NOTES FROM THE CAPITAL

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]
Washington, December 25.

ONE ON SECRETARY WILSON.—A member of Congress tells an amusing story of Secretary Wilson illustrative of the influence of bureau chiefs. The member recently asked Mr. Wilson's opinion of a bill before Congress. "I know nothing about it," said the Secretary. "I do not concern myself with legislation before Congress. If it is passed, and the President sends it to me to execute that will be time enough for me to form an opinion. I know nothing about it, nothing at all," and the Secretary lay back in his chair regarding the Representative with half-closed eyes, then sat upright and opening his eyes wide, looked at him over his glasses with an expression which clearly said, "Now, what have you to say?" "I am sorry," said the member." "I was hoping to get some light from you. In fact, I have just been reading a long communication favoring the bill, which I am inclined to oppose. It says so and so,"—the Secretary looked bored—"and, Mr. Secretary, it was written over your signature." "Jasper," said the Secretary, appealing to his son, "did I ever write such a letter?" "No, Father, was the reply, but Professor —— wrote it and you signed it," and right there Mr. Wilson produced the best box of Connecticut grown, Sumatra wrapped cigars in his cabinet.

FIVE PENSION BILLS A MINUTE.—Much ill advised criticism of the pension legislation procedure of Congress has been published because of the recent record of the House in passing 174 private pension bills in thirty-nine minutes, or at the rate of one every twelve seconds. This rapidity, which has frequently been surpassed in the Senate, does not by any means warrant the idea of persons unfamiliar with Congress methods that such efficiency of legislative mechanism necessarily implies hasty and unconsidered action. On the contrary, it means exhaustive consideration by the special committee appointed for that purpose by the House, and that 174 of the thousands of bills of this sort have had the stamp of unanimous approval by Democrats and Republicans alike. Any member of the House, were he not absolutely assured of the care with which these bills had been investigated, might have demanded the reading of each bill and of its accompanying report, and consumed 174 hours or more. Only the obviously meritorious measures are enacted at this speed, and for every minute that the house spends in their passage, days or weeks have been spent in examining them before them are called up for passage.

ESPECIALLY INTERESTING TO PRESIDENT CANTOR.—"That Oom Paul in his memoirs makes no concealment of his ineradicable hatred of the English, was to be expected," said John R. Stephens, formerly consulting engineer for the Consolidated Gold Fields Company of the Rand. "While I was in the Transvaal President Krüger refused to speak English, and, although he understood everything said in his presence by English speaking delegates and diplomats, the grim Boer leader insisted upon having every word interpreted into Dutch. 'I will not,' said Oom Paul to me through an interpreter, 'hold converse in a tongue in which so much cunning and treachery have been couched.' At one time," continued Mr. Stephens, "the street commissioner of Johannesburg, desiring like a certain New-York official to appear progressive, had black placards with white letters nailed up at every corner telling the names of the streets. As almost the whole population of Johannesburg was English speaking, these signs bore the word 'Street.' When Oom Paul learned of this he was very angry and ordered the letters 'eet' painted out of the signs, leaving str, the abbreviation for strasse. The 'eet' showed somewhat through the black patch, but Oom Paul didn't mind that. On the contrary, it served to call attention to his contempt for English words and the commissioner was restrained from effecting utter effacement of the objectionable letters."

SMALL COMPENSATION OF STATESMANSHIP.—The salary question, which constantly aggravates men of both branches of Congress who do not possess private fortunes, is a common topic at the Capitol this winter, though there is no immediate possibility of legislation regarding it. It is true that $5,000 a year is much more than a majority of these men could make in private life, but there are scores of expenses incident to service in Congress as well as an election which scale down the net revenue and often swallow it up entirely. There are some who advocate the cutting off of all perquisites and the payment of a flat salary of $7,500 a year, leaving the member or Senator to buy his own stationery, for which there is now an annual allowance of $125, and to pay for his own clerk, for which there is an allowance of $100 a month; also to deprive him of the mileage, which amounts to 10 cents a mile each way for each session. There is some philosophy in the argument, for most men get to and from the capital without a large layout in coin or the waste of much time. Accordingly, the compensation as to mileage is unfair, as the statesman who lives in Maryland or Virginia, for example, receives only a meagre stipend on that account, whereas the statesman from the Rocky Mountain region receives over $400. But the time is far distant when Congress will dare to attempt an adjustment of the salaries of its own members, for $5,000 a year looks like a large sum to most of the American citizens who vote men into office or out of it.

