSIC FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

Mr. Frank Damrosch found himself obliged to abandon the series of orchestral concerts for children which had been planned for Saturday forenoons in Mendelssohn Hall, but he is giving the set for maturer, though youthful, listeners in Carnegie Hall. The second of these concerts took place yesterday afternoon, and Mr. Damrosch embraced the opportunity to teach his hearers, of various ages, some of the things which it is good to know, not only about the symphonic form as exemplified in Haydn's so-called "Military" symphony, but also about the violoncello, on which instrument Mr. Leo Schulz played some solos. No harm would result if the public at large were to recognize that an amiable fiction underlies the title of these concerts, and that while they are designed to teach the young and inexperienced how to listen to orchestral music and music generally in the higher forms, they convey in simple form information valuable to all who appreciate the mission and beauty of the art.

## MANY LAPIDARIES OUT OF WORK.

About three hundred men have been thrown out of work by the closing down of the lapidary concerns in this borough and in Brooklyn. One of the largest establishments of the kind in the city closed its shops a week ago, and others were obliged to give up even before that time. The cause of the tie-up is the lack of rough diamonds owing to the war in the Transvaal. What few stones were in the hands of the importers were soon cut, and there has been no new supply since. Incidentally the lack of work in that particular industry affects some five hundred or six hundred people, as most of them are married men with families. There is, of course, no indication as to when the factories will be able to resume work. The same condition of affairs exists abroad, and in Amsterdam and Antwerp from four thousand to five thousand workmen are idle as a consequence. One of the chief causes for alarm among the local importers is the idea that if the Boers are victorious and gain possession of the diamond mines, they may, in order to raise money, flood the markets with the stones, and thereby cause a sudden depreciation in values. As many of the importers have stocks of the cut stones on hand, the fact of such depreciation might be ruinous in many instances. One of the largest importers in the city said yesterday that, contrary to the general impression, there had been no advance in the price of diamonds since October. The business had been hurt, he said, because many persons would not buy, for fear of having to pay advanced prices.

## THIRTEEN CLUB ELECTS OFFICERS.

The Thirteen Club held its annual election of officers last night at the Stevens House, No. 21 Broadway. There was a slim attendance at the dinner, only twenty-one members being present. Among these was "Citizen" George Francis Train. The officers elected were:

Chief ruler, Colonel Frederick C. Hamilton; first vice-ruler, Louis Hauser; second vice-ruler, M. J. Langan; scribe, Robert B. Waldo; receiver, Dr. L. A. Cheney; custodian, S. K. Bergen; toastmaster, W. E. Wilkinson; marshal, W. L. Sabath; intendant, Ernst Schmidt; gazetteer, A. A. Jakobi; historian, Clark Bell; artist, George W. Collins, and archivist, J. R. Abarbanell.

## WANT ILLINOIS TAX LAWS CHANGED.

Chicago, Jan. 13.—The Illinois Manufacturers' Association, representing fully $100,000,000 in capital, to-day decided to petition Governor Tanner to call a special session of the Legislature to amend the revenue law, as a result of yesterday's decision of the State Supreme Court, declaring unconstitutional that section of the new revenue law which fixed the tax levy limit at 5 per cent of the assessed valuation of property. Under the old law, which will now prevail, taxes will be increased fully 25 per cent in Cook County, unless relief is afforded by the Legislature. It is believed that the desired relief can be obtained by an amendment to the tax levy law, making the tax levy limit applicable to all municipalities alike, no matter what the population may be. Confidence is expressed that the Governor will grant the request.

# DORMAN B. EATON'S WILL.

## COLUMBIA AND HARVARD UNIVERSITIES TO RECEIVE $100,000 EACH.

The will of Dorman B. Eaton, who died at his home, No. 2 East Twenty-ninth-st., on December 23 last, was filed for probate in the Surrogate's office yesterday. According to the petition filed with the will, the value of the estate is unknown.

By the terms of his will Mr. Eaton provides handsomely for several charitable and educational institutions. Columbia and Harvard universities are to receive upward of $100,000 each. The Society for the Suppression of Vice is to get $25,000, and the New-York Skin and Cancer Hospital $10,000.

In the clause containing the bequest to Harvard Mr. Eaton directs that the sum of $100,000 be set aside from his estate on the death of his wife, to be used in founding a professorship of the science of government. The principal is to be invested permanently, and the income only to be used for the support of the professorship. Regarding it Mr. Eaton expresses his well known views on the subject, urging the need of preventing political corruption.

The money given to Columbia is to be devoted to the founding of a professorship of municipal science and administration. In regard to it Mr. Eaton says that the explanation given in regard to the other bequest largely applies to the gift to Columbia.

Mr. Eaton provides in his will that in case from any cause his estate does not yield enough to settle the bequests to Columbia and Harvard his trustees are to cut the bequests to the Society for the Suppression of Vice and the New-York Skin and Cancer Hospital in equal amounts to make up the deficiency. The will also provides that the bequests to Harvard and Columbia shall be paid over as soon as possible, without waiting for the statutory limit of one year from the probate of the will to elapse.

