MUSIC.

PUCCINI'S "LA BOHEME."

Mr. Grau has promised his patrons an unusually large number of novelties this season, in spite of the discouragement which the management of the Metropolitan Opera House has met with since the last of Wagner's available works was brought forward under the German regime. Mr. Grau's intentions are laudable, and it is much to be hoped that they will meet with substantial recognition and reward on the part of the public. If they do, no matter whether or not the new works prove to be masterpieces, the fact will bring cheer and encouragement to the hearts of those who are hoping and striving to see opera naturalized in America. When once it has been so naturalized there will be the same varied pleasure for the opera goer that there is now for the lover of orchestral and chamber music, who suffers no deprivation from the fact that he is living in New-York and not in one of the European capitals. The first of the promised novelties, which was brought forward last night, was new only to the Metropolitan 'ist. It was Pussini's "La Bohème," which was first given here by an itinerant Italian company at Wallack's Theatre, in May, 1898, repeated by the same organization after it had undergone one of the changes to which itinerant Italian companies at the Casino in October of the same year, and finally was incorporated in the repertory of the Castle Square Opera Company a little more than a month later. This was its first performance in English, and Mme. Melba, who had announced her determination to add the opera to her repertory, witnessed it from one of the boxes of the American Theatre.

There is no use quarrelling with prima donnas. It is so seldom that they are willing to add to the repertories which they have carried away from the rooms of their teachers that when they do so the condescension ought to be recognized humbly and with gratitude. Who are we that we should question the use to which one of a hundred millions chooses to put a gift that the remaining ninety-nine million nine hundred and ninety-nine thousand, nine hundred and ninety-nine must forever contemplate with admiration, envy and amaze? To us, surely, nothing can be so becoming as "modest stillness and humility." But the age is impertinent; cavilers will have their fling, and even the humblest of a prima donna's admirers may wish that she might always preserve a harmony between her gifts and our fair desires, and gently fault her if she preserve it not. "La Bohème" is foul in subject, and fulminant but futile in its music. Its heroine is a twin sister of the woman of the camellias, whose melodious death puts such a delightfully soothing balm upon our senses that we forget to weep in Verdi's opera. But Mimi is fouler than Camille, alias Violetta, and Pauccini has not been able to administer the palliative which lies in Verdi's music. The name of Puccini in connection with that of Verdi invites a curious comparison. FYive generations of musicians—son, father grandfather, great-grandfather and great-great-grandfather, an unbroken line reaching back from the beginning of the twentieth century to the second decade of the eighteenth—are counted in the family of Puccini, the first Giacomo of which was born in 1712, the last in 1858. Verdi was the first musician of his tribe so far as the records show; yet his career covers half of that of the five Puccinis in time and embraces all the phases through which Italian opera has passed in three-quarters of a century, except the aberration from his own style exemplified by Puccini and his companions of the young "veristic" school. Three generations practically are summed up in Verdi, and in his last work there is more invention, learning and real fire than in all the works of those who fancy themselves leaders of the new school which has sprung up within the last decade and a half. But these sound like end of the century reflections, which are not essential here.

The stage of degradation to which dramatic music has been reduced in "La Bohème" is that occupied by the art in Massenet's "Navarraise." Sometimes it is for a moment the vehicle of passionate expression, but oftener it is the vehicle of noise and sometimes not the vehicle but the sonorous disturbance itself. Apparently it is the willing slave of the text, but in reality it attempts to be more than the text. Its tendency has been carried one step further in the opera "Louise" by Charpentier, which is adored of the sewing girls in Paris because it tells of the noble sentiments with which one of their kind is inspired when she kills a doting father in order to enter the exalted estate of hariotry. In "Louise" the street cries of Paris are worked into a singing instrumental fabric over, under and between which the stage folk shriek disjointed bits of conversation. The second act of "La Bohème" reaches this phase in which music becomes merely decorative. Silly and inconsequential incidents and dialogues designed to show the devil-may-care life of artistic Bohemia as depicted by Murger in his romance "La Vie de Bohème" (which had a great vogue among addlepated persons a few decades ago and the spirit of which decadent writers French have impotently attempted to ape ever since) are daubed over with splotches of instrumental color without reason and without effect, except the creation of a sense of boisterous excitement and confusion. In his proclamation of passion Puccini is more successful so soon as he can become strenuous; but even here the expression is superficial and depends upon strident phrases pounded out by hitting each note a blow on the head as it escapes from the mouths of the singers or the accompanying instruments. But the subject has been discussed in these columns with quite enough fulness heretofore. It is better to dismiss it with a smile than to reflect upon it till vexation sets in.

