LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

STATE HELP FOR PRIVATE SCHOOLS.

PROFESSOR ASHMORE PLEADS FOR A SUBSIDY FOR UNION UNIVERSITY.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Will you kindly permit me to say a word in reference to your recent editorial on the subject of the bill now before the legislature asking that the State assist in the maintenance of a school of electrical engineering in connection with Union University? The writer of your editorial asks why the State of New-York should embark in the business of electrical education. "Why should the State of New-York," he says, "vote the money of the whole people for a branch of professional education which other institutions already provide at private expense?"

It might as well be asked why the State should do anything at all for education. A large part of the elementary and secondary education of the country is carried on through private enterprise; yet this does not stand in the way of the support which the State renders to the public schools. The proposition at present before the legislature is not that it should subsidize a business venture, like the General Electric Company, for example, but that it should assist Union University in the building up of its schools or courses of instruction—a school having for its object a reasonably broad training in the higher mathematics, science, literature and history, but with such a trend in the direction of electrical engineering as to lead justly to the professional degree of electrical engineer. To subsidize such a school is simply to encourage a branch of the higher education, and to do so at Schenectady is merely to apply the means to an end, at a point where such means would evidently prove most effective and lead to the largest results. The fact that "several colleges in the State have schools of electrical engineering" is a poor reason, it seems to me, for supposing that a school of this character is not needed at Union, and it is no reason at all for affirming that the State is not warranted in lending assistance to such a school in a town where exceptional advantages exist to make this branch of knowledge the foundation of a broad and exceptional training. Let the State aid the other colleges also, if opportunity or occasion suggest it. If New-York is passing through a period of retrenchment, as the author of your editorial declares, all the more will New-York be well able to spare money for the higher education for which she has done little enough in the past. Other States of the Union have their universities which are supported by taxation. Why should the Empire State not have the same? Such institutions must stand, side by side, by those which are endowed, if education in this country is to compete with that of Europe.

The idea that State aid will discourage private benefactions, as your editorial seems to imply, is not borne out by experience. The existence of the State University of Illinois did not stand in the way of endowing, by a private person, of the University of Chicago. The University of California was no obstacle to the educational schemes of Mr. Leland Stanford, and the Ohio State University was not held up to the public as a reason against the establishment of the Case School of Applied Science at Cleveland, even though the curriculum of the State university was known to include the very subjects which it was the purpose of the Case school to teach and develop.

As to the University of Syracuse, to which rather pointed reference is made in your editorial, no one having the interests of education at heart could make objection if the existence of salt wells in its neighborhood was to be regarded as ground for application to the legislature for a subsidy to promote the study of chemistry at that very excellent seat of learning. The possible fact, however, that such a request would not immediately be granted ought not to create in any one's mind a desire to impede the possible enlargement of the electrical school at Union. If, as your editorial admits, the State of New-York has already set a precedent for itself in subsidizing certain interests in one or more of our institutions of higher education, surely to denounce that precedent as a bad one or as one that might eventually grow into "a consolidated educational machine" or an unwise species of "socialism" must arouse in the mind of any careful reader the suspicion that the writer of the article in question is not wholly disinterested.

If by chance this suspicion should be correct, it ought to lessen the force of the adverse opinion expressed in your editorial—an opinion that perhaps I may be permitted to characterize as somewhat out of keeping with the usually favorable attitude of The Tribune toward all effort looking to the advancement of education in the State of New-York. SIDNEY G. ASHMORE,

Professor of Latin in Union University.

Schenectady, N. Y., Feb. 27, 1901.

[We see no reason to change our view, previously expressed, that it is not good public policy for the State of New-York to subsidize private institutions of higher education. Professor Ashmore's assumption that the attitude of The Tribune on the subject is not disinterested has no foundation in fact and is not creditable to him.]

FREE THOUGHT AND FREE SPEECH.

THE LIMITS OF FREEDOM NOT SETTLED LOGICALLY OR MORALLY.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: It is highly gratifying to observe that The Tribune has not lost its head on the question of the freedom of instruction as illustrated in Professor Ross's case. It might even go further. The question of freedom of thought is by no means a settled one from a logical, perhaps even from a moral, standpoint.

The denial of freedom of thought, with the denial of freedom of action, lies at the basis of our whole modern social order. The Ten Commandments are denials of freedom of thought, speech and action.

The religion of Jesus, which assumes a supernatural wisdom as its source of knowledge, denies the right of free thought. The Bible itself contains St. Paul's anathema upon any one, even though "an angel from heaven," who should preach any other Gospel than that which was "revealed."

