DYING, WANTS TO MARRY.

CEREMONY PREVENTED.

Clergyman Comes to Bellevue at Cousin's Request—The Man Dies.

Robert Dupont Cater, a young newspaper man from the South, who died in Bellevue Hospital yesterday, tried on Thursday to marry a Miss Cater, said to be his cousin. The clergyman, according to those in charge at Bellevue last night, was an Episcopalian, and from the Calvary Settlement House, No. 335 East Twenty-second-st., and, though Miss Cater was willing, the clergyman refused to perform the ceremony, on the ground, it is said, that the would-be bridegroom was dying. That relatives interfered, however, was another theory put forward, and it was thought that both the influence of the latter and the young man's condition made the clergyman unwilling to unite the pair. He had come to the hospital, however, to do so.

Mr. Cater was twenty-six years old and lived at No. 39 Gramercy Park. He came here from Charleston, S. C., and after working for a while on a local newspaper was employed in the advertising department of a large department store. About a week ago he fell ill, and went, with his roommate, B. L. White, to a hospital, but was not admitted. Then he returned home. He was forced to go to bed, and a Dr. Stevens was called. On Wednesday Dr. Stevens advised that he be removed to Bellevue Hospital, and this was done.

White, who had been with Cater almost continually, called up the Raleigh apartments, at No. 7 West Ninety-second-st., on the telephone on Thursday morning, it is asserted, and talked with Miss Cater, telling her to come to the hospital at once, for "Bob" was dying and wanted to see her. It is said she reached the hospital about an hour later and was taken to the bedside of the man.

Miss Cater left the hospital, greatly disappointed and crying bitterly, it is declared, when it was decided that the marriage would not take place. The patient sank rapidly after that.

Mr. White, seen at No. 39 Gramercy Park yesterday, was greatly broken up over his friend's death. Asked about the visit of Miss Cater to the hospital, he said it was a family matter and he did not care to discuss it.

"Will you deny that Mr. Cater and Miss Cater desired to be married and that they were prevented?"

"No, I will not deny it," said Mr. White, "but I cannot talk about it. I believe it was relatives who interfered. I really cannot say any more."

The body of Cater was shipped yesterday to the home of his parents in Charleston.

Cater died from lobular pneumonia.

COAL TRAIN SMASH-UP.

Cars in Middle of Train Leave Track on Susquehanna—No One Hurt.

Oakland, N. J., Jan. 29.—There was a bad coal wreck on the Susquehanna railroad two miles west of Butler this evening. No one was hurt, but the road is blocked.

A long coal train, loaded and bound east, was running along the embankment which skirts the Peaquenoc River when one of the cars about one-third of the length of the train from the engine jumped the tracks and went over. Four others followed. Three of them landed on the ice, broke through and sank, while the other two are still on the embankment. Several of the following cars were also dragged from the rails, but did not go down the embankment. The tracks were badly torn up.

"BARREL MURDER" MYSTERY.

Petto, Known as "The Ox," Dismissed from Custody Because of Lack of Evidence.

The famous mystery of the "barrel murder," which was at one time declared cleared up, is now added to New-York's long list of unsolved murder mysteries. Yesterday Tomasso Petto, known as "The Ox," who has been in the Tombs since soon after the commission of the crime, last April 14, was discharged yesterday by Justice Giegerich on the recommendation of Mr. Ely, the Assistant District Attorney in charge of the case.

The "barrel murder" attracted considerable attention at the time. The body of a man, afterward identified as Benedetto Madonia, of Buffalo, was found by a woman in a barrel in East Eleventh-st. It was said at the time that the murder was the work of the Mafia. When Police Commissioner Greene retired from office he sent a letter to Inspector McClusky, congratulating him, among other things, on the solution of the now abandoned mystery.

Petto was indicted on June 25, and since then detectives have tried to collect evidence to bring him to trial. Mr. Ely said that it was found impossible to get the evidence, and, while suspicion attached to Petto, there was no legal evidence. De Primo, a brother-in-law of the murdered man, who is a convict at Sing Sing, under a counterfeiting charge, gave some evidence, but this could not be sufficiently substantiated.

Thirteen men were connected with the case, several of whom were indicted for perjury. Their cases have never come to trial, and nothing has been done beyond the indicting.

COLUMBIA'S GRADUATES CELEBRATE.

Hear How University Will Show Radium at St. Louis and Cheer Seth Low.

More than three hundred alumni of Columbia University gathered at Sherry's last evening, at the midwinter dinner of the Columbia College Alumni Association. Graduates were present from nearly all the classes, the oldest represented being 1857.

Professor J. H. Van Amringe, dean of the university, introduced Frederick Goetze, superintendent of the university, who recently returned from St. Louis, where he had been looking after the Columbia exhibit at the fair. Columbia, he said, had succeeded in obtaining a good place, and preparations were now being made for an elaborate display. The university, he said, would also send an exhibit of radium.