OKLAHOMA'S STATEHOOD CLAIM.—An Oklahoma City banker who is spending the holidays here put life into usually dull Treasury statistics to-day that will astonish Eastern readers. His town's bank clearings for the week ended November 7 were $709,812 77. For the same week the clearings at Lowell, Mass., were $446,682; of Akron, Ohio, $597,600; of Springfield, Ill., $590,802; of Lexington, Ky., $554,945; of Canton, Ohio, $472,000, and of Jacksonville, Fla., $311,737. Oklahoma City has seven institutions doing a banking business, with total deposits approximating $3,000,000. It has a population of 25,000 enlightened and progressive citizens, streets paved with asphalt, well edited daily papers and all the appurtenances of cosmopolitan existence. It has one wholesale establishment that does a yearly business of $3,000,000. The Territory of Oklahoma has assessed values of $72,000,000, but, as this does not represent one-fourth of its real wealth, it is safe to place the total property values at $300,000,000. The population is, in round numbers, 670,000, and in the last election 97,000 votes were cast. When the high average of citizenship is considered, Oklahomans feel that every argument of reason and justice is back of the demand for admission as a State.

THE REINCARNATION OF THE SHIN PLASTER.—With his pockets bulging with circulars the covers of which are suggestive of a $2 bill and 50 cent shin plaster, respectively, a man is besieging Senators and Representatives these days urging the passage of a bill which has reposed since last session in the Committee on Postoffices and Post Roads. This bill provides for an issue of paper money in denominations of $2, $1 and fractional sums thereof, each bill to bear on one side blanks, which, when filled out will convert it into a money order, payable to the person to whom it is indorsed, and will require that a stamp be attached and cancelled to make it legal. This scheme is known as the "post check" system of currency, and the inventor desires to present his conception to the government. The system would doubtless facilitate the remittance of money by mail and would prove of inestimable value to concerns in the mail order business.

INCIDENTS OF THE DAY IN ROME.

Rome, Dec. 25.—All fashionable Rome wound up Christmas Day at the American Embassy, where Ambassador and Mrs. Meyer entertained their friends at a dance. Among the Americans present were General and Mrs. Cloris, of Washington; Miss Carow, sister-in-law of President Roosevelt; the St. Louis Fair Commissioners, A. W. Evarts, of New-York; John Mason Little, of Boston, and Mr. Chapin, of New-York.

Among the Christmas felicitations received by the Pope to-day were greetings from Emperor Francis Joseph and the Kings of Spain, Portugal, Belgium and Saxony.

If cheaper articles were "just as good",
JOHANN HOFF'S EXTRACT
could not have stood the test of over half a century, with increasing sales every year.
For the weak and debilitated, and in dyspepsia.

SHOT DOWN IN STREET.

The Killing the Result of Quarrel in Snowball Fight.

Innocent amusement in the form of a snowball fight was the indirect cause of a murder in Brooklyn yesterday afternoon. Savatora Vacharralla, twenty-five years old, of No. 276 Third-ave., who was shot in the back and killed, paid the penalty for siding with the boys in a quarrel which they got into with Raffaelo Ferraiola. The last named has disappeared, and several detectives are hunting for him on a charge of murder.

Vacharralla lived on the second floor of No. 276 Third-ave., with his wife and one child. Ferraiola lived and kept an undertaker's shop on the first floor. It seems that the boys in the neighborhood had constructed two snow forts on a lot opposite the store, and were engaged in a fierce snowball fight. Some of the missiles strayed across the street and struck the windows of Ferraiola's shop, it is said. H remonstrated, and finally started out to punish some of the boys. Vacharralla came up and took the part of the boys, and, it is alleged, he and Ferraiola had a hand to hand combat, in which the undertaker was badly beaten.

After it was over Ferraiola went into his shop. Vacharralla stood on the sidewalk, talking to some friends, his back to the store. Suddenly, according to witnesses, the undertaker came out and shot Vacharralla before the latter could be warned or turn around. The wounded man ran across the street and dropped dead. The undertaker returned to his shop.

As is usual in such cases, the police had some difficulty in investigating it, and it was some time before they heard that the shooting had been done by the undertaker. When they went to look for him he had disappeared.

POSED AS GOVERNOR BECKHAM.

Stranger Deceived Guests at Miami Hotel—Telegram Brought Discovery.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Jacksonville, Fla., Dec. 25.—A dispatch from Miami, Fla., one of Flagler's resorts, says that a man calling himself J. W. C. Beckham, and posing as Governor of Kentucky, was arrested there this morning. The man arrived at Miami last week. It was soon rumored that Kentucky's Governor was there. He displayed a telegram alleged to be from Secretary Cortelyou, apparently by accident, making an appointment to meet the President. After this he was deluged with invitations, and made many friends.

A few days later he sent a dispatch to the Sheriff of Clinton, Ky., ordering that the death sentence of James Kelly be commuted to life imprisonment. This he let be known, much to the credit of his reputation for mercy. A few days later the Clinton telegram was returned with an indorsement, "No such party known here."

