Amusements.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC—8:15—Woman and Wine.
AMERICAN THEATRE—8:10—Faust.
CASINO—8—The Casino Girl.
CRITERION THEATRE—8:15—The Pride of Jennico.
DALY'S THEATRE—8:15—A Runaway Girl.
EDEN MUSEE—9 a. m. to 11 p. m.—Waxworks, Grand Concert and Cinematograph.
GARRICK THEATRE—8—Sherlock Holmes.
GRAND OPERA HOUSE—8—Mr. Smooth.
KEITH'S—Continuous Performance.
KOSTER & BIAL'S—8—Vaudeville.
MURRAY HILL—2—8—She Stoops to Conquer.
NEW-YORK THEATRE—8—Quo Vadis.
PASTOR'S—Continuous Performance.
WALLACK'S—8—Sapho.

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Roll Top Desks and Office Furniture.
Great Variety of Style and Price.
T. G. SELLEW,
No. 111 Fulton St.

New-York Daily Tribune.

THURSDAY, MAY 24, 1900.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN.—Lord Roberts's army reached the Rhenoster River on its march to Pretoria, the cavalry under General French crossing over and General Hamilton's column seizing Heilbron; the Boers, finding themselves outflanked, retreated northward in the night; General Baden-Powell reported the relief of Mafeking to Lord Roberts; further details of the capture of Commandant Eloff and his men in their attack on Mafeking were received in London. ==== Mr. Griscom, United States Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, has presented another and more peremptory note to the Porte, demanding prompt settlement of the American missionary claims. ==== The House of Commons passed the second reading of the bill enabling women to be elected Aldermen and Councillors in the new Borough Councils. ==== The Reichstag, by a vote of 163 to 123, passed the Meat Inspection bill. ==== The delegation from the New-York Kriegerbund arrived in Dresden. ==== A relief force for Coomassie was landed at Cape Castle, on the Gold Coast.

DOMESTIC.—The War Department made public a letter from General Schwan reviewing the situation in the Philippines and showing that the rebellion is waning. ==== Secretary Root's Army Reorganization bill has been abandoned for the present session of Congress. ==== Secretary Hay entertained the Boer envoys at luncheon. ==== The Methodist General Conference decided by a large majority to abolish the time limit of pastorates, now fixed at five years. ==== A policeman was shot and killed by strikers in St. Louis, where nearly all the streetcars have resumed running on schedule time. ==== At the Presbyterian General Assembly the McGiffert case was finally disposed of, and the question of a revision of the creed was referred to a committee of fifteen, of which the Rev. Dr. C. A. Dickey will be chairman. ==== Jonas G. Clark, the founder of Clark University, died at Worcester, Mass.

CONGRESS.—Senate: Mr. Platt, of Connecticut, spoke, expressing the views of the Republican majority on the Cuban postal frauds, and Mr. Spooner continued his defence of the Administration's policy. ==== House: The resolution for final adjournment of Congress on June 6 was adopted, and the bill to cover extradition in cases similar to that of Neely was passed.

CITY.—Stocks were dull and firm. ==== Winners at Morris Park: Filon d'Or, Gold Lace, Ondurdis, Sweet Lavender, Vulcain and First Whip. ==== The French Line has petitioned the Federal courts to limit the liability for La Bourgogne disaster to the value of the ship, which is nothing ==== The Mayor delivered himself of a tirade against Republicans to the reporters in City Hall. ==== The officers of the American Ice Company, who were in police court, pleaded not guilty to a charge of conspiracy. ==== The receivership of the Third Avenue Railroad Company was ended. ==== Francis Bicknell Carpenter, the portrait painter, died in the Presbyterian Hospital.

THE WEATHER.—Forecast for to-day: Cloudy, showers in the afternoon and evening. The temperature yesterday: Highest, 78 degrees; lowest, 62; average, 69¾.

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GENERAL SCHWAN'S REPORT.

The declaration of Brigadier-General Schwan in his report to the War Department just made public, that the sole hope of the Philippine insurgents is the expectation of American inactivity during the wet season and "the possibility "of victory for the Democratic or anti-expansion "party in the coming Presidential campaign," will doubtless excite great indignation among the politicians who are fitted by this coat made for Filipino assistants. It is, however, merely a repetition of the warning General Lawton sent in that last letter, which became known after he had fallen, as he feared, a victim of Tagal rifles loaded by American agitators. That solemn and pathetic rebuke had to be accepted in comparative silence and humility. Lawton was dead, and his mourning countrymen were in no mood to listen to those whom he recognized as the ultimate cause of his death, either in defence of themselves or in attack on him for his statement. But Schwan is living, and must expect to bear the brunt of their resentment, not merely for the truth he tells but for the former unpleasant truth they had to swallow.

