Amusements.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC—2—8:15—Florodora.
AMERICAN THEATRE—2—8:15—The Sporting Duchess.
BELASCO THEATRE—8—The Darling of the Gods.
BIJOU THEATRE—8:20—Nancy Brown.
BROADWAY THEATRE—2—8—The Silver Slipper.
CASINO—2:15—8:15—A Chinese Honeymoon.
CIRCLE THEATRE—2—8—Vaudeville.
CRITERION THEATRE—2—8:15—The Jewel of Asia.
DALY'S THEATRE—2:15—8:15—The Billionaire.
EDEN MUSEE—2—8—The World in Wax.
EMPIRE THEATRE—2:15—8:20—The Unforeseen.
GARDEN THEATRE—1:45—Hamlet—8—If I Were King.
GARRICK THEATRE—2:15—8:15—Mice and Men.
HARLEM OPERA HOUSE—8:15—The Mocking Bird.
HERALD SQUARE THEATRE—8:15—Mr. Pickwick.
IRVING PLACE THEATRE—8:20—Narciss.
KEITH'S—Continuous Performance.
KNICKERBOCKER THEATRE—2—8—Mr. Blue Beard.
MADISON SQUARE THEATRE—8:15—The Earl of Pawtucket.
MAJESTIC THEATRE—2—8—The Wizard of Oz.
MANHATTAN THEATRE—2—8—Mary of Magdala.
METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE—8—Faust.
MRS. OSBORN'S PLAY HOUSE—Romeo and Juliet.
MURRAY HILL THEATRE—2—8—Magda.
NEW SAVOY—3—The Little Princess—8:20—The Girl with the Green Eyes.
PASTOR'S—Continuous Performance.
PRINCESS THEATRE—8:30—The Frisky Mrs. Johnson.
PROCTOR'S THEATRE—Vaudeville.
ST. NICHOLAS SKATING RINK—8:15—Hockey Match.
VICTORIA THEATRE—8:15—Resurrection.
WALLACK'S THEATRE—2—8:15—The Sultan of Sulu.
WEST END THEATRE—2—8—The Village Postmaster.

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New-York Daily Tribune.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1903.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

CONGRESS.—Senate: At a Republican caucus an agreement was reached on a plan to ratify the Panama Canal treaty; the Statehood bill was discussed, and the conference report on the Army Appropriation bill was adopted. ═══ House: Consideration of the Naval Appropriation bill was begun.

FOREIGN.—The King, in his speech from the throne, at the opening of Parliament, made reference to the Venezuelan, Turkish and Alaskan questions; it is probable that taxes in England will be raised to meet proposed expenditures. ═══ A sharp debate took place in the House of Commons, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman and Mr. Balfour being the chief speakers. ═══ It was reported that the Austro-Russian note for reforms in Macedonia would be presented to the Porte to-morrow. ═══ The revenue cutter Seminole is still icebound in Channel Harbor, and immense icefloes are reported in Northern waters. ═══ It was stated that Lord Charles Beresford would take command of the Channel Squadron. ═══ Tolstoy's "Resurrection" was played at His Majesty's Theatre in London.

DOMESTIC.—A protocol providing that claims of citizens of the United States shall be settled by a commission to meet at Caracas was signed at the State Department. ═══ Secretary Root and Senators Lodge and Turner will be the American members of the Alaskan boundary commission, and ex-Secretary John W. Foster will have charge of the case of the United States. ═══ The Delaware Regular Republicans were amused by Addicks's threats to kill them politically; the Unions refused the recent proposal from the Regulars, and the Democrats issued a statement saying that if there were no election the Regulars would be responsible. ═══ St. Clair McKelway has resigned as Regent of the University of the State of New-York because of poor health. ═══ District Attorney Jerome failed to appear in support of his bill, which will have another hearing next Tuesday. ═══ Farmers appeared before the Canal Committee at Albany in opposition to a 1,000-ton barge canal bill. ═══ Storms up State delayed trains, and in one place caused a collision; intense cold followed in their wake; there was a continuation of the severe storm all over the country, reports showing much suffering.

CITY.—Stocks were dull and lower. ═══ Mayor Low, in a message to the aldermen, recommended that the term of the Mayor again be made four years; he urged all citizens to join in crushing out police blackmail; he showed the excellent work that is being done by the various city departments. ═══ Work was begun on cleaning up the 9.9 inches of snow that had fallen; the contractor, N. Bradley, estimated the cost at $200,000. ═══ One hundred and fifty passengers were placed in a dangerous position by two cars on an elevated train leaving the track at Fifty-third-st.; they were compelled to walk the icy footpath to Fiftieth-st. ═══ A mail clerk was arrested, charged with robbing the mails; forty-five letters containing money, stamps, etc., were found on his person. ═══ Perry Belmont was in court as complainant against his secretary, who is charged with raising a check $1,000. ═══ It was said that the District Attorney might ask for an indictment against R. C. Vanderbilt. ═══ Bishop Potter has written a letter giving his ideas regarding the division of the diocese. ═══ Police Commissioner Greene visited the Tenderloin station; he expressed himself as pleased with conditions there. ═══ A receiver was asked for the Monmouth Trust and Safe Deposit Company, of Asbury Park; the examiner's report strongly condemns heavy loans to the company's directors.