To Columbia University Mr. Eaton also gives, after bequests are deducted, the income of his residuary estate in excess of $10,000. The amounts, however, are to be considered as advance payments on the specific legacy of $100,000. To his widow, Annie S. Eaton, the testator bequeaths his house at No. 2 East Twenty-ninth-st. and all the pictures, bric-à-brac, china and household supplies it contains as long as she shall live. She receives six bonds which stand in her name. Besides this, Mrs. Eaton is to have the testator's property at Dummerston, Vt. To Caleb Cutis Eaton, his half brother, Mr. Eaton bequeathes $2,000; to his niece, Flora Priest, $2,500, and to another niece, Emily Hepburn, the same amount. To Philip Sidney Bennett, the testator gives $500, and to his aunt, Marcia J. Eaton, $1,500. To Mary A. Magoon, a cousin, Mr. Eaton gives $1,000, and to her son, $500. William K. Forster receives $1,000, and to Ruth Eaton Kent, a niece, he also gives his land and buildings in Montpelier, Vt., and $4,000. To Mrs. Kent's husband the testator gives a release of all notes due.

To his nephew, Dorman B. E. Kent, the testator gives the income of $10,000 and the right to select 100 volumes from his library. His cousin, Victor H. Bridgman, an officer in the United States Army, gets $2,500. To Axalina Nystrom, a servant, Mr. Eaton gives $800 for her "faithful discharge of her duties with unusual intelligence, fidelity and good nature." It is further provided that in case she is in the employ of the testator's family at his death she shall receive $200 additional. Mary Johnson, another servant, receives $250. Ellen Hayes, formerly a servant in the testator's house, is to receive $500. Caroline Ernest gets $250 and Mrs. William Barker the same amount. George E. Gartland, a lawyer, who for many years has been in the employ of the testator, gets the law library of the testator.

To the Free Library of Brattleboro, Vt., the testator gives $100. The Unitarian Congregational Society of Brattleboro is to get $500. To the Society for the Employment and Relief of Poor Women the testator leaves $500. To the American Unitarian Association $2,000 is bequeathed, and to the Burnham Industrial Farm $1,000. To William F. Mixer, who has for years taken care of the testator's property in Vermont, Mr. Eaton leaves $1,200. To Mrs. Mixer he gives $100, and to each of their children $50.

To the Civil Service Reform Association of New-York he bequeaths $1,500. The Bar Association of this city gets the books relating to the debates and proceedings of Congress in the testator's library. To each of the children of General Joseph Hatch, of Burlington, Vt., Mr. Eaton gives $500.

The will bears the date of June 14, 1895. Everett P. Wheeler, John B. Pine and Annie S. Eaton, the widow of the testator, are appointed executors.

## CINCINNATI UNIVERSITY EXCITED.

### ACTION OF PRESIDENT AYERS IN ASKING ALL THE FACULTY TO RESIGN CREATES INDIGNATION.

Cincinnati, Jan. 13 (Special).—A wave of indignation swept over the student body of the University of Cincinnati yesterday afternoon when the report that the president, Dr. Howard Ayers, had asked for the resignation of every member of the faculty reached it. The news of the alleged action of the newly appointed president astounded the students, and when its full import was borne in on them the greatest excitement prevailed. Dr. Ayers was asked for an interview on the proposed sweeping changes at the university, but he pleaded a pressing engagement. One of the students said:

Since being made president of the university Dr. Ayers has never attended a single recitation nor visited one of the classrooms in recitation time. In all that time he has had only two meetings of the faculty, one of which lasted only five minutes and the other about fifteen. Some of the instructors he has never even met. He has failed to call a general meeting of the students, as is usual in an institution of this sort, when a change is made, and he has evinced no interest whatever in the faculty or academic work of the college.

From what the professors say, it was learned that Dr. Ayers has thrown a kind of censorship over the utterances of all the members of the faculty, and they are practically muzzled. Oscar Kuhn, who is president of the University Board of Trustees, expressed surprise that the action of the president had been made public, or that it had excited any comment. He said:

Dr. Ayers did not wish anything said about it at all. No, I do not know what was done. I do not see that it is a matter of public interest at this time, even if changes are contemplated at the university. The action of Dr. Ayers was not unexpected, and you may be sure that he would not have so acted if he was not sure of his ground.

## LABOR IN CONNECTICUT.

### IMPROVEMENT IN STATE INDUSTRIES SHOWN.

New-Haven, Jan. 13 (Special).—Statistics printed in the annual report of the Board of Labor Commissioners of the State of Connecticut, just published, show that not only does labor of all kinds in the State seem to hold its own, but in many kinds a decided increase is noted. Wages also are on the increase, and interesting facts are brought out in this line. The Commissioners find that municipal ownership of water plants, gas plants and electric light and trolley concerns of all kinds is not yet popular to any great extent in the State. Few towns operate their own public works of this kind, though there is an improvement in this regard from five years ago. The Commissioners do not think, however, that there is any immediate possibility of a popular change in this regard, though here and there in the State movements toward this end have begun. In the matter of the employment of labor the year 1899 saw a great advance over previous years.

## JOURNALISTIC SYNDICATE OF CHICAGO.

Charleston, W. Va., Jan. 13 (Special).—The Secretary of State here to-day issued a charter to the United States Journalistic Syndicate, of Chicago, for the purpose of publishing, buying, selling and otherwise dealing in books. Capital subscribed, $500,000; paid in, $115,000, with the privilege of increasing the same to $700,000 in all. The shares are $100 each, and are held by G. A. Landis, J. H. Landis, E. W. Settle, H. F. Miller and F. J. Klindera, all of Chicago.

## TWENTY PEOPLE MADE HOMELESS.

Bloomfield, N. J., Jan. 13 (Special).—Twenty people living on Washington-st., in the business centre of this town, were made homeless at an early hour this morning by a fire. Three buildings were destroyed, and the inmates escaped in their night clothes. The fire started in the rear of a Chinese laundry at No. 31 Washington-st., and was caused by an overheated stove. The flames spread to the livery stable of Dr. W. F. Harrison, and thence to the tenement houses belonging to Martin Zabule, all of which were destroyed. The loss is estimated at $17,000.

