Amusements.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC—8:15—The Best of Friends.
BIJOU—8:30—What's the Matter with Susan?
BELASCO THEATRE—Closed To-night.
BROADWAY THEATRE—8:30—Babette.
CARNEGIE HALL—8:30—Wetzler Symphony Concert.
CASINO—8:15—Winsome Winnie.
CIRCLE—2—8—Vaudeville.
CRITERION—8:15—Miss Elizabeth's Prisoner.
DALY'S THEATRE—8:15—A Japanese Nightingale.
EDEN MUSEE—The World in Wax.
GARDEN THEATRE—8—Three Little Maids.
GARRICK THEATRE—8:20—Whitewashing Julia.
HARLEM OPERA HOUSE—8:15—Mice and Men.
HERALD SQUARE THEATRE—8:10—The Girl from Kay's.
HUDSON THEATRE—8:30—The Marriage of Kitty.
IRVING PLACE THEATRE—8:20—Der Strom.
KEITH'S—Continuous Performance.
KNICKERBOCKER—8—Mam'selle Napoleon.
LYRIC THEATRE—8:20—Red Feather.
MADISON SQUARE—8—The Little Princess.
MAJESTIC THEATRE—8—Babes in Toyland.
MANHATTAN THEATRE—8:15—Captain Barrington.
MURRAY HILL THEATRE—2—8—A Hot Old Time.
NEW AMSTERDAM—8—Mother Goose.
NEW EMPIRE—8:15—The Pretty Sister of José.
NEW LYCEUM—8:15—The Admirable Crichton.
NEW-YORK THEATRE—8—Ben-Hur.
PRINCESS THEATRE—8:30—Raffles, the Amateur Cracksman.
PROCTOR'S—Twenty-third Street—Continuous Vaudeville. Fifty-eighth Street—To Be Buried Alive. Fifth Avenue—The Sword of the King. One-hundred-and-twenty-fifth Street—Trilby and Dan Daly.
SAVOY THEATRE—8:20—Her Own Way.
THIRD AVENUE THEATRE—8—The Scout's Revenge.
VAUDEVILLE—8:20—Charlotte Wiehe and French Company.
VICTORIA—8:15—The Office Boy.
WALLACK'S—8:20—The County Chairman.
WEBER & FIELDS—2—8—Whoop-Dee-Doo.
WEST END—8:10—Du Barry.

Index to Advertisements.

	Page.	Col.		Page.	Col.
Amusements	16	6	Marriages & Deaths	11	5
Apartment Hotels	15	6	Miscellaneous	16	2-6
Auction Sales Financial	15	3	Ocean Steamers	7	5-6
Bankers & Brokers	15	4	Proposals	3	6
Board & Rooms	12	4	Public Notices	15	3
Books & Publicat'ns	12	2-3	Railroads	13	5-6
Carpet Cleaning	12	4	Real Estate	15	5-6
Change of Name	15	2	School Agencies	12	3
Dom. Sits. Wanted	12	6-7	Special Notices	11	6
Dancing Academies	12	2	Steamboats	15	4
Dressmaking	12	4	Surrogates' Notices	15	4
Financial	15	3	Tribune Sub'n Rates	11	6
Foreclosure Sales	12	2	Trust Companies	15	3
Furnished Rooms	12	4	To Let for Business Purposes	15	6
Help Wanted	12	5	Winter Resorts	12	3
Instruction	12	2-3	Work Wanted	12	5-6
Lost	12	4			

New-York Daily Tribune.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1903.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

CONGRESS.—The regular session of the LVIIIth Congress began. ═══ President Roosevelt's message was read in both houses. ═══ The President sent to the Senate as recess appointments the nomination of General Leonard Wood and others which failed of confirmation at the extra session. ═══ The Panama Canal treaty was transmitted to the Senate.

FOREIGN.—China was reported to be concluding an agreement with Russia by which the latter country's terms for the evacuation and government of Manchuria are accepted; China will maintain nominal sovereignty. ═══ There was a rumor at Colon that 3,000 Colombian troops were marching on the isthmus; United States warships are active along the coasts. ═══ The canal treaty will be shipped to-day from Colon on the City of Washington, which sails at noon for the United States. ═══ A conference between the Russian Minister and the Japanese Foreign Minister was held, without definite result, at Tokio. ═══ The Mikado will open the Diet on December 10. ═══ The German Chancellor, Count von Bülow, authorized the statement that the Emperor was improving and that there was no need for concern.

DOMESTIC.—A number of Republican leaders in the Senate declared that there was no doubt whatever of the nomination and election of President Roosevelt next year. ═══ The Senate Committee on Military Affairs continued its investigation of the charges against General Leonard Wood, hearing evidence from Lieutenant Commander Young and Charles S. Diehl. ═══ In the hearing before Governor Odell, in Albany, for the extradition of William Ziegler, the baking powder manufacturer, to Missouri, Mr. Ziegler denied the charge of furnishing money to bribe legislators, and said the authorities had acted on the evidence of his business rivals and enemies. ═══ In the Grand Rapids water scandal warrants for seven more men were issued, and another is expected.