THE WEATHER.—Indications for to-day: Fair and colder. The temperature yesterday: Highest, 30 degrees; lowest, 10.

THE MAYOR'S MESSAGE.

Mayor Low yesterday sent to the Board of Aldermen the second instalment of his message. It deals with finance, the Law, Police, Water Supply, Street Cleaning and Bridge departments. The conviction enforced by the discussion of the work of all these departments is that the problems of city government are at last being dealt with in an enlightened and progressive spirit worthy of a civilized city. There are, as the Mayor sees, many things to be desired, but everywhere is evidence of intelligent effort to accomplish large benefits to the people where formerly officials were content with a routine performance of duty, even when they consented to do honest duty instead of misusing their trust. Carrying out an intelligent policy of this kind is not the work of a year or two years, and Mayor Low suggests that the Mayor's term should be changed so that after 1906, or with the end of the term to be filled next fall, it will be four years. It was a great misfortune that the term was changed in 1901. Otherwise there might have been a fair chance for the present administration to overcome the effects of four years of Tammany misrule before having its work finally judged.

As to the details of the city administration the message speaks for itself. We may note, however, that for an increased interest charge of only $146,214 38 the city is securing $29,000,000 worth of public improvements of the greatest importance. If the reform in the sinking fund goes through, the city will be placed in an excellent financial situation. A vast amount of work has been done by the Law Department in defending the city against claims and in collecting old debts. The Mayor pays a deserved tribute to Colonel Partridge for breaking up the "red light district" and the "cadet system" and bringing up the depleted force to its legal limit on Civil Service reform principles. He discusses the proposed lengthening of the Police Commissioner's term to fourteen years, and rightly declares that it would too much remove the police from any accountability. Not only are steps being taken in the Water Department to increase the water supply, but also to stop the enormous waste which threatens to make any supply inadequate.

A most significant exhibition of Tammany government is given in the table showing that in the growing Borough of Manhattan the cartloads of garbage collected fell off from 181,682 under Mayor Strong in 1897 to 164,317 in 1898, to 150,965 in 1901, and under Commissioner Woodbury in 1902 increased to 205,691. That there was less garbage in 1901 than in 1897 is not to be supposed, but it was mixed with ashes and both products were wasted. By the present system of separation the city is making money and the beaches are kept clean. Dr. Woodbury's new system of final disposition by trolley cars in the outlying boroughs is described at length, and is a capital illustration of the prevailing municipal intelligence and enterprise. The administration is also taking a long look ahead and seeking to provide adequate terminals for the new bridges and getting the best expert advice. It is unfortunate that such a course was not taken long ago, particularly with reference to the Williamsburg Bridge, so that facilities for taking passengers away from it might have been ready on its completion.

THE ELEVATED ROAD IN THE BATTERY.

The letter of Park Commissioner Willcox and Corporation Counsel Rives to the Mayor calls attention to the need of some action to fix the status of the elevated railroad in Battery Park. The railroad structure now occupies the park under a revocable license of a former Park Commissioner, which the present officials believe to have been given without any legal authority. For twenty-five years the railroad has been, strictly speaking, a trespasser. Several times attempts to revoke the permit have been made, only to be temporarily enjoined by the courts and the question dropped. As public necessity requires the access of the road to South Ferry, it is clear that the line must occupy Battery Park unless an alternative route can be found. Mr. Willcox does not believe this possible. The new Custom House prevents access to Whitehall-st., and likewise prevents a sharp turning into State-st. and running along the edge of Battery Park, though we are not sure that by cutting across a corner of the park the line might not go through State-st. from Bridge-st. to the ferry. Even so, however, some of the park must be used, and the question arises how to reach a satisfactory arrangement.

It is obvious that present conditions invite blackmail the instant officers are in power who wish to blackmail. The history of the attempt of Croker, under the last administration, to punish the Manhattan people when he fell out with them gives a warning. The proceedings then undertaken are still hung up in the Corporation Counsel's office, and that official rightly wants to close them up. At present the city gets no revenue from the trespassing railroad. The company is willing, if it can get a legal franchise to reach South Ferry for a definite term, and so free itself from future blackmail, to pay a reasonable compensation to the city, put its tracks at any place desired by the department, and rebuild its structure on plans to be approved by the Municipal Art Commission, so as to make it, if not positively an adornment to the park, at least as inoffensive as possible. Arrangements can also be made to plant shrubs and trees at its expense.

Such a plan cannot be carried out without legislation authorizing the Park Department, in co-operation with the rest of the city government, to grant a legal permit with due restrictions. That is what Mr. Willcox and Mr. Rives propose. The ideal thing would undoubtedly be the removal of the railroad from the Battery, but to do that entirely is evidently impracticable, though the space occupied might be considerably reduced. It is better under such circumstances to reach a definite arrangement, shut the door on future corruption, secure some city revenue, and improve the appearance of the Battery, than to leave the present unsightly structure in free occupation to invite future official "strikes."

TO KEEP THE RECORD STRAIGHT.