True, the religion of Jesus plainly rejects the idea of material penalties for spiritual disobediences or unlawful philosophies. But certainly the logical position of the religion of Jesus is that of spiritual penalties (which it assumes to be far worse than material) for those who think and believe outside or independently of the authoritative message of Christ.

But setting aside the religious aspect of "free thinking," and taking up its purely mundane features, one is tempted to call a halt for further discussion as to its practical and logical value.

One would like to have time to put it through a bit of Socratic cross questioning. For example, one would like to ask: Does not freedom of thought also imply freedom of its evolution into expression either of word or deed?

One can readily imagine the logical position of one who should say to a child or to the wisest man in existence: "A vastly larger experience than yours or a vastly superior being than yourself has fully and clearly established the fact that certain views of life and certain actions are perverse and harmful to yourself and to social order. You are, therefore, forbidden to waste your brains and destroy your true happiness trying to revise these. If you persist in doing this you will be punished as soon as I have evidence that you break the law. I do this in truth and love." But I cannot see what right one has to say: "Free thought at all hazards! It is worth more than the peace and happiness that come from right thought. It is in itself more than an offset for the misery and ruin and moral degradation that come from wrong thought. Practise it, therefore, as an inalienable right. But the moment it leads to social disorder, interference with my free thought or your neighbor's happiness, then look out for chains."

Fancy a stag let loose by its keeper and free to roam because its keeper fancies that its liberty is worth more than its security, but shot down because in its freedom it roamed into the keeper's ground where his children were at play!

When men shout for "free thought," and take off all restrictions from men's souls and minds, what right have they to get out their guns and go to shooting when in the exercise of this freedom their own precincts are invaded?

Who can say precisely where the evolution of the free mind or free thought into its inevitable expression by word or deed becomes a crime and a sin?

Anarchism is the only logical outcome of "free thought." I mean, of course, the philosophy of anarchism. Unfortunately for "free thought," actual anarchism is not willing to wait until we all freely think alike. But, surely, no one dreams nowadays of not shouting for "free thought." Way, it is in the air; it is an instinct! Yes, but thoughtful criticism waits for the shouting to calm down and offsets instinct by reason.

We have as yet tried "free thought" only for a generation or two. Already, however, it shows signs of not being the blessing it assumes to be. Not a few students of our social development are not at all sure that we are not entering upon an era of moral decadence and political corruption unparalleled in history. The question arises into almost gloomy proportions whether or no we are sure that our present civilization will stand the test of conditions where every man will feel free in conscience to think, and therefore to do what he thinks. Perhaps the majority may think wrongly.

For this reason it is well to keep one's head cool, even if his heart is warm, when freedom of thought and instruction is assumed as a right worth all stable and advancing social order. X.

Morristown, N. J., Feb. 27, 1901.

MOODY'S REVIVAL TOUR.

Boston, March 10 (Special).—William R. Moody, son of the late Dwight L. Moody, will leave Northampton, Mass., for New-York to-morrow. There he will be joined by the Rev. Frederick B. Myer, of London, and then the two will start on a tour of the country for the purpose of holding revival meetings.

BLOCKING THE WAY.

CREATING ARMY OFFICERS.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S PLAN TO COMMISSION VOLUNTEERS NOW IN SERVICE ADOPTED.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Washington, March 10.—Nearly nine hundred vacancies in the commissioned grade of the regular army, created by the reorganization and increase legislation of the second session of the LVIth Congress, remain to be filled. They are all life appointments, with retired list privileges and prospective pensions for dependents, and it is not remarkable that more than ten thousand applicants are pressing for the prizes, backed in most cases by the strongest political indorsements. The physical impossibility of weighing the merits of these ten thousand applications is well recognized, and the chances are that they are to be practically ignored by the President in making his selections, except in any insignificant proportion which may be brought to his attention after the great bulk of the appointments are decided and further vacancies still remain open.

It may be said that the President and Secretary of War, even if no other considerations were involved, were convinced of the futility of attempting to choose good military commanders from the unwieldy mass of ten thousand packages of letters and recommendations, and would have been driven to ignore them under any circumstances. Fortunately other and better means of discharging the great responsibility of filling the lower grades of the army with men who will rise to command in the next generation have appealed to the appointing authorities, and in the short time remaining for decision it is almost certain that they will be adopted.