CITY.—Stocks were strong and higher. ═══ A fourth call was made on the subscribers to the Sheldon syndicate. ═══ Several gifts of value were announced by the trustees of Columbia University. ═══ A warrant was issued in the Oliver case. ═══ Ten skeletons were dug up near the site of the old Hall of Records. ═══ District Attorney Jerome was slightly injured by being hit by a piece of a locomotive at Millerton, on his way to this city. ═══ Sheriff-elect Erlanger was sworn in by Justice Barrett. ═══ The heirs of a circus man who left Cortlandt Parker, jr., his entire estate, began suit, alleging undue influence; Mr. Parker declared he did not intend to profit by the bequest.

THE WEATHER.—Indications for to-day: Fair, with colder at night. The temperature yesterday: Highest, 41 degrees; lowest, 26.

THE MESSAGE.

No part of the President's domestic policy has excited so much antagonism, and that from opposite points of view, as his attitude toward labor and capital. His attempts to enforce the Anti-Trust law have angered some capitalists, who apparently believe that their business does not conform to that law; and his inflexible stand for freedom of employment and equality before the law has angered some labor union men, who apparently see that their aims are not in harmony with those fundamental American principles. The impartial observer is likely to conclude that the official is right who stands between the two extremes and holds each party equally in obedience to the law. President Roosevelt, who gives first place to this subject in his Message, clearly shows that this is his attitude. His aim, he declares, is "to treat "both organized capital and organized labor "alike; asking nothing save that the interest of "each shall be brought into harmony with the "interest of the general public, and that the "conduct of each shall conform to the fundamental rules of obedience to law, of individual "freedom, and of justice and fair dealing toward "all." He reviews the establishment and work of the new Department of Commerce, and indicates a belief that it is contributing materially to the attainment of that end.

The President foresees that the balance between revenues and expenditures, which has been sought by the reduction of internal taxes, but considerably postponed by unexpectedly large receipts, will be closely approached in the coming year, and perhaps actually reached. He therefore urges strict economy in all unessentials, that ample provision may be made for everything essential to national welfare. One of these essentials is an increase of the navy. He believes that "there should be no "cessation in adding to the effective units of "the fighting strength of the fleet," and he favors the establishment of a naval base in the Philippines. He also favors the plan for a naval General Staff. Another expenditure which the President seems to regard as essential is for the development of the mercantile marine, though he does not declare directly for subsidies. Instead he recommends the appointment of a commission to report on what should be done in view of the different methods proposed to encourage shipping.

The recent memorandum concerning the Postoffice scandals gives, of course, much more information about them than could be put in a Message. The President, however, forcibly expresses his indignation over official wrongdoing in the Postoffice Department and elsewhere, and his purpose to extirpate abuses and punish crime. He says that the State Department is seeking to negotiate treaties making bribery an extraditable offence, and he asks for an appropriation of $500,000 for the prosecution of the Postoffice cases, as well as of offences against the Anti-Trust and Interstate Commerce and Land laws. These land laws in many respects need revision. The attention of Congress is specially directed to the Stone and Timber law, the Desert Land law, and the commutation clause of the Homestead law, which seem to be open to abuse. With the beginning of national irrigation, speculators have taken unfair advantage of the law.

The President renews his recommendation that the Philippines be knit closer to us by tariff arrangements, and his urgency should certainly be rewarded, especially as it is the only request concerning the administration of the islands. That fact is highly significant. One paragraph in the Message is devoted to Porto Rico and the Philippines, offering impressive testimony to the rapid progress we have made toward solving a problem by many considered insoluble, and to the desirability of doing the one thing considered by those responsible for the administration of the Philippines necessary to the establishment of satisfactory relations with them.

The Message is, for the most part, as usual, taken up with a review of the work of the government for the last year. Aside from Panama this involves few matters of striking interest. Foreign and domestic affairs have run the prosperous course becoming to a successful administration of a nation happily situated.

A NAVY GENERAL STAFF.

The movement to procure from Congress at the present session an act creating a General Staff of the navy gains strong support from official utterances. We have already referred at considerable length to the earnest advocacy of that measure in the annual report of Rear Admiral Taylor, Chief of the Bureau of Navigation, which was followed by the instructive comments of Secretary Moody, and we are glad to find it heartily recommended in the President's Message. It did not fall within the province of Secretary Root to allude to the matter directly, but his gratifying account of the manner in which the General Staff of the army has taken up its duties, and of the effects which are already visible, is a strong indirect argument for the adoption of a similar system in the other branch of the military service.

The President mentions with warm approval the valuable work which has been accomplished by the War College, the Office of Naval Intelligence and the Board of Inspection in co-operation with the General Board of the Navy, but he reminds Congress that those agencies lack authority and are without sufficient scope to meet the requirements. The General Board, whose unwearied and well directed labors have produced excellent results, exists only at the pleasure of the Secretary. As the President says, "We need the establishment by law of a "body of trained officers, who shall exercise a "systematic control of the military affairs of "the navy, and be authorized advisers of the "Secretary concerning it." There is reason to hope that Congress, already convinced of the soundness of the arguments for an army General Staff, will recognize the fact that they sustain with equal strength the proposal that an instrument of like character shall be fashioned for the use of the Navy Department.

THE PRESIDENT ON PANAMA.

