Amusements.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC—8:15—Monte Cristo.
AMERICAN THEATRE—8:15—The Silver King.
BIJOU—8:20—Madge Smith.
BROADWAY THEATRE—8:10—Foxy Quiller.
CASINO—8:15—Florodora.
CRITERION THEATRE—8—The Gay Lord Quex.
DALY'S THEATRE—8:30—The Man of Forty.
EDEN MUSEE—The World in Wax.
EMPIRE THEATRE—8:20—Richard Carvel.
FOURTEENTH STREET THEATRE—8—Lost River.
GARDEN THEATRE—8—La Tosca.
GARRICK THEATRE—8:15—David Harum.
GRAND OPERA HOUSE—8—The Highwayman.
HARLEM OPERA HOUSE—8—Sapho.
HERALD SQUARE THEATRE—8:20—Arizona.
IRVING PLACE THEATRE—8—Das Grobe Hemd.
KEITH'S—Continuous Performance.
KNICKERBOCKER THEATRE—8—L'Aiglon.
KOSTER & BIAL'S—2—8—Vaudeville.
LYCEUM THEATRE—8:30—A Royal Family.
MADISON SQUARE THEATRE—8:30—Hodge, Podge & Co.
MURRAY HILL THEATRE—8—Never Again.
NEW-YORK THEATRE—8—Vaudeville.
PASTOR'S—Day and Night—Continuous Show.
PROCTOR'S—Continuous Performance.
SAVOY—8:20—Mistress Nell.
THEATRE REPUBLIC—8:20—The Sprightly Romance of Marsac.
VICTORIA—8:30—Vaudeville.
WALDORF-ASTORIA—2—8—Cruise of the Summer Girl.
WALLACK'S THEATRE—8:30—Janice Meredith.

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New-York Daily Tribune.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1900.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN.—The British Minister at Peking, under instructions from his Government, has demanded a modification of an important point of the joint note of the Powers to China, a proceeding which will involve considerable further delay in the peace negotiations; there was a demonstration in Berlin over troops returning from China; the Russian Government defends its course in seizing and retaining the Yang-Tsun-Shan-Hai-Kwan Railroad in China. ═══ The German training frigate Gneisenau foundered off Malaga, sixty-five miles from Gibraltar, forty persons being drowned. ═══ Great Britain is pressing the Ottoman Government for payment of the British Armenian indemnity claims, inspired by the success of the United States in securing its indemnity. ═══ The Boers at Zastron, Orange River Colony, on December 13 killed four, wounded sixteen and captured 120 of Brabant's Horse; the Boers have released many prisoners captured at Magaliesberg; the Boers suffered heavily in their attack on Vryheid on December 10; in reply to an invitation from Grand Rapids, Mich., Mr. Krüger telegraphed that he had not decided whether or not to visit America. ═══ The stock of cotton in Liverpool is steadily increasing; the belief in Manchester is in a crop of 10,250,000 bales in America. ═══ There was an enormous shrinkage in the value of mortgage bank obligations in Germany last week. ═══ Newfoundland's balance sheet for the year shows a surplus of $258,000, the best showing ever made by the colony. ═══ After a three days' battle, the Colombian revolutionists were forced to evacuate their stronghold, Tumaco, by the Government troops.

DOMESTIC.—It is expected at Washington that a test vote in the Hay-Pauncefote Treaty will be taken this week, which will indicate the fate of the convention in the Senate. ═══ The reapportionment of representation is exciting much interest in the House of Representatives, and the several propositions of the Census Committee are under careful consideration. ═══ Interest in the case of Captain N. H. Hall, of the Marine Corps, charged with cowardice at Peking, is revived at Washington by a magazine publication of an account of the struggle on the Great Wall of the Chinese capital. ═══ The State Tax Commissioners expect a concerted attack upon the constitutionality of the Franchise Tax law early next month; former Senator Hill has been in consultation with attorneys of the prominent corporations as to the best method of upsetting the law. ═══ There is said to be little likelihood of the sympathetic strike of the trainmen on the Santa Fe Railroad to aid the telegraphers who are out. ═══ Two negroes were lynched in Indiana for the murder of a barber.

CITY.—It was learned that the Manhattan Club had not invited William J. Bryan to take part in its celebration on Saturday night, but had invited ex-Senator Hill. ═══ The Rev. Dr. W. S. Rainsford in his sermon at St. George's Church declared that the teachings of Christ regarding the second coming had been misunderstood and the Church had been misled. ═══ The arrangements for the funeral of Oswald Ottendorfer were announced. ═══ The Central Federated Union adopted a resolution providing that all members should wear clothes bearing a union label after July 1, 1901. ═══ A detective in Brooklyn fatally shot a man who had seized his badge.

