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.
KNICKERBOCKER THEATRE—2:15—8:15—A Venetian Romance.
LYRIC THEATRE—2:15—8:15—Wang.
MADISON SQUARE GARDEN—8:30—Venice.
MAJESTIC THEATRE—2:15—8:15—The Man from China.
MURRAY HILL THEATRE—2—8—A Rag Baby.
NEW-AMSTERDAM—8:15—Weber & Fields.
NEW-YORK—2—8—The Southerners.
PROCTOR'S—Twenty-third Street—A Queen's Messenger and Time Is Money. Fifty-eighth Street—David Harum. Fifth Avenue—A Queen's Messenger and When We Were Twenty-one. One-hundred-and-twenty-fifth Street—Time Is Money and The Club Friend.
SAVOY THEATRE—2—8:30—Tit for Tat.
THIRD AVENUE—2—8—Little Church Around the Corner.
VICTORIA—2—8:15—Varieties.
WALLACK'S—2—8:20—The County Chairman.
WEST END—8—Parsifal.

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New-York Daily Tribune.

SATURDAY, MAY 28, 1904.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN.—The Japanese, after sixteen hours of desperate fighting, captured Nan-Shan Hill, a position believed by the Russians to be impregnable on Thursday; Kin-Chow was taken on the morning of the same day; the losses on both sides were heavy. ==== Admiral Togo's gunboats took part in the action on the isthmus and a complete blockade of Port Arthur was announced; it was reported from Tokio that the Japanese land forces were within twelve miles of the city, after having pursued the Russians south and having captured many guns. ==== Japan declared an effective blockade of Port Arthur, all communications having been cut on both the land and sea sides. ==== It was reported that Russia had purchased in England a cruiser being built at a private shipyard. ==== The Chamber of Deputies sustained the action of the French government in recalling M. Nisard, Ambassador to the Vatican; the embassy will not be abolished. ==== Cardinal Satolli left Rome for Naples on his way to the United States. ==== The International Tuberculosis Congress opened at Copenhagen.

DOMESTIC.—Experts of the Department of Agriculture have discovered an ant which preys on the boll weevil, in Guatemala, and will introduce it into the cotton growing States. ==== Senator Gorman's platform, adopted in Maryland, was severely criticised by Democrats in Washington. ==== Miss Alice Roosevelt, though a guest of honor at the World's Fair, was compelled to pay her admission fee. ==== The German navy assembled the largest fleet ever seen of that nation at Newport News. ==== A tornado wiped out the town of New-Liberty, Ill.

CITY.—Stocks were dull and weak. ==== President Curran threatened to call out truck drivers, in spite of the recent agreement. ==== The firm of D. J. Sully & Co. asked the receivers to demand of the forty Cotton Exchange houses which had contracted to sell cotton to the firm for May delivery that they deliver 190,000 bales of spot cotton representing the contracts closed out on the day of the announcement of the failure. ==== Announcement was made that default would be made on the interest due June 1 on the fifty year first mortgage 4 per cent bonds of the Detroit Southern Railroad Company; a plan to extricate the company from its troubles without a receivership has been accepted. ==== Mayor McClellan's automobile driver was arrested for exceeding the speed limit while he was going to Delmonico's to get the Mayor. ==== The body of Leonidas Hubbard was brought here. ==== Henry Harmon Hendricks, a well known metal merchant, died suddenly in the Christopher-st. ferry house. ==== A crowd wanted to lynch a negro accused by two women of trying to assault one of them in Central Park. ==== Mrs. Charles Bartlett starved to death in her home in Flushing, neglected by her husband, while her mother was dying from consumption. ==== A number of poolrooms resumed operations. ==== The winners at Gravesend were: 1, Flandy; 2, Unmasked; 3, Damon; 4, Ascension; 5, Waterside; 6, Ancestor.

THE WEATHER.—Indications for to-day: Fair. The temperature yesterday: Highest, 78 degrees; lowest, 59.

ANOTHER JAPANESE VICTORY.

The Japanese have won a second victory in a land battle against the Russians, and one more marked than the first. Like that at the Yalu, it was a frontal attack of the Japanese against carefully and elaborately fortified Russian lines. It differed from the Yalu engagement, however, in two respects. One was that it involved much larger bodies of troops. The other was that, instead of having—as they said—been ordered not to make a stubborn defence, the Russians were this time unquestionably intent upon making the strongest possible defence. They knew that they were standing as the first line of defence of Port Arthur itself. They were strongly intrenched along a line of rugged hills, honeycombed with rifle pits and netted with barbed wire, and they had the assistance of some of their warships in the adjacent bay. In spite of all this, the Japanese rushed in and carried the field by storm. Men said in the Boer war, after the desperate but unavailing performances of Buller and Methuen, that the day of frontal attacks upon strong intrenchments was past. Perhaps it is. If so, the Japanese do not seem to have been informed of the fact; for now, for the second time, they have made, and have successfully made, just such an attack.

