Amusements.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC—8:15—A Chinese Honeymoon.
BELASCO THEATRE—8—Sweet Kitty Bellairs.
BROADWAY THEATRE—8:15—The Yankee Consul.
CIRCLE—2:15—8—Vaudeville.
CRITERION—8:15—Merely Mary Ann.
DALY'S—8:15—As You Like It.
EDEN MUSEE—The World in Wax.
GARDEN THEATRE—8:20—The Secret of Polichinelle.
GARRICK THEATRE—8:15—The Ruling Power.
HARLEM OPERA HOUSE—8:15—Twelfth Night.
HERALD SQUARE THEATRE—8:10—The Girl from Kay's.
HUDSON THEATRE—8:15—Man Proposes.
IRVING PLACE THEATRE—8:20—Die Journalisten.
KNICKERBOCKER THEATRE—8—Hamlet.
LYRIC THEATRE—8:15—The Pit.
MAJESTIC THEATRE—8—Babes in Toyland.
MANHATTAN THEATRE—8:15—The Virginian.
MENDELSSOHN HALL—8:15—Mannes Quartet.
MURRAY HILL THEATRE—2—8—All on Account of Eliza.
NEW-AMSTERDAM—8—Beau Brummel.
NEW EMPIRE—8:20—The Other Girl.
NEW LYCEUM—3—Burton Holmes Lectures.—8:15—The Admirable Crichton.
NEW-YORK—8:15—The Tenderfoot.
PRINCESS—8—Much Ado About Nothing.
PROCTOR'S—Twenty-third Street—Sally in Our Alley. Fifth Avenue Fifty-eighth Street—Arrah-na-Pogue. Fifth Avenue—The District Attorney. One-hundred-and-twenty-fifth Street—Lost Paradise.
SAVOY THEATRE—8:20—Raffles, the Amateur Cracksman.
VAUDEVILLE THEATRE—8:30—Candida.
VICTORIA—2—8:15—Varieties.
WALLACK'S—8:20—The County Chairman.
WEST END—8—Foxy Grandpa.

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New-York Daily Tribune.

FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 1904.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

CONGRESS.—Senate: In executive session discussion of the nomination of General Wood was continued, the game of jai alai being introduced and played by many Senators; in open session the Quarles bill to repeal the Timber and Stone act was passed. ==== House: There was a lively debate over the prosecution of the Northern Securities case, the President's course being upheld by the Republicans; consideration of the Postoffice Appropriation bill continued.

FOREIGN.—Another Russian vessel was blown up at Port Arthur; the torpedo boat destroyer Skorri struck an unplaced mine. ==== Mail advices from Port Arthur say that the garrison there consists of only twenty-five hundred men. ==== The Russians at Moukden fear that General Ma will force China into the war; at the Chinese Legation at St. Petersburg it is said that the Chinese will preserve neutrality.

DOMESTIC.—As a result of the inquiry into the case of Senator Dietrich, District Attorney Summers, of Nebraska, will be removed by the President. ==== President Roosevelt appointed W. T. Nichols Secretary of the Territory of Arizona. ==== A New-York express train was thrown from the tracks near Ottawa and the cars caught fire. ==== Students of Clemenson College, South Carolina, hoisted a Confederate flag in place of a Union flag. ==== A report from Denver said that George J. Gould intended to build a great country seat in the Rockies.

CITY.—Stocks were strong. ==== Senator McCarren came to town; he said he had no appointment with Murphy; he still favored a delegation instructed for Parker. ==== The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick and the Irish National Club held St. Patrick's Day dinners. ==== It was thought that the Brooklyn Rapid Transit-Metropolitan Street Railroad agreement for the Williamsburg Bridge foreshadowed a merger of the two companies. ==== Halpin, the foreman of the iron construction at the Darlington Hotel, testified at the inquest that Eugene Allison was "the whole thing." ==== Members of the French Opera Company refused to sing last night because their manager left town without paying them, and in consequence the audience at the Casino was sent home. ==== Some of the jewelry worth $5,000 stolen from Mrs. J. Harsen Rhoades, jr., while she was riding to the Grand Central Station in a cab was recovered. ==== Commissioner McAdoo ordered that the lid be kept on in Coney Island. ==== The regular ticket won in the Manhattan Club election.

THE WEATHER.—Indications for to-day: Rain and warmer. The temperature yesterday: Highest, 40 degrees; lowest, 22.

THE PAN-AMERICAN RAILWAY.

Charles M. Pepper, the commissioner sent to Central and South American countries to report on the feasibility of the Pan-American railway project, has just submitted some interesting conclusions to the State Department. The completion of an intercontinental line joining New-York with Buenos Ayres is doubtless still to be considered a dream of the future; but in Mr. Pepper's judgment that future is beginning to be roughly measurable. Fifteen years ago, at the time of the first Pan-American Conference, through railroad transit from Canada to Patagonia seemed a nebulous and visionary fancy. To-day, however, the undertaking is descending a little from the clouds and nearing the level of other vast accomplished or practicable railroad projects.

