PRESBYTERIANS TO BE BUSY

THREE DAYS FOR BUSINESS, AND THEN THE GREAT CREED DEBATE WILL BEGIN.

Philadelphia, May 19 (Special).—The General Assembly is not so far along at the dawn of the new week this year as it usually is, owing to the day spent in celebrating its glorious history. Another delay has been caused by the introduction of the Peoria plan of appointing the standing committees. Ordinarily the papers are in the hands of all the committees by Friday noon. This year they did not reach the committees until late on Saturday. But if the beginning has been a little delayed, the time will be made up in the first three days of the coming week, so that by Thursday morning the routine work of the assembly will be either finished or so well in hand that the docket will be clear for the debate on creed revision.

To-morrow the boards of Freedmen, Ministerial Relief and Education will report through their standing committees; on Tuesday the boards of Home Missions, Aid for Colleges and Church Erection will be discussed, and on Wednesday the Board of Foreign Missions, the Board of Publication and Sabbath School Work and the committee on benevolence will occupy the day. The assembly has also decided to hear Dr. John Fox, of the American Bible Society, for ten minutes on Tuesday morning. The only other orders announced provide for the discussion of the reports on judicial commissions on Monday at 4 p. m. and of revision of the Confession of Faith on Thursday at 9:30 a. m.

The judicial commissions suggested by the special committee on that subject are to be permanent fixtures of presbyteries, synods and the assembly. The plan is advocated by many who think that the larger body is unable properly to deal with judicial cases, especially an assembly made up of more than six hundred and fifty men, most of whom are strangers to one another, few of whom are experts in ecclesiastical law, and all of whom are deeply engrossed with matters non-judicial while at the assembly.

CHANGES IN THE CONFESSION.

But the most interesting report before the assembly is that toward which all eyes in the Church and out of it are turned—the report on the proposed revision of the Confession of Faith. The following are the recommendations, signed by the Rev. Drs. Charles A. Dickey, Herrick Johnson, Samuel J. Niccolls (three ex-moderators of the assembly), Daniel W. Fisher, president of Hanover College; George B. Stewart, president of Auburn Seminary; Henry van Dyke, professor in Princeton University; Stephen W. Dana and Samuel P. Sprecher, and Justice John M. Harlan, Daniel R. Noyes, William R. Crabbe, John E. Parsons and Elisha E. Fraser:

(a) We recommend that a committee as provided for by the form of government, Chapter XXIII, Section 3, be appointed by this assembly.

(b) We recommend that this committee be instructed to prepare a brief summary of the Reformed Faith, bearing the same relation to the Confession which the Shorter Catechism bears to the Larger Catechism, and formed on the general model of the Consensus Creed prepared for the assembly of 1892, or the "Articles of Faith" of the Presbyterian Church of England, both of which documents are appended to the committee's report and submitted to the assembly, to be referred to the committee that may be appointed.

This summary is not to be a substitute for the Confession, and is not to affect the terms of subscription, but "to vindicate and clear the doctrines of the Church from all false aspersions and misconceptions," to give a better understanding of what is most surely believed among us, and is in no sense to impair, but rather to manifest and maintain, the integrity of the Reformed Faith.

(c) We further recommend that this committee be instructed to prepare amendments of Chapter III; Chapter X, Section 3; Chapter XVI, Section 7; Chapter XXII, Section 3, and Chapter XXV, Section 6, of our Confession of Faith, either by modification of the text or by declaratory statement, so as more clearly to express the mind of the Church, with additional statements concerning the love of God for all men, missions and the Holy Spirit, it being understood that the revision shall in no way impair the integrity of the system of doctrine set forth in our Confession and taught in the Holy Scripture.

AGAINST THE PROPOSED SUMMARY.