THE WEATHER.—Forecast for to-day: Fair and cold. The temperature yesterday: Highest, 26 degrees; lowest, 16; average, 20¾.

THE SIZE OF THE HOUSE.

The reapportionment question in Congress appears to be chiefly a question of the size of the House of Representatives. Shall that size be fixed and the ratio of representation be changed, or shall the ratio be fixed and the House be enlarged proportionately with the growth of the Nation? All the various plans of apportionment which have been proposed take one or the other side of this question or strive to effect a compromise between them. One proposes to keep the House at its present number. That would require the reduction of representation of some States in order that that of others might be increased, and it would considerably increase the size of Congress districts. Others propose to keep the districts at about their present size and to increase the membership of the House sufficiently to provide representation, at about the present ratio, of the increased population of the country. There is doubtless much to be said on each side of the case, and the final decision will be on grounds of expediency rather than those of precedent or abstract right.

The general tendency has hitherto been to increase both the ratio of representation and the size of the House. In 1789 the ratio was 30,000 and the number of Representatives 65. On reapportionment in 1793, under the First Census, the same ratio was adopted and the number of Representatives was increased to 105. Ten years later the ratio rose to 33,000 and the number of Representatives to 141. That was on the basis of the census of a century ago. Thereafter the ratio rose constantly though not uniformly to its present figure of 173,901. The number of Representatives also increased, until it was 240 in 1833; ten years later it was reduced to 223, simultaneously with a great increase of the ratio; and then it rose again pretty uniformly to 356 in 1893, which has since been increased by the admission of Utah to 357. If the present ratio be retained the number of Representatives under the new apportionment will be about 400. If the House be kept at its present size the ratio will be raised to about 214,000.

The example of other nations having representative legislatures is on the whole in favor of small ratios and large houses. In Great Britain and Ireland there are 670 members, and the ratio is only some 61,000. That is to say, the United Kingdom, with little more than half our population, has nearly twice as numerous a House, and each of its members represents few more than a third as many as each of ours. France has 584 Deputies, each representing a population of about 66,000. Germany comes much the nearest to our standard, with 397 Deputies, each representing about 131,600 persons; but even Germany has a larger House and a smaller ratio than we. If from foreign countries we turn to our own States and their legislatures for examples the same rule holds good, though its application greatly varies. New-York has a ratio of 48,000. Connecticut has a Representative for each 3,600 persons, Pennsylvania one for each 31,000, New-Jersey one for each 31,000, and so on. It is to be observed, however, that in these States the numbers of legislative Representatives are fixed by constitutional enactment, and are not varied with each reapportionment.

Undoubtedly it is desirable for representation in State legislatures to be based on a much smaller ratio than in Congress. It would be absurd to send to Washington such an army of Representatives as the Nation would have on the Connecticut basis, or even on that of New-York. It is doubtful even if it is desirable to swell our Congress to the numerical size of those of Europe. The British Parliament needs to be chosen on a smaller ratio, and thus to be "nearer to the people," than our Congress, because it largely fulfils the functions of Congress and State legislatures in one. The same may be said of the French and German houses. The experience of the latter two countries has been that larger houses are apt to be unwieldy and ineffective, if not riotous. Such considerations will doubtless be entertained at Washington. It may be deemed best slightly to increase the number of Representatives; but the ratio will probably be still more increased. To enlarge the House in proportion with the growth of the Nation would be impracticable.

A DOUBLE LOSS.

The stock of civic virtue in this community has been seriously depleted by two deaths occurring on the same day. Oswald Ottendorfer, the proprietor of the "Staats-Zeitung," was known to be in a precarious condition, and the public as well as the circle of his personal friends was prepared to hear that his useful career had ended; but Charles C. Beaman's death is both a shock and a grief to all. The lives of these men may not have touched at many points, but they possessed in common the excellent and too rare trait of practical solicitude for the general welfare, and it is therefore suitable that their names should be associated in a tribute to their memory.

The young manhood of Mr. Ottendorfer was strange and adventurous, and can scarcely be reckoned as a natural introduction to the activities which he was destined to pursue in after life. But his energetic temper was combined with a sober judgment, and the influences of his stormy years did not bend him to rash and erratic courses when once he had found a place and a career in the New World. He quickly adapted himself to the favorable conditions with which it was his good fortune to be surrounded after his arrival in this country, and soon became the editor of what he has made the most important American paper printed in the German language. It is probably true that the "Staats-Zeitung" has not in recent years moulded the political opinions of so large a proportion of its readers as it unquestionably did for a considerable period, because there is less solidarity of sentiment and feeling among German-American citizens than formerly existed. But that change, which is not to be regretted, was in no slight measure due to Mr. Ottendorfer himself. We do not need to say that we have not always thought that his influence was wisely exerted, but there has never been a doubt of his sincerity or of his patriotism. A steadfast supporter of principles which he deemed sound and of causes which he considered important to the public welfare, he was sometimes deceived and disappointed, but more often had the satisfaction of finding his judgment approved by the event. In private life his benevolence was constant, thoughtful and discriminating, and in all respects he was true to a high standard of citizenship.