Mr. Pepper declares that no insuperable difficulties, material or financial, block the construction of a through intercontinental railroad. The breaks to be filled in existing lines of communication aggregate only 4,800 miles, and $150,000,000 is given as the probable cost of laying the links to join the North American and South American systems. But the discouraging feature of the situation is that the work still to be done falls in regions where the local need of railroads is least pressing and where the capital invested would be sunk with little or no hope of return within the century. At the two ends of the chain progress in railroad building is active and healthful; but in the mountain wastes of Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia construction waits on the slow development of population, civil order and material resources.

In Mexico and Guatemala, Mr. Pepper reports, the mileage of existing railroads is being rapidly increased. Mexico has now 9,700 miles of track, against only 335 miles in 1873. The Mexican system reaches to within 172 miles of the Guatemalan border. From Guatemala City a line north is completed to within thirty miles of the Mexican border, and new lines just projected will give an east and west extension from the capital almost to the borders of Salvador. In the other Central American States the railroads run from the coasts inward. But the building of the Panama Canal is counted on to stimulate the desire for direct land connection with the Panama free zone, and Mr. Pepper thinks that a Costa Rican line, now ending at Bocas del Toro, may soon be extended on down the coast to Colon. Below Panama, however, all activity in railroad construction ceases until Peru is reached; and the prospect of any serious railroad exploitation of Colombia, Ecuador and the northern half of Peru is certainly far distant.

At the other end of the line, in the Argentine Republic and Chili, the situation is more promising. The Argentine system embraces 11,300 miles of road. Under a recent treaty with Bolivia one of the Argentine state owned lines is to be extended across the Bolivian frontier. Buenos Ayres and Santiago are also soon to be joined by a through transcontinental line, and Chili is undertaking to push a line north as far as Iquique, which may in the end be extended into Peru. Peru is preparing to build a line toward the Bolivian frontier, in the hope of finally joining the Argentine system and securing through transit to Buenos Ayres. In the southern half of the South American continent railroad projects are receiving active popular and national support; but in the poor and sparsely populated northern countries, Brazil excepted, neither money nor energy is available for railroad construction. The building of the Panama Canal will give a powerful impetus to growth in this part of the lower continent, and on that growth we may some day count for an opening up of the interior and the tardy building of the missing links in the chain which will eventually link the two continents in closer bonds of friendly interest and commercial intercourse.

IT IS THE CAT.

The bill introduced in the legislature at the instance of the Health Department applying new regulations to the possession and enjoyment of dogs and cats involves grave problems which should not be inadvisedly disposed of either at Albany or in the office of a conscientious newspaper. We have not been persuaded to take sides, or even a deep interest, in the controversy between the Department of Health and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals over the question of fees. Probably they both need the revenue which a more comprehensive license system is foolishly expected to produce. Nor do we care at the present moment to consider how far the public welfare might be promoted by the provisions of the proposed act relating to dogs, for those indispensable quadrupeds have long been subject to legal restrictions, and there is no startling departure from established practice in the measure before us.

With respect to cats, on the other hand, a novel proposition is suddenly presented to the minds of social economists. Heretofore the status of cats has not been that of liberty regulated by law. They have been a law unto themselves. It has been their undisputed privilege to determine without the advice or consent of any other created being whether their days should be devoted to useful labor or passed in utter idleness; whether their nights should be given to repose or spent in paying and receiving visits on the back fence. All cats, like the poet, have freedom in their loves and in their souls are free; but, unlike the poet, they are exempt from physical bondage, and therefore doubly qualified, while perhaps missing its deep spiritual significance, to join in his ecstatic song:

> Angels alone that soar above
> Enjoy such liberty.

On this sweet scene of individual and domestic bliss there now intrudes the municipal reformer with a proposal that every cat shall be licensed and wear a collar, on penalty of being caught, incarcerated and, inferentially, put to death. There is just one thing to be said in palliation of this cruel scheme, and that is that it could not possibly be carried out. Cats readily submit to be taken up and even caressed by familiar hands when they happen to feel like it, but they have a phenomenal gift of intuition, and when their suspicions are aroused you might as well attempt to catch a humming bird or a streak of lightning. At the lowest calculation, it would take ten men ten years to capture a cat that preferred to remain at large. Is Dr. Darlington prepared to devote to such a purpose a sum of money in comparison with which the national debt at the close of the Civil War was a mere bagatelle?

RUSSIAN VIEWS OF AMERICA.

