THE DRAMA.

HENRY IRVING AS DANTE.

Montauk Theatre.

Henry Irving appeared last night at the Montauk Theatre, in Brooklyn, and impersonated Dante, in his elaborate and magnificent production of the Sardou drama on that subject, and he will continue to act there throughout the present week. "Waterloo," "The Bells," "The Merchant of Venice" and "Louis XI" will be successively presented. There is no new word to be said about "Dante." Its beauty as a spectacle has been recognized in many cities, and the power and pathos of Henry Irving's embodiment of the great Italian poet have been deeply felt and duly and rightly recorded. The word for the hour is one of monition to the playgoing public, that the opportunity of seeing a great actor should not be neglected. There are many entertainments displayed on the local stage, but there are few actors who can be considered worthy of the name. Henry Irving,—original in his genius, noble in purpose, right in principle, rich in experience, and splendid in achievement,—stands alone, at this time, the illustrious exemplar of all that is best in the dramatic vocation. Opinions may differ ever so widely as to the relative values of his various performances, but no thoughtful observer can look upon his acting without pleasure and benefit—the pleasure of seeing perfection of method, and the benefit of being exalted in mind and ennobled in feeling. The plays that he presents are of the higher order, and he places the emphasis on acting, and not on incidents of eccentricity, problems of immorality, or extraneous features of vulgar sensation. The spectator of his acting sees great ideals made actual, human nature reflected with the delicate artistic exaggeration that produces the effect of reality, creations of the poetic imagination endowed with life, and the elusive fancies of genius turned to vital, sympathetic images of beauty, pathos, humor, grace and charm. The range of his art, in even the five characters chosen for his repertory this week, is extraordinary; for it comprises not only the lonely grandeur and intellectual authority of Dante, but the senile wreck of poor old Corporal Brewster, the awful mental strife and agonized, remorseful delirium of Mathias, the tremendous passionate concentration of Shylock, and the malign craft and baleful, stealthy ferocity of King Louis. This is the ninth week of Henry Irving's present American tour. The strain of exertion has been great, but it has been well borne, and the actor's powers are still supreme. The performance last night was one of ample vigor and beautiful finish. Among the auxiliar embodiments those of Casella, by Mr. James Hearn; Giotto, by Mr. H. B. Stanford; Corso, by Mr. C. Dodsworth; Ostasio, by Mr. Frank Tyars, and the Inquisitor, by Mr. William Farren, jr., impressed observation by qualities of judgment, sincerity, feeling, and zeal; but this play involves so much pageantry and is so diffuse in story that it somewhat obscures individual effort. As a scenic production this presentment surpasses, in opulence, variety, and loveliness—especially of imaginative suggestion—anything hitherto shown upon our stage by any manager except Henry Irving himself. "Dante" will be repeated to-night. W. W.

ACTORS NOW IN NEW-YORK.

Henry Irving.	Henrietta Crosman.
William Gillette.	Fay Davis.
J. Forbes Robertson.	Marie Tempest.
William Faversham.	Gertrude Elliott.
Leonard Boyne.	Charlotte Wiehe.
Charles Richman.	Maude Adams.
Robert B. Mantell.	Maxine Elliott.
Kyrle Bellew.	Hilda Spong.
Charles Warner.	Fritzi Scheff.
Sam Bernard.	Anna Held.
Frank Daniels.	Paula Edwardes.
Edwin Stevens.	Bertha Galland.
E. M. Holland.	Fay Templeton.
Henry Kemble.	Irene Bentley.
F. Tyars.	Ida Vernon.

PROMINENT STARS.

Miss Ada Rehan and Mr. Otis Skinner have been cordially welcomed in Chicago, where they acted from December 7 to December 19. They are now acting in St. Louis.....Mr. Mansfield, who is now in Buffalo, will appear in Boston on December 28, and in Philadelphia on January 11, 1904.....Miss Annie Russell, Miss Mary Mannering, Mr. N. C. Goodwin, and Mr. Francis Wilson are in Philadelphia.....Mr. Jefferson will not act again till April 2, 1904, when he will reappear, at Jacksonville, Fla.....Henry Irving, who devotes the present week to Brooklyn, will appear in Washington on December 28.....Mr. Charles Warner appeared last night at the Murray Hill Theatre, in "Drink.".....Mr. J. Forbes Robertson appeared at the Harlem Opera House, last night, in "The Light That Failed.".....Mr. E. H. Sothern is in Boston.....Mrs. Leslie Carter appeared last night in Cleveland.....Mr. John Drew is in Providence.....Mr. Charles Hawtrey is in Chicago.....Mr. Lawrance D'Orsay appeared last night in Toronto.....Mrs. Langtry will act in New-Orleans next week.....Mr. J. H. Stoddart, acting in "The Bonnie Brier Bush," is in Portland, Oregon.....Miss Blanche Bates, now in Boston, will act in Brooklyn, on January 4.

THEATRICAL INCIDENTS.