The President's discussion of the Panama business is entirely simple, and should be entirely convincing, even to those who have not already been convinced of the correctness of the government's conduct and attitude. His logic is briefly this: Congress authorized him to arrange for building a canal at Panama, if he could; if not, at Nicaragua. The essence of that authorization was that he should make a treaty with the sovereign of the isthmus within a reasonable time. That he has done, since he now lays a completed treaty before Congress for its ratification. It is true that treaty is not with the power that was sovereign of the isthmus when Congress gave that authorization. Congress had in mind a treaty with Colombia, while this is a treaty with Panama. That, however, does not matter. "The essence of the condition referred not to the government, but to "the route itself; to the territory across which "the route lay, not to the name which for the "moment the territory bore on the map. The "purpose of the law was to authorize the President to make a treaty with the power in actual "control of the Isthmus of Panama. This purpose has been fulfilled."

The whole matter turns, then, upon the point which Secretary Hay so tersely set forth at the beginning of the controversy, when he said that the treaty between the United States and New-Granada was not dependent for efficacy upon the personnel of the signers or the name of the territory. "It is a covenant which runs with the land." In that pregnant phrase is the gist of the whole matter. If that principle is sound, then the President's argument, based upon it, is sound. What are the facts? Everybody knows that the Treaty of 1846 was with New-Granada. But New-Granada passed away. Its territory was partitioned, its government changed and its name obliterated from the map. The treaty did not, however, lapse. It remained binding upon the territory to which it referred and upon whatever power governed that territory. Colombia inherited it from New-Granada. So, we assume, if Colombia had ratified the Hay-Herran Treaty, and then Panama had seceded, the treaty would have remained in force, binding upon Panama as the successor of Colombia, just as it was binding upon Colombia when she was the successor of New-Granada. Certainly it seems logical that if a treaty thus "runs with the land" the instructions and authorizations of Congress to the President do the same. It would be supreme folly to say "Make a treaty with Colombia, and with no one else for a Panama canal," when Colombia did not or might not own or control the territory through which that canal must run. It was not Colombia, as represented at Bogota, that Congress and the nation wanted a treaty with, but the government that possessed sovereignty and exercised control over the Isthmus of Panama. We suppose that if Colombia had ceded Panama to the Akhoond of Swat, and the cession had been legal, the President would have been obeying the spirit of the Congressional instructions in making a treaty with that picturesque potentate.

If there are any who still question the soundness of this major premise of the President's argument, we beg to refer them to the recognized authorities on international law. Wheaton, for example, divided treaties into two classes, personal and real. "The former relate exclusively "to the persons of the contracting parties, such "as family alliances and treaties guaranteeing "the throne to a particular sovereign and his "family." Obviously, the United States treaty of 1846 with New-Granada was no such thing, and neither will be its canal treaty. The latter, the real treaties, "relate solely to the subject matters of the convention, independently "of the persons of the contracting parties. They "continue to bind the State, whatever intervening changes may take place in its internal "constitution." They "bind the contracting parties independently of any change in the sovereignty or in the rulers of the State." Woolsey, also, declares that "rights and obligations "survive a change of government or a revolution. When a nation separates into parts, or "unites with another State to form a new "whole, it cannot even by such a process divest "itself of its obligations." The case in hand furnishes an admirable example of the working of this rule. We made the treaty of 1846 with New-Granada. Presently New-Granada was, in Woolsey's words, separated into parts. But the treaty did not perish. It continued to apply with full force to the part of the former State which was involved in its provisions. Now that part, Colombia, has in turn been separated into parts, and the treaty in turn applies to the part concerning which it was made. To say that after Panama has become independent we must still regard the Panama treaty as between us and Colombia is as absurd as it would have been to say years ago that the treaty providing for neutrality of the isthmus made with New-Granada was binding between us and Venezuela or Ecuador.

On that impregnable ground, then, that this was a real treaty, running with the land, the President bases his case. He fortifies it with ample citations of authority and with a historic review both of the revolutionary record of the isthmus and of the extraordinary dealings of Colombia with the canal treaty. The conclusion which he draws is logical, inevitable and convincing. It is that "Colombia has forced us, "for the sake of our own honor, and of the interest and wellbeing, not merely of our own "people, but of the people of the Isthmus of "Panama and the people of the civilized countries of the world, to take decisive steps to "end a condition of affairs which had become "intolerable." That is the exact truth. It would have been the right and duty of the United States to end that intolerable state of affairs, regardless of technicalities of treaty. That it has enjoyed and improved the opportunity of doing so under the letter as well as the spirit of existing treaties is cause for sincere gratification. All that remains, as the President says, is for Congress to do its part, "and forth-"with this republic will enter upon the execu-"tion of a project colossal in its size and of "wellnigh incalculable possibilities for the good "of this country and the nations of mankind."

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS.

The communication addressed to Miss Clara Barton, president of the American National Red Cross, by more than a score of men and women who were suspended from membership by her contrivance, is deserving of wide attention. Some of the signers have gained distinction in the public service; others are well known for their earnest and judicious activity in good works; all are entirely responsible and highly respected. Without caring to attach great importance to their suspension, they justly say that the rescinding of that despotic act is extremely significant, because, like the proposal of new bylaws to correct numerous defects which they have pointed out in the bylaws now in force, it is part of a confession that the present management of the Red Cross is intolerable.

