Amusements.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC—8:10—'Way Down East.
AMERICAN THEATRE—8:15—Martha.
BIJOU—8:15—Sister Mary.
BROADWAY THEATRE—8—Ben-Hur.
CASINO—8:15—Little Red Riding Hood.
CRITERION THEATRE—8:20—The Little Minister.
DALY'S THEATRE—8—The Maneuvers of Jane.
EDEN MUSEE—9 a. m. to 11 p. m.—Waxworks, Grand Concert and Cinematograph.
EMPIRE THEATRE—8:20—Brother Officers.
FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE—8:15—Three Little Lambs.
FOURTEENTH STREET THEATRE—8—The Village Postmaster.
GARDEN THEATRE—8:20—The Degenerates.
GARRICK THEATRE—8—Sherlock Holmes.
GRAND OPERA HOUSE—8—The Gunner's Mate.
HAMMERSTEIN'S VICTORIA—8:30—Chris and the Wonderful Lamp.
HARLEM OPERA HOUSE—8:30—The First Violin.
HERALD SQUARE THEATRE—8:20—Naughty Anthony.
IRVING PLACE THEATRE—8—Schweighofer in Blitzmaedel (A Telegraph Girl).
KEITH'S—Continuous Performance.
KNICKERBOCKER THEATRE—8:15—The Cowboy and the Lady.
KOSTER & BIAL'S—8:15—Vaudeville.
LYCEUM THEATRE—8:30—Miss Hobbs.
MADISON SQUARE THEATRE—8:30—Wheels Within Wheels.
MENDELSSOHN HALL—3—Long Recital.
METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE—7:45—Die Walkure.
MURRAY HILL THEATRE—2—8—An Enemy to the King.
NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DESIGN—Exhibition of Oil Paintings.
NEW-YORK THEATRE—Closed.
PASTOR'S—Continuous Performance.
WALDORF-ASTORIA—3—Piano Recital—8:15—Concert.
WALLACK'S—8:15—The Ameer.

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Carl H. Schultz's Carbonated Waters
The only PURE and CORRECT mineral waters.

New-York Daily Tribune.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 1900.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN.—Conflicting reports regarding the positions of Generals Buller and Warren were sent out from South Africa; Potgieter's Pont has been occupied; Warren's column of eleven thousand men is in the field and the Dutch are withdrawing from Tugela River; General French reported reconnoissances along the Orange Free State borders. —— Mr. Macrum, former United States Consul at Pretoria, refused to answer questions put to him by The Tribune's representative at Port Said. —— A dispatch from Berlin said that the Emperor still harbored resentment over the seizure of the Bundesrath. —— Other victories of American troops over the insurgents in Luzon were reported, the rebels are being driven southward. —— An epidemic of grip has broken out in Barcelona, one-half of the inhabitants being reported sick from the disease.

CONGRESS.—Senate: There was a spirited debate on the Philippine question, in which Senators Wolcott, Berry and Pettigrew took part; Senator Rawlins spoke against the pending currency bill. —— House: The Urgent Deficiency bill was reported; most of the session was devoted to District of Columbia business.

DOMESTIC.—The annual report of the Interstate Commerce Commission was made public. —— Many Western Democratic politicians, it is believed in Washington, are intriguing to defeat Bryan's plans. —— The Joint Committee on Taxation submitted its bill in both houses at Albany. —— The delayed annual meeting of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, to be held to-morrow, is expected to make known some important developments. —— The National Convention of the United Mine Workers of America was opened at Indianapolis.

CITY.—Stocks were weak and dull. —— The reports of the majority and minority of the Mazet Investigating Committee were given out. —— Andrew Onderdonk and John B. McDonald were the only bidders for the rapid transit contract. The bids were opened by the Commission, and it was announced that the contract would be awarded to-day. —— Dr. George W. F. Birch preferred five charges of heresy against Dr. A. C. McGiffert before the New-York Presbytery. —— Assistant District-Attorney Osborne in the Molineux trial sought to establish a motive for the crime with which the defendant is charged.

THE WEATHER.—Forecast for to-day: Threatening, with showers in the afternoon. The temperature yesterday: Highest, 40 degrees; lowest, 35 degrees; average, 37⅞.

EXTRAVAGANCE AND INDIRECT TAXES.

Entire separation of State and local taxation has its attractive features. It goes well with the always popular rallying cry of home rule. People have a notion that with equalization abolished each county will be able with greater freedom to adjust the burden of its own expenditures. As a matter of fact, equalization is concerned merely with the apportionment of the $12,000,000 of direct State taxes among the sixty-one counties, and the increase or decrease of local assessment in any case does not work any serious hardship. This adjustment does not in any way affect the amount of local taxes any individual pays. Relieved of the State tax, the counties would have no remedy in their hands for the really glaring injustice of our tax laws, the inequality between individuals in the matter of assessment, beside which the inequality between communities is most trifling. The local assessors would go on putting a premium on perjury concerning personal property, or driving it away, in the same bungling fashion they now follow, and the only difference would be that their victims would pay about one-tenth less than they do now, while the great body of those at present escaping taxation would still bear no share of the taxes levied for local purposes, which, it is to be remembered, make all but a small fraction of the tax burden. Nevertheless, it is believed by many careful students of the subject that an entire separation of State and local taxation would help the average voter to hold city and county officers to strict accountability.