Another book play is announced. "The Virginian" will be presented at the Manhattan Theatre on Tuesday evening, January 5, 1904. Mr. Richman's engagement will close on January 2.

Mr. Brandon Tynan will reappear at the Fourteenth Street Theatre next Monday, December 28, as Robert Emmet.

MARY ANDERSON'S CHARITY.

Miss Mary Anderson (Mme. de Navarro) will appear at the People's Palace, Whitechapel, London, on December 29 and 30. On the first night she will entertain four thousand children of the East End with songs, accompanied on the piano by Miss Maud Valérie White, and on the following night will give recitations from Shakespeare's plays. The entertainments have been arranged by Father Bernard Vaughan, brother of the late Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, and the second of them is for the benefit of the poor, sick and suffering of the large Catholic East End parishes of St. Mary and St. Michael, in which Mme. de Navarro takes a lively interest.—(Stratford-on-Avon Herald, Dec. 11, 1903.

NOTES OF THE STAGE.

"The Runaways" to Pause Temporarily—The "Candida" Matinee.

"The Runaways," which was shown last night at the Grand Opera House, will close for the present on January 2. Miss Templeton has been playing for two years now—first with Weber & Fields, and then with "The Runaways"—and she wishes a rest before beginning rehearsals of a new musical comedy for spring production. "The Runaways" will be recast and sent out into the land of the one night stands, also in the spring.

Arnold Daly and his excellent company again presented G. B. Shaw's play "Candida" at the Madison Square Theatre yesterday afternoon. There will be a matinee to-day also, as well as one to-morrow. The audience was not large, but those who were present enjoyed an improved performance, especially on the part of Miss Donnelley, who, though still far from ideal, is becoming more possible as the thinker of the thoughts she utters at each repetition of the play. Herbert Standing, the father of Guy Standing, will join the company this afternoon. It is said that he was one of the players originally selected for the cast by Mr. Shaw himself.

On Wednesday morning, January 6, at 11 o'clock, Walter Damrosch will repeat at the New Lyceum Theatre his lecture explanatory of "Parsifal."

Robert Edeson reached town yesterday and at once began preparations for his production of "Ranson's Folly," which has been dramatized by Mr. Davis himself. Miss Sandol Milliken will be the leading woman.

At Keith's yesterday the ever present biograph was equipped with a complete series of pictures illustrating the opening of the new Williamsburg Bridge, which occurred on Saturday. The pictures were watched with much interest.

At the Harlem Opera House yesterday "The Light that Failed" was shown, for the week.

At the Murray Hill Theatre Charles Warner was seen in his striking impersonation of the drunkard in the play "Drink."

"Alabama" was revived yesterday to the delight of two audiences at Proctor's Fifth Avenue Theatre. At Proctor's Fifty-eighth-st. house a play called "Deserted at the Altar" was shown.

"Over Niagara Falls" can be seen this week at the Third Avenue Theatre.

At the Circle the presence of Ned Wayburn's "Minstrel Maids" is enough to fill the house this week.

MUSIC.

A Repetition of La Boheme.

Puccini's "Bohème" had its third representation this season at the Metropolitan Opera House last night, and the third singer essayed the part of Musetta. This was Mme. Saygard, an experienced artist, who, within her limitations, is always satisfactory; who spoils no picture, injures no musical ensemble, causes no violent disillusionment in the dramatic scene, and therefore fills out in a gratifying manner the group of character sketches around which Puccini has woven a web of decorative music with such amazing deftness. The amateur and incompetent element having been eliminated, the performance had unusual sparkle and animation, as was to have been expected. Do not Mme. Sembrich, Mme. Seygard, Signor Caruso, Signor Campanari and M. Journet make up an artistic group about as perfect as one could wish? And how Signor Vigna pours out his Italian soul through the orchestra!

GRAND OPERA IN ENGLISH.

Mr. Savage's English Opera Company began a season of opera in English, which is to last five weeks, at the West End Theatre, in One-hundred-and-twenty-fifth-st., last night, performing Verdi's "Otello," with the people and in the manner brought to notice in Brooklyn some months ago. To meet something like Metropolitan requirements Mr. Savage enlisted an orchestra which may be described as ample, and his forces labored manfully with Verdi's score, though with little appreciation of its refinements of expression. The performance was full of stress. It is always a matter of wonderment in the zealous and obviously honest doings of this company that so much of the material of an opera can be bodied forth and so little of its spirit. But the opera is a troublesome art form at best, and when it employs the vernacular under present conditions it seems impossible of beautiful achievement. The singers chiefly concerned in the performance of the English "Otello" were Miss Rennyson, Miss Newman, Mr. Sheehan, Mr. Goff, Mr. Fulton and Mr. Patton. The conductor was Mr. Emanuel.

TEACHERS LAMENT MR. COUDERT.

Regarded Him as One of Their Best Friends—He Worked Especially for Higher Salaries.