The career of Mr. Beaman seems less complete, because he died in the prime of his mature powers and while the public was expecting a long continuation of his interest and activity in its behalf. Differing in political convictions from Mr. Ottendorfer, he was equally animated by a sense of the responsibility of the individual for the welfare of the community. His private obligations were insistent, but he gave much time and strength to the service of his fellow citizens. It was in truth a gift, for he had no selfish ambitions to foster, but uniformly rejected the visible rewards of political effort. At this time, when the need of intelligent devotion to the work of redeeming New-York is perhaps more clearly and widely recognized than ever before, these men, whose fidelity and wisdom have been abundantly proved, will be greatly missed. We can only hope that their spirit will survive and permeate the city and produce results which they would have rejoiced to see.

AN ERA OF LAVISHNESS.

How much the wholesome lesson of economy which Mr. Odell intends to enforce upon the State is needed becomes evident the moment an appeal is made in these days to anybody connected with a State enterprise to consider the comparative cost of any two propositions before him. Almost every one of the commissions which swarm about Albany considers it entirely beneath its dignity to think of saving a few thousand dollars at the sacrifice of some fad or fancy. We do not mean to say that these commissioners are not honest and patriotic men. The greater part of them are, but so pervasive has become the habit of lavish expenditures, so irresponsible are the various commissions to any central authority able to take a complete view of the State's whole outlay, that no rigorous system is enforced to secure for the State the best worth of every dollar spent. The present method of State Government is much like that which would prevail in any great business establishment which allowed the heads of departments, quite independent of one another, and practically independent of the owner, to equip their departments as they pleased. Naturally each man would with perfect honesty think that the interests of the business absolutely required every outlay his taste called for. As a result the business would probably cease to be profitable.

An instance of this same tendency in the State Administration is seen in the attitude of the commission appointed to establish a hospital for consumptives toward the State Prison officials, who wish co-operation for the general interest of the State. The latter want to provide work for the convicts as a measure of humanity, and at the same time make them earn something for the State. The Hospital Commissioners, however, quite scorn such considerations. They prefer to put the hospital where the convicts cannot build it. The site they have chosen they think as good, from their special point of view, as any, and they feel no obligation to give heed to any other interest than that committed to their charge, even when they can do so without sacrifice of anything essential. If, to return to the parallel with the business house, a general manager were over these two departments he would quickly teach them that all departments must adjust themselves to secure the greatest efficiency for the whole plant, and would tell the hospital managers that they must locate where the superfluous labor of the convicts will cut down their expenses, provided their hospital can be conducted with reasonable success in that place. These Hospital Commissioners also show a fine scorn of taking land where it is cheap. They pick out sites with the same disregard of anything but their own wishes that Louis XIV showed in creating Versailles. Other sites may be practically as good, vastly cheaper, and of much more benefit to other departments of the Government, but the Commissioners, having settled on what they want, are prepared, like the French King, to proclaim that so far as that hospital is concerned they are the State.

We do not mention them because they are any exception to the rule, but because their action happens at this moment to be in view. They are simply following the habit engendered by a bad method. We need more systematic oversight of expenditures, a consolidation of administering bodies, a centralization of control over State institutions, putting an end to the custom of running asylums, hospitals and schools with a view to erecting as big buildings as possible and spending as much money as can be logrolled out of the treasury to puff up local pride and enrich local tradesmen. There is room for a sweeping reform in this direction, and the people are in a temper to support the Governor in beginning it.

OUR SAVINGS BANKS ARE STRONG.

The savings banks in this city and State are almost without exception in a sound condition, and foolish listeners to senseless rumor could hardly have found a time when there was less cause for anxiety with regard to these admirable institutions. It is generally believed that the run upon the Harlem bank is over. It never had reason or excuse. New-York is proud of the management of its savings banks. The reports filed at Albany are full and trustworthy, and are published often enough to reassure the most timid. Official figures exhibiting the details of the operations of these banks for the first half year of 1900 were set forth in the daily newspapers soon after they had been compiled, and they were of a nature to confound sensation mongers and to silence purveyors of injurious gossip.