Some features of the Japanese modus operandi are worthy of notice, as indicative of the way in which those "Yankees of the East" wage war. They knew they had a stiff task before them. They had fought on that very ground before and remembered its difficulties, and they assumed that the Russians would defend the hills far more stubbornly than the Chinese did ten years ago. So they set about their task deliberately and scientifically. There was no rushing in against an unknown foe and finding out about him in the midst of the battle. Instead, they spent much time in drawing the Russian fire, at this point and at that, until they had uncovered every battery and almost every gun. More than that, they carefully watched the Russian shells, picked them up and measured them, so as to know just the size of the Russian guns as well as their number and their position. Thus they came to know the formation and composition of the Russian batteries almost as well as the Russians themselves. They knew just how many guns, and of what calibre, they would have to face at a given point of the Russian line. Finally, with all this information secured, and especially with information of one fatally weak spot in the Russian line, they charged in, in the darkness of night, striking straight for the discovered flaw. That was scientific warfare with a vengeance, and it had the effect which might have been expected.

The Japanese losses were probably heavy. They are not yet reported, but they will probably prove to be much heavier than in the fight at the Yalu. Indeed, it will not surprise us if they are considerably heavier than the Russians'. It is to be expected that an attacking and storming party will suffer more than the defenders of a fortified place. Yet it will be recalled that at the Yalu the Japanese suffered far less than the Russians, whom they drove out of their fortifications. In this case, however, the Japanese can better afford to lose than can the Russians, for the roads, by both land and sea, are open for them to send in as many more reinforcements as may be needed, while the Russians at Port Arthur cannot replace a single man whom they lose.

The capture of Kin-Chow alone would have been an important gain for the Japanese, but they have done more. Just south of that place is the narrow neck which connects Port Arthur and Dalny with the rest of the peninsula. It is less than two miles wide between Hand Bay and Kin-Chow Bay. The Japanese have passed that point, and have entered the Port Arthur peninsula itself. Nor is that all. Just southwest of that narrow neck is a range of hills extending clear across the land, beyond which the country is level and open. The Japanese have passed those hills and secured a footing on the open plain. They have now between them and the fortifications of Port Arthur only twenty miles of level or rolling plain, and only half that distance between themselves and Dalny. How strong the Russian garrison of Port Arthur is cannot be told. The Japanese themselves estimate it at twenty thousand men, which shows they are not indulging in easy delusions, for that is the highest estimate that has been made, and is probably above rather than under the mark. Against such a Russian force they are preparing to send one five times as great, if necessary. In such case it is to be expected that the end already attained at the Yalu and at Kin-Chow will be reached a third time, at heavier cost than on either of the former occasions, but also with more important results.

AS TO SOME RECENT "ACCIDENTS."

An automobile is a very perfect and very powerful locomotive. It applies anywhere from 15 to 40 or 60 horsepower to the propulsion of a single short car, and is able to develop its utmost power in a minute or two. It rarely runs at less than the average speed which a freight train makes. It often attains a speed as great as that at which the average accommodation train for passengers runs, sometimes that of the average express train.

This very powerful, very delicate and very sensitive machine, liable at unexpected moments to get out of order and beyond the control of the operator; this most high strung and nervous of organisms; this very thoroughbred of engines, is turned loose, not like the dray horse locomotive on rigid steel rails, on a uniformly graded and thoroughly ballasted roadbed, but on the common crowded highway. It is not protected from collisions by fences along the track or gates at grade crossings. The road it takes is sure to be traversed by all manner of vehicles; some of them managed by boys, others by women, and almost any of them liable at the most inopportune moment to cross the track or do some other unexpected thing. The same road is sure at times to be crowded, especially in the vicinity of the villages or large towns, with considerable numbers of children, gossiping girls and holiday idlers. It is reasonably sure also to be infested with dogs and other domestic animals, capable of suddenly getting under a wheel.

Now, this mettlesome engine, thrust into this bewilderment of dangers, is not intrusted to an engineer who has had years of training in subordinate positions before he was permitted to handle the lever, an engineer who even then has been first taken over the track often enough to know every dangerous spot in it, every curve and every grade. On the contrary, it is handled sometimes by a young girl, sometimes by a boy, very often by a person of comparatively little experience or judgment, and with two or three companions along who are "out for a lark." It is taken over unfamiliar roads, often merely guessed at from a road map, and is liable to be suddenly rushed into narrow or crooked or sideling places, where even a farm horse with his cart would need to be driven at a walk with care.