Russian comments upon the President's neutrality proclamation afford an interesting insight into the Russian mind and its attitude toward America. They show, likewise, the contrast between Russia and Japan in their sensitiveness to the attitudes of other nations. From the beginning of the present unhappy conflict the Japanese have shown not any disregard for but at least an independence of other lands. They have shown no resentment or irritation at the pro-Russian expressions which have been so freely made in some quarters, nor exultation at the pro-Japanese sentiments which have been manifested elsewhere. The mercurial, nervous, sensitive Japanese have been so self-reliant and serene as almost to appear stolid. On the other hand, as this latest news again shows, the Russians, who have been supposed to be self-reliant almost to stolidity, have shown extraordinary sensitiveness to every wind that has blown, whether favorable or adverse. We shall not presume to say which is the more admirable disposition. There is much to be said in favor of and much against each. On the one hand, self-reliance may indicate confidence in the righteousness of the cause or a cynical contempt for the moral sense of the world; and, on the other, sensitiveness may indicate a nervous apprehension of defeat and a consciousness of being in a wrong position, or a scrupulous desire to be in accord with the best moral tone of mankind. We may pass this phase of the case with the assumption that in each of the present instances the more agreeable interpretation is the true one.

It is impossible to avoid remarking, however, upon the interpretation which Russian organs of official and popular opinion put upon the President's proclamation. The "Official Gazette" is, of course, quite right in saying it is a complete answer to the charges that the American government is hostile to Russia. But there is no warrant for what it adds—that the proclamation marks a change in American sentiment and that the American government has taken a friendly attitude toward Russian aims and policies in the Far East. There has been no change in American sentiment, and there is no need of any for the complete fulfilment of the President's proclamation. That is not a proclamation of partisan friendship for Russia, but of neutrality, and this country has from the outset been officially and publicly neutral in this war. Neither is America committing itself to the support of Russian aims and policies. It enters into no such "foreign entanglements." It remains steadfast in its own policies of the open door and the maintenance of Chinese integrity, and it is friendly to the aims and policies of such countries as coincide with its own aims and policies. Again, the St. Petersburg "Journal" says the proclamation "leaves no further "doubt that the United States has a firm intention to observe strict neutrality." That is quite true. It is also quite superfluous, for there never has been any ground for doubting that such was the intention of the United States.

What is extraordinary is that our Russian friends should be so credulous of cock-and-bull stories about America, and should need so much assurance that a kindly feeling toward Japan does not necessarily mean immediate declaration of war against Russia. Early in the quarrel we pointed out that Japan was contending for an open door policy identical with our own. Thereupon some Russian papers, with more zeal than discretion, screamed out that America was the real enemy of Russia and was standing behind Japan, pushing her into the war for sordid Yankees' sake. There could have been nothing more groundless or more unjust. Again, there was a wild yarn that American troops were being distributed all over Corea to prevent fighting in any place where Americans had interests; and Russians believed it and raged against it. Of course, there was not a word of truth in it. Then there was that monstrous tale about American inhumanity and hostility to Russia at Chemulpho. Russians swallowed it and raged over it, only to find the exact reverse of it was the truth. Then there was a crazy rumor that America was going to insist upon the immediate reception of consuls at some places within the actual scene of war, which ruffled Russian susceptibilities. It, too, was devoid of foundation. Finally—let us hope, even if we can scarcely expect, that it will be the last—came the rumor that America would send a fleet and army, if necessary, to maintain the neutrality of New-Chwang, already occupied by Russia as a belligerent base. That, too, has been exploded, and to-day the Russians really seem to understand that America is not unduly meddling in this war and does not mean to do so.

It is gratifying to know that Russia has ceased to regard us as her enemy. It is to be hoped she will not make the mistake of running to the opposite extreme and assuming that we are Japan's enemy. We all remember Pat's definition of "equality" as meaning not merely that one man was as good as another, but that "he was a dom'd sight betther"! American impartiality toward the belligerents in the Far East is not thus to be described. With us neutrality means neutrality, and not partiality. Whatever individual predilections may be, this country officially is going to treat one of the belligerents as well as the other, but not "a sight better."

FINANCES OF JAPAN.

Japan is facing the financial burdens of the war with characteristic equanimity. That they will prove to be heavy there can be no doubt. They may be heavier than Russia's, because, while the cost of transportation and supplies will be less for Japan than for Russia, the island empire has no such vast reserve of gold on hand as that which the economic genius of M. de Witte has secured for Russia. If they do not prove heavier than Japan can bear, that will be largely because of the excellent banking and general financial system with which Marquis Ito and his fellow statesmen have endowed the empire. The whole system is new and but little tried. The Yokohama Specie Bank, which is just now figuring in the news as the agent for foreign subscriptions to the war loan, is the oldest bank in Japan, and it dates only from 1880. It was in 1897 that the gold basis was adopted, and it was in 1899 that the last of the old national banks was extinguished by liquidation. At the present time there are six which we may call fundamental banks, between forty and fifty agricultural banks, more than four hundred savings banks, and not far from two thousand private banks under government supervision.