From arbitrary and resentful suspension of many valuable members, because they had deemed it their duty to advise certain changes in the methods of administration, to their reinstatement and the admission of faults heretofore contemptuously denied is a considerable step, but it is by no means enough. The system is fundamentally wrong. The signers of this communication include many charter members under the Act of Congress of 1900, some members of the board of control in 1900 and 1901 and the entire executive committee of 1902. They are, therefore, as they quietly observe, "in a position to speak of affairs with some assurance." They have so spoken already, the country has largely accepted their statement, and they deem it unnecessary at this time to do more than allude to the indisputable fact that there is no proper auditing of receipts and expenditures or accountability for funds. That such a loose sense of obligation and corresponding lack of business principles should ever have been allowed to prevail is astonishing. It is still more astonishing that the first protest should not have been welcomed and a radical reform immediately instituted.

The consequence of a continued failure to conform to the necessary methods employed by all competently managed organizations of similar character has been lamentable and wellnigh fatal. How far the American Red Cross has forfeited public confidence and fallen into disrepute is shown by the striking contrast between its resources and those of the branches of the International Red Cross in other lands. Its report to Congress last January showed funds, $1,702; membership, 123; no property. In France the society has funds, $1,869,084; value of materials, $741,949; doctors and surgeons, 806; railroad hospitals, 80; field hospitals, 26. In Germany, Austria, Italy and Japan the material and personal conditions surpass or at least compare creditably with those in France. It is fair to say that this country ought to be at the head of the list. The number, prosperity and character of our people are peculiarly favorable to the liberal support of Red Cross work. Nowhere else would it appeal more successfully to the judgment and sympathy of the public if its management possessed the public confidence.

It is a matter of great importance, involving the credit as well as the interests of the American people, that the confidence which has been lost should be restored. But it never can be restored until the society has regained the right to it, and that can only come through a change of methods, following an authoritative exposure of the defects of the present organization. Inasmuch as Miss Barton seems, as the signers of this address say, to challenge scrutiny of the Red Cross and its management, they propose that at its next annual meeting Congress be asked to authorize a thorough investigation of its affairs. That, in our opinion, is a judicious and timely suggestion. The society holds its charter from Congress, which can therefore appropriately inquire into its condition. There is no reason to doubt that such an examination would be impartial, that the findings would be convincing and that the effect would be salutary. We believe that a renewal of public trust in the Red Cross and its advancement to such a status as it ought to occupy in the affections of the generous American people can be secured by that means. Unless some such step is taken we fear that it will cease to be a factor in the noble work in which it ought to lead the world.

DEFENCE AGAINST BURGLARS.

Although deplorable tragedies have now and then taken place when heads of households have shot their own cherished ones for burglars the suggestion that no weapons of defence should be kept for the protection of families from murderous ruffians is absurd. Assassinations by burglars intent on robbery have been numerous of late. A loaded revolver under the pillow is a good friend at hand if a midnight invader is found prowling about within doors.

Hunters in the woods have, in a long list of instances, killed their friends by lamentable carelessness and overhaste. Ought the pursuit of game to be abandoned entirely because of these deplorable mischances? To paraphrase an old saying of the mining camps, "You "may never need a pistol, but if you do need it "you'll need it mighty bad." So it may be of the revolver as a defence against burglars. Sales of deadly weapons to known criminals ought to be sternly repressed, and the practice of carrying firearms and daggers about the streets should be stamped out. But the safeguarding of homes against housebreakers—that is a very different matter.

A submarine boat which runs high and dry on shore seems to have missed its mission.

Princeton oarsmen would be amazingly fortunate were they to be favored with the generous provision of a spacious artificial lake for healthful exercise and for the training of crews for intercollegiate contests. With an ample area to practise upon, Old Nassau might be as formidable with the sounding strokes which lash the waters as in the clash and shock of football encounters.

If the crowds of spectators who attend college football games continue to increase, larger grandstands will be needed at such contests hereafter. Fortunately, the revenues of the associations are so handsome that they can afford to spend money for the accommodation of the public.

Many hundreds of people attended a meeting in this city last week of persons suffering from the delusion that land titles in Harlem are not properly fortified and secure, and that the descendants of mythical ancestors may some day become fabulously rich, because the whole upper part of the city will be turned over to them. For generations the Anneke Jans craze has been kept alive, and weakminded men and women in troops still expect to get possession of the property of Trinity parish. The fable about "the Harlem Commons" was blown into thin air as a mere bubble long before Harlem became thickly settled. Yet foolish dreamers still descry fantastic visions in the clouds.

Bryan and Croker's heart to heart talk brought together the biggest "has been" and the next biggest anywhere to be found outside of Egyptian mummy cases spattered over with hieroglyphs telling what their occupants did in old times when political luck ran their way.

It is matter for regret that the plan of President Willcox of the Park Department to make a small park out of the Cherry Hill block which has been called the "Lung Block" has gone over to the tender mercies of the Tammany Tiger. What do Tammany district leaders care for the death rate in the tenements unless the Tammany vote is diminished? How much did Tammany ever do for the hospitals?

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

Official statistics printed in Havana show that in 1902 the death rate was 21.99 per thousand, a far lower rate than in the days of General Weyler. The methods of cleansing and of sanitation enforced by the Americans after the Spanish war worked wonders for the healthfulness of the city. Out of 5,832 deaths, 885 were due to tuberculosis in its various forms. Even in so mild a climate as that of the Cuban capital this grievous affliction is amazingly destructive. Cancer claimed 179 lives. Could tuberculosis and cancer be extirpated, the whole world might set apart a jubilee year.

