Amusements.

BELASCO THEATRE—8—Sweet Kitty Bellairs.
BROADWAY THEATRE—8:15—The Yankee Consul.
CASINO—8:15—Piff, Paff, Pouf.
CIRCLE—2:15—8—Vaudeville.
CONEY ISLAND—Dreamland—Luna Park—Johnstown Flood—Bostock's Animal Arena.
CRITERION—8:30—The Dictator.
EDEN MUSEE—World in Wax.
LYRIC THEATRE—8:15—Wang.
MADISON SQUARE GARDEN—8:30—Venice.
MURRAY HILL THEATRE—2—8—My Friend from India.
NEW-YORK—8—The Southerners.
PROCTOR'S—Twenty-third Street—Vaudeville. Fifty-eighth Street—The Fortune Teller. Fifth Avenue—Needles and Pins. One-hundred-and-twenty-fifth Street—The New Magdalen.
SAVOY THEATRE—8:30—Tit for Tat.
THIRD AVENUE—8—King of Detectives.
VICTORIA—2—8:15—Varieties.
WALLACK'S—8:20—The County Chairman.

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New-York Daily Tribune.

TUESDAY, MAY 31, 1904.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN.—An engagement between a Japanese detachment and 2,000 Cossacks took place at I-Yang-Pien-Men, northeast of Feng-Wang-Cheng, on Saturday, the Japanese being victorious; their losses were given as four killed and twenty-eight wounded. ═══ General Oku reported that the Russians had abandoned three towns before the Japanese advance on the Kwan-Tung Peninsula; four more guns were captured. ═══ The Russian Foreign Office termed preposterous the report that an offer had been made to China to evacuate Manchuria in exchange for the Ili territory. ═══ Advices were received in Washington that a Japanese army of 15,000 men had departed for Corea, presumably to close in on the Russian rear in Northeast Corea and cut off raiding parties that threaten Kuroki's communications; it was said in Washington that acceptance by China of Japan's offer of Manchurian territory would be considered by Russia a violation of neutrality.

DOMESTIC.—President Roosevelt visited the Gettysburg battlefield and addressed a large crowd; he returned to Washington last night. ═══ The noteworthy Memorial Day celebrations in New-York State and New-England included a speech by General Miles at Portland, Me.; addresses by ex-Governor Dyer and Governor Garvin at North Providence, R. I.; an oration by Governor Bates at Lynn, Mass., and exercises at the cottage where General Grant died, at Mount McGregor, N. Y. ═══ Mayor McLane, of Baltimore, committed suicide by shooting at his home in that city; he had been married only two weeks; his friends regard the act as a sequel to the Baltimore fire of last February; he had also been criticised for his political acts, and his marriage was said to have caused an estrangement in his family. ═══ A report from Consul Gummere at Tangier said that Moroccan bandits threatened the lives of their captives, Perdicaris and Varley, unless their demands for ransom were met; Admiral Jewell reported the departure of the European squadron for Tangier. ═══ A syndicate negotiated for the purchase of 5,206 shares of the stock of the Congress Spring Company, held by Saratoga men, thereby getting control of 80 per cent of the capital stock. ═══ A private died at Fort Ethan Allen, near Burlington, Vt., from stab wounds said to have been inflicted by comrades in a disturbance which the private had tried to quell. ═══ A man killed his wife and shot himself at Canaan, Conn.; he is expected to recover. ═══ Secretary Taft spoke at Topeka, Kan.

CITY.—Charles F. Murphy denied that he was going to push Mayor McClellan for President. ═══ President Truesdale estimates the loss by the Hoboken fire at $1,000,000. ═══ Opinions that the city needs fireproof piers to prevent destructure waterfront fires were expressed. ═══ An expert swimmer was drowned in the Harlem while seeking aid for companions whose boat had capsized. ═══ Bellevue Hospital was in darkness and the lights of several theatres were partly affected by the lightning, which made useless an armature in the power house of the United Electric Light and Power Company. ═══ The Memorial Day parade past the Soldiers and Sailors' Monument in Riverside Park was large and was applauded by immense crowds. ═══ Many thousands of New-Yorkers left the city for a day's outing. ═══ Alfred G. Vanderbilt narrowly escaped a collision in his "auto" boat, Hard Boiled Egg, at the race at Manhasset Bay ═══ C. S. Titus was outrowed in the single sculls in the Harlem regatta by Fred Vesely. ═══ The winners at Gravesend were: 1, Reliable; 2, Caller; 3, Duke of Kendal; 4, Glorifier; 5, Sheriff Bell; 6, Agile; 7, Go Between.

