Amusements.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC—2—8:15—Two Little Sailor Boys.
BELASCO THEATRE—2—8—Sweet Kitty Bellairs.
BROADWAY THEATRE—2:15—8:15—The Yankee Consul.
CASINO—2—8:15—Piff, Paff, Pouf.
CIRCLE—2:15—8—Vaudeville.
CONEY ISLAND — Dreamland—Luna Park — Johnstown Flood.
CRITERION—2—8:30—The Dictator.
EMPIRE—2—8:15—Ingomar.
GARRICK—2—8:15—The Frisky Mrs. Johnson.
KNICKERBOCKER THEATRE—2:15—8:15—A Venetian Romance.
LYRIC THEATRE—2:15—8:15—Wang.
MAJESTIC THEATRE—2—8:15—The Man from China.
MURRAY HILL THEATRE—2—8—Starr's Girl.
NEW-AMSTERDAM—8:15—Weber & Fields.
NEW-YORK—2—8:15—Wizard of Oz.
PROCTOR'S—Twenty-third Street—Time Is Money and Vaudeville. Fifty-eighth Street—The Heart of Maryland. Fifth Avenue—Time Is Money and The Club Friend. One-hundred-and-twenty-fifth Street—When We Were Twenty-one.
SAVOY THEATRE—2:30—8:30—Tit for Tat.
THIRD AVENUE THEATRE—2—8—Tracy the Bandit.
VICTORIA—2—8:15—Varieties.
WALLACK'S—2:15—8:15—The County Chairman.

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New-York Daily Tribune.

SATURDAY, MAY 21, 1904.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN.—Admiral Togo's full report of the sinking of the Hatsuse and the damage to the Yoshino was made public. Admiral Witsoeft, sending word of the disaster as seen from Golden Hill, said that two battleships were struck by mines, one vessel sinking and the other being damaged. ═══ New-Chwang dispatches said that 20,000 men of General Kuroki's army were driven back by 32,000 Russians, about sixty miles west of Feng-Wang-Cheng, with severe losses on both sides; General Kuropatkin reported a skirmish north of Feng-Wang-Cheng, in which a Japanese detachment was pursued fifteen miles. ═══ A great explosion, supposed to have been near Port Arthur, was reported from Che-Foo; the Japanese army's preparations for a siege continued; troops were landed at Taku-Shan. ═══ A short and sharp engagement between detachments north of Port Arthur was reported, in which the Russians were forced to retreat with losses of about fifty killed. ═══ Admiral Hosoya reported that under cover of the Third Squadron, part of an army was landed at Taku-Shan. ═══ The Russian Admiralty denied the reported loss of the Bogatyr, saying that the squadron was intact at Vladivostok. ═══ The British steamer Turret Bay, carrying coal from Sydney to St. Lawrence ports, was wrecked north of Cape Breton and thirteen of her crew were drowned. ═══ Arrangements were made with the Canadian government for seven wireless telegraph stations between Montreal and the Straits of Belle Isle.

DOMESTIC.—The whole United States South Atlantic Squadron has been ordered to Tangier, to aid in rescuing Ion Perdicaris, the American captured by bandits, and if the necessity arises the European squadron will be sent to that port. ═══ The Treasury Department drew a warrant for $9,000,000 in favor of J. P. Morgan & Co., to complete payment for the Panama Canal right of way. ═══ The Presbyterian Assembly of the United States, in session at Mobile, received with wild applause the proposition of the Presbyterian Assembly at Buffalo for a union of all the Presbyterian churches of the country; the Cumberland Assembly at Dallas, Tex., evinced hostility to the plan.

CITY.—Stocks were dull and firm. ═══ The police made raids on twenty-two alleged poolrooms. ═══ The aldermen's Port Chester bribery investigating committee ended its sessions without calling three important witnesses. ═══ A threat was made to extend the shipping strike to many cities. ═══ The Republican State Committee met in the Fifth Avenue Hotel; William Barnes, jr., was made chairman of the Executive Committee, which was reduced in number to sixteen. ═══ David Rothschild, ex-president of the Federal Bank, was convicted of the larceny of $10,000. ═══ It was announced that ninety-seven deaths from spotted fever were reported last week. ═══ Governor Odell, it was announced, will sail for Europe next Tuesday. ═══ Deputy Tenement House Commissioner Brennan deserted McCarren. ═══ Argument on the order to show cause why the Northern Securities Company should not be restrained from distributing shares of Great Northern and Northern Pacific stock pro rata was heard by Judge Bradford, of the United States District Court, in Newark. ═══ The winners at Morris Park: Girdle, The Claimant, Czaraphine, Hortensia, Go Between, City Bank.

THE WEATHER.—Indications for to-day: Fair. The temperature yesterday: Highest, 70 degrees; lowest, 53.

GOVERNOR AND BISHOP.