Expressions of sorrow on account of the death of Frederic R. Coudert, sr., were general among the veteran teachers in the public schools yesterday. Mr. Coudert was regarded by most of the teachers as one of their best friends, because he interested himself for years in efforts to have the salaries of the teachers raised and equalized. When he was a member of the Board of Education in Mayor Grace's administration, he was a strong advocate of raising the salaries of the women teachers, and particularly of the primary teachers, declaring that the sex of the teacher ought not to prevent the teacher from receiving pay adequate to the services rendered.

After Mr. Coudert retired from the Board of Education he remained an active worker for the teachers, frequently appearing at hearings at which legislation in their behalf was being discussed. His influence as a lawyer helped gain the legislation by which the women teachers receive higher salaries. It is expected that many of the teachers will be able to attend Mr. Coudert's funeral at St. Patrick's Cathedral at 10 a. m. to-day. In honor of his memory the flag will be at halfmast to-day on the Board of Education Building, by order of President Rogers.

It is expected that Archbishop Farley will take part in the funeral service at the Cathedral this morning. The pallbearers are William G. Choate, president of the Bar Association; Justice Charles H. Truax, president of the Manhattan Club; Justice Leonard A. Giegerich, president of the Catholic Club; President Butler and Dean Van Amringe, of Columbia University; Justices Edward Patterson and Morgan J. O'Brien, of the Supreme Court; John F. Dillon, Wheeler H. Peckham, William B. Hornblower, Everett P. Wheeler, Maxwell Evarts and Colonel J. A. McAnerney.

The body of Mr. Coudert was brought to this city from Washington yesterday, and last night it was at the house of his daughter, Mrs. Benedict, No. 65 West Forty-ninth-st., from which place the funeral procession will go to the Cathedral. Among the messages received by the relatives yesterday was one from ex-President Cleveland. Among the organizations to be represented by delegations at the funeral are the Bar Association, the Alumni Association of Columbia University, the French Benevolent Society, the Catholic Club, the Emigrant Industrial Savings Bank and the New-York Security and Trust Company.

Out of respect to Mr. Coudert's memory, yesterday Justice Giegerich adjourned Special Term, Part IV, of the Supreme Court. Similar action was taken by Justice Fitzgerald in Special Term, Part I, of the Supreme Court.

SEEKING A HOUSE IN NEWPORT.

Newport, Dec. 21 (Special).—Mr. and Mrs. William B. Leeds, of New-York, have been in Newoprt looking for a house for next season, and although no announcement is made of any rental or sale it is understood that they will be among the summer residents of 1904. Last season Mr. and Mrs. Leeds spent much of the summer here on their yacht, which was the scene of many social gatherings, and it was reported that they were negotiating for the purchase of Marble House. This was denied, but it now looks as if they were to become property owners at Newport.

THE WEATHER REPORT.

Yesterday's Record and To-day's Forecast.

Washington, Dec. 21.—The storm that was central over the middle St. Lawrence Valley Sunday night has passed eastward beyond the field of observation and another of nearly equal intensity has moved from Western Minnesota to Central Ontario. The latter storm is closely followed by rapidly rising pressure, the rise extending over the entire west country, except the southern plateau.

There has been during the last twenty-four hours rains and snows in the lake region, the Ohio Valley, New-England and interior New-York. Elsewhere the weather has been generally fair, except over the north districts west of the Rocky Mountains, where there were light rains and snows. Temperatures have fallen decidedly in the Northwest, the middle slope and New-England, and have risen slightly in the Ohio Valley, the lower lake region and the South. There will be snow Tuesday in the lake region, except along west Lake Michigan and west Lake Huron, in the mountain districts of Maryland and West Virginia, and rain or snow in North New-England. Elsewhere the weather will be fair Tuesday and Wednesday. It will be colder Tuesday in the central valleys and the lake region, and colder Tuesday night in New-England, the Middle Atlantic and the Gulf portions of the South Atlantic and Eastern Gulf States.

It will be warmer Tuesday in Eastern Florida and along the South Atlantic Coast, and warmer Wednesday in the Northwest.

On the New-England coast winds will be fresh to brisk southwest to west, probably high in extreme south portions; on the Middle Atlantic Coast, brisk southwest to west, probably high on North New-Jersey coast; on the South Atlantic Coast fresh and mostly southwest; on the east Gulf coast light south, becoming variable; on the west Gulf Coast light to fresh south, shifting to north, and on Lake Michigan brisk northwest.

Steamers departing Tuesday for European ports will have southwest to west winds, brisk to high north of the thirty-ninth parallel, with partly cloudy to cloudy weather to the Grand Banks.

Cold wave warnings have been ordered for Michigan, Wisconsin, Northern Illinois, Northern Indiana and the eastern portions of Minnesota and Iowa. Storm warnings are displayed on the Atlantic Coast from Sandy Hook to Eastport.

FORECAST FOR TO-DAY AND WEDNESDAY.