That the inexperienced people who gayly and heedlessly take such risks are fools is perhaps their own affair, and when the result is merely the killing of the fools and the fools' friends, perhaps the general public ought not to be much discomposed. When they risk killing other people, however, they pass from the line of folly to the field of criminality. Besides, when they thus arouse such general hostility as to provoke a tendency to assault upon all automobilists by the casual hoodlum, they do infinite harm to the rational and legitimate users of a wonderful invention, which has really come to stay, and which ought to be protected not merely against the hoodlums, but also against the fools.

POINTS FOR AN ALDERMAN.

The well meant foolishness of Alderman Stapleton's plan for enriching the city by means of fines extracted from persons who insist on keeping the outer end seats of open cars when other seats are vacant has been so thoroughly exposed that he will probably make no further effort to procure its insertion in the municipal statute book. There is no reason to suppose that such an ordinance could be enforced even if it were fitted to serve a useful purpose, but the reason why it has been universally derided is that at least half the consequences of its enforcement would be decidedly objectionable. Yet we are so sure the alderman's intention was good that we think kindly of him. Any public officer who earnestly desires to be instrumental in reducing the discomforts of riding in a New-York streetcar should be encouraged to keep on trying, and hence we venture to call to Mr. Stapleton's attention a few of the infelicities of local transportation, in the faint hope that he may discover some practical way of removing them.

It is the habit of many motormen and conductors, under a joint understanding, to rest content with reducing the speed of their cars when an able bodied man wants to get on or off. In the case of a woman, a cripple or a young child, they often, perhaps usually, bring the cars to a full stop, which, of course, is something to be thankful for. It is not, however, all that they owe to the public as servants of the company. It has been pretty generally suspected that the company, by requiring adherence to an exacting schedule, is guilty of complicity in this offence, but however that may be, it is an offence which ought not to be permitted.

A multitude of men and boys are under the delusion that they have an inalienable right to smoke wherever they please, and that the defiance of regulations to the contrary is a mark of creditable independence. Accordingly they pay as little attention as possible to the rules which the transportation companies post in the cars, relying on the secret sympathy or the timidity of the conductor, and as a general thing their confidence is not misplaced. The conductor allows them to smoke on the rear platform of a closed car, and even to go inside with a lighted cigar and keep it lighted by an occasional puff; while on open cars the restriction of smoking to the rear four seats is constantly ignored.

Nothing can be more certain than that a passenger has a right to ask a reasonable question relating to his route and destination and have it respectfully answered by the conductor. It is an undeniable fact that conductors often reply rudely and unintelligently if they reply at all, and that many passengers shrink from making an inquiry for that reason. They do not like to be insulted and perhaps provoked into a retort.

It is distressing enough to ride in a car crowded to suffocation when one is surrounded by respectable persons. To be jostled by a drunken ruffian and assailed with profane and obscene language is an intolerable affliction. But a case has to be extreme to convince the average conductor that it is his duty to interfere. The truth is that a man or woman of refined feeling who gets into a streetcar in this city runs a constant risk of being subjected to gross indignities for which there is no redress.

It would be easy to make this list longer, but we do not want to overload Alderman Stapleton. We are very much afraid that he cannot pass or even frame an ordinance fitted to work an effectual reform of these abuses, but while his mind is on the general subject of local transportation he may feel inclined to try. Beyond a doubt it is time for somebody in authority to seek a remedy for evils which are constantly growing worse with the increasing demand on inadequate facilities for getting about town.

A PLAY FOR SYMPATHY.

Mr. Curran, the president of the International Freight Handlers' Union, denies the rumor that he is going to try to tie up the North and East River ferries as a feature of a sympathetic strike against the New-York, New-Haven and Hartford Railroad Company, and says: "We "want the sympathy of the public in this fight, "and by tying up the ferryboats we would be "cutting our own throats."

If the strikers really want public sympathy, they are to be pitied for their lack of common sense in the manner of obtaining it. If there is any merit in their contention, they have carefully concealed it. So far as we have been able to observe, the strikers keep shifting their position and making it impossible for an employer to meet them on any reasonable basis. According to the statement in behalf of the railroad company, which has not been discredited, the demand was originally for the reinstatement of some men laid off for lack of work. The company manifested a conciliatory disposition, and promptly reinstated them. Then, instead of putting them to work, the union suddenly demanded the discharge of an old and faithful workman, against whom no complaint had previously been made. Since then, we believe, there have been questions of wages and conditions of labor raised, and now the recognition of the union and the restoration of the strikers in a body previous to any adjustment of differences are demanded. The whole thing appears to be trivial, and its management suggests a set purpose to precipitate a conflict on any sort of pretext, apparently for the purpose of breaking down the system of free employment which has hitherto prevailed and establishing the "closed shop." A strike avowedly for a "closed shop" would have no public sympathy, so apparently indirect means have been taken to extend a strike ostensibly begun for other purposes to the accomplishment of that end.