All that could be done to habilitate the opera was done by Mr. Grau and his singers last night. Though Mme. Melba was the direct agency of its introduction into the Metropolitan list, it is not her opera, but Mr. Saléza's. His impassioned singing, his reckless outpouring of strenuous tone, thrilled last night's audience and frequently evoked something like a frenzy of enthusiasm. If the opera secures a vogue it will be his achievement more than that of his companion, though Mme. Melba did some neat character acting and delightful singing in the first act. In the second her interest was never aroused, and there were only her beautiful voice and placid style to admire in the scene which in the companion drama Verdi's genius transformed into an apotheosis of vice and phthisis. Messieurs Campanari, Gilibert and Journet romped through the comedy scenes with evident gusto, and sang with an energy worthy of a much better cause. Miss Occhiolini, enlisted from outside the ranks of the company to replace Miss Fritzi Scheff, was just good enough to serve her not very serious purpose. Altogether the performance was exceedingly spirited and the stage furnishings and management adequate.

THE ORATORIO SOCIETY.

Christmas week, with all its other functions and accompaniments, would still be strange and unfamiliar of aspect to many New-Yorkers without the regular production of "The Messiah" by the Oratorio Society. But the society is at its post of duty this year, as usual, and yesterday began the performance of its agreeable labor of love with a public rehearsal at Carnegie Hall under the leadership of Frank Damrosch. Like that of the Philharmonic Society, the Oratorio Society's public rehearsal is virtually an afternoon concert, but the latter organization labors under the handicap that many of the male singers are prevented by business from attending afternoon performances. So yesterday there was a lack of balance in the choir which will be overcome at to-night's concert. An audience that filled the auditorium to overflowing listened with interest and reverence to Handel's familiar strains. To this audience it is unnecessary to speak of the music or its presentation. Both the score and the society's interpretation are to it as household words. Of the solo parts it need only be said that they were in the competent hands of Mme. Lillian Blauvelt, Mrs. Morris Black, H. Evan Williams and David Bispham.

The society's third concert will be given on Thursday evening, April 4, when Dvorak's Requiem Mass will be sung.

MRS. I. N. P. STOKES IN A CITY OFFICE.

APPOINTED TO BE SCHOOL INSPECTOR OF THE TWELFTH DISTRICT.

Mrs. I. N. Phelps Stokes, of No. 118 East Twenty-second-st., was yesterday appointed school inspector for the Twelfth District by Mayor Van Wyck.

Mrs. Stokes last night declined to discuss her appointment. She is a daughter-in-law of Anson Phelps Stokes. Before her marriage she was Miss Edith Minturn.

CASTELLANE SUIT PUT OFF AGAIN.

DECISION IN SUIT OF DEALER WERTHEIMER POSTPONED UNTIL JANUARY 9.

Paris, Dec. 26.—Before the First Civil Tribunal of the Seine to-day Maitre Bonnat resumed his speech, begun on December 20, when the case was adjourned for a week, in behalf of the Count and Countess de Castellane in the suit of Charles Wertheimer, a London bric-à-brac dealer, to recover payment for art objects sold to the defendants, the transaction, taken as a test case, involving the sum of 12,946 francs. In elaborate arguments counsel set forth the counterclaim of the Castellanes, who demand a reduction of the debt, provisionally estimated to be at least 2,000,000 francs, and the restitution of objects taken in exchange by Wertheimer, under the penalty of 1,000 francs for each day's delay in the restitution from the day of judgment, finally claiming damages to the amount of 300,000 francs. Counsel suggested that experts be appointed to appraise the articles involved, and suggested that these experts be chosen from an ordinary list or from among the presidents of the Exposition juries. He explained that George J. Gould, of New-York, in aiding the Castellanes in this suit, desired to accomplish a duty which the Court had previously confided to him, while the Castellanes, after throwing off Wertheimer's yoke, brought the case into court because they thought the publicity of the hearing was better than the mystery of suspicious pacts and equivocal arrangements. In so doing, counsel asserted, they did an act of dignity and courage.

Maitre Foucauld, counsel for Wertheimer, replied, saying that the authenticity of only five articles, of the value of 500,000 francs, could be possibly questioned, and while Wertheimer affirmed their genuineness he would consent to another expert examination, on the understanding that if the articles were declared spurious the 500,000 francs was to be struck out of his bill; but if they were declared genuine the Castellanes were to pay the full price, no revaluation being admitted. Wertheimer, counsel added, opposed the restitution of the art works which the Count de Castellane gave him in pledge for payment of the total of the bill on the eve of his departure for America.

Maitre Bonnat again spoke, affirming that the Castellanes only secured delays in payment and the withdrawal of Wertheimer's suit by fresh purchases of articles for 250,000 francs which were barely worth 15,000 francs. This, counsel claimed, was selling delays at usurious rates. The Castellanes, counsel continued, demanded an expert valuation of all the purchases, and not of a few objects.

The case was adjourned until January 9, when judgment will be delivered.

WOMAN FATALLY BURNED.

EXPLOSION OF SOLUTION SHE WAS PREPARING FOR SICK CAT IGNITED HER CLOTHING.

May E. Sutherland, twenty-five years old, who, with her sister Sarah, was employed as a saleswoman by Miss Emma Brown, the proprietor of a fancy goods store at No. 377 Broadway, Brooklyn, was fatally burned last night. She went to the rear of the store to prepare a sulphur solution for a sick cat. Miss Brown was in the store waiting on customers. Her sister Sarah was in the cellar.