THE WEATHER.—Indications for to-day: Rain, followed by fair. The temperature yesterday: Highest, 77 degrees; lowest, 62.

THE PRESIDENT AT GETTYSBURG.

President Roosevelt struck a characteristic note in his speech yesterday at Gettysburg. Orators on that field are given to elaborating its meaning to the men who fought there, or to the generation to which they offered their lives a willing sacrifice. But the last word on Gettysburg's significance to the generation which fought the war was said long ago. No one can hope to make another speech there like Lincoln's. It is wiser to try, as the President did, to find a lesson for our own day in the patriotic devotion to which Gettysburg and the hundred other battlefields of the Civil War so richly testify.

The President justly says that the men whose memory the nation honored yesterday "combined the power of fealty to a lofty ideal with "the power of showing that fealty in hard, practical, common-sense fashion." They discovered that little could be done by sudden, violent effort; that "triumph would come not by a "single brilliant victory, but by a hundred pain-"ful and tedious campaigns." They realized the necessity of continuous effort, of constant struggle and self-denial. Fidelity to duty, the President holds, is as imperative for us to-day as it was for the men who saved the Union a generation ago. "We can make and keep this "country worthy of the men who gave their "lives to save it only on condition that the "average man among us on the whole does his "duty bravely, loyally and with common sense, "in whatever position life allots him." Courage was the cardinal virtue of the soldier. The civic virtue we need most to practise and cultivate is honesty. That is the "essential, basic virtue," without which all else avails nothing. "We can preserve our liberty and our greatness "in time of peace only by ourselves exercising "the virtues of honesty, of self-restraint and of "fair dealing between man and man."

These are truisms, it may be urged. But they are truisms which cannot be too often emphasized. The tendency of American life to-day is too much in the direction of a lax standard of personal honesty. The spirit of commercialism, the eager desire for wealth, the spread of luxury, the passion for get-rich-quick methods in business and finance, are often conspicuous in certain sections of society. The law is not always looked on as a restraining force, obeyed for the best interest of all, but too frequently as an inconvenient impediment to individuals and corporations bent on amassing wealth. Yet, in spite of these downward tendencies, the spirit of honesty for its own sake, of self-restraint, of contempt for underhand advantage, still survives in the American world of business.

It is to the infinite credit of the President as a man and a statesman that he does not hesitate to preach, in season or out of season, these truisms of public and private honesty, of civic and personal obligation. He sees the taint in the life about him to which many others comfortably close their eyes, and with all the vigor of his character he has warred against the forces of public and private corruption. He preaches always the ideal of personal integrity, of helpfulness, of generosity, of fair dealing between man and man, of respect for the law, of contempt for successes bought by meanness and trickery. His strength before the people rests, above all things, on the conviction that he stands for the enforcement of one law for all, and for the extirpation not only of the "boodler" in politics, but of the "boodler" in business. The President's address yesterday is at one in its main purpose with his addresses of the past. He rightly asks us to find in the ideals of the men who saved the Union at Gettysburg an inspiration to practical and self-denying civic duty.

COUNTING THE COST.

The Japanese loss in killed and wounded in the swift engagements which resulted in the capture of Kin-Chow and Nan-Shan is reckoned at thirty-five hundred. That estimate comes from Japanese sources, and may be too small, though there is no reason to suspect a deliberate purpose to deceive the world in regard to the number of casualties. The Japanese authorities have not tried heretofore to make light of such disasters as have befallen them or to belittle the cost of their successes. On the contrary, they have chosen, so far as we are able to judge, to let the truth appear as soon as it has been ascertained. Nevertheless, it would not be surprising if their loss, especially in the nine assaults on the fortified heights of Nan-Shan, exceeded thirty-five hundred, or if the proportion of deaths was extraordinarily large. The fact that the Russians held their ground with admirable tenacity justifies the supposition that they made a thrifty as well as a resolute use of their defensive resources.