Does Mr. Curran, who is so anxious for public sympathy, think that the people will be more sympathetic toward attempts to tie up all the coast shipping than toward a suspension of the ferry service? True, more persons would be inconvenienced by the stoppage of ferryboats, but the principle is just the same. The man who wants to go to Savannah or San Juan or Galveston has just as much right to complain, if prevented by Mr. Curran, as the man who wants to go to Jersey City. In one case just as much as the other Mr. Curran and his strikers are interfering wantonly with the business of persons who have no concern in their fight. They are trying to boycott the community in general as a part of their campaign against the New-Haven road. They stop at the ferry service, not that they really regard the rights of the public, but for the simple reason that they dare not use that weapon, because, as Mr. Curran puts it, "we would be cutting our own throats." If they thought they were cutting only the people's throats, they would apparently try to stop the ferryboats fast enough. That sort of regard for public rights and interests is not likely to command much sympathy.

WHY THIS DELAY?

Why have the aldermen delayed action so long on the buildings ordinance introduced soon after the Darlington disaster? This ordinance was presented by Alderman Davies at the instance of The Tribune and the Republican County Committee, having been drawn under the supervision of Ex-Judge Julius M. Mayer, former counsel to the Buildings Department. It is designed to avert such disasters as the Darlington collapse by giving to the Superintendent of Buildings summary power to stop work on structures in process of erection when such work, in his judgment, menaces life and limb.

The grand jury, since the introduction of this measure, has handed up a presentment urging the passage of an ordinance of this character. The consensus of expert opinion is in favor of the law. The aldermen received it in a friendly spirit, and the outlook at the start was favorable to its speedy enactment. Wherefore the delay? It is a measure distinctly in the interest of public safety and should be passed by the aldermen before they begin their summer vacation.

"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" where human life is concerned.

SPANISH PROGRESS.

Careful observers of public sentiment and of the condition of affairs in Spain say that the kingdom of Alfonso is better off to-day than it was before the loss of its colonies and is gaining in many lines of development. It is said also that the general drift of opinion in Spain is that the country will have a brighter future without possessions beyond the seas.

The Spanish temperament was never ideal for the government of alien peoples and subject races. That storied peninsula of Southwestern Europe, with its picturesque and fascinating history, has within its borders latent treasures of amazing value. It may become prodigiously rich and populous again, as it was in former centuries. Americans wish it well.

OHIO'S MARRIAGE RESTRICTIONS.

Beginning last Friday, Ohio entered upon an interesting experiment in the matter of restricting marriage. By a law passed by the recent legislature of that State all applicants for marriage licenses upon applying to the Probate Court for legal permission to wed are required to answer the following questions:

Is either party a habitual drunkard?
Is either an epileptic?
Is either insane?
Is either under the influence of an intoxicating liquor or drug?

The happy swain who hereafter goes to the Probate Court in Ohio for a license must be prepared with some knowledge of his own and his fiancée's habits and state of mind and body. Doubtless the questions will seem to him to be impertinent or insulting, and certainly no one but a probate judge would dare to propound such inquiries. However, as the queries will be printed on record forms, the would-be bridegroom will probably look upon them merely as another device to make him as uncomfortable and foolish as possible at this momentous crisis of his life and fill them out as well as his confused intellect will allow under the circumstances.

Meanwhile, other States will watch with interest Ohio's experiment in matrimony along a line in which progressive thought has been moving for many years.

With Leader Murphy and the Mayor back of the major, the Aldermen would do well to get out of the way of the brooms.

Russian authorities hold that the Whitehead torpedo, which can travel four miles, has made the three-mile limit of international law an absurdity. Forts and battleships now carry guns that help to heighten the absurdity of the oldtime rule. One of the most important subjects, therefore, for the next International Congress to pass upon will probably be the entire question of territorial waters in view of actual conditions of modern naval warfare.

It is gratifying that the recreation grounds of the public school children will not be closed for this season. These places of innocent and healthgiving amusement for the youngsters have been of much value, and the people of New-York are heartily in favor of them.

There was a handsome increase in the value of our cotton exports in April. The baleful influence of the notorious "corner," which finally collapsed after sending the price of the staple to excessive figures as the result of unscrupulous methods practised by speculators, checking manufactures, injuring mill property, throwing many people out of employment and interfering with the export trade, no longer hangs over the market, and the prospect is encouraging. So disastrous were the consequences of that corner that it is hardly likely any combination will try to get up another like it for many a day.

The man who picked The Picket at Gravesend is probably firmly of opinion that the agitation against poolrooms is all wrong, while the man who put his money on the wrong horse is open to conviction on the subject.