The anti-expansionists will not believe that this is anything but an attempt to play politics, and will persist in heralding every encounter with the savage bands making incursions from the interior or every fight with the scattered bodies of insurgents as evidence that the war is still as far as ever from an end. People of more sane and unprejudiced views, however, will read with interest General Schwan's statement and accept it as the latest and most trustworthy exposition of conditions in the islands. As reasonable people they will not expect that a country inhabited by many races in various states of barbarism and civilization will be entirely free from disorder, like a Boston suburban village. There will doubtless be disorders, as for a century there have been disorders here along Indian frontiers and where our "gangs" have operated, just as in parts of Italy to this day there are communities that maintain more or less constant armed resistance to the Government.

General Schwan frankly says the islands are infested with brigand bands, and that they are a nucleus for reconcentration of insurgent forces on a favorable opportunity, and his frankness commends his statement to acceptance. If he represented not merely that the backbone of insurrection was broken, and that in Luzon all the interior as well as all the coast towns of importance were occupied by American troops, and that the majority of the educated and peasant classes desired the restoration of peace under American rule, but that the islands were entirely ready for the withdrawal of military control and for New-England town meetings, which is the only thing the anti-expansionists will call tolerable peace, there might be some reason to question his accuracy. As it is, he tells the good and the bad, and his reports confirm those of other officers and civilians who have previously expressed hopeful opinions of the situation.

It is evident that General Schwan is no military braggart publishing rosy stories for popular consumption. His statement that "the most "serious obstacle in the way of complete pacifi-"cation of the islands now lies in the mutual "distrust between the troops and the inhabi-"tants" is the manly facing of a disagreeable truth, which a person writing a political campaign document would probably have avoided. This distrust is natural on both sides. A few treacherous natives and a few misbehaving soldiers easily account for it. General Schwan thinks that better acquaintance will dissipate the prejudice, and the work of civilian Commissioners will doubtless facilitate the adjustment. In view of the harm done by any discreditable act on the part of Americans, it is important that prompt measures be taken to make all minor civil appointments on merit. The strict discipline which keeps soldiers in order will be lacking with civil functionaries, and unless they are selected with the greatest care because of fitness and not because of influence there is grave danger that something like our Cuban troubles may come upon us in the Philippines, where incalculable harm might be done in breaking down all the confidence that hundreds of good and efficient men had nurtured in a suspicious people. The higher officers in the new possessions have been chosen with admirable judgment. Their subordinates should be as carefully picked, and as soon as possible the Civil Service competitive system should be adapted, as it can be, to test fitness for island service, so as to avoid the danger which General Schwan points out.

JINGOISM—WITH A DIFFERENCE.

The old fable about its making a difference whose ox is gored receives a novel if not altogether convincing interpretation at the hands of those who fondly exploit their hatred of what they are pleased to call imperialism and jingoism and militarism. These latter are, in their eyes, dreadful things. But, like the felicity of Yum-Yum's wedding, "it all depends, bless you, it all depends."

For example, for the United States to intervene in behalf of outraged humanity in Cuba was jingoism and militarism. But for it to meddle in the South African embroilment in behalf of the Boers would be only the proper discharge of a solemn duty. For the United States to send forces to suppress a revolt against its lawful authority in Luzon, and to maintain peace and order there, is rank imperialism and a direct invitation to all sorts of complications with the Powers. But to send a fleet into the Mediterranean and to the Dardanelles to bombard Turkish cities and to coerce the Turkish Government would be peacefully minding our own business and scrupulously refraining from cause of offence to any other nation. We are so much nearer, apparently, to the Transvaal than to Cuba, and the collection of a claim of $100,000 is so much more important than the protection of the National honor and the safety of millions of lives and hundreds of millions of property. Truly, it all depends.

It is Quixotism, run madder than any ever seen in La Mancha. It is our duty, apparently, to maintain an army and navy for everybody's use but our own; to champion everybody's causes but our own; to go skylarking over the world a-tilting wherever an alien windmill waves its arms, but to shrink timorously from guarding our own coasts and from maintaining our own rights. We are to go to war for trifles, and in causes which do not concern us directly; but are to cling to "peace at any price" whenever the honor and welfare of our own land are concerned. It is a fine application of the old fable. Only, in the original, if we remember aright, the man was chiefly concerned when his own ox was gored.

THE COURSE OF PRICES.

Several times this month it has been mentioned that the decline in prices of commodities has been unusually large. It has gone so far that a definite statement of it seems worth while, the more because in Great Britain and also on the Continent the movement since April 1 has continued of a different character. "The London Economist" reports no change whatever in its index number from April 1 to May 1, and since May 1 its prices show a little advance. It becomes increasingly clearer that demands for coal and for packed and prepared meats, in such forms that they can serve to maintain strength during a prolonged advance through a country upon which armies cannot live, for steel and products of iron and steel, for ammunition and all equipment of armies, and for means of transportation both by land and sea, have become so great in consequence of the South African war as to affect prices throughout Europe to some extent. But while these demands helped to raise prices here when they were new, and no definite idea of the extent of them could be formed, they have not prevented a general decline of prices here which began fully two months ago.