The laws in this State are so precise in restricting the investments of savings bank funds that trustees and other officers can bring no serious losses upon the depositors unless they are deliberate criminals who make up their minds to violate the plain provisions of the statutes. It is conceded everywhere that the men who handle the money deposited are in nearly all instances faithful to their trust, and their number includes many of the most honored of our citizens. Most of the savings banks in this State are strong fortresses of finance. Even a Wall Street panic cannot impair their solidity. Their reports show that they are gaining in every way year after year. Their funds are securely invested, they cannot under the present acts engage in rash enterprises, and their managers keep a safe margin of surplus in reserve. The hundreds of millions of dollars which they hold in charge for the frugal masses of our people are judiciously cared for.

In the early seventies the statute as to the investment of savings bank funds was not nearly so strict as it is now, and many speculative schemers founded new banks or procured election to the boards of trustees of several then in existence. Some of the worst rascals of the Tweed era succeeded in obtaining control of the deposits in a number of such institutions, and quickly squandered the hard earnings of the poor. Of course, failures followed. The bankruptcies of the Mutual Benefit, Sixpenny and People's savings banks of a quarter of a century ago were especially disgraceful. Those calamities created for a time a feeling of distrust of savings banks generally. But the Legislature passed laws to remedy the evils which were then so harmful. A better day came, and for a couple of decades, and especially in the nineties, now ending, the savings banks have earned a full measure of public confidence. They are now stronger than ever before, and they are doing excellent service for the industrious and far sighted millions among our wage earners.

INLAND COAST NAVIGATION.

The completion of the North Carolina ship canal survey is announced. This proposed work is intended to provide a continuous waterway through the series of inland sounds with which the coast of that State is skirted. As defined by the survey, the route is from Norfolk, Va., through the Dismal Swamp canal to Albemarle Sound, thence through either the Scuppernong River or Croatan Sound to Pamlico Sound, and thence to Beaufort through either Core Sound or the Neuse and Newport canal. The opening of this route to navigation would give a more direct passage from Norfolk to Beaufort than that afforded by rail, and much more direct and far safer than the outside water route around Cape Hatteras. It would also tap the Chowan, Roanoke, Tar and Neuse rivers, and thus gridiron the northeastern quarter of the State with waterways.

Such a system of inland coast navigation could not well be extended much, if any, to the south of Beaufort. Possibly Bogue Sound might be improved and utilized to Bogue Inlet, but beyond that point there are no inland coast waters that offer a promise of navigation until the Indian River in Florida is reached. True, there are numerous lagoons between Bogue Inlet and Cape Fear River, and the land is low, so that a canal between Beaufort and Wilmington might be constructed; and it would not be impossible to continue it by way of the Waccamaw and Pedee rivers to Georgetown, and thence by way of the Wando to Charleston and so on to Savannah. There have even been proposals to construct a canal across Northeastern Florida from the ocean to the Gulf. But it will probably be long before any such routes are actually opened below Beaufort.

Northward from Norfolk, however, there is clearer sailing. The Chesapeake Bay affords a superb waterway almost up to the Pennsylvania line, and from the head of its navigable waters it is only a short distance by canal across sand flats to the Delaware River. The latter is navigable by all craft to Philadelphia and for vessels of considerable size to Bordentown. From the latter city there is canal navigation to the Raritan, at New-Brunswick, and thence, of course, there is a fine inland waterway to New-York. From this city there is a cross-country waterway by the Hudson River and Erie Canal to the whole system of Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River. There is also the way up the coast, by Long Island Sound to Buzzard's Bay, and thence, by the construction of a short canal, to Cape Cod Bay and Boston.

With comparatively little cost and labor, therefore, an inland coast waterway might be opened from Boston, Mass., to Beaufort, N. C., with only two or three points of exposure to the high seas, and passing through New-York and Philadelphia and close by Baltimore and Washington. Such a route, safe and sheltered, would be of great value to certain classes of commerce, and might be of especial use in time of war, both for coastwise commerce and for the passage of light draught coast defence vessels, which latter might thus be moved from point to point without the enemy's knowledge. It is well within bounds of possibility that one day such a waterway will be opened, toward which consummation this North Carolina survey may be regarded as a step.

MONEY AND BUSINESS.

Encouraging signs multiply, and there is no geographical limitation to the good news, for the same report comes from every section of the country. Neither is the increased activity confined to a few branches of trade. Legitimate business is on a sound basis, and the feature of greatest promise for the opening year of the new century is the scarcity of speculation in the necessaries of life. Cotton stands out rather prominently as an exception, and as a result the market for goods is irregular, although planters are securing better returns for their crop than in any previous year. Coal mining operations have been vigorously pushed since the settlement of the strike, and over $475,000 was distributed as Christmas pay to employes in the Shamokin district. Similar payments of unprecedentedly large amounts in other industries indicate the rate at which business is being done. American concerns capture large contracts for structural iron and steel in British possessions, and steel rails are bought here for an English road because of low prices, standard quality and prompt delivery.