Lady Canvasser (very much up to date and under the impression that every one thoroughly understands the fiscal question) to wife of voter—Well, my dear, and what do you think of "Our Joe," now?

Young Mrs. Giles (coyly)—To tell you the truth, ma'am, my husband, Dick, is a bit jealous, and says I oughtn't to think of any one else 'cept him!—(Punch.

France had almost twenty-six thousand more deaths than births last year, a record variously interpreted by her publicists and statisticians, but looking to outsiders much as if the nation was in need of an able corps of lecturers on race suicide to stump the country from the Pyrenees to the British Channel, the government backing them up by offering premiums for large families and decorations for larger ones, with public honors for those who play the limit, as it were, and surround themselves with a dozen or so of offspring in the copious manner of Germany, where nothing in particular is thought of it.

A PLEA FOR THE CIRCUS BILLS.

[The circus poster is to be made artistic. A committee has been appointed to draft plans and specifications for eliminating the so-called objectionable and inartistic features of the posters.]

Mister, spare that bill!
  Touch not a single line.
In youth it sent a thrill
  Of ecstasy divine
A-whooping through my heart
  And tingling o'er my brow.
You claim it is not "art,"
  But I'll protect it now!

You say the hippopot-
  Amus must close his face!
A murrain on thee! What?
  Have you no eye for grace?
Nay! Let the hippo gape
  And fiercely show his teeth,
And on your brow I'll drape
  A decorative wreath.

The camel and his hump
  Must balance with the truth?
The kangaroo a-jump—
  Fond memory of youth!—
Must make a shorter leap?
  O, mister, say not so.
Alas, it makes me weep
  To think of long ago.

The good old circus bill,
  Where lions fiercely chewed
A man or two to fill
  Their great demand for food!
The bareback lady, too—
  A sylph of gauzy grace—
It cannot be that you
  Her beauty will erase!

Mister, spare that bill!
  Raise not your vandal hand
On hump or mouth or frill,
  For that we cannot stand.
Retain the pictures old—
  The camel and the hip-
Popotamus so bold—
  O, don't you dare to rip!

—(Chicago Tribune.

Chemists, hydrographers and electricians used to think that stories of water that magnetized steel objects dipped in it were fanciful, but it is found out that they are wrong. There are three fountains in Indiana that magnetize needles, scissors, knife blades and other steel objects immersed in their waters. The first is a spring at Cartersburg, the second a driven well at Lebanon and the third a driven well at Fort Wayne. The waters contain a large proportion of carbonic acid, which is disengaged on exposure to the air. As this gas escapes a heavy precipitate of oxide of iron forms, and when all the gas has disappeared no more magnetism manifests itself. The waters deviate the compass needle, and that of one of the wells used in locomotive boilers has been found to be corrosive and rapidly injurious to those receptacles. When allowed to remain in a reservoir for some time, however, this property of it disappears and it is non-corrosive, as other waters. "Cosmos" speaks of the authentication of magnetic properties in these waters as important from a scientific point of view, though their ascertained utilities so far amount to very little and there is little prospect of their increase.

"Have you heard the latest? Brown's wife has run off with his chauffeur."

"Mercy, what a pity! He was such a good chauffeur! Brown will never be able to replace him."—(Smart Set

A negro colony sent out to Liberia from Georgia last January has failed and the members have returned to this country. A number of Georgia planters capitalized the scheme, thinking that a favorable soil for the growing of cotton and corn had been found in the African State. They furnished the colonists with provisions, farming tools, seeds and other equipments, but the experiment could not be conducted to success, being one in a long line of such almost, if not quite, invariably winding up calamitously. There seems nothing for the Southern black man to do except to stay at home and work out his salvation as best he can, accepting his difficulties as part of the common burden, and not to be avoided by changing his base and going off to another country.

Dinah Ebony—Aunty, de papers say mebby de black plague will come to dis country.

Aunt Ebony—Don't you worry 'bout dat, honey. It won't show on us.—(New-York Weekly.

Erskine, appointed Lord Chancellor, was offered at a low price the official robes of the retiring lord, but said: "No! It should not be said that I had adopted the abandoned habits of my predecessor." The witticism was ready made to the hand of the new Chancellor of the Exchequer, Austen Chamberlain, when the retiring one, Mr. Ritchie, offered him his regalia at a reduction, but the young man took no advantage of it, getting himself a new outfit to make all preceding ones look like fifteen, or, at most, thirty cents. With Erskine's happy phrase embroidered around its hem, it would have been still more gorgeously ornamented, going even better with the Chamberlain monocle than the $3,000 worth of bullion with which it is said to be adorned.

The Real Thing.—Sportsman—Any good hunting in this part of the country?

Native—Lots of it.

Sportsman—What kind of game?

Native—No game at all. Just hunting.—(Illustrated Bits

About People and Social Incidents.

AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

[FROM THE TRIBUNE BUREAU.]

Washington, Dec. 7.—The joint committee of the two houses of Congress appointed to inform the President that the regular session had opened called at the executive offices at 1:10 o'clock this afternoon. The President requested the committee to convey his felicitations to the two branches of Congress and to announce that he would communicate with them immediately in writing. On the departure of the committee Assistant Secretary Barnes went to the Capitol with the message.

The President received Mrs. John W. Mackay today. She was presented by Thomas F. Walsh.

THE CABINET.