"In lapidary inscriptions," said Dr. Johnson, "a man is not upon oath." But though the author of a lapidary inscription or other memorial tribute may perhaps properly make some concession to benevolence in depicting the qualities of the departed, he has no excuse for overlaying with fanciful embellishments what purports to be a narrative of facts. In the interest of truth it is to be regretted that Senator Depew forgot this and drew so largely on his imagination for the materials of his animated discourse in the Senate chamber last Saturday on the character and career of the late Amos J. Cummings, long a Representative in Congress from this city.

"When he [Cummings] came back to New-York," said Mr. Depew, "he entered the com-"posing room of The New-York Tribune. In a "short time he had attracted the personal atten-"tion of Horace Greeley, who advanced him to "a position on the editorial staff, and he finally "became managing editor." The truth is that Mr. Cummings never was and never came near being managing editor of The Tribune. At the time when Mr. Cummings attained to a subordinate place in its news department John Russell Young was the managing editor, and it was Mr. Young's moderate estimate of the value of his services which led to Mr. Cummings's retirement from this paper.

Mr. Depew spoke of the great productions of Mr. Greeley's pen during the period when "Cummings was with him." Inasmuch as the implication seems to be that the circumstance of Cummings being with him was an inspiration to Mr. Greeley, it may be worth while to say that Mr. Greeley, absorbed in his own labors, was probably scarcely conscious of the young man's existence and may not have exchanged a word with him as often as once a week. That Mr. Greeley, nevertheless, exercised a great influence over the mind of Mr. Cummings is altogether likely.

Mr. Depew went on to draw this pathetic picture of Mr. Greeley at the close of the Presidential campaign of 1872, on his own authority as an eye witness:

> I have seen many a deathbed in my life; I have witnessed life go out under conditions that were sad or sweet, hopeful or despairing. I never but once saw a man die of a broken heart, and never do I wish to see such a tragedy again. I made a speech with Mr. Greeley in his Presidential campaign just before its close. We spoke from the same platform, and both of us knew that he was to be beaten. We returned to his home, and he was jeered on the train and at the depot when we arrived. We went to his study, which was littered with those famous caricatures of Nast, representing him as the embodiment of all that was evil or vile in expression or practice in life. Mr. Greeley glanced them over for a moment and then he said:
>
> "My life is a failure; I never have sought to "accumulate fortune; I never have cared for "fame; but I did want to leave a monument of "what I had done for my fellow men, in lifting "them up, in doing away with the curse of sla-"very and the curse of rum; but here I am, at "the close of this campaign, so misrepresented "to my countrymen that the slave will always "look upon me as having been one of his owners, "and reform will believe me a fraud."
>
> Then, his head falling upon his desk, he burst into uncontrollable sobs. I sent for his family. The brain that had done such splendid work snapped. The next morning he was taken to an asylum, where he died. His heart literally broke at the moment when he bowed his head upon his desk.

So much for Mr. Depew's vivid recollection. Now for the reality: On Saturday, October 12, 1872, there was a political meeting in Pleasantville, near Chappaqua, which was attended by many of Mr. Greeley's old friends and neighbors, and owing to that circumstance, as he explained, Mr. Greeley took pains to be present and made a speech. Mr. Depew was also there and spoke. At that time Mrs. Greeley, who had long been ill, had become much worse, and thereafter she failed rapidly until her death, on October 30, at the house of Mr. and Mrs. Alvin J. Johnson, in this city. During the last fortnight Mr. Greeley was with her constantly, refusing to take any further part in the campaign, so that, as it happened, the Pleasantville speech was the last speech he made. Immediately after the meeting Mr. Greeley and Mr. Depew took the train for New-York, but Mr. Greeley got off at Williamsbridge to spend the night with Waldo Hutchins, while Mr. Depew came on to New-York. So vanishes the touching fable about Mr. Greeley's confession of failure to Mr. Depew, the uncontrollable sobs, the broken heart, the sending for the family, the snapping of the brain that had done such splendid work and the removal to an asylum the next morning.

The facts are that in a signed communication written on the day after the election Mr. Greeley resumed the editorship of The Tribune in full possession of his mental faculties, wrote and published several articles in the course of the next few days, but after November 12 abandoned the effort to visit the office regularly, gradually succumbed to exhaustion, due chiefly to his sleepless vigil at his wife's bedside at the end of a hard campaign, and died at the residence of Dr. Choate, near Chappaqua, inflammation of the brain covering having ensued, on November 29, more than six weeks after the Pleasantville meeting at which he made his last speech and Mr. Depew also spoke.

Of course, Mr. Depew will understand that our sole motive in setting him straight is to prevent his speech, preserved in "The Congressional Record," from being carelessly accepted as accurate and possibly to some extent supplanting, or confusing, the truth.

THE BRITISH OUTLOOK.

Parliament at Westminster reassembles amid auspicious circumstances, though they are of recent creation. In some cases only a few days, in others a few weeks at most, have elapsed between pessimism and optimism. Had the Venezuela matter not been adjusted, had the Alaska boundary treaty not been made and ratified, had Lord Dunraven and Mr. Redmond not put their names side by side on the Land Commission's report, and had Mr. Chamberlain not gone to South Africa and exercised there his marvellous gifts of leadership—far different would have been the tone of his majesty's speech of yesterday. This sudden shifting of political and diplomatic scenes is to be regarded, however, not in the least as depreciating the stability of present conditions, but merely as an illustration of the way in which history is sometimes made.

