A CRISIS FOR THE GARDEN.

ITS OWNERS TIRED OF LOSING MONEY ON THE BIG MADISON SQUARE STRUCTURE.

OFFERS TO PURCHASE IT—JUST WHAT ITS VARIOUS SHOWS MEAN TO THE CITY—THE YEARLY EXPENSES.

The story of the block now occupied by Madison Square Garden goes back to the early days of railroading, when the Harlem and the New-Haven roads were occupants of the property, the New-Haven being operated from the Twenty-seventh-st. side and the Harlem from the Twenty-sixth-st. side, on Fourth-ave. The locomotives, old-fashioned wood burners, were dismissed from aiding transit at Forty-second-st., and horses did the work through the tunnel to the passenger stations below.

Many will remember the unpretentious station, with its narrow platforms and its superabundance of head bumping iron pillars, and the traveller from Boston had a tedious ride of it going and coming, while the Harlem Railroad people found their way up into the watershed district in small cars, modest in upholstery and incomplete in ventilation. The luxury of railway travel did not obtain thirty years ago.

The building of the Grand Central Station seemed to meet all prospective demands, and 1871 was marked by its readiness to receive tenants. The idea then was to make a block of residences on the site of the old station. But there was a hitch somewhere in the project, and in the realization that there was no such advantageously situated property to be had for exhibition purposes attention was directed to it for that use.

AS AN AMUSEMENT RESORT.

The next prominence of the old railroad station was early in the seventies, when, with Sheridan Shook and E. G. Gilmore as the backers of the enterprise, it was transformed into Gilmore's Garden, with P. S. Gilmore and his band as the attraction. A glass roof was built, the old walls were made sightly by interior decorations, and with the space in the centre converted into a miniature garden, with plants, shrubs, fountains and gravelled walks, and a fair seating capacity in boxes and galleries, it was reopened in the expectation of a great success.

Popular for a time, but not exceedingly profitable, it was of short duration, and the place then became known as Barnum's Hippodrome, as the home of the circus when needed, and withal a place where there could be athletic contests, walking matches, pugilistic encounters, and where the horse shows and the dog shows were held.

It was a matter of space. New-York needed the building; the site was an advantage, in the residential part of the city; the avenues were asserting their importance, traffic up Broadway was constant; the place advertised itself, and the organization of the National Horse Show Association in 1883, with its first show in 1884, had set a pace to be followed.

Again the idea of tearing down the building and erecting residences and stores came up, remained as an idea and not a fact, until the Madison Square Garden Company was talked of in 1887.

It required money and nerve to carry out the suggestions advanced. That there should be a place, commodious and beautiful, in which there should be room for the big shows, was determined upon, and arrangements looking to the purchase of the site and building were undertaken in earnest. Negotiations begun for the purchase of the property were speedily focussed toward securing a place that New-York could be proud of. Anywhere above the block in question would be too far uptown. What New-York has learned to appreciate was hanging by a slender thread at that time, and in 1889 a party of men determined to erect a building which should provide the city with a vast arena for entertainments of all natures, for gatherings of a mass of people for amusement, for political meetings and for the development of sport and the encouragement of any interest which might come before the public. The company was created, the capital of which is now $2,000,000, with a bonded debt of $2,000,000.

THE GARDEN OF TO-DAY.

The demolition of the old building began in November, 1889. The first design, which included stores on the arcade principle on both sides, was abandoned. New plans were speedily drawn, and the present Madison Square Garden, nearly complete, except the tower, was opened to the public on Monday evening, June 16, 1890. New-York was no longer behind European cities in having a big place of amusement, which should include a superb concert hall, a theatre, a banquet hall, an assembly room and an arena that could accommodate thousands of people comfortably.

The men concerned in the enterprise were bold and determined. Edouard Strauss, with his orchestra from Vienna, and an extravagantly mounted ballet, under the control of Leon Espinosa, from the Imperial Opera at St. Petersburg, had been brought over the sea, and until the end of August were the attractions.

The experiment was a costly one to the Madison Square Garden Company. The attendance was large during the entire season, but the expenses originally incurred in securing the orchestra and ballet and the cost of maintaining the Garden and the entertainment placed a balance on the wrong side of the ledger.

Anton Seidl and his Metropolitan Orchestra had the Garden in September and October. The Horse Show was a feature in November, and the interest in it was a revelation. New encouragement and a new life were given to the National Horse Show Association, which had not been a productive enterprise, and whose capital had been impaired. With the facilities afforded by the Garden, this was completely changed, and the association became a dividend paying organization. What was far more important, the persons interested in it had an opportunity to enlarge its prizes, and an impetus was furnished for the breeding of fine horses and the turning out of elaborate equipages which has since held the interest of the public.

THE GARDEN THEATRE.

The Garden Theatre was opened September 27, 1890, with a good company, and has held its place in popular estimation under various managers, the first being T. Henry French, followed by A. M. Palmer. From Mr. Palmer's retirement up to the present it has been operated as one of the syndicate theatres, under Charles Frohman's management. The theatre, as a part of the Madison Square Garden enterprise, has had its ups and downs, but is a part of the whole that calls for its share of heavy expenses, with the offset of an uncertain income.