Exports of manufactured articles expand so vigorously that the November statement fell only $26,638,773 behind the preceding record breaking month, although shipments of cotton decreased $18,897,580. With the exception of October, 1900, and December, 1898, last month's exports were the largest ever reported. Coming immediately after such a phenomenal month as October, the heavy aggregate is especially gratifying. Owing to imports of $64,846,418, foreign credits were not increased as much as in the same month of 1898, although $71,832,176 was not a small balance, and exceeded the increase in foreign indebtedness a year ago by $18,175,196. Exports from this city for the first week of December were $2,562,361 larger than in the previous week, and only 8 per cent smaller than a year ago, while imports for two weeks fell $4,211,360 behind last year's figures, or about 20 per cent, indicating another splendid balance for the current month.

Rates of foreign exchange are so near the gold importing point that the yellow metal could be engaged readily, and monetary stringency exists mainly in the minds of speculators who have sold stocks they did not possess and are hoping for high rates to depress the market. There was a temporary hardening of rates in anticipation of a bad bank statement, which failed to materialize. Instead of the decrease in surplus that was expected to follow large losses by the banks to the Sub-Treasury, there appeared a small increase owing to a reduction of $13,682,500 in loans. As pension and other payments are expected to prevent further absorption of funds by the Government vaults, and rates of domestic exchange promise movement of money this way from the interior, there is a prospect of continued ease in the money market. Although small losses appear in comparison with last year in the week's bank exchanges at a few cities, such as Chicago, Boston and Philadelphia, enormous gains at the South, led by a rise of 50 per cent at New-Orleans, bring the total for the week up to 5 per cent over 1899 and 18 per cent over 1898. The daily average for the first half of December falls slightly below last month's enormous figures, but shows a good increase over preceding years.

Railroad earnings reported for December thus far make even better comparison with preceding years than complete returns for November, and it is not surprising that dividends are increased on some stocks, while others long unremunerative are being put on an interest paying basis. Belief in the permanence of prosperity forced conservatism aside and prices rose by bounds. At the close on Saturday the sixty most active railways showed an average price of $81 53, which is far above the highest point at any time in over eighteen years. During the week railroads advanced an average of $2 78 a share, industrials gained $2 57, while gas and traction stocks rose $3 60. The manufacturing securities are still far below their maximum point, which was attained last year.

Much money has changed hands at the Cotton Exchange during the last week. Heavy lines were liquidated when the official report was issued, and during a few minutes the price declined about $2 a bale. Instead of the low estimate that was expected, the Department figures indicated a yield of 10,100,000 bales. Later in the week the loss was recovered, and spot middling uplands closed unchanged at 10⅛ cents, notwithstanding the fact that over 450,000 bales came into sight, raising the total nearly half a million bales over last year's figures for the crop season to date. Strength was apparently due to rather better inquiries by domestic spinners and fear of speculative manipulation. There was no encouragement in the decrease of 369,388 bales in November exports, nor in the report that Mr. Ellison would reduce his estimate of world's consumption, which has been the chief support. Wool is barely steady in price, with sales of 12,053,144 pounds in two weeks, against 22,677,500 a year ago. Manufacturers buy cautiously, and the best trading is in Territory and cheap wools. Expensive fleeces are firmly held owing to the light supply, but the demand is unsatisfactory.

There is a certain monotony about reports from most iron manufacturing centres. Prices maintain the various advances that followed the assurance of sound finances and continued prosperity through the wisdom of voters last month. Wheels are not idle and employes are not laid off any longer than is necessary to repair overworked machinery. Occasionally there is heard a complaint that new business is not freely offered, but investigation usually shows that orders have been taken for the full capacity of the works well into next year. After many months of accumulating stocks, pig iron at furnaces decreased nearly 85,000 tons during November, and the weekly capacity of producing concerns showed an increase on December 1 for the first time in six months. Such indications of absorption of raw material indorse statements of activity in the manufacture of iron and steel. A canvass of the large machine shops and foundries by "The American Manufacturer" shows that with scarcely an exception plants are extending their capacity or making plans for larger accommodations after January 1. Two items of international significance in this industry are the closing of a Scotch iron plant by lack of orders and preparation for removing a large English concern to this country.

The Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company is acting generously to its men in these cold days and nights of December in providing them with hot coffee at the terminals of the lines. Motormen and conductors are exposed to the worst rigors of winter, and this corporation is doing a kindness for which its employes should be amply grateful.

The State law with regard to the so-called "prevailing rate of wages" loses a part of its terrors to taxpayers under the recent Supreme Court decision. Were every contractor in charge of a public improvement compelled to pay his workmen at rates equivalent to the highest that trades unions might try to exact, the cost of public enterprises would go soaring to heights that would cause troubles difficult to surmount. Unless employers can take advantage of market conditions and freedom of contract to some reasonable extent, our municipality would soon be forced to abandon efforts at development or would be overwhelmed with financial burdens.

