Amusements.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC—8:15—'Way Down East.
BELASCO THEATRE—8—Sweet Kitty Bellairs.
BROADWAY THEATRE—8:30—Babette.
CASINO—8:15—Winsome Winnie.
CIRCLE—2—8—Vaudeville.
CRITERION—8—The Other Girl.
DALY'S THEATRE—8:30—Cousin Kate.
EDEN MUSEE—The World in Wax.
GARDEN THEATRE—8:15—Merely Mary Ann.
GARRICK THEATRE—8:20—Whitewashing Julia.
HARLEM OPERA HOUSE—8:15—Her Own Way.
HERALD SQUARE THEATRE—8:10—The Girl from Kay's.
HUDSON THEATRE—2—8:30—The Marriage of Kitty.
IRVING PLACE THEATRE—2:30—Puss in Boots—8:20—Los Vom Manne.
KEITH'S—Continuous Performance.
KNICKERBOCKER—8—Mam'selle Napoleon.
LYRIC THEATRE—8:20—Red Feather.
MADISON SQUARE—2:20—8:20—A Girl from Dixie.
MADISON SQUARE GARDEN—2—8—Physical Culture Show.
MAJESTIC THEATRE—8—Babes in Toyland.
MANHATTAN THEATRE—8:15—Captain Barrington.
METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE—5—Parsifal.
MURRAY HILL THEATRE—8—Rachel Goldstein.
NEW AMSTERDAM—8—Mother Goose.
NEW EMPIRE—8:15—The Pretty Sister of José.
NEW LYCEUM—8:15—The Admirable Crichton.
NEW-YORK THEATRE—8:15—Dorothy Vernon of Haddon Hall.
PRINCESS THEATRE—2—8—Raffles and The Sacrament of Judas.
PROCTOR'S—Twenty-third Street—Wormwood's Animals and Vaudeville. Fifty-eighth Street—George Primrose and Vaudeville. Fifth Avenue—Trilby and Vaudeville. One-hundred-and-twenty-fifth Street—What Happened to Jones and Vaudeville.
SAVOY THEATRE—8:10—Glad of It.
VAUDEVILLE—8:20—Charlotte Wiehe and French Company.
VICTORIA—8:15—The Office Boy.
WALLACK'S—8:20—The County Chairman.
WEBER AND FIELDS—8—Whoop-Dee-Doo and Waffles.
WEST END—8:15—Faust.

Index to Advertisements.

	Page.	Col.		Page.	Col.
Amusements	16	6	Lost	12	4
Apartment Hotels	7	6	Marriages & Deaths	11	5
Bankers & Brokers	15	4	Ocean Steamers	12	2-3
Board and Room	12	4	Office Furniture	12	5
Carpet Cleaning	12	4	Official Legal Notices	12	2
Citations	12	2	Proposals	12	4
City Hotels	13	6	Railroads	13	5-6
Copart'ship Notices	15	2	Real Estate	7	6
Dividend Notices	15	4-6	Savings Banks	15	1-2
Dom. Sits. Wanted	12	6-7	School Agencies	12	4
Dancing Academies	12	4	Special Notices	11	6
Dressmaking	12	4	Steamboats	13	6
Financial Elections	15	3	Surrogate's Notices	13	5
Financial Meetings	15	6	Tribune Sub'n Rates	11	6
Financial	15	2-4	Trust Companies	15	5-6
Furnished Rooms	12	4	To Let for Business Purposes	7	6
Help Wanted	12	5	Winter Resorts	12	4-6
Horses & Carriages	7	1	Work Wanted	12	5-6
Instruction	12	3-4			

New-York Daily Tribune.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1903.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN.—Dispatches from the chief European capitals stated that fears of war between Russia and Japan were growing, though officials had not abandoned hopes of a peaceful solution. ═══ Baron Hayashi, the Japanese Minister at London, said that in case of war France would remain neutral. ═══ Japan purchased the two Argentine cruisers, the Moreno and the Rivadavia, at Genoa, and is negotiating for the purchase of two Chilian warships. ═══ The Panama Canal Company, at a meeting in Paris, by a vote of 9,239 to 119, adopted a resolution continuing the existing engagements with the United States. ═══ Both houses of the French Parliament adjourned after passing the budget; Etienne Brisson was elected to succeed M. Bourgeois as president of the Chamber.

DOMESTIC.—Fire in the Iroquois Theatre, Chicago, caused a loss of life estimated at upward of seven hundred; flames breaking out on the stage threw the audience into a wild panic, and, in the rush to escape, men, women and children were trampled to death; the gas tanks exploded and many perished by suffocation. ═══ President Roosevelt denied reports that he had offered the chairmanship of the Republican National Committee to various persons; it is again said that Senator Hanna has not definitely decided as to whether or not he will retain the chairmanship. ═══ At the Republican love feast in Indianapolis, Senators Beveridge and Fairbanks made speeches praising President Roosevelt and especially his policy in regard to the isthmian canal.

