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New-York Daily Tribune.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1904.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

CONGRESS.—Senate: The bill requiring the use of American ships for transportation of government supplies met opposition from the Democrats, but Mr. Hale, in charge of it, consented to make material changes, and it was agreed to take the vote next Tuesday. ==== House: The day was chiefly devoted to private pension bills, 269 of them being passed.

FOREIGN.—According to a Moscow dispatch the main body of Russian cavalry is 355 miles north of Ping-Yang, and the infantry 125 miles northwest of that point. ==== Signals apparently made by Japanese were reported seen on the hills near Harbin. ==== A Japanese gunboat was so badly damaged in the recent action off Port Arthur that she sank before she could reach Che-Foo; several survivors arrived at that port. ==== Advices from Paris said that the Corean-Japanese treaty would have no effect on France's attitude of strict neutrality. ==== A denial of the report that the Japanese authorities had requested the Corean government to hand passports to the French Minister at Seoul was denied from Paris. ==== Japan has protested against M. Muravieff's speech in the Venezuelan award at The Hague; a copy of the protest will probably be sent to the powers represented at the tribunal.

DOMESTIC.—Machen, Lorenz and Diller B. Groff, convicted of postal frauds, were sentenced by Justice Pritchard to two years' imprisonment and a fine of $10,000 each; a motion for a new trial and arrest of judgement in the case of Samuel A. Groff was taken under consideration; the men sentenced gave notice of appeal and were released in $20,000 bail each. ==== President Roosevelt completed the personnel of the Isthmian Canal Commission by the appointment of B. M. Harrod, of New-Orleans, charges against whom he found to be groundless. ==== The loss by the Rochester fire was estimated to be $2,500,000; falling walls crushed the front of a store there. ==== The Wisconsin Capitol at Madison was burned, entailing a loss of about $800,000, with only about $6,000 insurance. ==== The body of a woman was found in a field near her home in Saratoga County, where it had lain six days.

CITY.—Stocks were dull and irregular. ==== The Republican State Committee met here, indorsed President Roosevelt's administration, pledged its support for his nomination and election and called the meeting of the State convention at Carnegie Hall for April 12. ==== A plan to build a bridge connection in Baxter-st. was made public by Commissioner Best. ==== Charles F. Dodge's lawyer talked about disbarment for an unnamed individual. ==== Many organizations met and planned to fight the grab bills in Albany. ==== Mayor McClellan approved the exemption of the deputy tax commissioners and the superintendents of ponds and reservoirs from Civil Service examinations.

THE WEATHER.—Indications for to-day: Partly cloudy and warmer. The temperature yesterday: Highest, 32 degrees; lowest, 22.

MISSISSIPPI'S CHANGE.

"The Vicksburg Herald" takes the occasion offered by a recent remark of The Tribune on the contrast between Mississippi under the leadership of the late Justice Lamar and Governor Vardaman to say:

> This reference to Mr. Lamar is intended to apply, we infer, to the 1875 Mississippi convention and the platform he supported from the resolutions committee. It is not out of place to say that when that memorable convention assembled Mississippi's hand was in the lion's mouth—the bayonet was still suspended over the Southland. It is not strange if this fact tempered language. But we are sure that Mr. Lamar said nothing then, or ever, contradictory of his oft repeated devotion to the same white supremacy creed that Governor Vardaman was explaining; in his own way and words. This, however, is all apart from the question, of "the promise of (educational) privileges to the black man." On this point it is enough to say the State has passed no law infringing the 1875 pledge—the latest action bearing thereon was its reaffirmation in the constitutional convention of 1890. "The Herald" has no idea of any repeal or diminution of that section of the organic law; or that any law will be enacted to justify The Tribune's assumption to the contrary.

Our Vicksburg contemporary, by its parenthetical interpolation of "educational" in its quotation, entirely misrepresents The Tribune's point. What we said was that Mr. Lamar had proclaimed the doctrine that "moral worth, "intelligence and industry were the proper "foundation of political privileges," and faithfully promised "to secure to the black man "those privileges by training him to fitness for "their exercise." It was political, and not merely educational, privileges which he promised to the black man, and that is something entirely different from the "white supremacy" ideas of Governor Vardaman, who denies the fitness of Booker Washington to vote. At that convention of 1875 Mr. Lamar declared: "The "people of Mississippi have pledged themselves "to sustain the three amendments to the Con-"stitution. . . . They confer upon the newly "enfranchised race the sacred rights of free-"men, and their rights are your duties! . . . "Any race organization which seeks to assert "the exclusive management of a country may "have good government, but cannot have lib-"erty. It is tyranny unmixed, and is fraught "with disaster." That convention adopted a platform saying: "We recognize and will main-"tain the civil and political equality of all men "as established by the Constitution of the "United States and the amendments thereto." Again, in the House of Representatives, on August 2, 1876, Mr. Lamar promised for the South protection of the negro's political rights, saying:

> Whatever may be the future administration of this country, freedom, citizenship and suffrage are established institutions, embodied in the fundamental law, recognized in all statutes, federal and State, enforced by courts, accepted and acted on by the people. . . . You have given the black race the most delicate, the most dangerous, as well as the most sacred, of all privileges. Let that privilege be maintained inviolably; but give him real freedom, and do not make him the janizary of party tyranny. Allow that race to learn what you have learned in New-England and carried with you into the new empire of the West which your energy has created: that moral worth, intelligence and industry and wealth are the true foundations of a people's happiness and liberty, no matter what their color.

Those promises are in absolute contradiction to the present attitude of leading Southern politicians and the workings of several Southern State constitutions. The contrast cannot be obscured by any juggling of the discussion from political to "educational" privileges and avowals that the educational law has not been, or will not be, changed. Neither can it be excused by pleas that in 1875 the South spoke softly to conciliate those in power. Such an excuse can mean only that the promises were made in bad faith, and that the Southern States dishonestly entered into engagements with the federal government to respect the negro's political rights, intending to break them as soon as it had the chance. "The Vicksburg Herald" says: "Upon the broad "issue of white political supremacy Mississippi "and her Governor stand precisely where the "great Southern 'spokesman' [Mr. Lamar] did. "There is no 'contrast' or change on the prob-"lem in the South." If that is true, then every word we have quoted from the platform of 1875 and from Mr. Lamar's speeches was uttered in bad faith, for to-day negro suffrage is not accepted as an established institution, it is not "maintained inviolably." The whites do openly seek exclusive management of affairs. We have great respect for Mr. Lamar's memory, we believe he was an honest man, and we prefer to think that the South has changed its ground rather than that he and the leaders of his time held the views now embodied in Southern State constitutions while avowing a contrary disposition and purpose toward colored citizens.

SURPRISES IN WAR.

What novelty or what surprise will this East Asian war produce? There may be none, yet the chances would seem to be that one will be forthcoming, as in each of so many modern wars. Napoleon surprised all Europe with the flexibility of his military organizations and the celerity of their movements. The War of 1812 surprised the world with an amazing series of sea victories, due to improved navigation and the sighting of cannons. Our Civil War revolutionized naval warfare with ironclads and turrets. The Austro-Prussian War of 1866 brought forward the perfected breechloader, while the great Franco-German War surprised the world with the deadly potency of rapid fire artillery. The Russo-Turkish War gave an illustration at Plevna of the value of the spade, which enabled the thinned legions of Osman to hold at bay and to repel with mighty slaughter the overwhelming myriads of the Russian army. The Boer war showed the efficiency of smokeless powder and long range arms, and the need of open formation in battle and great mobility of troops.

The present war ought, we should think, to teach us some new lessons. The value of the torpedo, the torpedo boat and the torpedo boat destroyer should be more accurately demonstrated than ever before. Whether the submarine boat will be used and its efficiency ascertained is not yet known. Wireless telegraphy has its first opportunity of service in war. There is also a rare chance to compare the relative values of sea power and of land power. Nor should we overlook the fact, on the one hand, that the newest of civilized nations and the first of Asiatic nations to enter the charmed circle of the "Great Powers" is for the first time to show its capacity in a great war, and, on the other hand, that the European power which is of all most populous, and which has by far the largest army, is now to show whether its military efficiency is commensurate with its physical bulk.

Already there have been some surprises. The Russians were surprised at Port Arthur. The world has been surprised at the readiness and aggressive energy of the Japanese and at the apparent unreadiness of Russia for a contest for which she was supposed to be particularly well prepared. But all these things are merely opening flourishes. The real work of the war has not yet begun. When it is well under way, and by the time it is completed, what surprises will the world have had and what new lessons in the most terrible of the arts shall we have learned?

RUSSIAN SUSCEPTIBILITIES.

It is greatly to be regretted, and by no means exclusively or even chiefly for this country, that the American attitude toward the belligerents in the Far East should be so much misunderstood or misrepresented in Russia. We have occasionally referred to what seems to be a sort of anti-American propaganda in Russia, led notably by the "Novoe Vremya." That it is intended as an actual propaganda we should be sorry to believe; but that it looks like one is unquestionable. It has been manifested on many occasions during the last few years. It was observed when the United States, acting on the sound policy of equal treatment for all nations, imposed upon Russian bounty aided sugar a duty similar to that which it put upon such sugar from other lands. It was noticed when American sympathy was expressed with persecuted Jews and with oppressed Finlanders. It appeared again whenever this country moved or spoke for the fulfilment of treaties and pledges in China. It has been literally rampant during the present war over a dozen different matters, not one of which gave any valid ground for it. We have already mentioned the extravagant declarations that this country had inveigled Japan into the war to serve its own sordid ends, and we thought such aspersions were the worst that would be or could be made. But if they are not to be surpassed in fantastic baselessness, they are, it seems, to be matched, and the matching of them is to be continued and repeated indefinitely.