In comparisons of prices in these columns the relative importance of many different quotations is always taken into account. Quantities of each article or class of articles as accurately proportioned as possible to the quantities of each entering into business during the year are supposed to be purchased at the ruling prices of different dates. It should be understood once for all, also, that when markets are rushing upward the top prices are those which represent most nearly the bulk of the business, just as the lowest prices represent more nearly the bulk of liquidation in times of severe depression.

The highest point reached this year was on March 16, when the general average was 80.8 per cent, against 78.85 on January 1. Before March ended there was a slight yielding, and in April the new American tendency was clearly shown in a fall to 78.15 per cent, notwithstanding British prices rose from 79.68 on January 1 to 83.21 on April 1, and held exactly the same average on May 1. Since May began American prices have shown their tendency even more strongly, the average having declined to 76.68 per cent, a fall nearly as great in half a month as appeared in the month and a half preceding. Those accustomed to observe the changes of prices will see ample reason now for belief that the downward tendency will probably continue until after the Presidential election. Whether it continues longer may, of course, depend in part upon the results of that election as respects their influence on business and its prospects. The top prices thus far made in 1900 are therefore not unlikely to be the highest for a considerable term of years. In fact, the average on March 16 is the highest average of prices touched in this country since February, 1893, though such prices were very short lived at that time, so that we have to go back to the fall of 1890 to find a higher range of prices from which a continuous decline began. In effect upon general business the quotations this year mark full recovery from the decline which started in 1891 with great enlargement of production, but also great enlargement of demand under the McKinley tariff, which was followed by a collapse when Cleveland was elected, and which reached the lowest average ever known in this country on July 2, 1897, just before the country returned to a Republican tariff. At that point prices averaged nearly 30 per cent lower than they are now, but the rise until two months ago was so great that prices on March 16 were 4.4 per cent higher than they are now.

The fall in these two months has been almost exactly half in food products. Using the total cost of articles in each class so that their relative importance may be noted, the fall in breadstuffs was from $14,122 to $13,333, and in dairy and garden products from $13,272 to $11,836, and in sugar, liquors, tobacco, fish and other miscellaneous food from $9,370 to $9,259, while the cost of meats during the same time rose from $8,594 to $8,798. Against this fall of $2,132 in the food products, there appears a fall of $2,007 in other articles, largely manufactured or imported. In the lumber and drug class the decline was small, from $16,880 to $16,737. In the clothing class, which includes materials with products, allowances for wool, cotton, silk and india rubber to represent, together with quotations of woollens, cottons, silk and india rubber goods, the great variety of such goods not quoted, the decline was not great, from $17,654 to $17,436. But in the metals class, embracing coal and mineral oil, with the metals and their products, the decline has been from $17,476 to $15,866 in the last two months. It is only needful to remember that in this very class the rise was greatest in amount and appeared to go further beyond reason than in any other class of products.

THE INDIAN MARRIAGE LAW.

Despite the pressure for early adjournment it is to be hoped that Congress will find time at this session to give attention to the proposed Indian Marriage law prepared for the Indian Commissioners and introduced in both houses with their approval. It is almost always difficult to secure adequate consideration of measures concerning the internal affairs of the Indian tribes. This is especially true when the questions at issue involve no white interest which is concerned to exert influence in Washington. Few Congressmen possess the time or the knowledge requisite for the solution of problems of detailed Indian administration, and are naturally disposed to procrastinate when called upon to face such subjects. At the same time they are usually ready to agree to the wisdom of the executive officers managing Indian affairs, and probably all that is needed to enable the Indian Bureau to carry out its contemplated reforms is simply an understanding among Senators and Representatives of the desirability of not neglecting the recommendations of the Indian Commissioners in their haste to get away from the capital.

The bill was drawn by Dr. Gates, secretary of the Commission, and has been subjected to the revision and meets the approval of experts like Dr. Riggs, of Santee; Dr. Frissell, of Hampton; Inspector George Wright and Commissioner Jones. It proposes to establish Indian family relations on a regular basis, requiring licenses for marriage and keeping a system of permanent family records, which will be of great use in determining succession of property among the Indians, who are becoming more and more individual land owners and who in a few years will be holders of properties in fee simple on the expiration of Government protection of title. Such a system of registration will protect the Indians from white adventurers who on various pretexts try to secure properties belonging to Indians, and it may also protect the Government from baseless claims by impostors. Moreover, it is time to give the Indians other than a savage idea of marriage. In putting on civilized habits and acquiring lands in severalty they have reached the stage when the missionary teachings concerning family life should be reinforced by formal political sanction.

It is, of course, necessary to deal with the Indians as they are and not as we would have them be, and accept the fact that they have not all so far emerged from barbarism as to have abandoned plural relations. Therefore the bill for the registering of marriages made in conformity to civilized ceremonies or by native custom provides not merely for keeping a record of monogamous marriages, but of all unions made by Indian custom, so far as practicable taking note of the order of successive marriages. While accepting the Indians as they are and wisely refraining from all attempts to penalize them for the past, the bill orders that after next January none but monogamous new marriages shall be legal. Thus the rising generation is put under pressure to conform to civilized rules. This seems to be a sensible and moderate method of doing justice to the present state of Indian society and working for its improvement.