In an instructive article on this subject in "The Financial Age," Mr. Arthur Hansl, a well known banking expert, suggests what seems to us perhaps the most significant and effective feature of the Japanese banking system. That is that each bank or class of banks has been designed and created to fill some specific want of the business world. Instead of adopting a general banking system on hard and fast lines, and trying to make business conform itself therewith, the Japanese have created a varying and elastic system, designed to conform with the needs of business. Their wise idea is that banks are made to serve the business world, and not business to serve the banks. Thus there is the great Bank of Japan, with $15,000,000 fully paid capital, and with the privilege of issuing notes up to $60,000,000 against other than specie security, its notes taking the place of those of the former national banks as a circulating medium. The Yokohama Specie Bank is the only one engaged in international transactions. The Hokkaido Bank is designed to promote the interests, the colonization and the development of the island whose name it bears, and the Bank of Taiwen serves the same ends for Formosa. The Hypothek Bank of Japan, with $5,000,000 capital, handles mortgages and debentures, and thus facilitates transactions in real estate; and the Agricultural and Industrial banks serve the same purpose on a smaller scale on minimum capitals of $100,000. The Industrial Bank of Japan, with $1,250,000 capital, makes loans and does a general banking business on the basis of personal property, such as bonds, stocks and other negotiable paper. The ordinary private banks are not chartered, but are under government supervision and legal control. Savings banks are conducted under a special law, on not less than $15,000 capital. Mutual savings banks, without capital, such as are familiar to Americans, are unknown in Japan.

Such is the distinctively practical banking system under which Japan has been prospering in recent years. It is an eclectic system, formed by an acutely observant people who abolished their old systems and substituted this new one according to their present needs, borrowing features from America, Great Britain and Germany, and adding such original ones as their own special requirements suggested. It is a complex but harmonious system, and under it the commerce, industries and general welfare of Japan have greatly flourished. It was not fully organized in 1884-'85, so that it did not have the Chinese war to finance, but has had hitherto to deal with only the problems of peaceful expansion. We shall now see how well it will bear the strain of a great war.

MUST THE CAST IRON COLUMN GO?

In its discussion of the collapse of the Darlington apartment house "The Engineering Record" makes a remarkable statement. So far as the observation of that periodical goes, all failures which have occurred in metal frame construction have happened only when the upright members of the structure were of cast iron. No instances are recalled in which the columns were of steel. Several reasons are given for the possible weakness of a frame in which cast iron is used. One is that blowholes are almost invariably developed while moulding the metal. Another is that the system of building up a vertical column from sections which are bolted to one another gives less rigidity than the spliced joints of a steel column. A third objection is that poorer connections are made between the horizontal floor beams and the upright column than when the latter member is steel. When both column and beams are of steel, rivets are employed, and these are driven home in such a manner as to impart great stiffness to the joint. The whole frame is thus well braced. On the other hand, when the column is iron, bolts must be used, and these are put in loosely. "The stiffening effect," says our contemporary, "is then so small that it can-"not be even roughly approximated by compu-"tation."

The most distressing feature of the foregoing revelation is that it applies to a good many buildings besides the Darlington. Says "The Engineering Record": "This latter class of "joints is that which characterizes all cast iron "construction." The system is widely in vogue, and, under certain restrictions, has received the approval and confidence of a considerable number of builders and architects. It has had more or less sanction from municipal authority also. The Building Code of New-York City is regarded as exceedingly strict, but it approves the use of cast iron columns on conditions which are carefully specified. Within the last ten or fifteen years scores of buildings have gone up in the United States in which such columns were introduced. The great majority of them still stand, but one cannot avoid asking, In how many of them is the factor of safety smaller than has been supposed, and smaller than sound engineering would dictate? It is too late to repair past errors, of course, but not a day should be lost in guarding against further insecurity from the same cause. Municipal governments should everywhere consider the question whether the cast iron column ought not to be prohibited altogether, and should decide the point promptly.

In the judgment of the engineer employed by the District Attorney to investigate the Darlington disaster, that lamentable affair was due to weak connections between the beams and columns. The bolts employed for that purpose, he asserts, were altogether too loose, and the looseness was attributable to the fact that the holes in the cast iron were too large, having been made in the operation of moulding. The Building Code says that such holes should be drilled. Apparently, then, the owners and contractors were proceeding in a manner not contemplated by the framers of the law. If this be really so Mr. Jerome will probably have little trouble in making out a technical case against them.

How large a share of responsibility must be imputed to the Buildings Department is a question which is not yet satisfactorily disposed of. A number of complaints were made from time to time by the inspectors, sometimes for one cause and sometimes for another. It does not appear from any of the statements publicly made by the Commissioner or Assistant Commissioner, though, that any attempt was made by the bureau to stop construction on account of loose bolts or the failure to drill holes. Was there really no violation of the code, as Mr. Jerome's engineer thinks? If the builders defied the law in this respect it is hard to understand how their action could go unobserved. If it was observed, then why was it tolerated? Perhaps Mr. Hopper can give thoroughly satisfactory answers to these questions, but the report of Mr. Parsons seems to inculpate him as well as the owners and contractors.