Thus a clamor has been raised against this country because of the action, or non-action, of the American gunboat Vicksburg at Chemulpo. Russians complain that it did not join the other neutral vessels in protesting against the Japanese attack upon the Russian ships, and that it did not join them in rescuing and caring for the crews of the Russian ships when they were defeated by the Japanese. Now, the fact that the other ships did or did not do thus and so is no reason at all why the American ship should have done the same, for it is a well established principle that America joins no "concert of the powers," but acts upon her own judgment and responsibility. The sole question is whether the Vicksburg should have protested against the Japanese action. We cannot imagine why she should have done so. The Russians appear to have begun the fight by firing first upon the Japanese. Certainly our ship could not in those circumstances protest against a return of the fire by the Japanese. It would seem to have been a breach of neutrality for it thus to intervene in a quarrel to which the United States was not a party. Surely, our Russian friends cannot complain because the United States maintains a strictly neutral attitude. As for the other charge, that our ship did not succor and give asylum to the Russian refugees, it may be said that it is no part of a neutral's duty to give asylum or to save belligerents from being captured by the foe. A neutral may have the privilege of doing so in certain circumstances, but it is absurd to say that it is a breach of neutrality for it to refrain from doing so. As to the question of humanity, it is on record, we believe, that the American ship was the first of all to send or to offer medical and other humane aid to the Russians. There certainly seems to be no ground for the imputation that the Vicksburg acted otherwise than in an impartial and humane manner.

Another outcry is raised by some Russians over the announcement that a connection may be made between the American Pacific cable system and Japan, which is declared by them to indicate American enmity toward Russia and partiality for Japan, and to be, indeed, a practical violation of neutrality. That is certainly amazing. The project of such cable connection is not a new one. It has been under consideration in this country for years. It was planned long before this war was begun or thought of. Nor would it in any case indicate unfaithfulness to the principle of neutrality, any more than does the maintenance of ordinary commercial intercourse and the carrying of the mails between this country and Japan. Intercourse between America and Japan is of long standing and of great importance. The need of more direct telegraphic connection has long been felt. It has been impossible to secure it before because of our lack of a Pacific cable. But now we have a Pacific cable, which was at the outset meant to be extended to Japan. Surely, we cannot be expected to abandon or suspend our plans for peaceful communication just because Japan happens to be at war with Russia.

We do not for a moment suppose that these querulous and shrill complaints on the part of a few Russian newspapers and public men reflect the sentiment of the Czar and his ministers, or of the mass of informed Russian people. These latter must know the truth—that this country is sincerely striving to maintain friendly neutrality between the combatants in this unhappy strife and to do exact justice to both. It has especial reasons for so doing, arising from the fact that both the belligerents have peculiar claims upon its friendship and its sympathies. It does not permit memories of the past to blind it to present conditions, nor does it let its own present interests obscure its recollection of the past. But these railings against America, though not official and though confined to few, are still deplorable, because at this time the susceptibilities of all Russia are especially sensitive, with the sensitiveness of a power that is meeting with unpleasant surprises and at least temporary misfortunes. At such a time a mischievous word may have far greater power for evil than in other circumstances. It is the duty of Americans, and of all neutrals, to avoid utterances needlessly irritating to Russia, and it would certainly seem to be equally the duty of Russians to avoid seeking and professing to find offence where none is intended and where none exists.

DIRIGO.

The public will hear with sympathetic interest that, owing to the extreme difficulty of harvesting the ice crop in Maine, and everywhere else, we suppose, the supply will be short and the price long this year. This is an ingenious variation of the usual formula provided for severe winters, and we congratulate the producers on the fertility of their intellectual resources. We are accustomed to the announcement that ice of extraordinary thickness spoils the saws, doesn't fit the runways and discourages the laboring man to such an extent that he has to ask for higher wages, but in this instance it is the stormy weather that has played the mischief. The quality of the ice is good, the thickness is about right, but most of the time the cutters have found it simply impossible to do anything but cut and run when summoned to put in a day's work.

A few years ago there were so many apples that it didn't pay to pick them, and consequently the market supply was so small that they were worth about as much as radium. That was an uncommonly pleasant arrangement for the dealers, and we have never expected that it would be improved on in any field of activity; but we are now led to hope the ice companies will make that model look cheap in the course of time. The Americans are a great people. They have got a good start, and you can't stop them.