Mr. Goetze said that a university hall was needed, and that $1,000,000 should be obtained for buildings. Dr. Rudolph Tombo, jr., register of the university, spoke briefly on the Columbia Law School, of which he said Columbia should be proud. Professor George Kirchwey, dean of the Law School, spoke of alumni associations in the West. Speeches about athletics were made by Gustavus Kirby and Captain Stangland, of next year's football team. The gathering ended with a cheer for ex-Mayor Low, former president of the university.

PLAY AT EDUCATIONAL ALLIANCE.

The Educational Alliance, East Broadway and Jefferson-st., will give Sydney Grundy's "A Fool's Paradise," acted by the Dramatic Stock Company, this evening. The play is a three act piece with a simple cast, filled by senior members of the American Academy of Dramatic Arts and Empire Theatre Dramatic School. The object of the alliance in giving these entertainments is to furnish good productions to the people at low rates.

B. R. T. DIRECTORS RE-ELECTED.

At the annual meeting of the stockholders of the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company, held in the Montague-st offices, Brooklyn, yesterday noon, the following directors whose terms had expired, were unanimously re-elected for a term of one year: Horace C. Du Val, R. Somers Hayes, John G. Jenkins and David H. Valentine. Resolutions indorsing the actions of the directors and officers in the last year were adopted. Of the 450,000 shares of the stock about 360,000 were represented. The fact that there was no change in the directorate would seem to indicate that President Edwin W. Winter will remain at the head of the company.

WANT VOTING MACHINES IN QUEENS.

The Queens County Grand Jury yesterday handed down in the Supreme Court, Judge Garretson presiding, a presentment commanding the adoption of an automatic voting machine for use at elections. The grand jury recommends the adoption of the machine as a saving of expense, a simplification of the present system of voting and a means of preventing long drawn out contests between candidates arising out of the present cumbersome and complicated system of voting.

Is massage beneficial? In to-morrow's Tribune.

BOUGHT NOW, HE SAYS.

School Sites Purchased by Previous Board, Declares Warburg.

The report of Controller Grout to the Board of Estimate and Apportionment yesterday, in which he declared that the city had lost $500,000 or more due to paying excessive prices for school sites and allowing these sites in many cases to lie idle, has called forth a reply from Felix M. Warburg, chairman of the special committee of five, appointed by the Board of Education to make investigations into the economical methods of the department, for the benefit of the Controller.

Mr. Warburg says:

The special committee will not answer Mr. Grout's assertions in detail, until we have received all the other statements regarding economies that he desires to issue. Nothing has yet been pointed out which promises any possibility of saving. So far as I can discover, no sites, which were purchased by this Board of Education during the last two years for school purposes, have been neglected. This board has inherited a number of lots that are unavailable at present. Many of the lots we possess have been used for purposes of light, air and sanitation. In the report of the committee it will be shown that we have continually gone to the limits of our appropriation, in the erection of buildings.

The growth in the population in various sections, such as Brownsville or the East Side, has caused us to improve the school facilities there, before attending to other parts of the city.

The question of the advisability of selling such properties as are not immediately required and later rebuying the same sites at advanced prices is a financial one and open to a difference of opinion. Mr. Grout criticises us for leaving buildings standing on school sites. We have made it a rule to level no buildings on school sites earlier than necessary, so that the rent may be drawn by the city from these buildings as long as possible. We should not be accused of negligence for this.

Commissioner A. H. Man asserted yesterday:

Mr. Grout goes back for five or six years. This board has been in existence two years. In Van Wyck's administration no schools were built. We have built a great number. We had to start in by hiring many extra draughtsmen. Next, we met months of strikes. Mr. Grout maintains that $6,400,000 in bonds are awaiting use for the erection of schools. He does not consider that the money that we appropriate for schools is not charged against the credit of the board until the schools are built. This takes one or two years.

At the meeting of the Board of Estimate yesterday Mr. Grout, after speaking of his experts' report on school sites, offered a resolution that when it is decided to buy any land for the city a detailed statement shall accompany the application stating why the land is required and when use can be made of it when bought. The resolution was passed unanimously, and authority was given the Controller to return to the Board of Education, with a demand for an explanation, its request for authority to buy a site at Eighty-ninth-st. and Avenue A for $125,000.

Mr. Grout stated that, from the report of his experts, he believed this property worth not more than $72,000. It is assessed with the buildings on it, he said, at only $59,000, and the surroundings are unfavorable. He cited property on the adjoining block, a site unoccupied and twice as large as the Eighty-ninth-st. plot, which he said he could get for $117,000. He declared that he had an option on the land at that price, and moved that the Board of Education consider it.

The Controller's formal report criticises the Board of Education sharply for what he calls "habitual delay between the acquisition of land and the beginning of building," which causes a loss to the city in taxes and interest. He asserts that the delay has occurred in seventy-eight out of eighty-one sites examined. On forty-one sites, he says, no contracts have yet been let for building, and there are requests for forty-four more.