Suddenly there was an explosion. Customers ran from the store. Miss Brown ran back to the kitchen and Sarah came upstairs. They found May Sutherland writhing in agony on the kitchen floor, her clothing aflame. They tried to smother the fire with blankets, but were unsuccessful. Miss Sutherland died before a physician could arrive. The girls lived at Red Bank, N. J. Helen Winrich, who lives in apartments over the store, in her efforts to extinguish the flames had her hands badly burned.

ECONOMIC AND HISTORICAL CONVENTIONS

TWO ORGANIZATIONS TO MEET TO-DAY IN DETROIT—SEPARATE AND JOINT SESSIONS.

Detroit, Dec. 26.—Prominent historians, educators and political economists from all parts of the country are gathered in Detroit to-night to attend the annual conventions of the American Economic Association and the American Historical Association, which will open to-morrow. After separate sessions to-morrow morning and afternoon, the two societies will meet in joint session to-morrow evening in the First Methodist Church. Friday morning the associations will go to Ann Arbor, where joint sessions will be held in the morning and afternoon, returning to Detroit in the evening, when an entertainment will be given the visitors at the Detroit Club.

About twenty-five members of each society are in the city to-night, and it is believed that by noon to-morrow the number will be swelled to two hundred and twenty-five. President Eggleston of the Historical Association, who was taken ill suddenly last week, will be unable to preside over the meetings, and ex-President Rhodes will preside in his stead. Papers on historical, economic and educational topics and their discussion will occupy the delegates at all of their sessions, both joint and separate.

SALT MAKES THE HEART BEAT.

RESULT OF EXPERIMENTS BY PHYSIOLOGISTS OF UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO.

Chicago, Dec. 26.—"The Record" says that experiments on turtles have convinced Dr. Jacques Loeb and Professor D. J. Lingle, physiologists of the University of Chicago, that common salt in the blood makes the heart beat. What is more, they assert that not only does salt keep the heart in action, but that it possibly may cause the heart to beat again after it has once stopped.

For several months Dr. Loeb and Professor Lingle have conducted a series of scientific tests to prove their theory, and have made public the results they obtained. In the experimental work, instead of taking the heart as a whole a small strip from one of the ventricles was used. The blood was removed and the piece of flesh suspended in different solutions. In this way their conclusions were educed.

Suspended in a solution of sodium chloride the strip of turtle's heart began a series of beats. Separated from all nerve connections the lifeless strip of heart muscle responded perfectly to the presence of the salty solution.

For weeks the experimenters worked to ascertain what properties salt contained to cause this rhythmic beating of the heart that were not possessed by calcium or potassium, the salts of which enter the composition of the blood. In making the investigations they discovered that a pure sodium chloride solution was destructive of heart tissues, and that by mixing calcium and potassium solutions with the sodium solutions the poisonous destructive effects of the sodium chloride were overcome.

FUNERAL OF WILLIAM F. SAGE.

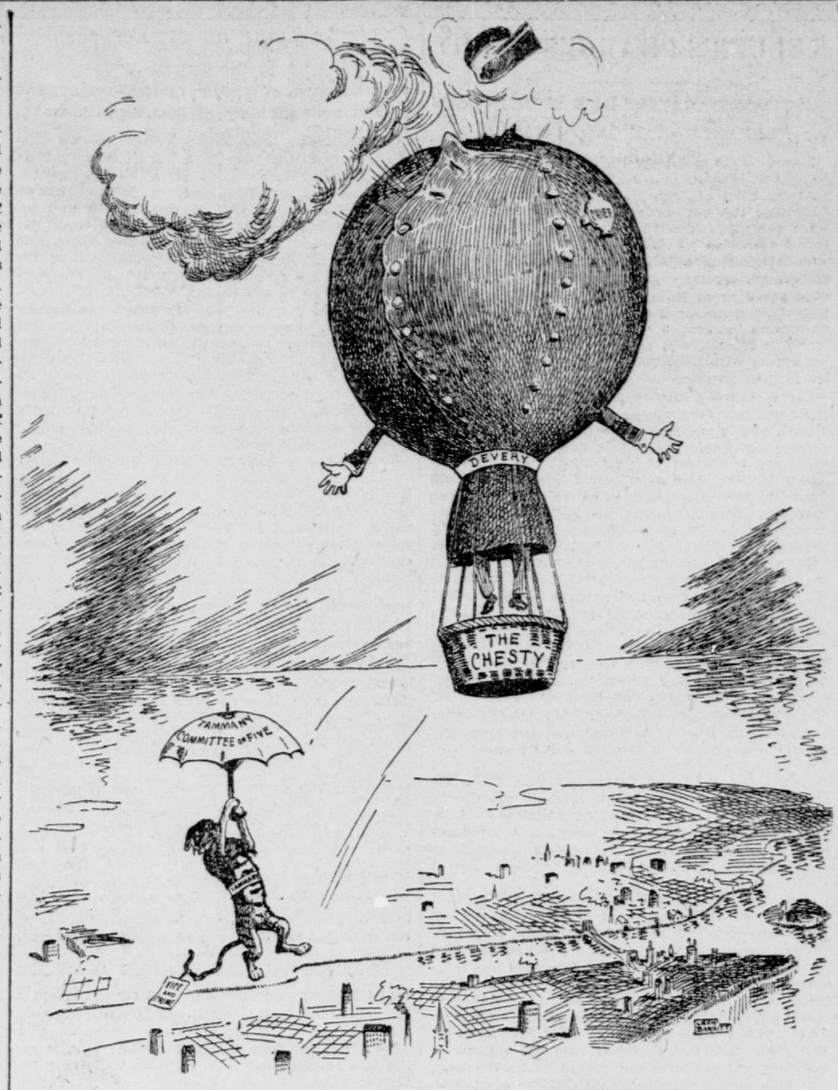
The funeral of William F. Sage, playwright and dramatic critic, took place at 1 p. m. yesterday at the house, No. 231 East One-hundred-and-tenth-st. The services were conducted by the Rev. William K. McGown, of Grace Episcopal Church, One-hundred-and-sixteenth-st., near Third-ave. About sixteen persons were present in addition to sixteen members of Pinta Lodge, K. of P., No. 331. The body was taken to Fresh Pond, Long Island, for cremation.