The entire abolition of direct State taxation, on the other hand, may free the State officials from rigid reckoning with the citizens, particularly in the rural districts, where the expenses of State Government are most felt and where economical farmers keep keen watch on the extravagances of Senators and Assemblymen which the latter might be glad to avoid. Twenty years' experience with indirect taxation does not indicate the wisdom of taking the popular finger entirely from the pulse of State Government. In that period we have been gradually increasing our indirect revenue, so that now it is almost double the whole State income of 1880. Yet the State tax rate is higher than it was in 1881, when less than $1,000,000 was raised indirectly. An income which the taxpayers did not trace from their own pockets to the State Treasury seems to have been an invitation to extravagance, and so long as the tax rate was kept within figures to which people had been accustomed legislators went on recklessly spending money. The same temptation is likely to meet local authorities. If they see the State relieving property of from 10 to 20 per cent of its direct tax they may conclude that they can spend more money and still leave the individual taxpayer satisfied that he is not paying any unusual amount.

The joint committee have planned for an indirect revenue just sufficient for the present expenses of the State. They say:

> In fixing the rate to be paid on mortgage debts we have been controlled mainly by the amount of revenue which the State needs, but we have not been unmindful of the fact that if the rate is made too high the tax will operate as a burden to borrowers, or, in other words, it will be an additional real estate tax.

The same consideration prompted the levying of the corporation and inheritance taxes. It was calculated that when in full operation they would pay the bills of the State and end direct State taxation, as the present committee hope to do. But if the State's activities are to grow as they have been doing for twenty years the $23,000,000 or so now sufficient will have to be increased. In that case the tax rate on mortgages will have to be raised from five mills, or else direct taxation must be resorted to again. If the former, then real estate might be greatly burdened, as the committee point out, even if it should not be burdened by the proposed lower rate, as many fear. If the latter, then the whole plan of separating local and State taxes falls down. The volume of mortgages may shrink and leave even an economical administration with a deficit, or it may swell and give the State a great surplus and the consequent temptation to establish new commissions and undertake new enterprises. This defect is inherent in any revenue system which makes the income dependent not on the needs of government but the resources or transactions of the citizens. Such a plan requires almost constant tinkering, or else in one year borrowing must be resorted to, and in another plenty will prompt legislative profusion. And the scale of expenditures once raised, reduction for a lean year is almost impossible. An extra tax is much easier, and that levied is also likely to remain. So our lawmakers may go on as for the last twenty years, spending more money as fast as they can find a way of getting more money to spend.

The indirect method of raising State revenue may have advantages which outweigh these dangers, but the dangers should be considered before New-York is embarked on a new system of taxation which breaks that close dependence of the State Government on the individual taxpayers which has been considered necessary to good administration.

The committee have embodied their views in a bill which was introduced in the Senate and Assembly last night, and which will be found in full on another page of this paper.

THE "WEARY TITAN'S" AIDS.

The opinion is expressed here and there that the self-governing British colonies have made a serious mistake in offering to help and in actually helping Great Britain in her war with the Boers. We quoted the other day a declaration to that effect by the editor of a paper at Sydney, New South Wales, who lamented that thus Australia had practically abandoned her independence. At about the same time we were assured by a former member of the Canadian Parliament, whose observation is comprehensive and whose judgment is usually sound, that the Laurier administration was doomed to a speedy fall, partly because by offering troops to Great Britain it had set a precedent for involving the Dominion in all British wars. It may be worthy of notice in passing as not devoid of explanatory significance that the Australian editor quoted is an opponent of the present British Government and a sympathizer with the Boers, and that the Canadian statesman has long been in favor of the Dominion's secession from the British Empire and annexation to the United States. In disapproving the giving of colonial aid to the empire, therefore, they are both entirely consistent. The question is, How many colonials are of their way of thinking?

We must say frankly that we cannot see much ground for our Canadian friend's statement. No doubt those Canadians who, like himself, favor entire separation from Great Britain do regret and resent Sir Wilfrid Laurier's action, because that action has strengthened and not weakened the bonds between the two countries. But they are not sufficiently numerous to be reckoned the people of Canada. They are only a fraction of one party. Perhaps their defection from Sir Wilfrid in the next general election would assure his defeat. But so would the defection of those who are displeased with him on other grounds. We are inclined to think that where he loses one vote because he sent troops to aid the mother country he will lose half a dozen because by raising the Lynn Canal claim he prevented a settlement of all controversies and the establishment of mutually advantageous relations between the Dominion and the United States. There is, we think, a pretty general feeling in Canada that reciprocity in trade with this country would be worth a good deal more than a port on Lynn Canal; and a realization, too, of the fact that, while to secure the former is possible, to get the latter is far outside all bounds of reasonable hope or practical expectation. As for the simple question of aiding Great Britain in this war, we believe the overwhelming majority of Canadians of both parties approve Sir Wilfrid's action.