It will be a misfortune and something worse if nothing is done at this session of the legislature to make possible the execution of judicious plans for additional rapid transit facilities.

Certain aldermen continue to turn the cold shoulder to the Port Chester Railroad, while they cherish the tenderest affection for their pet bantling, the New-York, Westchester and Boston Company. One of the best known City Fathers, who believes in fair treatment of the Port Chester plan, remarked in public debate in the City Hall: "Why is there so much haste to "grant this privilege to this moribund Westches-"ter company? Its charter was dead long ago. "It should be embalmed and buried. It has been "revived and brought here for some ulterior mo-"tive." Sound words well spoken.

March might be a little more genial, but on the whole there isn't much fault to find thus far.

Up to the present moment all the street railroad bills relating to this city are either clearly indefensible or justly suspected. Their advocates are superficially frank, but the explanations they vouchsafe are unsatisfactory.

Haggerty did not last long. His decapitation was so swift and sudden that he did not even have time to feel dizzy before the axe fell. So much for improvement in the Police Department in the Borough of Brooklyn. Why is it that in the Park Department in Manhattan Pallas is not shorter by a head? The Mayor cannot afford to permit the matter to drift along indefinitely.

Fire Commissioner Hayes says that he is strongly in favor of making the lives of the men on the force as comfortable as the necessities of their calling will admit, but he points out clearly and forcibly that the city is extremely liberal to them without the "two platoons" system. A fireman of the first grade, one who has served four years, receives a salary of $1,400. He has six days off each month, without counting special leaves, and he has two weeks' vacation every year. When he has been on the force twenty years he can ask for retirement at half pay for life, and his request must be granted.

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

The country editor may write with engaging frankness. He may say what he means, so that his innermost thought is not concealed from the plain people. Thus the editor of "The Superior (Wis.) Clarion-Ledger" writes regarding a municipal campaign: "I regard Fred Snigger Parker as being one of the most measly little animals that ever came down the political pike. Without either top or bottom or width or breadth—with no more executive ability than my old tom cat—without a thing under heaven to recommend him to the people of this city but a glad hand and an oily smile, it seems incredible to me that the fellow should be considered in connection with the office of Mayor for the flicker of a moment. One would naturally suppose that two years of a vacuum in the Mayor's chair would be enough to last the people of this city a lifetime."

WANTED.

> I'm looking for a country home with roses in the path,
> With six or eight steam heated rooms, a screen porch and a bath,
> I want a garden fair to see, a gently babbling brook,
> An arbor where to rest at ease and read the latest book.
> Perhaps you know of such a place at reasonable rate—
> Say, thirty dollars for the year—B. J., 243.
>
> I'm looking for a boarding house, where folk are never proud,
> Where no one tells of better days or tries to bluff the crowd;
> The boarders must be courteous, the serving staff refined,
> My bed of softest elderdown, the food of choicest kind,
> The price two dollars weekly, maybe half a dollar more;
> Address, inclosing reference, B. J., 244.
>
> Although a man of leisure now, I'm willing to be placed
> In some position suitable to one of nurtured taste,
> A situation not confining, 10 till 2, perhaps,
> With leave to go abroad each year, an hour at noons for naps
> And salary commensurate with merit such as mine,
> Send offers stamped and closely sealed—B. J., 249.
>
> —(Newark Evening News.

Dr. Cecilio Baez, the newly appointed Paraguayan Minister to the United States, will arrive here this week or next. For the last fifteen years the Republic of Paraguay has discontinued her diplomatic representation at Washington, and has maintained there only a consul general, the Hon. John Stewart, but has also maintained consuls general at New-York and other large American cities. The international influence of the United States having grown up recently, and commercial and industrial developments having considerably increased in Paraguay, the government at Asuncion has considered it necessary to send again a minister to Washington. Its choice fell on Dr. Cecilio Baez, who was well known and appreciated in that capital, where he sojourned some days, as well as in New-York, three years ago, when he made a tour of the United States, after having been an active and eloquent member of the Pan-American Conference, in Mexico. Dr. Baez is one of the most influential politicians and statesmen in his own country, and is, besides, a journalist, littérateur and lawyer of prominence. He is, like all Paraguayans, a sincere admirer of the United States. He comes here accompanied by his wife, two daughters and three sons. Before his departure from Asuncion a banquet was given him by North American residents in Paraguay, at whose head was the American Consul General, J. N. Ruffin, who is almost as popular among the Paraguayans as is Dr. Baez himself.

"They have called two doctors in for consultation."
"And do the doctors agree?"
"I believe they have agreed upon the price."
—(Philadelphia Ledger.