## A SMALL FORTUNE IN A YELLOW BOX.

Ocean Grove, N. J., Jan. 13 (Special).—If Magistrate J. Wesley Cross can find a "small, square yellow box in a basket, in Brooklyn," there may be a fortune of $25,000 for the heirs of Miss Susan Ackerly, who died here on Friday. Miss Ackerly declared on Thursday afternoon to Magistrate Cross that she was possessed of $25,000 in Government bonds, but did not know where the precious papers were. All she could say was, "They are in a small, square yellow box in a basket, in Brooklyn." Magistrate Cross was made Miss Ackerly's executor, and is trying to find the bonds for the heirs. The statement that the bonds were in Brooklyn coincides with another statement by Miss Ackerly that she had goods stored in that city. The finding of these goods and the bonds will clear up the mystery.

# LOOKS WORSE FOR MORRISON

## CHIEF OF POLICE THINKS HE HAS DISCOVERED POWDER MARKS ON NIGHTGOWN IN WHICH THE WIFE WAS SHOT.

Broken in spirit and almost a physical wreck, Alfred Morrison, the Mount Vernon bigamist, spent yesterday in the White Plains jail, awaiting the meeting of the Westchester County Grand Jury, before which an attempt will be made to indict him for the murder of his wife, Alida Morrison. He is still profuse in his protestations of innocence. Jailer Johnson said Morrison did not sleep an hour Friday night. He kept the prisoners awake in the adjoining cells by moaning constantly: "My God! I am innocent. I can't stand this; my heart is cut in two."

The regular prison fare of bread and coffee was served to Morrison at breakfast, but he did not taste the food. "I cannot eat," he said to the keeper. "My heart is broken. Everything I taste goes against me." Last night, when the prisoner was locked in his cell, after being allowed his liberty in the corridor all day, he exclaimed to Sheriff Molloy: "I hate to associate with criminals. It makes me feel terribly. I wish I was dead."

Chief of Police Foley yesterday took possession of the nightgown which Mrs. Morrison wore on the night of the shooting. Surrounding the bullet hole are a number of spots which Chief Foley and several experts, after examining them with a powerful magnifying glass, believe to be powder marks. Their presence, the Chief thinks, indicates that the woman received her wound at short range and not at a distance of from ten to twelve feet, as would have been the case if Morrison had shot while lying in his bed, dreaming, as he said he did, of burglars. District Attorney Andrews says that the garment will be one of the most important exhibits before the Grand Jury. The District Attorney and Chief Foley are daily securing additional evidence, which, they say, will prove that Morrison is guilty.

Mrs. Ihlenberger, sister of the dead woman, and Mrs. Grace O'Neill, her niece, arrived in Mount Vernon yesterday, but started at once for Tarrytown, where they had a long consultation with the District Attorney at his home. They returned to Middletown last night.

Mrs. Ihlenberger said that she had no doubt Mrs. Morrison was shot deliberately, and that the crime was premeditated. She said that Morrison was always quarrelsome, and often became violent, threatening to kill Mrs. Morrison repeatedly. On one occasion Mrs. Ihlenberger said she saw a particularly violent outbreak on the part of Morrison, who, after threatening to shoot her sister, slapped her face. Mrs. Ihlenberger told the District Attorney that she had started to come to Tarrytown to keep her appointment with the District Attorney on Friday, but that while waiting for the train in Middletown a man stepped up and said he was from District Attorney Andrews, giving his own name as George L. Tilson. Tilson told her, she said, that he had been instructed to go to Middletown and tell Mrs. Ihlenberger and Mrs. O'Neill that it was unnecessary for them to make the journey, as there was sufficient evidence.

By order of the District Attorney Morrison's supply of cigarettes has been curtailed. The District Attorney says he does not purpose to allow Morrison to become insane by the excessive smoking of cigarettes. Morrison is being closely watched, day and night, as the Sheriff fears he will make an attempt at suicide. Judge Appell, Morrison's counsel, visited his client yesterday.

The District Attorney said that the evidence of Mrs. A. M. Wells, who lives near to the Morrisons' home, went a long way toward proving that the shooting of Mrs. Morrison was intentional. Mrs. Wells made an affidavit that after the shooting she heard Morrison tell the wounded woman that she must say that the shooting was accidental. The District Attorney said that the case would be presented to the Grand Jury on the first Monday in February.

## MARYLAND MEN THEIR GUESTS.

### ENTERTAINED AT DINNER BY THE MUNICIPAL ART SOCIETY — COMPETITIONS DISCOUNTENANCED.

The Municipal Art Society of Baltimore, the Justices of the Maryland Supreme Court and the Mayor of Baltimore were the guests at dinner of the National Society of Mural Painters in the art gallery of the Fine Arts Club, No. 37 West Thirty-fourth-st., last evening.

The party from Maryland was present on the invitation of the Mural Painters' Society to look over the work of the society in the new Appellate Court Building and the Waldorf-Astoria, and to inspect a large photographic exhibit of the work of the best known mural artists of America, displayed around the walls of the art gallery.

The new Supreme Court building of Baltimore has just reached completion, and the Baltimore Society of Mural Painters had offered to contribute $5,000 toward the mural decorations on condition that the city contribute $10,000, for the purpose of inspecting the work of the leading American mural artists on view in New-York, and of deciding on the nature of the decorations they desire, the Baltimore party came to this city on a special train over the Pennsylvania road. In the party were Mayor Thomas G. Hayes, Justices Thomas J. Morris and Henry D. Harlan, of the Supreme Court of Maryland; Mendes Cohen, president of the Municipal Art Society of Baltimore; J. B. Nowell Wyatt, architect of the new Baltimore Supreme Court building; John W. Garrett, Richard M. Venable, Theodore and William A. Marburg and Josiah Pennington, secretary of the Municipal Art Society of Baltimore.