The same may be said of the Australasian colonies. All the colonial governments have offered troops for service in South Africa, and there is no indication anywhere of popular disapproval of that course. The colonial Parliaments, or all of them that have had anything to say upon the subject, have enthusiastically approved it, without any division on party lines. In the Queensland Parliament the leader of the Opposition (Labor party) seconded the Prime Minister's motion expressing pride in the conduct of the Australian troops. In New-Zealand the Prime Minister, Mr. Seddon, is a Radical Socialist. Yet he was one of the first of all to propose sending troops. His course has since been popularly ratified by an overwhelming majority in a general election, and in both houses of the new Parliament there is only one member opposed to it. If it was "a grave error" to send troops to South Africa, as the Sydney editor declares, we must certainly reckon it one in which the people of all the Australasian colonies are implicated.

That it was an error is, however, something of which we are by no means convinced. It is idle to talk of the colonies having thus abandoned their independence, for they had none to abandon. So long as they recognize the British Crown as a part of their Government—as they all do and are likely to do until far beyond our time—they are members of the body of the British Empire; and while those members may be independent of each other they are by no means independent of the whole. In a most practical way they are dependent, since every one of them looks to the Imperial navy for defence at sea. If they thus enjoy the protection of the British navy, why should they not contribute to the strength of the British army? Nor is there any better ground for the complaint that the colonies have set a precedent which will involve them in all future British wars. Is it to be supposed that if the colonies should hold themselves neutral in Britain's wars their neutrality would be respected? No dream could be more idle. Were one of the great Continental Powers to fight Great Britain and to get the mastery at sea its first move would be to seize the British colonies, and all the professions of neutrality the latter might make would not in the least deter it. There could be no security whatever in holding aloof from Great Britain's wars; there can be no increase of peril in taking part in them. Whether it be wished or not, the British Empire as a whole and the individual autonomy of its parts must all stand or fall together. And it seems reasonable, therefore, to reckon that the wisest course for the parts to pursue is to give their support whenever needed for the maintenance of the whole.

THE RAPID TRANSIT BIDS.

The Rapid Transit Commissioners clearly showed their great satisfaction yesterday afternoon when they found themselves in possession of two attractive bids for the franchise to construct and operate underground roads. And they are well entitled to rejoice, for their faith in the enterprise, maintained during many trying years, has been vindicated. It is worthy of note that Mayor Van Wyck was not only present at the opening of the bids as an ex-officio member of the Board, but in an exceedingly cheerful frame of mind, and even desirous, it is said, of having the contract awarded at once; but, of course, his more judicious colleagues could not be expected to countenance such haste, for the proposals required deliberate examination. They properly refrained also from indicating a preference, for though there was a large difference in the principal sums named by the bidders they are to a greater or less extent equalized by the agreement in one case to pay certain percentages on annual gross receipts above $5,000,000 and the omission in the other case to make such a stipulation. It remains to be determined by calculation and estimate whether, other things being equal, the bid of $39,300,000 is more or less advantageous than the bid of $35,000,000. As to the security offered, a committee of the Board is already investigating its character, and will probably report to-day, but there is no reason to apprehend any difficulty on that score.

The good faith of Mr. Onderdonk and Mr. McDonald is not open to the slightest suspicion. If there were no other proof of their sincerity the fact that, in accordance with the terms governing the bidding, each has made himself liable to heavy damages and put up $150,000 to guarantee his proposal would show that he meant business. But over and above that inducement to confidence is the reputation which both enjoy as successful contractors on a large scale, who are able to command ample resources for the performance of any obligation they may incur. Already, as was inevitable, there is much speculation as to their associates in an enterprise of extraordinary magnitude, and common report has it that while one bid is of special interest to capitalists connected with the Metropolitan Street Railway Company, Tammany magnates are concerned in the other. The Rapid Transit Commissioners presumably know just whom Mr. Onderdonk and Mr. McDonald represent, besides themselves, for their advertisement for proposals required that every bid should be accompanied by a statement of all the persons concerned in it, directly or indirectly. Such information the Board chooses to keep to itself for the present, and it may not become public property until the contract has been awarded, but in the mean time it will be strange if guesses do not come pretty near the truth.

So far as the public welfare is concerned, we do not know that the personal or political affiliations of the bidders are important, excepting as they may influence the attitude of other transportation companies. That, of course, is a question to which the Commission will give the necessary consideration, guarding the interests of the community at that point as it has guarded them at all points thus far in the performance of its complicated task. It is believed that the city is amply secured against financial loss by the provisions of the law and the terms of the contract, but it is a great satisfaction to know that the enterprise will remain at all stages under the control of honest and sagacious citizens, whose highest ambition it is to fulfil the obligations imposed upon them by the Legislature and the people.