The minority report, signed by the Rev. Dr. William McKibbin and E. W. C. Humphrey, coincides with the majority report in recommendations a and c, but says in reference to recommendation b:

Your minority believe that this recommendation is not identical with what many of the presbyteries requested in their answers to question No. 3 of the committee's inquiries, and has therefore no considerable element in the Church which regard it as at this time desirable. They further believe that it is liable to nearly all the objections which lie against a new creed, for the formulation of which but fourteen presbyteries expressed a preference.

It erects an additional standard of orthodoxy, equal in authority with the Shorter Catechism, which is a standard of our Church, containing, therefore, a new statement of the essentials of the Confession of Faith, and determining what the system of doctrine to which we subscribe in the Confession of Faith really is.

To that extent it must affect the terms of subscription, and substitute for the generous and liberty conserving terms of our present subscription an insissisima verba subscription, with all its attendant dangers. It would plunge the Church into a discussion as to the essential meaning and heart of all her doctrines, with all the disquietude and uncertainty and strain inseparable from such an undertaking.

It would do all this to secure relief from a few points of irritation affecting the form rather than the essence of the teaching of the Confession, and which can be best reached by the method set forth in recommendation c of the majority report.

For these and other reasons we would recommend that recommendation b of the majority report be stricken out.

The churches were well filled to-day with the commissioners, their wives and many visitors, in addition to the regular congregations. In the pulpit of Calvary Church were Dr. J. Sparhawk Jones, the pastor, Dr. Charles A. Dickey, ex-moderator, and Dr. Henry C. Minton. Dr. Minton preached. He called attention to the work and duty of the Church to evangelize, or open the eyes of men, as Christ opened the eyes of the blind man by his first touch; then to educate them in the doctrines of the Church and build up their characters, that they may see, not "men as trees walking," but clearly, as did the man when Christ touched his eyes the second time. Teach them to consecrate the head to know, the heart to see and the hands to do what is right.

In the evening Dr. Minton preached in Princeton Church, and Dr. S. J. Niccolls, of St. Louis, in Assembly Church.

A meeting in the interest of the Woman's Board of Home Missions was held this afternoon in the Witherspoon Building. Dr. D. Stuart Dodge, of New-York, presided, and interesting addresses were made by the Rev. H. R. Marsh, of Point Barrow, Alaska; the Rev. Drs. J. Milton Greene, San Juan, Porto Rico; D. J. Sanders, Charlotte, N. C.; S. J. McClenaghan, Asheville, N. C., and James Hayes, of the Nez Perces Indian Mission.

WOMEN AND HOME MISSIONS.

TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL MEETING IN CONNECTION WITH THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

Philadelphia, May 19 (Special).—The Witherspoon Building overflowed with the number of women in attendance upon the annual convention of the Woman's Board of Home Missions, always held conjointly with the General Assembly. An all day's session in the large auditorium on Thursday brought together representative Presbyterian women of synods from the Atlantic to the Pacific, with missionaries all the way from the Arctic Circle, in Alaska, to the new field of Porto Rico, including the Indian, Mexican, Mormon and other fields of home mission work.

It was a notable gathering, since it is said to represent the largest denominational woman's organization in the world, numbering more than 130,000 members. Mrs. Darwin R. James, of New-York, the president of the board, presided at both full sessions. The officers' reports showed the wide scope of the work and the large amount of money raised by Presbyterian women for their special department of home missions. Miss S. F. Lincoln, the treasurer, gave for the year's figures the goodly sum of $357,201 88. The corresponding secretary, Mrs. Frederick H. Pierson, outlined the character of the work—the great system of mission training schools among Alaskans, Indians, Mexicans, Mormons, mountaineers of the South, foreigners in cities and Porto Ricans. The report showed that the women had also assumed the support of preaching missionaries in two full presbyteries—Alaska and the French Broad—together with part of the salaries and expenses of the synodical missionaries having oversight of the mission schools among the all exceptional populations.