Japan is the ideal club land. In this country the club world has a good many class and other limitations. But in Japan the system has flourished from time immemorial, and enters into the daily life of all sorts and conditions of men. It is no uncommon thing for people of means to belong to from ten to one hundred different clubs, benevolent or social, all of which exist mainly to give the members an opportunity for one festive gathering the more. In Tokio there are five thousand different societies, from the Red Cross to the Mustaches and the Pock Marked, which explain themselves. At a recent meeting of the railway travellers' club at Kanegewa a hundred danseuses performed before the company.

ORIENTAL ADVANCEMENT.

> 'Tis not so very long ago
> That old Japan, now grown so shrewd,
> Was counted rather dull and slow,
> With manners quaint though never rude.
> The gentle Japs had never used
> A Gatling gun to raise a row
> With martial ardor all enthused—
> But they, alas, are learning how.
>
> No doubt all things to them will come
> That come to countries civilized;
> Like cigarettes and chewing gum
> And patent foods well advertised;
> They say that harsh profanity
> Is to the Jap unknown just now.
> He cannot swear; 'tis sad to see
> This prospect of his learning how!
>
> —(Washington Star.

About People and Social Incidents.

AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

[FROM THE TRIBUNE BUREAU.]

Washington, March 17.—The President and Mrs. Roosevelt will give a small dinner party on Monday, March 21.

President Roosevelt has sent word to the managers of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition at St. Louis that he will be unable to attend the opening of the big show on April 30.

The President's visitors to-day included ex-Representative Coombs, of New-York. John S. Wise, formerly of Virginia, but now of New-York, also called to pay his respects.

The majority of the Senators who called at the White House to-day were of the opinion that Congress will adjourn some time in April. Senator Beveridge said that except for the flurry in the House over the postal affair the date of adjournment might have been as early as April 1.

When Theodore Roosevelt, jr., arrived at the White House yesterday he was accompanied by Alexander Russell, of Oyster Bay, who is a student at Princeton.

THE CABINET.

[FROM THE TRIBUNE BUREAU.]

Washington, March 17.—The Secretary of the Interior and Mrs. Hitchcock gave a dinner this evening. The guests were the Austrian Ambassador and Mme. Hengelmüller, Senator and Mrs. Dryden, Mrs. Cowles, Representative and Miss Lovering, Mr. and Mrs. Pinchot, Mr. and Mrs. Spencer, of New-York; Mrs. Slater, Senator Warren and Colonel Raspopow, military attaché of the Russian Embassy.

Mrs. Knox, wife of the Attorney General, has returned from Palm Beach. Miss Knox, who is travelling abroad, spent several weeks in Egypt.

NOTES OF SOCIETY IN WASHINGTON.

[FROM THE TRIBUNE BUREAU.]

Washington, March 17.—The Austrian Ambassador and Mme. Hengelmüller will entertain a large dinner company, at the embassy Sunday night, when Mrs. Paget will be the guest of honor.

Senator Depew gave a dinner to-night in honor of the Speaker of the House. Invited to meet Mr. Cannon were Representatives Alexander, Babcock, Bradley, Dalzell, Douglas, Draper, Dunwell, Flack, Foss, Gillet, of New-York; Grosvenor, Hemenway, Hull, Hepburn, Littauer, Olmsted, Otis, Overstreet, Payne, Perkins, Sibley, Southwick and Vreeland; Charles G. Bennett, secretary of the Senate; William Barnes, jr., of Albany, and L. E. Quigg, of New-York.

Mr. and Mrs. J. R. McLean and their son, "Ned," who has been ill for several weeks, went to Atlantic City to-day.

NEW-YORK SOCIETY.

St. Patrick's Day, while it cannot be described as a fashionable festival, is nevertheless observed by New-York society, for it entails the granting of holidays to a very large number of those who minister to its wants, both in private houses and in clubs. The restaurants consequently are crowded at the luncheon and dinner hours, while Fifth-ave. and other popular thoroughfares are crowded with gorgeously apparelled paraders, marching to the strains of more or less tuneful music. Yet, in spite of some of the drawbacks which its celebration entails, the Feast of St. Patrick is invariably hailed by the modish world with pleasure, as signalizing with its abundance of green the advent of verdant spring after the hardships of a trying winter.

Mr. and Mrs. Burton Harrison have issued invitations for a ball on Easter Monday, April 4, at their house, in Washington, and a number of people will go down from here to Washington for the occasion.

Mrs. Henry F. Dimock is at Nassau, in the Bahamas, where Herbert L. Satterlee, Mrs. William Lanman Bull and Colonel John Jacob Astor are likewise staying.

Mr. and Mrs. Whittier have issued invitations for the marriage of their daughter, Miss Pauline Whittier, to Ernest Iselin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Adrian Iselin, jr., on April 6, at noon, in St. Patrick's Cathedral. With invitations to the wedding are inclosed those for the wedding breakfast, in the name of Mr. and Mrs. Adrian Iselin, jr., at whose new house, No. 711 Fifth-ave., it will take place.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Tremenheere, who have been staying with Mrs. Tremenheere's mother, Mrs. George Andrews, have sailed for England, on the way to India. Mrs. Tremenheere was Miss Jessie Van Auken. She is a sister of Mrs. Lindley Hoffman Chapin.