Brief addresses were made after the dinner by Mayor Hayes, Justice Morris, R. M. Venable, Justices Ingraham, Rumsey and McLaughlin, of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of New-York; James Brown Lord, architect of the Appellate Court Building of New-York; Mendes Cohen and Charles R. Lamb, architect of the Dewey Arch.

James Brown Lord in his address said in part:

The beautiful white courthouse in Madison-ave. represents the new ideals and new methods of the times which have changed for the better. I had the opportunity of selecting my coadjutors, painters and sculptors without competition, and here I must strike what may be to you a discordant note. I detest competitions. I believe that in all art work they are utterly wrong. In my opinion they degrade every art profession they enter into. At times they may serve as the incubators of stillborn genius, but I have yet to live to see any building born of competition completed from its first day plans, and I have yet to see the best results of American art work evolved from any set of drawings selected by means of competition.

## PRESIDENT TO CONFEDERATE VETERANS.

### HE SENDS HIS GOOD WISHES, BUT CANNOT ATTEND THEIR DINNER HERE.

Washington, Jan. 13 (Special).—Colonel Ochiltree, representing Commander Edward Owen, of the Confederate Veteran Camp of New-York, called on the President, in company with General Longstreet, to request his attendance at the annual dinner of that organization, to be given at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New-York on January 19, in honor of the birthday of General Robert E. Lee. This evening Colonel Ochiltree received the following letter from the President:

Executive Mansion,
Washington, D. C., January 13, 1900.

Dear Colonel Ochiltree: I have been much gratified to receive a cordial invitation from the Confederate Veteran Camp of New-York to be present and respond to a toast at its tenth annual banquet on the 19th inst. As intimated in my conversation with you recently, I find that engagements will prevent me from attending this reunion. I have just written to Commander Owen expressing regret at my inability to be present. Will you, however, be good enough to extend to the members of the camp and their guests my cordial good wishes? Trusting that the reunion may be a most successful one, believe me, sincerely yours,

WILLIAM M'KINLEY.

Colonel Thomas P. Ochiltree, Chamberlin Hotel, Washington, D. C.

## PLATT STAYS IN WASHINGTON.

Many Republican politicians were at the Fifth Avenue Hotel yesterday expecting to have a word with Senator Platt, but they were disappointed. Senator Platt remained in Washington, and Chairman Odell of the Republican State Committee said last evening that the Senator probably would not be in this city again until next Friday evening. Lieutenant-Governor Woodruff was at the hotel in the afternoon and talked with some of the politicians, but missed Mr. Odell, who had gone out for a walk. Louis F. Payn, the State Superintendent of Insurance, was in the hotel earlier in the day, and he also failed to see Mr. Odell. Assemblyman Allds was one of the few members of the Legislature who went to the hotel in the afternoon.

Frederick S. Gibbs talked with some of the politicians in the evening. He said he expected to be re-elected New-York's representative in the Republican National Committee next June. "I know of no opposition to me," he said. "Mr. Odell does not want the place. He has troubles enough now. There is no salary attached to the place of National Committeeman—only expense and trouble with the honor."

## GOLD GOING TO CUBA.

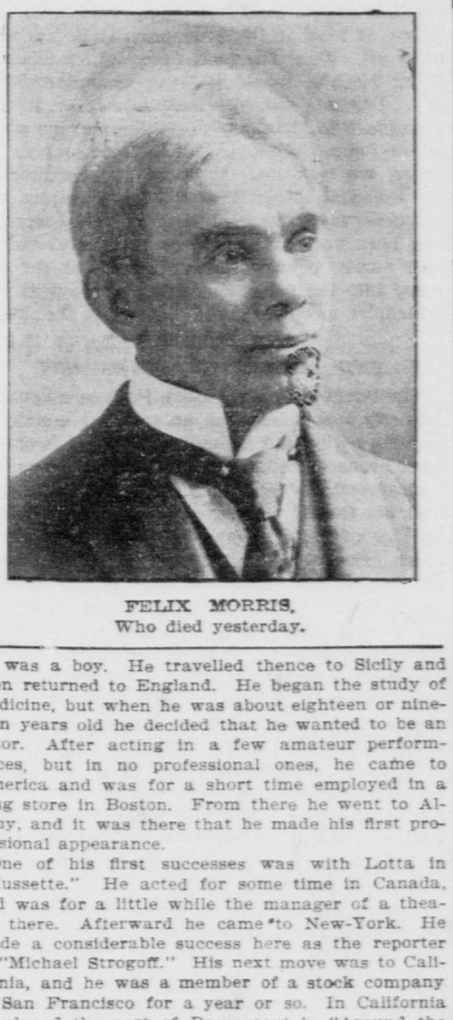
Lawrence Turnure & Co. have bought 2,000,000 francs French gold from the National City Bank, and will send this money, with an additional 2,000,000 francs now in their own vaults, to Cuba for the purpose of moving the sugar crop.