CITY.—Stocks were irregular and generally lower. ═══ It was learned that Governor Odell will arrive here to-day; many leaders saw Senator Platt. ═══ A memorial meeting for Andrew H. Green was held in the aldermen's chamber. ═══ Mrs. Fannie McComb Herzog filed a petition for an accounting of her father's estate, of which Granville W. Garth was an executor. ═══ An attempt was made to steal jewelry worth $75,000 from an apartment house. ═══ John Skelton Williams resigned as president of the Seaboard Air Line, and James M. Barr was chosen to succeed him. ═══ There was wild excitement in cotton.

THE WEATHER.—Indications for to-day: Increasing cloudiness and warm, probably followed by snow. The temperature yesterday: Highest, 30 degrees; lowest, 17.

THE WOODBURY PROBLEM.

The prospect that the Commissioner of Street Cleaning will be retained by Mr. McClellan on an indefinite tenure without a reappointment suggests various reflections, one of which is that such an arrangement cannot be wholly agreeable to Dr. Woodbury. That he should care to keep a particularly laborious place on any terms is probably a puzzle to many citizens, who have been told that he does not need the salary, but do not know what manner of man he is. But to those who have the advantage of his acquaintance it does not appear strange that he should desire to go on with the work which he has been doing for two years. He is naturally energetic and ingenious. Having many ideas on the subject of a city's waste products, he enjoys the opportunity of putting them to a practical test. He has a talent for command, and likes to exercise it, as do most men so endowed. He has been able to get along comfortably with Tammany in the Board of Aldermen and elsewhere by virtue of a frank and cheerful combativeness of temper which may provoke opposition at the outset but disarms it in the end. His friends are aware that he has never got as much fun out of any other occupation, for he has told them so a hundred times. He is convinced, rightly or wrongly, that he is capable of accomplishing much greater things as Street Cleaning Commissioner than he has yet had time for, and it would be a grievous disappointment to him to have to stop now while there is a doubt about it.

But we cannot believe that Dr. Woodbury relishes the announcement—unofficial, but generally credited—that he is to be retained, not because he is really wanted by the administration, but because it is considered expedient to give Tammany the benefit of his reputation so long as he will consent to make things as pleasant as he conveniently can for the organization. His instincts and proclivities are Democratic, and doubtless it has been easier for him than it would have been for some other good men to think favorably of sinners, but we are sure he would not contentedly submit to be a servant of Tammany rather than of the city as the price of keeping his office. If, therefore, he is ready to accept the uncertain status of a holdover, he must realize that he is adding to his burdens. He can hardly have failed to become aware that a good many persons are already complaining, we do not say justly, that the streets have not been as well cleaned on the whole during the last six months as they were while the subway excavations made the work extraordinarily difficult, and that efficient sweeping is, after all, more important than experiments in final disposition. A general understanding that the Commissioner was on his good behavior, in the Tammany meaning of that term, would make the criticisms which no man in his position can hope to escape doubly hard to bear. Indeed, the suspicion of subserviency, however undeserved, might have the effect of impairing his usefulness.

These are considerations, chiefly personal to himself, which Dr. Woodbury must duly weigh on his own account. From the public point of view, it is a significant fact that in all the discussion relating to his commissionership Tammany has never once been credited with a desire to retain his services for the good of the city. Everybody, in and out of the organization, takes it for granted that the only question is whether or not it is good politics to keep in a conspicuous office a man whom most of the leaders are selfishly eager to turn out. Is it worth while to throw a sop to sensitive Democrats and independents? On the result of that calculation the retention of Dr. Woodbury has all the time depended. It is disgusting to think of, but we earnestly hope the decision will be to keep him, for there is nobody else in sight who begins to possess his qualifications for the place.

THE CHICAGO HORROR.

Not since the burning of the Ring Theatre, of Vienna, in 1881, when about nine hundred people were killed, has any disaster occurred comparable in its magnitude and horror with the destruction of the Iroquois Theatre, in Chicago, yesterday. It is necessary to turn to the great cataclysms of nature, like the eruption of Mont Pelée, which overwhelmed Martinique, for anything to match it for sudden and wholesale dealing of death. The Brooklyn Theatre fire of 1876, with fatalities numbering 295, has hitherto been the awful example of loss of life by panic in the United States. Now more than twice that number have fallen in the daytime, in a new theatre, constructed, it was supposed, with the highest skill to guard against just such occurrences. Over half of the audience perished, and, while apparently the greater number were victims of panic rather than of the fire itself, it is also evident that a great many were killed by flames or gases while sitting in their seats at an early stage of the conflagration, and still others were buried by the explosion which wrecked the roof of the auditorium.

It is yet too early to try specifically to fix the blame for this awful occurrence. But it is clear that somebody blundered. Perhaps entire calmness on the part of the playgoers, the majority of whom seem to have been women and children, as is customary at a matinee, would have prevented such an enormous loss of life, though even then a large number would doubtless have been killed. But it is well known that such a crowd is always liable to panic, and adequate precautions should have been taken against it. The asbestos curtain failed to work properly for some reason yet to be explained. Had it done so, all might have been well. Then the people in the galleries reached the fire escapes only to find them unequipped with ladders. Anterior to all that was the fire itself. A defective insulation, or something of the kind, the use of a known dangerous force without adequate precautions.