The practical story of field work was told most attractively by as many missionaries as could be crowded into a full programme. Dr. J. Milton Greene, from San Juan, Porto Rico, showed the need of mission schools in the new island possessions, and thanked the women for sending to San Juan the medical missionary, Dr. Grace W. Atkins, whom the people long since have learned to call "The Angel." The Rev. A. Grant Evans, of Henry Kendall College, Muskogee, Ind. T., spoke for the Indians, and Mrs. I. H. Polhemus and Miss Florence Redway for the Southern mountaineers, Dr. Richmond Marsh, with his picturesque Esquimau elder, for his Point Barrow (Alaska) station; Miss Lydia A. Hays for the Mexicans, Mrs. W. E. Carr for the Freedmen, Mrs. W. R. Campbell and Mrs. F. S. Bennett for the Mormon work, and all with the enthusiasm kindled by a great sympathetic audience of women. Bright speeches, many flowers, much color and an elaborate luncheon served to hundreds of delegates and visitors made a brilliant occasion for the initial meeting of the woman's board.

DR. J. W. CHAPMAN OPPOSES REVISION.

WHAT THE CHURCH NEEDS, HE SAYS, IS A SPIRITUAL QUICKENING.

"Presbyterians and Their Creed" was the subject of the sermon preached last night by the Rev. Dr. J. Wilbur Chapman to his congregation in the Fourth Presbyterian Church, at Ninety-first-st. and West End-ave. Dr. Chapman said in part:

I am not saying too much when I declare that grander history has not been written than that which is interwoven with the Presbyterian Church. Presbyterianism is a system, and in all its branches it is the largest Protestant organization in the world. It is the martyr Church of history.

In a novel recently written Calvinists are described as oddities, cranks, fanatics, fools or savages, but in history they have given us the Puritans in England and Holland, the Huguenots of France, and the Covenanters of Scotland.

There are three cardinal principles in the Presbyterian creed: First, the supremacy of God in all things; second, the total depravity of men; third, God's election of the saved. Personally, I am opposed to creed revision: Because it was framed by men who lived at the time of the great spiritual revival which gave us such men as Cromwell, Bunyan, Watts and Baxter (we are hardly at such an age now), and because the creed does not teach any other truth than this, that men are saved by faith in Christ and that all infants are saved at death by the grace of God. It is a slander on the Church to say anything else. Calvin himself abhorred the idea that unbaptized children were lost.

The Church is not in condition to-day for revision. She needs a mighty revival, a spiritual quickening. When this time comes she may better do the work if it is demanded.

G. N. Y. DEMOCRACY MASS MEETING.

The Greater New-York Democracy is preparing for an active campaign against Tammany. The committee on organization will meet at Cooper Union to-night. John C. Sheehan said last night that John G. Carlisle, former Secretary of the Treasury, had promised to preside at the meeting. The leaders of the movement intend to strengthen their organization in each Assembly district, but will refrain from indorsing candidates or committing itself to any policy or candidate until it can confer with any other anti-Tammany organizations.

THE FIRE RECORD YESTERDAY.