The plan is the proposition of Adjutant-General Corbin, who is animated solely by the welfare of the service, and if his advice is taken, in the next one hundred days all officers in the augmented army will be in possession of the commissions they have earned in active service without any interference from the long-armed patronage brokers. His plan, which has the support of the whole army, is simple, direct and unconcealed in every respect. Its working may be illustrated by its application to the twenty-eight vacancies in the Pay Corps. There are now thirty volunteer pay officers whose commissions terminate by law on June 30. In the two years of comparative disorder incident to the uncertain state of the army, its employment at great distances from headquarters and the opportunities presented for irregularities, not a defalcation or a questioned account has occurred. These volunteer paymasters have been continually in the field, often on the fighting line discharging their work in the face of extraordinary embarrassments and have repeatedly and continually proved their worth. Two of them have been disabled in the performance of duty, and twenty-eight remain to fill the twenty-eight vacancies without having to be trained and fitted for them. General Corbin would wait until their commissions as volunteers expire one hundred and ten days hence and promptly commission them in the regular establishment. About six hundred vacancies have been created in the grade of second lieutenant in the various military arms. More than seven thousand applications have been filed for these places, nearly five thousand with the emphatic indorsement of United States Senators. The perplexity therefore that arises as to the Senators, who should not be displeased, and the question of the efficiency of the service altogether disappears.

There are two thousand volunteer second lieutenants now in the Philippines and other centres of army activity. The character of service performed by each of these men is definitely known from their records, from the reports of senior officers and from indisputable sources. From this two thousand it is possible to select six hundred officers with absolute certainty of getting deserving, capable men not only ready for service, but in nearly every instance actually at the front.

ARMY AND NAVY ORDERS.

Washington, March 10.—The following army and navy orders have been issued:

ARMY.

The following changes in the stations and duties of officers of the Corps of Engineers are ordered:

Captain WILLIAM W. HARTS will transfer his present duties to Captain William C. Langfitt, and will take station at Fort Totten, Willets Point, New-York, for duty with the 2d Battalion of Engineers.

Captain ROBERT M'GREGOR will transfer his present duties to Captain Charles L. Potter, and will take station at Fort Totten for duty with 2d Battalion.

Captain CHARLES H. M'KINSTRY will transfer his present duties to Captain Thomas H. Rees, and will take station at Fort Totten, for duty with 3d Battalion and at the Engineer School.

Captain JAY J. MORROW is relieved from the Military Academy, and will take station at Fort Totten, for duty with 2d Battalion.

First Lieutenant GEORGE B. PILLSBURY is relieved from the immediate orders of Major Charles E. L. B. Davis at San Francisco, and upon the arrival of the 2d Battalion of Engineers at that place will report for duty to the commanding officer of that battalion.

First Lieutenant GUSTAVE R. LUKESH is relieved from the immediate orders of Captain William V. Judson at Montgomery, Ala., and will take station at Fort Totten, for duty with the 2d Battalion.

The following officers of the Corps of Engineers are assigned to the battalions and companies designated, now being organized:

To 1st Battalion, Philippine Islands: Company A—Captain JOHN BIDDLE, First Lieutenant JOHN C. OAKES and Second Lieutenant CLARENCE O. SHERRILL. Company B—Captain GEORGE A. ZINN, First Lieutenant WILLIAM KELLY and Second Lieutenant WALTER H. LEE. Company C—Captain WILLIAM E. CRAIGHILL, First Lieutenant HORTON W. STICKLE and Second Lieutenant GEORGE R. SPALDING. Company D—First Lieutenants JAMES B. CAVANAUGH and HARRY BURGESS and Second Lieutenant WILLIAM G. CAPLES.

To 2d Battalion, at Fort Totten: Company E—Captain HENRY JERVEY, First Lieutenant GEORGE B. PILLSBURY and Second Lieutenant EDWARD N. JOHNSTON. Company F—Captain ROBERT M'GREGOR, First Lieutenant EARL I. BROWN and Second Lieutenant ARTHUR WILLIAMS. Company G—Captain JAY J. MORROW, First Lieutenant AMOS A. FRIES and Second Lieutenant ERNEST D. PEEK. Company H—Captain WILLIAM W. HARTS, First Lieutenant GUSTAVE R. LUKESH and Second Lieutenant ELLIOTT J. DENT. First Lieutenants JAMES A. WOODRUFF and EDWARD M. MARKHAM are detailed to serve as adjutant and as quartermaster and commissary, respectively.

To command 3d Battalion, Major JOHN G. D. KNIGHT.