There was bad work somewhere. Whether the managers were responsible for all these shortcomings, or the workmen who had just completed the theatre scamped their work as conscienceless workmen frequently do where their faults do not show on the surface, will perhaps never be known. But this series of mishaps and failure of safety apparatus to meet the requirements at a critical moment show plainly that the theatre was not in a condition for a performance when its doors were opened to the public. The failure to have the fire escape ladders ready strikingly indicates this, and for that the managers must be held responsible.

The sympathy of the whole country and of the whole civilized world will go out to Chicago in its terrible affliction. A great number of families there are bereaved of their fairest and dearest members under circumstances which beyond measure heighten the poignancy of their grief. Many of them cannot, perhaps, for days find the poor relics of their loved ones, and for hours cannot even be sure of their fate. It is not a disaster of the kind that gives opportunity for outside aid. No relief is possible. All that others can do is to stand with bowed heads in the presence of Chicago's sorrow and try for the future to learn the lesson of precaution against fires which is so terribly taught from time to time and seemingly never remembered.

DISFRANCHISEMENT IN MARYLAND.

According to our Baltimore dispatches, the incoming Attorney General of Maryland has just prepared a bill intended to work the wholesale disfranchisement of the negro voters of that State. This bill—to be introduced in the State legislature—provides for the submission to the people of an amendment to the constitution permitting the imposition of certain suffrage tests borrowed from the new constitutions of Mississippi and North Carolina. It proposes to establish in Maryland the Mississippi system in so far as the intending voter is to be required "to read and to write at dictation any section of the State constitution." In Mississippi the voter must understand and construe, if need be, the constitutional section he reads and writes. In Maryland this is not to be insisted on. It might embarrass too large a fraction of the white electorate—no small part of which is even now disfranchised under the cumbrous and confusing blanket ballot law put on the statute books by a previous Democratic legislature. To relieve the illiterate white the reading and writing qualification is to be waived for all voters entitled to suffrage in any State of the Union prior to January 1, 1867, and for all their legitimate lineal descendants. This is a bald appropriation of the celebrated "grandfather" clause of the new constitutions of Louisiana and North Carolina.

We are not surprised at this avowed and open attempt to deny the negro voter, as such, the political rights he has until now enjoyed under the Maryland constitution of 1867. In the campaigns of 1899 and 1903 the Democratic party won control of the State on the single issue of race antagonisms. It declared negro suffrage to be a public menace. It maintained that "the political destinies of Maryland should be "shaped and controlled by the white people of "the State." It painted in lurid colors the peril of "negro domination"—the domination of 260,000 white voters by fewer than 60,000 blacks.

On that issue the Democratic party has twice triumphed. The new legislature is Democratic in both branches by a two-thirds majority. The Democratic party is in a position to make good its pre-election programme of negro disfranchisement, and the Democratic leaders are taking the only manly and courageous course in attempting to carry into effect the policy on which they have been restored to power. This first effort in a border State to disfranchise the negro because he is a negro will be followed with general interest. Maryland is pledged under her present constitution to the theory of impartial manhood suffrage—of absolute equality of political status for black and white. She is to be asked now to repudiate that theory.

A SUBPŒNA FOR THE PRESIDENT.

The Binghamton man who promises to subpœna President Roosevelt in a lawsuit which is on the calendar for trial in the Supreme Court in Broome County is likely to learn something about the Presidency if he persists in his purpose. We rather hope he will, for it would be interesting as well as useful to have a new demonstration of the prerogative of the Executive office as an independent and co-ordinate branch of the government made to a generation that is often inclined to think of the President by Mr. Bryan's appellation of a "hired man."

The President of the United States does not respond to subpœnas. He is not amenable to the processes of the courts, either State or national. His action with regard to the coal strike or any other matter is not subject to examination by the curious or the litigious. Executive business is not transacted under any such restrictions imposed by busybodies who are able to involve some feature of it in legal controversy. The President is the equal of the courts, and is not answerable to them. It is just about one hundred years ago that that fact was established by no less a person than Thomas Jefferson in antagonism to no less a person than the great Chief Justice Marshall. When presiding at Richmond over the trial of Aaron Burr, Chief Justice Marshall issued a subpœna to Thomas Jefferson, then President of the United States, commanding him to attend as a witness and to bring certain public documents bearing upon the charge. President Jefferson caused the desired papers to be forwarded to the court, but for himself ignored the subpœna, and did not stir from the White House. The Chief Justice saw himself defied, and, though a man of determination, inflexibly bent on strengthening the authority of his court—an aim in which he was successful beyond anything the world had ever seen in the judicial domain—he concluded not to press the point.

Where John Marshall failed the gentleman from Binghamton is not likely to be successful. But, by all means, let him try.

THE EASTERN OUTLOOK.

There is no disguising the fact that the outlook in Eastern Asia is decidedly warlike. "Desperate, but not hopeless," is the curiously contradictory phrase used in Paris to describe it. Perhaps it will serve as well as one more logical. From one point of view the situation is indeed without hope. Both Japan and Russia have long regarded war as inevitable, and both are believed to regard the present time as the most advantageous for such a struggle. Yet from another point it seems not hopeless, for there are unquestionably strong influences at work in behalf of peace.