The Board of Estimate and Apportionment at the meeting also made a special transfer of $12,500 from the interest fund for the use of the College of the City of New-York at the request of President Finley. This money, Dr. Finley declared, was needed on account of increased attendance. The college will have five hundred more students enrolled than last year's total after the midwinter admissions.

February 26 was set for a public hearing on the Fraunces' Tavern park matter. On February 9 the board will decide when the condemnation proceedings for the Delancey-st. widening shall be begun.

MORE TRAINS FOR SHOPPERS.

Plan Suggested Would Mean Slower Speed, but Stop Dangerous Crowding on "L."

A proposition to have extra switching accommodations for the Sixth-ave. elevated road is being urged on the Interborough Rapid Transit Company in view of the death of Mrs. Codrington, who was crowded off an elevated train north of the Eighteenth-st. station last Tuesday evening. The overcrowding of the northbound trains of the line at stations in the shopping district at the evening rush hours has become alarming.

It is suggested that the company might build a continuation of the structure south of Third-st. in Sixth-ave. as a pocket for empty trains which would be started in the rush hours to carry the northbound shoppers home. It is said that such a system would throw on the northbound track so many trains that it would be necessary to run the trains at a slow rate of speed, but the dangerous crowding would be stopped.

CHARGE CONSPIRACY TO DEFRAUD.

Attorney Says Man Fell from Car for Purpose of Collecting Damages.

Charles S. Hall, thirty-six years old, of Woodmere, Long Island, and Edward Britton, of No. 117 East Eighty-sixth-st., Manhattan, were arrested in Jersey City yesterday charged with conspiracy to defraud the Public Service Corporation of New-Jersey. Mr. Hall claimed to have been thrown from a trolley car at Newark-ave. and Erie-st., Jersey City, on January 8, as he was alighting, the car having been started as he stepped from the platform. He claimed to have been badly bruised, and demanded $500 damages, according to John P. Feeney, the company's adjuster. He admits that Hall fell from the car, but claims that he did it purposely, and that he was not injured.

Hall was invited to the office, where he appeared with Mr. Britton. A compromise was effected, and Hall was given a check for $250. Then the men were arrested, and payment of the check was stopped. Hall and Britton were arraigned before Police Justice Higgins. They declined to make any statement until they were given an opportunity to secure counsel. They were bailed in $1,000 each.

ITALIANS ACCUSE THEIR ACCUSER.

Alleged Members of Mafia Say He Promised Money to Hide Incendiarism.

The three Italians who were trapped at the office of Cortlandt Parker, in Newark, on Thursday, and who are accused of having attempted to extort money from Samuel Rossi, a saloonkeeper, under threats of death, told a story to Prosecutor Riker yesterday that the $1,000 they had demanded from Rossi was hush money.

They said that about three months ago they caught Rossi setting fire to a saloon he had in Harrison, N. J., on which he had insurance of $2,500. Rossi told the men he would pay $1,000 if they would not betray him. He failed to pay, so they wrote to him, demanding that he keep his agreement. They denied that they ever threatened his life.

CHANGED WAY TO LIGHT MATCHES.

Started Three Fires from Lighting Them on Seat of Trousers—Automatic Lighter Now.

Morristown, N. J., Jan. 29.—A peculiar series of curtain fires has been the result of A. E. Cole's habit of striking matches to light his after dinner cigar on a certain part of his trousers.

The last fire was at the home of J. E. Gulick, of Little Washington, where the burning head dropped in the window curtain. Before the flames could be extinguished several hundred dollars' damage had been done to the furniture of the room.

A short time ago Mr. Cole started a fire in his own home in the same way, and the flames were extinguished with difficulty. A little while before that he did the same thing at the home of his parents. Now he says he will never light another match, but will use an automatic cigar lighter or go without smoking. He says the usual run of "three times and out" makes it evident that the next fire is likely to be serious.

ASKS AID FOR MINERS' FAMILIES.

Mayor McClellan yesterday received a telegram from George A. Bigley, chairman of the relief committee for the miners' families at Cheswick, Penn., urging immediate and generous aid. "The Mayor will be glad to receive any contributions for the Cheswick miners and forward them to the relief committee," it was announced.

ALARM FOR DOCTOR'S BROTHER-IN-LAW.

The police were asked yesterday to look for Joseph A. Coffin, fifty-two years old, of Machias, Me., whose address in this city is given as the Astor House. The request is made by Dr. L. E. Sanborn, of Quarantine, a brother-in-law of the missing man. He has been missing since the 25th.

OAKLEY TESTING GAS.

Third Report May Result in Fine for Trust.

Commissioner Oakley, of the Department of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity, was quoted yesterday as saying that Dr. Edward G. Love, superintendent of the photometrical branch of the department, was making his third weekly consecutive test of the gas furnished by five of the gas trust companies in Manhattan. Section No. 522 of the statutes permits the department to examine the gas "not more than once a week," and provides that if on three consecutive tests the quality of the gas is found to be defective the commissioner can assess a fine of $100.