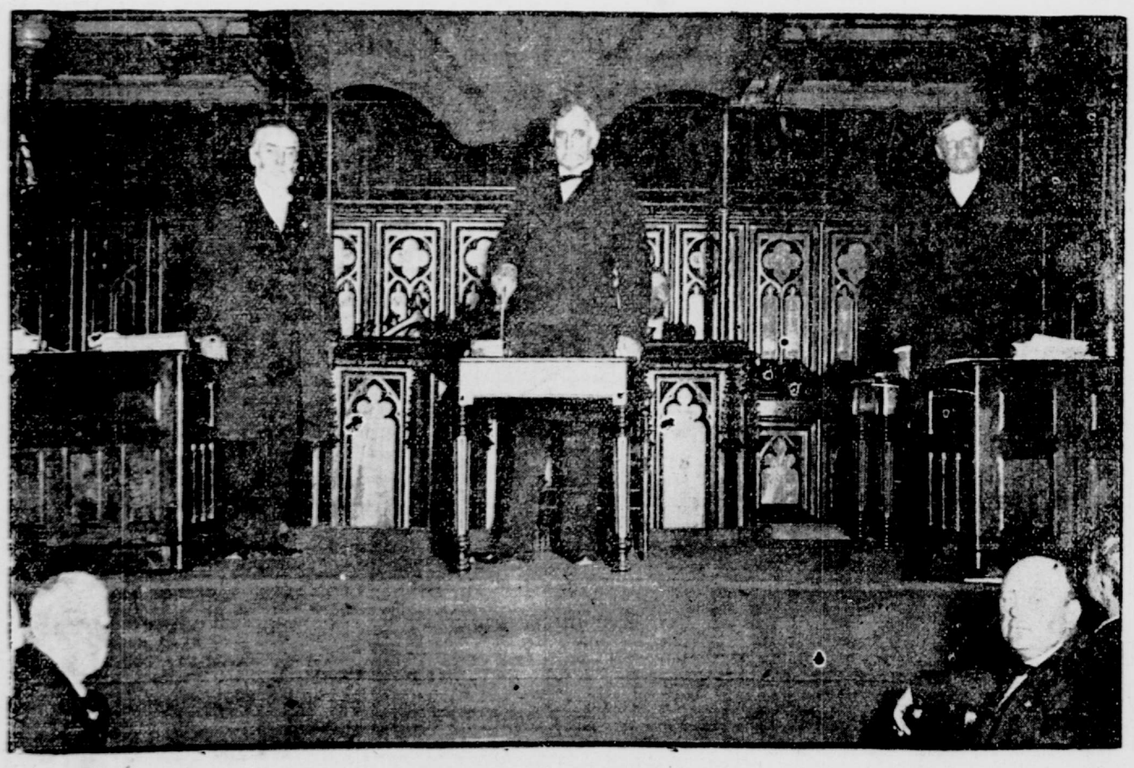
2 a. m., No. 108 East Thirty-second-st., Hert & Brothers; no damage.
6:15 a. m., No. 93 Ridge-st., T. Goldman; no damage.
8:40 a. m., No. 59 Second-ave., L. Freuch; no damage.
10 a. m., No. 12 Hancock-st., Angelo Banello; $50.
10:50 a. m., No. 50 Chrystie-st., C. Mackezka; $5.
10:55 a. m., No. 919 Brook-ave., L. Diepe; $100.
11 a. m., No. 150 East Thirty-second-st., owner unknown; $10.
11:30 a. m., No. 73 Suffolk-st., J. Labowitz; no damage.

PEOPLE WHO WILL BE PROMINENT IN THE COMING BAPTIST ANNIVERSARY MEETINGS.

DR. ROBERT G. SEYMOUR, Bible secretary, American Baptist Publication Society.
B. F. DENNISSON, Secretary Commission on Systematic Beneficences.
DR. A. J. ROWLAND, General secretary, American Baptist Publication Society.
DR. T. J. MORGAN, Corresponding secretary, American Baptist Home Mission Society.

DR. B. L. WHITMAN, President, American Baptist Historical Society.
DR. HENRY C. MABIE, Home secretary, American Baptist Missionary Union.
DR. HENRY L. MOREHOUSE, Field secretary, American Baptist Home Missionary Society.
MRS. J. N. CROUSE, President, Women's Baptist Home Mission Society.

CALLING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO ORDER.



DR. WILLIAM H. ROBERTS, Stated clerk.
DR. CHARLES A. DICKEY, Retiring Moderator.
DR. WILLIAM B. NOBLE, Permanent clerk.

WORK OF THE BAPTISTS.

THE ORGANIZATIONS DIRECTING IT ARE TO MEET IN ANNUAL SESSION AT SPRINGFIELD, MASS., MAY 20.

The national anniversaries of the Northern Baptists will this year be held at Springfield, Mass., May 20 to 28. As this will be the first general gathering of the new century, there will be some special features in the meetings commemorative of this fact. There will also be an important report from a special joint committee, appointed a year ago, looking to the unifying of some of the agencies of the several societies and the further consolidation of their work.