As at only about one in seven of the Indian agencies are permanent marriage records kept or existing marriage regulations enforced, it is evidently highly desirable that the reformed system should be put in operation soon. The bill carries no appropriation, but simply provides a better system under which the present administrative agencies may work in helping the Indians to the adoption of civilized ideas of marriage.

THE DELAGOA BAY DELAY.

Reference has frequently been made to the inordinate delay that attended the arbitration of the Delagoa Bay Railroad dispute, and much comment has been made thereon unfavorable not only to the Swiss Government, which conducted the arbitration, but to the whole scheme of international arbitration which is susceptible of such apparent abuse. So far and so deep has such reprobation of the Berne process gone that the International Arbitration Association has been moved to solicit from the Swiss authorities some explanation of the case which might perhaps justify the delay and vindicate the principle of arbitration from the reproach which was falling upon it. Such an explanation has now been made by Dr. Bruestlein, the secretary of the arbitral tribunal and previously an officer of the Swiss Government.

The court for the arbitration of this case was constituted in August, 1891. For five years thereafter, until 1896, it did nothing but receive the documentary statements and counterstatements of the contending litigants. That was, no doubt, too long a time to be taken up with the submission of briefs. But the fault rests with the litigants themselves. If the court had cut them short they would doubtless have complained that they were not treated fairly in not being permitted to present their cases as fully as they desired. The proverbial wish of a woman to have the last word is "as moonlight unto sunlight and as water unto wine" compared with the determination of litigious men to have that privilege. Only then, in June, 1896, was the court able, from receipt and examination of complete statements from both parties, to decide upon its mode of procedure in determining the case. It decided that an expert examination of the property in dispute was essential, and thereupon appointed a commission of three eminent railroad engineers to make such an examination. These sent one of their number to Delagoa Bay. He went in November, 1896, and got back in March, 1897. That, we may say, was quick enough work. So down to the last named date the court was guilty of no unnecessary delay.

But then a delay occurred. It was a whole year later when the commission made its report to the court. Dr. Bruestlein does not think that too long a time for the consideration and preparation of such a report. In that it is not easy to agree with him. A business corporation would expect and require a report of equal elaboration and importance to be made not in a year, but in a month, and would get doubtless just as satisfactory a report as the one that was finally rendered by these engineers. Nor was this a case in which the court was powerless. If it could not shut off the streams of statements from counsel it could have given orders to its own employes. On the whole, therefore, the court seems to have been chargeable with needless delay of nearly a year at that point in the case. From March, 1898, to January, 1899, the litigants had the floor again with statements and counterstatements based on the report. Then the final arguments were called for, and these lasted until May 1, 1899, when the case was declared closed. But immediately the contestants began clamoring for a reopening, which was granted, and even as late as February 26, 1900, there were requests for still further reopenings and adjournments, which the court refused. On March 18 it declared the case closed, and on March 29 it announced its judgment.

We may hold the court responsible, then, for a delay of less than one year. For all the other years of delay and waiting the litigants themselves, or their counsel, are to be held responsible. Constituted as it was, the court could not well hurry them nor shut them off from further argument any more than it did. That fact does not discredit arbitration. It does emphasize the desirability of establishing for all cases which are voluntarily submitted as arbitrable a permanent tribunal which shall have rules of procedure to which the litigants will have to conform, and which will not permit any such lengthened litigation long drawn out as marked and marred the case of Delagoa Bay.

THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY.

To-day is a festal day in the British Empire. The anniversary of the sovereign's birth has steadily increased in interest with her increasing years, until it is now the supreme patriotic holiday. To the rest of the world its appeal is, of course, far less strong. Yet it is by no means to be disregarded. Almost any person who has attained the age of eighty-one years is, because of that age, a marked figure in the circle to which he or she belongs. So a sovereign who has reached such an age becomes through that very fact a marked member of the community of sovereigns. The distinction of Queen Victoria rests, it is true, upon a much more significant basis than mere length of life and of reign. It is based upon the fact that her eighty-one years of life and nearly sixty-three of queenship have been instinct throughout with virtue and wisdom and the qualities generally which make for righteousness of rule and for sweetness and purity of life. It is not only a long life and a long reign, but a good and true life and a reign beneficent to humanity that are honored to-day. In that view of the case the world outside of the British Empire may at least regard the day with respect and sympathy.

It will not escape the judicious observer that the circumstances amid which the Queen enters her eighty-second year compel a certain reconsideration of some former notions concerning her status as a sovereign. It has often been said in recent years—though never, so far as we know, on sufficient authority—that she was determined to finish her reign without another war of any magnitude. That has been put forth as the explanation of Great Britain's abstention from coercive measures toward Turkey in the Armenian and other cases, and of her failure to oppose the steady advance of Russia in Asia. The idea has grown up that no matter what was done Great Britain would not go to war so long as the Queen was living. We have no doubt that Her Majesty has sincerely desired to have no more wars and has steadily exerted her influence to that end. But that she ever demanded a maintenance of peace at any price, even to the sacrifice of national safety or honor, is simply unthinkable. The present war was not engaged in against the Queen's will. She strove to avoid it. But when it became inevitable there is no doubt that she accepted it with the philosophy of patriotism. Nor has she been in the matter a mere figurehead. Despite the idle tales that have in recent years been circulated, she is still a potent force in British government. Nothing is done without her knowledge, and in no case is the royal assent to be taken for granted.