To 3d Battalion, at Fort Totten: Company I—Captain FRANCIS R. SHUNK and First Lieutenant WILLIAM D. CONNOR. Company K—Captain CHARLES H. M'KINSTRY, First Lieutenant FRANK C. BOGGS and Second Lieutenant HENRY C. JEWETT. Company L—Captain JAMES F. M'INDOE, First Lieutenant CLARKE S. SMITH and Second Lieutenant JOHN H. POOLE. First Lieutenants GEORGE P. HOWELL and WILLIAM B. LADUE are detailed to serve as adjutant and as quartermaster and commissary, respectively.

To 3d Battalion, at West Point: Company M—Captain JOSEPH E. KUHN and First Lieutenant JAMES P. JERVEY.

Captain THOMAS B. DUGAN, 7th Cavalry, is transferred to the 12th Cavalry, and will report to the latter regiment at Fort Sam Houston for duty as adjutant.

Captain FREDERICK W. COX, assistant surgeon, recently appointed, will proceed to San Francisco for transportation to Manila for duty.

Leave of absence for one month is granted Acting Assistant Surgeon FREDERICK A. W. CONN.

Leave of absence for four months on surgeon's certificate of disability is granted Lieutenant-Colonel FRANK E. NYE, deputy commissary-general.

The leave of absence on surgeon's certificate of disability granted Major GEORGE H. PENROSE, surgeon, February 11, is extended one month.

NAVY.

Commander C. P. PERKINS, orders to Cavité Station, revoked; detached Washington yard, March 16; to command Adams, March 25.

Commander W. GOODWIN, detached command the Adams, March 25; to home and wait orders.

Lieutenant-Commander R. G. DENIG, detached the Chicago; to home and wait orders.

Lieutenant-Commander W. F. WORTHINGTON, detached Bureau of Steam Engineering, March 15; to the Chicago, as fleet engineer, via the Wordsworth, sailing March 20.

Lieutenant-Commander T. PORTER, detached Port Royal Station, March 23; to Cavité Station, via transport sailing April 1.

Lieutenant J. R. EDIE, detached Hydrographic Office, Bureau of Equipment, March 14; to the Indiana, March 16.

Lieutenant G. R. CLARK, detached Hydrographic Office, Bureau of Equipment, March 30; to duty charge Branch Hydrographic Office, Cleveland, Ohio, April 1.

Surgeon OLIVER DIEHL, to the Indiana, March 15.

Assistant Surgeon R. K. M'CLANAHAN, detached the Indiana, March 15; to home and wait orders; hold self in readiness for sea duty.

Assistant Surgeon O. M. EAKINS, resignation accepted; to take effect from April 15.

Paymaster L. HUNT, department's order 15th ult. directing take up accounts the Dolphin revoked; detached from duty as recorder examining board, Pay Director F. C. Cosby president, Washington yard, and continue other duties.

Assistant Paymaster M. R. GOLDSBOROUGH, department's order detaching the Dolphin revoked; additional duty as recorder of examining board, Pay Director F. C. Cosby president, Washington yard.

Ensign R. I. CURTIN, detached command the Foote; turn over vessel to Lieutenant A. H. Davis, and to the Indiana.

Naval Constructor J. J. WOODWARD, detached Bureau of Construction and Repair, March 18; to duty as member Board of Inspection and Survey, March 18, as relief of Naval Constructor W. L. Capps.

Naval Constructor W. L. CAPPS, detached member Board of Inspection and Survey, March 18, also detached Bureau of Construction and Repair, March 25; to New-York yard, for duty as head of Department of Construction and Repair, March 26.

Naval Constructor J. H. LINNARD, detached Philadelphia yard, March 15; to Bureau of Construction and Repair, March 16.

Assistant Naval Constructor R. M. WATT, detached works Gas Engine and Power Company and Charles L. Seabury Company (consolidated), and other duty; to New-York yard, Department of Construction and Repair, March 11.

Assistant Naval Constructor H. G. SMITH, detached New-York yard, April 1; to Bureau of Construction and Repair, April 2.

MAJOR JAMES C. ABRAMS DEAD.

ILLNESS CONTRACTED AT CROTON DAM FATAL TO SEVENTH REGIMENT OFFICER.

Schenectady, N. Y., March 10 (Special).—Major James C. Abrams, of the 7th Regiment, N. G. N. Y., died to-day at the home of his daughter, Mrs. George W. Gibson, No. 814 Union-st., in this city. His death resulted from an illness that followed a severe cold which he contracted at the Croton Dam riots, nearly a year ago, where he was on duty with his regiment. On his return from the Croton Dam he was taken with a severe cold, from which he never fully recovered. Complications ensued, and several weeks ago he came to this city in the hope that his health would be benefited.