In such circumstances the King's speech was easily and in good faith made a buoyant and hopeful one. It might be described as an aggressive one. At any rate, it maps out an uncommonly advantageous fighting ground for the Ministry, and thus again disappoints the numerous and fluent prophets of evil. Within the last three years how often has utter smash for the Unionist government, if not for England herself, been cocksurely forecast! The South African war meant ruin. Surely the bills at the end of it would swamp everybody concerned in them, especially since an iniquitous tax had been put upon the bread of the people. The Education bill, we were told, had sealed the doom of Mr. Balfour and his Cabinet. Of course, there was always the Irish trouble, which could know no amelioration until the ghost of Gladstonian home rule was reincarnated and made potent for the dismemberment of the empire. And so on, forebodings without end. To-day they have all faded out of sight and sound. Serenity, confidence and hope prevail on every hand. It is a time in which the King and his Ministers, and indeed the British nation, may well feel heartiest gratification.

The United States is more than ordinarily concerned, too, in the King's speech or in the matters with which it deals. Especial emphasis, we are told, was laid upon the passage relating to the Alaska boundary treaty, a measure which Americans and Englishmen join in hoping will lead to the final settlement of the last question at issue between the two countries. The Venezuela matter is also one of much concern to this country, and, while technically the expected settlement of the Irish land troubles is a purely domestic affair to the British Empire, obvious circumstances make it scarcely less interesting to the United States than to the United Kingdom. It is to be observed, too, that in some of the speeches made on the address yesterday the maintenance and cultivation of friendly relations between Great Britain and America occupied much earnest attention. The general British outlook, not only for this session, but for so much of the future as can properly be made the subject of forecasting, is encouraging and hopeful to the British themselves, and is reassuring and gratifying to the nation whose relationship to Great Britain is so intimate and reciprocally important.

FAST TELEGRAPHY.

The delight with which the Emperor of Germany watched a test of the Pollak-Virag system of telegraphy the other day will be understood by those who are familiar with that invention. In point of speed it appears to be much superior to all other equally well known plans for machine transmission. When it was tried between Chicago and New-York in December, 1899, during a visit of the inventor to America, long messages were sent with ease, under unfavorable conditions, at the rate of seventy thousand or eighty thousand words an hour. A still better showing has been expected, and may some time be realized. In the recent demonstration in Germany a speed of only fifty thousand was attained. Yet think what that means! A President's message or other public document, twelve thousand words long, could be sent over a single press wire inside of fifteen minutes!

So far as their transmitting mechanism is concerned, Herren Pollak and Virag show little originality. They use a strip of paper previously punched with holes representing dots and dashes, just as several other inventors do. The most novel feature of their system is the method of receiving. The incoming electric impulses cause a thin strip of metal, resembling a telephone diaphragm, to vibrate and thus move a tiny mirror attached thereto. A slender beam of light from an incandescent light falls upon the mirror, and is reflected thence to a strip of photographically sensitive paper, which is steadily unrolled by clockwork when messages come. Chemicals for "development" being applied, the paper exhibits a continuous dark line, with upward projections for dashes and downward ones for dots. At first the inventors left the development to be conducted at the convenience of the receiving operator, but the process is now entirely automatic. So, too, is that other essential of photography, "fixing."

In view of the obvious merits of this system one may wonder why it has not been adopted by governments or corporations which carry on telegraphic service. A moment's consideration, though, reveals a serious drawback to it. After the comparatively trifling delay in making the record visible, the messages must be written out by hand or machine. That strip of paper cannot be sent to newspapers or commercial patrons. It must be deciphered, and the translation must be conveyed to stationery. This kind of work would consume just as much time, in proportion to the number of words, as is now required by the older system. If typewritten "copy" could be turned out at the rate of fifty thousand words an hour, that would be a different matter.

Prospects are encouraging that the Empire State may ere long be foremost among the commonwealths of the Union in the making of good roads, as in many other lines of progress and development.

The resignation of Mr. St. Clair McKelway, Editor of "The Brooklyn Eagle," from the State Board of Regents will be widely regretted. After twenty years of active, sagacious and loyal service in that capacity, Mr. McKelway is constrained to retire solely because a recent illness, though he has happily recovered, has warned him that he must hereafter devote less time and strength to labors outside of his newspaper office. His colleagues, who urged him to reconsider his decision if he conscientiously could, will greatly miss him, and the public loss is serious. But it is gratifying to know that through his journal he will continue to be a wise counsellor in all matters relating to the schools.

History repeated itself yesterday. On February 17, 1902, the city was buried under deep snow, street and railway traffic was badly crippled, and passengers on Long Island and New-Jersey trains were imprisoned for hours while on their way to New-York

When the returns are all in it may appear that this last storm has left a little more snow in a few places north of Mason and Dixon's line than has fallen at any time before during the present winter. In spots, too, perhaps the thermometer will read a trifle lower. The most notable feature of the latest meteorological demonstration, though, is the wide area affected. The South has come in for an exceptional amount of rain and snow, and freezing temperatures have extended almost to the Gulf coast. Whether the orange groves of Florida have suffered as they have in other winters remains to be seen, but if they escape a fatal blight their owners will be fortunate.