Skepticism has been shown in numerous letters to the Editor of "Science" regarding some of the wonderful stories told by William J. Long about birds and animals. One narrative related to a woodcock which laboriously bound up a leg with mud and grass, as if he were putting a plaster cast about a fractured bone. Another described an oriole's nest of strange construction. Mr. Long now replies to his critics in the columns of the periodical which printed the other communications. He has obtained affidavits in support of two fresh instances of woodcock surgery. He also mentions the circumstances under which he was led to interpret as he did the observed peculiarity of the oriole's nest. Mr. Long has thus met the charges of inaccuracy and gullibility neatly and convincingly. Inasmuch as these faults have recently been imputed to other writers, and as he attempts to vindicate no one besides himself, the discussion, despite its unexpected outcome, will doubtless have exerted a wholesome influence.

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

A school for dogs is the latest development of the educational movement. It has been established in Paris, with the object of teaching, not letters, but politeness. The schoolroom is furnished with chairs, tables and rugs, to give the necessary "local color" to the surroundings. The dog pupils are trained to welcome visitors by jumping up, wagging the tail and giving a low bark. When the visitor leaves, the dog accompanies him to the door and bows his farewell by bending his head to the floor. He is trained likewise to pick up a handkerchief, glove or fan that has been dropped and return it to the owner. He is taught further to walk with "proud and prancing steps" when out with his mistress.

THE MISFIT PEOPLE.

They kept Willie's hair in the Fauntleroy curl,
Till all of the real boys called him a girl.
They kept little Mabel in socks to her shins
Till everywhere she elicited grins.
In fact, to the neighbors it seemed they would never
Discover their kids were not babies forever.
—(Baltimore American.

The United States is not the only country to make war on quacks and quack medicines. The German police have begun a systematic campaign against them. They estimate that in ten years the population has increased 58 per cent, regular medical men 76 per cent and quacks 1,567 per cent. There are more women quacks than men. Nearly 30 per cent of the men cited to appear at the police bureau have been in jail, and of the women 15 per cent. More than one hundred samples of quack medicines were analyzed by the police, and over 80 per cent were of absolutely no medicinal value.

Nell—Jack is always talking to me about the depth of his love.
Belle—The depth wouldn't interest me so much as the length.—(Philadelphia Record.

The police court of St. Helier, the principal town of Jersey is remarkable in several respects. First, the proceedings are always opened with prayer; second, it frequently happens that after prayers there is no more business, and every one goes home. There is so little crime committed in the island that the police force (twenty strong) is kept up only for visitors. The beautiful carving in oak which forms the rostrum of this court is the work of a lady named Coxedge, a resident of the island. The dock is remarkable for its spaciousness and comfort. The authorities are very lenient with their prisoners, who are kept here, for court and station are under one roof. In the words of the genial old turnkey, "When we gets 'em brought in drunk during the day, if they behave well we lets 'em out at night." Every "bobby" is obliged to know the Psalms. It's all he has to do.

THE NORSK NIGHTINGALE.

Vild ban the night, but vilder night
Hung round the Russian's pillow.
In his bosom dar ban a fiercer fight,
Sum scrap on dis bounding billow.
A few fat Cossacks skol standing by,
Ay s'pose dey ban old buttinskys,
And drenka of vodka dey tak on sly,
And vipe deir bearded chinskys.

Dis Russian yen'ral ban having dream,
And he tenk he ban vinning battle;
Dis fighting in sleep ban qvite gude scheme,
Yu can hearing dese muskets rattle,
But yu ant run risk of a bullet hole
In yure back ven yu ban retreating,
And you got more chance to save yure soul
And you got less chance of a beating!

Vild ban the night, and Cossack chaps
Ban listen to yen'ral snoring.
"Vile he ban dreaming," dey say, "perhaps
Our army skol du some scoring."
Dey knew by dis sleepy yen'ral's look,
By his orders yoyfully spoken,
He ban dreaming of days ven nations shook,
And Yaps ban smashed and broken.

Vild ban the night, and yen'ral voke
From dis har yolly wision,
And say, "Ef ay taking anoder smoke
Den Russia skol get decision!"
So the Cossacks visper in corner of tent
And after dey du some scheming
Over the Yalu dese fallers vent
So yen'ral could du more dreaming!
—(Milwaukee Sentinel.

Matignon is the oldest park pest in Paris, and is proud of the title "doyen des vagabonds," or, according to the slang word, "doyen des pilons." He has just been arrested in the Villette district for the 110th time, according to "The London Telegraph." He started life as a pest at the age of sixteen, and he is now over seventy. Matignon is also known among the broken down people of some education who are his associates in destitution as old Daddy Diogenes. When captured lately the vagabond made a short address to the police superintendent. He said: "I am sorry to trouble you so often, M. le Commissaire, but then, you know, the police force is so very efficient. I remember the time when you were only a simple secretary in the police office at Saint-Ouën. Since then I have often been in prison. It gives me great pleasure to see you again, M. le Commissaire. On revient toujours à ses premiers amours." After this little speech the senior vagabond of Paris was sent again to prison. He states that he has thoroughly enjoyed his irresponsible existence. He has hardly ever slept in a proper bed, and his best spells of nocturnal repose have been obtained on prison planks. In the summer weather he sleeps on the grass near the fortifications, where he runs the least risk of being interfered with by the police.