Governor Vardaman of Mississippi has indulged in a characteristic outbreak against Bishop Galloway, of the Methodist Episcopal Church South. In many respects it was an extremely useful outbreak. it reveals so clearly the spirit of Vardamanism, and puts it so squarely in opposition to Southern civilization as represented by Southern men of education and light and leading, nurtured in the old, gracious traditions of the South.

Bishop Galloway, at the recent educational conference at Birmingham, made an address on "The South and the Negro," in which he expressed thorough Southern views of white supremacy, combined with a Christian man's desire to do justice to and improve the condition of the negroes. A vast audience of Alabamans heard with great enthusiasm words which evidently voiced the popular opinion. He declared for separate churches and schools and against any social mingling of the races. He was as firm in his devotion to a "white man's government" for all time as any of his people could wish. Recognizing the negro as a member of the community, however, who was in it to stay, he asked for him equal protection of the laws and energetic efforts to improve his character and capacity by suitable education. The address was strong in thought, epigrammatic in language, telling in delivery, and it made a deep impression. But there was nothing startling in the programme he laid down, nothing which had not a hundred times before been declared by such old line Southern men as Lamar, Hampton and Curry. It was the policy of ordinary enlightened progress, with a view only to the welfare of the white race. It would seem to be a simple proposition that a million intelligent, moral, trained workers would be better neighbors and add more to the wealth of the community than a million shiftless, immoral incompetents, whose idleness paralyzed agriculture and whose crimes threatened domestic security. So his hearers thought, so the great body of people North and South thought who read his words; but not so thinks Governor Vardaman. And, delicately to express his dissent, the Governor denounces the Bishop as "going about full of hot air and yellow legged "chicken, pandering to the Massachusetts "negro," and suggests that the best thing for him to do is go North.

In Governor Vardaman's opinion there is no room in the South for a Christian minister who preaches simple justice and the uplifting of the ignorant and degraded. Vardamanism, then, confessedly stands for the enforced brutalizing of a large body of the Southern population, and the hanging about the neck of Southern civilization for all time of the ancient curse of African savagery; for either the negro will advance or go backward. It is a slow upward climb to civilization, or a rapid degeneration until the Southern white man dwells insecurely in a desert of barbarism, struggling hardly to maintain for his own children his own standards of intelligence and prosperity. Vardamanism stands also for narrow intellectual despotism. Freedom of discussion it cannot tolerate. Difference of opinion it meets with a suggestion of exile. Dissent it expresses in terms of vulgar abuse.

We have sometimes wondered how serious was this reactionary movement of ignorance and prejudice which has placed Governor Vardaman in the executive chair of Mississippi, but such revelations as this are reassuring. It is too ignorant and too vulgar to have any serious hold on a brave, high minded, generous, cultivated people, heirs to centuries of Anglo-Saxon intelligence, liberty and freedom of thought. In the turn of the political wheel of fortune men like Vardaman may gain place for a time, but it is not to be supposed for an instant that he, rather than this leader of a great Southern Church, represents the real feeling of the South. Governor Vardaman in office, despite his bluster, has been able to do almost nothing to carry out his peculiar notions. The legislature of Mississippi has made no effort in that direction, and he has, we believe, only "saved his face" by vetoing one petty appropriation. Instead of spreading his doctrines, he himself is a daily lesson to his countrymen of their narrowness and brutality.

WHITEWASH.

As we had expected, Assistant Corporation Counsel Burr has found it convenient to close the aldermanic investigation after going through a farce of pretending to trace down the rumors of corruption in connection with the Port Chester franchise. He announced yesterday that the hearings were closed and that nothing had been discovered, without calling several of the most important witnesses whose names have been publicly placed before him at the hearings. Mr. Cuvillier came forward and offered to testify. Alderman Hayes, of Mount Vernon, has told a most interesting story of the remarks made to him by a New-York alderman. He called neither of them. Why? Was it because he feared their testimony would show a purpose to hold up the Port Chester franchise until "the captain was seen"? He pretended great concern for the reputation of the aldermen. Why, then, did he not seek some light on the "mysterious fund of $100,000" discussed in "The New-York World" of February 17? Why did he not call the person besides Mills who, Mr. Gotshall said, had quoted the Davis statement to him? Davis denied the truth of Mills's testimony. If this other witness had corroborated Mills and testified that he had the same hint of the need of payment from the same source, would it have been uncomfortable for any of the aldermen?

These questions are inevitably suggested by the sudden termination of the inquiry after attention had been given practically to only one rumor, that published in The Tribune of May 4, though the papers have been full of imputations for the last six months. If Mr. Burr did not want to find anything, he went about it in the right way. He has prepared the expected pail of whitewash, and he has not seemed even to care to conceal that it was whitewash; and we suppose his coated aldermen will go about proud in their gleaming radiance and rejoicing at his skill in preventing any undesirable witness from interfering with the completeness or dispatch of his work.

THE JAPANESE RETREAT.