Are the electrical engineers who put the third rail system on the elevated lines proud of their work?

The after-coffee orator is in livelier demand in Manhattan this winter than ever before. Who can recall a season in which there were so many dinners of associations and fraternities, and in which wit and wisdom over the cigars were in so eager request?

The head of the Police Department is scraping off the barnacles which have so long interfered with the progress of the force. He is a strong man who is tearing to shreds the red tape of Mulberry Street, while he carefully observes the provisions of the laws.

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

The policy of Western educators regarding the Rhodes scholarships has been decided upon. Young men, to be eligible, must be at least twenty-four years old, unmarried, and not less than juniors in college, according to the decision of the representatives of twenty-four Western universities. Dr. George H. Parkin, representing the Rhodes fund, was present at the meeting of the educators which was held at the University of Chicago recently.

A COCKNEY OMAR.

Omar is gone, and so is many more
As took their pleasure underneath the sun;
I may 'ave followed likewise, friend, before
You read this verse—before the verse is done.

Now, Omar was a man that understood,
And did not grouse, but saw the truth of life,
And saw full well that simple things are good,
As friends, and 'ealth, a glass of wine, a wife.

So I must 'old that Fitz, who loved 'im well,
Done 'im a wrong, for I do not believe
You ought to think the 'ome in w'ich you dwell
An 'iding place you'll shortly 'ave to leave.

It do not 'appen; days may 'old a lot,
And any moment bring a change of luck;
With this 'ere blueing everything you've got
In one wild spree I will not 'ave no truck.

Omar was right, my friend, and so am I:
Life must be lived, and money's made to spend.
Go slow on joy, and, knowing you must die,
Do not require the parish at the end.
—(London Express.

It is just 113 years since the first lifeboat was launched. Lionel Lukin, a coach builder, of Long Acre, was the inventor.

'One hundred years ago there were thirty lifeboats stationed on the different coasts of Britain.

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution was founded in 1828. Since that day it has saved forty-four thousand persons from watery graves. In 1849 a lifeboat capsized on the Herd Sands, and twenty out of a crew of twenty-four were drowned.

This accident caused the Duke of Northumberland to offer 100 guineas for the best lifeboat submitted in open competition. James Beeching, of Great Yarmouth, won the prize.

In 1883, and again in 1887, prizes for the best lifeboat were offered; but it seems impossible ever to design a boat capable of withstanding all the risks of a tempestuous sea.

At a small wayside station a woman gave up a ticket and a half for herself and a lubberly son. Said the collector, thoughtfully: "A bit big for half a ticket, ain't he?" "Maybe he is," said the woman, with prompt directness, "but he wasn't when he left home. Yours is a slow line."—(London Globe.

While France is aghast at the increasing ravages of alcoholism among all classes of the population, and in spite of the official report of the Academy of Medicine, acting under the direction of the Minister of the Interior, containing a list of the poisonous essences used in the manufacture of liqueurs, M. Duclaux, a director of the Pasteur Institute, comes out with an article favoring the alimentary properties of alcohol, and saying that a litre of wine or twelve or fifteen liqueur glasses of spirits drunk daily are beneficial, rather than injurious. So the Gallic doctors disagree, and the nation meanwhile wonders why its population is stationary or diminishing.

Mrs. Smith—We missed you so much at our party!
Mrs. Jones—And I was so vexed when I couldn't come! You see, our cook had company unexpectedly, and she needed us to fill out the card tables.
—(Detroit Journal.

To broaden the field of feminine occupation is evidently an active principle in Seattle, where two women burglars have just robbed in her own house one of their own sex, carrying off $2,000 and odd trinketry, and so ably squaring the local police that so far no trace of them has been discovered. Westward the star of female enterprise takes its way; though, as it has now got to the limit of the continent, it will probably allay its glowing axle in the Pacific waters and take a rest, which it needs almost as urgently as the public.

The physicians were holding a consultation beside the cot of the man supposed to have appendicitis concealed about his person.
"I believe," said one of the surgeons, "that we should wait and let him get stronger before cutting into him."
Before the other prospective operators could reply, the patient turned his head and remarked feebly:
"What do you take me for—a cheese?"—(Baltimore American.

"The Arbeitz Markt Correspondent," a Saxon trade paper of much authority, says that as a type of the depressed industrial condition of Germany the situation at Chemnitz, a noted centre of machinery manufacture, where 17,000 men are ordinarily employed, may serve as an example. Of this large number only a small proportion can now find work, and it is stated as a further evidence of depression that of those employed all but a few work only eight hours a day. In many establishments men are employed only as orders are received, and this uncertainty has caused the average earnings of operators who formerly received as much as 18 or 25 marks a week to fail as low as 12 marks, and even less. The journal says it is not alone the Saxon industries which are thus prostrated, but in the Rhine and Westphalia centres of production the same conditions prevail. Everywhere there are constant dismissals of workmen and reduction of the hours of work.

Nodd—Old man, I really believe you have stopped your worrying. What brought about the change?
Todd (cheerfully)—My troubles are more real than they used to be.—(Life.