An old lady was noticed by the vicar always to bow her head when the name of Satan was mentioned. He asked her the reason of this strange habit of hers, and she replied:
"Well, politeness costs nothing, and you never know."—(Sporting News.

About People and Social Incidents.

AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

[FROM THE TRIBUNE BUREAU.]

Washington, May 27.—The President to-day shook hands with a party of Englishmen, among whom were I. W. Spencer and Aubrey Spencer, of Northumberland, and Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Wickstead, of Leeds.

The Rev. George Dougherty presented to the President Francesco Cagiati, special commissioner in charge of the Vatican exhibit at St. Louis.

THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS.

[FROM THE TRIBUNE BUREAU.]

Washington, May 27.—Mme. Hengelmüller, wife of the Austrian Ambassador, whose illness has caused concern to her friends, is much improved to-day, and her speedy recovery is assured.

Ignacio Calderon, the recently appointed Minister of Bolivia to the United States, was received by the President to-day. He was presented by Secretary Hay, the ceremony taking place in the Blue Room. Felicitous addresses were exchanged between the new minister and the President. Mr. Calderon is no stranger in this country, as his government appointed him to an important post in New-York about fifteen years ago. While stationed in Baltimore he married. His wife, who has accompanied him to Washington, will add another American hostess to the diplomatic corps. The minister is not related to Manuel Alvarez Calderon, the Minister from Peru.

Señor De Azpiroz, the Mexican Ambassador, and his daughter, Señora Perez, have returned from a short visit to New-York.

NOTES OF SOCIETY IN WASHINGTON.

[FROM THE TRIBUNE BUREAU.]

Washington, May 27.—Secretary Taft will leave Washington to-morrow for Topeka to deliver an address at the Kansas semi-centennial celebration on Memorial Day.

The president and trustees of Columbian University gave a reception, with dancing, at Rauscher's to-night, in compliment to the graduating classes. The patronesses, several of whom were present, included Mrs. Hay, Mrs. Hitt, Mrs. Foraker, Mrs. Alvarez Calderon, Countess Cassini, Mrs. Cowles, Mrs. Oliver Cromwell, Mrs. W. P. Eno, Mrs. Pinchot, Mrs. Fairbanks, Mrs. Thomas F. Walsh and Mrs. B. H. Warder.

Mr. and Mrs. John S. Webb and the latter's mother, Mrs. Hutchinson, will close their Washington home on June 1 and go to Easthampton, Long Island, for the summer.

Commander Remey and his family will spend the summer in foreign travel.

Assistant Secretary Darling of the Navy Department will attend the Memorial Day exercises at Morgantown, W. Va.

NEW-YORK SOCIETY.

Mrs. W. Bayard Cutting left town for the season, and is at Westbrook, her country place at Oakdale, Long Island, for the summer, where she will be joined at the end of July by W. Bayard Cutting, who is now in Europe.

William Woodward, whose engagement to Miss Elsie Cryder was announced in this column the other day, will act as best man to F. Lothrop Ames on the occasion of the latter's marriage to Miss Edith Cryder in Trinity Church on Tuesday next. Fletcher Harper, Philip Dalton, William Stackpole, Henry Adams, Harold Blanchard, Le Baron Russell, Townsend Irvin, Edward Horton and Randolph Grew will be the ushers.

Mr. and Mrs. T. Shaw Safe are booked to sail from Europe on June 1, and on their arrival here will proceed at once to Newport and open their villa there for the summer.

Miss Susan Travers sailed yesterday from Liverpool for New-York on board the Cedric, and will spend the summer at Newport.

Mrs. William R. Travers has returned to town from Newport, where she has rented the Weaver cottage, in Berkeley-ave., for the season.

Invitations have been issued for the wedding of Miss Elsie Whitney, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred R. Whitney, and Harold D. Griswold, of New-York. The ceremony will take place at the Church of the Redeemer, at Morristown, on Wednesday, June 15.

Mrs. Henry Clews is booked to sail on June 9 for France, where she will spend the summer with her son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Clews, jr. Mr. Clews will join her at the end of June.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Sewall, of Boston, are receiving congratulations on the birth of a son. The latter is a grandchild of Rear Admiral Robley D. Evans.

Count and Countess Henri de Frankenstein will arrive early next month from Italy to spend the summer with Mme. de Frankenstein's mother, Mrs. William Cullen Brewster, at Nantucket, Mass.

Mr. and Mrs. Elbridge T. Gerry and the Misses Gerry expect to leave town to-day on their yacht Electra for Newport. They have arranged to go abroad early in August and spend the rest of the summer on the other side.