The "Governor" had told the hotel manager to open his telegrams. The contents of this one made the manager rather suspicious. Understanding that the "Governor" had been borrowing money he at once swore out a warrant, and the Sheriff went to Cocoanut Grove, where the stranger was a guest, and arrested him. While surprised, he did not lose his nerve, but quietly accompanied the officer, saying to his dismayed friends that it was a mistake, etc. At the jail he refused to make a statement. The next morning when arraigned he waived hearing, and will be tried by the Circuit Court, soon to meet.

Nothing can be found out about him, and there are no papers in his baggage to give a clew. He refuses to talk, and takes his imprisonment calmly. The only statement he made was that his wife had died some months ago, and that this sad event upset him mentally. Meanwhile, society is rather shy of strangers claiming great names.

BROKER GOES FROM DINNER TO CELL.

Gets Into Dispute and Breaks Cane Over Cabman's Head.

A man who gave his name as Russell A. Proctor, a broker, of No. 330 West Thirty-third-st., was locked up in the West Forty-seventh-st. station last night charged with disorderly conduct. He had been dining with a friend and two women at a restaurant at Sixth-ave. and Forty-fourth-st. The dinner finished, the party left the restaurant and engaged a cab in front of the place.

The others of the party got in, but when Mr. Proctor essayed to do so, the driver objected on the ground that the hansom would not hold more than three people. Angry words followed, and finally Mr. Proctor was knocked down. He in turn broke a cane over the cabman's head. A policeman appeared on the scene, and ordered the broker to "move on." He complied, but in a short time returned and insisted that the cabman should be locked up. When the officer refused to lock him up, it is said, the young man became abusive, and he was taken to the station b ythe policeman, his friends following in the hansom.

When he was led away to a cell one of the women became hysterical. With tears in her eyes she begged the sergeant not to lock him up, and then she pleaded to be locked up with him. She was taken away by her friends weeping bitterly. The sergeant refused to parole Mr. Proctor on his own recognizance.

OLD MAN WANDERED FROM HOME.

Littleton, Mass., Dec. 25.—Active search has been made to-day for S. W. Hartwell, an aged resident of this town, who wandered away from his home shortly after midnight last night. Mr. Hartwell, who is eighty-three years old and one of the wealthiest men in town, has been living alone for some years, two servants occupying a house across the street. About midnight last night a drug clerk found Mr. Hartwell in a dazed condition about a quarter of a mile from his home. He conducted him home, but failed to inform the caretakers across the street.

This morning the two servants, on going to Mr. Hartwell's house, were unable to find any trace of him. When the drug clerk's story was told, later in the forenoon, a searching party was organized, but no trace of the old man had been found when darkness set in. The storm to-night is very severe, and it is not expected that Mr. Hartwell will be found alive.

CURLING RINK COLLAPSES.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., Dec. 25.—The curling rink of the Soo Curling Club, the largest rink in this country, collapsed on Wednesday night less than fifteen minutes after a large crowd of curlers had left the place. Weak construction and the heavy fall of wet snow probably caused the accident. The bonspiel of the Northwestern Curling Association was to be held in the rink next month. An open rink will probably be built, and the bonspiel held with the aid of the Canadian Soo rink. The rink cost $15,000 and is a total loss.

HIS CHRISTMAS GIFT THREE SHOTS.

Kansas City, Mo., Dec. 25.—William P. Hollenback too-day shot his wife three times as she lay in bed ill, drove his seventeen-year-old stepdaughter into the street at the point of a revolver and then shot and killed himself. The woman is seriously wounded.

Hollenback and his wife had quarrelled repeatedly of late, and recently separated by mutual agreement. He was to be tried in the police court to-morrow on the charge of mistreating her, and he tried to-day to effect a reconciliation. Failing in this he locked the doors of the apartment and with the remark: "Here's a Christmas present for you," shot his wife as she raised herself in bed to receive the gift. He then turned the weapon on his stepdaughter, who unlocked a door and escaped, after which he sent a bullet into his own heart and died instantly.

GEORGE H. BURFORD DEAD.

George H. Burford, president of the United States Life Insurance Company, died last night at his apartments at the Chelsea. He had been ill for some time from jaundice and dropsy. He was fifty-six years old.

Mr. Burford was born in Baltimore. He came to this city and entered the employ of the United States Life Insurance Company as office boy. By diligence and perseverance he gained promotion through various clerkships. For many years he was an actuary of the company. He was also a director of several banks, among them the Empire City Savings Banks and the Twelfth Ward National Bank. He was for some time president of the Harlem Democratic Club. He leaves a widow, who was Miss Bayard, of this city.

The funeral will be held to-morrow night, with burial at Woodlawn on Sunday morning.

MANY SHEEP BURNED TO DEATH.

Omaha, Neb., Dec. 25.—The sheep barns of the Union Stock Yards Company at South Omaha burned to-day, together with five hundred sheep, entailing a loss of $50,000. The fire is supposed to have started from a cigar stub dropped in the barn by one of the workmen. An effort was made to drive out the eight thousand sheep, but five hundred of them ran back into the fire and were consumed.