About People and Social Incidents.

AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

Washington, Feb. 17 (Special).—Mrs. Roosevelt, accompanied by her maid, went to Philadelphia this afternoon, and will return to-morrow. She will be the guest of Mrs. John William Brock, who gives a dinner in her honor to-night and a box party at the opera.

THE CABINET.

Washington, Feb. 17 (Special).—Mrs. Knox will go to Palm Beach the latter part of the week, and will be accompanied by Miss Johnson and Hugh Knox. Mrs. Knox, while not ill, feels the need of a rest, and the trip South has been planned for that purpose.

Mrs. George B. Cortelyou, wife of the latest addition to the Cabinet, has made many friends in her five years' residence here. Before her marriage she was Miss Lily M Hinds, daughter of Dr. John Hinds, president of the Hempstead Institute, of New-York. The family consists of three boys and a baby girl. The secretary has a pleasant home on Capitol Hill. Mrs. Cortelyou is a bright and pleasing woman.

The dispatch boat Dolphin left the Washington Navy Yard to-day for Norfolk to undergo slight repairs, preparatory to making a cruise in the West Indies with Secretary Moody and possibly a friend or two as passengers.

THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS.

Washington, Feb. 17 (Special).—The Russian Ambassador is suffering from the grip, and has not yet moved from the I-st. house, though Countess Cassini and her guests took possession of the new embassy yesterday morning. The lease of the old embassy does not expire until May 1, but the ambassador desired to move into the new house before the Pavlow-Des Planques wedding, as it is larger and more commodious in every way. Alexander Pavlow, the Russian Minister to Corea, and Gabriel Des Planques arrived at the Russian Embassy to-day.

It is understood that the Berlin Foreign Office will soon announce the appointment of a new first secretary of embassy here to succeed Count von Quadt, who has received leave of absence and will sail for home with his family on February 24. In recognition of his services here it is expected that Emperor William will promote Count von Quadt to a more important post.

NOTES OF SOCIETY IN WASHINGTON.

Washington, Feb. 17 (Special).—Senator and Mrs. Hanna gave a dinner to-night in honor of Speaker and Mrs. Henderson. Invited to meet them were the Secretary of the Treasury and Mrs. Shaw, Senator and Mrs. Dryden, Senator and Mrs. Burrows, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas F. Walsh, Mr. and Mrs. James R. Garfield, the Secretary of the Senate and Mrs. Bennett, Mr. and Mrs. William R. Merriam, Surgeon General and Mrs. Rixey, Mr. and Mrs. Perry S. Heath and Miss Phelps.

The Paymaster General of the army and Mrs. Bates gave a dinner to-night. Their guests were Admiral and Mrs. Dewey, Mrs. Garret A. Hobart, Mr. and Mrs. John W. Foster, Mr. and Mrs. George Bradley Lothrop, Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Spaulding, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Curtis, Representative and Mrs. Dalzell, Mrs. Audendried, Senator and Miss Kean, Mrs. Wallach, Senator Hale and Admiral Kenney.

General and Mrs. Kearny, of New-York, who have taken the Lyman Tiffany house for the winter, were among the dinenr givers of to-night. Their guests were Justice and Mrs. Harlan, the Peruvian Minister and Mrs. Calderon; the Persian Minister, General Isaac Khan, General and Mrs. Corbin, Mr. and Mrs. Cropper, Countess Esterhazy, Miss Hitchcock, Miss Kearny and General Young.

Senator and Mrs. Alger gave a dinner to-night. Their guests were the British Ambassador and Lady Herbert, Senator and Mrs. Wetmore, Justice and Mrs. Holmes, General and Mrs. Draper, Mr. and Mrs. Henley Smith, Mrs. Slater, Mrs. Nicholas Anderson, Mrs. William E. Bailey, daughter of the host and hostess; Mr. Boardman, Representatitive Morrell and M. A. Henry, of Detroit.

NEW-YORK SOCIETY.

Although on the Continent of Europe, and also down South, especially at New-Orleans, the last week before Lent is invariably the gayest of the season and given up to dancing, here in New-York it is usually the dullest. It is only after Ash Wednesday that there will be a revival of social activity, which will take the form of those Lenten diversions which render the penitential period in New-York, with its innumerable small entertainments and its absence of more elaborate affairs, one of the most agreeable of the entire year.

The only large dance set for last night was that on board the New-Hampshire, lying off East Twenty-fourth-st., given by the members of the 1st Battalion of the Naval Militia. The spar deck, where the dancing took place, was most picturesquely decorated with bunting, palms and flowers, and the music was provided by a string orchestra, while the battalion's own band played throughout the supper, which was served on the gun deck. Mrs. H. Livingston Satterlee, Mrs. Hilborne Roosevelt, Mrs. Stephen Peabody, Mrs. W. Butler Duncan, jr., and Mrs. Stephen H. P. Pell were among the patronesses of the affair who helped to receive the guests.

Several musicals figured on the calendar for yesterday, the most notable being that given by Mrs. Frederick Bell, of Morristown, N. J., at the Waldorf-Astoria, at which several of the artists from the Metropolitan Opera House sang. It was preceded by a large dinner. Mrs. L. Baylies likewise had a musical last night at her house in East Seventy-first-st., while earlier in the day Miss Leary had her usual Tuesday afternoon reception with music at her house in Fifth-ave.