Announcement is made of the engagement of Miss Helen Marion Thain, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Thain, of No. 16 East Eighty-third-st., to Harold Hoyle Oddie, second son of the late John Van Schaick Oddie, who was for so many years secretary of the New-York Yacht Club. Harold Oddie is a member of the same club and a graduate of Columbia, class of '99.

Miss Evelyn Van Wart has arrived in town from London, where she makes her home, and is staying at the Waldorf-Astoria.

Mrs. Perry Tiffany has taken the Yardley cottage, in Rhode Island-ave., at Newport for the summer.

Stewart M. Bryce has also arrived in town from Europe.

Mr. and Mrs. F. Robert Schell, of No. 11 East Sixty-second-st., have left town for Philadelphia, where they will remain until after Easter.

Miss Leary's house, in Fifth-ave., was the scene yesterday of the usual Thursday meeting of the Bellevue Sewing and Knitting Class, while another class, which works for the Sunday Kindergarten, and which comprises among its members Mrs. Howland Pell, Mrs. Eugene Parsons, Mrs. J. H. Van Rensselaer and Miss Van Vechten, assembled at Mrs. George Taylor Stewart's house, in East Sixtieth-st. Mrs. Richard Gambrill was among those who entertained dinner parties last night, while Mrs. Robert Olyphant, Mrs. Arthur Duane and Mrs. John D. Church received.

WANT CARNEGIE'S MILLIONS.

Committee Coming Here for His Money for Pittsburg Technical Schools.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Pittsburg, March 17.—Andrew Carnegie will be asked for a few millions for the endowment of the technical schools for Pittsburg. The technical schools committee left this city to-night with this purpose in view, and will have a conference with the steel master in New-York to-morrow. In order to accommodate the large number of prospective students, it will be necessary to have larger buildings than were at first intended.

CARNEGIE OFFERS MT. HOLYOKE $50,000.

Northampton, Mass., March 17.—A conditional gift of $50,000 to Mount Holyoke College from Andrew Carnegie is announced, the understanding being that the friends of the institution raise a like amount before June 1. No stipulation is made regarding the use of the money, but it is understood that a new library building is contemplated.

NOW THE ILLINOIS SOCIETY.

At the last meeting of the Chicago Society of New-York it was unanimously voted to change the name to "The Illinois Society of New-York." It is proposed, next month, to give a dinner for Melville E. Stone, of the Associated Press, who has recently returned from an extended trip abroad.

HOLIDAY FOR LORD CURZON.

Calcutta, March 17.—Lord Curzon of Kedleston, the Viceroy of India, will sail from Bombay, homeward bound on a holiday trip, on April 3.

NO HOPE FOR MRS. MILES.

Washington, March 17.—Mrs. Miles, wife of General Nelson A. Miles, is in an exceedingly critical condition. Although some improvement was noted to-day, no hope is held out for her recovery.

MR. LEISHMAN AT HIS POST.

Constantinople, March 17.—United States Minister Leishman, who had been away from Constantinople since February 9 on leave of absence, returned here to-day.

M. LEROY-BEAULIEU'S LECTURES.

M. Anatole Leroy-Beaulieu, member of the French Institute, who was to lecture at Harvard this winter, was compelled to postpone his engagements on account of the death of one of his daughters. The lecturer, however, has now been able to arrange new dates, and will deliver his series of eight lectures on "Christianisme et Démocratie" under the auspices of the Cercle Français de l'Université Harvard, in Sanders' Theatre, Cambridge, Mass., at 4:30 in the afternoon on Monday, April 25, and subsequent Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, the series ending on Wednesday, May 11.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

RUSSIA AND THE UNITED STATES.

Mr. Moreton Frewen on the Nature of the "Ancient Friendship."

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: I suppose that no Englishman who has any knowledge of American affairs escapes to-day the curious inquiries of his countrymen at home as to the nature of that "ancient friendship" between Russia and the United States. The query takes this form: "Why is Russia surprised that national sentiment in the United States sides with Japan? Japan is America's near neighbor. Japan enjoys a constitution not less liberal than that of Washington, while America is to-day the dumping ground of Russia's exiles, Poles and Finns and poor Russian Jews, whose nationalities have been destroyed and their peoples outcast and ruined. Either the love of liberty professed by Americans is sheer hypocrisy or their sympathies must inevitably go out to the Japanese."