In consideration of what it cost the Japanese to achieve their object, some distant critics are disposed to condemn the operation. Nor is that unnatural. The human mind is so constituted that the thought of a deluge of blood poured out in a few hours is more distressing than the contemplation of an equal destruction of life by slower processes, attended, perhaps, by prolonged suffering. If the Japanese had captured Kin-Chow and Nan-Shan after two or three weeks of intermittent fighting, at an even greater cost, those to whom last week's short, sharp and decisive actions seem cruelly wasteful would very likely feel not merely that the result was invaluable, but that it had been economically obtained. Censure of the course pursued by the Japanese after a valid calculation of what was possible to such valor and persistency as theirs reflects a humane sentiment, but it is not logical. If they had failed, then indeed it would have been reasonable to find fault with orders which involved a useless slaughter. But they succeeded, they saved much precious time and they presumptively created an impression on the minds of the enemy from which they may fairly hope to derive advantage hereafter.

General Grant justified the bloodshed of his Wilderness campaign by the practical results which it produced, and deemed it irrational to describe as "butchery" operations which, in his opinion, were less prolific of suffering and less destructive of military resources, including human life, than a long campaign which might have accomplished the same ultimate result would have been. His judgment has not been universally approved by military critics, but it has not been overthrown. Indeed, the argument for which his reputation and his achievements commanded at least a respectful hearing appears to us to have gained a large measure of acceptance since his day. At all events, the considerations which he suggested can be persuasively advanced as often as a heavy sacrifice is rewarded by an important victory.

FIRES ON A WATERFRONT.

Although the actual loss from the fire in Jersey City on Sunday evening probably exceeded $1,000,000, it might easily have been far greater. Two things conspired to help the firemen in checking the progress of the flames. The original outbreak occurred while yet there remained two hours or more of daylight, and the wind was light. Had the first alarm been given after 9 o'clock, and had a stiff southeasterly breeze been blowing, the consequences would certainly have been more terrible. The fire, instead of being confined to the waterfront, would have swept the northern part of Jersey City and might have destroyed the larger part of Hoboken. Thousands of people might thus have been rendered homeless, and property damaged to the extent of $25,000,000 or $30,000,000. Perhaps, too, some of the insurance companies which suffered severely from the Baltimore fire would by this disaster have been driven perilously near to insolvency. Altogether, it was a narrow escape!

The lessons of Jersey City's experience are the same that Hoboken and the great steamship companies which have piers there learned four years ago. When oil, coal and other kinds of combustible freight are piled on piers which are constructed largely of wood, a perilous situation exists. Give a fire so much to feed on, and it is almost impossible to stop it. Again, the Lackawanna company was not any too well equipped for dealing with the trouble when the emergency arose. Indeed, it is said that the tugs of the Erie company did more to help its rival than the latter did for itself.

Finally, the Fire Department of Jersey City labored under some disadvantages. It needs more boats, like those which New-York sent to its assistance, for service along the waterfront. Courage and strategy are necessary in a crisis, but they are not enough. Modern apparatus is also essential to safety. Had the Lackawanna piers been provided with such pipes as were tested on this side of the North River last Sunday, and had Chief Conway been able to dispatch a powerful fireboat to the scene of danger immediately after the first alarm, a few thousand dollars might have made good the loss. Jersey City owes it to herself, to Hoboken and to New-York to improve her equipment in this respect.

A RUSSIAN ARMADA.

The latest Russian plans for sending the Baltic fleet to the China seas have an air at once grandiose and ominous. There is something impressive in the proposal to send an armada of more than threescore vessels half way round the world, and upon the face of it the advance of such a fleet should portend woe to the audacious islanders who have dared to thwart the expansionist policy of the Russian Empire. But when we consider the details of the case there appear elements of weakness that seem to portend grave peril, if not outright disaster, for the stupendous enterprise.