# FELIX MORRIS DEAD.

## PNEUMONIA THE CAUSE—A SKETCH OF THE ACTOR'S CAREER.

Felix Morris, who had been for many years a favorite and well known actor, died yesterday at No. 42 Irving Place, from pneumonia. His wife and his two daughters were with him. He was taken sick something more than a week ago, while playing in Brooklyn. His last appearance in Manhattan was on December 9, at Keith's Union Square Theatre, when he played in "Kerry," a one act play by Boucicault. He spent the next two weeks in Philadelphia, and then came to Brooklyn, where he opened on Christmas night in "Kerry." He played this for one week, and then another one act play called "Behind the Scenes" for one week. It was in the course of this week that he was taken sick. He played till Saturday night, however, when he made his last appearance on any stage. His sickness increased till yesterday morning, when he died. The funeral will take place at All Souls' Church (Unitarian), at Fourth-ave. and Twentieth-st., tomorrow morning at 11:30 o'clock. The services will be conducted by the Rev. Thomas R. Slicer, the pastor of the church, and the Rev. Minot J. Savage. The burial will be in Albany.

Felix Morris was about fifty-three years old. He was born in Berkenhead, England. His father was Welsh and his mother was Scotch. His father had interests in Jamaica, and he went there when



FELIX MORRIS,
Who died yesterday.

he was a boy. He travelled thence to Sicily and then returned to England. He began the study of medicine, but when he was about eighteen or nineteen years old he decided that he wanted to be an actor. After acting in a few amateur performances, but in no professional ones, he came to America and was for a short time employed in a drug store in Boston. From there he went to Albany, and it was there that he made his first professional appearance.

One of his first successes was with Lotta in "Mussette." He acted for some time in Canada, and was for a little while the manager of a theatre there. Afterward he came to New-York. He made a considerable success here as the reporter in "Michael Strogoff." His next move was to California, and he was a member of a stock company in San Francisco for a year or so. In California he played the part of Paspartout in "Around the World in Eighty Days" with much success. He never played the part here. While he was in California he married Miss Florence Wood.

Returning to this city he played for one season in A. M. Palmer's stock company at the Union Square Theatre. He also played many parts in places which cannot be hastily enumerated or recalled. He adapted from a novel a play called "Mona" for Miss Helen Dauvray, and acted with her in it. Returning to England, he made another marked success in "On 'Change," which ran there for over a year. It was while he was in England that he made an arrangement to join the company headed by Miss Rosina Vokes. He remained with this company for seven seasons, and the present generation of theatregoers knows him best by what he did in this period. The company did scarcely any plays of more than one act. The usual bill consisted of three one-act plays, in one of which Mr. Morris appeared, in another of which Miss Vokes appeared, and in the third of which they both appeared. There were dozens of these plays, and Mr. Morris had excellent parts in many of them. His most famous impersonations, doubtless, were those of the old, broken-down nobleman in "A Game of Cards," the title part in "The Old Musician," and the part which he played in "The Rose," a play by Mrs. Minnie Maddern Fiske. Another of his favorite parts was in "A Pantomime Rehearsal."

After Miss Vokes left the stage Mr. Morris attempted starring tours for two seasons. He was unable, however, to obtain suitable plays, and the venture, financially, was only a moderate success. A fire in the theatre in which the company was playing in Columbus destroyed all the property that it had except Mr. Morris's own costumes.

After the starring venture Mr. Morris joined the company of the Lyceum Theatre, in this city, and appeared in "The First Gentleman of Europe," "The Princess and the Butterfly" and some other plays. Last season he had a part in "At the White Horse Tavern," which had a long run at Wallack's Theatre. Previous to that time and also since that time he had been playing one-act pieces in the continuous performance houses, although still a member of the Lyceum company and likely to be called on at any time to take part in its productions. He was making a tour of these theatres up to a week before his death.

### MRS. CHARLES C. CHURCHILL.

Newport, R. I., Jan. 13.—Mrs. Churchill, wife of Captain Charles C. Churchill, United States Army (retired), died suddenly from heart failure this evening. She was prominent socially and in Army and Navy circles.

### SOLOMON E. SMITH.

Rochester, N. Y., Jan. 13.—Solomon E. Smith, seventy-three years old, one of the most prominent citizens of Geneva, died this morning at his residence in that place from acute gastritis, having been ill one day. He was president of the J. W. Smith Drygoods Company, of Geneva. He was a director in the Geneva National Bank, and a stock holder in nearly every corporation of importance in that city.

### JOHN C. ADAMS.

Newburg, N. Y., Jan. 13.—Ex-Assemblyman John C. Adams, a well known Republican, died suddenly at midnight from heart disease. He was born at Tivoli, N. Y., in 1836. He was a member of the Assembly three terms, Supervisor for ten years, harbor master at New-York City for three years, postmaster of Newburg for eight years, and a trustee of Washington's Headquarters at the time of his death. His widow and a daughter survive him.

### ELISHA RISLEY.

Hartford, Conn., Jan. 13.—Elisha Risley, superintendent of agencies of the Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company, died suddenly in New-York to-day. He was fifty-seven years old. He is survived by a widow, two sons and two daughters. Death was due to stomach trouble. He had been in New-York for some time receiving special treatment.

### CHARLES TOWNSHEND.

Athens, Ohio, Jan. 13.—Charles Townshend, formerly Secretary of State and a member of the Legislature, is dead, aged sixty. He had been commander of the Grand Army of the Republic for the Department of Ohio, delegate to National and other Republican conventions, and was once a competitor of his neighbor, General C. H. Grosvenor, for Congress.