To elucidate the situation it is of course necessary to go back to the secession movement of 1861. On the face of it we, who had freed our slaves at great cost, should have sympathized with the North. But it was a ridiculous era, an era when liberty was nothing, "the liberties" everything; an era when "peace and good will" were about to inaugurate the most costly and the most bloody wars in history; an era when economic cranks were, as Carlyle remarked, hunting for a "calico millennium." "Jefferson Davis has made a nation," Mr. Gladstone said, and south of Mason and Dixon's line a dozen sovereign States were "rightly struggling to be free." Mr. Gladstone was not a Federalist, but a Nationalist; this fact, which he admitted, accounts for most of the blunders of his career; he disbelieved in the federal principle of government, and thus this country was nearly carried off its feet by Mr. Gladstone and the emotionalists. The result was that in America an entire generation had had to go to its grave before its successors have found time to forgive us.

Now, as to Russia. Russia was already engaged in selling Alaska to the Washington government; and, too, the memory of the Crimean War was still fresh; these were reasons why a Russian executive should be pro-American and anti-English. But there was much more in Russia's effusive friendliness than this, and it would be worth while at the present juncture to review the "Diplomatic Correspondence of the Confederacy," which is still, I believe, in the Treasury archives at Washington in charge of Judge Jordan. The late Mr. Judah P. Benjamin, then Secretary of State for the Confederacy, early in 1862, when thus far the fortunes of the war had smiled on the Southern cause, thought it worth while to send Judge L. Q. Lamar to St. Petersburg to secure if possible the reconsideration of a note which Prince Gortschakoff had addressed to Mr. Bayard Taylor, the United States Chargé d'Affaires. The note read in part as follows:

"Russia has declared her position and will maintain it. There will be proposals for intervention. We believe that intervention could do no good at present. Proposals will be made to Russia to join in some plan of interference. She will refuse any intervention of the kind. Russia will occupy the same ground as at the beginning of the struggle. You may rely upon it, she will not change."

On his way to Russia Judge Lamar stopped in Paris, where, after several interviews with the Duc de Morny, he was presented to the Emperor, and Louis Napoleon assured him of his own knowledge that it would be worse than fruitless to proceed on his mission to St. Petersburg. The Emperor then told his visitor: "The Emperor of Russia is at this moment struggling with a movement in his own dominions in the shape of a Polish insurrection, the aim of which is cognate to that of the Confederacy. The effort of the Confederacy to disrupt the Union and establish independence represents to the minds of those in control of Russian affairs the doctrine of separatism, than which no doctrine could be more odious at St. Petersburg."

No intelligent man on either side the Atlantic can desire to add to the inevitable volume of the anti-Russian feeling now existing, but history and international relations are built up on just such diplomatic incidents as those to which I draw attention. "The Diplomatic Correspondence of the Confederacy" would make an interesting study for Count Cassini, whose perplexed pastorals to the American nation fall on deaf ears; and, too, this correspondence would be a useful corrective to that mass meeting of Irish patriots which has been throwing up hats for the Czar and denouncing the Japanese. What do these uproarious Celts think of the Czar's disapproval "of the efforts of the Confederacy to establish independence" because the Czar could detect no distinction between the disconnection of a great group of States from a voluntary federation and the case of the Poles and the Finns? MORETON FREWEN.

London, March 8, 1904.

THE RUSSIAN FLEET AT WASHINGTON.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Doubtless the darkest and most discouraging winter since the organization of the government was that of 1862 and 1863. The French had taken possession of Mexico. While Queen Victoria (honor to her name) was our steadfast friend from first to last, it was believed that the British government was unfriendly to the North. The emancipation proclamation had been issued. Of the wisdom of the act, together with many things concerning the management of the war, the Northern mind was divided. The work in the field had not been attended with satisfactory results. The battle of Fredericksburg had been fought, with great loss of life and no gain to the government. There was a great amount of sickness in the army. On the whole, the outlook was most gloomy.

The writer was doing the duty of physician at Fairfax Seminary General Hospital that winter. On coming up the river from Alexandria to Washington I saw to our right three or four large battleships. On asking who they were and where they came from I was told that it was the Russian fleet paying us a visit of friendship and sympathy. The thought that we had a friend among the nations of the earth gave me the greatest joy. On arriving at Washington I found the joy was unbounded. The officers were lionized, receiving every consideration. In course of their stay Bayard Taylor delivered his lecture on Russia and her people in the hall of Willard's Hotel. I had the good fortune to attend. It was intended to be a compliment to the visitors. The officers of the fleet were there, together with Senators and Representatives in large numbers, and the Superior Court justices and Cabinet officers. After Mr. Taylor had begun his lecture there was a commotion in the rear of the hall. On looking around I saw Mr. Lincoln, with silk hat in hand, coming down the aisle. The applause was deafening. Mr. Taylor was in his prime, and, inspired by the occasion, his effort was masterly.

Whatever the significance of that visit, it was understood at this time to mean a notice from the Russian Bear to the British Lion to keep claws off. While Americans may hope for a speedy and satisfactory termination of the war in the East, let us obey in letter, and in spirit, the President's proclamation of neutrality. IRA P. SMITH.

Bath, N. Y., March 9, 1904.