The concert hall, at the lower Madison-ave. end of the building, was put into use in the winter of 1890 extensively for private balls and as an adjunct to the large affairs given in the arena. The difficulty, however, of providing a restaurant that should be adapted to all the requirements, both to those who are willing to pay a large sum and to those who are able to pay only moderately, is a drawback. In short, the weight of supporting the Garden must fall upon the arena, which must do its work during six months of the year. It has had its history illustrated by some of the most brilliant exhibitions New-York has ever seen. There is the Horse Show, with an attendance fairly figured at 120,000 a year; the Sportsmen's Show, 100,000; cycle show, 80,000; military tournament, 50,000; dog show, 26,000; poultry show, 20,000; electrical show, 150,000; food show, 45,000; circus 200,000; Buffalo Bill's Wild West, 150,000, each of these shows bringing to New-York thousands of people over the railroads, and increasing the revenue to the business men of the city in good, round figures. As evidence of the [illegible] of town patronage it is said that 40,000 tickets to the circus have been sold on mail orders alone.

The horse sales do their share, attracting buyers from every part of the country, and so do the big balls, where not only are there crowds of merrymakers, but where no other building than the Madison Square Garden can give room for the decorations, scenic display and the processions, such as are features of the Arion affair.

A QUICKLY CHANGING PANORAMA.

And yet, during the construction of the building, the arena was regarded as the least likely to produce a handsome revenue. It has proved itself the money winner, and also of the greatest benefit to the community. It is changed in its appearance as if by magic, for there must be no delay in adapting the arena to its requirements when the demand comes. One night a big ball, with the dancing floor smooth and polished; next day a horse sale, with the dirt and tanbark track ready; after the horse sales perhaps a concert or another ball; then a show to be got ready and machinery planted. And so it goes, each change costing money, and the multitudes of changes necessitating constant repairs, much of the labor being done at night at extra cost.

The agitation of the question as to the future of the Garden is just now an important consideration with New-York. It is hard to imagine how New-Yorkers would get along were there no tower lighted up at Madison Square Garden denoting that a big show was in progress, and no Madison Square Garden arena, where big shows can be held and where over eleven thousand people can hold a mass meeting.

A study of the figures of the cost of maintaining the Garden makes it clear why the owners are disposed to sell it. There are offers already from private hands that would destroy it as an amusement centre.

The valuation, for taxation, in 1890, was $600,000; taxes paid, $11,820; then, with an increase running up to $1,250,000 valuation in three years, and taxes over $20,000, and a present valuation of $1,350,000, and taxes $33,485 40 for 1899, one item of its maintenance looms up well. Add to this, interest on first mortgage bonds, $62,500; on second mortgage bonds, $45,000; maintenance and repairs, $15,000; insurance, $8,000, and the running expenses of the year at $52,000, it costs over $200,000 a year to keep the Garden free from debt. Almost all of this money must be earned during a period not to exceed seven months.

But what the Madison Square Garden is to the city of New-York and its spreadout environs, is best told by the figures which have been given and the proof that it can never be replaced if it once loses its identity as a show building.

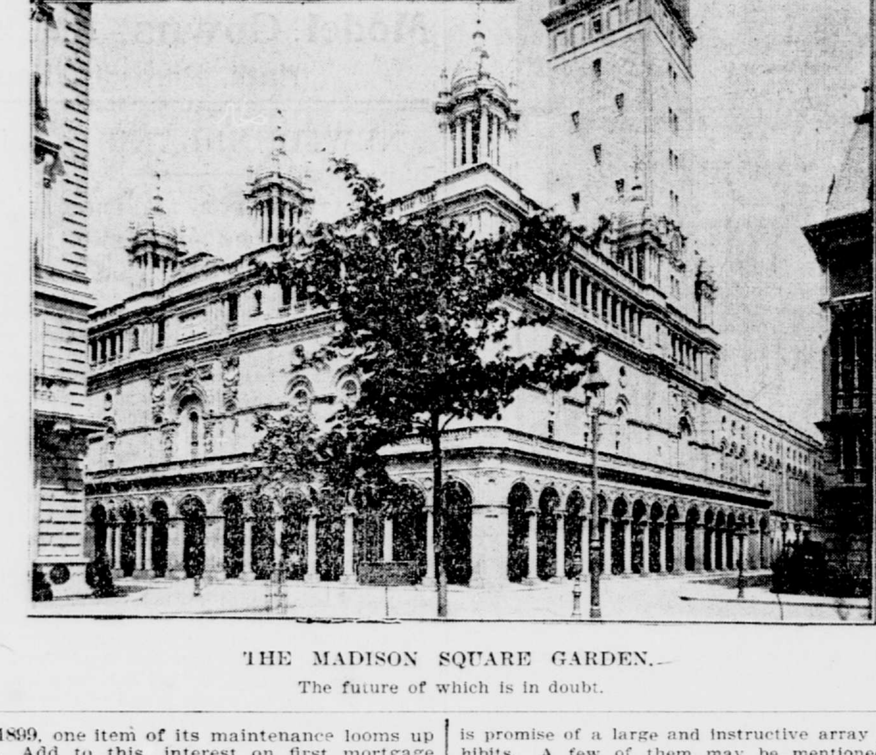
A PLAN TO LESSEN THE CHARGES.

In the summer of 1897, the company, finding itself without funds and in debt to the city for taxes, etc., a plan of reorganization was formed to raise the means to liquidate its obligations. Under the terms of the proposed plan, the second mortgage bondholders were asked to surrender their lien, taking preferred stock for their bonds and to pay an assessment or contribution equal to 40 per cent of their holdings, and to accept for the said assessment an income bond, the interest of which was only payable when earned. To this proposition holders of nearly two-thirds of the bonds assented. These bonds were held by the original stockholders. The holders of the other third of the second mortgage bonds declined, as they had bought their bonds as an investment, and stated that they preferred to have the property sold and the proceeds distributed. The stockholders were asked to pay an assessment of $2 50 a share and to surrender three-quarters of their stock, and a majority of them agreed. The action of the minority second mortgage bondholders has delayed the success of the plan, and the matter is in abeyance.