The most serious feature of the case is the fact that no assurances are offered to Japan that anything will be gained for her by withholding her hand. It is pretty openly confessed by Russia that any concession she may make to Japan will be only temporary, to last until she shall be better able to fight and to crush Japan. Nor is it at all certain that any assurances of a permanent settlement would be regarded by Japan as satisfactory. Russia's unfulfilled pledges concerning Manchuria count strongly against acceptance of further promises by her at their face value.

The "Novoe Vremya," doubtless speaking with official inspiration, expresses a hope that Japan will not crowd Russia too far and will not "execute a dance upon Russia's peaceful disposition." Such a representation of the case will deceive nobody. There is no indication that Japan is crowding Russia. On the contrary, it is Russia that is doing the crowding. She is openly trying to crowd Japan and all other nations out of Manchuria by seizing those provinces for herself in violation of her own formal and repeated pledges. Beyond that, she is trying to crowd Japan out of Corea also. Of course, if to dispute Russia's right to the whole of Northeastern Asia be to "execute a dance upon her peaceful disposition," Japan will have to plead guilty. But the rest of the world will scarcely so regard it.

The fact is not to be disguised that the sympathies of the world, with almost unprecedented unanimity, are on the Japanese side of this dispute. Not even France, the ally of Russia, nor Germany, the partner of Russia in thwarting Japan in 1895, manifests any active approval of Russia's present course. The nations of the world recognize that in this battle Japan is the champion of progress and civilization, scarcely less than she was when she was fighting China nine years ago. Such a sentiment of the world at large can scarcely be without its influence upon the course of affairs at the very scene of controversy.

PATRONS OF SCIENCE.

Whether the removal of James Smithson's ashes from Genoa to this country is to be effected by private benevolence or at public expense, the propriety of the proceeding is obvious. His original burial place having been determined by a temporary residence in Italy at the time of his death, there was no special reason for a change so long as his grave remained undisturbed. The cemetery in which the latter was situated having been invaded by some commercial interest—the extension of a stone quarry, it is said—a new emergency has been created. Under the circumstances a transfer to the grounds of the Smithsonian Institution at Washington would be the most graceful and natural disposition of the case. The influence of Smithson's gift to America has been national and not merely local, but there is a special fitness in interring his dust beside the chief monument of his philanthropy and scientific enthusiasm.

There is a close parallel between the characters and careers of James Smithson and Benjamin Thompson, afterward known as Count Rumford. The former was an Englishman who, either because of his illegitimate birth or for some other reason, came to feel bitterly toward his native land, and in consequence bestowed his fortune on another country. Rumford was born in this country long before the Revolution, expatriated himself because his loyalty to the colonies was suspected, and just at the close of the eighteenth century founded the Royal Institution in London. Both were distinctively devotees of science, and there was some similarity even in the lines of investigation which attracted them. In their passion for chemistry they had at least one thing in common. Rumford's activities, though, extended over a broader field than Smithson's. The latter included mineralogical and geological studies, with a special fancy for gems. The former embraced not only such problems in physics as the conservation of energy, but also social and military matters. Rumford suppressed beggary and reformed army tactics in Bavaria, and gave much attention to industrial schools and improved methods of heating houses. Perhaps by his example, too, he suggested the bequest that has perpetuated Smithson's name.

Though these two men acted in an exceptional manner in honoring other countries than their own with their benefactions, it is not at all uncommon for scientific men to leave both collections and money to existing institutions. Generally speaking, of course, such persons rarely accumulate wealth. The largest endowments of research to-day come from men who have given their best thought to commerce, finance or industry, and who have achieved success in those pursuits. Being less intimately acquainted with the needs of astronomy, bacteriology and other departments of science, they cannot be expected to feel the same immediate sympathy therewith as experts therein. If, however, they are animated instead by public spirit and generosity, the world has no less occasion for approval and gratitude.

The city paid a fitting tribute—one of many—to one of its foremost citizens and benefactors yesterday in the memorial service to Andrew H. Green, and it fittingly made its spokesman the head of the great university with which Mr. Green was associated and to the welfare of which he devoted much earnest attention down to the very end of his long and useful life.

Unlike his famous campaign against the Lodge Election bill, Senator Gorman's attack on the Panama treaty does not seem to have "fired the Southern heart."

Will the incoming Board of Aldermen show a more generous spirit toward the Port Chester Railroad than the present board has manifested? The prospect is not encouraging. That projected steam line is in great demand, but Tammany aldermen too often want jam on their bread.

While Sir Henry Irving is playing in this country, in which he has hosts of enthusiastic admirers, the stockholders of the Lyceum Theatre, in London, which his genius made celebrated, have been wrangling over the disposition of that property. Some well meaning but visionary friends of the drama think that the American Congress may be persuaded some day to establish a national theatre. Dreams, idle dreams!

Our present admirable Health Department has lowered the death rate. Now, won't the incoming Tammany board go and do likewise?

It is expected that ratifications of our treaty with China will soon be exchanged. Then the opening of the new ports to commerce will be due. The one barrier to their opening will be Russia's unwillingness to let America enjoy the open door. But it may be that not even Russia will be able to deprive America of its rights.