For New-England, cloudy to-day, with rain or snow in north portion; colder at night; brisk to high southwest to west winds; Wednesday fair.

For the District of Columbia, partly cloudy to-day; colder at night; Wednesday fair; brisk southwest to northwest winds.

For Delaware and Eastern Pennsylvania, fair to-day; colder at night; Wednesday fair; fresh to brisk west to northwest winds.

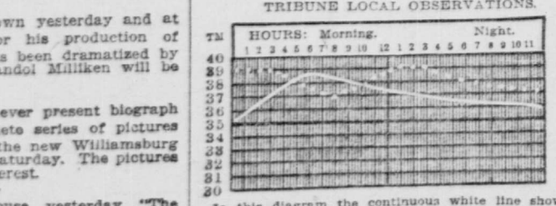
For New-Jersey, partly cloudy to-day; colder at night; brisk west to northwest winds, probably high in north portion; Wednesday fair.

For Eastern New-York, cloudy to-day; probably rain or snow in the morning; brisk to high southwest to northwest winds; colder at night; Wednesday fair.

For Western Pennsylvania, partly cloudy and somewhat colder to-day; brisk to high west to northwest winds.

For Western New-York, snow and colder to-day; brisk to high northwest winds; Wednesday partly cloudy.

TRIBUNE LOCAL OBSERVATIONS.



In this diagram the continuous white line shows the changes in pressure as indicated by The Tribune's self-recording barometer. The dotted line shows the temperature as recorded by the local Weather Bureau.

The following official record from the Weather Bureau shows the changes in the temperature for the last twenty-four hours, in comparison with the corresponding date of last year:

	1903.	1902.		1903.	1902.
3 a. m.	39	40	4 p. m.	38	48
6 a. m.	38	39	6 p. m.	38	51
9 a. m.	37	41	9 p. m.	37	53
12 m.	39	45	11 p. m.	37	53
3 p. m.	39	49	12 p. m.	—	53

Highest temperature yesterday, 39 degrees; lowest, 37; average, 38; average for corresponding date last year, 45; average for corresponding date last twenty-five years, 33.

Local forecast: Cloudy to-day; probably rain or snow in the morning; brisk to high southwest to northwest winds; colder at night; fair Wednesday.

ARMY AND NAVY NEWS.

[FROM THE TRIBUNE BUREAU.]

Washington, December 21.

TANGLED ARMY LAW.—The Department of Justice is wrestling in a hopeless sort of way with the laws of the United States relating to the army. The more the subject is considered by the special committee of lawyers at work on a revision of the statutes the greater appears the difficulty of adjusting matters without recourse to further legislation. Just now the subject under discussion is that of army pay, which it is found in many cases is fixed by assimilation. A sergeant major of cavalry, for instance, is to receive the pay of a sergeant major of infantry and artillery, so that it is necessary to look up two laws to find out what might as well be set forth in one. Another example is that of the pay of the regimental staff. The act of February 2, 1901, provides that captains or first lieutenants may be detailed as regimental adjutants, quartermasters and commissaries. A general order requires that captains only shall be detailed for such service. The Controller of the Treasury has decided that staff officers are entitled to mounted pay. By this devious route the pay department reaches the conclusion that officers serving on the regimental staff have the pay of captains, mounted, which is no doubt correct, but to arrive at the result it is necessary to consult a statute, a general order and a decision by the Controller. Section 9 of the Act of March 3, 1899, provides that "the cooks authorized by this act shall receive the pay and allowances of infantry." But cooks of engineers and the signal corps are not authorized by the act mentioned. To ascertain their compensation it is necessary to go back to the Act of July 7, 1898, which provides that "a cook shall receive the pay of a corporal of the arm of the service to which he belongs." This has been superseded as to other cooks, but must be invoked to determine the pay of those of the corps referred to.

INCREASED PAY REFUSED.—The United States Supreme Court to-day affirmed the decision of the Court of Claims refusing to grant increased pay to Ulysses S. G. White, a civil engineer in the navy, under the Navy Personnel act of 1899. Mr. White was appointed in 1887. He contended that he had reached the maximum rate of pay in the army by reason of five years' service before entering the navy, and that he was entitled to a higher rate for the time of his entire naval service. The court held otherwise, however, on the ground that the operation of the law is prospective and not retrospective. This was a test case.

THE HELENA AT NEW-CHWANG.—The Navy Department is advised of the arrival of the gunboat Helena at New-Chwang, China, where she has gone into a mud dock for the winter. For some time the Department was without advices from the Helena, although she had orders to proceed to her present station. The report of her commander contains no news bearing on the situation in Manchuria.

THE MACHIAS RETURNING TO DJIBUTIL.—The gunboat Machias, which recently left Djibutil, French Somaliland, on a cruise in the Red Sea, has left Perio on her return to Djibutil, to await the arrival at that port of the Skinner expedition to Adis Abeba, the capital of Abyssinia.