[FROM THE TRIBUNE BUREAU.]

Washington, Dec. 7.—Mrs. Hay has returned from a visit to her daughter, Mrs. Payne Whitney, in New-York.

Secretary Moody arrived this morning on the dispatch boat Dolphin from a visit of inspection to the League Island Navy Yard.

THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS.

[FROM THE TRIBUNE BUREAU.]

Washington, Dec. 7.—Countess Cassini entertained about a hundred guests at the Russian Embassy to-night. A musical programme was given by Oumiroff, the Russian artist, and the evening was finished with dancing.

The Austrian Ambassador is recovering from the severe cold which has confined him to his home for the last ten days.

NOTES OF SOCIETY IN WASHINGTON.

[FROM THE TRIBUNE BUREAU.]

Washington, Dec. 7.—Mr. and Mrs. Thomas F. Walsh began the hospitality of their new home to-night with a dinner in honor of Mrs. John W. Mackay. The other guests were Sir Henry Mortimer Durand, the British Ambassador; Admiral Dewey, Secretary Wilson, Senator and Mrs. Wetmore, Senator and Mrs. Hanna, Senator and Mrs. Depew, the Belgian Minister and Baroness Moncheur, General S. B. M. Young, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne MacVeagh, Mr. and Mrs. John B. Henderson, Mr. and Mrs. John W. Foster, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Glover, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Boardman, Mr. and Mrs. Ward Thoron, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Nelson Page, Mrs. Stanley Matthews, Mrs. Richardson Clover, Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Kortright, of New-York; Mrs. Postlethwaite, Miss Flora Wilson, Miss Patten, the Marquis St. Vito, of Italy; E. V. Morgan, Mr. Lowery and Frederick Townsend Martin, of New-York. Mrs. Dewey, who was to have been present, was kept at home by illness.

Assistant Secretary Oliver, of the War Department, returned to-day from a visit to New York.

W. R. Ridgely, Controller of the Currency, gave a dinner to-night in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Nelson O'Shaughnessy, of London. The other guests were the Assistant Secretary of State and Mrs. Loomis, Charles H. Keep, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, and Mrs. Keep, Mrs. and Miss Deering, Major and Mrs. Swift and General Crozier.

Senator Kean will give a reception next Friday evening in honor of Franklin Murphy, Governor of New-Jersey.

Mrs. Edward W. Eberle, wife of the flag lieutenant of the North Atlantic fleet, has left New-York, where she has been for the last year, and will be the guest this winter of Lieutenant Commander and Mrs. Knapp, at the Washington Navy Yard.

NEW-YORK SOCIETY.

Society's programme for to-day includes a bridge whist tournament at Sherry's, under the patronage of Mrs. J. Borden Harriman, Mrs. Charles T. Barney, Mrs. W. Lanman Bull, Mrs. Hawlond Davis and Mrs. James C. Bishop, for the benefit of the Kip's Bay Day Nursery. Miss Nora Godwin, daughter of Parke Godwin, also gives at her house, in East Thirty-seventh-st., the first of three receptions for her niece, Miss Nathalie de Castro, one of the debutantes of the winter. Miss Alice Drake's marriage to Alonzo Clarke Robinson, takes place at the Madison avenue house of her father, Simeon J. Drake, and there will be the first of the series of dances known as the Tuesday Dances at Delmonico's under the patronage of Mrs. Ira D. Barrows, Mrs. Hugh V. Camp, jr., and others.

Miss Betty Collamore won the contest yesterday morning at the Fencers' Club, for the gold medal presented to the Ladies' Class. It must be won three times in succession, in order to become the property of the successful champion. The other contestants were Miss Rosalie Jones, who won the medal last year; Miss Enid Baldwin and Miss Enid Locke. The next contest will be on the first Monday in January. The judges yesterday were the club's president, Carroll Beckwith, and Charles Tatham. There will be a women's reception at the club on December 5.

A series of subscription dances, known as the University Cotillons, have been organized, the first of which will take place on December 30 at Sherry's. The committee in charge includes John Sloane, jr., Alexander Dallas Bache Pratt, William O'Donnell Iselin, August Belmont, jr., and Henry C. de Rham. The patronesses comprise Mrs. Bradish Johnson, Mrs. H. O. Havemeyer, Mrs. Douglas Robinson, jr., Mrs. Charles A. Peabody, Mrs. J. Frederick Kernochan, Mrs. Lorillard Spencer and Mrs. Archibald Rogers.

Mrs. Thomas Hitchcock, Mrs. Richard Irvin, Mrs. William A. Perry, Mrs. J. J. Wysong, Mrs. Gouverneur Kortright, Mrs. H. McK. Twombly and Mrs. Moses Taylor Campbell were among the one hundred and fifty women who took part in the bridge and euchre tournament organized yesterday afternoon in the Ladies' Annex of the Metropolitan Club by Miss Louise Ward McAllister.

Mrs. R. Fulton Cutting has issued invitations for a dinner dance on December 23 at her house, in East Sixty-seventh-st.

Mr. and Mrs. Reginald C. Vanderbilt returned to town yesterday, with Mrs. Frederic Neilson, from Newport. Mrs. Neilson on her arrival, went to her house, No. 100 Fifth-ave., for the season, while Mr. and Mrs. Vanderbilt have taken possession of Colonel William Jay's house, in East Seventy-second-st., which they have leased for the winter.