DEMANDS THAT ARE NOT PERMANENT.

It is as important for public prosperity that future demands for products should not be overestimated as that they should be fully anticipated and met. The speculative world has a peculiar standard of its own. When stocks are hunting buyers there is a prevalent feeling that a man is an enemy of public prosperity who remembers and reminds anybody that existing business demands are not necessarily perpetual. Equally the man is a public enemy, when the whole Street is trying to buy and therefore to depress stocks, if he reminds the people that the great demands of times past will with increasing population be some day exceeded. But productive industry and legitimate trade stand in constant need of a veracious and two sided view of the future, which ignores neither the tendency toward expansion nor the tendency toward contraction of demand.

The business world has to rely upon three distinct kinds of demand for products and goods. The perpetual demand for consumption is only one, and, though it varies considerably with the increase or decrease in the purchasing power of the people, is the more nearly constant. This country is so prosperous that even in the worst of times few die of starvation, and the number of people who much reduce their consumption of food is relatively small. A larger number reduce materially their purchases of clothing and household equipments in bad times, but even of these the decrease in consumption is relatively small. It is a fact, also, if not entirely a creditable fact, that the consumption of liquors and tobacco and the demand for amusements and luxuries are diminished in bad times much less than the purchasing power of the people.

There is a second kind of demand which is altogether spasmodic. When retail dealers have found consumption reduced and stocks left on their hands they are apt to reduce materially the stocks they order and calculate to carry. The wholesale merchants and jobbers feel the effect of this shrinkage and curtail accordingly the stocks they calculate to carry in anticipation of coming demands. Thus there results a gradual but in the aggregate a large decrease in quantities of products required for consumption, which decrease continues until there are seen prospects of better times. Then there comes a sudden and large demand for replenishment of stocks, which may increase orders for a time by nearly or quite one-half. But it is a mistake to forget that such an increase of demand is necessarily temporary.

A third kind of demand is of almost unlimited quantity in any particular department, and possibly in many at once, but comes only on a large scale at intervals of some years. It is for expansion and reconstruction of manufacturing, transporting and trading equipments, including buildings of all sorts, machinery, vessels, rails and cars, tools and furniture and hardware, and the materials required for the general adoption and relief of new inventions and devices. When an era of good times opens after a long period of depression this kind of demand appears at its maximum and extends to the greatest variety of products. But such expansion is of necessity limited. The need of new buildings for residences, trade or industrial purposes has its limit. The demand for new railroads and larger equipment on old roads is calculated to anticipate some growth in business, and stops when such calculations are met. The disposition of capital to take up new inventions and devices and provide for their general adoption comes when large amounts of capital seeking employment have accumulated, but passes when the accumulation has vanished.

It is not necessary to add that a considerable part of the demand which has crowded industries so greatly during the last year is of the two latter kinds, and will at no distant day materially diminish. The decrease may be deferred for a year or two, or may come soon, but it is inevitable and must be expected if men are to make sound business calculations. As matters now stand such demands have engaged a large part of the producing force of the country for some months to come, and do not yet appear to have reached their end. But there is nothing more certain than that business calculations will prove erroneous and will lead to misfortune if they do not take into account the fact that part of the demand which has been witnessed for more than a year will sooner or later diminish and disappear.

CHEAP IRON FOR THE PACIFIC COAST.

An incident just reported by "The Iron Age" may lead to important consequences on the Pacific Coast. That region has been for years peculiarly dependent on the East for light and heavy hardware, agricultural implements, railway and bridge material, and everything else composed mainly of steel or iron. Retail dealers in California, Oregon and Washington have at times felt sore over this fact. Between what they regarded the exactions of the Eastern jobber and the heavy transportation tax of the railroads, the hardware merchants of the Golden Gate and Puget Sound thought themselves sadly oppressed. Relief was not to be had, apparently, from England. Distance and the tariff precluded hope in that quarter. If, however, on the western slopes of the Rockies an abundant supply of iron could be discovered the situation would be considerably altered.

The prospect of absolute independence in this respect, though still remote, is certainly bettered by a combination of facts that have just come to light. It is asserted that in Southwestern Utah, not more than three hundred miles from Los Angeles, a large quantity of iron ore has been found. It is not so free from phosphorus as that obtained in the vicinity of Lake Superior; but the percentage is reported to be small. According to "The Iron Age's" advices, the ore can be taken out very easily and cheaply. Coal that can be made into a good quality of coke, and the limestone also needed for reducing the ore, are close at hand. The existence of these deposits was known months ago to energetic prospectors; but development has been delayed by negotiations between the owners of valuable claims there and the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company, which wanted to work the mines. A lease has now been effected by that corporation, with a stipulation that from 150,000 to 180,000 tons shall be taken out yearly. It is reported that an English syndicate, having good financial backing, has also obtained a foothold in the same region. It is credited with an intention to build a road direct to the Pacific Coast. However, the Colorado folks need to construct only ninety miles of road to complete connections with Pueblo, their headquarters; and it is said that the Oregon Short Line and Rio Grande are already making extensions that will pass much nearer to Iron Mountain.