It is to be borne in mind that the corporation earns the interest on its first and, in favorable years, a part of the interest on its second mortgage bonds. It has even earned the full interest on the seconds during two or three years of its existence, and in 1896 earned $10,000 beyond all charges.

But when the comparative smallness of the loss which is entailed upon this building is contrasted with the vast benefit which is conferred upon the public by its use, it seems the height of folly to permit so moderate a sum to stand between its retention and its destruction.

Be the scheme what it may by which it can be retained, and the present owners relieved of the burden which they have been uncomplainingly carrying for years, such a scheme must be earnestly carried out. There are some changes that could be made on the Madison-ave. side, by which the unproductive parts of the building could be transformed and put in condition to earn money. But some action is required if the Garden is not to be lost to New-York as far as its present uses are concerned.



THE MADISON SQUARE GARDEN.

The future of which is in doubt.

GATHERINGS OF SCIENTISTS

AN EXHIBITION COVERING MANY FIELDS OF NATURAL SCIENCE.

The New-York Academy of Sciences, of which Professor R. S. Woodward was elected president a few weeks ago, will hold its seventh annual exhibition on Wednesday and Thursday next in the American Museum of Natural History. There will be receptions on both evenings, and favored visitors will be admitted to the exhibition on Thursday afternoon also.

The committee in charge of the exhibits is as follows: Anthropology, Franz Boas; astronomy, J. K. Rees; botany, D. T. Macdougal; chemistry, Charles E. Pellew; electricity, George F. Sever; geology and geography, R. E. Dodge; metallurgy, Henry M. Howe; mineralogy, Lea McI. Luquer; paleontology, Gilbert Van Ingen; physics and photography, William Hallock; psychology, E. L. Thorndike, and zoology, Charles L. Bristol. There is promise of a large and instructive array of exhibits. A few of them may be mentioned, but nothing like a complete enumeration or careful estimate of their value is here attempted. The examples cited, however, will serve to suggest the general character of the whole.

In the department of anthropology will be found objects showing the symbolism of the Arapahoes, articles revealing the influence of Chinese culture on Amoor River art, basketry designs of the California Indians and a collection from the Jesup North Pacific expedition, illustrating the prehistoric culture of the Puget Sound region. Among the astronomical exhibits are beautiful photographs made at the Lick Observatory with the Crossley reflector, other famous celestial photographs secured abroad, a representation of the Columbia Observatory studies of the variation of latitude for seven years and a number of recent publications.

BOTANICAL EXAMPLES.

In the botanical department there will be an almost bewildering display in point of abundance. The botanical gardens in Bronx Park will illustrate the latest methods of preserving specimens. Mrs. Britton and others will show some beautiful mosses. Dr. Macdougal intends to bring a little of his blanched vegetation from the dark room in which it grew, and will also present some "mycorhizas," that reveal the association of certain seed plants with mushrooms. Professor George E. Stone, of the Massachusetts Agricultural College, and Professor W. F. Ganong, of Smith, will be well represented; the former with delicate instruments for registering the influence of electricity on plants and the inspiration of carbonic acid, and the latter with a series of exhibits showing the relation between fineness of soil and the presence of certain plant species on the Bay of Fundy.

A number of charts of local interest will be shown. There will be scale maps of the Paterson, Newark and Hackensack regions and magnificent photographs of the Palisades. Besides, one may see properties of clays and their availability for economic uses; a series of specimens illustrating the igneous rocks of the Yellowstone National Park, to accompany the recently published geological folio of the Yellowstone Park, and Bartholomew's "Atlas of Meteorology," which is destined to be for years to come the standard reference book of meteorology. This is an atlas of over four hundred maps, engraved more delicately and beautifully than those in any other atlas. It illustrates the highest perfection of cartography.

Mineralogists will discover at the exhibition a complete suite of American tellurium minerals, calcite crystals from Bisbee, Ariz., twisted quartz crystals from Switzerland, sand saturated calcite from Dakota, a new uranium potassium vanadate from California, some novelties from Franklin, N. J., a North Carolina diamond, several pieces of new apparatus from the Egleston Mineralogical Museum of Columbia, besides mineral specimens from the recently acquired Egleston collection.

QUEER OBJECTS FROM MANY LANDS.

To the department of zoology Dr. B. Dean will contribute specimens of rare fishes; Dr. E. B. Wilson a specimen of pearly nautilus (probably the first ever shown here, collected in the Solomon Islands by Dr. Arthur Willey), and an earthworm with gills, from the Nile region. Professor C. F. W. McClure, of Princeton University, will exhibit a large and interesting set of anatomical preparations from the Morphological Museum, of Princeton University; Dr. R. Elsworth Call, illustrations of cave animals from Kentucky and Indiana, and Mr. Ditmar, curator of reptiles in the New-York Zoological Park, preparations of heads of venomous and non-venomous snakes.

Smokeless powders, indigo derived from coal tar, a number of perfumes artificially produced (with the natural perfumes for comparison), a photographic printing process, invented by Dr. Meyer, and the substances known as radium and polonium, which possess the properties of Röntgen rays to a remarkable degree, are to be shown among the chemical exhibits.

Every one who has heard of the system of color photography devised by Professor Wood, of the University of Wisconsin (described by The Tribune a year ago), will be glad to know that Professor Hallock has obtained several specimens of this work. The department of physics will also show an anemometer so delicate that it can be moved by a sound wave, some pretty selenium films containing Newton's rings, and a modified form of Professor Pupin's interrupter for electrical currents.