The organization which has been formed to introduce moose and elk in the Adirondacks is made up of so many representative and influential New-Yorkers that Maine in a few years may lose her celebrity as the most attractive region in the East for the forest pursuit of big game. Our Empire State should take the lead in opportunities for hunting and fishing east of the Great Lakes as in so many other things.

Lewis G. Tewksbury had a cometary career in this town. He kept more than one big bucket shop in New-York, and by every kind of continuous performances he sought to advertise himself and his business. He bought a costly house in West Seventy-second-st. and procured the insertion in various publications of articles about the amateur barroom in which he regaled his friends with the most fantastic of "mixed drinks." He spent his money with the freedom of a "Jubilee Juggins," and among all the proprietors of bucket shops he was the most conspicuous. He bought two famous pacers and sent them over the country in a gorgeous car emblazoned with Tewksbury signs in enormous letters. Finally the crash came, as it comes sooner or later to bucket shops, high or low. He fled to Mexico, leaving in the lurch a wailing host of disappointed creditors. The latest reports from the city of Montezuma are that he is going the pace in Mexico without his pair of pacers. Mexicans who put their trust in Tewksbury will have husks to eat ere long.

The official report that there have been 15,625 cases of typhoid fever, of which 3,642 proved fatal, among the British troops in South Africa is significant in view of the typhoid outbreak among our own troops at the time of the war with Spain. Our trouble was apparently not the special fault of our officers. There is much yet to be learned about the sanitation of an army.

PERSONAL.

Edward W. Frost, of Milwaukee, who recently dined in London with Sir George Williams, the founder of the Young Men's Christian Association, says: "I found Sir George at his counting-house, in Paternoster Row, just behind St. Paul's Church. He cordially invited me to dine with himself and Lady Williams in the historic room where the association was founded in 1844, when he summoned a dozen young fellow clerks to that room to pray over and consider the organization of an association for young men, having Christianity as its foundation. At table with us was Lady Williams as his sweetfaced, lovable wife is now known. Sir George, who is about seventy-eight, is quite feeble, never having fully recovered from his serious illness of a year ago. The famous old room in which the first Young Men's Christian Association was born remains unchanged from the day of the first meeting there by Clerk George Williams and his friends."

Dr. Winthrop Ellsworth Stone, who succeeds the late James H. Smart as president of Purdue University, has been vice-president of that university since 1892. He is thirty-eight years old and a graduate of the Massachusetts Agricultural College. He also studied at Göttingen.

Professor Charles Zueblin, of the University of Chicago, has been engaged to give a course of lectures by the Trades and Labor Assembly, of Springfield, Ohio. He will take for his topic "American Municipal Progress."

The Frick Memorial Library, of Wooster University, which has just been dedicated, is the gift of H. C. Frick, of Pittsburg, in remembrance of his parents.

"The Municipal Journal and Engineer" says: "The heads of bureaus of the Department of Public Safety of Pittsburg have all been honored during the year by various National and international organizations with positions of trust and responsibility, a condition which probably does not exist in any other city in the country. Fire Chief Miles S. Humphrey was elected president of the International Association of Fire Chiefs; Chief of Police A. H. Leslie president of the International Association of Police Chiefs; Morris W. Mead, president of the International Association of Municipal Electricians, and Health Officer Crosby Grey, vice-chairman of the State Board of Health."

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

A number of Reading, Penn., capitalists have bought a tract of land near that city, on which they expect to raise silver foxes, opossums, raccoons, jack rabbits, minks, weasels, skunks, wolf dogs, beagle hounds, pointer and setter dogs, and other animals for their fur or skins.

Frosty.—He (feeling his way)—What do you think of a man who leaves his friends and goes off to the North Pole?
She (artlessly)—It depends upon the kind of man you mean, you know. You don't mean to say that you think of going, Mr. Bluffer? Well, I hope you will have an enjoyable trip.—(Boston Transcript.

A man in Paris is about to publish a journal for the seasick, which will have for its main purpose the discovery of a specific for seasickness. All the travellers of the universe are to be invited to write all they know about every symptom, remedy, alleviation or aggravation of seasickness. A prize of $20,000 is to be offered for the discovery of an infallible specific.

Criteek—That Western Napoleon of Finance whom you have written up in to-day's paper must be a man of enormous longevity.
Editor—Why?
Criteek—You say, "He is reputed to have made six million dollars in as many years."—(Philadelphia Record.

A curious old method of letting Church and town lands which prevails at Corby, near Kettering, England, was put in force recently. The parishioners having assembled in the vestry, with the rector in the chair, a candle was lighted, with a pin stuck in the wax. Bidding then proceeded until the pin dropped, when the last bidder was declared the purchaser.