Of this fact the last few months have given striking evidence. The Queen's progresses through the streets of her capital and her visit to Ireland were of her own conception, and the execution of them was due to her own energy and courage. She is still Queen, and not alone in name. She is still the head of the British Empire and of the great elder branch of the English speaking race. And it is as such that she is to be regarded, as well as a woman of noble character, on the day that marks her progress into another year of her ninth decade.

Proof that the United States means what it says is reported to have produced a great impression upon the Sublime Porte. That is an impression that might well be received everywhere.

We never quite understood why the Census Bureau was not put under Civil Service rules, but since Governor Roosevelt has discovered that the office of inheritance tax appraiser is "confidential," in the sense that fitness for it cannot be tested by competitive examinations, it is all clear. The census takers have to ask women their ages. If that isn't a "confidential" matter it would be difficult to say what is. Thus engaged in a "confidential" occupation, of course the census men could not be chosen by examinations. It takes a good Civil Service reformer like the Governor to show the proper limitations of the merit system.

Brooklyn reports eleven thousand fewer arrests in 1899 than in 1896. That indicates either a wondrous growth in grace or a deplorable decline in police efficiency. Which is more likely to be the result of the consolidation which annexed her to Tammany Hall?

There is to be observed in our hitherto esteemed contemporary "The London Leader" a column headed "Moting Notes." It may be necessary to explain that the "moting" to which these notes refer is the art or science of operating motor cars, or automobiles. This art or science has large possibilities of pleasure and usefulness, but it is a serious question whether they would not be outweighed by the disaster of the introduction of "moting" in the speech of England. There is little danger that such a monstrosity will ever flourish in the United States, where the ancient purity of the language is more jealously guarded; but Americans will scan the English papers anxiously with a dread of "moting" in their hearts.

The watchword adopted by President Faunce, "No hoodlumism at Brown University," is worthy of general adoption. We do not mean that there is any general prevalence of the vice complained of in American colleges. But if a single case of it exists in a single college, that is just one case too many.

Poor "Tom" Paine! After all the controversy that has raged over him, and all the hard things that have been said of him, to be championed and patronized now by "Bloody Bridles" Waite, "Cryptogram" Donnelly and "Calamity" Weller!

Mr. Fitchie, of the Immigration Bureau, says he does not propose to cross the bridge of rejecting the Phœnix Park murder convicts till he comes to it. We hope that does not mean that he will let them cross the bridge into the country first, and then find they were wrongfully admitted, too late to antagonize their friends.

A contract has been let for six new steel grain ships, of fourteen feet draught, to ply between Duluth and Montreal by way of the Great Lakes and the enlarged Canadian canals. Yet we suppose there are lots of people who will gravely and elaborately deny that any of the export trade in grain is being diverted from United States to Canadian ports.

PERSONAL.

D. H. Chamberlain, who was Governor of South Carolina during the so-called "Carpetbag" regime, has subscribed for twenty shares of stock in the Charleston Exposition Company, which expects to hold a great fair in Charleston next year.

The University of New-Brunswick, at Fredericton, is to celebrate its centennial anniversary on May 29-31. Invitations to participate have been extended to other Canadian and leading American universities. Chancellor Harrison announces that honorary degrees will be conferred upon the following at the approaching centennial of the institution: Governor McClelan, Professor W. W. Bailey, Providence, R. I.; the Rev. George C. Chase, president of Bates College, Lewiston, Me.; Professor L. A. Hall, Colby College, Waterville, Me.; Professor William McDonald, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Me.; the Rev. G. H. Synatt, Ithaca, N. Y.; Dr. A. H. Harris, president of the University of Maine.

The will of Julius Adams, of Boston, gives $25,000 to Carney Hospital, of that city.

Edouard Bocher, who died at the age of ninety in Paris the other day, was for many years the confidential adviser of the Orleans family and the centre of most of the Orleanist plots during the last forty years.

The will of Captain Thomas Wilson, of Cleveland, provides for the establishment of a home for aged couples, in which preference shall be given to sailors and their wives.

Signorina Loretta Italia Garibaldi has entered the preparatory school of the Woman's College, of Baltimore, where she is making up back work in order that she may enter college next autumn. She is the granddaughter of the famous General Garibaldi. Her father, Gumiotti Garibaldi, has achieved distinction as a military leader. Signorina Garibaldi will remain at the Woman's College until she has finished her full course, returning to Rome only during her vacations. She is much pleased with the United States, and speaks English well. She will allow no one to address her by any of the titles which she has a right to use.

MR. HAY ENTERTAINS BOER ENVOYS.