NEW LAWS FOR ALASKA.

Conditions for Settlers To Be Materially Changed.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Washington, Dec. 25.—Such strong pressure has been brought to bear on Congress by the citizens of Alaska as to warrant the belief that the current session will witness an amendment to the land law which will materially improve conditions in that Territory. The present prospects are that the Homestead act, in its application to Alaska, will be so amended as to permit the taking up of homesteads of 320 acres in extent, and settlers will be permitted to prove up their claims in districts not yet surveyed by the government officials. The existing commutation clause, however, will be repealed, in so far as it applies to that Territory.

Senator Quarles has introduced a bill repealing the stone and timber act, and the commutation clause as applied to all homestead entries; and, while this bill is likely to receive extensive consideration in committee, and may be reported, it is not likely to be enacted. The repeal of the stone and timber act is recommended by the President and the Secretary of the Interior, but it is feared that lack of time will prevent action by Congress.

Representative Lacey, of Iowa, is still working for his measure authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to lease the public lands for grazing purposes, and has secured many supporters for the bill, but lack of time will prevent its enactment.

Meanwhile, the Alaskans are predicting that with a land law practicable under their conditions the fertile valleys of Southern Alaska will rapidly replace the Western range in the preparation of feeders for the corn belt and the growing of range cattle for market.

BOLT COMPANY TO MOVE SOUTH.

American Company, of Lowell, Mass., Going to Alabama.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Lowell, Mass., Dec. 25.—The American Bolt Company, for many years an important industry here, will move to Birmingham, Ala., next month. The business will be conducted as before, but it will be the American Bolt Company of Alabama, instead of Massachusetts. The company will consolidate with the bolt concern already in Birmingham, and will build new works there. Colonel Percy Parker is at the head of the concern here.

COULD NOT ESCAPE FROM ENGINE.

Young Man Whose Foot Was Caught in Bridge Ground to Pieces.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Philadelphia, Dec. 25.—Walter Pedrick, thirty years old, set out early this morning to walk to the home of Walter Smith, in the Eighth Ward of Camden, where he had been invited to spend Christmas Day. He was accompanied by Charles Littleford, of Washington, D. C., and Charles Harris, of Delaware. The three men entertained one another with song and story, and were hastening toward the lights of Camden, when death stepped into the company.

Pedrick's foot slipped between two ties on the Atlantic City Railroad bridge over Line Ditch, at Jackson-st. He and his friends struggled to extricate the foot, and Pedrick remarked:

"Well, boys, I'm hung by the foot, instead of the neck." Then he looked up, and seeing a great headlight bearing down on him, he exclaimed:

"My God! Here comes the train."

Pedrick's friends jumped into the ditch just in time to save their lives, and Pedrick, with white face and murmured prayer, went down before the locomotive and was ground to fragments.

Littleford and Harris informed Coroner Litchfield, who gave a certificate of accidental death, and sent the body, or what was left of it, to the morgue. Later the body was claimed by the unfortunate man's father, Joseph Pedrick, of Pedricktown, Salem County. Young Pedrick was the captain of a dredging machine for a New-York company.

FORTUNE OF WAR.

If Veteran Has Steel Bullet Under His Shoulder Blade He Will Have a Home.

Spencerport, N. Y., Dec. 25 (Special).—"If the bullet which the surgeons extract from my shoulder is steel, I will live in peace and contentment on a pleasant Virginia plantation for the remainder of my days," said William McGregor, a war veteran, who was employed all the fall in this village as an apple picker. This sentence which he is quoted as uttering is only part of a strange story of the fortune of war and the generosity of a former foe, coupled with the playfulness of fate.

"During the operations before Richmond in 1864 I was employed as a scout on secret service work for the Union," said Mr. McGregor. "One night I penetrated into the suburbs of Richmond, and while crossing a street was fired upon from a window by a rebel. The bullet struck my shoulder and imbedded itself under the shoulder blade. I escaped in the darkness, and for many weeks was in the hospital with my wound. It finally healed, but the surgeons never found the bullet.

"I was present at the recent encampment in Washington, and while there heard some of my brother veterans recounting an incident they had read in a newspaper about a Colonel Surry, of Virginia, who had shot a man from a second story window in the course of the Richmond operations. This attracted my attention, and I made inquiries. The colonel, I found, had shot at the man as described. His rifle was loaded with a steel bullet, which in those days was a rarity, and he was quoted as saying that he had often wondered whether the man had lived through his wound and noticed the peculiarity about the missile which caused it.

"I secured the colonel's address, wrote him a letter, and soon received a reply cordially inviting me to come to his estate and pass the remainder of my days under the rooftree of my former foe. I have been saving up my money, and, having always intended to undergo an operation for the removal of the troublesome bullet, my resolution is now doubly firm, curiosity and a sense of fairness adding a spur to the physical need for the surgeon's knife. I am positive that the bullet will be found to be of steel."