Dinners were given last night by Mr. and Mrs. James L. Breese, at their house in West Sixteenth-st., for their niece, Miss Anne Parsons Breese; by Mrs. W. Seward Webb, at No. 680 Fifth-ave.; Mrs. Jules A. Montant, at No. 36 West Forty-ninth-st.; Mrs. Pembroke Jones, at No. 13 West Fifty-first-st. and a men's dinner by Elbridge T. Gerry, at his house in East Sixty-first-st. Mrs. Charles Frederick Hoffman, jr., entertained a party at luncheon at her house in West Fifty-first-st. Among the card parties, which are becoming more and more numerous with the approach of Lent, were those of Mrs. Edward Lyman Short and Mrs J. Henry Alexandre.

To-night the last dance of the series known as the Wednesday Cotillion takes place at Delmonico's. At Baltimore the marriage of Sidney Leighton Smith, of this city, to Miss Winifred Dinning, takes place at Mount Calvary Church. Mr. and Mrs. Rutherfurd Stuyvesant will give a large dinner, followed by a musical, at Sherrys' to-night.

Mrs. Richard S. Dana leaves town to-day for San Antonio, Tex., to visit her son, David S. Dana, at his ranch, and afterward proceeding with him to Mexico. She will return to New-York early in April.

Colonel and Mrs. George R. Dyer are receiving congratulations on the birth of a son at their house in East Thirty-ninth-st. Mrs. Dyer was Miss Grace Scott, and is the granddaughter of Walter S. Gurnee, while Colonel Dyer is the brother of Elisha Dyer, jr.

Mrs. Theron G. Strong gives a luncheon to-day at her house in East Sixty-fifth-st. for Miss Helen Talbot, whose engagement to her son, Prentice Strong, was announced the other day.

Colonel and Mrs. John Jacob Astor leave town to-day for Palm Beach. Colonel Astor will return toward the middle of next month, but Mrs. Astor is not expected back in town before Easter.

Mr. and Mrs. Peter D. Martin have left town, going to Newport.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred G. Vanderbilt arrived in town yesterday from Newport, and went to the Waldorf-Astoria.

Mrs. Dudley F. Phelps, Jr., gave a supper last night at her house in East Seventeenth-st. to the members of the Tuesday Evening Skating Club, of whom about forty were present.

Mr. and Mrs. John Sloane have left town for Santa Barbara, Cal. They are accompanied by ex-Judge Henry E. Howland.

Mr. and Mrs. William B. Dinsmore have returned to town from Staatsburg, N. Y., and are at their house in East Forty-seventh-st.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Henry Harriman, with their daughters, Miss Mary and Miss Cornelia Harriman, have arrived in town from Washington, and are at their house in East Fifty-fifth-st.

Mrs. William A. Duer, who was Miss Ellin Travers, is lying very seriously ill at the Waldorf-Astoria, where she has been spending the winter, and grave fears are entertained concerning her condition. She is a daughter of William R. Travers and a granddaughter of Reverdy Johnson. Her daughter Catherine is the wife of Clarence H. Mackay.

CHOSEN TO NAME CRUISER.

Charleston, W. Va., Feb. 17.—Miss Katharine White, daughter of the Governor, was selected by a joint resolution of the two houses to-day to name the armored cruiser West Virginia, to be launched in April.

NEW FRENCH ATTACHE HERE.

Paris, Feb. 17.—The Foreign Office to-day announced the appointment of the Vicomte de Chambrun to be an attaché of the French Embassy at Washington. He is a great-grandson of Lafayette, was the representative of the Lafayette family at the Rochambeau ceremonies, and is a brother of the Marquis de Chambrun, a member of the Chamber of Deputies, who is the ranking representative of the family. The vicomte will sail for New-York on March 7. Owing to the recent death of his mother, the venerable marquise, who was then the head of the family, the vicomte is in mourning.

C. A. GARDINER SWORN AS REGENT.

Charles A. Gardiner, who was recently appointed regent of the University of the State of New-York, was sworn before Justice Truax yesterday in the Supreme Court.

F. K. STURGIS REMEMBERS FIREMEN.

Fire Commissioner Thomas Sturgis yesterday received a letter from his brother, F. K. Sturgis, of No. 3 West Thirty-sixth-st., inclosing $100 for the Fire Department Relief Fund, and highly commending the work of the firemen at the fire at his home Sunday evening. He said the men showed efficiency, care and consideration, and that the damage was moderate. The fire occurred at a dinner party Mr. and Mrs. Sturgis were giving to friends.

MOMMSEN SLIGHTLY INJURED.

Berlin, Feb. 17.—Professor Mommsen, the historian, was knocked down by a cab on the Friedrichstrasse this afternoon and sustained a slight injury on the back of the head, but he was able to get home without assistance.