Only the other day carpers were saying the Panaman revolutionists had not submitted the question of independence to the people, and would not venture to do so for a long time to come. But a popular election for a constitutional convention has now been held, in an orderly manner. Will the carpers now complain that the revolutionists have been guilty of indecent haste in making so prompt an appeal to the people?

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

At Rochford, Essex, England, the whisper court is a strange observance held annually under the superintendence of the steward of the manor. The business of the court is carried out at midnight in the open air; the absence of a tenant is punishable by a fine of double his rent for each hour he fails to be in attendance. No artificial light, except a firebrand, is permitted and the proceedings are recorded by means of one of the embers of the brand. The roll of fourteen tenants is then called over and answered to in a whisper, and then they kneel down and swear allegiance. Very many years ago the lord of the manor, after an absence from his estate, was returning home by night. On the way he accidentally heard some of his discontented tenantry plotting his assassination. Thus warned, he returned home by an unexpected route. Then he ordered that each year his tenants should assemble at the same time to do him homage around a post which he erected on the spot where the plotters met.

A Squelcher.—Recently a Wichita man was in Vermont, and took a drive along the hillsides. Finally he came to a place, where an old man was laboriously hoeing a small patch of corn. "Why don't you come to Kansas," he said to the old man, "where we put 160 acres into one cornfield with less work than you put on this little patch?" "Wal, I dunno," said the old man. "I've got mortgages in the house yonder on four or five sections of your Kansas farms, an' I guess it is about all the Kansas land I need."—(Kansas City Journal.

James J. Hill, the railroad president, began his connection with the transportation business through steamboating, but he soon deserted it for railroading. The road which he has since made so widely known was at that time considered the slowest in the country. Mr. Hill listened good naturedly to the fun that was naturally poked at his road, and worked the harder to improve it.

Meetings Mr. Hill one day in the street in St. Paul, "Diamond Joe" Reynolds, of upper river steamboat fame, said:

"Jim, I'll match one of my steamboats against one of your trains in a fair race for $500 a side."

"Well, I don't know," hesitated Mr. Hill; "some of your boats are pretty fast."

"Come, I'll race you upstream," urged Reynolds.

"Oh, thunder!" returned Mr. Hill in a disgusted tone; "if you're going to stick to the river then you might as well drop the notion of a race. I thought you meant you'd bring your boat out on the prairie alongside the track and give me some show."

"JUST AS GOOD."

James Chargem was a druggist man
Who practised substitution;
There was no salve for mole or tan,
No tincture or solution
You might desire, but that he could
Convincingly decry it,
Then show you "something just as good"
And talk until you'd buy it.

His nature, as regards finance,
Was positively stingy—
But you might see that at a glance,
His drug store was so dingy.
One day his good wife telephoned:
"Please take me auto riding."
James Chargem tore his hair, and moaned,
Her spendthrift notion chiding.

But, no, she would not be denied;
On that ride she insisted;
His protestations she defied,
And, womanlike, insisted,
Until—just as she knew he would—
He said: "Well, if I've got to,
I'll give you something just as good
If I can't hire an auto."

Now mark the crafty man's design
In making that proviso.
He vowed: "My dear, I found no sign
Of autos." (Would you lie so?)
Then when his poor wife understood
She grew full sad and tearful.
He laughed: "Here's something just as good.
My dear, please be more cheerful."

And, then, to her intense surprise,
Some dust he took and threw it
So that it filled her hair and eyes.
"There! That's the way to do it!"
He cried, and tooted on a horn.
And recommenced the hurling
Of dust, and chuckled in his scorn
Of her bewildered whirling.

He made her sniff of gasolene
Until she fell to sneezing.
"The finest auto ever seen,"
He roared, "is not more pleasing.
And now we'll have the final crash
Of autos—it is their way."
Then, with an unexpected dash,
He threw her down the stairway.

"My dear," he called out, from the top,
"If you think you've not tested
The auto's dust and scent and flop
I'll go have you arrested,
For automobilists declare
Their pleasures all diminish
Unless they get a chance to swear
In courtrooms as a finish!"

A month succeeding this affair
James Chargem was defendant;
His wife sat in the plaintiff's chair,
Her lawyer for attendant.
And when his honor understood
Her husband's parsimony,
He ruled: "Take something just as good,
And that is alimony."
—(W. D. N., in Chicago Tribune.

One of the strangest churches in the world is at Taranaki, Australia. Each of its four walls bears a large advertisement in flaming letters. The church was built by the firms whose goods are advertised, and they claim that their investment will be a paying one.

Breaking It Gently.—His Cousins—We sent off the wire to stop your model coming. But you had put one word too many—so we struck it out.
Real Artist—Oh, indeed. What word did you strike out?
His Cousins—You had written "He wasn't to come, as you had only just discovered you couldn't paint to-day." So we crossed out "to-day."—(Punch.

About People and Social Incidents.

AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

[FROM THE TRIBUNE BUREAU.]

Washington, Dec. 30.—Although visitors are not being received at the White House this week, the President received a tiny caller—a girl five years old, from Pittsburg—this morning, and, after talking with her several minutes, gave her some of the flowers from the bunch on his desk. She was walking with her father through the grounds and when she came to the office door she insisted so strongly on "going to see the President" that her wish was granted.