Pittsburg was not built in a day. The iron and steel industry of the Pacific Coast must be developed gradually. Before it is well established the Nicaragua Canal may be an accomplished fact. Freight rates from one coast to the other would then be reduced, no doubt. But the manifest advantage of having a supply of raw material close at hand would not be lost altogether. It would only be reduced. Utah may become another Alabama. And brains, capital and enterprise would seize the opportunity afforded by a supply of cheap iron to convert the metal into scores of different articles that are demanded by the people of that part of the country. The construction and operation of hundreds of factories on or near the coast will certainly follow the successful production of iron in Utah. It must not be forgotten that Montana and Arizona, which already furnish more copper than Michigan, are nearer to the Pacific seaboard than to the Atlantic; and if the former be furnished with cheap iron also, immense manufacturing results may be expected.

Within half a century the manufacturers of this country—practically all of them here in the East—have won three distinct victories. First, they almost completely excluded from the domestic market the European producer. Next, they successfully invaded countries whose trade Europe once monopolized—Egypt, China and Japan, to say nothing of South America. Finally, they secured a footing in the very homes of their rivals, England, Germany and France. The transmontane region of the United States is likely to repeat at least a part of this programme. That it will in time achieve complete independence in the manufacture of metals one can scarcely doubt. It is hardly less probable that it will compete with the East some day in Japan, China and Australia. And it is not altogether impossible that before the close of another century California will sell New-England jackknives cheaper than the latter can make them herself.

London stockbrokers evidently have no use for employers whose patriotism is not equal to holding open places for their soldier clerks. Their method of showing indignation cannot be commended, but their sentiment does them credit.

A venerable and distinguished New-Jersey poet lays down the proposition that no writer should undertake to transact poetry till after he is thirty. If the principle had been in force in those days we should have lost Milton's "Hymn on the Morning of the Nativity," together with many other choice examples of Miltonian production, as well as all the poetry of Keats and a good deal of that of Shelley. Probably the limitation was only designed to apply to New-Jersey poets, in which case it is a question whether the time limit might not with advantage be lifted some notches higher.

The Populists ought to look after Tillman and South Carolina. An income tax is one of their pet measures, but South Carolina, after having enacted one, made a farce of its operation and has now by common consent repealed it. Sic semper tyrannis! If some trust octopus State had done this, what a howl would have split the unoffending sky!

With the launching of the Deutschland Germany puts on the waters a ship to be proud of, though it may not realize the national expectation expressed by Minister Von Bülow in his speech at the launching, and prove itself to be the most powerful ship in the world. The Oceanic exceeds it slightly in dimensions, and the matter of speed and power is to be determined by trial. But it is a noble craft, and bears a name to kindle enthusiasm from one end of the Fatherland to the other, ship and name likewise inviting admiration from all corners of the world.

The agent of the Department of Agriculture sent to make a study of conditions in Puerto Rico confirms the favorable impressions already existing in regard to the future possibilities of that island and its advantages as a new field for the enterprise of the American farmer. Mr. Cook, the agent, says that whereas but little tropical fruit and other plant products are now exported from the island, an unlimited commercial demand exists for them, and it only needs American enterprise and energy to increase the products millions of dollars annually. In the matter of coffee Mr. Cook thinks the island may be made to supply at least half the consumption of the United States, for which we pay annually from $60,000,000 to $70,000,000. That is a rosy view of the possibilities in one direction of the island, but there is no reason to suppose that it is overcolored or overdrawn.

The woman suffragists of South Dakota are generous if they are foolish. They not only want to vote themselves, but want the women of Puerto Rico, Hawaii and the Philippines to vote also. It is a question how many men in some of those places could vote wisely, and inasmuch as in primitive countries the women are largely drudges and less fitted for affairs than their husbands the utility of ballots in their hands might well be questioned even by the most ardent theoretical woman suffragists.

PERSONAL.

Prebendary H. W. Webb-Peploe, of St. Paul's Cathedral, London, has accepted the invitation to be a speaker at next year's August Conference at Northfield, Mass. His last visit was in 1895. The Rev. John H. Jowett, of Birmingham, England, successor of the late Dr. R. W. Dale, has also been invited. He is one of the leading younger men in the English Congregational Church.

Dr. G. A. Dorsey, curator of anthropology in the Field Columbian Museum, accompanied by an assistant and the Rev. H. R. Voth, has gone to the Pueblo of Oraibi, Arizona. The object of the expedition is to secure additional ethnological material for the museum, to witness the winter solstice ceremony just past in order to get suggestions for new groups, and also to start a systematic and somewhat extended excavation in order to strengthen the archæological exhibit from this interesting region. The expenses are covered by Stanley R. McCormick, of Chicago, who has placed $5,000 at the disposal of the museum, in addition to the $10,000 already expended on the Hopis.