A PURELY PERSONAL COMPLIMENT TO THEM FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Washington, May 23.—Secretary Hay to-day entertained at luncheon the Boer delegates now in Washington. The affair was a purely personal compliment extended by the Secretary, and had not even a social significance. His son, Adelbert S. Hay, United States Consul at Pretoria, has been treated with the greatest courtesy and consideration by the Boers not only officially, but personally, and perhaps it was remembrance of this fact that induced the Secretary to reciprocate the courtesy in this manner. The party was small. Besides the Secretary and his family, there were present the delegates, Mrs. Fischer, wife of the leader of the delegation; Dr. Hill, the Assistant Secretary of State, and a few women, intimate friends of the Secretary's family.

PRESIDENT INVITED TO RICHMOND.

Washington, May 23.—A delegation of prominent men from the South, including Senators McComas, Pritchard and Martin, and John S. Williams and W. E. Christian, of the Seaboard Air Line, called on the President to-day, and invited him to attend a banquet in Richmond, Va., on June 2, in celebration of the opening of a new through railroad line from Richmond to Tampa, Fla. The President said he would be glad to consider the invitation, and would attend if he found he could do so.

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

Senator Shoup, of Idaho, is thus quoted in "The Chicago Record": "Under the Harrison Administration, when our wool was protected by the McKinley tariff, Idaho sheep were worth from $2 25 to $2 50 a head. When Cleveland was inaugurated they began to go down and down, until, when the Wilson Tariff bill was passed, they were worth $1 27 a head. When McKinley was inaugurated in 1897 they at once advanced 45 cents. In 1899 they had advanced to $2 38, and this year, according to the estimates of the Agricultural Department, the average value of every sheep in Idaho on January 1 last was $2 80, as compared with $1 27 at the time McKinley was inaugurated. In order that you may appreciate the force of this argument, there are over 3,600,000 sheep in the State that have gained more than 200 per cent in value since McKinley was elected because of Republican tariff legislation. Can you blame the sheep farmers, who mostly voted the Democratic ticket in 1896 because they believed that the free coinage of silver would restore the value of their sheep, for wanting to keep the Republican party in power? Are they going to take any chances? Take the price of wool, for example, which sold at 13 cents a pound under the McKinley Tariff law during the Harrison Administration. While Cleveland was President it dropped to six cents a pound, and now under the Dingley tariff it is selling for from 18 to 25 cents a pound."

Hix—What would you think of a man who divulged a secret intrusted to him?
Dix—Well, I should think he was on an equal footing with the men who intrusted it to him.—(Chicago News.

This is the letterhead of an Iowa lawyer:

"—— ——, LAWYER.

"Practices in every court on the Western Hemisphere. Perfects titles and buys and sells mortgages; makes loans and collections. Am the red-headed, scar-faced, freckle-begrimed Legal Napoleon of the Slope, and always in the saddle. Active as the wild, untamed feline. Fierce as a lion and gentle as a dove.

"'AND WITH GOOD ADVICE MAKE WAR.'"

A prolix and pompous Missouri lawyer, defending an ebony negro, was selecting a jury of white men. He had asked numberless needless questions, when the Judge said: "Come, now, Mr. C——, you will be examining the jurors' teeth next. Hurry along. Let's get through with this nonsense." "Well," said the lawyer, "just one more general question. Are any of you in any way related to the defendant at the bar?"

Another Missouri attorney, in a divorce suit, set up in the wife's cross bill the fact that the husband "undertook to poison her without just cause."—(Case and Comment.

Major H. E. Barnatvala, of the British army medical service in India, now in Washington, says: "The photographs of attenuated natives so widely distributed are merely reproductions of pictures taken at the time of previous famines, when such conditions existed. Relief work is provided for the able bodied, and for the small children, the aged and the infirm relief kitchens supply needed sustenance. The offerings of the American people, however, will reach a class who are too proud, on account of caste distinctions, to avail themselves of the official assistance of the Government, to accept which would throw them into prohibited intercourse with other castes. The charity of the American people is very acceptable."

Fuddy—I am sure I don't know whether she can sing best or play best.
Duddy—I think she can play best.
Fuddy—Then you have heard her play?
Duddy—No; but I have heard her sing.—(Boston Transcript.

COMMITTEE FOR MRS. FROTHINGHAM.

Henry Brill, counsel for Mrs. Fannie M. Bedlow, the mother of Mrs. Julia A. Frothingham, applied to Justice Leventritt, in the Supreme Court, yesterday for an order confirming the verdict of the Sheriff's jury finding Mrs. Frothingham an habitual drunkard and incapable of managing her property, valued at $75,000, in real and personal estate, including diamonds worth $25,000. Mrs. Frothingham is the divorced wife of Howard P. Frothingham, a Wall Street broker, who has the custody of their only daughter, Lillian, now fifteen years old. Mr. Brill asked that George B. Covington, a lawyer who had managed the business of several of her relatives, be appointed a committee of her estate, and said he was a fit and proper person to do so. E. McKinistry, representing Mrs. Frothingham, opposed the appointment of Mr. Covington. Justice Leventritt gave Mr. McKinistry permission to submit the names of two persons whom he thought competent to act as committee of her estate, and reserved his decision.