"ÆVOLOGY."

A brief suggestion which was made by Dr. Addison Ballard in a letter to The Tribune the other day has aroused some attention and deserves more. It was to the effect that in some college or university there should be undertaken the systematic study of the science of the prolongation of human life, under what might be called a "Chair of Ævology." To some this may have seemed impracticable, visionary, even fantastic. But such judgment was not wise. Surely there is nothing of more practical value than that which tends to conserve and to increase man's most prized possessions, and surely there are few things which men prize more than life. "All that a man hath will he give for his life." Amid our studies to gain distinction and power and wealth and pleasure, then, what can be more fitting than to study that to which these are mere ministers and upon which they all depend? We study biology in the hope of learning the secret of life's origin; and we study psychology to learn all we can about the spiritual manifestations of life and, if possible, to get some glimpse of life beyond the veil which men call death. Why not, with comparable earnestness and system, study the art of making as long as possible the space between the cradle and the grave?

Dr. Ballard suggested in his letter some of the studies such a science would involve. Naturally, it would include at least some portion of biology and of psychology. Physiology and hygiene and both private and public sanitation would likewise be included. Air, food and drink and methods of taking them would be considered, together with sleeping, exercising and all the physical functions and activities. But the science of "ævology" would go further than these. It would institute research into the influence of mind over matter, into the effect of mental upon bodily conditions. It would study the relationship of cheerfulness, contentment and happiness to longevity, and the connection between serenity and health and between mental distress and physical disease. Thus the various pretensions of mental healing, "Christian science" and the impressive phenomena of Oriental occultism would become subjects of authoritative and determinatory investigation.

We shall not be so rash as to venture any estimate of the results of such study and research. But it can scarcely be disputed that such a sphere of investigation would be both legitimate and promising. It has been bluntly remarked that we should be far better off if we took as much care in and devoted as much study to the propagation of the human race as we do to the raising of thoroughbred horses and cattle. We may add that we might also be better off if, in addition to research into biogenesis and all possible attention to therapeutics and surgery and what not, we gave more systematic and scientific attention to the general caring for and culture of and prolongation of life after it has had its genesis and before it is compelled, if ever, to intrust itself to the hands of the physician and surgeon. There are many ways in which educational foundations might be—and have been—established that are far less practical and far less promising for the welfare of humanity than that suggested by Dr. Ballard—a "chair of ævology," for the study of "the science of the prolongation of human life."

Wisconsin's loss of her Capitol by fire yesterday teaches an important lesson. No matter how fine the equipment for extinguishing flames may be in either a public or a private building, it is worth while to find out occasionally whether it is in good working order or not. The watchman in the State House at Madison discovered the outbreak, it is said, in time to suppress it completely if the standpipe there had not been frozen up. Failure to detect this hinderance in time will cost Wisconsin not far from $1,000,000.

An international arbitration tribunal whose decisions will satisfy everybody is much wanted, The Hague showing in its early renderings that it does not quite fill the bill.

Battleships are such expensive luxuries that smaller vessels, cruisers and torpedo boats and destroyers, may possibly displace them in half a century.

Seven locomotive engines were built in a single day by one manufacturing concern in Philadelphia and will be shipped to Japan. The City of Friends is rapidly becoming an amazing hustler, fitted to supply Japan with many things which the Mikado may possibly ask for.

England's naval estimates for the year come so near to two hundred millions that she might as well have called it that in round numbers. The application of the sum in detail shows particular attention to torpedo boats and their destroyers, pooh-poohed some years ago as trivialities not worth serious attention. Thus does the whirligig of time and change spin round, bringing in with its revolutions new conclusions, as well as revenges and other things suitable to the "wheeling orb of change" which the world has been from of old and continues to be.

Talk about the government's policy having delayed instead of expediting the construction of the isthmian canal is not nearly so plentiful now as it was a little while ago.

What kind of a saint was Domingo, anyway? The island named after him has no sanctity of any kind, but is a dwelling place of all kinds of wickedness. Its need of handcuffs and a guardian policeman is several times too manifest to escape attention.

The disguised Columbia student who managed to make one at a masquerade of Barnard College girls revived the Roman incident of Clodius and the Bona Dea; the modern, like the ancient, interloper getting off with all his hair, contrary to the deservings of both. Thus does history repeat itself:

> As if its whole vocation
> Were endless imitation.

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

An extraordinary effect of lightning is reported from Lake Grandlieu, in the Nantes region. A violent tempest burst over the lake, with vivid lightning and thunder. A number of boats were on the lake, and while they were hurrying to bank there was a tremendous peal of thunder. Almost immediately there fell among the boats the dead bodies of a large flock of wild ducks, some of them roasted to a nicety, and some charred to a cinder. Roast duck cooked by lightning reads like a novelty, even in the freaks of meteorology. If it could only be adapted to the "quick lunch" system!