Rudolph Schwartz, the sculptor, has completed the first one of the colossal stone figures for the great Indianapolis soldiers' monument. The contract calls for the completion by next August, when the monument will be dedicated. Ex-President Harrison has been asked to deliver the oration upon this occasion.

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

"The Omaha Bee" says that the people of Dawson City have adopted a novel and effective cure for crime. It is a monster woodpile, of a size to awe the most hardened offender. A man convicted of any offence is compelled to saw wood. He saws ten hours a day steadily, day after day, until his sentence expires. He must saw regardless of the weather. In the most intense cold, the hardest rain, the fiercest snowstorm, he is compelled to continue sawing; and if the day has not ten hours of light, lanterns are provided to enable him to put in a full day. When the pile of sawed wood begins to get low, the authorities sentence men for very slight offences, and the natural result is that everybody is kept on his good behavior.

Peace Loving Woman.—"Did you pay the grocer and butcher, Amelia?"

"No; there wasn't enough to pay both of them. To pay only one would make trouble, so I just took the money and spent it downtown."—(Indianapolis Journal.

In his book about Persia, "The Land of the Lion and the Sun," Dr. Wills says that he was once conversing with the King's son, and a large circle of courtiers and priests filled the room. The Prince narrated his exploits in hunting the antelope the previous day, and gravely stated that while pursuing a pair of ahu when riding a very restive horse his headstall broke.

"What should you have done, Doctor?" asked the Prince.

"I should have tried to stick on as long as the ground was good, and expecting an accident, have awaited it."

"Ah, that was because you were not a prince," he said. "I leaned forward, and, unclasping my belt, placed it in the horse's mouth as a bridle, and, thus directing him, pursued my game and killed both antelope."

All the circle applauded, as of course they were bound to do. Dr. Wills was silent.

"You don't mean to say you don't believe that?" said the Prince. "Speak out if you don't; I sha'n't be offended in the least."

"Well, Your Highness, I don't believe it."

"Quite right, darogh bood" (it was a lie), unblushingly replied His Royal Highness, and burst into a fit of laughter quite unabashed; the circle of courtiers, of course, were convulsed.

A wizened faced newsboy climbed on a Detroit streetcar the other evening and worming his way past the conductor, walked down the aisle yelling:

"Las' edition—all about Siglur brudders findin' de tray of dimons!"

He sold several papers and when he was passing out a man looked around and yelled to him:

"Say, boy, where did they find that tray?"

The youngster paused in the doorway.

"In a pack o' cards!" he shouted back, and disappeared.—(Cleveland Plain Dealer.

At a recent meeting of the Municipal Council of Paris a proposition was referred to the Committee on Hygiene to "invite the Parisian public to refrain from spitting on the sidewalks." The proposition raised a laugh, but the committee recommended to the Council that enamelled signs be put up on the streets and in public buildings bearing the following inscription:

"WARNING:

"In the interest of the people and to avoid the spread of contagious diseases the public is requested not to spit on the sidewalk."

At the Theatre.—Fuddy—What do you laugh at that old joke for? When I told it to you three months ago you didn't even smile, and now you laugh at it as though you would die.

Duddy—Yes, I know. I paid to get in here, and I'm bound to make the most of my money's worth. —(Boston Transcript.

A native Indian barrister of Bengal recently made the following unique address in court: "My learned friend, with mere wind from a teapot, thinks to browbeat me from my legs; but this is a guerilla warfare. I stand under the shoes of my client, and only seek to place my bone of contention clearly in Your Honor's eye. My learned friend merely, and vainly, runs amok upon the sheet anchors of my case. My client is a widow, Your Honor; a poor chap, with one post-mortem son; a widow, not able to eat more than one meal a day, or to look after a man; so my poor client has not such physique or mind as to be able to assault the lusty complainant. Yet she has been deprived of some of her more valuable leather—i. e., the leather of her nose. My learned friend has said that there is on the side of his client a respectable witness—namely, a pleader; and since this witness is independent, therefore he should be believed. But, Your Honor, with Your Honor's vast experience, is pleased enough to observe that truthfulness is not so plentiful as blackberries in this country; and I am sorry to say—though this witness is a man of my own feathers—that there are in my profession black sheep of every complexion, and some of them do not always speak Gospel truth. Until the witness explains what has become of my client's nose leather he cannot be believed. He cannot be allowed to raise a castle in the air by beating upon a bush. So, trusting in that administration of British justice on which the sun never sets, I close my case."

A high school girl said to her father the other night:

"Daddy, I've got a sentence here I'd like to have you punctuate. You know something about punctuation, don't you?"

"A little," said her cautious parent, as he took the slip of paper she handed him.