Willie's Logic.—Willie—Pa, ma says you're the head of the house. Is that so?
Pa—It is if she says so.
Willie—And, pa, Uncle Harry says I'm a chip off the old block. What's "the old block"?
Pa—I suppose that's me.
Willie—Well, then, pa, you're an old blockhead, ain't you?—(Philadelphia Press.

"After having supplied a moonshiner in a South Carolina jail with a month's supply of smoking tobacco," said a Government surveyor the other day, "I presumed upon the deed to ask:
"'Didn't you know it was against the law to manufacture moonshine whiskey?'
"'I heard that was a law once,' he replied.
"'What do you mean by "once"?'
"'Why, Juba French told me thar was sich a law, but when I asked Jim Truman about it he says that Juba is sich a liar that nobody kin believe him under oath, and so I reckoned I was safe to go ahead. Shoo, but I wonder how Juba come to tell the truth fur that one time!'"

Wrong Light.—"I will fill your life with sunshine," said he.
This while they sat under the languorous lamps of the conservatory. The woman shuddered—concealedly, to be sure; for well she knew what a fright her complexion was in the garish light of noon.—(Indianapolis Press.

Dean Ramsay, the witty Scottish divine of the last century, used to tell a story about one of the Earls of Lauderdale. His Lordship was taken very ill, the worst symptom being insomnia in an aggravated form. His little son, hearing that recovery would be impossible without sleep, said: "Send for the preaching mon frae Livingston, for fayther aye sleeps when that minister is in the pulpit." The doctors considered that to act on the suggestion would be judicious, so the minister was immediately brought. He preached a sermon; sleep came on—and the Earl recovered.

"Did you ever get religion?" asked the revivalist.
"Well, I should say so—138 pounds of it," replied the man.
"A hundred and thirty-eight pounds of religion!" cried the revivalist. "How did you get that?"
"The only way that a good many men ever get religion," was the reply. "I married it."—(Chicago Post.

The official figures from Washington show that immigration has expanded considerably in the last Department year for which the statistics have been made up. In no season since 1892 has the army of newcomers been so large. The total was no less than 448,572. Of these more than 100,000 came from Italy, 17,316 from the northern part of that country and 84,346 from the southern part. Is not Italy sending here more people than she can readily afford to spare, and more than this Republic can easily afford to take? Might it not be better for both countries if the movement fell off to some extent?

His Dilemma.—"What are we going to do now?" asked his chief of staff.
"I hardly know what we ought to do," replied General Funston, looking at the broad and rapid stream that lay before them. "If we swim it 'The Washington Post' will say I am merely playing to the galleries, and if we don't it will say I can't swim. Sometimes," added the General, with deep anxiety, "I feel almost like giving up the job of trying to please that paper."—(Chicago Tribune.

MR. CARNEGIE ON TREATIES

DIFFER FROM CONTRACTS BETWEEN INDIVIDUALS—WHY BRITAIN SHOULD NOT INCREASE HER RESPONSIBILITIES.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: "Anglo-Saxon" is quite right. I am in favor of arbitration for the settlement of international disputes, when these arise, but I am none the less solicitous to prevent treaties, from which disputes are likely to arise. An ounce of prevention here is worth many pounds of cure.

It is true that Russia only denounced part of the treaty, but it was the part I named, that which debarred her from entering the Black Sea; true, also, that a form of approval was enacted by the London Conference.

The point is that treaties between nations differ from contracts between individuals. If a contract becomes onerous to one of the parties it would not be considered honorable for him to ask release, thus throwing upon the other party the onus of ungracious refusal. With a treaty nations can, and do, ask release without dishonor when conditions change.

It is common for nations to disregard, to declare abrogated, or to suspend or modify treaties. During the Revolutionary War we entered into a treaty with France. Hamilton was clear that under the changed conditions we were released from the stipulations of the treaty, and General Washington issued his proclamation to that effect. That is a pretty good example for us to follow with the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty. It was made to obtain a canal; it failed to do so, and there an end.

Here is an example from Britain. In 1815 a commercial treaty was made with her and duly ratified by the Senate. By it we had rights to trade with St. Helena, but without asking our consent Britain closed that port. In 1817 a convention was entered into between Britain and the United States regulating the warships upon the lakes. Britain in 1837 disregarded this, and increased its naval force far beyond the treaty limit without asking the United States. Sailing vessels were then in use, and it did not provide for steam war vessels. The convention is no longer applicable to the case. Conditions have changed. It has become a dead letter.

France furnishes a memorable instance of changed conditions affecting a treaty. Napoleon III engaged to defend Rome and the temporal power of the Pope. When conditions changed France changed also, and Europe recognized that France could not be expected to adhere to the treaty.