Senator Foraker to-day invited the President to attend the Cincinnati Musical Festival next May. The President said it would give him great pleasure to be present, but it was too early for him to say positively whether he would be able to attend. He promised, however, to inform the Senator later of his decision.

NOTES OF SOCIETY IN WASHINGTON.

[FROM THE TRIBUNE BUREAU.]

Washington, Dec. 30.—Mr. and Mrs. John R. McLean gave a dinner and dance to-night, when their two hundred guests were from the dancing sets of official and diplomatic society. One hundred people were present at the dinner, and as many came afterward for the dance. The ballroom, which is one of the largest in the city, and hung with paintings, was decorated with Yuletide green and red. A Christmas tree stood in a corner, under a chime of crimson bells, and behind an old English sideboard was banked a tiny forest of trees aglow with electric lights in different colors. Miss Roosevelt, daughter of the President, was present, and among the out-of-town guests were Miss Janet Fish, of New-York. Mr. and Mrs. McLean are entertaining Miss Cornelia Wolcott, daughter of a former Governor of Massachusetts.

Edwin Morgan opened his new house in Massachusetts-ave., this afternoon with a musical tea. Socha Davidhoss, a pianist, of Holland, was the artist of the occasion. The guests included Countess Cassini, the French Ambassador and Mme. Jusserand, the German Ambassador and Baroness von Sternburg, Miss Roosevelt, daughter of the President; Miss Ivy Langham and Miss Durand, daughter of the British Ambassador and Lady Durand.

Justice and Mrs. Oliver Wendell Holmes gave a housewarming this afternoon at their new home in I-st. Miss Louise Jones, niece of the Postmaster General, and Miss Lovering, daughter of Representative Lovering, of Massachusetts, poured tea.

Miss Paulding, of New-York, will come to Washington to-morrow to assist Mrs. Depew in receiving on New Year's Day.

Mrs. W. S. Cowles left Washington to-day to join Captain Cowles, who is on his ship, the Missouri, at Newport News.

When Sir Chentung Liang Cheng, the Chinese Minister, makes his first appearance at a White House reception on New Year's Day, he will wear a costume which was presented to him as a birthday gift from the Emperor of China. The present was made in recognition of Sir Chentung's successful mission in England. The fabric is of dark blue, glittering with bullion embroideries and gold lace.

NEW-YORK SOCIETY.

Sherry's was the scene last night of the first of the University Cotillions, a dance given by a number of the undergraduates of Yale, Harvard, Princeton and Columbia universities. Many dinners were given in connection with the affair by patronesses and others, who afterward took their guests to to the dance, which took place in the small ballroom, decorated with the colors of the four universities named. Among the patronesses who received were Mrs. Douglas Robinson, jr., Mrs. Bradish Johnson, Mrs. Dallas Bache Pratt, Mrs. John Sloane, Mrs. William E. Iselin, Mrs. Henry O. Havemeyer and Mrs. Alfred Ely, while among the committee who had charge of the entertainment were William O'D. Iselin, Albert J. Aiken, John Sloane, jr., Percy H. Jennings and Henry C. De Rham. Supper was served at midnight, and afterward there was a cotillon, led by William O'D. Iselin and Alexander Bache Pratt, the favors consisting of shoulder knots of ribbon of the colors of the various universities; university pennants on long gilt sticks, white leather card cases, with monograms of the four universities; American Beauty roses and boutonnieres of white camellias. Among those invited were Miss Helen Roosevelt, Miss Adeline Havemeyer, Miss Stephanie De Neufville, Miss Charlotte Warren, Miss Alice De Golcouria, Miss Cornelia Harriman, Miss Mercer Atterbury, Miss Kate Prentice, Miss Edith Kane, Miss Marie Montant, Miss Grace Chapin, Miss Julia Fish, Miss Gladys Vanderbilt, Miss Elizabeth Auchincloss, Miss Katherine Barney, Miss Virginia Osborn and Miss Alexandra Stevens, as well as T. Douglas Robinson, Arthur Havemeyer, Fenwick Beekman, Ogden Mills Reid, Hugh Minturn, Frank Sloane, jr., J. H. Alexandre, Howard Dickinson, Franklin Roosevelt, Robert Neeser, Maurice Heckscher and P. H. B. Frelinghuysen.

Mrs. Davis Johnson had a small dance last night for Miss Madeleine Johnson at the Gerrit Smith studios. The cotillon was led by Schuyler Schieffelin, with Miss Johnson; and Miss Evelyn Crimmins, daughter of John D. Crimmins, also gave a small dance at her father's house in East Sixty-eighth-st.

Quite a number of dances are scheduled for to-night, both in town and in the country. There will be the usual New Year's Eve ball at Tuxedo, and also a dance at the club at Ardsley, while at Sherry's there is to be the first of the so-called Farmington Dances, at which there will be a large attendance on the part of these who have been graduated from the School for Girls at Farmington, Conn.