It must be borne in mind that the sixty-two vessels will not all be fighting vessels. There will be not more than four or five modern battleships, and perhaps as many cruisers. There will be a score or more of torpedo boats. The rest will be helpless non-combatants, carrying coal and other supplies. For under the laws of neutrality the Russian warships cannot coal in neutral ports, and Russia has no coaling stations on all that long sea route. (We can see, now, why she has been so uncommonly desirous in late years of securing a station near Obok and another at Bander Abbas.) Therefore, she must send floating coal mines along with her fighting ships, with which to supply the latter at sea. Such mid-sea coaling would in any case be a difficult and even perilous task, as our own navy can testify. But there will be a far worse menace in the way.

Let us suppose that by that time, three months hence, the Japanese have disposed of the remnants of the Russian fleets at Port Arthur and Vladivostok, as they should certainly be able to do. Then their fighting navy will be free to go elsewhither. Suppose it should meet that Russian armada at sea. Outnumbering the Russian fighting ships two or three to one, a part of it could engage them while the others destroyed or captured the helpless colliers and supply ships, the loss of which would mean ruin to the whole fleet. It does not seem that it would be possible for the few Russian fighting ships to protect that whole convoy, especially against those mighty Japanese cruisers which have the speed of commerce destroyers and the broadsides of battleships.

Russia is already feeling the crushing handicap of five thousand miles of single track railroad communication between her army and its base of supplies and reinforcements. She will feel the equal handicap of a much longer distance by sea for her naval communications without a single port of supply on the whole route. It would be difficult to exaggerate the value that another track on that railroad and a few well placed naval and coaling stations would be to her at the present time. But she has them not, and it is now too late to secure them for use in this war. Never was there a more striking illustration of the need of preparing for war in time of peace.

FUN AT THE BEACHES.

Refusing to be discouraged by the comparatively poor business and the many failures in places of entertainment in the various boroughs of New-York in the autumn and winter, the purveyors of amusements at the nearby seaside resorts have spent more money and have been more ambitious in their schemes for public diversions than they have ever been before. Their outlays have been so extensive, they are giving employment to such hosts of people and their plans for the recreation of the masses are so ingenious, varied and attractive that they fully deserve a handsome return for their investments.

The World's Fair in St. Louis is a long way off for the swarming millions on the coasts of New-York and New-Jersey. But there are "Pikes" and "Midways" and dazzling shows of almost every imaginable kind within the sound of the Atlantic surges and within easy reach of all parts of the Union, from Cape May northward. At no time in the past have the North Atlantic beaches been so thickly studded with attractive and variegated places for gayety and enjoyment as for the summer of 1904.

MAN AND NATURE.

It is not easy to apprehend the fact that human life on the globe is dependent upon such incidents as co-operation with birds or the collateral evolution of certain plants. Yet it has been asserted by scientists that human life, if possible at all on the globe, would be at a very low stage but for the coexistence of three or four families of plants—the cereal, the solanum, the palm and the rose families. Wherever we turn we find ourselves in interdependent relations with these four allies. The palm alone, with its ancient representatives in the coal era, gives us not fewer than one thousand varieties of valuable fruits and fibres. The solanum family gives us the potato, the tomato and tobacco; the cereal family gives us rice, on which one-third of the race mostly subsists; oats and corn for ourselves and our domesticated animals, as well as wheat and rye for bread, and the true grasses for animals. These last are simply undeveloped cereals. The rose family gives us nearly all the fruits in our orchards and gardens, as well as the noblest of the flowers that adorn our lawns. Some representatives of each one of these families are found over the larger part of the habitable globe.

An important evolution is still going on in plant life. We are more likely, however, to note the appearance of noxious plants than the development of those of sterling merit. These very weeds indicate a struggle for existence, in which struggle the oversight of man is required. Out of the crowding occasionally comes a plant of marvellous beneficence, like the potato. In fact, the greater part of human effort is exerted in selecting from what nature produces and destroying the poorer product. Most of the finer apples, plums and cherries could not have struggled into dominance over the wild and the crabbed fruit without our assistance. We are still getting on with second rate things in our gardens and orchards, because we have not had wit enough to prevent some of the choicest from being lost. The work of Mr. Burbank in California is valuable not only for what he is directly producing for us in the way of new and finer varieties of fruit, but for the inspiration which he is giving to the people everywhere to experiment for themselves and to take a hand in evolution.