Britain expects the United States to control the canal. We should not be worthy sons of our sires if we did not.

Professor Lawrence, of Cambridge University, in his "International Law," combating Secretary of State Frelinghuysen's contention that Britain had disregarded the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty, says: "If the United States had contended that it has grown so great since the Treaty of 1850 was signed, and her interests in the canal are so superior to those of any other Power that they ought to have a preponderating voice in determining the rules to be adopted . . . such a position would have been impregnable."

It is not as an enemy of Britain, but as a friend, that I urge she should refrain from increasing her responsibilities upon the American Continent. The closer union of our English speaking race, for which I long, will be hastened and strengthened by Britain understanding clearly that the American people mean to attend to matters upon this side; as they grow in power so will this racial instinct grow.

Divided responsibilities and powers in this American canal are the last thing Britain should seek. Her policy should be to say to her kin here, You manage your part of the race upon the American continent, and we will attend to it elsewhere; not rivals, but joint managers, keeping each to his department, and, above all, steering clear of collision with each other. There is room in the world for both.

The ablest men of both parties in Britain understand the situation. The press may howl for a season, but the Republic will get just what it wishes in regard to this or any other American question. We need no help from any nation, not even from Britain, to manage this continent in the future, and we don't need her money to build the canal, either, now. Conditions have changed.

ANDREW CARNEGIE.

New-York, Dec. 15.

THE TRIBUNE'S LOTOS CLUB PICTURE.

WU TING FANG, ANDREW CARNEGIE AND OTHERS EXPRESS APPRECIATION.

Wu Ting Fang, the Chinese Minister to the United States, went to Washington yesterday morning at 10 o'clock. Before starting he expressed himself as delighted with his visit to New-York, and with the reception and dinner given in his honor on Saturday night by the Lotos Club. It was said at the Chinese Consulate, No. 25 East Ninth-st., last night, that both Wu Ting Fang and Chow Tszchi, Vice-Consul at New-York, were much pleased with the photograph in yesterday's Tribune in which they appeared.

Frank R. Lawrence, president of the Lotos Club, expressed high approval of The Tribune's picture. Chester S. Lord also expressed appreciation of the photograph. Andrew Carnegie declared the picture to be one of the best he had even seen, and many others spoke in a similar vein.

FAIR PLAY FOR THE JEW.

A CHRISTIAN MINISTER PRAISES THE TRIBUNE'S POSITION.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Your recent editorial entitled "A Religious Strike" gives expression to sentiments which should be considered with approbation by every reader of your valuable paper. It points clearly to the fact that the leaven of the Gospel is silently and effectually working its way to the hearts of those who are doing work for a, commonly styled, secular newspaper.

It is encouraging to note that the silence is broken on this great modern problem. Americans feel the weight of this problem perhaps no more than other nations, which have had to deal with it for 1,900 years. The religious journals of this country have generally been conspicuously silent on the recent outbreak of Christian antipathy against the worthy, but misled, Jew. Every man should receive treatment as a brother, whether Jew or Gentile.

Though a Protestant minister, I look upon the Jews as needing commiseration and charity, instead of the proverbial spirit of hatred. Beyond doubt the dawn of a brighter and happier day has appeared, when they will be given a respectable place in the hearts of all people and an equal chance among earthly pursuits.

Your position in this merits for you high words of praise. You have set an example that is worthy to be imitated by every newspaper of the land. The Tribune is worthy of the good name it has borne for so many years. May it prosper in every way. And may its long list of subscribers find more reasons for congratulating its competent editor as years pass on.

THE REV. F. C. VIELE.

Pleasantbrook, N. Y., Dec. 14, 1900.

THE RECTORSHIP OF ST. THOMAS'S.

The report mentioned in yesterday's Tribune to the effect that the Rev. Dr. Alexander Mackay-Smith, rector of St. John's Church, Washington, would succeed the late Rev. Dr. John Wesley Brown, as rector of St. Thomas's Episcopal Church, Fifth-ave. and Fifty-third-st., aroused a good deal of comment yesterday among the members of the church. It was said last night that the report was premature, and that no definite choice had been made. A prominent officer of the church said yesterday that several months might elapse before the committee's final report would be published.

SENATOR DEPEW'S NIECE ENGAGED.

Washington, Dec. 16.—At a dinner given last night by Senator Depew and Miss Paulding, in honor of Governor-elect Odell of New-York and Mrs. Odell, the Senator announced the engagement of Miss Paulding to John Edie, U. S. N. Miss Paulding is the niece of Senator Depew and has been the mistress of his home in Washington. Mr. Edie is the son of the late John R. Edie, of this city, and a graduate of the Naval Academy in the class of '90.