Among the weddings which took place yesterday was that of Miss Edith Alden Candler to George Ledyard Stebbins at the Fifth Avenue Collegiate Church. The bride, who was dressed in white chiffon voile, trimmed with Brussels point, wore a tulle veil, and carried a bouquet of white orchids and lilies-of-the-valley. Her bridesmaids, Miss Alice Post, Miss Mabel Lewis, Miss Eleanor Hastings, Miss Helen Clarkson, Miss Ethel Smith and Miss Mabel Stebbins, wore frocks of pale pink chiffon, trimmed with white lace, and pink tulle veils in lieu of hats. They carried bouquets of pink roses. Wainwright Parish, Kenneth D. Robinson, Duncan Candler, Daniel Bacon, E. Percy Bramwell, William Hutchinson and George Bewster were the ushers, and Charles Stebbins his brother's best man. After the ceremony, which was performed by the Rev. Dr. Donald Sage Mackay, there was a reception at Sherry's. Among those invited were Mr. and Mrs. Goelet Gallatin, Colonel and Mrs. William Jay and Miss Eleanor Jay, Otis Post, Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Post, Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Post, Mrs. William Schieffelin, Mr. and Mrs. Tracy Dows, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Fairchild and Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Gould Jennings.

Another marriage was that of Miss Anne Rice Lawrence to Randall H. Hagner, which took place last evening at the Nevada, where the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Augustine N. Lawrence, of Flushing, Long Island, have apartments for the winter. The bride was dressed in white satin crêpe de chine, over chiffon. She wore a tulle veil, and her flowers consisted of white orchids and lilies-of-the-valley. Her sister, Miss Margaret Lawrence, wearing a frock of pink liberty satin and carrying pink roses, was her only attendant. Dr. Frank Hagner, of Washington, was his brother's best man, and Augustine Lawrence, jr., Philip Gardiner, Charles Hagner and Murray Cobb were the ushers. After the ceremony, performed by the Rev. Dr. George Dumbell, there was a small reception.

Major General and Mrs. Corbin will be at home to-morrow, at their house on Governor's Island, to the officers of the army and navy and to their friends, from 3 to 6 o'clock. Mrs. Usher Parsons will assist Mrs. Corbin in receiving.

Mrs. Hermann Oelrichs returned yesterday to town from San Francisco.

Mrs. Frederick Bronson, who was stricken with nervous prostration on the eve of her departure for Japan, still remains confined to her apartments at the Essex, Madison-ave. and Fifty-sixth-st. Her daughter, Mrs. Lloyd Griscom, wife of the United States Minister in Japan, sailed from Yokohama immediately on hearing of her mother's illness, and will arrive here the day after to-morrow to remain with her until she recovers.

Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt Pell has issued cards for receptions on January 14 and 21, at her house, No. 127 East Sixty-first-st.

Mrs. Harry Payne Whitney has issued invitations for a musical on January 14, at her house in West Fifty-seventh-st., where she will also give a dance on January 8.

Mrs. Robert McCurdy gives a large bridge whist party in the Annex of the Metropolitan Club on January 22.

Mrs. Fordyce Barker has a theatre party scheduled for January 19.

The Charity Ball for the benefit of the Nursery and Child's Hospital will be given at the Waldorf-Astoria on the evening of February 2, 1904. It has always been successful socially, and promises to be equally so this year. Boxes may be procured of Mrs. F. N. Goddard, No. 33 East Fiftieth-st.

"Aida" was given at the opera last night. There was a large and fashionable attendance. Among those present were Mr. and Mrs. Adrian Iselin, Mr. and Mrs. James A. Stillman, Miss Burden, Mr. and Mrs. Adrian Iselin, jr., Mrs. J. A. Burden, Mrs. Goelet, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Clews, Mr. and Mrs. W. K. Vanderbilt and Miss Leary.

THE REV. A. P. STOKES, JR., MARRIES.

Weds Miss Caroline Green Mitchell—Will Make a Three Weeks' Trip in the South.

Bernardsville, N. J., Dec. 30.—The marriage of the Rev. Anson Phelps Stokes, jr., and Miss Caroline Green Mitchell was solemnized to-day in the Bernardsville Episcopal Church, which was well filled with relatives and friends. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Ralph Brydges, of Islip, Long Island, assisted by the Rev. Thomas Conover, rector of the church. Bishop Linas of Newark pronounced the benediction. The bishop was formerly rector of St. Paul's Church, New-Haven, of which Mr. Stokes is assistant rector.

The bride had as maid of honor her sister, Miss Anna Mitchell, and J. W. Phelps, a brother of the bridegroom, was best man. Mr. Stokes is secretary of the Yale Corporation, and all the ushers, with the exception of John Insley Blair, were Yale men. Mr. Blair is a graduate of Princeton. The other ushers were Charles Lindley, Alexander Brown, William Sloane, Louis F. Slade, Richmond Cross, S. Brinckerhoff Thorne and James Neale.

After the ceremony the bridal party and guests went to Pembroke, the home of the bride's brother, Clarence Blair Mitchell, where the wedding breakfast was served. This afternoon Mr. Stokes and his bride leave for a tour through the South. They will be gone about three weeks.

AUSTRIAN EMPEROR WELL AGAIN.

No Truth in the Report of Paralysis—Audiences Given at Vienna.