### ROBERT L. CUMMING.

Robert L. Cumming, formerly a resident of this city and at one time a well known drygoods merchant, died yesterday at Cheltenham, England, where he had been living for the last four years. Mr. Cumming was born in Scotland more than seventy years ago, but came with other members of his family to this country when a child of ten years, the family settling in Chautauqua County, this State. He began his business career in Buffalo, subsequently moving to this city, where he was established in business for more than forty years. He retired in 1884, having been associated for many years and up to the time of his retiring with the old and well known firm of H. B. Claflin & Co. He leaves a widow and an only son, A. P. Cumming, a lawyer of this city.

### THE REV. J. A. MULCAHY.

Hartford, Conn., Jan. 13.—The Rev. John A. Mulcahy, pastor of St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, of this city, and Vicar General of the Diocese of Connecticut, died at the parochial residence at 5 o'clock this afternoon. His death was due to oedema of the lungs, from which he had long been a sufferer. He had been at Atlantic City for his health until a few weeks ago, when he was brought to this city because of his enfeebled condition.

### COLONEL J. H. WOOD.

Hot Springs, Ark., Jan. 13.—Colonel J. H. Wood, of National reputation as a showman, theatrical manager, museum backer and promoter, died here last night from cancer, complicated with paralysis. He came here on December 15 from San Francisco for his health. He seemed to improve rapidly at first, and hopes of his ultimate recovery were entertained by his physicians and friends, but for the last few days his condition changed for the worse.

Colonel Wood had an eventful career as a showman. He built a number of museums throughout the country, which still bear his name, and he built and established Wood's Museum, in New-York, now Daly's Theatre. He operated and conducted shows and museums in Denver, San Francisco and other cities of the West. His last venture in the show business was the conduct and management of a travelling aquarium on a large scale. He was the first man who ever conducted such an exhibition on wheels. He traversed the country on a special train with his show. He was a member in good standing of the Actors' Fund. Colonel Wood was the possessor of large fortunes several times in the course of his life. The burial will be here.

### DANIEL M'MAHON.

Daniel McMahon, father of the Rev. James McMahon, an assistant at the Church of St. Mary's Star of the Sea, Brooklyn, and for many years a well known builder in the Seventh Ward, Manhattan, died at his home No. 323 Warren-st., Brooklyn, yesterday. He was seventy years old.

# SELECTIONS FROM THE MAIL.

## WAIFS FIND HAPPY HOMES.

### BOYS FROM NEW-YORK'S STREETS TAKE ROOT READILY IN TEXAS.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: On November 14 I started from the railroad station at the West Shore ferry, in this city, with a company of twenty boys, for whom homes were to be found in Texas. The boys were a jolly lot, gathered together from various sources, all having undergone a short season of training at the society's farm school at Kensico. They ranged in years from eight to seventeen, and were all practically homeless, with no future before them in the crowded city but want and misery. Each one of them was anxious to try his fortune in the "Promised Land," and loud were the complaints of those left behind at the farm school. Our journey out was interesting, but uneventful. The time was passed with the help of dominoes and checkers and mouth organs, for experience has taught me the wisdom of laying in a large stock of anything that will serve to keep the boys occupied.

Toward the end of the third night we arrived in Whitewright, and, oh, the luxury of a bed after two nights and a half on the road! At noon the next day the distribution of the boys took place in the courthouse. Our coming had been advertised in the local paper, and a committee composed of the business men of Whitewright had received applications from about forty families, from among which we picked out good homes for eighteen of our boys. The other two I had sent further west, to try the experiment of placing them on cattle ranches. This seems to have been a success. My two embryo cowboys write enthusiastically of their new homes and the strange new life, and have already secured two homes for other boys. It is a life that appeals to many to whom regular farm work would seem dull, and if our means would allow it might be the making of many a boy who otherwise could not be persuaded to leave the city. I made a trip to Abilene to see about placing these two boys and to make arrangements for the future, and I found the people most kindhearted and generous.

After placing the boys near Whitewright my next duty was to drive about and visit them in their new homes. Besides being a duty, it was a real pleasure. The homes were comfortable and often pretty, the new foster parents were kind and hopeful, and the boys were as happy as any boys could be. In several cases, although barely a week had elapsed since their arrival, the little fellows were saying "papa" and "mamma," were making friends in school, and, in fact, were already taking root. Their Bowery accent and ignorance of country ways were a source of great amusement. One of them was greatly excited about some strange "birds" in the trees that weren't exactly birds, either, because they had four legs and a great bushy tail. The poor little chap had never been in the woods before, and did not know what a squirrel was. Another caused a hearty laugh by announcing that he was going into the woods to gather "coupons." However, I noticed that it did not take them long to learn all about pecans and persimmons, too, nor about 'possums and coons and all the other delights of Southern woods.

After three delightful days spent in seeing the new homes I started out on an even more charming round of visits to older friends, the boys I had brought to Texas last year and the year before. One evening four of them called on me at the hotel where I was staying, and four nicer looking or better dressed young men I couldn't hope to see. One of them had ridden in nine miles on his pony, which he showed me with great pride. I found the boys, as a rule, successful and self-reliant. My plan is to place the older ones in families to work for board and clothing for one year, and I find that after the first year they can get plenty of work at good wages. One of them told me he had his choice of half a dozen places. He had saved money and would soon be in a position to farm for himself. He said there was no place like Texas for saving money. I saw two of them with $25 saddles of their own, and all, young and old, had good clothes for going to town in and for Sundays. One of them has rented a piece of land that he will farm on shares this year, and his prospects are good.

Thanksgiving week I spent with a doctor who has two of our boys, brothers. It was most delightful to see the happiness of the two little fellows, and the way they had won the affections of the doctor and his wife. Coming to us as they did from the dreary monotony of an institution, they have changed all that for the free, healthy life of a refined home, with prospects as good as any boy in the town. Imagine the change, and fancy what a pleasure it was to me to feel that I had brought it about! On Thanksgiving Day we had an old fashioned Thanksgiving dinner, the table, lengthened to its full extent, groaning under the weight of good things, and I wondered if it were not all like a fairy tale to the two little boys.