Occasionally some plant demonstrates remarkable power, aggressive and defensive, in the way of surviving among inferior things. Alfalfa, which was known by the Greeks and Romans, has suddenly been found to be, under favorable conditions, the greatest forage plant in the world. It is a leguminous plant and a perennial, belonging to the pea family. On its roots are little nodules, as there are on all the beans and clovers, enabling them to take nitrogen directly from the air. In this way they are all of them adding nitrogenous and fertilizing material to the soil. Alfalfa hay has been proved to be 45 per cent better than clover and 60 per cent better than timothy grass. In Colorado alfalfa can be cut four times in a season, and in our Eastern States three times. Ploughing it under as a manurial agent and soil restorative has proved to be of great value to all sorts of land. It is rich in phosphoric acid, in potash and lime, as well as in the nitrogen which it takes from the air. The large, long roots work down into the subsoil to a great depth, and serve much as a subsoil plough. Roots have been accurately measured in New-Mexico that showed a growth of thirty-two feet in length. Here, then, we have a plant suddenly brought into notice which is not an exhaustive crop, however long continued may be its occupation of the soil, and, at the same time, is a forage plant that considerably surpasses anything before known. Alfalfa hay is used for fattening sheep, is a first rate milk producer, while horses can live on it all the year around. One acre will sustain fifteen hogs from spring to fall. This wonderful plant was brought into Mexico by the early Spanish conquerors, who, however, knew little of its great value. It did not reach Colorado until 1862, and has hardly been known in the Eastern States more than ten to fifteen years.

Alfalfa is a capital example of what may be expected to appear in vegetable life at any time as an adjunct of human evolution. It will alone nearly revolutionize stock raising. Its influence upon the production of honey will be almost as marked as its effect on forage production. The Agricultural Department at Washington announces that by careful experimentation it has succeeded in producing an orange hardy enough to be grown in our Northern States. This fruit is not large, nor is it what its producers consider an ideal, but it is a fruit on the road of evolution. The Japanese persimmon, which was introduced into the United States about twenty years ago, has not proved to be hardy north of the Ohio River, but it has opened the eyes of our pomologists to the fact that in our own native persimmon we have not a finished fruit, but something decidedly open to betterment. The quince, also, which has so long remained as a semi-astringent fruit, good only for preserves and flavoring, is in the hands of enthusiasts, who are beginning to produce from it varieties suitable for dessert. Nature has taken us deeply into her secrets. Betterment has become the law of civilization. "To do as well as our fathers we must do better." To live as happily as they, we must have increased elements of happiness. We cannot go backward; we cannot stand still; we must go forward. The marvel is that we can go forward only by taking along with us animal and vegetable life.

"The thin line in faded blue" becomes thinner at each return of Memorial Day, but the fame of the Grand Army will never die.

The Osaka men wrote their names high on Nan-Shan Hill.

Among the diversions and sports scheduled to take place yesterday in and around New-York were two baseball games, twelve yachting and rowing events, four athletic games, two of polo, five racing and trotting affairs, two games of lacrosse, three of lawn tennis, nine of golfing and seven cricket matches. The spirit of patriotism is not dead, but reverence seems to be sadly on the decline.

Although the Japanese now and then encounter serious losses, they appear to be getting there; and that's the main thing, after all.

Some Democrats, it is said, are preparing to give Mr. Bryan a talking to at St. Louis. Perhaps it would be well for them to remember that Mr. Bryan is something of a talker himself.

Freight is moving with reasonable speed between New-York and the principal centres of traffic in New-England. But it is a cause of regret that, owing to a temporary depression among many of the Yankee manufactories, industries and trades of all kinds, there is not just now so much of it to move as there was when the mills and shops and marts were working night shifts because they were overwhelmed with orders before the cotton corner, the fall in steel prices and the temporary lessening of building operations.