James Henry Smith has moved to the house of the late William C. Whitney, No. 871 Fifth-ave., which he has just purchased. He will make it his headquarters in town until he goes abroad next month. In the mean time he will continue to make frequent trips to his country house at Tuxedo, where he will have a house party over Memorial Day.

Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton Fish Webster, who are abroad, sail for New-York to-day. They will go to Newport on their arrival here and open their cottage in Harrison-ave. for the summer.

Mrs. Stuyvesant Fish closes her town house, Madison-ave. and Seventy-eighth-st., to-day, and goes to her country home at Garrisons, where she will remain until she starts for Newport.

Miss Susan Butler's cousin will be her maid of honor and only attendant at her marriage to Francis C. Huntington at St. James, Long Island, on June 15. Mr. Huntington's father, the Rev. Dr. Huntington, rector of Grace Church, will officiate. Miss Butler left town yesterday for the season and joined her mother, Mrs. Prescott Hall Butler, at St. James.

The road coach Venture was driven to the races at Gravesend yesterday by Robert L. Gerry. Alfred G. Vanderbilt drove the Pioneer to Ardsley.

WAR VIEWS OF EXPERTS.

Surprise at Japanese Occupation of Heights South of Kin-Chow.

[FROM THE TRIBUNE BUREAU.]

Washington, May 27.—The military experts express surprise that the Japanese should have taken and are now occupying the heights south of Kin-Chow. Officers here knew that the neighboring hills afforded unusual opportunities for defence, and believed that the Japanese would not be able to dislodge the Russians without much loss of life. According to Tokio advices at the Japanese Legation here, the attack was from the sea as well as from the land, and the Japanese force was partly made up of landing parties. There are several ways to account for the Japanese success. The Russian resistance may have been perfunctory or the Japanese may have been in much greater force. One officer said the Russians got out of Kin-Chow and abandoned the positions on the neighboring heights either because they had to or because they wanted to. He meant to express the military view which, at least in some quarters, still clings to the theory that Kuropatkin knows exactly what he is doing, and that his abandonment of a place does not really add to the strength of the enemy.

Army officers say that Kuropatkin's dispatches give evidence that their author possesses much information of the Japanese. He tells of their movements around Feng-Wang-Cheng and from Taku-Shan and in the neighborhood of Kin-Chow. The officers who feel that the Russians have employed every facility at their command and believe they have a reason for whatever is done hold the view that nothing of great importance has been accomplished yet, and that even the occupation of the Kin-Chow heights—which is of more importance in a strategic way than the investment of the town—is merely a step to something of real value in the relative movements of the opposing forces. These officers repeat their warnings that too much faith must not be placed in the dispatches of correspondents who are not in the field, and who, although in Tokio, have no better means of knowing what is occurring than a reporter in Detroit.

Some of the officers believe that the condition of the roads in Manchuria must soon bring to an end anything like mobilization of troops, and that there will be a tedious period of watching and waiting. Some believe that some sign of the Russian plan of campaign will soon appear. They think this cannot be kept back much longer, or it will become apparent that the Russians have no plan at all. That is the belief of others in the service, but few army officers entertaining views prejudicial to the Russians are found. The naval officers generally think that the Russians are doomed to defeat, and to-day the sympathizers with the Japanese regarded the occupation of Kin-Chow as an important step in the campaign. An estimate of the importance of the Kin-Chow engagement is made difficult by the absence in to-day's advices of trustworthy statistics of the casualties.

CHANGES AT PRINCETON.

Professor Hibben to Edit a New Publication, To Be Called "Epochs of Philosophy."

Princeton, N. J., May 27 (Special).—Professor Grant Showerman, of the University of Wisconsin, was announced to-day as professor of Latin in Princeton for next year in place of Dr. Jesse B. Carter, who has accepted the professorship of Latin in the American School of Classical Studies in Rome, and will be in Europe for the school year of 1904-'05. At the end of his term Dr. Carter will resume his place in Princeton University. Professor Showerman will begin his duties in September.

Professor John G. Hibben, of the Princeton University logic department, has accepted an invitation to become editor of a new philosophical series, to be published by Charles Scribner's Sons. The series will be known as "The Epochs of Philosophy," and will consist of twelve volumes, six of them to be written by leading American philosophers and six selected from prominent English and Scotch authorities. Dr. Hibben sails for Europe on June 7, to make arrangements for the foreign contributors, but will return to Princeton for his college duties next fall. He will himself contribute to the series a volume of the eighteenth century called "The Philosophy of Enlightenment."

BISHOP POTTER CHOSEN PRESIDENT.

Boston, May 27.—The Actors' Church Alliance last night elected the following officers: President, Bishop Potter, of New-York; vice-presidents, Joseph Jefferson and Mrs. Bessie Taylor Bennington; treasurer, John A. Holden; general secretary and organizer, the Rev. Walter E. Bentley, and recording secretary, Miss Edythe Totten.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

CAN THE COMMISSION EXPLAIN THIS?