Close upon the heels of the news of a great naval disaster to the Japanese comes the announcement of the retreat of some of their land forces before a superior Russian army. It was a detachment of General Kuroki's army from the Yalu, we are told. It was proceeding, 20,000 strong, from Feng-Wang-Cheng westward toward either Hai-Cheng or Liao-Yang, when it came upon a Russian force of 32,000. Thereupon it hastily retreated to or toward Feng-Wang-Cheng, in good order and without a battle. It is added that when it rejoined the main army it stopped its retreat, or at least the Russians stopped their pursuit. The significance of the movement seems to be in what it did not reveal rather than in what was actually done.

It is obvious that that was not General Kuroki's whole army. The Russians say that at the Yalu it was considerably more than 100,000 strong. The detachment of it which retreated was, therefore, scarcely one-fifth of the whole. The question is, Where are the other four-fifths? It seems to be agreed that another detachment is moving forward from Feng-Wang-Cheng, either a little north or a little south of this one—one heading for Hai-Cheng and one for Liao-Yang; but it is not certain that they are all. The Russians insist that another force is moving northward toward Moukden or even Tie-Ling. If so, the whole of General Kuroki's army may thus be accounted for.

In such case, the reasonable supposition is that this particular detachment, having the easiest and shortest road before it, got ahead a little too fast and found itself face to face with the Russians before the other detachments were ready to co-operate with it in a simultaneous attack all along the line. Either that or else the whole Japanese army is moving on in a mass or on the same road, and this force was merely its advance guard. In any case, the retreat seems to have been not so much a defeat as a preparation for a more serious advance. Meantime, the Japanese are pouring troops into the Regent's Sword Peninsula, assuring the isolation of Port Arthur from General Kuropatkin's army. As the situation now is, Port Arthur must stand or fall by itself, and General Kuropatkin must fight far to the north of it or else continue his retreat toward the Amoor.

ELM-ST. AND PARK ROW.

At Thursday's meeting of the Rapid Transit Commission attention was called by Commissioner Claflin to the condition of Elm-st. Mr. Claflin reminded his colleagues that two months ago their chief engineer, Mr. Parsons, informed them that the subway work in Elm-st. was in such a condition that the work of repaving the street and converting it to public uses could go on. In the mean time, nevertheless, nothing had been done. A fire in the neighborhood might cause great destruction because of the firemen's inability to get their apparatus to the spot, and there were no indications that the street would soon be open to general traffic. Commissioner Claflin spoke in particular of complaints made by occupants of the New-York Life Insurance Company Building, with whom, as a trustee of the company, he naturally feels special sympathy. The Assistant Chief Engineer thereupon explained that the trouble in Elm-st. was due to the Consolidated Gas Company, whose pipes must be permanently laid and connected before the street can be put in order. Having ascertained that fact, the commission voted to instruct the gas company to connect its mains and close the openings at once. The commission will now consider what power it has to compel obedience, and, at the suggestion of Mr. Orr, will also see what it can do about Park Row.

These proceedings are encouraging, though less so than they would be if former promises to expedite the work of restoring Park Row and making Elm-st. available had been better kept. The simple truth is that public patience has been shamefully abused in those streets, and that whenever some slight variation from the general rule of indifference to the rights of the community has occurred it has been due not to unprompted activity on the part of those responsible for the protection of the public interests, but to indignant protests of private citizens. In this very instance we are led to infer that if Commissioner Claflin had not chanced to be a trustee of the New-York Life Insurance Company the two months which have elapsed since the Chief Engineer reported that, so far as the subway was concerned, the repaving of Elm-st. could begin at once might have been extended to four or six months without any official remonstrance. If a year or two ago The Tribune, followed by other papers, had not denounced the impudence of contractors in almost completely barricading Park Row along the margin of the City Hall Park they would have continued, perhaps even to this day, to subject tens of thousands of persons daily to great and wholly unnecessary inconvenience.

At Thursday's meeting of the Rapid Transit Commission the opinion was expressed, after Mr. Claflin had spoken for tenants of the New-York Life Insurance Company, that the time had come to hasten the restoration of the streets to their owners. As a matter of fact that time arrived when the first paving stone was taken up by the subway excavators, and has been here ever since. On some parts of the route there has been little reason to complain of wanton delay. On other parts of it there has been outrageous dawdling. In Elm-st. the Consolidated Gas Company now seems to be presumptuously following the bad example of the subway contractors. The Park Row offenders have not been officially named of late. We hope it is not foolish to pray that the Rapid Transit Commission's decision to see if something cannot be done in both streets may produce results.

THE CITY AND ITS WATER.

We have no love for Ramapo. On the contrary, we can claim to have been at the forefront in the fight against that iniquitous concern at the time when Tammany conspirators were trying to saddle it, with all its extortions, upon this city; but the current talk to the effect that the Governor approved the Smith water bill for the sake of Ramapo, and that the enactment of that measure puts this city hopelessly at the mercy of Ramapo, seems to us to be sheer nonsense.