ARMS AND THE WOMAN.

[Being a privileged account of an election at the Ladies' Cavalry Club.]

It was a solemn séance composed of martial dames,
Discussing likely candidates with military claims;
The doors were doubly bolted; but, through a little bird,
I am enabled to report exactly what occurred.

The Amazon presiding over the lists of Mars
Was Lady Susan Cropper, of the 88th Hussars,
And she had just put forth the name of Bella Squeers,
Third cousin to a captain in the Bounding Buccaneers.

Then spoke a Horse Guard's lady, a welterweight was she,
And rode her husband's chargers to hounds at sixteen-three:
"I ask for information; pray, who is Bella Squeers?
And who, by all that's holy, are the Bounding Buccaneers?

"Cavalry of the Line I know; one meets them here and there"
("The Liner she's a lady!" observed the angry Chair);
"But if you mean to keep select, you simply can't allow
The claims of fancy regiments raised Heaven alone knows how!"

At this a stout Yeowoman repressed a rising sob,
And called the previous speaker a horrid, horrid snob;
And said that if the Junior Arm should fail to get its dues,
Herself would bar all candidates related to the Blues.

Dare I describe the issue, what language rent the air,
What sudden transformations took place in people's hair,
Or how a West Kent's aunt-in-law had both her pince-nez broke,
And something awful happened to a Kitchen Lancer's toque?

A colonel's wife ("The Dye-hards") betrayed a natural pique
On being drenched with coffee all down her dexter cheek,
And, though of temperate habits and never known to faint,
Swore frankly like a trooper, and swooned from loss of paint.

I shrink to estimate the cost in limb and even life
Had not a nervous member screamed, "I disapprove of strife;
Stop! or I fetch my Father, a noted man of gore,
Experienced in handling a 'Gyppy' Camel Corps!"

. . . .

Great peace ensued. They kissed again, like dear mock-turtle doves,
Household and Line and Yeomanry, and called each other "loves";
And by unanimous consent elected Bella Squeers,
Third cousin to a captain in the Bounding Buccaneers.

—(Punch.

St. Bernard dogs seem to retain their life saving instincts, even in this country. A large specimen of that breed was recently seen at Keene, N. H., making a great fuss over what appeared to be an old coat partly buried in a snowbank. At last some one investigated the coat, and found that there was a man inside of it who was almost dead from the cold. As soon as the dog saw that the man was to be properly cared for he went on his way in peace.

"If you refuse me I shall never love another woman."
"Does that promise stand good if I accept you?"
—(Illustrated Bits.

As a marble producing State Georgia may rival Vermont. The marble belt is about six miles in length, extending in a southwesterly direction from the North Carolina line through Pickens County. The supply is practically inexhaustible, and the depth of the deposit in many places is over one hundred feet. Both white and colored varieties are found. The characteristics of the Georgia marble are purity of chemical composition, uniform texture and peculiar crystalline structure, rendering it remarkably durable because of its slow absorption of water.

SIX SHORT.

The actress who got one bouquet
Was mad as a hatter, they suet,
For it seems she had given
Her order for seven,
And the florist had gotten his puet.
—(Philadelphia Press.

A man at Randolph, Vt., recently found six deer in his front yard and five more in the road in front of the house. They were evidently in search of food, for they were quite tame and greedily ate some apples which were thrown to them.

THE RECESS—IONAL.
(A Plaint.)

[Students living at a distance from Cambridge may leave college early so as to be in time to reach their homes by the first day of the recess.—Faculty notice.]

My native Chelsea I adore
And worship to the ground,
But would I lived in Billeville, Ore.,
When the recess comes around.

Although my fancy Dedham decks
With Xmas joys profound,
It can't compare with Waco, Tex.,
When the recess comes around.

Oh, Malden, pretty Malden, pine
For me no more, I'm bound
Elsewhere—Seattle, Wash., for mine,
When the recess comes around.

Concord and Cambridge, Bunker Hill,
Are old historic ground,
But give me places west of Ill.,
When the recess comes around.
—(Harvard Lampoon.

A man at Newport, R. I., has found an eel mine and is making a small fortune. While out after muskrats he found that thousands of eels had crawled into muskrat holes and all he had to do was to dig them out and sell them.

"Nell is making a bare living in New-York."
"What does she do?"
"She's an artist's model."—(Princeton Tiger.

About People and Social Incidents.

AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

[FROM THE TRIBUNE BUREAU.]