This visit finished the trip, and after making the necessary arrangements for another party to arrive next month, I started back for New-York, my thoughts dwelling with pleasure on the past and looking forward with hope to the future.

New-York, Jan. 12, 1900. ROBERT N. BRACE.

## QUESTIONS AS TO IRRIGATION.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: The communication from Mr. Hinton in your issue of the 7th suggests two or three questions for the consideration of agricultural scientists and experts in hydraulics and engineering.

First—All agricultural experiments show that at least four-fifths of all heavy rainfalls and saturations of the soil are lost by soaking below the reach of plants. Is it not possible to provide a method of so irrigating land as to save at least one-half of that water thus lost?

Second—At present irrigating can be done only upon level lands. Is it not practicable to irrigate the hilly lands as well?

Third—Is there not water enough in the earth and under the earth to furnish a supply for the crops? There is no limit to the supply of water from artesian wells in Florida, Mississippi, Iowa and Dakota to the writer's knowledge.

Fourth—Mr. Hinton says "it is generally assumed that an average irrigated acre (west of the Mississippi) is equal in production, under proper cultivation and water service, to three ordinary acres in the humid regions." This suggests: If irrigation is of so much value under adverse circumstances, why not apply it to even up the irregularity in rainfall in the East and South as well? S. S. BOYCE.

Tottenville, N. Y., Jan. 7, 1900.

## AGAINST THEIR COUNTRY'S WARS.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: At the suggestion of a Western correspondent you reprinted the following paragraph, as a quotation from General U. S. Grant:

Experience proves that the man who obstructs a war in which his nation is engaged, no matter whether right or wrong, occupies no enviable place in life or history. Better for him, individually, to advocate "war, pestilence and famine" than to act as an obstructionist to a war already begun. . . . The most favorable posthumous history the stay-at-home traitor can hope for is—oblivion.

General Grant was a good authority on many questions, but history was not his strong point. I ask you to print the following names, which constitute only a very small number of the men, eminent in public life, who inflexibly and publicly opposed and condemned the carrying on of wars in which their own nation was engaged:

In America—Abraham Lincoln, Charles Sumner (afterward Senator), Thomas Corwin (afterward Secretary of the Treasury, Congressman and Minister to Mexico), John Quincy Adams, Daniel Webster, Henry Clay, Henry Ward Beecher, and last, but not least, and fiercest of all, Horace Greeley.

In Great Britain—William Pitt (Earl of Chatham), Edmund Burke, Charles James Fox, Richard Cobden, John Bright, Earl of Derby, Lord John Russell, Sir Robert Peel, Benjamin Disraeli and William E. Gladstone.

Although then only a boy, I am proud to remember that I was an admiring follower in this respect of Henry Clay, Tom Corwin and Horace Greeley. May I always have such good company!

THOMAS G. SHEARMAN.

New-York, Jan. 10, 1900.

## UNWISE CHANGES IN STREET NAMES.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Your recent editorial regarding new names proposed by the City Council for certain streets deserves commendation. To call the new Elm-st. "Dewey-ave." is to start an avenue much below the usual line in the city, and where the term street seems more appropriate.

The worthy name of Dewey should, I think, be reserved for one of the wide and extended avenues above Central Park. It might well be applied to Seventh-ave., while the name of a brave Revolutionary soldier, Knowlton, would be most appropriate for Eighth-ave., as he lost his life in a gallant stand for liberty made not far from the site of Morningside Park.

It would be no more than gracious, if Elm-st. must have a new name, to call it Strong-st., after the Mayor under whose administration its improvement was authorized. But this tribute is probably not to be expected from the present municipal government.

As to the proposed change in the names of Lafayette Place and Whitehall-st., a vigorous protest should be made in both cases. To call the latter "South Broadway" might lead to a movement for a change in the numbering of the entire thoroughfare (Broadway), which would result in endless confusion and serious injury to business houses from Bowling Green to Harlem. Moreover, Whitehall-st. is of peculiar historic interest to New-Yorkers, and the name should be as sacredly preserved as that of Lafayette Place.

New-York, Jan. 9, 1900. KNICKERBOCKER.

# POSTAL FUNDS DEPOSITORY.

## THE TRANSFER FROM THE CHASE TO THE SEVENTH NATIONAL BANK.

One of the lines of Government deposits recently sought by the National City Bank was the local Postoffice funds, as appears from letters of President Stillman and Senator Platt to the Secretary of the Treasury, which Secretary Gage included in the National City Bank correspondence transmitted by him to Congress last week. In his answer to Mr. Stillman on this subject, Secretary Gage noted the fact that the designation of a bank as a depository of Postoffice funds was a matter which came within the province of the Postmaster-General, and the publication of the correspondence has aroused anew the public interest in the transfer, several months ago, of the Postoffice funds from the Chase National Bank to the Seventh National Bank. Last May an important interest in the latter institution was acquired by a syndicate which included Perry S. Heath and Fletcher S. Heath, of Indiana, and Josiah Quincy, then Mayor of Boston, all of whom are now directors of the bank. A little later Fletcher S. Heath was elected vice-president of the bank, and at about the same time his brother, Perry S. Heath, being then as now First Assistant Postmaster-General, the Seventh National Bank was designated by the Postmaster-General as the local depository for the Postoffice moneys, the Chase National Bank having for several years preceding held that deposit.