Judging from his itemized account, the detective who has been on the trail of Dodge would have been very sorry to find him. Hunting him was such great fun.

It is expected that one thousand Tammany men will go from New-York to St. Louis to be present at the National Democratic Convention. But the Tiger is not likely to affright any considerable number of the delegates, and, in fact, it may fairly be expected to return to its den with its tail between its legs. In fact, the turnings down of the Tiger at conventions have been so numerous and so disastrous that the creature is in the habit of foreseeing defeat.

It was the navy that saved the day for Japan at Nan-Shan, and thus again demonstrated the importance of sea power in modern warfare.

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

The possibilities of the English language are never better shown than when some Western musical critic lays himself out in judgment upon one of Mr. Conried's operatic stars. Mme. Sembrich recently sang in San Francisco, and a newspaper critic of much distinction pronounced her "The peerless canary of colorature."

FROM A PHYSICIAN'S POINT OF VIEW.
He who eats and runs away
Will have dys-pep-sia some day.
—(Baltimore American.

The attendance on the opening day of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition is now reported officially to have been 187,793. When the Great White City in Chicago, in 1893, unbarred its gates, the assemblage numbered 137,557. But that was more than a decade ago, and this country has made amazing progress in population and national development since then.

Piker—Why did they call the mediæval period the "Dark Ages"?
Professor—Because it was knight time.—(Cornell Widow.

In a little town named Manning, in one of the well settled States of the Union, not long ago a magistrate, while the court was in session, and at the entrance of the courthouse, pulled out his revolver and fired five shots into the body of a lawyer with whom he had had a quarrel over a matter of business. The magistrate was a Daniel Boone, a Leatherstocking, after James Fenimore Cooper's own heart, and also a Davy Crockett in marksmanship. Every one of his five bullets went home. That little matter of business may be said to have been settled finally. But what of the magisterial assassin? Oh, he will be triumphantly acquitted, of course.

UNCONFIRMED.

A coolie just in from Wang-Cheng-Wing
Says the Japs are dying by thousands there;
Strange bugs that kill whatever they sting,
Like dense, black clouds are filling the air.

Reports from Fi-Fo-Fum, Foo-Chin,
Flim-Flam, Fan-Tan and Song-Woo-Chink
Say the Japanese ranks are becoming thin
On account of the water they have to drink.

Persistent rumors are floating around
Concerning a fight off Wal-Hai-Wen.
Six thousand nine hundred Japs were drowned.
The Russians lost only eleven men.

A report has come in from Woon-Wang-Fong
Which says that a Japanese cruiser sank
By running against a pitchfork prong
Thrust out by a Cossack upon the bank.

Major General Przbidiskivitch
Sends word that he's heard from a trustworthy source
Of a thousand Japanese smothered in pitch
Poured on them by Gstzmuistoroff's Russian force.

A rumor is brought from Whang-Dee-Doo
That thousands are dying from cholera there,
And another report from Kow-Cheng-Foo
Says the Japs are retreating and in despair.

A refugee from Chang-Fung-Low
Describes a thrilling and deadly scene:
A lightning bug dealt the Japs a blow
By touching its spark to a magazine.

There are rumors from Frou-Frou, Wing-Lee-Sur,
Bon-Ton, Hai-Mow, Kin-Chew, Kan-Get,
That say the Japs are "all in" and done,
But the stories are unconfirmed as yet.
—(Chicago Record-Herald.

The Prince of Monaco has graciously consented to let the mystery of his finances be unveiled in the "Figaro." He would have done this before if he had thought that the world took any interest in the matter, according to "The London Chronicle." But he has been brought to see that it is injurious to his reputation to have it generally believed that he lives out of the tribute of the gaming tables at Monte Carlo. The Monaco Budget is duly presented in the "Figaro," and it appears that the principality has an ample revenue quite apart from the gamblers. Why, a thousand a year is raised upon matches alone! The company which provides the refreshing seabaths of Monaco, to say nothing of the theatre and sports, pays a handsome contribution. So modest are the Prince's personal wants that his minister of finance has not given him a halfpenny for three years. The total income from the Casino is devoted to the cause of charity and the advancement of science. "If you have lost all your money at the tables, be consoled by the thought that it is healing some poor creature in the hospital, or otherwise spreading the arts of peace." This should be inscribed in letters of gold over the portals of the Casino.