Mr. and Mrs. George Bird give a dinner on Friday next at Delmonico's for Mrs. Bird's daughter, Miss Betty Metcalfe; her fiancé, Robert D. Pruyn, and for Miss Metcalfe's bridesmaids, who will include Miss Frederica Webb, Miss Florence Twombly, Miss Jessie Sloane, Miss Therese Iselin, Miss Catherine Dix, Miss Wenonah Wetmore and Miss Minnie Metcalfe.

Albert Morris Bagby gave the first of his series of Musical Mornings at the Waldorf-Astoria yesterday. Among those present were Mrs. E. F. Shepard, Mrs. William Douglas Sloane, Mrs. Francis B. Stevens, Mrs. Charles B. Alexander, Mrs. Edmund L. Baylies, Mrs. W. B. Osgood Field, Mrs. Norman Whitehouse, Miss Anna Sands, Mrs. James A. Burden, jr., Mrs. J. J. Wysong, Mrs. Jose Aymar, Mrs. Henry F. Dimock, Mrs. John I. Waterbury, Mrs. Clarence Postley, Mrs. George R. Schieffelin and the Marquise de Talleyrand Perigord. Miss Edythe Walker and M. Plançon sang.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Rollins Morse have left town and are staying with Mrs. Morse's sister Mrs. A. Lawrence Mason, for a few days.

Miss Helen M. Gould left town yesterday with a party of guests for Norfolk, Va., and before returning a fortnight hence will visit St. Louis.

Mrs. John Hay, who has been staying with Mr. and Mrs. Harry Payne Whitney at her house in East Sixty-first-st., left town on Saturday for Washington.

Captain and Mrs. Warren C. Beach have issued invitations for a dinner in honor of Major General and Mrs. Corbin, at their house in Fifth-ave., on Tuesday, December 22.

Mrs. William S. P. Prentice gives a reception on Saturday next at her house, in East Fifty-fifth-st., for the coming out of her daughter, Miss Kate Prentice, one of the débutantes of the season.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ingersoll Riker, who were married last spring, are spending the season with Mrs. Riker's parents, Mr. and Mrs. John L. Riker, at No. 19 West Fifty-seventh-st.

Mrs. John Nicholas Brown left town yesterday for Providence to attend the dedication to-day of the gates which she has erected at Brown University as a memorial to her husband. Her little boy, now four years old, will take an active part in the ceremony, depositing a copper box containing coins and documents in the cornerstone.

Mr. and Mrs. Giraud Foster have arrived in town from Bellefontaine, their country place at Lenox, and are at the Waldorf-Astoria for the season.

Mr. and Mrs. Sydney Webster will not return to town from their villa at Newport until after the New Year, when they will open their house in East Seventeenth-st. for the winter.

Mrs. Le Grand Benedict has issued cards for a reception on Monday afternoon, December 21, at her new house, No. 125 East Fifty-sixth-st., for her daubhter, Miss Benedict, one of the debutantes of the season.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Scribner have arrived in town from Morristown, N. J., and are at their house in East Thirty-eighth-st. for the season.

Mrs. George B. McClellan will be assisted in entertaining this winter at her house in Washington Square by her sister, Mrs. Egerton Leigh Winthrop, jr.

Mr. and Mrs. Almeric Hugh Paget have abandoned their intention of spending the winter in New-York, and will remain at their country place in Suffolk, England.

Mrs. Henry F. Dimock returns to town to-morrow from Washington.

Miss Martha Johnson, who has been staying with Mr. and Mrs. Luther Kountze, at their house in East Fifty-seventh-st., leaves here on Thursday for Macon, Ga.

Mrs. Edward J. Berwind has returned to town from Hot Springs, Va.

Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Peet have returned from their wedding tour, and are staying with Mrs. Peet's mother, Mrs. Frederick A. Potts, at her house in East Thirty-ninth-st., for the winter.

Monday is the favorite night among the fashionable set for the opera, and last evening, as usual, found the parterre row well filled, though people, as a rule, arrived rather late. Among those present were Mrs. Astor, Mrs. M. Orme Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Charles T. Barnay, Mr. and Mrs. Adrian Iselin, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Sloane, Mrs. H. I. Barbey, Mr. and Mrs. Elbridge T. Gerry, Mrs. Vanderbilt, Mrs. J. A. Burden, W. C. Whitney, Mr. and Mrs. W. Bayard Cutting, James Henry Smith, Mr. and Mrs. W. K. Vanderbilt, General and Mrs. Corbin and Mr. and Mrs. Stanford White.

THE PASSING THRONG.

MINISTER SQUIERS ON CUBA.

Herbert G. Squiers, United States Minister to Cuba, who spent a portion of two weeks' leave of absence with relatives in Katonah, N. Y., was seen at the Holland House on the eve of sailing for Cuba on the steamer Mexico. "I have," said he, "greatly enjoyed my residence in Havana, as must every one who visits that city. It is now thoroughly sanitary and will average in healthfulness with other cities of its population anywhere, and, excepting only in Santiago, where an improvement of conditions is in progress, Cuba, as a whole, is healthful. The prospect of reciprocity and the generally improving conditions under the Palma government are stimulating the activities of the Cuban people. I make frequent automobile runs over the country for forty to fifty miles around Havana, and I have personally noted the progress of rehabilitation. I like the Cuban people with whom I come in contact and am confident they have in them the elements essential to development. The payment of the war claims will go far to make the rough places smooth and contribute to general good feeling. The increase in the claims for pensions and the like should not be surprising. It is the usual aftermath of war, and when the chances of really getting the money seem to be good it is only natural that there should be an increase in the number of claimants."