Commissioner Oakley expected to-morrow or next day, it was said, to get the third report from Dr. Love, who on two consecutive weeks had found the supply defective. He promised to collect $100 from each of the five companies if the last test should show the gas below standard.

The Commissioner denounced the present law as very unsatisfactory.

"Why the lawmakers limited us to one test a week I don't know," he said. "If we could make a test once a day, I'd collect $100 from those companies every three days, and I guess that would worry them a little. The trust can very easily force good gas through its mains on the third week, and then we must begin over."

Mr. Oakley said that while his jurisdiction applied only to street lighting, private consumers were supplied from the same mains and thus would be benefited by any moves he made toward enforcing a better gas supply.

"My deputies report that this gas is being made from crude Texas oil," he continued. "I need $50,000 to $100,000 to fight the gas trust with, and I shall ask the Board of Estimate and Apportionment to let me have it. I want to establish a testing branch in Brooklyn also, where the people are being robbed without mercy."

EXPLOSION OF GAS KILLS SIX.

Fourteen Injured in a French Hotel—The Building Wrecked.

Rognonas, Bouches du Rhône, France, Jan. 29.—Six persons were killed and fourteen injured as a result of an explosion of gas in the café of the Hôtel de France last evening. The hotel was partially wrecked.

A dozen patrons were sitting at the tables drinking and playing cards when an odor of gas penetrated the room. Mme. Martin, wife of the proprietor of the hotel, lighted a candle and started for the kitchen. As she opened the door an explosion occurred. When the body of Mme. Martin was found it was almost decapitated and badly burned. Her father, husband and daughter also were instantly killed. The body of one of the guests was hurled across the street by the force of the explosion and struck the opposite wall with great force.

The work of removing the bodies and taking care of the injured was in progress all last night. It is feared that some of the injured persons will die. The authorities have stationed a guard around the hotel and are making an investigation.

SUICIDE BECAUSE OF CRITICISM.

Town Supervisor Censured for Not Keeping Highways Open in Snowstorms.

Jamestown, N. Y., Jan. 29.—Public criticism, it is believed, caused Ira Lucas, supervisor of the town of Clymer, to commit suicide to-day by hanging himself. He had been severely censured by the people of the town for failure to keep the highways open during the heavy snowstorms.

PLANS FOR EMPLOYE'S WELFARE.

Civic Federation Committee Outlines Work for Improving Factory Conditions.

In conformity with a new departure agreed on at the meeting of the executive committee of the National Civic Federation, held here on January 18 and 19, by which the general work of the federation was to be subdivided, the committee on employes' welfare met yesterday at the Waldorf-Astoria. This committee is the first to be formed to carry out the new plan, and was appointed several days ago by Senator Hanna, president of the Civic Federation. Other subdivisions, for the work of which committees will be appointed by Senator Hanna within the next week or two, include the building trades section, the metal trades section, public service corporations, including electric, gas and street railway companies, and the textile workers.

The meeting was called to order by Oscar S. Straus. A telegram of regret was read from Senator Hanna.

Brief addresses were made by Bishop Potter, H. H. Vreeland and Nathan Straus, on the subject of harmonious relations between employers and employes. A growing feeling of confidence between them was predicted. It was decided to meet again on February 24. The announcement was made that a New-England branch of the Civic Federation will be formed in Boston on February 9. Ralph M. Easley, secretary of the Civic Federation, made a statement after the meeting, in which he said:

The present plans are to have several branches of the work of the committee, to include the housing of labor, by which is meant the providing of comfortable homes for workers, with washrooms and baths, and hospital service, and a branch for educational efforts. The latter would embrace technical classes, the organization of libraries and teaching music, if desired. It is also proposed to have a rational comforts branch, which would include the providing of pure drinking water in factories, good ventilation and sanitation, and seats for working women, when possible. A bureau to settle labor disputes is also proposed. Firms who employ labor on a large scale have adopted all or most of these features with success. It is proposed to work for their general adoption in all big factories.

THINKS BROOKLYN PUPILS NEED ROD.

Teachers' Association of That Borough Wants Return to Corporal Punishment.

That Brooklyn children need flogging, is the verdict of the Brooklyn Teachers' Association. This sentiment was recorded in a request for the renewal of that oldtime privilege, sent by the association to President Rogers, of the Board of Education.

The regulations in force in Brooklyn before consolidation gave the principal of the school the right to inflict corporal punishment, and gave him sole discretion as to when the occasion demanded it. He made monthly reports of the number of pupils punished in this fashion.

In the last year, there has been much agitation of the subject among the teachers, both of Brooklyn and Manhattan, and there is a general sentiment in both boroughs favorable to a return to the hickory rule. The teachers declare that in many instances nothing but the rod will have the desired effect.

RESEMBLANCE TO PICTURE NOT PROOF

Court Says There Must Be Better Evidence That Process Was Served on Proper Person.