MRS. RICHARDSON'S BODY ARRIVES.

The body of Mrs. Abby Sage Richardson arrived here yesterday on the steamship Aller. The funeral is to take place at the home, No. 210 West One-hundredth-st., to-day. The body is to be cremated at Fresh Pond.

DR. OREN GEORGE HUNT DEAD.

Dr. Oren George Hunt, a well known homœopathic physician of this city, died at his home, No. 234 East Nineteenth-st., on Christmas Eve, from hemorrhage of the stomach, after an illness of less than twenty-four hours. Dr. Hunt was born at Portage, N. Y., on December 21, 1858, and taught school for several years in order to earn the sum necessary to carry him through the New-York Homœopathic College, which he entered in 1883. On his graduation, three years later, he was appointed a physician and surgeon in the dispensary connected with the college, and in 1888 was made a member of the Executive Committee. Devoted to the practice of his profession, in which he gave especial attention to the heart and lungs, his sudden death is believed to have been due to overwork. Charitable and kindly of nature, he devoted much time to gratuitous professional work among the poor. Dr. Hunt was unmarried.



COULD NOT STAND THE EXPANSION.

CLEVELAND DID NOT VOTE FOR M'KINLEY.

TEXT OF HIS LETTER TO "THE ATLANTA JOURNAL."

Atlanta, Ga., Dec. 26 (Special).—The following is the text of Grover Cleveland's letter denying that he voted for President McKinley:

Princeton, December 24, 1900.

To Editor of Atlanta Journal.

Dear Sir: I do not like to be called upon to deny or notice anything "The Constitution" may charge against me, but since you seem to be disturbed by its statement that I voted for McKinley, I am willing to say absolutely and without reservation that it is not true. I will be drawn into no further discussion on account of "The Constitution," nor into any further denials of its untruths. Yours truly, GROVER CLEVELAND.

The letter was called out by criticism printed in "The Constitution."

SENATOR ELSBERG ON PARTY MEASURES.

DRAWS A DISTINCTION BETWEEN POLITICAL AND NON-POLITICAL BILLS.

Senator Nathaniel A. Elsberg spoke to the members of the Central Republican Club of the XXXIst Assembly District last night, in the rooms of the club, at No. 101 West One-hundred-and-twenty-seventh-st., on "The Work of the Legislature and Experiences of Legislative Life." Mr. Elsberg said that the Legislature represented the average sense, the average virtue and the average intelligence of the community.

Mr. Elsberg objected to calling members of legislatures "slavish dummies" because they occasionally voted in favor of party measures for party's sake. He said that it was not asking too much to demand that a man sustain and advocate the intelligent opinion of the majority of his party, if that opinion was arrived at in a caucus and was to be upheld as a matter of party expediency. To make his point clearer, Mr. Elsberg drew a distinction between political and non-political bills. Political bills never involve fundamental subjects. They are not bills on which a legislator votes by rule of conscience; but, on the other hand, they are merely bills in which votes are controlled by the question of what had already been called "party expediency."

Speaking of the State constabulary, Mr. Elsberg said:

The police power of the State ought to be exercised by the State. The State did originally exercise this power, although it surrendered the peace preserving element to localities. It is well, however, to remember the service of that element.

ROYAL COMPANY FOR THE YACHT RACES.

EMPEROR WILLIAM AND THE PRINCE OF WALES MAY COME OVER TO SEE THEM.

London, Dec. 27.—The New-York Yacht Club, says "The Daily Express," "will invite Emperor William and the Prince of Wales to witness the Cup races, and President McKinley will also send notes expressing the pleasure their visits would give."