Major Abrams enlisted in Company H, 7th Regiment, on April 19, 1861, and served during the Civil War, never once being absent from his company. Most of the time the company was engaged in various operations in connection with the railroad lines, about which centred many of the stirring scenes of the war. Major Abrams was in the Baltimore riots, in which the first blood of the rebellion was shed. He also took part in suppressing the Draft Riots in New-York City.

Major Abrams was advanced several times for his devotion to duty, and he was captain of Company H for seventeen years. At the time of his death he was major and brevet colonel. President Cleveland presented to him a diamond cross on the steps of the White House in 1887 in partial recognition of his services to his country. The arrangements for the funeral have not yet been made, but the services are expected to take place at his New-York home.

Major Abrams was a dentist and had an office at No. 141 West Forty-third-st., in this city. His home was at No. 146 West One-hundred-and-thirtieth-st.

CHARLES FORSTER.

Portland, Me., March 10.—Charles Forster, at one time a member of a well known commission house at Pernambuco, Brazil, but of late years largely interested in patents and patent rights and owning large factories at Strong and Dixfield, Me., died at his home here to-day. He was seventy-four years old, and was born in Charlestown, Mass.

THE NEW-YORK SAILS FOR CHINA.

Norfolk, Va., March 10 (Special).—The cruiser New-York sailed to-day from Hampton Roads for China, passing Cape Henry outward bound at 11:40 o'clock. She has considerable ammunition aboard and is fully coaled and provisioned. At the navy yard it was said the New-York would relieve the Brooklyn, which has been in Eastern waters for nearly two years. She had on board Rear-Admiral Frederick Rodgers, who is to be second in command on the station.

DELIVERS HIMSELF TO POLICE.

MAN LOCKED UP ON A CHARGE OF FORGERY SAID TO HAVE CONFESSED.

A man of respectable appearance and fairly well dressed walked into the Eldridge-st. station last night and told a story to Captain Walsh which caused the latter to lock the man up for forgery. The man said he was Herman J. Brenz, forty-five years old, until two weeks ago living with his wife at No. 848 Gates-ave., Brooklyn. Since then he had lived in Bowery lodging houses.

His parents, William and Frederica Brenz, he said, had died ten years ago, leaving $40,000 in the Williamsburg Savings Bank. It was to be divided between Herman, his brother, John B., and the two daughters of William, another brother, who is dead. The daughters are Miss Frederica, of No. 261 Cornelia-st., Brooklyn, and Miss Mary, of Piermont, N. Y.

John B. was the executor until he died, four years ago. Herman says he became administrator, but did not inform the bank of the fact of his brother's death. Forging his dead brother's signature and the signatures of the two nieces, he drew out all the money save $3, the police declare he said. His conscience troubled him so much that he asked to be locked up that he might be punished for his offence.

ALLEGED THIEF NEATLY CAUGHT.

AFTER HE IS SEEN IN A MIRROR A MAN AND THREE WOMEN CLOSE IN ON HIM.

An alleged sneak thief was caught last night in the home of Mrs. Gertrude A. Gorman, the widow of Samuel Gorman, at No. 226 Madison-ave., a four story brownstone house. Mrs. Gorman, her daughter, Miss Gertrude, Dr. Arthur S. Chittenden, of the New-York Hospital, and Miss Mary Thorne, of Paterson, were dining. As they were about to rise Miss Gorman glanced into a mirror and saw a man step quickly across the main hall.

"There's a strange man out there, probably a thief," she said in a whisper. The next moment the three women followed the doctor's lead in a dash after the intruder. Miss Gorman threw an electric switch, and the house was instantly ablaze with light from basement to garret. The intruder tried to conceal himself under a divan in the parlor. When routed from his hiding place he made a rush for the door. Miss Gorman had anticipated such a move by springing to the door. She turned the lock and hurled the key fifty feet away.

"I guess not," she said triumphantly.

Dr. Chittenden in the mean time tripped the fellow with his foot and pinioned him against the wall. The man made the explanation that he had been passing and had seen the door ajar. He had feared that some thief might rob the house, and had stepped up to close the door. He was unable to explain why he had closed the door with himself on the inside.

Mrs. Gorman telegraphed to the West Thirtieth-st. station, and Sergeant Churchill sent two policemen, who arrested the man. The prisoner described himself as Joseph Redmond, thirty-five years old, living in a lodging house at Essex and Houston sts. On him were found a number of skeleton and other keys. He declined to talk to the police.