The change in the situation produced by that bill is simply this—that it is now "up to" this city to "make good" its promises. We suppose it has all along meant to do so. We suppose, and we have hitherto said, that it was the intention of New-York to deal justly with the people of Dutchess County and to make the provision for the mills, with storage reservoirs, that was suggested and even promised in the reports of the engineers. But at the same time it would be too much to expect the people of Dutchess County to be satisfied with what the Governor rightly calls "vague promises." It is entirely reasonable to ask that such promises be put into an entirely binding form before the territory in question is invaded. If New-York is ready to do that, all it has to do is to take the Governor at his word and have a special session of the legislature called for the purpose of making its "vague promises" into binding law. If the city, or the city government, is not ready to do that, it will look very much as though there might have been some danger of injustice to Dutchess County.

It is the more incumbent upon this city to act thus in a straightforward manner because of some unfortunate features of its past record. The people of Dutchess County have been pointing to the record of Westchester and Putnam counties as ground for their protests against New-York's invasion of the water rights. Unfortunately for New-York, such reference is pertinent and effective. This city has badly bungled the Croton Lake extension business, as we have hitherto often pointed out. It has subjected the people up there to a vast amount of needless inconvenience in a stupid and arbitrary fashion. Generally, perhaps invariably, it has paid, or in the end will pay, adequate indemnity for all property it has taken. But it has done and is doing so in a dilatory way that is exasperating and often a cause of serious loss to the people, and that also imposes a great needless expense upon the city. It is entirely reasonable to demand that the extension of the water system into Dutchess County or elsewhere shall be managed upon a much more equitable and businesslike plan.

ELECTRIC POWER IN MILLS.

New light on the desirability of using electric power in certain industries was afforded at the recent convention of the New-England Cotton Manufacturers' Association. E. W. Thomas, of Columbia, S. C., read a paper before that organization giving some of the results of the system as tried in one of the largest cotton mills in the South. Though he was not yet in a position to give a final and complete statement concerning the practice, he was able to mention advantages which have not been recognized fully, if at all, before.

Hitherto the chief arguments advanced in favor of distributing and applying the power in any kind of factory were that it dispensed with the friction of shafting and belting and made it unnecessary to run a machine when it was not needed. Inasmuch as from one-half to two-thirds of the power in most factories is wasted by the friction of shafting with bearings, an enormous economy would be effected by transmitting the power in the form of electricity by wires from the engine room to the machines to be operated. A gain of the same sort, though smaller in extent, would result in many shops where a lathe or other machine tool might not be used more than a few minutes at a time. In a different class of establishments, and particularly in mills devoted to the production of textile fabrics, all the machines in a given room are supposed to run continuously. If a loom, for instance, stops, the interruption is only momentary. Mr. Thomas points out, however, that even in a cotton mill it is often advisable to suspend operations entirely in a given department—say, the picker room—because it has more than caught up with its work. In that situation the movement of a single switch cuts off the power from that one quarter while all other departments continue to run. Such an economy can be insured where electric driving is in vogue, but it is impracticable where the old system is retained.

It appears that the meters in an electrically driven mill can be made to register automatically, and thus reveal important facts not easily ascertainable in any other way, and perhaps not even suspected. Mr. Thomas says that in his mill work is supposed to begin at 6:30, but the maximum demand for power is sometimes not felt until 7 o'clock. Again, the consumption will occasionally slacken at about 11:30, fully half an hour before the regular noon suspension. In other words, the switchboard can be employed to indicate the diligence of the operatives. In the same manner it is possible to detect the influence of certain atmospheric conditions or the relative efficiency of different lubricants. The beauty of these incidental kinds of service will be keenly appreciated by a progressive manufacturer who is continually facing competition with friendly rivals and who is alert to every chance to reduce expenses.

It is to be hoped that at some future time the owners of the Columbia mill will tell other manufacturers more about their experiment, and particularly about the cost of the installation. A detailed report on this phase of the subject should prove highly instructive.

CITADELS OF SOLDIERS.

Cornerstones of two new armories were laid in the Borough of Manhattan with appropriate ceremonies recently. Will either of them be a true ornament to the town, a veritable triumph of architecture, upon which New-Yorkers and visitors to New-York can gaze with enthusiasm as a noble embodiment of dignity and strength?

In Great Britain and on the Continent of Europe are plentiful examples of fortresses and castles which deserve long study and profound admiration. What armory in any part of this city is worthy of high praise and days of consideration as a work of genius?

The disciples of Izaak Walton declare that the New-Jersey Legislature at its recent session fell into a lamentable error in amending the fish and game laws so that the opening date for bass has been changed from June 15 to May 20. These experts say that the gradual extermination of bass is threatened by this legislation, because the fish are on their spawning beds until about the middle of next month. An earnest appeal to fishermen to leave the fish alone until their spawning days are over has been made public, and it ought to be heeded by all lovers of the piscatorial art.

Heads are falling in the local arena of politics, but there are no indications that Pallas is in danger of the guillotine.