Among the metallurgical features one may see crystals and micro-photographs of the constituents of steel, specimens of various alloy steels and of armor plate, metals reduced with the aid of aluminum, foil of that metal a 175,000th of an inch thick, and a Le Chalier thermo-electric pyrometer for measuring exceedingly high temperatures. This will be arranged so as to show the working of the apparatus to visitors.

THE AMERICAN LIBRARY IN KANSAS.

AN APPEAL FOR MONEY TO PURCHASE GROUNDS, ERECT BUILDING AND SECURE BOOKS.

The officers of the American Library in Manila have sent to The Tribune a circular letter making an appeal for funds for the purchase of grounds, the erection of a building and the purchase of good books in substantial bindings. They report that the gifts of literature that have been received have proved disappointing. Poorly printed books on poor paper and cheap bindings quickly fall to shreds in that humid climate. The enterprise is the outgrowth of the work of an association formed in California in November, 1899. Mrs. C. R. Greenleaf was appointed director and Mrs. Egbert (widow of Colonel Egbert) is librarian. The following was adopted by the local association on January 19, 1900, as defining the scope and working policy of the library:

First—The name, being the American Library of Manila, shall be regarded as a perpetual memorial to the soldiers and sailors of the American Army and Navy who have lost their lives in the acquisition and pacification of the Philippine archipelago.

Second—Since the educational project originated in the mind and heart of the lamented Lieutenant-Colonel J. D. Miley, it is proposed that a department of this library be set apart and dedicated to his memory; and a special committee now has the matter of this memorial in hand.

Third—The founders contemplate a library established upon the broadest lines and operated by such methods as shall be consistent with its paramount American purpose. While primarily in honor and for the benefit of men connected with the American military and naval forces in these islands, its doors will be flung not less widely open to all citizens and sojourners in this city who cheerfully conform to its rational regulations. The co-operation of the best business and professional men of Manila and other cities of the Philippines is not only admissible, but highly desirable, and is accordingly solicited. The organizing patrons will gladly accept proffers of assistance or support from the civil public, and men of recognized commercial or professional standing will be chosen among the directors and trustees.

Fourth—It is further proposed that no Church or denomination shall ever secure control of this library, dictate its policy or proscribe its literature. Thought gathered from every domain of research and experience will find here a medium of expression. Questions of morals and expediency shall be referrible to its Board of Directors, and politics shall not enter into its management.

The committee invites societies and newspapers to open popular subscriptions to the fund. Communications should be addressed to the American Library, Manila, Philippine Islands. Checks and drafts may be sent to the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, treasurer.

APPEALS FOR CHARITY CASES.

The Charity Organization Society renews its appeal for $1,000 to pay rent and partially support seven decent old people who are all between seventy and eighty-two years old, who have been industrious and self-supporting, and six of whom the society has helped by means of these public appeals for two years or more.

There are among them three old couples, none of whom have children who can help them in any way, and the other is an old woman, anxious to work, as they all are, though unable to support themselves any longer. Five have standing applications to a home, but there is no room for them as yet, and none should go to the Almshouse.

Any money in response to this appeal sent to the Charity Organization Society, No. 105 East Twenty-second-st., will be duly and publicly acknowledged.

The society also acknowledges with thanks the following contributions in response to its recent appeal for the above case, for funds wherewith to pay board in the country for two consumptive lads, to help maintain a family of four, consisting of a widow and her three children; to purchase an artificial leg for a boy of fifteen and for a man, to provide prolonged medical care in an institution for a young woman who has been for years helpless through rheumatism: "G. W. C.," $278; "R. G. M.," $100; W. Macneveny Purdy, $50; "M. L. D.," $25; "C. M. H.," $20; "H. S.," "K.," "J. B. J." and "A. L. S.," $10 each; L. Siegbert, Mrs. Louise Stevenson, "S. F. B.," Miss Alice Keteltas, "Hot Springs" and Walter Knox, $5 each; "A. M. G." and "J. I. S.," $2 each, and "J. H. M." and "M.," $1 each.

MINING PROFITS FOR RELIGIOUS WORK.

THE REV. MR. BITLER'S PLAN TO ESTABLISH "GOOD WILL" CHURCHES IN LARGE CITIES.

Indianapolis, April 21 (Special).—The Rev. James Bitler, for several years the pastor of Grace Methodist Episcopal Church at Kokomo, but more recently a successful evangelist in Northern Indiana, is engaged in forming a company, whose operations are to be conducted on approved Christian principles and on the theory that there is supernatural aid for those who are devoting themselves to God's work. The primary object is to spread the gospel of peace in the large cities of the country among those who are not reached by the ordinary means which Christianity employs. The company is to be known as the Good Will Mining Company, and all the profits are to go to the erection and maintenance of "good will" houses of worship in the laboring districts of large cities. The stock that each individual is asked to take is not large, but Mr. Bitler is securing many subscriptions among his old parishioners, and, indeed, among non-church members, who have been attracted by the novelty of the scheme and wish to help it along because they believe it will result in good to men.

The company has been organized for the purpose of mining gold, and A. J. Wharton, of Cripple Creek, Col., has deeded to Mr. Bitler for the company the lands which it is proposed to develop, and enough money is now in sight to insure the starting of the enterprise. The mines are to be fitted out with machinery, and the working force is to be employed at liberal wages, and in all matters in connection with the scheme the principles are to be adhered to that Christ would be supposed to invoke were He at the head of the enterprise. No returns on their investments have been promised to those who have subscribed for stock, and none will be paid. In other words, the mines are to be worked as Christ would work them—for the good of man in general, and not for the profit of any man or set of men in particular, and all over actual and necessary expenses is to be used in sending the Gospel into such cities as Chicago, New-York, Philadelphia, and others, where the non-churchgoing population is large. It is proposed to make the "good will" temples models of comfort, but extravagance will be avoided, and men will be employed at moderate salaries to preach at stated intervals, and the Gospel is to be made absolutely free to the hearer.