Justice Bischoff, in the Supreme Court, yesterday handed down a decision regarding the use of photographs in divorce suits, holding that the court in undefended divorce suits will not accept as proof of service of the summons mere testimony of the process server that the person served, in his opinion, was the proper person to be served because such person resembled a photograph which was presented at the trial. The decision says:

Opinion evidence of resemblance is acceptable as some proof upon issues tendered by the complainant, and, where the defendant has not appeared, or does not contest the plaintiff's right to judgment, the fact of adultery may be found through the identification of the guilty party as the defendant by means of a photograph, provided that the photograph is not identified solely by the plaintiff's testimony. Without actual proof of the service of the summons, however, the court cannot proceed to determine the question of adultery, whether upon inference or otherwise.

NEWARK TO SELL CHICAGO ANTITOXIN.

The Newark Board of Health is considering an appeal from the municipality of Chicago for a supply of antitoxin, and within a few days several hundred ten centimetre vials will be forwarded to that city, while arrangements will be made to turn out and ship about eight hundred vials a month.

Newark established several years ago a laboratory for the manufacture of antitoxin. The capacity of the plant is about one thousand ten cubic centimetre vials a month, and of this amount from two hundred to four hundred vials are used in Newark and in other communities in the State.

TWINING NOT IN COURT.

Fails to Keep Promise to Plead to an Indictment.

Asbury Park, N. J., Jan. 29.—A. C. Twining, who is under joint indictment with D. C. Cornell, of the Monmouth Trust Company, on charges preferred before the grand jury at Freehold this week, promised to plead to the indictment yesterday. He failed to appear, and his present whereabouts are unknown. He was last seen by friends here at the Asbury Park station on Wednesday morning, where he took the 8:22 train for New-York.

It is not believed here that he has run away. His friends say he is probably arranging for bondsmen, and that he will appear sometime before February 16, on which date the new indictments found against him at Freehold will be called for trial. Cornell is in jail at Freehold, being unable to obtain bail. Twining is also under sentence of five years for misappropriation of funds, and has been found guilty of returning false reports to the Controller of the Currency.

SHALL NEWPORT HAVE FACTORIES?

Business Men to Discuss Methods of Averting Hard Times in Winter.

Newport, R. I., Jan. 29.—To discuss methods for averting the dull times which prevail here every year during the season when the summer cottages are closed, the Newport Business Men's Association has called a meeting of citizens for next Monday evening. The most important question to be considered is whether an invitation shall be extended to manufacturing industries to settle here.

There has always been objection to the introduction of such enterprises because of the fear that the step would injure the city's fame as a summer resort. The lack of employment, however, during the winter is general, and the Business Men's Association has taken up the case because of the number of persons in the city who need work but can find none.

SUIT AGAINST W. R. HEARST.

New Trial of Case in Which Woman Got $25,000 Verdict.

A suit is to be tried before Justice Wilmot M. Smith in the Supreme Court in White Plains on February 8 to recover damages from W. R. Hearst for injuries to Mrs. Werner, of Mount Vernon, by a "New-York Journal" wagon in 1897. Ex-Senator David B. Hill is counsel for Mr. Hearst.

Roger M. Sherman, Corporation Counsel of Mount Vernon, who represents Mrs. Werner, first brought the suit in the United States Circuit Court, because he supposed Mr. Hearst was a citizen of California. When the case came to trial Mr. Hearst testified that he had ceased to live in California, and had become a resident of New-York. On that ground the federal suit was stopped and a new suit was brought in Westchester County. This resulted in a verdict for Mrs. Werner of $25,000. The Appellate Division allowed an appeal to the Court of Appeals, and that court ordered a new trial because of the introduction of rebuttal evidence. While the appeal was pending another suit was brought by the husband of the injured woman, and a $15,000 verdict was awarded to him.

One of the principal points of contest is the question whether Mr. Hearst is only a stockholder in his newspaper enterprises or is the controlling owner.

TO REDUCE PRICE TO ONE CENT.

"The Commercial Advertiser" to Become "The Globe and Commercial Advertiser."

"The Commercial Advertiser" announced yesterday that its price will be reduced to one cent after February 1, and that from that date the journal will be known as "The Globe and Commercial Advertiser." The new name, it believes, gives a truer idea of the general scope of its news, and avoids the misconstruction of assuming that it is a technical journal. The name "Globe," too, will be better suited to the newsboys' cry, it is believed.

This paper claims the distinction of being the oldest daily journal in the country. It was first published in 1735 as "The Minerva." Alexander Hamilton and John Quincy Adams were contributors. In 1736 Noah Webster and George F. Hopkins became its publishers, and the present name was adopted.

The first extra came out on February 12, 1845, announcing the signing of the Treaty of Ghent, seven weeks before. It advocated the abolition of slavery in 1825. Thurlow Weed bought it in 1837 and sold it to Hugh J. Hastings. In 1891 it passed to its present owners.

OBITUARY.