HENRY CLAY MINER DEED FILED.

A deed executed on July 28, 1898, by the late Henry Clay Miner, ex-Congressman and theatrical manager, transferring to Annie Miner the property on the northeast corner of Riverside Drive and Seventy-sixth-st., was filed yesterday for the first time. The deed was placed on record in order to settle up the estate. The consideration named is nominal. The equity of the property at that time was placed at $25,000, and the property was subject to a mortgage of $60,000 held by the Germania Life Insurance Company.

THE PASSING THRONG.

THE FAIRFAXES NOW AND IN THE LONG AGO.

It is a story, of course, that has been written and rewritten, but it is none the less interesting that Dr. John Conté Fairfax, of Fairfax County, Va., is Baron Fairfax of Scotland, and as such appears in Burke's and De Brett's peerages. The Honorable Albert Fairfax, son and heir apparent to that title, is to-day employed in the great banking house of Brown Brothers, in this city, where he is well known among the younger set in society. This title, by special act of the House of Lords, was confirmed to the Fairfaxes on May 4, 1800, at the instance of the Rev. Bryan Fairfax, eighth Baron Fairfax, who went to England for that purpose. This Lord Fairfax married Elizabeth, youngest daughter of Colonel Jefferson Cary, of Hampton, Va. The present Lord Fairfax is a cousin of Clarence Cary, the well known lawyer of this city, and of Mrs. Burton Harrison.

The Fairfax family is one of the oldest in the United Kingdom, the Scottish barony having been conferred on Sir Thomas Fairfax on October 28, 1627. His son Fernandino, the second Baron, was the famous soldier who fought the historic battle of Marston Moor, where he defeated the royal army under Prince Rupert. He in turn was succeeded by his son Thomas, the great soldier of that name. At Marston Moor he had commanded the right wing of his father's army. At the age of thirty-four this Baron Fairfax had conferred upon him the command of the Parliament armies. His triumphs are a part of English history. At Naseby he routed the King. The reduction of parts of England and his forcing of the Prince of Wales to take refuge in France were victories following close upon each other, until in May, 1646, he drove Charles I from Oxford. He had no part in the King's death. In 1650 he resigned the command of the army to Cromwell, and later aided Monk to restore the monarchy.

ANNOYANCES ON SURFACE CARS.

"There are certain useless irritations," said a well known New-Yorker yesterday, "that the surface railways of this city subject their patrons to which it would be as well for them to correct. For instance, when the cars of the Fourth Avenue Line are near the Bridge terminus the conductors invariably render themselves obnoxious in attending to certain details preparatory to the uptown trip. They turn back the indicator that registers the fares, and as in the open cars this indicator is above one of the seats, if you happen to be sitting on that particular seat you will be compelled to move. Then they raise the bar on the rail side of the car and disturb every one sitting on the end of the seats. The other day during the rain the conductor of one of the cars tried to raise the curtains two blocks short of the Bridge, but desisted after one attempt, for the passenger he encountered was not sufficiently good natured to get wet uselessly. It only takes a moment to attend to these details, and it would certainly add to the comfort of the passengers if the conductors were ordered to do this work after the destination was actually reached. There is a cheerful habit, too, on the Fourth Avenue Line, of compelling passengers to change cars, although the car itself may be marked "Bridge" or elsewhere and may carry no outward sign that it is not to run through. This is, of course, a distinct abuse on the part of the management, and one that should be stopped."

THE INDIA FAMINE RELIEF FUND.

JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER GIVES $5,000—DAY MAY BE SET FOR CHURCH COLLECTIONS.

The Executive Committee of the India Famine Relief Fund met yesterday at the Chamber of Commerce. The Rev. Dr. Leander T. Chamberlain announced that John D. Rockefeller had given $5,000. Mr. Rockefeller said he made the gift without conditions because he is thoroughly in sympathy with the movement and approves of the manner in which the funds are being distributed.

L. T. Chamberlain, chairman, and William E. Dodge, Charles A. Schieren, William H. Parsons, W. C. Ogden, D. R. James, Spencer Trask, Isaac N. Seligman, A. S. Frissell, John Crosby Brown, E. R. L. Gould and Frederick B. Schenck were present at the meeting. There was some discussion as to the best way of inducing contributions. It was decided to depend almost entirely on the daily newspapers. The committee contemplates setting aside a day on which all clergymen will be asked to take up a collection.