Mr. Bitler has faith in his enterprise. He claims to have had some remarkable evidences of supernatural aid in his work, and is fully convinced that the Lord helps those that seek to carry out the demands that the world may make upon them for its betterment. He does not believe that the project which he now has in hand can possibly come to naught. Of course, he expects to find gold in Cripple Creek, though others, who are seeking it from selfish motives, may fail to do so, and all his plans are being made with the feeling that success is certain and that the investment will yield a profit that will enable the Good Will Mining Company to demonstrate that the Lord is present to bless and prosper His own work.

DREAMED OF HER DEATH AND DIED.

ALSO DREAMED OF HER HUSBAND'S SECOND MARRIAGE, WHICH SHUT OUT THE JOYS OF HEAVEN.

Indianapolis, April 21 (Special).—Just before daylight on the morning of April 1 Mrs. Jerry Shipley, of Crawford County, awakened her husband and appeared to be under great nervous strain. She was alternately crying and laughing, and it was an hour or more before she could be brought to a condition of composure which enabled her to talk intelligently. She then said that she had dreamed she was dead and had ascended to heaven, but, looking back to earth, she had seen her husband secure a marriage license and then go to the home of Miss Matilda Green, where many persons were in waiting. In a short time the Rev. James Dalton, pastor of the Methodist Church, arrived, and she saw him unite her husband in marriage to Miss Green. It so happened that Miss Green and Mrs. Shipley had not been on speaking terms for three years, and the sight of her husband marrying her enemy, she said, caused her great pain and wholly shut out the joys of heaven.

Mr. Shipley is a prosperous farmer and a practical business man, and he tried to laugh his wife's fears away, and occasionally twitted her about her successor as mistress of his comfortable home. Mrs. Shipley, however, was greatly depressed by the dream, and soon became low spirited and gradually sank into a deep melancholy, from which it was impossible to rouse her, and on April 10 she went to bed and refused to leave it. The best physicians in the county were called in, but the woman persisted in saying that she was doomed to die, and she gradually grew worse. The doctors could find no physical ailment, and suggested that her husband take her on a trip down the Ohio River, but she refused to go and sank gradually, till it was evident that she could not recover. She lay for three days in a semi-comatose state, refusing nourishment and being aroused with great difficulty. Her answers to questions were frequently incoherent, and she seemed only to desire to be left to herself. Saturday morning she appeared better and took a little nourishment, but she persisted in her belief that she was going to die and asked Mr. Shipley to send for Miss Green, whom she wanted to see before she died.

The husband mildly protested against sending for the woman, but when his wife told him that it was the last request that she would ever make of him, a neighbor was dispatched to bring Miss Green to the house. When she arrived Mrs. Shipley asked that she be left alone with the visitor, and for a half-hour the two were together. Miss Green returned to her home, but said nothing as to the subject of conversation between herself and Mrs. Shipley, nor is it known what passed between them. It is believed, however, that Mrs. Shipley told her visitor of the dream, which had so impressed her, and asked for a reconciliation, which was effected. Mrs. Shipley did not speak again after Miss Green left the house. When friends entered her room, she lapsed into a semi-comatose state, and an hour afterward she became entirely unconscious and died that night.

Mr. Shipley is a man about forty years of age, and says that the death of his wife is to him wholly inexplicable. Mrs. Shipley and Miss Green had a quarrel at a quilting party three years ago, but even before that time they had not been intimate, and he did not know that the latter's name had been mentioned in the family for years. As for himself, he had seen Miss Green only occasionally at the country church, but had not spoken to her since she and his wife had quarrelled, and there had never been anything, so far as he knew, to suggest the dream or to make it so impressive and lead to such deplorable consequences. Whether the dream is to become true in its culmination in respect to Mr. Shipley and Miss Green, as it proved true in regard to the death of Mrs. Shipley, remains to be seen.

A VETERAN ACTOR.

RECOLLECTIONS OF HERMAN VEZIN.

From The London Evening News.

Mr. Vezin is seventy years old, and looks fifty, in spite of the furrowed cheeks and the hair of snow white falling in typical student fashion over his shoulders. His figure is as spare and erect, the step as light as in the days—now so long agone—when at the age of twenty-two he made wild assaults upon Sir Giles Overreach, Sir Edward Mortimer, Melnotte, Young Norval, Richelieu and Shylock.

"Yes, sir," says Mr. Vezin, gently retrospective, "I played these parts on what was then the Barnet circuit in 1852, when I had been two years on the stage. Strange to look back upon now, isn't it? And yet as I get nearer and nearer the grave those days of golden hope, life and youth seem to be closer to me, as if in gentle smoothing and preparing of the way.

"Those were the days of work—when a man played ten different parts in as many days, and would jump from Jeremy Diddler to Shylock in one night, and display equal facility in both. And when he had been ten years in the profession he was an actor in fact as well as in name, completely versed in the standard parts, to which he afterward added the finish born of his later experience.

"Modern day people talk sneeringly of the old school; but the old school produced some pretty good actors and actresses, and I have not yet found any one who can fill their places. In those times men starved in the study of their profession. I played the parts that I have named for the stupendous salary of £1 a week. In these days of interminable runs and little work the young man who can wear a dress suit as if it belonged to him and walk gracefully and easily through a "society" part, needs no other qualification for success and a large salary.