The Baptists of the country stand second, in point of numbers, of the Protestant bodies, being exceeded only by the Methodists. The latest statistics report 43,959 Baptist churches in the United States, with a membership of 4,233,226, and 29,810 ordained ministers. The baptisms for the last year were 197,255, and the net gain 51,550, which is about one and one-fourth per cent over the total membership of a year ago. A conservative estimate would put the Baptist adherents of the country at not less than eleven millions, or about one-seventh of the total population. The church property is valued at $88,146,386; the church expenses aggregate $10,785,586 a year, and the benevolent contributions a little over $13,000,000. The seating capacity of the houses of worship would accommodate only one-half the membership. There are 1,794,820 scholars in the Sunday schools. In its educational work, still speaking for the whole country, the denomination has seven theological seminaries, one hundred and five universities and colleges, and ninety schools of academic grade. These institutions have property valued at $18,512,0000 in addition to endowments amounting to $17,561,000. The instructors number 2,463, and the students are 39,553, of whom 2,496 are studying for the ministry.

Before the Revolutionary War the Baptists made slow and painful progress in the American colonies. They suffered from all sorts of civil disabilities, and the hand of political and ecclesiastical persecution was heavy upon them. Their struggles and sufferings in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Virginia and elsewhere are part of the history of civil and religious freedom. When that war came their conspicuous patriotism and their heroic insistence upon absolute liberty of conscience for all, in matters of religion, drew to them the attention of all parties and elicited a remarkable letter from General Washington. The prosperity of the Baptists, therefore, dates from the War of the Revolution, though they had previously made a strong impression upon the country, North and South. Especially in the Southern States did the denomination rapidly increase, and that more particularly in the rural districts. This is partly seen in the condition of things to-day. Of the nearly four and a quarter millions of Baptists in the United States more than two-thirds are in the South, and of these more than half are colored people. In round numbers, there are eighteen hundred thousand negro Baptists in the South and fifteen hundred thousand white Baptists in the same section, while the Baptists in the North number about nine hundred thousand.

In 1845 the dissensions and discussions which sprang out of the subject of slavery divided the Baptists, as they did other religious bodies. Since that date the white Baptists of the South have been organized for home and foreign mission operations in what is known as the Southern Baptist Convention, which has various boards for the different parts of the work. Since the Civil War the negro Baptists have by degrees formed societies for their own activities, but they are themselves largely in need of educational and evangelistic help, for which they look to their white brethren, chiefly those of the North.

While the majority of the Baptists are in the South—and they are giving a good account of themselves, according to their means—the greater part of the wealth and of the equipment which wealth directly and indirectly brings, is in the North. Here are the great institutions of learning at Chicago, Providence, Newton Centre, Mass.; Rochester, Hamilton, N. Y.; Chester and Lewisburg, Penn.; Granville, Ohio; Franklin, Ind.; Waterville, Me., and elsewhere. Here are the great societies for missions, publications, education, etc., with headquarters in New-York, Philadelphia, Boston and Chicago, raising millions of dollars every year and sending their agencies throughout the nation and the world.

It is these societies of Northern Baptists that will begin their annual meetings at Springfield on May 20. There will be nothing ecclesiastical about these gatherings. There will be no heresy trials, no creed revision, no official investigations as to the inroads of the higher criticism and scientific evolution. The Baptists are extremists in the matter of soul liberty, separation between church and state, voluntarism in the support of religion and the complete independence of the local Church. For them there is no ecclesiastical authority superior to the local Church. All other religious bodies among them are purely voluntary, organized for missionary or philanthropic activity, and their action can be binding only on those who freely accept it.

The societies represented at the anniversaries will be the American Baptist Missionary Union for Foreign Missions (with headquarters in Boston), the American Baptist Publication Society (Philadelphia), the American Baptist Home Mission Society (New-York), the American Baptist Historical Society (Philadelphia) and the American Baptist Education Society (New-York). There are several women's societies, officered and managed by themselves, doing various form of missionary work at home and abroad, auxiliary to the general societies.