MURDERED IN THE SOUTH SEAS.

Story of the Killing of a Schooner's Captain by Islanders.

Victoria, B. C., Dec. 25.—The steamer Moana from Australia to-day, brought news of an attack on the recruiting schooner Lilly by the natives of Malilcolo, in the New-Hebrides. They murdered Captain Henry Asmos Atkinson, an Englishman, and wounded two of the Lilly's crew. The schooner was engaged in taking home natives who had been employed in New-Caledonia by French planters. One of those consigned to Malilcolo died when near there, and Captain Atkinson decided to bury the body ashore instead of at sea. When Captain Atkinson landed he was rushed upon and his rifle taken by the blacks. He was then shot and killed with his own rifle, two balls being sent into his breast.

Some of the native crew tried to save the dead captain's body, but the natives who were just landed aided those ashore, and the crew fled, two of them being wounded as they swam back to the schooner.

The attack was the result of superstition attached to the burying of the dead body, the natives believing it necessary to kill the whites to prevent further deaths from occurring. The schooner Pearl was attacked on this island a few days later. She called at Espigle Bay, another part of the island, to land natives, when she was fired upon and several of the native crew were wounded.

A NEW LINE TO COLORADO.

Denver, Dec. 25.—"The Times" says that the announcement comes from an apparently authoritative source that the branch of the Texas and Pacific Railroad from Weatherford, Tex., to Mineral Wells, Tex., is to be extended to Trinidad, Col., where connection will be made with the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad, thus giving to Denver another direct road into Texas and the South. The road from Weatherford to Trinidad will be about four hundred and fifty miles long, and will form a link which will give the Gould system its own road from New-Orleans to Ogden, Utah. It will form an outlet from all of the Northern Pacific Coast to the leading Gulf shipping points, and give the Gould system a new connection of its own in the West.

THE SAXON COURT SCANDAL.

Pope Sends a Prelate to Geneva To See the Princess.

London, Dec. 26.—The Rome correspondent of "The Daily Mail" telegraphs that as an outcome of negotiations with the Saxon Court the Pope has sent a prelate to Geneva to inquire into the circumstances of the flight of the Crown Princess of Saxony, with a view to arranging a reconciliation.

SAY WOUNDED PRISONER CONFESSED.

Shot by Watchman While Breaking Window in Rogers, Peet & Co. Store.

Considerable excitement was caused last night at Thirteenth-st. and Broadway, when a watchman employed by Rogers, Peet & Co. wounded a man who, it is alleged, had broken a sidelight of glass in a window. An engine and hosecart, responding to a false alarm of fire at Second-ave. and Twelfth-st., had just passed, and a crowd of people had been attracted to the scene.

The man, who said he was Henry O. Kale, a printer, of No. 160 Bleecker-st., was shot in the leg, and was taken a prisoner to Bellevue Hospital by Policeman White, of the Mercer-st. station.

It was said that the man had been loafing near the store for about two hours. Policeman White says the watchman called his attention to the fact, and they watched him, the policeman hiding in a doorway and the watchman inside the store. When the fire apparatus passed and was making a noise, it is alleged that Kale drew a small hammer from his pocket and broke a light of glass in the window. The window is low, and the watchman, seeing the man's arm thrust through the window, fired. Kale, it is said, withdrew his arm quickly.

According to White, Kale admitted to him that he was trying to break into the window to steal something, saying that he had been hungry for several days, and was desperate. He said that it was his first offence, and that it was only the fact that he was starving that had made him try to do as he did. About this time last year a watchman in the same store shot a man in much the same manner.

SAYS UNCLE WANTED TO LOSE BOY.

Negro Accuses Greek, Who Makes Charges Against Him in Turn.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Stamford, Conn., Dec. 25.—Kostos Sentimente, ten years old, a Greek, who was left at the Third Precinct Police Station in Jersey City on December 15 by Benjamin Wright, a negro, who said he found the boy in the street in Boston, arrived at the house of his uncle, Nicholas J. Sentimente, in this city, this afternoon. The boy was brought back from New-York by his uncle and George Demor, a Greek, of this city, who went to Jersey City on Saturday for the lad. Sentimente and Demor deny the charge made by Wright that the former has been endeavoring to get rid of his nephew. They say that the uncle's desire was to have the boy placed where he would be properly educated and cared for, and that Wright said he knew just such a place, and agreed to take the boy there.

The negro left the lad at the Jersey City police station, and then came back here with a story that he had fulfilled his mission. His expenses were paid, and he received $3 additional. The little fellow said to-night that Wright instructed him on the way to Jersey City to tell people that he met the negro in Boston. When he demurred Wright struck him in the face, he says, and threatend him with awful punishment unless he obeyed. "When he went away I told the chief the truth, and wrote my uncle," the boy added, "and he sent George for me. The black man lied about me."