This is what he read:

"A five dollar bill flew around the corner"

He studied it carefully.

"Well," he finally said, "I'd simply put a period after it, like this."

"I wouldn't," said the high school girl; "I'd make a dash after it!"—(Cleveland Plain Dealer.

This story is told about the late Archbishop Benson by his son:

"A worthy clergyman once sent him a proposed service for the 'dedication of a church stove,' with special lessons and collects. The Canticle was to be the Benedicite, because of the verse, 'O ye fire and heat,' etc. The hymn was the Veni Creator, because of the lines:

"Thy blessed unction from above
Is comfort, life and fire of love.

"Though my father was liturgically minded, these suggestions afforded him the intensest amusement."

I see it is reported that the president of the New-York City Council is under serious consideration for the second place on the next Democratic National ticket. It is to be feared that even the most enthusiastic campaign shouter will stand appalled before such a battle cry as "Bryan and Guggenheimer!" As another New-York Jew, Mr. Sulzer, is also a candidate for nomination to the same position, it seems to me that practical politics would favor the latter, in consequence of the exigency which demands that euphony in a campaign cry should be the first consideration.

The above from "The American Israelite" will be read with interest by William Sulzer, Representative in Congress from the XIth Congress District, who has probably never, until now, been taken for a Jew.

THE PASSING THRONG.

IMPROVEMENTS CHANGE LIFE.

W. N. Sweetzer, of Milwaukee, was speaking yesterday at the Hoffman House of modern improvements and how completely in the last half century they had changed the manner and mode of life.

"Contrast the way in which we live now with that of our ancestors," said Mr. Sweetzer, "and see what tremendous changes you will find. When my father was a boy such a thing as a cooking stove had never been heard of in the land. Everything was done on the open hearth—roasting, boiling or baking—but he always maintained that the invention of the cooking stove really sounded the knell of good cooking, and from what I have heard him tell I am not at all sure he wasn't right. Where you cooked your meats on spits and the like they had to be constantly turned in order to be sure of the meats being evenly cooked throughout, and every atom of the juice was saved. In consequence your fowls or roast came to the table done to an exact turn, which cannot be said to hold true to-day. In the marvellous stories of delicious feasts with which Dickens interlarded the pages of 'Pickwick Papers' the cooking must have been done after this manner. I come from a Northern State, and in the earlier days of the century the winters were more rigorous, snow fell earlier and lay deeper than it does to-day, and, in consequence of a smaller population, there was less traffic over the highways and byways, and therefore travel in winter time was more difficult. At that time it was the custom to lay in your winter supplies in the fall, before the snow began to fly. Coal was unknown, but attached to each residence was an outhouse filled from floor to roof with neatly stacked cordwood, with a smaller pile of kindling wood near by. Gas was not known, but a convenient and warm closet, generally adjacent to the kitchen hearth, held the winter's supply of oil for the lamps. In the centre of the cellar, in a deep pit lined with straw and covered over, were the vegetables that were to be consumed during the frozen months. Provisioned for the siege, the inhabitants of the North bravely and successfully withstood the attacks of Jack Frost. Double windows and evergreen boughs or leaves banked around all sides of the house added to and retained longer the heat within. Communities were cut off, and for weeks at a time each little village became, as it were, a nation by itself. The times are changed. We live differently now, and of what is called the world, personally and physically, we undoubtedly see and know more, and of life itself as made up of the distinct and different personalities of the inhabitants of the world we undoubtedly, each and all of us, know personally a larger number of persons than did people similarly situated three-quarters of a century ago; but, on the other hand, I doubt if we know any given person or any given number of persons as intimately as did our forbears, or enter as closely into other people's lives, and I am rather inclined to think that in the olden times they actually knew more of life, even though they saw less of it."

WASN'T IN THE WELL.

"Some time ago," said Charles Allen, of Cleveland, at the Gilsey House yesterday, "I was lunching at a friend's house. In the yard was an old fashioned well, and, as it was the early summer, all the windows were open and we could hear the sounds from outside with great distinctness. Suddenly the bucket rattled down into the well with a crash, and my friend's wife, who is of a nervous temperament, missing her youngest son, who had slipped away from the table, screamed 'Heavens! Where's Ernest?' and rushed into the yard, whither we instantly followed and found her bending over the well curb, where she insisted Ernest had fallen. Her husband was for jumping in, but I persuaded him to go down the rope by saying, 'Frank, you'll kill the "kid" if you jump on him.' Frank instantly disappeared into the well, while I forcibly restrained his wife from joining him.