Sir Thomas Lipton, who has been interviewed on the subject for "The Daily Express," said he thought it within the range of possibility that the Prince of Wales would accept such an invitation.

LORD WILLIAM BERESFORD WORSE.

London, Dec. 27.—It is announced that Lord William Leslie de la Poer Beresford, who has been suffering from peritonitis, but whose condition on Christmas Day was somewhat improved, has had a rather serious relapse.

FIVE YEARS FOR ALLEGED SWINDLER.

Paris, Dec. 26.—The Appeal Court has confirmed the sentence of five years' imprisonment imposed on an ingenious swindler named Goffray, who posed in clerical circles here in April last as the "Cardinal Bishop of Washington," soliciting funds to convert the young Indians of New-Mexico. Several times Goffray succeeded in celebrating mass, and once was nearly arrested on the point of celebrating mass at Strasburg. Finally he appeared at Montelimar, in the Department of Drome, where he lectured to the Trappist monks on his terrible adventures in the Rocky Mountains, where, he said, he was scalped by the Indians, to whom he was preaching the Gospel. The fraud was discovered by Goffray alleging that the Indians of the Rocky Mountains were Esquimaus.

NEW PRESIDENT OF LIBERIA.

Sierra Leone, West Coast of Africa, Dec. 26.—The President of Liberia, W. D. Coleman, resigned December 11, owing to the disapproval of the Legislature of his interior policy. G. W. Gibson, the Secretary of State, was elected President by the Legislature.

COMMERCIAL TEACHERS IN CONVENTION.

Detroit, Dec. 26.—The fifth annual convention of the National Commercial Teachers' Federation began to-night in the Hotel Cadillac with a formal welcome to the city by Mayor Maybury, and will continue until Saturday. The Federation is composed of the following associations: The National Business Teachers' Association, the National Penmanship Teachers' Association, the National Shorthand Teachers' Association and the Private Commercial Schools Managers' Association.

After L. L. Williams, of Rochester, N. Y., had responded to Mayor Maybury's welcome on behalf of the one hundred and twenty-five teachers present, W. C. Stevenson, of Port Deposit, Md., president of the Federation, read his annual address, which was entitled "A Review and Pre-Review of Commercial Education." He sketched the progress of commercial education from its inception to the present day, and made a plea for a more practical curriculum in the common schools. Beginning to-morrow, the different associations comprising the Federation will hold separate meetings in the mornings, spending the afternoons in joint federation meetings.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

"PEACE AND GOODWILL."

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: I wish to express my hearty appreciation of the editorial in yesterday's paper entitled "Peace and Goodwill." It struck a responsive chord and did me good. I hope it may be the means of doing good to many. J. W.

Elizabeth, N. J., Dec. 26, 1900.

"CAPRICES OF LOCAL TRAVEL."

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Your comments on the propensity of passengers in general, and of women in particular, to remain standing near the rear doors of trolley cars when there are no vacant seats, are well taken. Men are not wholly free from the propensity, but women are by far the worst offenders. This is partly due to a certain native inability to understand why they should "move up front" and partly to a dread of trying to advance when the car is making its spasmodic starts and halts. Many women cannot readily reach the straps, and, failing those, they are quite without means of retaining their balance, save by bracing their feet well apart, which most of them seem incapable of doing. Trolley cars should be provided with some sort of fixed braces or supporters more readily within reach than the ordinary straps. I understand that experiments are being made in this direction.

It occurs to me that straps or other flexible attachments might be stretched, say, from the strap rail overhead to the window ledges. These might serve in a way for seat divisions, and would be within easy reach of anybody tall enough to go about alone, while they would hardly interfere at all with people passing or standing in the aisle.

New-York, Dec. 25, 1900. C. S. N.

AN ENGLISH ADMIRER OF THE TRIBUNE.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: I fear I am guilty of taking a liberty, but as an Englishman who is spending his second winter in the United States I cannot refrain from asking leave to express the pleasure I obtain from a daily reading of The Tribune. It is not merely that your editorials are, as a rule, not unfavorable to England, although that in itself is naturally agreeable to one of her sons, especially during the last year, when misapprehension as to the real grounds of her quarrel in South Africa is so widely spread elsewhere. But the qualities that stamp all your leaders—kindly allow me to say it—seem to me to be a singular moderation, insight and judgment; and those qualities are sufficiently rare in the journalism of any country to stamp your paper with distinction.

The closing sentence of the leader headed "Going Back to Quebec," in to-day's issue, gives peculiar gratification to an Englishman, for it appears to be an exact statement of the truth of the matter as to the French Canadians and Great Britain.

If a guest of your wonderful city may be allowed to speak further, he would add that your treatment of questions which are purely American strikes him as being equally remarkable for its sane and judicial character.

CHARLES DOWDESWELL.

New-York, Dec. 24, 1900.

ROCKEFELLER GRANDCHILDREN BETTER.