WORK ON THE MOCCASIN.—The Navy Department to-day received the following telegram in regard to the submarine boat Moccasin from Admiral Harrington, commandant of the navy yard at Portsmouth, Va.:

Wrecking company has two vessels at wreck. Anchors planted and hawsers run, waiting for east wind. Hercules there, and gunner and two men caring for battery. Moccasin all right. Must wait for east wind.

THE TOPEKA ORDERED TO COLON.—The cruiser Topeka, of the training squadron now at New-Orleans, has been detached and ordered to proceed to Colon, by way of Key West. She will leave New-Orleans to-morrow morning. She has three hundred apprentices aboard.

TROUBLE OVER NEW DIVISIONS.—It has been found necessary to make numerous changes in the general order issued Friday establishing new military divisions and departments. The order announced assignments to duty of the officers who will serve as commanding generals and as staff officers at the division and department headquarters. It appears that the General Staff of the army made these assignments to duty without consulting the officers most interested. It has been found that the details in some cases were uncongenial, and the General Staff has had its first experience with the influences which sometimes operate to retain officers on duty at certain places. Army officers are greatly amused over the establishment of division headquarters at Oklahoma City, the selection of which for such a purpose is a great mystery to the army. A more available location would have been Galveston or San Antonio, Tex., or New-Orleans. Oklahoma City is not known to have any military importance, and, as one critic said to-day, its strategic value has been discovered only by the General Staff.

ORDERS ISSUED.—The following army and navy orders have been issued:

ARMY.

Brigadier General THOMAS H. BARRY, to Atlanta, to secure suitable headquarters, Department of the Gulf.

Second Lieutenant SAMUEL E. PATTERSON, Philippine Scouts, to Manila.

First Lieutenants SYLVANUS G. ORR, from unassigned list to the 14th Company, coast artillery, and ELLISON L. GILMER, from the 14th Company to unassigned list. Lieutenant Gilmer to artillery district of Savannah.

Contract Surgeon ADRIAN D. WILLIAMS, now at Brooklyn, to Philippines.

First Lieutenant ARTHUR M. FERGUSON, 14th Infantry, report to Brigadier General Thomas H. Barry as aide de camp.

Captain ARTHUR M. EDWARDS, commissary, to New-York City as assistant purchasing commissary.

First Lieutenant JOHN H. ALLEN, assistant surgeon, from Philippines to General Hospital, Presidio, to relieve First Lieutenant Walter C. Chidester, assistant surgeon. Lieutenant CHIDESTER to Fort Lawton to relieve Contract Surgeon Wallace E. Sabine. Contract Surgeon CABINE to Philippines.

NAVY.

Ensign F. B. CASE (retired), detached the Enterprise; home.

Acting Assistant Surgeon L. H. SCHWERIN, detached the Southery; to the Abarenda.

Midshipman J. H. BLACKBURN, detached the Wisconsin; to the Wheeling.

MOVEMENTS OF NAVAL VESSELS.—The following movements of vessels have been reported to the Navy Department:

ARRIVED.

December 17—The Culgoa, at Culebra.

December 18—The Scorpion and the Leonidas, at Culebra.

December 19—The Standish, at Annapolis; the Cleveland, at New-York; the Wanna, at San Diego; the Brutus, at Guam; the Preble and the Paul Jones, at Mare Island; the Texas and the Whipple, at Charleston.

December 20—The Whipple, the Truxton, the Worden, the Lawrence and the Stewart, at Port Royal; the San Francisco, at Alexandretta.

SAILED.

December 19—The Villalobos, from Hankow for Shanghai; the New-York, from Bremerton for San Francisco; the Texas, the Whipple, the Truxton, the Worden, the Lawrence and the Stewart, from Charleston for Key West.

December 20—The Bennington, from Bremerton for San Francisco; the Machias, from Perion for Djibouti; the Castine, from Key West for Colon; the Baltimore, from Key West for Hampton Roads.

The Iris placed out of commission at Mare Island yard, December 18.

MAY RAZE FORMER CITY CLUB HOUSE.

Possible That a Twelve Story Building for Mercantile House May Occupy Site.

These are exciting times for owners of property in Thirty-fourth-st. from Fifth to Sixth aves. Scarcely a day passes that some interesting transaction affecting property in the street does not become public. Not long ago it was announced that the Welles Realty and Construction Company, of Philadelphia, might build a big hotel on the north side of the street, on a site opposite the Waldorf. Then a building on the south side of the street was leased, and this deal was quickly followed by the purchase of No. 5 and also of No. 7, the Hilton house, by the Century Realty Company, of which William H. Chesebrough is president. It was learned yesterday that the former home of the City Club, at No. 19 West Thirty-fourth-st., may soon be razed and replaced by a twelve story building, to be occupied by Revillon Frères, the mercantile house. This property is also known as the Loomis house. It is owned by Dr. Henry P. Loomis, and has a frontage of 50 feet in Thirty-fourth-st., of 40 feet in Thirty-fifth-st. and a depth of 200 feet. The asking price for it has been more than $500,000. It is understood that Dr. Loomis may erect the proposed building and lease it to Revillon Frères for twenty-one years. No contracts have yet been signed.