The contributions received yesterday were:

John D. Rockefeller	$5,000 00	Mrs. Theodore L. Van Norden, Katonah, N. Y.	$5 00
"W. A. S."	50 00	William Hyde, Brooklyn	25 00
John Sloan	200 00	Welch, Holmes & Clark Company	50 00
Bowles Colgate	100 00	J. F. Stevenson, Lakewood	5 00
Three friends in Fourth Presbyterian Church	9 00	Levi P. Morton	100 00
Mrs. Julia Schaadt, Allentown, Penn.	5 00	Mrs. Sara V. Collins, Englewood	5 00
Mrs. Davis Garber, Allentown, Penn.	15 00	"Reformed Church Messenger" subscribers Philadelphia	102 41
Miss Lou Grim, Allentown, Penn.	10 00	Francis L. Slade	100 00
Dr. H. A. Grim, Allentown, Penn.	10 00	Mrs. J. P. Gillespie, Tarrytown	10 00
Bainbridge M. E. Church, Philadelphia	8 25	Through "The New-York Observer"	1 00
Dr. Ishhanian	10 00	The Rev. L. H. Green, Jenkinsburg, Ga.	1 00
Kean, Van Cortlandt & Co.	200 00	W. Horace, through "The New-oYrk Times"	5 00
Union meeting M. E. and Presbyterian Church, Andover, N. J.	26 26	Members of Louisa Low Association, Miss Low's School, Stamford	10 00
W. W. Cole	100 00	"H. C. T."	20 00
Thomas P. Fowler	50 00	"E. M."	5 00
Readers of "El Catolico Convertido Matehuela," San Luis Potosi	30 35	"From friends"	4 00
Union meeting First and United Presbyterian, Methodist and Episcopal churches, Thompsonville, Conn.	114 22	William Clarke, Home, Tenn.	10 00
Irwin B. Tiedman	10 00	William Jessop, Y. M. C. A., Summit, N. J.	3 00
L. J. Huntington	1 00	"N. N.," Paterson, N. J.	2 00
"B."	10 00	Bernice Elliott, Maggie Boak and Vella Stover, Thomasville, Mich	9 80
G. S. Drew, jr.	5 00	Miss A. S. Kain, South Nyack	1 50
"A widow's mite"	1 60	E. M. Orndorff, Worcester, Mass.	10 00
Alfred Murray	2 00	"A Friend"	2 00
William A. Holliday, Lakewood	15 00	B. M. Brown, Washington	10 00
Sabbath school Euclid Avenue Presbyterian Church	16 27	"J. E. W."	1 00
Harry E. Peters, Northampton, Penn.	1 00		
George Coppell	200 00		
M. C. D. Borden	250 00		

RECEIVED BY THE TRIBUNE.

"L. F." sends $2 to The Tribune office for the India Relief Fund.

CHOLERA AND THE FAMINE.

OUTBREAK OF THE DISEASE SCATTERS THE SUFFERERS—NATIVE STATES NEED AID.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: The Committee of One Hundred received yesterday from the Rev. Robert Hume, chairman of the Interdenominational Committee on Famine Relief, the following cable dispatch published in your columns this morning: "Cholera bad in some districts. Mortality and distress increasing. Relief most urgent in native States. Grain prices not rising."

It may be of value to have this and other recent cable dispatches explained in more detail. The complication caused by the cholera lies not merely in the sweeping away by hundreds and thousands of those who have gathered at government relief works, but in the panic and scattering it causes. This breaking up of camps and wandering about of the starving in search of relief elsewhere must result in vastly increasing mortality from starvation. The independence of the native States in matters of internal rule prevents the Government of India from putting into effect the same effective measures for the saving of the people. It, however, loans them money if their resources are insufficient, and the aid of special officers to direct their plans of relief. Notwithstanding this assistance, the system of relief in these States does not compare with what is being done in British territory, and hence emaciation and deaths from starvation are now most appalling. The efforts of missionaries in these native States are therefore of special value, and, as they have less to aid them from Government sympathy, the world's aid might well use them more liberally as a channel of relief. The fact that the price of grain is not rising is a matter of thankfulness. The Government policy of non-interference with the grain trade has been more than justified. At the beginning of the famine, November 1, 1899, the price of jewari (the cheapest grain common to the famine districts) was on the average 1 14-19 cents a pound. On February 26, four months later, it was 1 15-18 cents a pound. The fact that the price of grain has not risen makes it still the fact that this common grain is within two cents a pound, which is the ordinary ration for an adult per day. This adds emphasis also to the fact that money which can be cabled and readily exchanged for grain is the most effective help that other nations can under present conditions render to India in her great extremity.

JUSTIN E. ABBOTT.
No. 700 Park-ave., New-York, May 23, 1900.

THE TRIBUNE FRESH AIR FUND.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

Mrs. Vanderbilt	$500 00
Miss Mary H. Avery (bequest)	50 00
In memoriam H. O. A.	25 00
In memoriam E. W. A.	25 00
Donation from primary department of Second Congregational Sunday school, Waterbury, Conn., per A. M. Blakeley, treasurer	10 00
Pennies saved by Adelia Brownell and Charles Brownell, eight and ten years old	1 00
Miss Eliza Andrew Bulkley	50 00
J. V. Meserole, Brooklyn	5 00
Miss K. S. Babcock	25 00
Miss H. H. White	25 00
Previously acknowledged	1,304 15
Total, May 23, 1900	$2,020 15