Vienna, Dec. 30.—Emperor Francis Joseph has recovered from his accident and to-day is giving private and general audiences as usual. There is no truth in the report, published abroad, that the Emperor had a stroke of paralysis.

LETTER FROM ADMIRAL CERVERA.

Christmas Greetings for Cardinal Gibbons and Father Kautz, of Annapolis.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Annapolis, Md., Dec. 30.—The Rev. Father Joseph A. Kautz, rector of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, of this city, is in receipt of a letter from Vice-Admiral Cervera, Puerto Real, near Cadiz, Spain, with Christmas greetings. The admiral also sent greetings to Cardinal Gibbons, of Baltimore. Admiral Cervera was a prisoner at the Naval Academy at the time of the Spanish-American War, and he has always felt a great interest in Annapolis. Father Kautz recently sent to Admiral Cervera a map of Annapolis, with its new streets and buildings laid off. The admiral expresses his appreciation in a neat letter of acknowledgment.

HOLIDAYS IN LENOX.

Lenox, Mass., Dec. 30 (Special).—The Lenox winter colony now in the Berkshires was augmented this evening by the arrival at Curtis Hotel of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Burden, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Pease, Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Bishop, Mr. and Mrs. Tracey Dows, Mr. and Mrs. George G. Haven, Miss Marian Haven, Miss Mary Stillman, A. A. Fowler and a party of guests, E. S. Auchincloss and ten guests who will remain for the week to participate in the holiday sports.

Mrs. Samuel Frothingham issued cards to-day for a dinner dance at their new home on New Year's night. About one hundred have been asked to the house warming.

Miss Frankie Gilder, Miss Rosamond Gilder, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Watson Gilder, arrived to-day at Tyringham.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Van Norden, of New-York, arrived in Lenox to-day for the remainder of the week.

Miss Daisy Peirson, of New-York, and C. M. Donnelly, of California, are guests of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Astor Bristed, at Lakeside. Mr. Donnelly is a brother of Mrs. Bristed.

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Frothingham are entertaining a large house party, including Mr. and Mrs. Ebon Stevens, Miss Bemis, Miss Henrietta Sargent, F. D. Babcock, Roger Longfellow, of Boston; Philip T. Brown and Duer Irving, of New-York.

DEPEW LOOKING FOR A NEWPORT VILLA.

Newport, R. I., Dec. 30 (Special).—Senator and Mrs. Chauncey M. Depew will spend the coming season here, and they arrived to-day to find a house. Before his marriage Senator Depew passed his summers here at one of the Pinard cottages, but the last two summers he has spent abroad. It is not known what villa they will take, but it will undoubtedly be large enough for entertainments. Senator Depew has taken a box for the Horse Show next season.

MANY OFFERS REACH MISS BENNETT.

McKeesport, Penn., Dec. 30 (Special).—Miss Lillian Bennett, who came from England to be married to Ambrose Good, one of the victims of the Duquesne Limited wreck, has received many letters since her arrival in McKeesport, from strangers. They make cash offers for her photograph, offers of marriage, to go on the stage, and offers from strangers extending to her a permanent home and place.

SECRETARY HAY MUCH BETTER.

Washington, Dec. 30.—It was reported to-day that Secretary Hay's condition is better than at any previous time in his illness, which has lasted three weeks. He is no longer confined to his bed, but is able to be about the house and transact considerable business. He has not definitely decided to go South for a brief period of recuperation, but such a trip is not improbable.

MR. VANDERBILT NOT TO BE COLONEL.

Newport, R. I., Dec. 30 (Special).—Alfred G. Vanderbilt does not care for a military career, and has informed members of the Newport artillery company that it will be impossible for him to accept the colonelcy of the command. Charles L. F. Robinson is now mentioned in connection with the place, but few think he would accept.

EX-CONGRESSMAN BELDEN'S ILLNESS.

Syracuse, Dec. 30.—Former Congressman James J. Belden is critically ill at his home in this city. His physicians have little hope of his recovery.

C. E. KNOBLAUCH OPERATED ON.

C. E. Knoblauch, one of the best known members of the Stock Exchange, was operated on yesterday for appendicitis at the New-York Hospital. It is understood the operation was entirely successful. Mr. Knoblauch was a member of the Rough Riders, and is a leader of the younger set on the Exchange, who are ready at all times to initiate new members. He is a member of the Union League and other well known clubs.

SIGNOR ZANARDELLI'S FUNERAL.

Rome, Dec. 30.—The funeral of Signor Zanardelli, the former Premier, at Brescia to-day, was one of the most imposing ever held in Italy. More than fifty thousand persons followed the body to the cemetery, all the shops were closed and everywhere there were evidences of the national mourning. The Count of Turin represented King Victor Emmanuel, who sent a wreath. Signor Giolitti, the Premier; Admiral Mirabello, the Minister of Marine, and other officials were in the procession, followed by troops.

M. ROUVIER NOT TO RESIGN.

Paris, Dec. 30.—The report circulated by "Gil Blas" this morning that the Finance Minister, M. Rouvier, intended to resign in order to resume the presidency of the Bank of Commerce and Industry is authoritatively denied.