The present building on the site was built about thirty-five years ago. It was sold at auction in 1880 by a representative of Dr. Loomis for $67,500. This site, which did not include the Thirty-fifth-st. plot, is now valued at more than $300,000.

It is also said that an office and store building may be built on the premises No. 9 West Thirty-fourth-st. in the near future. That property is owned by Henry Clews.

TRANSATLANTIC TRAVELLERS.

These arrived yesterday on La Bretagne:

Mrs. W. G. Alger. | J. A. Delamare.
Joseph Josefsohn. | Alexander Wierbitzski.

On the Minneapolis there arrived:

Dr. W. J. Allen. | Mr. and Mrs. A. Janvier.
W. A. Dunlap. | C. E. Bridge Webb.

EDUCATIONAL UNITY.

Secretary of the Regents and Supt. Skinner Give Their Statements.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Albany, Dec. 21.—The joint legislative committee on educational unification discussed several propositions to-day for harmonizing the work of the Regents and the State Department of Public Instruction. Three members of the committee submitted bills embodying their ideas of unification, but none of the measures were adopted.

In a statement replying to the brief of Superintendent Skinner, of the State Department of Public Instruction, presented at a previous meeting of the committee, Secretary James Russell Parsons, of the Regents, declared that the Regents should have sole supervision of courses of academic education in all schools under their jurisdiction, as was the case up to 1895. He said:

Chapter 1081, 4, lines 8-9, of the laws of 1895, should be amended by substituting the Regents of the University for the Superintendent of Public Instruction in approval of courses of academic education in high schools, academic departments, academies and higher institutions. The act for the payment of the tuition of non-resident students should also be amended by vesting its administration solely with the Regents. These are the two acts which have produced unnecessary duplication of work and consequent friction. The suggested amendments would establish a clear line of demarcation between the work of the two State departments of education.

Superintendent Skinner had contended that the repeal of that section of the Union Free School law which makes courses of education in academic departments of union free schools subject to the regulations of the Regents would at once restore harmony. To this Mr. Parsons replies:

The action which the superintendent thus proposes would destroy the strength of the Regents as an effective educational force. The original charter of the university authorized the Regents to found schools and colleges in such part of this State as may seem expedient to them, every such school being at all times to be deemed a part of the university and as such subject to the control and direction of the said Regents.

From the beginning the supervision of courses of education in high schools, academies and academic departments has been as it is to-day, the chief function of the Regents, the heart of their work, the foundation on which the whole system of higher, professional and technical education rests. They do not believe that the legislature will sanction the change proposed by Mr. Skinner in the efficient supervision under which the extraordinary development of our secondary schools has been attained.

Mr. Parsons answers at length all of Mr. Skinner's many references to the statutes. Charles A. Gardiner, of New-York, chairman of the Regents' law committee, concurs in the views of Mr. Parsons in all questions involving the interpretation of the statutes.

Mr. Skinner handed to-day another statement to the committee, saying that he favored the enactment of the Walter L. Brown bill of last winter, giving the State Department of Public Instruction control of all tax supported schools. If that plan was impossible of accomplishment, then he favored the Elon R. Brown bill, providing for a State board of education, to replace the Regents, who shall have the appointment of a superintendent of instruction. Should this proposition also fail, Mr. Skinner said he would support the bill introduced by Senator White in 1900, which provides for a commissioner of education, to carry out all the laws relating to public education.

The committee will hold another meeting to-morrow.

Superintendent Skinner talked with Governor Odell this afternoon. The question of educational unification was discussed. It is known that the Governor is opposed to any proposition that amends the constitution and interferes with the present Board of Regents and the life tenure of its members.

THE GOVERNOR GIVES A DINNER.

Albany, Dec. 21.—Governor and Mrs. Odell gave a dinner to-night at the Executive Mansion. The guests were Bishop and Mrs. William C. Doane, Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Pruyn, Mr. and Mrs. Grange Sard, Mr. and Mrs. A. Bleecker Banks, Mr. and Mrs. William Bayard Van Rensselaer, Dr. and Mrs. Samuel B. Ward, Dr. and Mrs. Schurman, of Cornell and Mr. and Mrs. Harriman, Mrs. Slade, Mr. and Mrs. Whitelaw Reid and Dr. Odell, of New-York. Mrs. Odell will give a tea to-morrow afternoon in honor of Mrs. Schurman, wife of President Schurman of Cornell University, and Mrs. Slade, of New-York.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE ABOUT READY.

Albany, Dec. 21.—Governor Odell to-day said that he had practically completed his message to the legislature. A certain amount of revision would be required, he said, with reference, for instance, to the conditions at Randall's Island, in the light of the report on the subject to the State Board of Charities. It is understood that the message will be comparatively brief.