Sentimente declares that he was victimized by the negro, and will have him prosecuted. The latter is here yet, but had not been arrested late to-night.

The boy is the son of George Sentimente, who was formerly in business in New-York, but left there two years ago because of ill health, and returned to Katamata, Greece, his native city. The uncle, who has had the boy ever since, at one time kept a grocery store at No. 56 Roosevelt-st., New-York. He conducts a grocery store and lodging house here.

Eli Carpenter, a negro, who was released from State prison recently, informs the police that Sentimente tried to induce him to get rid of the boy. The affair will be placed before the prosecuting attorney to-morrow.

CONSUMPTIVE WOULD NOT WAIT.

After Playing at Christmas Reunion, She Commits Suicide.

Leticia Drake, nineteen years old, committed suicide last night at the home of her sister, Mrs. Parker, at No. 63 East One-hundred-and-twelfth-st., by drinking carbolic acid. The girl was a sufferer from consumption, and had been told by physicians that she had only a few months to live.

A week ago, as the holidays approached, she became despondent. Last night there was a family reunion at the Parker home, and all made merry, including Leticia. She played all evening with the children, but when they had gone to bed and the reaction set in, she became despondent again, and told her sister that she wished she could die that night. About ten minutes after Leticia had gone to her room Mrs. Parker heard a groan, and going to the room found Leticia dying on the bed, an empty glass that had contained carbolic acid on a table near by. Dr. Mallon, of No. 58 East One-hundred-and-twelfth-st. was called, but the girl was dead before he arrived.

DROP OF TWENTY DEGREES COMING.

Weather Bureau Sends Out Cold Wave Warning for To-day.

The following cold wave warning was issued by the Local Weather Bureau at 10 o'clock last night:

"The temperature will fall twenty or more degrees between 8 o'clock to-night and Saturday morning."

SNOWSLIDES IN WASHINGTON.

Seattle, Dec. 25.—The worst storm that has visited this section this season has been raging for the last thirty-six hours. There are now nine snowslides on the coast division of the Great Northern and Northern Pacific, and five earthslides on the coast lines caused by the rains in this vicinity. No trains have arrived here since Tuesday night.

A BLIZZARD IN MICHIGAN.

Grand Rapids, Mich., Dec. 25.—A fierce blizzard has been raging here since 6 o'clock last evening and trains on all roads are from three to five hours late. At midnight the storm was still raging furiously. The evening Père Marquette trains from Chicago, Detroit and from the North had not arrived at midnight. Huge snow drifts fill the cuts.

THE NEW PACIFIC CABLE.

On Board Cableship Silvertown, Dec. 25, via San Francisco.—The trip of the cableship Silvertown will be completed on Friday, and the first link in the transpacific cable will be laid. In making the Honolulu connection the cable will be buoyed thirty-five miles from the shore end and spliced.

In the last twenty-four hours 250 knots have been laid, making a total of 2,109 knots from San Francisco. A strong northeast trade wind is blowing, making the sea rough and a landing impossible until calmer weather. Not a single calm day has prevailed during the voyage from San Francisco.

CABMEN'S STRIKE AT ST. LOUIS.

St. Louis, Dec. 25.—The cab and carriage drivers' strike, begun at midnight last night for an increase in wages, has extended until now 390 out of the 570 drivers in St. Louis are out. Of the seventeen stables that have agreed to accede to the demands of the men only one member of the Liveryman's Association is said to have lived up to its agreement.

THIEF WHO ROBBED MILES CONVICTED.

Honolulu, Dec. 17, via Victoria, B. C., Dec. 25.—Pedro Rodrigues, the Porto Rican who robbed General Miles and Colonel and Mrs. Maus while they were in Honolulu on their way to the Philippines, has been found guilty of larceny in the first degree and sentenced to three years' hard labor in Oahu Penitentiary. Rodriguez stole a quantity of clothing belonging to Mrs. Maus, also some jewelry and some valuable private papers, belonging to General Miles. All were recovered by the police.

COMMERCIAL TRAVELERS
Credit Letters enable owners to have checks and drafts cashed without question or cost at all hotels in U. S. Nat'l Hotel Ass'n, 7 East 42nd St. Phone 4866-38.

STAB WOUND IN HEART.

Yonkers Man Killed in a Fight in a Tenement House Hallway.

Joseph Flynn, of No. 421 Nepperhan-ave., Yonkers, and John McCudden, of No. 28 Orchard-st., celebrated Christmas Eve together, and it ended in Flynn's death from a stab wound yesterday. About midnight Wednesday the two men were in a barber shop, and while in their chairs had an argument, which was characterized by strong words. By the time they had been shaved they were friends again, and left the shop in company. They went to the saloon of John Lucas, at Myrtle-st. and Nepperhan-ave., and had some drinks. Then they started together along Nepperhan-ave. They went into a nearby hallway and shouted and sang, and acted in a disorderly manner.