Professor Mommsen, who is about eighty-six years old, almost lost his hair on January 25 owing to holding a candle too near his head while searching on a ladder for a book on the topmost shelf of his library. His face was considerably scorched and his long, white locks were partly consumed.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A SOCIOLOGICAL OPPORTUNITY.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: The article in to-day's Tribune entitled "A Scheme of Practical Benevolence" ought to commend itself to the judgment of many rich men. It is a long step in the right direction, and no doubt there are very many people who are ready to accept the conditions outlined. It would not be necessary to look among immigrants for families who would be willing and quite ready to take advantage of such an opportunity. There are thousands that need only a chance to get a start in order to make life a happy success.

The weak spot in The Tribune scheme is the manager with his salary of $17,000 for two years. With one half of that salary the chance of success might be better.

I believe so thoroughly in the success of such a colony when properly launched that I am willing to volunteer to join it as one of the privates. I am a graduate of Princeton, a teacher of experience, have a good knowledge of farming, and like the experience that such a colony would pass through on its way to success.

H. C. TALMAGE.

Red Bank, N. J., Feb. 10, 1903.

MR. HEWITT INTERESTED TO THE LAST.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: At the time when the State and the city of New-York, by its several departments, were petitioning Congress on behalf of the Harlem River improvement, Mr. Abram S. Hewitt, then member of the House of Representatives, placed in Congress a memorial for this project representing over $750,000,000 of active commercial capital, including most of the steamship companies doing business at the port of New-York.

At the recent anniversary—the eighty-sixth of the writer's birth and the twenty-sixth of the inception of the Harlem Canal project—together with letters of congratulation from President Roosevelt, Governor Odell, Mayor Low and many others of prominence in Congress or in commercial life, one was received from Mr. Hewitt, the language of which indicates the interest in our country's commercial weal, which he maintained to the last.

CHARLES STOUGHTON.

New-York, Feb. 10, 1903.

(LETTER.)

Mr. A. S. Hewitt regrets that it will not be possible for him to accept the invitation of Mr. Charles Stoughton to join in the celebration of his eighty-sixth birthday on Friday evening next, but Mr. Hewitt tenders his hearty congratulations, and especially because Mr. Stoughton has lived to witness the partial completion of the Harlem River improvement, which owes its construction to the indefatigable efforts of Mr. Stoughton, continued for so many years.

New-York, Oct. 15, 1902.

STREET SIGNS AGAIN.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Your editorial this morning relative to street signs was very just, but not strong enough in its criticism of the absurd truncated, triangular signs. It is difficult to understand how any one with even a moderate degree of intelligence could have advocated or indorsed this ridiculous device. The intersection of two streets requires a sign which will indicate the street approached from either direction. This the triangular sign fails to do, though a feeble attempt has been made to correct the trouble in some cases by inscribing the name of one of the streets in small letters disposed Japanese fashion on the small, truncated surface of the triangle. Two triangular signs at each intersection are needed to do the work which could better be done by one square sign.

The additional facility with which the triangular sign can be read when approached in the street is entirely unnecessary, except in the case of a very near-sighted person, while the pedestrian on the sidewalk finds it difficult to read unless he walks close to the curb. I trust that you will use your influence to stop the spread of this absurd device.

New-York, Feb. 12, 1903. M. P. S.

MR. SQUIRES AND THE MAINE.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: I hope you will permit me to use your columns to enter a protest against the action of the American Minister to Cuba in declining an invitation to take part or be present at the memorial exercises in memory of the American sailors who lost their lives in the destruction of our battleship, the Maine, five years ago in Havana Harbor. As stated in your Sunday edition, in a dispatch from Havana, dated February 14, Mr. Squiers took the ground that "while such exercises were appropriate and proper in themselves, the possibility of giving offence to those who were now friends of the United States by stirring up the memories of the past should be avoided." As this is published by your paper, I conclude, of course, that he is correctly reported.

It seems to me, and undoubtedly a great many Americans are of my opinion, that his action is unpatriotic, and—to say the least—not calculated to impress the Cubans or the Spaniards, the very people we seek to placate, with the idea that he is a representative American, fearless and true, as becomes the high office he fills; but, on the contrary, it stamps him as one belonging to that class of so-called diplomats who cringe and cower lest they offend some one, and turn and shift their policies with each change of the wind. This is not in keeping with the spirit of Americanism infused into modern diplomacy by the sterling integrity and manly straightforwardness of John Hay, and it is supremely ridiculous that he should give as a reason for refusing to attend the ceremonies in honor of the American dead that he was afraid of offending the representatives of a foreign power. We had no fear of offending them in 1898, and no right minded Spaniard—and I know lots of them—would ever take umbrage at the American Minister laying a wreath on the shattered hull of the vessel in which the American sailors lost their lives.

West Point, N. Y., Feb. 16, 1903. AMERICAN.

IN ALABAMA.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: The Democratic Congressmen of Alabama are boasting that they secured the largest appropriation ever obtained for the State from the national government last year, and now they want more. The Democrats of Alabama have practically disfranchised the negroes, cutting down the voting strength of the State nearly one-half, which is in direct violation of the national constitution. Now they have started to secure the removal of federal officeholders who have stood by the Republican administration. Is the government disposed to grant appropriations to Congressmen who array themselves against the constitution? Is a premium to be placed on national law breaking? Let them obey the constitution and allow the negro to vote or submit to a reduction in appropriations and representation.

R. E. P.

Dwight, Ala., Feb. 12, 1903.