"It is a delight to talk of my early days, because, after all, they are the most interesting to me. I am indebted to Charles Kean for my first introduction to the stage. That happened in 1850, a year after I had taken my 'M. A.' at the University of Pennsylvania, then, as now, one of the finest institutions of learning in the world.

"It was just the old story. I had seen Edwin Forrest play 'Richelieu' and 'King Lear,' and decided that the stage should occupy the rest of my life. My family were Philadelphians of the rigid type, and you can well picture the effect of my announcement. They tried persuasion; they tried cajolery; they tried threats. Finally my father, Charles H. Vezin, a merchant, who is remembered in Philadelphia to this day, packed me off to Berlin.

"I knew of Charles Kean. I succeeded in getting a letter of introduction to him and started for London.

"It was easier in those days to get an opening; any manager was willing to pay 12s. or 15s. a week to a beginner, but nevertheless it took Charles Kean, greatest of all stage managers, three months to place me at York, under old Josiah Randle, one of the leading circuit men of that time, whose fashion it was to pay the company, in person, on the stage, every Saturday night, with a little pile of silver and gold in front of him. My salary was 1°s. a week, and it was there that I suffered my first and last attack from the enemy most dreaded of all others by the actor—stage fright.

"The part was that of the Bleeding Sergeant in 'Macbeth.' I went on with my legs trembling at the knees; I was literally ice cold with fright. And as I opened my lips to speak my voice seemed like the echo of a sound made long and long ago. I stammered out something; I heard a storm of hissing, and when I came back to my senses I was in the street, in my street clothes, and only just awakening to the realization of my disaster.

"It was two years later when I again received the part from Charles Kean, with whom I then served. 'You've not forgotten these lines, I think,' he said, with a laugh.

"This engagement with Kean began after my successes at Southampton on the Barnet circuit, as Sir Edward Mortimer, Melnotte, and Sir Giles Overreach.

"And I had almost forgotten a season at Edinburgh with John Murray, one of the finest character actors that ever trod the boards.

"The first intimation that I had any ability at all came from Charles Kean, who said one day, 'I wish every actor spoke blank verse as you do'; and the second was from Phelps, at Sadler's Wells. The old man had been standing in the wings during one of my scenes, and as I came off he beckoned me to him, and in that inimitable voice growled, 'Young man, you'll do.' The praise of five thousand critics could not have meant as much to me as those words from him."

Mr. Vezin, asked to recall his first distinct success in London, turns to his management of the Surrey Theatre, in 1859, when he played Louis XI and Hamlet, and was greeted by the press and the public of those days as the "dawning genius of the English stage."

"But I shall probably be best remembered, if I am worth the remembrance," he says, with his gentle, scholar's smile, "for Dan'l Druce, the part I created, and which of all others I love the most, and perhaps I have a little fondness for Sir Grey de Malpras, the poor relation of the De Montrevilles, in 'The Rightful Heir.' Among other characters in which I think I earned much praise were those of Sigurd, the 'Hunchback of 'The White Pilgrim,' and Martel, in Herman Merivale's 'Son of the Soil.' And if I have made any success in Shakespearean parts it is because I preferred to treat Jaques, Macbeth, Othello, and Hamlet as human creatures—not as so many puppets stalking the stage for the simple exploitation of the author's lines.

"But there, enough of me," he exclaims, rising from his chair, with a gesture of impatience. "The public, I presume, cannot be interested in the wandering recollections of an old man. Yet, old as I am, I have lost none of my ambition, none of the vigor of my youth. It is very agreeable to me to know that my friends intend to celebrate my fifty years' apprenticeship to the stage—for in our profession we are all apprentices until we die—but I should feel happier could I be permitted to earn my bread in the regular way.

"A good fellow said in a thoughtless moment that I was an unlucky actor—i. e., a Jonah to every play with which I was associated. This was a lie, as my record in successful plays will prove. But the lie spread like a cancer; and now, for nearly eighteen years, have I labored under the curse of superstition that taints and blights the stage. No manager has had moral courage sufficient to employ me—and the public easily forgets. And thus, in these days, I am poor, where I might perhaps have earned a competence for my last days. But, thank God, there is at least one thing I have learned in my broken old age—the lesson of forgiveness."

AN ENGLISH SHYLOCK'S METHODS.

From The London Globe.

A remarkable instance of the methods of the late Isaac Gordon came before the Court of Bankruptcy yesterday. A milliner in difficulties was induced to borrow £70 from a money lender named Dean, and agreed to repay £100 in ten monthly instalments. Some time afterward, when presumably she was beginning to feel the pressure of this obligation, she received, without any application for it, the sum of £100 from "Edward Bright," accompanied by a letter stating that she might keep it if she would agree to pay 44 per cent. Of course, the temptation was too much for the poor woman, and it now turns out that both "Dean" and "Bright" were aliases of Isaac Gordon.

DEFICIENCIES OF FRENCH RAILWAYS.

ATTEMPTS TO REFORM A DEFECTIVE SYSTEM—SHAMEFULLY LONG HOURS.

Paris correspondence of the Pall Mall Gazette.

For two very different reasons special attention is directed just now to all that concerns the French railways. In the first place, their carrying capacity is likely to be taxed to the utmost by the immense influx of visitors expected in connection with the Exhibition. In the second place, an ugly succession of accidents and a growing outcry against the minor misfortunes to which the travelling public is exposed, have brought to the front the manifold imperfections of French railway arrangements.