A good many people like to be fooled, but we don't believe that McCarren, even with Grout's assistance, will succeed in convincing the country that a great moral issue is involved in the cruel war between himself and Murphy. He took great pleasure in being used last fall by the Tammany tiger cat to pull the political chestnuts out of the fire, and his present professions of devotion to the welfare of Brooklyn do not come anywhere near disguising his pre-eminent solicitude for the interests of McCarren.

Both Russia and Japan now have cause to remember that war is a two sided game.

Shipwrecks from fog, like that which cost the lives of thirteen sailors near Cape Breton yesterday, are sometimes due to the carelessness of navigators, but often result from the inadequacy of the means employed for signalling. An improvement upon present facilities is greatly needed. No one appreciates this fact more keenly than those who go to sea most frequently.

It is to be hoped that the divorce of the Western Union from the poolrooms is without alimony to the latter.

That New-York librarian who always believed "that Sodom and Gomorrah was a man and his wife," until he learned better recently from a sermon by Bishop Potter, ought to go to church more frequently. He evidently has much room for Biblical information.

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

The memorial to General Rufus Putnam dedicated at Sutton, Mass., last Tuesday, is a welcome though tardy recognition of the services of a distinguished patriot to his country. Every American, as he reads the simple inscription on the bronze tablet on the rough granite block which commemorates this Revolutionary hero's fame, will realize the truth of Webster's words: "Next to the sense of religious duty and moral feeling, I hardly know what should bear with stronger obligation on a liberal and enlightened mind than a consciousness of alliance with excellence which is departed, and a consciousness, too, that, in its acts and conduct, and even in its sentiments, it may be actively operating on the happiness of those who come after it."

END OF THE SEASON.

The Merry Mummer soon will flit
Unto a foreign land.
With haughty mien and Irving stride
He'll ornament the Strand;
And dazzled nursemaids will exclaim:
"Oh, cracky, ain't he grand!"

And oh, the wondrous fairy tales
When home the Mummer wings!—
Hobnobbings with the titled ones,
Handshakes with dukes and kings,
Cross-country hunts, houseboating on
The Thames, and other things.

"Dope!" says the scornful editor,
And throws it on the floor.
Yet eagerly the Mummer doth
The morrow's press explore.
He could not love himself, loved he
Not advertising more. —(Puck.

Europe and America are slowly revising their estimate of Asiatics, formed a few years ago, and when the revision is completed it will, from present indications, be equivalent to an almost complete revolution in their thought and attitude respecting Orientals. As Russia supplied the inducement to this change, she also is likely to be the first to feel the full effects of it in a regrouping of world powers and interests.

Registering His Kick.—Bryanite—Alton B. Parker? Nit! I can't swallow a candidate with such initials as his.
Necessary Interlocutor—Why can't you swallow a candidate with such initials as his?
Bryanite—Because they stand for "A Bitter Pill."—(Chicago Tribune.

Winston Churchill's recent breakdown in a speech in Parliament recalls to the English press a similar lapse of memory on the part of a member named Sheil, in the House of Commons. Sheil was commencing a carefully prepared sentence with the word "Necessity," when his memory deserted him. He repeated "Necessity" three times, and then Sir Robert Peel mischievously added: "Is not always the mother of invention." A correspondent of "The London Daily Mail," gives some instances of lapses of memory that came under his own observation as follows: "I was once staying with a distinguished divine in Yorkshire, the author of several volumes of poems and other literary works, and he, too, 'lost himself' in the Lord's Prayer. Moreover, he could not 'recover himself' when he recommenced. I was once attending a demonstration of anatomy, and the professor—a gentleman usually noted for his lucidity—completely broke down, and the class had to be dismissed."

BEIN' SICK.

When I am really sick abed
It isn't ever any fun.
I feel all achy in my head
An' hate to take my medisun.
Th' sheets get stickyish an' hot,
But I am not allowed to kick
'Em off, er read, er talk a lot
When I am sick.

I hate for all the folks about
To come an' pat me on th' face
An' say, "Poor child, you'll soon be out,"
An' tiptoe all around th' place.
They go when I pretend to be
Asleep—I do it for a trick:
I don't like folks to pity me
When I am sick.

My mother's diff'runt—I don't care
If she sits by me once er twice
An' says, "Poor boy," an' smooths my hair;
She ain't just tryin' to be nice.
They bring warm squashy things to me
For meals, an' make me eat 'em quick.
I'm mis'rable as I can be
When I am sick.
—(Burges Johnson, in Harper's Magazine.

Evangelistic campaigns have just been conducted in Chicago, Pittsburg, Columbus and some other Western cities by the Presbyterian evangelistic committee, and their results assure their conductors that "the mouthing over that particularly reckless and inconsiderable dictum heard of late in various quarters that 'revivalism is played out,' " ought to cease. Old-fashioned evangelism is still found effective, "even in the most modern and bustling and worldly of our cities," and is yet a force to be reckoned with. In summing up the work of the year the secretary of the committee says that the Church is in the best spiritual condition for years. Evangelism is not dead within it, it is not a spent force, but a growing one, and the outlook for its continued usefulness was never brighter.