THE WEATHER REPORT.

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

Washington, March 10.—Rains have fallen in the Middle Atlantic and South Atlantic States, the eastern portion of the East Gulf States, Tennessee, Kentucky, the lower lake region and Western Arkansas, and rain or snow in the upper lake region, Central and Upper Mississippi Valley and the Lower Missouri Valley. The temperature has fallen in New-England, the Middle Atlantic States, the West Gulf States, the western portion of the East Gulf States, and thence northward to Minnesota, generally with decided changes; elsewhere generally it has risen, with marked changes in the lower lake region and from Western Texas and Eastern New-Mexico northward to South Dakota and Northern Utah. A storm centre of decided energy is central over Northeastern Illinois, moving northeastward. High winds and gales have occurred in the lake region, Tennessee and the Ohio Valley, the Gulf States, the Missouri Valley and along the Atlantic Coast from Massachusetts southward. Occasional rains and brisk to high southeasterly winds, shifting to southwesterly, are indicated for New-England on Monday. Clearing weather, with brisk to high southerly winds, shifting to westerly, is indicated for the Middle Atlantic States. Generally fair weather, with brisk winds, becoming northwesterly, is indicated for the South Atlantic States. Rain or snow is indicated for the lake regions, with brisk to high northwesterly winds, diminishing; elsewhere generally fair weather will obtain. Storm warnings are displayed from Jacksonville to Eastport.

FORECAST FOR TO-DAY AND TUESDAY.

For New-England, Eastern New-York, Eastern Pennsylvania and New-Jersey, rain and warmer to-day; brisk to high east to south winds. Tuesday probably fair.

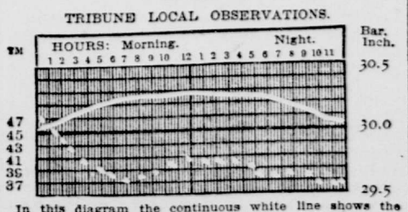
For Maryland, clearing to-day; colder in western portion; brisk to high southeasterly winds, becoming southwesterly. Tuesday fair.

For District of Columbia and Delaware, clearing to-day; brisk to high southeasterly winds, becoming westerly. Tuesday fair.

For Western Pennsylvania, occasional rain or snow to-day; colder; brisk to high southwesterly winds, becoming northwesterly. Tuesday probably fair.

For Western New-York, rain or snow to-day; colder in western portion; brisk to high southerly winds, shifting to northwesterly. Tuesday probably fair.

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, March 11, 1 a. m.—The weather yesterday was showery. The temperature ranged between 37 and 47 degrees, the average (39¾) being 7¾ lower than that of Saturday and 4¾ lower than that of the corresponding date of last year.

The rain will continue to-day, with higher temperature.

GAMBLING IN HIGH LIFE.

DR. HUNTINGTON CALLS THINGS CONNECTED WITH IT INFAMOUS IN TALKING TO THE NEW-ENGLAND SOCIETY.

Nearly all the members of the New-England Society of New-York attended a special service in Grace Church yesterday afternoon and listened to a sermon by the Rev. Dr. William R. Huntington. From the pillars of the church hung silken banners bearing the coats of arms of the various New-England States, and the walls were festooned with New-England firs. William E. Dodge, the president of the society, read the lesson for the day. Dr. Huntington's sermon was on "The Puritan Strain." Speaking of the Puritans and the Anglicans he said:

There will, however, certainly be conceded to me the privilege of bearing witness to the largeness of the debt which Anglicanism owes to Independency. The Church of England is to-day turning to the United States for counsel as to the best way of securing lay representation in its synods. But who supposes that the American Episcopal Church would at this present time have any testimony to give on the subject, had not Puritan precept and example moved it to make a lay veto a leading feature of its bill of rights?

The ingredient most central to the Puritan character, and the one most creditable to it, I conceive to have been the spirit of discipline. These men reverenced law. In these days we scoff at discipline, and will have none of it. The day for that sort of thing has gone by, we say.