At the country home of John D. Rockefeller, near Tarrytown, last evening the report was given out that the two children of Mr. and Mrs. Harold McCormack, who are suffering with scarlet fever, are steadily improving. The children were taken ill on Saturday, and are under the care of Dr. Coutant, of Tarrytown, and Dr. Hoyt, of this city. The house is quarantined. E. Parmelee Prentiss and Miss Alta Rockefeller are at the homestead.

THE WEATHER REPORT.

YESTERDAY'S RECORD AND TO-DAY'S FORECAST.

Washington, Dec. 26.—During the past twenty-four hours there has been snow in the Upper Ohio Valley, from the Lake region eastward, and in Eastern Montana; elsewhere east of the Rocky Mountains the weather has been fair. Temperatures are 8 to 20 degrees lower in the Middle Atlantic States and New-England and the extreme Northwest, and they have risen about an equal amount from the Upper Mississippi Valley southwestward. There has been rain over the northern plateau and Northern Pacific Coast region, while over the middle and southern districts, west of the Rocky Mountains, fair weather has continued, with somewhat lower temperature. There will be rain Thursday in the southern portion of the West Gulf States, snow flurries in the Michigan peninsula and along the eastern lower lakes, snow in Wyoming and rain or snow Thursday or Friday in Oklahoma and the Texas panhandle; with these exceptions generally fair weather is indicated for Thursday and Friday. It will be colder Thursday in the Middle Slope, the Mississippi Valley and Minnesota, and colder Friday in the Southwest, the Western and Middle Gulf States and the Upper Mississippi and Lower Ohio valleys. On the New-England and Middle Atlantic Coast the winds will be fresh west to northwest. On the South Atlantic Coast they will be variable.

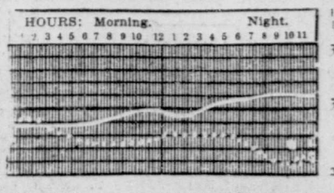
FORECAST FOR TO-DAY AND FRIDAY.

For District of Columbia, New-England, Eastern New-York, New-Jersey, Eastern Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia—Fair Thursday and Friday; fresh west to northwest winds.

For Western New-York—Fair Thursday, except snow flurries near the lakes. Friday fair; fresh westerly winds.

For Western Pennsylvania—Fair Thursday and Friday; winds mostly fresh westerly.

TRIBUNE LOCAL OBSERVATIONS.



In this diagram the continuous white line shows the changes in pressure as indicated by The Tribune's self-recording barometer. The dotted line shows the temperature as recorded at Perry's Pharmacy.

Tribune Office, Dec. 27, 1 a. m.—The weather yesterday was fair and cold. The temperature ranged between 32 and 38 degrees, the average (35⅝) being 5⅛ lower than that of Tuesday and 12⅝ higher than that of the corresponding date of last year.

The weather to-day will be fair.

THE PASSING THRONG.

THE CONTRABAND MULE AND THE COWARD.

"We had a moral coward in our cavalry company all through 1864," said Colonel George W. Dunn, chairman of the Republican State Committee, at the Fifth Avenue Hotel one night this week, "and he couldn't be made to fight. He couldn't help it. In all other respects Matt—call him Matt—was a very handy man to have around. One day early in 1864 our regiment captured a big mule from the 'Rebs,' and as none of the senior officers seemed to want him he was passed along to me. 'He'll be handy to carry your camp equipments,' said my colonel, when he turned him over to me. He was a big strong fellow, and he did come in mighty handy, just as the colonel said. The boys in my company soon acquired the habit of hooking all their pots and pans to this big mule, and on the march he looked almost as big as a small load of hay. Knowing it was of no use to try to get any fight out of Matt, I said to him: 'Matt, you'll have to look out for this mule and all the truck hitched fast to him, and if you lose him I'll put you out on the firing line where you'll get plugged full of minies.' The mule was slow by nature, and after he became a camp drudge he became lazier still. Matt used to swear and sweat to keep the beast going, but he always kept near him. One day in '64 we were out on the Weldon Railroad jogging along toward a patch of woods. Suddenly a brigade of 'Johnnies' swung right out of those woods and opened on us. The air was full of bullets in ten seconds. I rode around trying to keep the boys in line, and was approaching a clump of brush which fringed a newly ploughed field when I heard some one sobbing, spluttering, swearing and hitting something all at once. It was Matt, crawling along on his hands and knees on the side of the camp mule furthest from the enemy. The tears were streaming down his face, and he was hitting at the mule wherever he could see an opening between the pots and pans. 'I know—wh—what—you want—you-you b-b-big long eared son—son of a gun,' sobbed Matt, 'you wanter git me shot, dod blast you,—an'—an' that's why y' don't move faster.' The sight tickled me so I almost fell off my horse," concluded Colonel Dunn, joining in the hearty laughter of the Amen Corner.

CONGRESSMAN PAYNE'S STORY.