M. Baudin, the present Minister of Public Works is doing his best to reform a system which is defective in almost every respect. Some months ago he fulminated against the amazing unpunctuality that prevails on almost all the lines, and had much to do with more than one of the recent catastrophes. Not the slightest heed has been paid to his objurgations, but he is said to contemplate a system of fines for all delay exceeding a quarter of an hour—excusez du peu!—which may perhaps stimulate the companies to make an effort to improve their execrable service. Posters announcing another reform some of the companies will find it more difficult to evade have just made their appearance in all the railway stations. The hours of work of all the various railway servants are shamefully and dangerously long. Whenever an inquiry is made into the causes of an accident some pointsman is found to have been on duty for a fabulous number of hours in succession, or it is discovered that a driver has been kept on his engine until he fell asleep where he stood. This sort of thing is to be put a stop to. Henceforth, a hundred working hours in ten days is to be the maximum exacted of any employe, and no consecutive stretch of more than twelve hours is to be tolerated. This important reform will come into operation all over France in the course of the next two months and besides being an immense boon to the railway servants, should be productive of beneficial results to the public.

The utter inadequacy of the rolling stock of all the companies—it is true that some companies are worse off than others in this respect—is another matter M. Baudin has in hand, though in this case he will have greater difficulty in effecting speedy reforms, since carriages and engines cannot be brought into being in the twinkling of an eye and merely in virtue of the signing of a decree. Even when the traffic is normal, the majority of the companies have a difficulty in dealing with it. It is a common experience for the hapless traveller to find himself in an antiquated carriage that ought long since to have been broken up for firewood, while the age of the engines on the French lines establishes a remarkable and quite uncalled for record. For years past the companies have assured the Ministers of Public Works that they were awaiting the Exhibition to renew and augment their rolling stock. They have waited so long that it is now an open secret that even the inadequate orders they have given for new carriages and engines will not be executed in time for next year's requirements. As it is hoped in official circles that the Exhibition will be visited by some twenty millions to thirty millions of foreigners alone, there is a chance that some of them, if they ever reach Paris at all, will do so in cattle trucks.

COURT CALENDARS FOR MONDAY.

Appellate Division—Supreme Court—Recess.

Supreme Court—Appellate Term—Recess.

Supreme Court—Special Term—Part I—Before Fitzgerald, J.—Motion calendar called at 10:30 a. m.

Supreme Court—Special Term—Part II—Before Truax, J.—Court opens at 10:30 a. m. Ex parte matters.

Supreme Court—Special Term—Part III—Before Bischoff, J.—Motions. Preferred causes: Nos. 4693, 4873, 4865, 4765, 4781, 5033. Clear.

Supreme Court—Special Term—Part IV—Before Andrews, J.—Law and fact: Nos. 2419, 1612, 2369, 4222, 4674, 4676, 4699, 3482, 3900, 4317, 4078, 2276, 1555, 4028, 4737, 2962, 877, 1591. Case unfinished.

Supreme Court—Special Term—Part V—Before Stover, J.—Causes to be sent from Part IV for trial. Case unfinished.

Supreme Court—Special Term—Part VI—Before Leventritt, J.—Causes to be sent from Part IV for trial. Case unfinished.

Supreme Court—Special Term—Part VII—Before Smyth, J.—Elevated railroad cases. Case unfinished.

Supreme Court—Trial Term—Part II—Before McAdam, J.—Preferred causes: Nos. 12837, 12782, 13188, 12697, 13270, 11034, 13181, 12469, 13500, 13514, 13515, 13592. Clear.

Supreme Court—Trial Term—Part III—Before Beach, J.—Inquests: Nos. 4736, 7253. Day calendar: Nos. 7894, 7956, 7974, 7977, 6488, 7104, 7899, 5692, 6208, 6268, 6269, 7994, 8000, 6212, 2986, 6290, 3898, 5471, 5472, 6304, 6307, 6311, 4448, 4385, 5252, 2684, 5503, 5582, 6029, 1322, 6408. Clear.

Supreme Court—Trial Term—Part IV—Before MacLean, J.—Causes to be sent from Part III for trial. Case unfinished.

Supreme Court—Trial Term—Part V—Before O'Gorman, J.—Causes to be sent from Part III for trial. Case unfinished.

Supreme Court—Trial Term—Part VI—Before Beekman, J.—Causes to be sent from Part III for trial. Case unfinished.

Supreme Court—Trial Term—Part VII—Before Gildersleeve, J.—Nos. 8294, 7651, 7652, 7697, 8060, 5246, 5305, 5394, 2565, 4956, 5148, 4851, 3905, 3906, 1861, 666, 5454, 9854, 10299, 7778, 5185, 7832, 7653, 8061, 5373, 6701, 8068, 5160. Clear.

Supreme Court—Trial Term—Parts VIII, IX, X and XII—Adjourned for the term.

Supreme Court—Trial Term—Part XI—Before Giegerich, J.—Causes to be sent from Part VII for trial. Case unfinished.

Surrogate's Court—Chambers—Before Fitzgerald, S.—No. 1542, will of Daniel Wolf, at 10:30 a. m. Wills for probate: Dore Lyon, Nathaniel D. White, Margaret O'Connor, Jacob Weiner, Bridget Murphy, at 10:30 a. m.

Surrogate's Court—Trial Term—Before Thomas, S.—Court opens at 10:30 a. m. No day calendar.

City Court—Special Term—Before Conlan, J.—Court opens at 10 a. m. Motions at 10:30 a. m.

City Court—Trial Term—Part I—Before Schuchman, J.—Nos. 2697, 1972, 2682, 2742, 2749, 169, 2693, 4220, 1121, 2645, 2490, 2721, 4418, 1110, 2283, 4598½, 1954, 2878, 2756, 4590, 4501, 2927, 2928, 2929, 2931, 2932, 2933, 2935, 2936, 2940. Clear.