The name of this society in full is the New-England Society of the City of New-York. This in itself is suggestive. How is it justifying its corporate existence? Has it no duty to that larger society of which it forms a part, beyond the obligation to hold an annual feast, and when it has eaten and is full listen to the pleasant things that may be said to it by its friends? I venture to affirm that this organization has a graver duty and a more sacred call. Who can doubt that for the cleansing and for the sweetening both of the civic and the social life of New-York the New-England Society, with its fourteen hundred or fifteen hundred members, might do wonders if it would? A vigilance committee? Why, here is one at hand. And there is need of vigilance, sore need. You start at my speaking of the social life of the city as calling for renewal, but it is so. When women are discussing in their clubs, "What are the limits of allowable luxury?" and the conclusion reached by vote is that there is no assignable limit save that imposed by income, is it not time to call a halt? And what are these stories that we hear about the spread of an uncontrollable passion for gambling? Is it possible that there are leaders of society who lend their countenance to forms of amusement that are against the very law of the land?

It may be hard to frame an argument against gambling that will hold in logic, but shipwrecked lives speak louder than any syllogism. It is not necessary to be able to diagnose a disease in order to suffer from its ravages. Is it true that hostesses are found in fashionable life who will let young men whose honesty is their capital depart impoverished by losses at cards out of the drawing rooms into which they have themselves invited them as guests? If it be true, I cry, Shame! Is it true that young women, reputed to be of good family and honest bringing up, exhibit with pride the jewels bought out of the profits of the gaming table? Could anything be more vulgar than such acts as these? Nay, that is a feeble word—could anything be more infamous? What avails a crusade against policy shops and poolrooms, whether by five, fifteen or fifty, if behind doors which no detective ventures to pass such things as these go on? No need of the spirit of discipline? What then is to become of society? With Sunday lapsing into a mere tradition; with the day which a New-England mystic, not overfriendly to Christianity, made bold to call the "backbone of our civilization," turned by common consent from a holy day to a holiday, and with marriage, the cornerstone of the family life, which in its turn is the cornerstone of the state, with holy wedlock degenerating into a mere fast and loose contract, who shall say that the call for a revival of the spirit of discipline is ill timed?

Why do I draw my illustrations from the life of women rather than men? Simply for the reason that in Christian lands—and nowhere more conspicuously than in the United States—women are the custodians of morals. Here, however it may be elsewhere, men are largely what the influence of women makes them, and the more rapidly the men desert public worship, substituting the club and the lodge for the house of prayer, the more is this supremacy of woman as the priestess of sacred interests and the arbiter of conduct accentuated and defined.

IDENTIFIED BY HER HALF SISTER.

WOMAN WHO COMMITTED SUICIDE IN JERSEY CITY WAS AN ACTRESS.

The woman who committed suicide at Lubben's Hotel, Jersey City, on Saturday was identified yesterday as Miss Catherine Burns, forty years old, an actress, whose home was in Philadelphia. She was identified by her half sister, Mrs. Florence Roberts, also an actress, who lived with Miss Burns in Philadelphia.

Mrs. Roberts said her sister had been on the road with a company, whose names she did not give. Her sister was still with the company when she last heard from her. She knew of no reason why her sister should have killed herself. County Physician Charles B. Converse signed a permit for the removal of the body. It will be taken to New-York. The Actors' Fund will take charge of the funeral.

MR. CLEVELAND'S DUCK HUNTING.

REPORT THAT HE HAD A NARROW ESCAPE FROM DROWNING IS DENIED.

Norfolk, Va., March 10 (Special).—There is no truth in the report that ex-President Cleveland had a narrow escape from drowning at Back Bay, where he is duck hunting. His party encountered a squall and had difficulty in landing. The rumor probably originated from this fact. Mr. Cleveland is in the best of health, and met with much success killing ducks. On Friday he shipped sixty to Mrs. Cleveland at Princeton. The ex-President expects to return on Tuesday.

DIED.

Arthur, Rev. William.
Benedict, Orrin.
Codington, George F.
Comes, Arthur N.
Dater, James.
Gibson, William.
Hayward, Sarah A.
Hicks, George F.
Kelly, William V.
Kendall, Edward H.
Leake, Elizabeth P.
Matthiessen, Francis O.
Rankin, Emily W.
Robbins, Esther G.
Snowden, Rev. Robert B.
Spalding, Clara M.
Woods, Eliza.

ARTHUR—At Cannes, France, March 9, 1901, entered into rest in the 83d year of his age, Rev. William Arthur.

BENEDICT—At Bethel, Conn., Saturday, March 9, Orrin Benedict, aged 83 years.
Funeral services from his late residence on Tuesday, March 12, at 1:30.
Trains leave New-York at 9 a. m.; return at 4 p. m.

CODINGTON—In this city, Sunday, March 10, 1901, George F. Codington, in the 82d year of his age.
Funeral services will be held at the Bedford Street M. E. Church, corner Bedford and Morton sts., Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock.
Interment at Yonkers, N. Y.