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: I am curious to know why the Essex County Park Commission has practically ruined the finest and most popular roadway in the South Mountain Reservation. I refer to Cherry Lane, which runs along the Orange reservoir between the first and second mountains and ends at South Orange-ave., and the Brookside Drive, which runs from South Orange-ave. southerly and past Campbell's Pond to Millburn. Up to last year this road had a good top dressing of macadam, was hard and smooth and particularly good for cycling. I went over it with, but not on, my wheel last Saturday afternoon. From a point near the southerly end of the reservoir I found it covered to a depth of at least three inches with loose dirt and scrap stone. It was the same along the Brookside Drive, except from the top of the hill southerly to a point about half a mile south of Campbell's Pond, where it was covered with about three inches of loose ashes, cinders and factory refuse. Broken glass and other junk were mixed in with the ashes at places, and at several points the odor of garbage polluted the pure mountain air. Just why this idiotic thing has been done to this fine drive is a mystery, unless some one had dirt, scrap stone and old cinders to sell and buncoed somebody into buying them. Anyway, the condition of the road is a disgrace, and calls for immediate attention. Yours very truly,

Orange, N. J., May 23. DANIEL A. DUGAN.

CHARLTON T. LEWIS MEMBER OF D. K. E.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: In your sketch of the late Charlton T. Lewis in to-day's paper, you omitted to mention his connection with an organization in which he took a very active interest for fifty years—the Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity, which he joined at Yale. He was a favorite orator at the conventions of this fraternity in later years, was the first president of the Delta Kappa Epsilon Club of New-York, from 1885 to 1887, was vice-president of the Delta Kappa Epsilon Association of New-York for 1904, and presided at the annual dinner of that association on April 15. This was almost his last public appearance. He had recently declined several invitations to speak on other public occasions, but his affection for his old college fraternity was so great that he responded to this call and spoke with such eloquence and magnetism that he seemed to be fifty rather than seventy years old, and many remarked his youthful vigor.

He was admired and beloved by the members of the fraternity, and especially by those who had personally felt his influence and enthusiasm in its behalf. He himself would not have considered any account of his life complete which omitted mention of his connection with Delta Kappa Epsilon, and therefore I call your attention to it. F. S. W.

New-York, May 27, 1904.

VARIOUS VIEWS OF PROVIDENCE.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Invariably so accurate in discussing international ethics and the individual code, you seem to have been off guard in this morning's editorial on "Various Views of Providence." You speak of "each of two antagonists," expressing "the confident belief that Divine Providence was marshalled on its side," and you conclude that obviously one of them must have been mistaken. God was not fighting on both sides. That is emphatic; but, is it true?

There are two parties concerned in every contest, and not infrequently neither is wholly in the right. There is an element of justice in every claim, otherwise there would be no reason for its existence. In so far as each party embodies the divine principles, so far God is represented on both sides, and fights for each. You seem to condition the part of Providence upon the claims of the antagonists; whereas, He must be external, in a sense, existing independently of them, and uninfluenced by such claims. You can no more exclude Him from "the fortunes of war" to-day than you can exclude Him from the history of the world. His footprints through the ages have ever been stained with blood, and it has been only through intensest conflicts, physical, intellectual, moral and religious, that men have learned His truth. He has literally fought on both sides. History will tell us whether in the divine balances Russia weighs more than Japan, and she may tell us again that the ultimate triumph is not always on the side of "the heaviest battalions" and "the most guns." Your "Various Views of Providence" need revision. You cannot rule Providence out of the Eastern debate. In spite of prejudice He is likely still there. On which side I with pre-eminent favor do not profess to know. "God is His own interpreter, and He will make it plain." W. B. JOHNSON.

Campbell Hall, N. Y., May 23, 1904.

A HANDSOME MAGAZINE.

From The Newark Daily Advertiser.

Possibly some of our readers have not seen The New-York Sunday Tribune recently. If so, it would pay them to get a copy, if for nothing more than to examine the new Sunday Magazine, which is given free with that paper. The Sunday Tribune gives in handy form, easy to find, all the news of the world, with special articles on timely topics and handsome illustrations. It has now added to these features an independent magazine, with colored covers, and a splendid colored picture, separate, suitable for framing. This magazine itself is worth 10 cents of anybody's money. It contains original stories by the best authors, bright verse and all the other specialties that go to make up a first class publication for family perusal. For summer reading it is just the thing. It is lively, without being vulgar, and is so nicely balanced that the boy with a passion for outdoor sports will find it as interesting as his more serious minded parents. As for the girls, they all like it, regardless of their temperament or disposition. Buy it from your newsdealer or send $2 to the office in New-York for a year's subscription.