BIG ESTATE DWINDLES.

Corbin's Gross Personalty $4,902,329 in 1897; Now $289,821 Net.

Riverhead, Long Island, Dec. 21.—Surrogate Petty of Suffolk County has entered a decree settling the second judicial accounting of the executors and trustees of the Austin Corbin estate. The estate has dwindled to a fraction of what it was originally. Mrs. Hallett Alsop Borrowe, a daughter of Austin Corbin, has been fighting the other members of the family in the settlement. The proceedings have been constantly in the law since 1896 and no end is in sight yet. There have been many decisions, invariably against Mrs. Borrowe. While Mrs. Borrowe is a loser by the constant legal fights, yet her share of the loss is not so great as is entailed on the other legatees.

When the estate was first appraised (in 1897), the appraiser reported $4,902,329 as the total gross personal wealth of Mr. Corbin. There was also a big sum owed by him, and after these debts were satisfied there was a considerable sum left. Now there is a total cash balance of only $289,821 31 as shown by the recent accounting, while on June 21, 1901, the accounting filed showed that the executors were charged with $2,477,829 25.

Judge Petty orders that out of the balance so shown by the recent accounting, the executors retain $30,503 76 for the commissions to which they are entitled on this second accounting, the expenses in the first accounting having been previously fixed at $1,986 50 as costs and expenses in this accounting, and $1,450,52 as fees and expenses of Theodore D. Dimon, referee in the second contested accounting. The total cash and realty now in the hands of the executors is $1,847,-200 38, and there is also a considerable quantity of exceedingly valuable real property that does not have to figure in the account.

SENATOR HANNA IMPROVING.

Senator Hanna, who has been ill at the Waldorf-Astoria since Saturday with an attack of grip, was much improved yesterday. While he was still in bed, it was said that he would be able to leave his room to-day.

MRS. COWLES MORTGAGES HER HOUSE.

Mrs. Cowles, wife of Captain William Cowles, U. S. N., and sister of President Roosevelt, has mortgaged her house, No. 689 Madison-ave., southeast corner of Sixty-second-st., to the New-York Life Insurance and Trust Company, for $18,000 for three years at 4 per cent. The property carries a prior mortgage of $18,000.

GOVERNOR TAFT'S RETURN.

Manila, Dec. 21.—Governor W. H. Taft will leave this city the day after to-morrow, for the United States. He will visit Tokio, to meet the Mikado, at the request of the latter. The citizens of Honolulu will hold a reception in his honor when he arrives there.

MORTALITY FROM ALCOHOL.

From The London Globe.

It is remarked that even in countries where alcoholism is denounced, the mortality from it, as given by statistics, is low, apparently because the cause of death is not exactly declared. Professor Mahaim of the University of Lausanne, drew attention to the matter in the Congress of Brussels, and proposed a method of certifying the cause of death, which would give exact statistics, while respecting private feelings. In Switzerland it is already done by certificates bearing numbers, and to identify the person corresponding to the number requires a long research. The plan has been in use fifteen years in the towns, and two years in the country, and given satisfaction. It appears that one-half per cent of the deaths (male subjects over twenty years) are caused by delirium tremens. Alcoholism alone, acute or chronic, is the cause of 3 per cent of the deaths.

OBITUARY.

JOSEPH STICKNEY.

Joseph Stickney, senior member of the firm of Stickney, Conyngham & Co., coal dealers, No. 1 Broadway, died suddenly at his home, No. 874 Fifth-ave., yesterday morning from a stroke of apoplexy. He was born in Concord, N. H., in 1840, and about 1880 became interested in anthracite coal mining, which had been his business ever since. He was a member of the Union, Union League, Racquet and New-York Yacht clubs. His country home was in Westchester. He leaves a widow, who was Miss Carolyn Foster, of Waltham.

PHILO C. MERWIN.

Brookfield, Conn., Dec. 21.—Major Philo C. Merwin, who was a member of the State legislature in 1863-'64, is dead, aged ninety-four. He was a partner in Turner, Bailey & Co.'s circus, which finally became the Barnum show. Afterward, as a railroad capitalist, he bought the right of way of the Boston, Hartford and Erie Railroad, now the Highland Division of the New-York, New-Haven and Hartford Railroad from Waterbury to the New-York State line. Mr. Merwin was one of the early members of the New-Haven Grays, and received his title from Governor Tomlinson, whose term of office was from 1827 to 1831.

THE REV. DR. BROOKE HERFORD.

Boston, Dec. 21.—The death in England of the Rev. Dr. Brooke Herford, a distinguished Unitarian clergyman and writer and former pastor of the Arlington Street Church, in this city, was announced here to-day. Dr. Herford was one of the best known author-clergymen in this country and abroad. He was born in Manchester, England, in 1830, and was trained for a business career. He was drawn toward the ministry, however, and attended Manchester New College. His first pastorates were in the country districts of England. In 1875 Dr. Herford came to America, and a year later he became pastor of the Church of the Messiah, in Chicago. In 1882 he came to Boston as pastor of the Arlington Street Church. Later he resigned to accept a call to the Rosslyn Hill Chapel, London.