Paul Kellert, a Hungarian tenant, who had been out with his wife, arrived and remonstrated. The two men began to call the Hungarian names, and there was a scuffle in the hall. Suddenly Flynn called out that he had been stabbed. The fight stopped and the tenants of the house, who had run to the landings to see the trouble, fled into their apartments.

McCudden helped Flynn home, and then informed Patrolman Madden. Madden sent for the ambulance from St. John's Hospital, but when the doctor arrived Flynn was dead. Dr. Warren yesterday made an autopsy, and found that the knife had penetrated to the heart, and expressed wonder that Flynn had lived as long as he did.

Policeman Madden questioned McCudden about the affair, and McCudden began to abuse the officer and was locked up. Captain Woodruff had meantime turned out the reserves, and they brought in the inmates of the house where the stabbing took place. These included Kellert and his wife.

Coroner Schafmeister held an inquest yesterday afternoon and directed that Kellert be held for the grand jury without bail, and that McCudden also be held as a participant in the fight until the grand jury had investigated. Kellert denies the stabbing, although he admits having a fight with the two men.

YANKEE SKILL.

Tribute in Poem by the Rev. John Pierpont, Read at Litchfield Centennial Celebration.

The grandfather of J. Pierpont Morgan, the Rev. John Pierpont, was one of the early American poets. It is not known whether Mr. Morgan has ever aspired to woo the muse of his ancestor, although his love for books and rare and costly volumes is of every day comment. It may be a natural inference that Mr. Morgan, with his many and world-wide interests, does not find the time and the seclusion necessary for poetic self-communion.

The poems written by Mr. Morgan's grandfather include one which in the minds of some residents of Litchfield County, Conn., resembles in versification and swing of sentence Pope's "Essay on Man," although instead of being an essay on mankind in general, it deals only with that species which has been dubbed "Yankee."

Mr. Morgan gets his middle name from this grandfather, who was his mother's father. The poem, which is still read and recited in Litchfield County, was written by the Rev. Mr. Pierpont for the centennial celebration of Litchfield County. The exercises took place in Litchfield on August 13 and 14, 1851. Many prominent men of Connecticut and of other States took part in the ceremonies, including Samuel Church, Chief Justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court; Daniel S. Dickinson, United States Senator from New-York; Amasa J. Parker, of Albany, a Supreme Court Justice of New-York State; Frederick A. Tallmadge, Recorder of New-York City, and George Gould, of Troy.

The poem of the Rev. Mr. Pierpont was published in the history of the celebration, a copy of which is now in the possession of Erastus Darrow, of Rochester, N. Y. In reading the verses over again recently, Mr. Darrow was especially struck with certain passages, in which he thought he saw a foreshadowing of the character of the great financier. These lines, when examined, show that the grandfather, like the grandson, had in him that Yankee facility, that American "can and will," which has made the younger J. Pierpont Morgan famous the world over. The grandfather devoted these qualities to the ministry. The grandson has put them to account in banking.

Following are some selections from the Litchfield County poem:

'Twere hard, indeed, exactly to define
The Yankee nation by a boundary line.

Here dwells a people—by their leave I speak—
Peculiar, homogeneous, and unique,
With eyes wide open, and a ready ear,
Whate'er is going on to see and hear;
Nay, they do say, the genuine Yankee keeps
One eye half open, when he soundest sleeps—
Industrious, careful how he spends his cash—
(Though when he pleases he can "cut a dash")—
Quick at his business, in the field or shop,
He'll trade with you—buy, or sell, or "swap"—
And, if you get the better in the "trade,"
You earn your money, and your fortune's made.

These forming powers produce a race of men,
Not seen before, nor to be seen again,
On the round world; a stirring, hardy race,
Keen, careful, daring, ready to embrace
Peril for profit—in each form, or all
The forms encountered by the Apostle Paul.

. . . . . .

The Yankee boy, before he's sent to school,
Well knows the mysteries of that Yankee tool,
The pocketknife. To that his wistful eye
Turns, while he hears his mother's lullaby;
His hoarded cents he gladly gives to get it,
Then leaves no stone unturned till he can whet it:
And, in the education of the lad,
No little part that implement hath had.
His pocketknife to the young whittier brings
A growing knowledge of material things.
Projectiles, music and the sculptor's art,
His chestnut whistle, and his shingle dart,
His elder popgun with its hickory rod,
Its sharp explosion and rebounding wad,
His cornstalk fiddle, and the deeper tone,
That murmurs from his pumpkin leaf trombone,
Conspire to teach the boy. To these succeed
His bow, his arrow of a feathered reed,
His windmill, raised the passing breeze to win,
His water wheel that turns upon a pin;
Or if his father lives upon the shore,
You'll see his ship, "beam ends" upon the floor,
Full rigged, with raking masts and timber staunch,
And waiting, near the washtub, for a launch.