Washington, Feb. 27.—President Roosevelt told several of his callers to-day that he was more delighted over the conviction of Machen and the other postal conspirators than he was over the action of the New-York Republican State Committee, because he had been in some fear of a "hung" jury in one case, while he had not doubted that there would be complete harmony in New-York.

The President had a talk this morning with Representative Humphrey and Allen Weir, of Washington, about the wanton killing of the Roosevelt elks of the Olympic Mountains in Washington. These animals are distinct from the general elk of the country, and their discoverer, who is an admirer of President Roosevelt, gave the new species his name.

Representative Humphrey has had a letter from the game warden of Washington, saying that he had recently found the carcasses of nineteen elks that had been slaughtered for their teeth, which serve as charms for the members of the Order of Elks. The splendid animals had been slaughtered for the sake of two teeth each. The members of the order are beginning to do away with the wearing of such charms, as the teeth are scarce and costly, but to put an immediate stop to such wanton slaughter the President will endeavor to have Congress pass stringent laws against the destruction of elks.

A delegation of Osage Indians, headed by Big Heart, chief of the Osages, shook hands with the President this morning. They wore gay blankets, moccasins and beads, with concessions to civilization in the way of laundered shirts and short hair. Though they were as silent as stone images, they appeared to be pleased with their call.

The President also talked with ex-Representative Van Voorhees, of New-York, who brought to the White House a few Seneca Indians. The Senecas are here to attend to business before the Interior Department.

The White House stables are to be torn down and modern buildings erected in as convenient but less conspicuous site, probably west of Seventeenth-st. Some time ago the War Department submitted an estimate of $60,000 for the improvement of the stables, but Colonel Symons, Superintendent of Public Buildings and Grounds, considers the present location too near the new Corcoran Art Gallery and the sites on which Columbian University and the Continental Hall are to be built. As the stables had to be practically rebuilt in any case, he suggested their removal. To further this plan Secretary Taft has sent to Congress an additional estimate, making $90,000, which will suffice for the purchase of a new site and the building of new stables.

C. B. Orcutt, president of the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company, called on the President to-day and invited him to attend the launching of the battleship Virginia on April 5. The President was compelled, by pressure of public businessfl to decline the invitation. At the request of the Secretary of the Navy, President Orcutt has invited Miss Matilda G. Montague, daughter of the Governor of Virginia, to act as sponsor, and she has consented to name the vessel.

NOTES OF SOCIETY IN WASHINGTON.

[FROM THE TRIBUNE BUREAU.]

Washington, Feb. 27.—Mrs. Fairbanks gave a tea this afternoon from 5 to 7 o'clock in honor of her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Warren Fairbanks, a bride of the late winter. Among those assisting in the hospitalities of the afternoon were Mrs. Garret A. Hobart, Mrs. Foraker, Mrs. Cullom, Mrs. May, Mrs. Timmons, daughter of the hostess; Miss Ridgley, Miss Anderson and Miss Warner, daughter of Representative Warner, of Illinois.

Senator and Mrs. Depew gave a dinner to-night, when their guests were the Russian Ambassador and Countess Cassini, Associate Justice and Mrs. Brewer, Senator and Mrs. Lodge, the Naval Attaché of the British Embassy and Mrs. De Chair, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas F. Walsh, Miss Edes, Miss Gwynne, Miss May, Miss Josephine Patten, Miss Ward, Miss Warder, Miss Paulding, Mr. Bobroff, of the Russian Embassy; Percy Wyndham, of the British Embassy; Reginald de Koven, Mr. Cresson, Mr. May and Chauncey M. Depew, jr.

The First Secretary of the German Embassy and Baroness von dem Bussche Haddenhausen, with their little daughter, and Señora and Señorita Martinez de Hoz, mother and sister of the Baroness, started for Florida to-day. The Baron will return in a few days, but the rest of the party expect to remain a month.

Captain and Mrs. Warren C. Beach, of New-York, who have opened their Washington home for their annual spring visit, gave a dinner to-night.

THE ARMY AND NAVY.

[FROM THE TRIBUNE BUREAU.]

Washington, Feb. 27.—Mrs. Taft, wife of the Secretary of War, has leased a house at Santa Barbara, Cal., until April, when she will join the Secretary here.

Mrs. O'Reilly, wife of Brigadier General Robert M. O'Reilly, has returned much improved from a visit to Fort Monroe, where she was the guest of Mrs. Rafferty, whose husband, Major Ogden Rafferty, is surgeon at that post.

Mrs. H. C. Taylor is the guest of Mrs. Wickersham, of New-York. In the absence of Rear Admiral Taylor on an official trip to the West Indies, Mrs. Taylor will visit relatives and friends in New-England.

Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Pratt are visiting their son-in-law and daughter, Captain and Mrs. Francis W. Dickins, at their present home, in Pensacola, Fla.

Mrs. Converse, wife of Rear Admiral Converse, is ill at her home, in this city.

NEW-YORK SOCIETY.

Mrs. Astor is booked to sail at the end of the week for Europe, and will, as usual, proceed to Paris and take possession of her apartment there on the Champs Elysées, to remain there until June, when she will go for a few weeks to visit her daughter, Mrs. G. Ogilvy Haig, in London, before returning to this country and opening her house at Newport for the rest of the summer season. Mrs. John Jacob Astor is still here, but Colonel Astor is at Palm Beach, and is not expected to return to town until next week.

A number of well known people sailed yesterday for Europe, among them Mrs. Adair, and her niece, Miss Post, the daughter of Lady Barrymore by her first marriage. They were in New-York for only a few days.

While Mrs. Reginald C. Vanderbilt has not been very strong since the birth of her little girl, about four weeks ago, yet she has not been so seriously ill as asserted, nor has her condition at any time given rise to serious alarm. She is now rapidly recovering, and expects to be out driving and walking within a few days, and to start in a fortnight for Newport, where she will remain with her husband and baby until the fall.

Mr. and Mrs. Morris K. Jesup have taken their house at Washington, D. C., where they expect to make their headquarters until June.

Tuxedo, as usual at this time of the year, is crowded with people from town. Among those established there are Mr. and Mrs. Howland Pell, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Tuckerman and Mrs. Charles Coster, while Mrs. Belmont Tiffany and Mr. and Mrs. Albert G. Jennings have likewise arrived there for a prolonged stay.

French conferences and lectures are very popular this Lent with the fashionable set. Every day brings the announcement of entertainments of this kind that have been organized. Among the most notable of them are those conducted by Miss Marie Dailliuex, at Mrs. James F. D. Lanier's house, on Wednesdays, in the morning, among the subscribers being Mrs. E. H. Harriman, Mrs. Moses Taylor, Mrs. Ogden Mills, Mrs. Bishop and Miss Edith Devereux Clapp.

Miss Leila Paget is still in Phœnix, Ariz., and will remain there until the middle of March, when she will return to England with her mother, Mrs. Arthur Paget, who goes this week to Palm Beach for a few days.

Another series of French conferences is that given by Mlle. Viazone. She gave one yesterday at Mrs. Charles Morgan's house, in Gramercy Park, and will deliver another one on Tuesday at the house of Mrs. Robert Abbe, on the history of the French Academy.

August Belmont has left town with E. C. Potter and Mr. and Mrs. H. Van Rensselaer Kennedy, on board his private car, for Palm Beach.

Mr. and Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, jr., have returned to town from Washington.

Mrs. Bruce Ismay did not return with her husband to England last week. She remains in town, and is staying with Mrs. James Hude Beekman.

M. Gutowski, of the Russian Embassy, has arrived in town from Washington, and will be here for a few days.

Announcement is made of the engagement of Miss Sarah King Peck, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. N. Peck, of No. 55 West Eighty-fifth-st., to Taylor More, of this city.

Another engagement announced is that of Miss Catherine Stephenson, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Franklin Bache Stephenson, of Washington, to Henry George Bartoe, now of London, England, but formerly of New-York.

A WEDDING.

South Orange, N. J., Feb. 27 (Special).—Miss Mary Madeline Morgan, daughter of Mrs. Henry Addison Mandeville and the late Richard Morgan, of New-York, was married to-day in the First Presbyterian Church to Harry Howard Bottome, of the New-York Life Insurance Company. The bridegroom is a member of the University, New-York Athletic and Yale clubs. He is a graduate of Yale, '93, and of the New-York Law School, '96.

The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Dr. George L. Spining, pastor of the church, assisted by the Rev. George H. Bottome, vicar of Grace Church, New-York, a brother of the bridegroom. A reception at the home of the bride's mother, in Ludington Road, followed the ceremony.

The bride was attended by her sister, Mrs. J. Stanley Foster, as matron of honor. The bride was dressed in duchesse lace over white satin, and carried lilies-of-the-valley and orchids. The bridegroom's gift was a pearl and diamond brooch. The bridesmaids were Miss Isabel Jameson and Miss Grace Whittle, of New-Hampshire, cousins of the bride; Miss Marion Stevenson, of South Orange and Miss Martha Burke, of New-York. J. Stanley Foster, of New-York, was best man, and the ushers were Harry A. Thompson, of Philadelphia; A. Paul Keith, of Boston; John C. McCall, of New-York; Donald C. Haldeman, of Harrisburg; Hugh Miller, of New-York, and Charles W. O'Connor, of New-York. The gift of the bride to the bridegroom was a pearl scarfpin. Nearly one thousand guests attended the wedding and reception.