"Finally she broke away and disappeared around the front of the house, from which direction a minute or two later she appeared leading the missing Ernest, safe and sound, by the hand. Meanwhile a growing crowd of neighbors was gathering, for Frank's disappearance had been noticed from adjoining homes, and a story that he had committed suicide was in rapid and enthusiastic circulation. Wellnigh frozen to the marrow, for the water in the well was icy cold, we finally got him out, and as he suffered no ill effects what might have been a tragedy ended finally as a joke. We discovered later that Ernest was quietly watching a carpenter put up some screen doors on the front of the house when his mother rushed up, and, seizing him in her arms, cried out: 'Ernest's fallen into the well! Ernest's fallen into the well!' and it was all the carpenter could do to persuade her that it was Ernest in propria persona that she was holding at that moment."

LAST YEAR'S GIFTS TO HARVARD.

Cambridge, Mass., Jan. 15.—The statement of the treasurer of Harvard University, which will soon be issued, shows that gifts which were made to the university from August 1, 1898, to July 31, 1899, aggregated $1,544,829. Of this amount $1,383,460 was to form new funds or increase old ones, and $161,368 was available for immediate use.

CORNELIUS VANDERBILT'S FINE PAID.

A satisfaction piece was filed in the office of the County Clerk yesterday showing that Cornelius Vanderbilt had paid the fine of $100 and $10 costs imposed on him for non-attendance when summoned as a juror in the City Court. It was then announced that Mr. Vanderbilt would apply to have the fine remitted. He obtained an order to show cause why this should not be done, but abandoned the proceeding and sent word to the Corporation Counsel that he would pay the fine and costs. The reason given for this course was that the newspaper notoriety he had received decided him to pay and end the affair.

TO BURY "LADY" MARIA LIVINGSTON.

Paris, Jan. 15.—Edward, John L. and Philip Livingston, living in New-York City, have cabled to Consul-General Gowdy saying they are relatives and sole heirs, if no will is found, of "Lady" Maria Livingston, the eccentric woman whose death was announced from here on January 13.

They requested that the funeral service be that of the Protestant Episcopal Church, and that the burial take place in a Protestant cemetery.

Edward and John L. Livingston are brothers of the dead woman. Philip Livingston is a lawyer, of No. 141 Broadway, and a cousin. Edward and John L. Livingston live at No. 17 East Seventy-fourth-st.

EX-CONGRESSMAN WEST ILL.

Saratoga, N. Y., Jan. 15.—Ex-Congressman George West, of Ballston Spa, was stricken again with apoplexy there this afternoon. His condition tonight is considered critical.

MONUMENT ERECTED BY GENERAL SHARPE.

Kingston, N. Y., Jan. 15 (Special).—General Sharpe, who died Saturday in New-York, erected here a few years ago a handsome granite monument, surmounted by a beautiful bronze figure, in honor of the valor of the 120th Volunteer Regiment, which was raised by him and of which he was colonel in the Civil War. It stands in the corner of the old Dutch churchyard, occupying the most prominent site in the city. General Sharpe was a member of this ancient church, in which he always took great pride. A few years ago he presented it with a fine bronze memorial figure in honor of his wife, who died nearly two years ago.

JUDGE PUTNAM'S BODY AT SARATOGA.

Saratoga, N. Y., Jan. 15.—The body of Justice John R. Putnam, of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of the State of New-York, who died in Hong Kong, China, last November, arrived here to-day. The funeral will be on Wednesday.

CARDINAL GIBBONS'S TRIP.

Syracuse, N. Y., Jan. 15.—Cardinal Gibbons, accompanied by Bishop Burke, of Albany, and Bishop McQuaid, of Rochester, arrived here at 12:10 o'clock to-day. The party was received by Bishop P. A. Ludden and Syracuse priests. The party dined with Bishop Ludden, and the local clergymen were presented. The Cardinal departed for Rochester at 3:50 p. m., where he will be Bishop McQuaid's guest until to-morrow morning, when he will leave for Baltimore.

ILLNESS OF GOVERNOR M'LAURIN.

Jackson, Miss., Jan. 15.—Governor McLaurin, who has been ill several days with pneumonia, was reported slightly worse to-day. Physicians remain almost constantly in attendance. Some changes will be made in the plans for the inauguration of Governor-elect Longino to-morrow, on account of the illness of Governor McLaurin, whose term expires then. Governor McLaurin was recently elected United States Senator for the long term.

IS THIS A NOMINATION?

From The Brooklyn Eagle.

At the Republican State Convention in 1883 the late George H. Sharpe "sat up all night" with the late Senator Madden, to keep him fit for the temporary chairmanship of the body. That was not an easy task. Mr. Sharpe also delivered in the convention the speech putting Judge Folger in nomination for Governor. It was a very clever speech. Mr. Sharpe delivered it "letter perfect." It was written by a "party editor," whom the late John F. Smythe locked up with a stenographer in a room in the United States Hotel. Mr. Sharpe quickly committed it to memory and "got it off" with much success. Mr. Folger's friends captured the convention by about six majority by first capturing the State Committee by a forged telegram. Well, Folger was beaten by 192,000 majority for Cleveland. Folger, Madden and Smythe—and now Sharpe—are dead. Mr. Cleveland has been three times voted for and twice made President. He would make an excellent President again.