From one point of view these societies are great business corporations, receiving and disbursing many hundreds of thousands of dollars every year, having large assets in fixed property and invested funds and managed by some of the most capable business men in the several cities where their offices are situated. They are, more especially, great evangelizing and educational agencies, carrying Christianity and its associated influences into all parts of the earth. There are well equipped mission stations, with American missionaries, native helpers, Bible women, schools, medical dispensaries, industrial training, etc., in China, Japan, India and Africa. Aid is given to churches in Russia, Germany, France, Spain, Denmark and Sweden. Missionaries, Sunday school organizers and chapel car evangelists are engaged in the West and Northwest of this country, among the foreign immigrants of all nationalities and the Chinese, in Alaska, Cuba, Porto Rico and Mexico. Large sums are being expended upon the negroes in establishing schools, training teachers and preachers and otherwise aiding them in their great necessities. More than $3,000,000 has thus been invested in the colored people of the South by the Baptists of the North in the last forty years.

The Baptist Young People's Union of America is an association for the systematic training and culture of its members in Bible study and other forms of Christian knowledge, in preparation for the duties that will come upon them when they assume the responsibilities of directing the great affairs of the denomination.

THEIR FIFTIETH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY.

At League Hall, No. 74 West One-hundred-and-twentieth-st., to-day, Mr. and Mrs. Elias Moss, of No. 70 East One-hundred-and-twentieth-st., will celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of their marriage. They were married in London, England, on May 20, 1851, and sailed to this country on their wedding tour. Mr. Moss is sixty-nine years old and Mrs. Moss, who was Kate Lee, sixty-seven years old. They are both enjoying the best of health. There are six children—Philip H. Moss, Mrs. Harry S. Asche, Joseph E. Moss, Mrs. I. Freeman, Mrs. W. B. Jones and Louis Moss, all of whom will be present at the celebration, as will also be seven grandchildren. Two of the grandchildren will lead the wedding march, the two youngest, Marguerite Freeman and Pearl Moss, acting as flower girls. Many relatives and friends will greet the venerable couple.

STANLEY'S QUIET DAY IN THE TOMBS.

Kirk Stanley, who is held in the Tombs on account of the death of Father Phillips, passed a quiet day in prison yesterday. He read the papers and listened to the prison evangelists as they sang and talked to the prisoners. Stanley would not talk for publication.

A NEW PASTOR PREACHES.

THE REV. DR. R. P. JOHNSTON AT THE FIFTH AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH.

The Rev. Dr. Rufus P. Johnston, the new pastor of the Fifth Avenue Baptist Church yesterday morning made his first address to his new congregation. He left the Third Baptist Church of St. Louis to accept the call to New-York. He is about forty years old. A large congregation gathered to greet him, and after the services he held an informal reception. A formal reception will introduce him and Mrs. Johnston socially to the congregation in the church parlors to-morrow night.

In his sermon Dr. Johnston likened his call to the Fifth Avenue Church to the call of Peter the Apostle to Cæsarea. He said in part:

I trust and I believe that it is by the guidance of God of the Angel you sent for me and that under the guidance of the God of the Vision I have come to you. If I did not believe God had prompted you to send for me to come I would resign to-day. I have no desire to thrust myself where God does not open the door. But you sent and I came, and I come with the question, "With what intent have ye sent for me?"

Dr. Johnston explained his theories of the needs of a church and of church work, declared his belief that the church was the organism of which Christ was the life, and reminded the congregation that the church could be built up and strengthened only by absorbing the elements antagonistic to it.

"I shall not preach politics to you," he said in conclusion, "but I hope to learn to vote in New-York. I shall preach righteousness to you in the belief that you will be true to God and let your righteousness manifest itself in your political actions. I shall preach religion to you in the hope that you will take the religion with you in all your business dealings."

QUEER DEATH OF A MERCHANT.

STRUCK WHILE SITTING IN HIS OFFICE BY A FALLING TAILOR'S GOOSE.