"You used to rave over my liquid voice," she says, accusingly. "I know I did," he mutters, in defence, "but I did not imagine then that your words would come in such torrents."—(St. Paul Dispatch.

A fact that may have considerable significance in connection with the divorce problem has just been brought to light in the English official record of judicial statistics for 1902, namely, that out of 1,050 suits in that year for dissolution of the marriage tie 415, or nearly half, were cases where there had been no children by the marriage. That children form a strong tie to bind parents together is a fact of common knowledge, but that childless marriages in themselves tend to the divorce court seems a fair inference from these statistics.

RUSHED.

A dozen operations
Per day was not such fun.
The doctor didn't stop to eat—
He could only cut and run. —(Life.

About People and Social Incidents.

THE CABINET.

[FROM THE TRIBUNE BUREAU.]

Washington, May 20.—Little business of public importance was transacted at the meeting of the Cabinet to-day. Only four members were present, the other five being out of the city. Secretary Moody, who returned last night from his trip of inspection to the West Indies, made a verbal report to the President and his colleagues. Secretary Cortelyou and Postmaster General Payne remained in consultation on political affairs with the President for some time after the Cabinet adjourned.

Secretary Hitchcock left here for St. Louis to-day, expecting to be absent about ten days.

THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS.

[FROM THE TRIBUNE BUREAU.]

Washington, May 20.—Mme. Hengelmüller's condition is considered rather more serious to-day, owing to her having spent a restless night, although the physicians in attendance at the Austrian Embassy declare that her illness is more painful than alarming. It is the general impression throughout the diplomatic corps that Mme. Hengelmüller is dangerously ill, although the officials at the embassy say that her condition is not critical. The ambassador and Mme. Hengelmüller returned from a brief visit to New-York last week, and shortly afterward she contracted a sudden and severe cold, that developed complications. It was said at the embassy to-night that the baroness's condition had not changed materially. The case appears to be taking its regular course, and the physicians look for a change for the better to-morrow.

The second anniversary of the independence of Cuba was celebrated by a dinner at the Cuban Legation to-night, when the Minister and Señora Quesada entertained a party of twenty, including Colonel Despaigne, who has been appointed Commissioner of Finance for Cuba, at New-York; Colonel Giverga, his secretary; Dr. R. L. Miranda, Señora Quesada's father; Gustavo Govin, Mr. and Mrs. William Kent, José Campillo, the Misses Zelozes and all the members of the legation. Replying to a dispatch of congratulation, President Estrada Palma sent the following message to Minister Quesada from Havana to-day: "We all have just reason to be satisfied with ourselves in these two years of trial."

Countess Cassini will not accompany the Russian Ambassador to Atlantic City, where he goes to-morrow for a short visit of recreation. The Czar's birthday was celebrated at the embassy yesterday with a dinner, at which Count Cassini was joined by the members of his staff, and native dishes were served. Baron Schlippenbach, the Russian Consul General at Chicago, closed his visit to Count Cassini yesterday, and started for his post.

The Argentine Minister and Señora Merou invited a party of friends to the legation to-day to witness the christening of their daughter, who was born last month. Señora Calderon, wife of the Peruvian Minister, acted as godmother.

The State Department has been informed through the Belgian Legation here that the Shah of Persia has named Morteza Khan, Chief of the Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Teheran, as Persian Minister to Washington, in place of Isaac Khan, who has been appointed Minister to Vienna.

NOTES OF SOCIETY IN WASHINGTON.

[FROM THE TRIBUNE BUREAU.]

Washington, May 20.—Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Bell gave a tea this afternoon at their suburban home in Woodley Lane. Among those present were Countess Cassini, Miss Durand, Mrs. Bennett, the Misses Patten and Miss May. Tea was served to the guests on the lawn.

Mrs. and Miss Kean closed their Washington house to-day, and will join Senator Kean and his sisters at the family home at Elizabeth, N. J. Later Mrs. Kean will go with her family to their summer place at Pride's Crossing, Mass. Miss Kean will accompany Senator Kean to the Chicago Convention.

NEW-YORK SOCIETY.

Center Hitchcock sails for Europe to-day, but will return at the end of July for the rest of the Newport season. Mr. and Mrs. Frederic De Peyster and their daughters are also booked to sail to-day.

Miss Waterbury, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James M. Waterbury, is expected home from Europe at the end of next week.

Mr. and Mrs. John Sloane left town yesterday for their country place at Lenox, Mass., where their son William's fiancée, Miss Frances Crocker, will spend a part of the summer with them.

Mr. and Mrs. William B. Isham have left town for their country place at King's Bridge.

Mr. and Mrs. George R. Sheldon and the Misses Sheldon have returned to New-York from St. Louis.

Charles T. Barney has chartered Tracy Dows's steam yacht Mohican for the season.