A Chicago girl wrote the beauty department of a local paper and asked, "What is good for big feet?" Promptly the reply appeared, "Big shoes."—(Houston Post.

Peremptory notices to the public are so general in this city that no one asks whether they are good manners or not. Everybody is so used to being bidden to "step lively" by the unkempt servants of public service corporations, or sternly commanded to "excuse me" by the hurrying pedestrian who runs one down, that "keep off the grass" does not seem offensive. It is interesting to know, though, that that sign has been banished from London's parks. "No smoking allowed," which used to adorn many public and private rooms, has assumed a less minatory form. The London County Council has set a good example in the tone of its necessary warnings, which generally contain a reminder that their property is the people's own property. The politest notice, perhaps, is one in a London churchyard: "You are kindly requested not to throw paper or refuse into the garden."

Tommy—Ma, I wish you'd gimme some cake.
Mother—Tommy! Didn't I tell you not to ask for any cake?
Tommy—I ain't askin'; I'm jest wishin'.—(Philadelphia Ledger.

About People and Social Incidents.

AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

[FROM THE TRIBUNE BUREAU.]

Washington, May 30.—The President and Mrs. Roosevelt will entertain the honorary board of Philippine commissioners to the St. Louis Exposition at luncheon at the White House on Friday, June 10. The luncheon will be followed by a reception.

Secretary Loeb, accompanied by Mrs. Loeb, will leave Washington on Wednesday for a two weeks' trip to Yellowstone Park. While Secretary Loeb is absent Assistant Secretary B. F. Barnes will be in charge of the White House office force.

THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS.

[FROM THE TRIBUNE BUREAU.]

Washington, May 30.—Countess Cassini has contributed to a May magazine an article concerning her experiences in Manchuria and Siberia, illustrated with photographs of native scenes and pictures of herself in Russian and Chinese costume. The proceeds of the article will be added to the Russian Red Cross fund.

The Russian Ambassador will transfer the embassy to Bar Harbor about June 10. Commander Boutakoff, naval attaché of the embassy, has recovered from his illness, and will soon leave here with his family for the summer.

Viscount de Chambrun, of the French Embassy, who is now in St. Louis, will return to Washington to-morrow.

Lady and Miss Durand, wife and daughter of the British Ambassador, will leave here on Wednesday for Lenox, where they will be joined by the ambassador later in the month.

Mme. Hengelmüller, wife of the Austrian Ambassador, is recovering so satisfactorily from the illness that has caused her friends concern that her physicians now allow her to see intimate friends. No date has been fixed for the transfer of the embassy to Bar Harbor, but the change will be made as soon as Mme. Hengelmüller is strong enough to travel.

NOTES OF SOCIETY IN WASHINGTON.

[FROM THE TRIBUNE BUREAU.]

Washington, May 30.—Justice and Mrs. Brewer will leave Washington on Wednesday for a short visit to Albany, but will return here, to remain until July.

Justice Brown will close his home here on July 15 and go to Stockbridge, in the Berkshires, for the summer.

Justice and Mrs. McKenna have not yet decided upon their plans for the summer. Justice McKenna is at present confined to his home with a slight illness.

Justice and Mrs. White will go to Narragansett Pier for the summer.

Justice and Mrs. Holmes will spend the season at their home at Nahant.

Lord Lyveden and his party of British travellers, who have been in Washington for the last few days, went to Mount Vernon to-day to visit Washington's tomb.

Mrs. Oliver Cromwell will chaperone a dinner and dance to be given Wednesday night at the Chevy Chase Club. The guests will represent the young people in official and diplomatic society.

Mrs. Edward McCauley is spending the early summer at Chevy Chase.

Rear Admiral and Mrs. McGowan, Miss Anna McGowan and Rear Admiral Harmony will be among the Washington people who will spend the summer in the Adirondacks.