"I often find myself wondering what became of a boy who at the age of about fourteen left Auburn, the city of his birth," said Congressman Payne, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee at the Fifth Avenue Hotel on Monday night. "He was a bright, manly fellow, but he never had heard his father's history till a day or two before he left the city. His father and his uncle, while young men living in a small farming village, murdered a pedler for his money. The father of the lad of whom I speak was the weaker and younger of the brothers, and was dragged into assisting in the crime by his older brother. The younger brother served a long term in Auburn prison, and when released secured a position as superintendent from a labor contractor in the prison shop. He married a nice woman in Auburn, and the boy of whom I speak was one of the children. This lad engaged in a fight with a schoolmate one day and whipped his antagonist. The beaten boy, bruised and bleeding, as he started for home, said bitterly: 'No wonder you whipped me—your father's a murderer.' 'You lie!' shouted the victorious boy, but there was something in the glances of two other playmates that caused him misgivings. Hurrying home he told his mother what had happened, and then, for the first time, he knew the unwelcome truth about his father, who had died only a year or two before. The little fellow was simply overwhelmed. At supper he took his mother aside and said: 'You and sister can do as you like, but I won't live here another week, and I won't go back to school!' That same night they all decided to go to the Far West. Only the nearest relatives of the mother ever knew what became of them. I often wonder what became of that boy. I was District Attorney of Cayuga County at about that time and knew him well. He was a brave little fellow."

HORSE IN WATER DRINKS WHISKEY.

NEARLY THREE QUARTS GIVEN TO AN ANIMAL WHEN IT IS BEING RESCUED.

A horse of the Street Cleaning Department fell into the North River from the Forty-seventh-st. dump soon after 5 p. m. yesterday and remained in the water four hours. In that time nearly three quarts of whiskey was given to the animal. The horse, attached to a garbage cart, was driven on the dump. The driver was turning the cart when the horse stepped over the edge of the dump and fell. The weight of the cart held the animal suspended until the harness was cut. The horse then dropped fifteen feet into a garbage barge.

Ropes were procured and efforts were made to hoist the horse to the dump. But the ropes parted and the horse fell into the water and floated under the pier. Several men jumped into a rowboat and got the animal to the Forty-eighth-st. pier. Here it stuck in the mud and had to be towed back to the Forty-seventh-st. pier. It was kept afloat until the arrival of a portable derrick from the department stable in East Seventeenth-st. When the derrick had been made ready for hoisting the horse two of the bellybands broke. At the third attempt the animal was lifted out of the water.

WEDDINGS.

Clyde, N. Y., Dec. 26.—At the home of Judge Charles T. Saxton, of the State Board of Claims, this evening, Miss Ida Louise Saxton was married to Professor Arthur Henry Wilcox, of Rochester. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Alexander Bramley, of New-Hartford, before one hundred invited guests. Arthur Saxton, of Albany, was the best man, and Miss Helen Saxton the bridesmaid. The bridegroom is principal of the Rochester High School. Mr. and Mrs. Wilcox went West on their wedding trip. Their future home will be Rochester.

Binghamton, N. Y., Dec. 26 (Special).—A fashionable church wedding took place at the Tabernacle last evening when John Dilger, assistant superintendent of the Erie, with headquarters at Jersey City, was married to Miss Viola Couse. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. A. W. Hayes, Gilbert E. Nichols, of Port Jervis, being best man. The church was elaborately decorated and crowded with guests, the wedding being a fashionable event of the season. Mr. and Mrs. Dilger are enjoying a trip to Niagara Falls and Washington.

BEATS ONE SQUAW AND SCALPS ANOTHER

Chamberlain, S. D., Dec. 26.—News has reached this city from Brule Indian Agency, that Handsome Elk, the most dangerous redskin of the Northwest, beat his squaw in a brutal manner with a neck yoke. It is thought the squaw will die. Elk then seized another Indian woman, Bear Bird's daughter, and scalped her. Then arming himself with his rifle and other firearms, he went into the hills a short distance from his home, and left word that friend or foe must not approach him.

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is pure. Don't let your grocer work off a cheap and dangerous substitute. Insist on having Burnett's.

MARRIED.

BAIRD—DATESMAN—On Wednesday, December 26, 1900, at the residence of the bride's parents, by Rev. J. Elliot Wright, D. D., Grace Good, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. Datesman, of Lock Haven, Penn., and Addison W. Baird, of New-York City.

BISSELL—THOMAS—At Stamford, Conn., December 26, 1900, by the Rev. Charles Morris Addison, Blessie Mary Thomas to Victor Manuel Bissell.

Notices of marriages and deaths must be indorsed with full name and address.

DIED.

Bennet, Elizabeth W.
Bleakley, Rosalie A.
Coe, Martha D.
Ferris, Isaac W.
Howard, Pamela A.
Jansen, Margaret H.
Moore, William H.
O'Neill, James B.
Ryerson, George M.
Starling, William.
Tebo, William M.
Walker, Amelia E.
White, Joseph T.
Williams, Thomas B.
Winthrop, Buchanan.