MOTT CANNON HEWITT.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Trenton, N. J., Jan. 29.—Mott Cannon Hewitt, nephew of the late Abram S. Hewitt, died here today, aged fifty-two years. He was born in New-York, and had been employed in the iron business since he was ten years old. When he left here he went to work with the New-Jersey Steel and Iron Company for his uncle, Abram S. Hewitt. He was a structural iron engineer, and for some time has been connected with the firm of H. T. Converse, of Boston.

HUGH GRANT.

Hugh Grant, forty-seven years old, a cousin of ex-Mayor Hugh J. Grant, died suddenly yesterday at his home, No. 346 West Fifty-sixth-st. Mr. Grant had been clerk of the Tenth Municipal District Court for fifteen years.

JOSEPH LA M. MORGAN.

Joseph La Motte Morgan died this week at the Presbyterian Hospital from pneumonia. Mr. Morgan was secretary of legation at the City of Mexico under the administrations of Cleveland and of Harrison, and for a short time Consul General. He was interested in the Nicaragua Canal project.

Mr. Morgan was born in South Carolina in 1854, and was graduated from the University of Georgetown in 1875. For the last year he had lived at the Hotel Highlands, but his home was Birmingham, Ala.

His funeral was held at the Church of Our Lady of Good Counsel, East Ninetieth-st., yesterday, the requiem mass being said by the Rev. J. N. Connolly, assisted by the Rev. William Egan. Among the floral tributes was a cross from Mrs. Jefferson Davis.

THE EARL OF DEVON.

London, Jan. 29.—The Earl of Devon, the Rev. Sir Henry Hugh Courtenay, rector of Powderham, Devon, and prebendary of Exeter Cathedral, is dead. He was born on July 15, 1811.

The Rev. Sir Henry Hugh Courtenay was the son of the tenth Earl of Devon and Lady Harriet Leslie, daughter of Sir Lucas Pepys. He was educated at Merton, Oxford. The estate consists of about fifty-three thousand acres. His heir is the Hon. Charles Pepys Courtenay, who was born on July 14, 1870.

JOHN GUY VASSAR.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Poughkeepsie, N. Y., Jan. 29.—John Guy Vassar, one of the best known residents of this place and a nephew of the founder of Vassar College, died at his home, in Liberty-st., this afternoon. Mr. Vassar was born in this city fifty-five years ago, being a son of the late James and Caroline Vassar. His father was born while his parents were on their way to this country from England.

John Guy Vassar was a member of the old brewing firm of M. Vassar & Co. He was a prominent member in several local organizations. He was twice married and leaves two brothers, Matthew Vassar, of Ballston Spa, N. Y., and Robert G. Vassar, of New-York City.

FOOD KILLS COOKING SCHOLARS.

Berlin, Jan. 29.—Eight girls belonging to a cooking school at Darmstadt are dead and three others are dying from poisoning which resulted from eating a dish made of canned beans and meat, and a medical inquiry into the occurrence is being made. Up to the present the investigation has failed to define the exact nature of the poison which brought such fatal results, although it is now thought that allanto-toxicum was the cause.

DID NOT IDENTIFY ALLEGED FOOTPAD.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Princeton, N. J., Jan. 29.—William Hayes, the Bordentown negro who has been held for ten days, awaiting trial as the assailant of Mrs. Stella Applegate, of Princeton, was brought here to-day for identification. He confronted his supposed victim this afternoon, and she said that she had never seen him before. Four other parties who had passed the assailant on the road said that he was a much shorter man.

Hayes was released by Mayor Harvey Robinson because of insufficient testimony. Several other arrests have been made recently, but none has been the right party. The reward for his capture is now $200.

ALI ASKER KHAN HERE.

Short Stay of Persian Noble and His Suite in This City.

Ali Asker Khan, Atabeg Azam of Persia, accompanied by his son, Mirza Ahmed Khan, and members of his suite, including Abdullah Khan, Hosein Khan, Abdoul Kerim Khan and Meshdi Abbas, arrived at the Grand Central Station at 8:25 o'clock last evening, at the end of a hurried trip across the continent. Ali Asker Khan, who has occupied his present relation as practically Chancellor of the Persian Empire for eighteen years, wears the title of Atabeg Azam, bestowed upon him by the Shah as distinctive of his office. The title is said to be higher than that of Grand Vizier. His highness was met at the station by the Persian Consul, Dikran Khan Kelekian, who conducted the party to the Waldorf.