City Court—Trial Term—Part II—Before Hascall, J.—Nos. 2341, 2833, 4202½, 2456, 2425, 2649, 2300, 2661, 2663, 4003, 1816, 1290, 738, 769, 1812, 2647, 1921, 2638, 2467, 2400, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2150, 2179, 2180, 470, 627, 2318, 2346. Clear.

City Court—Trial Term—Part III—Before Fitzsimons, C. J.—Nos. 2885, 1591, 2373, 2798, 2799, 2983, 2837, 2838, 2914, 2915, 2919, 2920, 2921, 2922, 2923, 2924, 2925, 2926. Clear.

City Court—Trial Term—Part IV—Before McCarthy, J.—Short causes: Nos. 4404, 4350, 4504, 4505, 4494, 4515, 4250, 4401, 4526, 4517, 4359, 4198, 4540, 4548, 3809, 4496, 4527, 4547, 4461, 4336, 4551, 3580, 4534, 4535. Equity cases: No. 352. Clear.

REFEREES APPOINTED.

Supreme Court.

By Fitzgerald, J.

Allen agt. Cane—Eugene H. Pomeroy.

Berg agt. Blydenburgh—Lorenzo Semple.

Title Guarantee and Trust Company agt. Voletsky—Samson Lachman.

By Freedman, J.

Matter of Van Derveer—Henry W. Bookstaver.

By Truax, J.

Matter of Burckhardt—George E. Morgan.

Latham agt. Latham—John Hone, jr.

By Scott, J.

Henderson agt. City of New-York—Charles Donohue.

WHOLESALE. The Largest Furniture and Carpet House in the World. RETAIL.

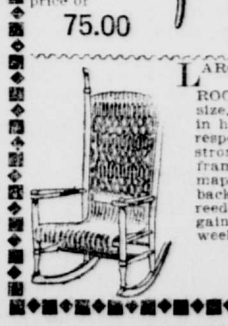
Ludwig Baumann & Comp'y

BLOCK: 8TH AVENUE, FROM 35TH TO 36TH ST.

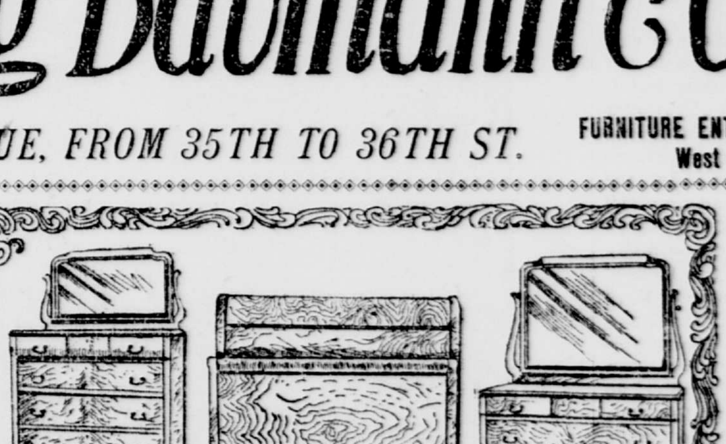
FURNITURE ENTRANCE: New Annex, 260 to 268 West 36th Street, New York.

COMBINATION BOOKCASE, of very neat and pretty design, in excellent golden oak finish, nicely polished. Bookcase section has heavy plate door, 4 adjustable shelves, and is 46x12 in. Complete desk, cupboard at base, fancy mirror, 14x12, fancy carved panels and cornice. Our special value 8.25

CURIO CABINET of superb design and exquisite workmanship and finish. In the new gold leaf finish, highly burnished and with brass rococo decoration; hand painted, floral and figure ornamentation, mirror back, plate glass shelves, pink silk plush lining; a magnificent article for any parlor, worth twice our price of 75.00



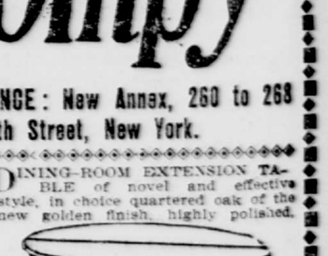
LARGE COMFORTABLE ROCKER, extra size, over 4 feet in height and correspondingly wide, strong, well made, frame of white maple, seat and back of woven reed—decided bargain for this week only. 1.49



BEDROOM SUIT of 6 magnificent pieces of superb design, after the celebrated Napoleon modelling. In selected superior quarter sawed oak, golden finish, very severe lines, with hand-rubbed polish. Dresser has heavy French plate mirror, 30x40 in.; chiffonier mirror, 16x30; wardrobe doors also of heavy French plate, each 14x50. Finely hand-carved claw feet on every piece, every detail perfect, every line harmonious and correct. An ideal suit for lovers of simple elegance 210.00

Our Location, Low Tax Rate and Immense Purchasing Power Enable Us to Undersell All Competitors at Least 40%.

DINING-ROOM EXTENSION TABLE of novel and effective style, in choice quartered oak of the new golden finish, highly polished,



massive turned legs, with the new style feet; round top, 4 feet in diameter, highly polished; is 6 feet long when opened, and an enormous bargain at.......... 7.75

PARLOR TABLE of very dainty and pretty design in mahogany, with top 24x24; also lower shelf neatly inlaid; a graceful, self-made, well-finished table and cheap at 2.75

FROEHLICH FLAWLESS FOLDING IRON BEDS and all other kinds of brass and iron beds.

WHITE ENAMELLED BED of standard style and excellent

make and finish. Strong joints, heavy pillars—brass vases at head and foot. Very special value for.................. 2.79