BENNET—At Greenwich, Conn., December 26, 1900, Elizabeth Weaver Bennet.
Funeral from her late residence at noon Friday, December 28.
Carriages will meet train leaving Grand Central Station at 11:02. Interment private.

BLEAKLEY—Rosalie A. Bleakley, widow of William Bleakley, died at her late residence, Verplancks, N. Y., on December 26, 1900, aged 88 years.
Services at house, Saturday, December 29, at 1 o'clock p. m.
Train leaves Grand Central Station, 10:30 o'clock a. m.
Carriages in waiting at Peekskill.

COE—At the home of her son-in-law, J. R. Weeks, South Orange, N. J., Martha Della Coe, widow of Albert B. Coe.
Funeral services at the residence of her sister-in-law, Miss C. M. Coe, No. 620 High-st., Newark, N. J., on Thursday, December 27, at 2 p. m.

FERRIS—On Christmas night, at Mount Vernon, N. Y., Isaac Ward Ferris, M. D., son of the late Chancellor Ferris, in the 61st year of his age.
Services at his late residence, No. 160 South 9th-ave., Mount Vernon, N. Y., on Friday, December 28, at 1 p. m.
Harlem train leaves New-York at 11:35 a. m.
Interment at Kensico.

HOWARD—At rest, Christmas Day, Pamela Atkins, widow of Samuel Emerson Howard, at her late residence, No. 182 Amity-st., Brooklyn.
Services at the Church of the Holy Trinity, Montague and Clinton sts., Brooklyn, Thursday, December 27, at 11 a. m.
Kindly omit flowers.
Boston and Portland papers please copy.

JANSEN—On Tuesday, 25th December, at the residence of Mrs. Martin R. Roome, Pompton Plains, N. J., Margaret H. Jansen, widow of the late Thomas H. Jansen, in the 78th year of her age.
Funeral at Pompton Plains on Friday, the 28th inst., at 2 o'clock p. m.
Carriages will be in waiting on arrival of train leaving foot of West 23d-st. at 11:55 a. m. and Chambers-st. at 12 m., Erie R. R., Greenwood Lake Division.

DIED.

MOORE—At Plainfield, N. J., on Wednesday, December 26, 1900, William H., son of Harvey S. and the late Susan Moore, of Rahway, N. J., aged 46 years.
Service at the late residence, No. 431 West Sixth-st., Plainfield, on Friday, December 28, at 2:30 p. m.

O'NEILL—At Mount Kisco, N. Y., on Monday, December 24, James Herrien, beloved husband of the late Christina T. O'Neill, in his 30th year.
Funeral from his late residence Thursday evening, December 27, at 7.
Interment Greenwood Cemetery Friday morning on arrival of train due at Grand Central Depot 9:15.

RYERSON—On December 24, at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. Robert Ogden Fowler, in Metuchen, N. J., in the eighty-second year of his age, George M. Ryerson, of Newton, N. J.
Funeral services at Christ's Church (Episcopal), Newton, on Thursday, December 27, on the arrival of the 1 o'clock p. m. train from New-York City.

STARLING—Suddenly, of heart disease, in Greenville, Mass., on December 10, 1900, Major William Starling.

TEBO—On Christmas Day, William M. Tebo, aged seventy-two years.
Relatives and friends are invited to attend the funeral from his late residence, St. Paul's Place and Woodruff-ave., Flatbush, Brooklyn, N. Y., on Thursday morning, December 27, at 9 o'clock; thence to the church of the Holy Cross, East Broadway, near Rogers-ave., Flatbush, where a solemn requiem will be offered for his eternal rest.
Burial in Greenwood Cemetery.
Montreal, Rome, Utica and Oswego papers please copy.

WALKER.—On Wednesday, December 26, 1900, at No. 954 East 138th-st., Amelia Eveline Walker, in the 46th year of her age.
Notice of funeral hereafter.

WHITE—Of pneumonia, at his residence, No. 121 Madison-ave., on Wednesday, December 26, Joseph Theodore White, in the eighty-ninth year of his age.
Funeral services will be held at Danbury, Conn., on Friday, December 28, at 1:30 p. m. Train leaves Grand Central Station at 9 a. m.

WILLIAMS—At his residence, No. 41 West Thirty-seventh-st., Wednesday morning, December 26, 1900, Thomas Bisland Williams, youngest son of the late Benjamin Haines and Elizabeth S. Williams, of Mississippi.
Funeral services at Grace Church on Saturday, the 29th inst., at 10 o'clock.
Southern papers please copy.

Members of Holland Lodge No. 8, F. and A. M., are requested to attend the funeral services of our late W. Bro. Thomas B. Williams at Grace Church on Saturday, December 29, at 10 a. m.

DAVID I. JACKSON, Master.
J. W. CROSBY, Secretary.

WINTHROP—At his residence, 279 5th-ave., on Tuesday, December 25, Buchanan, only son of the late Henry Rogers Winthrop, in the 60th year of his age.
Funeral at Grace Church, Friday, at 10 o'clock.

Woodlawn Cemetery.
Borough of Bronx, New York City.
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