C. Ledyard Blair entertains the Coaching Club to-day and to-morrow at his country place at Bernardsville, N. J. The members of the club go out to-day to the latter place by coach.

Mr. and Mrs. Reginald C. Vanderbilt, who are now at Newport, go next week to Philadelphia for the Horse Show there.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry F. Shoemaker leave town the day after to-morrow for the season, and will spend the summer at their country place at Riverside-on-the-Sound.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard T. Wilson, jr., will spend the summer at Newport, where they have rented the Warren cottage in Narragansett-ave.

The Hon. Lionel Guest, younger son of Lord and Lady Wimborne, and a first cousin of the Duke of Marlborough, has arrived in town from Europe for a stay of some duration.

F. Ambrose Clark has chartered the Venture for his trip to-day from the Holland House to Morris Park.

Charles Burrall Hoffman, jr., returns from Paris early next month, and will spend the summer with his parents, at Newport.

The Rev. Philip Cook, who has been called to the Church of the Incarnation as assistant rector, will be married on June 1 in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd, at the Episcopal Theological Seminary, in Chelsea Square. His bride will be Miss Anita Levin, daughter of Mrs. Martin Henry Levin, and the ceremony will be performed by the Right Rev. Cameron Mann, Bishop of North Dakota, with whom Mr. Cook has been associated in missionary work since his graduation from the theological seminary. The wedding will take place at 4 o'clock, and will be followed by a reception at the home of the bride's mother, in West Fifty-eighth-st. She will have three matrons of honor—Mrs. Clarence Frederic Levin, her sister-in-law; her cousin, Mrs. Walter Eyre Lambert, and Mrs. Paul Deming. Her two flower girls will be the Misses Julia and Doris Dick. Lloyd Reynolds, of Erie, Penn., will be Mr. Cook's best man, and Julian Carter, of Baltimore; Charles B. Hedrick and Archibald Langford, of this city, and the bride's brother, Clarence Frederic Levin, have been chosen as ushers.

Mrs. Frederic Schuchardt is recovering from her serious illness in her home, No. 640 Madison-ave. She and her daughter have not made any plans for the summer yet, and will remain in town until her health is improved.

James Henry Smith did not sail early this week for Europe, although many of his friends expected he would do so. He will probably not start for the other side much before the middle of June.

WAR VIEWS OF EXPERTS.

Reported Repulse of Japanese Not Fully Credited.

[FROM THE TRIBUNE BUREAU.]

Washington, May 20.—All news from the Far East is received with suspicion here, no matter which of the warring forces it favors, so that to-day's report of the repulse of the Japanese west of Feng-Wang-Cheng is accepted provisionally. It is such a report as army officers have been expecting, unless the Russians were to continue the policy of retreat indefinitely, as was reported in a St. Petersburg dispatch yesterday. As one officer remarked, however, the very fact that it is learned from the Russian capital that this or that plan has been adopted is pretty sure to indicate that the contrary is at least under consideration. The strategy of neither side will be available for the world's edification at any time in the period of hostilities. It has been guessed by army officers that it was only a question of a few days, if the Japanese continued their advance, when they must encounter a Russian line, and it has been estimated that this more or less enduring obstruction would be in the neighborhood of Liao-Yang, perhaps north of that place, but certainly south of Moukden. It now appears to have been east and south on the road from Feng-Wang-Cheng.

The incident is important aside from any representation of the force which may be engaged in the encounter. It is an indication, officers say, that the Russians for the present intend to hold the approach to Liao-Yang and the more important bases of supplies north of that place against further Japanese invasion. The delay is the more important just at this time, in view of the coming rainy season and the probability that the roads will be impassable for either force, unless it is well mounted. This would give the Russians the advantage, since their cavalry would have a mobility of great value in flanking an enemy consisting largely of infantry.

Experts are awaiting the confirmation of to-day's reports with keen interest. They especially wish to know the moral effect of this first discouragement of the Japanese, opinions differing on the subject. The sentiment has some relation to ultimate effect, officers say, since the victory in the end is sometimes to the fighter with the greatest tenacity, to whom reverses mean nothing but an increase in the dogged determination to go ahead and fight.

ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL CONVOCATION.

Commissioner Draper Announces June 27 and 28 as the Dates.

Albany, May 20.—Commissioner Andrew S. Draper of the State Department of Education to-day announced that the annual convocation under the auspices of the Regents of the University would be held on Monday and Tuesday, June 27 and 28, with sessions on Monday evening and Tuesday morning, afternoon and evening. The Regents and all officers of any University department, the trustees and instructors and other officers of institutions in the University, including the Department of Education, of normal schools, of the State Associations of Teachers, superintendents, school commissioners and school boards and others elected by the Regents or by convocation council are members of the convocation.

The Chancellor's address will be delivered in the Senate Chamber on Monday evening by Whitelaw Reid. Among the speakers from other States will be Dean Charles H. Frazier of the University of Pennsylvania and Dean William H. Nathen of the Kentucky School of Medicine, Louisville.