VANDERBILT DEFENDS HIS COACHMAN.

Goes on His Bond in a Suit for Damages Brought by a Collector.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Newport, Dec. 21.—Reginald C. Vanderbilt has been called upon to go on the bonds of his coachman, Charles Boone, in order to keep the man out of jail. A writ of arrest was served on Boone, in which damages in the sum of $300 are claimed by Michael Sullivan, a collector, who alleges that in trying to collect a bill from Boone at Sandy Point Farm he was assaulted. At first a criminal suit was brought, Mr. Vanderbilt then going bail for Boone, and now he does so in the civil action, believing his coachman is in the right.

A Remarkable Endorsement.

Dr. Lapponi, the medical authority, who came into prominence as the physician to the late Pope Leo XIII., and who has been appointed to act in the same capacity to Pope Pius X., has in his extensive practice been experimenting with Buffalo Lithia Water, and has now written a letter testifying to its great medicinal value.

Dr. Lapponi points out the fact that, owing to its richness in lithia, this water has marvellous efficiency in cases of Bright's Disease, gout, rheumatism, dyspepsia, gravel and all forms of uric acid diathesis.

In recent years the lay world, as well as the professional, has been driven to recognize the fact that Buffalo Lithia Water has a most remarkable effect upon the human system, and Dr. Lapponi, in this letter, simply joins the ranks of the most eminent physicians in this country and abroad when he testifies to the remarkable benefits which follow its use.

Died.

Death notices appearing in THE TRIBUNE will be republished in The Tri-Weekly Tribune without extra charge.

Balch, Alonzo W.	Morrison, George H.
Bird, William.	Murray, Francis K.
Blashfield, Lydia M.	Stickney, Joseph.
Coudert, Frederic R.	Taft, Enos M.
Cowles, Margaret S.	Tuller, Henry H.
Cox, Emilly E.	Tully, Thomas.
Dyer, Cornelia C. J.	White, Raymond S.
Gray, Jane R.	Woodward, Maria.
Herford, Brooke.	

BALCH—Suddenly, at his late residence, No. 146 West 104th-st., Alonzo W. Balch. Notice of funeral hereafter.

BIRD—Suddenly, at Dunellen, N. J., on Sunday, December 20, 1903, William Bird, of the city of New-York. Funeral private.

BLASHFIELD—On Monday, December 21, 1903, at her late residence, No. 18 Second Place, Brooklyn, Lydia Mason Blashfield, in the 81st year of her age. Funeral private.

COUDERT—At Washington, D. C., Sunday, December 20, Frederic R. Coudert, in the 72d year of his age. Funeral services at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Tuesday, December 22, at 10 a. m., from No. 65 West 49th-st.

AT a Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Emigrant Industrial Savings Bank, called to take action on the death of Hon. Frederic R. Coudert, the following was unanimously adopted:

Whereas, In the Providence of Almighty God this Bank has been deprived, in the death of Mr. Coudert, of one of its most valued Trustees, long associated with this institution, both as Counsel and Trustee;

And, Whereas, we recognized in Mr. Coudert not only a valued friend and faithful officer, a lawyer of the highest standing at the bar of the country, prominent in international law and public affairs; a genial associate, a wise counselor and a gentleman of the highest integrity, a great and public spirited citizen, an honor to his country, his race and his religion, a man whose loss is to be mourned.

Resolved, That we extend our deepest sympathy to the bereaved family of the deceased, and take this occasion to record our great respect and cordial affection as his associates.

Resolved, That the action of this board be spread upon the minutes, a copy published in the daily papers, and an engrossed copy sent to the family.

HERMAN RIDDER,
JOHN BYRNE,
MYLES TIERNEY, } Committee.

COWLES—At Hartford, Sunday, the 20th inst. Margaret Stanley, wife of the late John E. Cowles, of Farmington, Conn. Funeral Wednesday, 23d, at 11 o'clock, at Farmington.

COX—On Sunday, December 20, Emily E., widow of James B. Cox, in the 82d year of her age. Funeral on Wednesday, December 23, at 3 p. m., from her late residence, No. 2,590 Ocean-ave., Brooklyn.

DYER—At her residence, No. 111 East 17th-st., New-York, December 19, 1903, Cornelia C. Joy, widow of Rev. Herman Dyer, D. D. Funeral service at Grace Church, Broadway and 10th-st., on Tuesday, December 22, at 10 a. m. Ladies' Christian Union—It is desired that members shall meet in the vestibule of Grace Church at 9:50 o'clock.

GRAY—On Sunday, December 20, 1903, Jane Ray, wife of the late Adam Russ Gray. Funeral services will be held at her late residence, No. 18 Monroe Place, Brooklyn, on T