The party, which left San Francisco four days ago, was under the personal charge of Jules Cierfayt, the special agent at San Francisco of the Trans-Siberian Railway. It was originally intended to stay nearly a month in the United States, of which eight days were to have been spent in Washington and eight in New-York, but a delay of fifteen days in Tientsin, waiting for a steamer for the United States, disarranged the itinerary. His highness, who left Teheran on September 25, intended to divide his time equally among China, Japan and the United States, and returning to the Orient reach Mecca by February 23. His arrival at the shrine of Mahometanism on that date is imperative, and to reach his destination on time, passage had been engaged on the Philadelphia, which sails to-day for Southampton. A six hours' stay in Chicago was followed by the necessity of choosing between a view of Niagara Falls yesterday morning or a few hours' earlier arrival in New-York in time for a glimpse at the city yesterday. His highness settled it. Much as there might be in New-York that he knew would interest him, he had seen cities before, but never such a cataract as Niagara, so the halt was made at Niagara at 7 o'clock Thursday night. The party stayed there until 10 o'clock yesterday morning, when the journey eastward was resumed.

His Highness received the newspaper men in his apartments shortly after arriving at the hotel. He was exceedingly gracious in his manner, but made response to the questions of the men of the press through an interpreter. He explained that he had travelled through China and Japan since leaving Persia, and everywhere in those countries there was a friendly feeling for the United States, as was also entertained in Persia. He was sorry his delay in China had deprived him of the stay he had planned to make in the United States, but said: "I have invited myself to come again."

Being asked what opinions he entertained as to the possible outcome of the present Russo-Japanese situation, he said he had talked with the elder statesman of Japan, and "I believe," said he, "that Japan has decided to fight." He added: "I advised them, however, that war must be bad for both and that it would be better if they could settle their differences by diplomacy."

His Highness appears to be under fifty years of age, and is full bearded and inclined to stoutness. He would impress those who come in contact with him as a forceful character, endowed with the full measure of acumen and shrewdness that is essential in Oriental statecraft.

The party will sail on the Philadelphia to-day, and will leave the steamer at Sherbrooke, taking the quickest route through Alexandria to Mecca.

BROOKLYN IMPROVEMENTS HELD UP.

Status of Proceedings of Local Boards Not Acted on Before Jan. 1 To Be Determined.

The important question as to whether all of the proceedings instituted by the local boards of public improvement, which had reached the Board of Estimate and Apportionment but not been acted upon by it before January 1, must be declared null and void and and begun all over again, has been presented to Justice Dickey in the Supreme Court, Brooklyn. It came up yesterday in the form of a motion made on behalf of Robert Lefferts, a taxpayer, for a writ of mandamus compelling the Board of Estimate and Apportionment to approve or reject a resolution of the local board of the Flatbush District favoring a sewer in Nostrand-ave. Assistant Corporation Counsel obtained an adjournment of the argument until next Thursday.

There are some forty improvement proceedings in Brooklyn, which Borough President Littleton was anxious to have left on the calendar of the Board of Estimate, but Corporation Counsel Delany held that all such actions that had not been finally passed upon became null and void with the retirement of the old administration.

When the question was presented to Justice Dickey he said that it seemed to turn on a determination as to whether the functions of the Board of Estimate were legislative or executive.

WIFE KEEPS HIM FROM BEING PRIEST.

Episcopal Minister's Spouse Refuses to Become a Nun.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Milwaukee, Wis., Jan. 29.—The Rev. Mr. Schultz, formerly connected with the Church of the Transfiguration, of New-York, wants to become a Catholic priest, but cannot, because his wife refuses to follow him into the Catholic faith. She remains an Episcopalian, and declares that she will not join the Catholic Church and become a nun, which course only would permit her husband to take priestly orders.

SALVATION ARMY OFFICERS ROBBED.

Janitor Confesses to Stealing from Their Trunks, Police Say.

William Hill was arrested at his home, No. 316 East Twenty-fifth-st., yesterday and locked up in the Charles-st. station, charged by Staff Captain Mumford, of the Salvation Army, with burglary. The store room at the army headquarters, No. 123 East Fourteenth-st., was broken into last Friday night and goods, including musical instruments, silverware, cut glass and clothing, to the amount of $1,000 were stolen. These were in trunks stored there by officers and members who are now absent from the city. Hill had been janitor at the headquarters until about six weeks ago. The police say that he has confessed and that some of the goods have been recovered.

ASKS $1,000,000 FOR UNIVERSITY.

Alumni of the University of Vermont held their annual dinner last night at the University Club. The Rev. Dr. Buckham, the president of the institution, made one of the addresses, and appealed for $1,000,000 for its use. He also said, in part:

Our age has coined a new term—commercialism. A certain group of writers and speakers would persuade us that the spirit of commerce is essentially dishonorable, and they attach to this dishonored spirit the term "commercialism." And where has this bad spirit its seat and its centre of influence? Why, right here in the city of New-York—in the clubs, and hotels, and banks, and marts, and exchanges, of New-York City. It is useless to deny that this spirit of conscious wealth does breed in some quarters that which is meant by the term "commercialism"—which Matthew Arnold meant by the term "Philistinism."

OHIO TROLLEY COMBINE.

Columbus, Ohio, Jan. 29.—A. E. Appleyard & Co. to-day authorized the statement that arrangements have been nearly completed for the consolidation under the name of the Ohio Union Traction Company of the following electric roads controlled by them: Central Market Street Railway of Columbus, Columbus, London and Springfield Railway, Dayton, Springfield and Urbana Railway, and Urbana, Bellefontaine and Northern Railway.