An officer of the Chase National Bank said yesterday, in answer to a question as to the size and profitableness of the Postoffice account in the Chase bank prior to June last:

The account when we had it was substantially the same size as it is now—from $200,000 to $250,000. Of course, an account of this kind is frequently cut down to a comparatively small sum, but it soon resumes its average. It is a valuable account, and every bank would be glad to get it. Mr. Stillman's bank would like to get it, for instance. It is exceptional only in that it comes in many separate items, and its "chicken feed" characteristic makes a good deal of hard work necessary in taking care of it, but for all that it is a valuable account for a bank to have. The quarterly report of the Seventh National Bank in December showed that the account at that time amounted to $276,581 74, while on September 7, the time of the preceding quarterly report, it amounted to $206,698 22. The bank keeping the account, however, is required to keep on hand United States bonds equal to the maximum amount of the deposit carried.

Postmaster Van Cott when asked about the choice of the Seventh National as a depository for Postoffice funds answered:

I got my orders from Washington to change the depository from the Chase to the Seventh National. All the Treasury Department has to do with it is to approve the bonds. I cannot understand why there should be criticism, since the bond security is ample to protect the Government from any possible loss. It was at my suggestion that the funds were removed from the Park National to the Chase National. General Thomas, of the Chase bank, was on my bond, and I considered that one who had incurred such a heavy personal responsibility in the matter would protect the safekeeping of the funds.

First Assistant Postmaster-General Heath was in the city yesterday, but returned to Washington last night. Mr. Heath when asked about the reports of his using his influence to divert postal funds to the Seventh National Bank, in which he is interested, declined to discuss the subject. Mr. Heath's brother, however, was quoted yesterday as saying:

The Seventh National Bank was never reorganized. My brother purchased the McAnerney interest and became a stockholder, and William H. Kimball was made president. I was not appointed vice-president until last October. There is very little profit in a bank being a repository for postoffice funds. The bank has to file a bond of $250,000, and cannot receive deposits of more than $135,000. If the deposits on any single day exceed that amount the bank has to send the surplus to the Sub-Treasury. Of course, there is a certain advertisement in becoming a repository for the postoffice funds, but outside of that there is very little in it. Besides, in a city like New-York very little money remains on deposit, the account being a very active one and but little balance remaining after the day's business.

Of course, I cannot say that my brother's official connection with the Postoffice Department has had anything to do with the transfer of the postoffice account from the Chase National Bank to the Seventh National Bank—my brother could only answer that—but I think that matter lies entirely in the hands of the Postmaster-General, and I think he decides as to what bank shall be the custodian of the postoffice account.

I did not know that President Stillman of the National City Bank had tried to secure through influence, the deposits of the postoffice. If he has and has failed while having the indorsement of Senator Thomas C. Platt, why, I have nothing more to say. I know nothing about influence in connection with the selection of the State repository of the postoffice funds, and cannot answer for my brother this question. The only change in the directorate of the Seventh National Bank was the election the other day of General Samuel Thomas as one of the directors.

## ALIMONY FOR MRS. CAROLINE KIDDER.

Mrs. Caroline Kidder, wife of Charles H. Kidder, who was an actor when he married her, and is a cousin of Kathryn Kidder, the actress, received $50 counsel fee and $5 a week alimony yesterday pending the trial of an action for a separation brought against her before Justice Beekman in the Supreme Court. Kidder, his wife says, left the stage when he was able to make $100 a week, and is now the representative of a Philadelphia newspaper. She has brought a suit in reply to his, in which she demands a separation on account of his alleged cruelty and neglect.

## COMMENT ON CURRENT TOPICS.

### MUD THAT HAS MISSED.

From The Brooklyn Eagle.

The controversy has taken the form of a campaign. The assailants of the Secretary are talking of embezzlement and clamoring for impeachment. They are somewhat excited. Some of them are rearing and plunging, and most of them find in flaming headlines an outlet for their frenzy. But it happens to be a fact, notwithstanding, that none of the mud flung has stuck. It is not adhesive. It does not even get as far as actual contact—it falls on the way to the target. Not a fact ostensibly adverse to Mr. Gage has yet been developed which does not crumble under touch. He played no favorites, violated no law and upset none of the proprieties.

### OF DOUBTFUL WISDOM.

From The Indianapolis News.

It will not be denied by any sensible man that it was a wise policy to get the large and steadily increasing Treasury surplus into circulation. Whether Mr. Gage chose the best way to do this may possibly be questioned. And we think it was unfortunate that the bank chosen for handling the internal revenue receipts was a Standard Oil bank. But that the Secretary had the legal power to do what he did cannot be questioned; nor can there be any doubt that the result sought to be accomplished was good.

### NEED FEAR NO CRITICISM.

From The Philadelphia Press.

The law is with Secretary Gage. Public policy is with him. Banking practice is with him. Business men are with him. If a Secretary of the Treasury so acts that he has the law, public policy, banking practice and business men on his side, he is right. He need fear no criticism.

### THE SOURCE OF THE ATTACK.

From The Boston Transcript.

The attack was made by papers which will support Bryan if Bryan is nominated. It may recoil on their heads, but it is quite as probable that, as they are nothing if not sensational, their character is so well appreciated by their readers that it will not be much more affected than by the explosion of previous sensations.

### THE SURPLUS NEEDED IN BUSINESS.

From The Buffalo Express.

While the supply of money is practically fixed, the Government is under some obligation to put its surplus into the channels of business. It is right, of course, that in doing this no discrimination between banks should be made. Secretary Gage's plan was at once fair and businesslike.