DINNER OF THE OSWEGO SOCIETY.

The third annual dinner of the Oswego Society, composed of former residents of Oswego now living in New-York and its vicinity, was held last night at the St. Denis, about one hundred and fifty being present. Ex-Mayor John D. Higgins of Oswego presided. Among the guests were several officials and prominent citizens of Oswego, who came down especially for the dinner.

NOTES ON THE WAR.

Admiral Kamimura's report upon the operations of last Wednesday morning gives a detailed account of that interesting attempt to "bottle up" the Russian fleet at Port Arthur. One of the Japanese hulks was sunk at almost the narrowest part of the channel, where the distance from shore to shore is only three hundred yards and the width of the channel scarcely half as much. Another was sunk a little further out. The others, three in number, are said to have been sunk at the foot of the Lao-Teai-Shan, or Old Iron Mountain—unless there has been some error in transmission of the name. The latter point is more than three miles from the harbor entrance. Next, we are told, the Japanese fleet fell in with two Russian torpedo boats at the foot of Lao-Teai-Shan, which, according to Russian accounts, were returning from Pigeon Bay. The Japanese gave chase. One of the Russian boats escaped, apparently into Port Arthur. The other was pursued to Pigeon Bay and there was sunk.

Now Lao-Teai-Shan forms the extreme tip of the Regent's Sword peninsula, and forms a rugged mass three or four miles in diameter and 1,600 feet high, jutting out upon the Strait of Pe-Chi-Li, between Corea Bay and the Gulf of Pe-Chi-Li. Port Arthur lies northeast of it, on Corea Bay, while Pigeon Bay is at the northwest, on the Gulf of Pe-Chi-Li. The Japanese must therefore have pursued the Russian boat through the Strait of Pe-Chi-Li, around the promontory, a distance of ten miles or more. If the Russian boats are in the habit of passing to and fro between Port Arthur and Pigeon Bay we must conclude that the Japanese are not keeping very close guard over the former place, at least at the south and southwest.

Russians report that a Japanese torpedo boat lies on a bank off Fort White Wolf. Presumably, that means a fort on White Wolf Hill, which is a small hill between Port Arthur and Lao-Teai-Shan. In that case the torpedo boat in question must be very near the place where the three Japanese hulks were sunk, and it is possible that it is not a torpedo boat, but one of the hulks. This theory is strengthened by the fact that the Japanese report that they had five hulks, and sunk them all, while the Russians speak of only four and seem not to have known of the fifth one.

Nevertheless, we hear that a number of Japanese officers and sailors have landed at Che-Foo in an open boat, and that they decline to tell whence they came. It must be assumed that they came from some lost vessel, torpedo boat or gunboat. It is possible that they came from the vessel reported by the Russians as on the bank at Fort White Wolf, though that would mean a trip of a hundred miles in an open boat across a stormy winter sea—a possible but scarcely probable exploit. More probable is it that they belonged to some small vessel that was injured by the Russian fire and was on its way home for repairs. They might thus have been passing within a few miles of Che-Foo when it foundered.

Pigeon Bay and Dove Bay are mentioned in the dispatches. They are one and the same, and may be found just northeast of the tip of the Regent's Sword, fronting upon the Gulf of Pe-Chi-Li.

The fine cruiser Askold is positively declared to be uninjured, or at least fully repaired, and in perfect fighting trim. In that case the world can still boast a warship with five smokestacks, and the Russian navy the possession of an uncommonly serviceable ship.

There are reports of a Japanese fleet of ten vessels seen off Vladivostok. That is quite possible. Japan could send that number of ships thither, a squadron strong enough to deal with the four Russian cruisers at that port, without seriously weakening her grip upon Port Arthur. Nevertheless, it seems scarcely probable, for various reasons. For one thing, it would be doubtful policy thus to divide her fleet into two parts, a thousand miles and more apart, until at least one of the two opposing fleets was completely disposed of. For another thing, Vladivostok is now icebound, and it would be impossible for the Japanese to approach it closely enough for effective action. The Russians can get out and in, of course, because they have ice breakers. But the Japanese probably have no such machines, and if they had could scarcely use them in such circumstances.

The Russian complaint against the proposal to run a cable from our Pacific system to Japan is ill conceived. It speaks of a cable from the Philippines to Japan, when the fact is it is to run from Guam to Japan. It also asks what the United States would say if Germany proposed to run one from Kiao-Chau to Port Arthur or Vladivostok. Why, we don't suppose the United States would say a word, unless to congratulate the Germans upon their enterprise and the Russians upon their prospect of additional communication with the rest of the world. America claims no authority over the Yellow Sea or its shores.