Thus by his genius and his jackknife driven,
Ere long he'll solve you any problem given;
Make any gimcrack, musical or mute,
A plow, a coach, an organ or a flute,
Make you a locomotive or a clock,
Cut a canal, or build a floating dock,
Or lead forth Beauty from a marble block;
Make anything, in short, for sea and shore,
From a child's rattle to a Seventy-four:
Make it, said I? Ay, when he undertakes it
He'll make the thing, and the machine that makes it.
And, when the thing is made, whether it be
To move on earth, in air, or on the sea,
Whether on water, o'er the waves to glide,
Or upon land, to roll, revolve or slide,
Whether to whirl or jar, to strike or ring,
Whether it be a piston or a spring,
Wheel, pulley, tube sonorous, wood or brass,
The thing designed shall surely come to pass;
For, when his hand's upon it, you may know,
That there's go in it, and he'll make it go.

From Yankee genius, industry and skill,
Since Justice took her seat upon this hill,
Innumerable things, contrived as means
Of saving labor—multiform machines,
Impelled by wind, by water and by steam,
By sheep, by horses, by the tardier team
Of bullocks,—nay, for labors very nice,
Mills and machinery that are worked by mice;
A lathe that turns out of a wooden block
A last, an axe-helve, or a musket stock.
Nay—if you stand so that it can get at you
It will turn you into a marble statue.
This is no fiction; it is strictly true;
'Twill turn a marble "duplicate" of you.
A printing press, that, by hot water power,
Prints twenty thousand volumes in an hour!
A car, that, if you wish to run away,
Will carry you three hundred miles a day!
But think not that, when in that car you've fled,
you
Are "off" so fast that nothing else can "head" you.
If so, you've thought, without your host you've
reckoned:
The news shall run a thousand miles a second,
Along a wire, by Yankee genius given,
To make a telltale of the fire from heaven;
And if your friends are anxious to restore you,
The lightning starts next day, and gets there long
before you.

A LARGE FIRE IN ILLINOIS.

Bloomington, Ill., Dec. 25.—Fire in the business section here to-night caused a loss of about $200,000. The building occupied by W. A. Nicolaus & Co., drygoods and women's furnishings, was destroyed, and the double store of C. W. Klem, wholesale and retail drygoods, was considerably damaged by smoke and water. Charles Abrams, assistant fire chief, fell from a ladder and was seriously injured.

BROKER GIVES "NEWSIES" DINNER.

Seven hundred newsboys enjoyed a turkey dinner last night at the Newsboys' Lodging House, in Duane st., through the generosity of William F. Fleiss, a broker, of No. 47 Broadway, who for thirty-six years has supplied the "newsies" with a Christmas dinner. The boys were fed in relays of about two hundred, and both before and after the dinner were entertained in the schoolroom upstairs by recitations, songs and instrumental music. After the dinner Superintendent Heig distributed seven hundred pairs of gloves, a pair to each lad, the gift of Randolph Guggenheimer.

HAPPY CHILDREN
are a joy to any household. To keep them so educate them to read the Children's Page, a feature of The Sunday Tribune.

A Sale of Overcoats of the Highest Grade.

Regular Prices $38.00, $40.00, $45.00, $50.00;
Now at $32.00.

We have just two hundred and seventy-eight Overcoats that are as good in fabric and tailoring as human hands ever fashioned. They are expressive and impressive garments that evince the intelligence and spirit of the craftsman in his handiwork. They represent an external manifestation of his cleverness; the fulness of Overcoat possibilities, no matter under what condition they may be produced, whether ready-for-service or made-to-order.

They are made in the Surtout and 42 or 45-inch Box Models, of the finest imported coatings, which include John Erskine's Sons' Patent Beavers, German Eskimos, English Elysians and Sedan Montagnacs; they are lined throughout with the highest grade Satin Duchesse or silk Merveilleux. Desiring to reduce our stock of these high-grade, high-cost overcoats, we have decided to offer you your choice of any of them at $32.00

THE SALE BEGINS THIS MORNING.

Saks & Company
Broadway, 33d to 34th Street

Overcoat Days!

Been cutting prices in our Overcoat Stock and the result is presented to you, commencing this morning. Men's Winter Overcoats, in Oxfords, Mixed, Olive and Black, Some Silk Lined and Some Worsted Lined with Silk Shoulders, including some of our very best grades. Have been $30, $35 & $40,

Now $25.

Another line, same style of goods, serge lined, have been $18, $20 & $25,

Now $15.

Some especially good values in extra large sizes, although all sizes are included.

The best, as usual, to the first comers.

ALL THREE STORES:

Smith, Gray & Co.
Broadway at 31st St.
BROOKLYN | Broadway at Bedford Ave. Fulton St. at Flatbush Ave.

ITALIANS IN PITCHED BATTLE.

Three Wounded, One May Die, Three Locked Up.

A pitched battle among six Italians, three on