COMES—At Hackensack, N. J., on Friday, March 8, 1901, Arthur Newell, eldest son of W. Irving and Myra M. Comes, in the 35th year of his age.
Funeral services at his late residence, No. 302 Union-st., Hackensack, on Monday, March 11 at 2:30 p. m.
Carriages will meet train on the New-York, Susquehanna and Western Railroad leaving foot of Cortlandt-st. at 1:10 p. m.

DATER—At Lakewood, Sunday, March 10, James Dater.
Notice of funeral hereafter.

GIBSON—On Sunday morning, March 10, 1901, at his residence, No. 330 West 12th-st., William Gibson.
Funeral service at the Bedford Street M. E. Church, Bedford, corner Morton-st., Tuesday evening, March 12, at 8 o'clock.

HAYWARD—Sarah A., wife of the late Isaac Lothrop Hayward, of Adrian, Mich., in the 76th year of her age.
Funeral on Monday, March 11, 1901, from the residence of her daughter, Mrs. H. H. Duffield, at Austin Place, Bloomfield, N. J., at 3 p. m.
Detroit and Adrian (Mich.) papers please copy.

HICKS—At New-Brighton, Staten Island, Saturday evening, March 9, 1901, after a short illness, George F., son of the late Edgar Hicks, of Brooklyn, in his 63d year.
Funeral services from his late residence, Clinton-ave., New-Brighton, Staten Island (Snug Harbor station), Tuesday, March 12, on arrival of 12:30 p. m. boat from Whitehall-st.

KELLY—On Sunday, March 10, 1901, William Vincent Kelly, son of the late M. Vincent and Sarah McC. Kelly, in the 25th year of his age.
Funeral services will be held on Tuesday, March 12, 1901, at St. Agnes's Chapel, West 92d-st., near Columbus-ave., at 10 o'clock a. m.
Interment at Woodlawn.

Company H, 7th Regiment, N. G. N. Y., New-York, March 10, 1901.—It is with great sorrow that the death of our comrade Private William Vincent Kelly is announced. The members of the company excepting those detailed to act as escort and firing party and bearers are requested to attend the funeral services at St. Agnes's Chapel, at the published time.

CHARLES E. LYDECKER, Captain.
WM. B. MILES, First Sergeant.

DIED.

KENDALL—At his residence, in this city, March 10, 1901, of pneumonia, Edward H. Kendall, aged 59 years.
Funeral services at St. Sepulchre's Church, Park-ave. and 74th-st., on Wednesday morning, March 13, at 10 o'clock.

LOSHE—Suddenly, at Washington, D. C., on Wednesday, March 6, 1901, Elizabeth P., widow of Major Charles F. Loshe, U. S. A., and daughter of the late Captain Jeremiah G. Smith.
Funeral services will be held at St. John's Church, Stamford, Conn., Monday, at 2:30 p. m.

MATTHIESSEN—On March 8, at Paris, Francis Otto Matthiessen.
Funeral notice hereafter.

RANKIN—At her home in Newark, N. J., March 10, Emily Watkinson, widow of Rev. Edward E. Rankin, D. D.
Hartford papers please copy.

ROBBINS—At Jericho, Long Island, Third, 8th, 1901, Esther G., widow of Stephen Robbins, aged 71 years.
Funeral Third Day, 12th, private.

SNOWDEN—On Saturday, March 9, at his residence, 54th-st., corner of 13th-ave., Brooklyn, N. Y., the Rev. Robert Bayard Snowden, in the 68th year of his age.
Funeral services on Monday afternoon at 2:30, in St. Jude's Church, 55th-st., near 13th-ave.
Interment at the convenience of the family.

SPALDING—Saturday evening, March 9, Miss Clara M. Spalding.
Funeral services, 3:15 p. m., Tuesday, 12th inst., at the residence of her sister, Mrs. L. A. Peloubet, No. 270 Belleville-ave., Bloomfield, N. J.
Greenwood Lake train, 2:20, from foot Chambers-st.

WOODS—Entered into rest March 8, at her residence, No. 1 West 81st-st., Eliza Woods, superintendent of Normal College.
Funeral services will be held at St. Agnes's Chapel, West 92d-st., near Columbus-ave., Monday, March 11, at 10:30 a. m.
Interment in Greenwood Cemetery.

Tomb—Woodlawn Cemetery—Finely located granite mausoleum for sale; low price. E. EDMUND MARKS, 229 Broadway.

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