The four companies operate about two hundred miles of track, and have a total capitalization of $5,000,000. The merged company proposes to issue 5 per cent bonds to take up $3,250,000 preferred stock of the several companies.

FIRE IN A WASHINGTON CHURCH.

Washington, Jan. 29.—Fire broke out to-night in the Luther Place Memorial Church and caused damage to the extent of about $25,000, partly covered by insurance. The fire was confined to the roof of the main auditorium and to the tower, which fell, but the interior of the church was thoroughly water-soaked. A reception in honor of the birthday of the Rev. Dr. J. G. Butler, pastor of the church, was in progress in the chapel of the church when the fire broke out, but all present escaped safely.

JUSTICE SENTENCED FOR EXTORTION.

Paterson, N. J., Jan. 29 (Special).—Judge Scott to-day sentenced Samuel Percy, justice of the peace, to pay a fine of $100 and costs and to serve two months in the county jail, for extortion. Percy was indicted with five other justices, all of whom have been convicted of accepting fees illegally.

Justice Charles Finn and Justice William Snyder were called before the court for sentence on a charge of accepting 40 cents illegally for bail bonds. In their behalf it was said that they believed they had a right to demand a fee for accepting bail. Judge Scott released them under a suspension of sentence. Snyder is now serving a term of three months in the county jail for extortion.

WANTED TO KEEP PROXIES

Ice Trust Committee Says Beware of Wall Street Request.

The stockholders committee of the American Ice Company, which recently investigated and reported on the company's affairs, yesterday issued a supplemental report. Regarding the Maryland Ice Company's claim for $250,000, the report, after giving the opinion of Thomas D. Adams, attorney for the American Ice Company, that it is not liable for the mortgage indebtedness of $250,000 of the Maryland Ice Company, says that the loss to the American Ice Company by holding and running the Maryland Ice Company reaches nearly $250,000. It continues:

Your committee respectfully submits that it is not in the interest of the stockholders of the American Ice Company that its control should be turned over to a self-constituted Wall Street committee, headed by a gentleman who has a disputed claim of $250,000 against the corporation, a claim which is not only contested, but which, according to the opinion of the company's attorneys, should be absolutely repudiated.

If the experience of the stockholders of this company with a Wall Street board of directors, "dummies" included, has not been sufficient to put them on their guard against further impositions of the kind, your committee is much mistaken. The Greenough committee may endeavor to confuse stockholders by discussing various other phases of the company's situation and condition, but until Mr. Greenough satisfactorily explains to the stockholders why, outside of his claim of $250,000 against the company, he suddenly manifests such interest in its future control, we advise them to withhold their proxies from him. Their experience should have taught them a lesson. If it has not, they will go to the slaughter house of Wall Street again, but this time with their eyes wide open.

Those who have devoted themselves to the company's improvement and advancement should have at least this acknowledgment of and encouragement for their work. In asking for proxies for the annual meeting, therefore, we do not indicate a purpose to sweep out from the company the good as well as the bad, but only to seek such changes as are necessary to put the company throughout on the best possible business footing. We inclose proxies, accordingly, with blank spaces therein, indicating how each is to be filled out and signed by the stockholder and by one witness. These should be dated at the time of signing, and will supersede any other proxies that may have been given.

The report is signed by John A. Sleicher, G. Clem Goodrich and A. C. Nickerson.

TO ARREST CAPTAIN AND MATE.

Revenue Cutter Will Take Marshals to Shenandoah—Sailor Charges Assault.

When the American ship Shenandoah comes into port she will be met by United States marshals armed with warrants for the arrest of her master and mate, who are charged with assaulting a seaman, Giusseppe Ferrari. Ferrari asserts that while the Shenandoah was lying in Kobé he was assaulted by the mate, John McDonald, with the knowledge of Captain Trinic, and that his legs were broken and serious internal injuries were inflicted on him. So badly was he injured, he says in his affidavit, that he was for several months in a Japanese hospital, and his life was despaired of. Previous to the arrival of the Shenandoah in Kobé, Ferrari says he was beaten half a dozen times by the mate. On leaving the hospital Ferrari came here.

The Shenandoah left Hiogo with a cargo of tea, firecrackers, silk and matting, and was due in this port some time ago. She was reported off Cape Henlopen on Thursday night, and should be off Sandy Hook early this morning. As soon as she is sighted by the marine observer at the Highlands of Navesink or Sandy Hook the marshals and special Treasury agents will be rushed to the ship in a revenue cutter. Unusual precautions to insure the arrest of the two men are being taken, because it is feared that the mate will try to escape from the ship while she is being towed up the bay.

SAY HOUSE HAS LONG BEEN RUNNING.

Twenty Years, Neighbors Declare, Gambling Place's Age—Four Caught in Raid.

Detectives of the West