Concerning the controversy over the Isle of Pines, Minister Squiers said it would be obviously improper for him to talk, "excepting," said he, "to say that I seem to receive undue prominence and am credited with a measure of responsibility that I might not fairly claim. Of course, the treaty, while negotiated in Havana, was very properly formulated in the State Department, and, as in all such matters, every step was taken under definite instructions from that department." Having been first secretary of the American Legation at Peking, under Ministers Denby and Conger, and having played a conspicuous part in the beleaguered Chinese capital, Minister Squiers admitted that he was watching the Russo-Japanese situation with interest. Beyond saying, however, that "the partition of China was discussed by many people as they would talk of cutting a mince pie," and observing that "it is a big question," he declined to discuss the subject.

BUILDINGS IN PARIS.

Henry P. Moorhouse, an American, who has been resident in Paris for thirty years, is a guest at the Manhattan. "The most notable change in Paris since I made the French capital my home," said Mr. Moorhouse, "has been in the development of the means of transportation—first in the building of the surface tramways, and later in the construction of the Metropolitan underground railroad. The opening of the latter in 1900—Exposition year—was hailed with every evidence of popular interest, and from the beginning the trains were crowded, but the one serious disaster and the other minor accidents have made the public somewhat chary about using the underground route; and, in fact, they do not when they can avoid it. Necessary changes to insure safety are, however, now being made, and public confidence will doubtless be restored. Of course, all improvements through public thoroughfares are made at some expense of the public comfort and convenience, but they did more burrowing when they built the underground road in Paris than is done in the construction of the subway in New-York, so that there was less of obstruction on the surface of the street. One notable difference between New-York and Paris is the inartistic sky line of the former, incident to the erection of skyscrapers side by side with buildings of much less altitude. In Paris the city architect protects the æsthetic sense of the people from such a condition, and when a street is opened the character of buildings that may be erected upon it is determined, and unless one is willing to put up a building that comes within the regulation, he need not buy property expecting to build upon it. Six stories is the maximum height in Paris."

INVESTING IN MEXICO.

Jules Roger Wahl, a French steel manufacturer, resident in Paris, who is a traveller and a linguist, is staying at the Holland House. Mr. Wahl is making his fifth visit to the United States, after three months in Mexico, during which he travelled very thoroughly over the republic. "I have travelled broadly," said Mr. Wahl, "because that is the best means of becoming familiar with the world and the people of the various countries. I have travelled with the special object of satisfying myself as to the countries that are most friendly to foreigners, and to learn where the best use could be made of money one might care to invest. I have decided that Mexico is most favorable, both in natural resources and the friendliness of the government to investors in enterprises that will benefit the country. Acting for four other gentlemen and myself, I bought the Navarette Hacienda, of the estate of General Leopold Romana, in the State of Tepic, on the Pacific Coast, comprising two hundred thousand acres, and secured from the Mexican government the concession to build a railroad from San Blas, on the coast, to Tepic, with a branch to Santiago; in all, about eighty miles. Between this line and the Mexican Central will be a gap of about sixty miles that will probably be built some time a little later. On our property are three salt mines, and, besides having the soil at various altitudes suitable to the cultivation of tropical, semi-tropical and temperate latitude products, we have a grazing range that will support two hundred thousand head of cattle. On the property is native rubber, and coffee is grown that is the equal of Mocha. We have cotton land, and can grow tobacco the equal of the Sumatra product.

"Before embarking in this enterprise, I investigated the mining opportunities. I found there were fifteen or twenty mines that are highly profitable, but there are hundreds that are losing ventures, not to mention thousands of companies that have nothing substantial to commend them. Only one-sixth of the money invested in mining is returned to the lucky ones, while five-sixths of all that goes in never comes out. There are, of course, good speculative chances, but when one can have a sure thing in the soil products, why take a chance in mining? I shall employ native labor as far as possible, and since the Chinese Exclusion act has been repealed, I may avail myself of the privilege of using so much Chinese labor as may be necessary to cultivate the plantation. One thing the foreigner must observe in any country in which he would do business is to adapt himself to the customs and methods of the people rather than try to revolutionize them, and, if he would inspire confidence and sympathy with his efforts, he must speak the language of the people."

MR. BRYAN VISITS M. LOUBET.

Paris, Dec. 7.—William J. Bryan was received by President Loubet this afternoon, the audience having been arranged by Ambassador Porter, in compliance with Mr. Bryan's request. Mr. Bryan will leave Paris to-morrow evening for Switzerland.

MR. SKINNER'S SPEECH AT DJIBUTIL.

Marseilles, Dec. 7.—Letters received here from members of the American expedition to Abyssinia describe their reception by the French Governor of Somaliland, M. Du Barry, on the arrival of the party at Djibutil. The Governor gave a reception at the palace, and drank President Roosevelt's health. Mr. Skinner responded, closing his speech with the statement that he would recommend Djibutil as the only feasible highway to Abyssinia and as a depot for American trade. The Governor expects a rapid development of Djibutil as the result of the opening of American trade with Ethiopia.