TO ENTERTAIN FRESH AIR CHILDREN.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Ballston, N. Y., May 20.—Plans are being made to have the Tribune Fresh Air children here again this summer. They will reach here on July 7 and remain until the 21st. An appeal has been made for citizens to throw open their homes for these deserving children. Thirty children came two years ago, sixty-four were entertained last year and this season it is hoped to accommodate one hundred.

WEST POINT COMMENCEMENT OPENS.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

West Point, N. Y., May 20.—The commencement exercises at the Military Academy began to-day with the arrival of the board of visitors. A review of the cadets was given in honor of the board. Brigadier General Mills reviewed the battalion, dressed in the uniform of his newly acquired rank.

RED CROSS INQUIRY.

Remonstrants May Find It Necessary to Appeal to the Courts.

[FROM THE TRIBUNE BUREAU.]

Washington, May 20.—General F. C. Ainsworth, the military secretary of the army, will not conduct the Red Cross investigation by himself this summer. Such a proposition was made by Senator Proctor, the chairman of the investigating committee, of which General Ainsworth and Representative William Alden Smith are members, but General Ainsworth has pointed out that it is too much responsibility to impose on one member, whose impartiality might be questioned by those subjected to the inquiry. There are such things as the admissibility of evidence to be considered, and it is thought proper that at least two members of the committee should be present when testimony is heard. Senator Proctor can be in Washington in the next few months, on which occasion General Ainsworth will be present also. He remains in the city throughout the season, and Mr. Proctor comes here periodically on private and public business.

The resignation of Clara Barton and the assumption of the duties of acting president by Mrs. John A. Logan do not satisfy the remonstrants, at whose instance the investigation was undertaken. They will not accept the change as a sufficient guarantee that the Red Cross work will be carried on as it should be. They will insist that immediate provision be made for re-establishing the organization on a sound business basis which will free it of suspicion and restore it to public confidence.

It has, in fact, been strongly intimated to Senator Proctor that, unless the investigating committee can make arrangements for carrying on the investigation at once, the remonstrants may consider it necessary to take the matter to the courts. It is appreciated that it savors of an imposition to ask Senator Proctor, Representative William Alden Smith and General Ainsworth to be in Washington and hold sessions in the heated term, especially as the courts are the proper place to conduct such an investigation. However, so long as the men named were willing to make the sacrifice for the sake of the Red Cross and to avoid the scandal that must ensue if the past administration of the organization is aired in public, the remonstrants acquiesced in the informal investigation contemplated by Senator Proctor and his colleagues. But now that these men have apparently wearied of the task, and Miss Barton and her friends have shown such a strong disinclination to adopt the recommendation of Senator Proctor's committee and promptly surrender the control of the society and its assets, the remonstrants fear that they will have to take the matter into their own hands and cause the maladministration to be investigated by the courts, regardless of the scandal which may follow.

OFF FOR SOUTHERN BATTLEFIELDS.

State Monument Commission Starts on Its Annual Junketing Tour.

The State Battle Monument Commission, of which General Daniel E. Sickles is chairman and Colonel Lewis R. Stegman secretary, together with a party of State legislators and their guests, left New-York at 12 o'clock last night over the Pennsylvania for Washington and points South on a tour of inspection. The legislature appointed a joint committee of eleven Senators and the same number of Assemblymen to make the trip. Some of those who announced their intention last night of making the journey were Senators Raines, Malby, Allds, Armstrong, Goodsell, Grady, Foley, Stewart, Marshall, Ambler, W. L. and E. R. Brown; Assemblymen Nixon, Apgar and Burnett; James S. Whipple, clerk of the Senate; Colonel Archie E. Baxter, clerk of the Assembly; Hugh Hastings, State Historian; James G. Graham and Calvin S. McKnight, of the Governor's office.

The commission and guests had two Pullman sleepers and a dining car and innumerable boxes of bottled goods containing mineral water. The itinerary includes Washington, Richmond, Vicksburg, Lookout Mountain, the Wilderness battleground, Chattanooga, Chickamauga, Atlanta and Andersonville. The party will return to this city on May 31. The State has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on monuments and markers for Southern battlefields, and it is customary each year for the legislature to send a commission and members of the legislature to look over the work.

COURT AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE.

London, May 20.—The Court held by King Edward and Queen Alexandra at Buckingham Palace to-night was not so well attended as others of the season because of the Whitsuntide holidays. The Duchess of Roxburghe, formerly Miss May Goelet, of New-York, made her first appearance at court. She was presented by the Dowager Duchess of Roxburghe. In the diplomatic circle Ambassador Choate presented Miss Stockton, daughter of Captain Charles H. Stockton, the United States naval attaché, and Miss Beatrice Morgan. In the general circle Mrs. George W. Vanderbilt, Mrs. George Law, Mrs. William B. Parsons and Miss Parsons, of New-York, were presented.