Raymond Palmenberg, of No. 266 West Ninety-first-st., a member of the firm of J. R. Palmenberg's Sons, No. 710 Broadway, manufacturers of display fixtures and forms, died at 2:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon from injuries received in a peculiar way. A compound fracture of the skull was the cause of death.

About three weeks ago Mr. Palmenberg was sitting in his office, at the rear of the store, when a tailor's goose weighing six or eight pounds crashed through the skylight over the office and struck him a glancing blow on the head. He was taken to his home in a cab, but was later removed to the New-York Hospital.

A policeman of the Broadway Squad who heard of the accident went through the adjoining buildings to obtain an explanation of the falling of the goose. On the sixth floor of one of the buildings he found a tailor shop, but the tailors denied all knowledge of the falling iron. It is believed that some one tried to put a goose on a window sill and misplaced it.

LABORERS AS CLERKS.

NATIONAL CIVIL SERVICE REFORM LEAGUE SAYS RULES ARE BEING VIOLATED.

The committee appointed by the National Civil Service Reform League to investigate the Federal Civil Service reports that, contrary to the Civil Service rules, many persons appointed as laborers in the government departments at Washington are doing the work of classified clerks. There are now, says the report, 1,079 laborers in the government departments, an increase of more than 50 per cent since 1896, among whom is a considerable number of women who are not expected to do the work of actual laborers.

On the attention of the departments being called to these facts, the report continues, the committee was informed that it was necessary to assign laborers to the work of classified clerks because the allowance for classified clerks in the last appropriation was insufficient. The report says that in such a case the appointments should be made from laborers who have passed the examination for the places which they are to fill. As a remedy it is suggested that a registration system be established by which laborers would be appointed according to priority of application, thus preventing the appointment of laborers with the purpose of designating them to do work of the classified service. A copy of the report was sent to the President on April 26.

THE CENTRAL'S PRESIDENCY.

There was a report yesterday that President Mellen of the Northern Pacific Railroad had resigned his office to succeed S. R. Callaway, president of the New-York Central, who has just accepted the presidency of the American Locomotive Company. It is yet undetermined who will succeed Mr. Callaway. As told in The Tribune yesterday, the subject of a successor for Mr. Callaway has not yet been taken up for consideration by W. K. Vanderbilt and his associates in control of the New-York Central.

YONKERS'S NEW RECREATION PAVILION.

Governor Odell has been invited to visit Yonkers on Memorial Day to dedicate a large recreation pavilion on the new city dock. Mayor Sutherland wrote to the Governor yesterday requesting him to be on hand, and it is believed that he will accept.

The pavilion is the only one along the Hudson River outside of New-York. It will cost the city $50,000 when completed. The structure is a big steel affair, capable of accommodating nearly five thousand people. It affords a fine view of the Hudson for miles north and south.

Always Tired

Of course you are. Tired when you go to bed, tired when you get up, tired all the time. Your doctor calls it nerve exhaustion, general debility. He recommends a nerve-lifter, a general tonic.

Ask him what he thinks of Ayer's Sarsaparilla for this. We are willing to leave the question with him. He knows all about our Sarsaparilla and what it will do.

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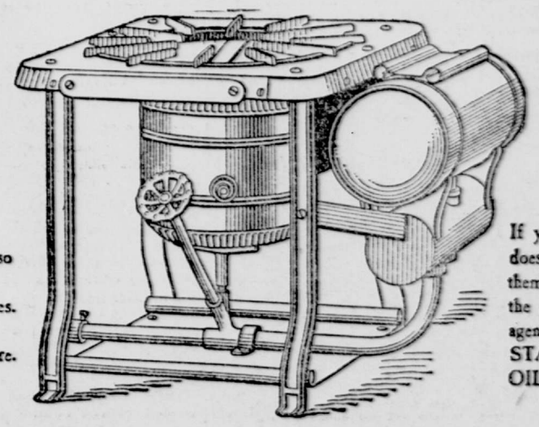

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