The Misses Ripley, of New-York, are visiting Mrs. H. Churchill Candee, of Rhode Island-ave. Mrs. Candee and a small party of friends have just returned from a three days' outing on a canal boat trip toward Cumberland, Md.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilcox are about to leave here for the Yosemite Valley, to join Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Legare.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles G. Bennett entertained at dinner to-night at the Chevy Chase Club. Their dinner guests on Saturday evening at the club included Prince de Bearn and Captain Fournier, of the French Embassy; the Misses Goldsborough, Miss Ferguson and Rear Admiral Kenny.

General Crozier took a small party down the Potomac yesterday on his yacht, the Gretchen.

Mrs. Richardson Clover will sail on July 2 for Japan. She has closed her home here and gone to St. Louis to spend a month.

NEW-YORK SOCIETY.

Trinity Chapel will be the scene to-day of the marriage of Miss Edith Cryder, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Duncan Cryder, to F. Lothrop Ames, of Boston. For once the triplet sisters will not all be gowned alike, since the bride will naturally appear in the traditional white dress, orange blossoms and veil, while Miss Elsie and Miss Ethel Cryder, who are to be the bridesmaids, will be in frocks of cream lace, combined with pink, and will carry pink flowers. Miss Elise and Miss Alida Ames, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Ames, of Boston, and Miss Helen Hooper, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Hooper, of Boston, will act as flower girls, and will wear dresses similar to those of the bridesmaids. John Ames is to be his brother's best man, and William Woodward, Fletcher Harper, William Stackpole, Harold Blanchard, Townsend Irvin, Henry Adams, Randolph Grew, Philip Dalton, Edward Horton and Le Baron Russell the ushers. After the ceremony, which will be performed by the Rev. Dr. Morgan Dix, assisted by the Rev. Egisto F. Chauncey, a reception for the bride and bridegroom will be given by Mr. and Mrs. Cryder at their house, in West Ninth-st.

Weather favored the programme of sports and open air pastimes that had been prepared for Memorial Day, and, while the polo matches took a number of people to Meadow Brook and to Van Cortlandt Park, the various yacht and boat races undoubtedly enjoyed the greatest amount of popularity. The Seawanhaka Yacht Club had a long programme of races at Oyster Bay, and kept open house in connection therewith, and the Indian Harbor Yacht Club likewise celebrated the opening of its season. Tuxedo, the Westchester Country Club, Baltusrol, Ardsley and all the other suburban clubs were crowded throughout the day.

Lady Lister-Kaye, formerly Miss Natica Yznaga, second daughter of Mrs. Antonio Yznaga, is now settled at Peking, where her husband, Sir John Lister-Kaye, has large interests, which require his presence there during the greater part of the year. They have a handsome house, Chinese in its architecture but Anglo-American in its interior appointments, which is the scene of much hospitality.

Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton McK. Twombly, with a party of friends, left Madison, N. J., yesterday in their private car for St. Louis, to visit the exhibition.

Mrs. Ogden Goelet is booked to sail to-morrow from England for New-York, to attend the marriage of her son, Robert Goelet, and Miss Elsie Whelen, on June 14.

Le Grand C. Griswold left town on Saturday for Warwick, N. Y.

Mr. and Mrs. James M. Waterbury are now established at Spencer House, their country place at West Chester.

Mr. and Mrs. Artemas H. Holmes close their house, in Madison-ave., this week, and leave town for Tarrytown-on-the-Hudson, where they have taken a place for the summer.

Mrs. Theodore A. Havemeyer, sr., has leased a cottage at the Profile House, in the White Mountains, for the season, and will spend the summer there.

Mrs. Joseph C. Hoagland has closed her house, in West Fifty-first-st., and is established at Auldwood, her place near Seabright, for the summer, which her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Drexel Godfrey, will spend with her.

Newport's Country Club will not be opened this year, and seems to be doomed, the cause of its downfall apparently being that it is too far out in the country.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Henry Alexandre are at Shore Acres, their country place near Fort Wadsworth, on Staten Island.

Mr. and Mrs. Pembroke Jones have gone to Newport, making the trip on the steam yacht Narada. They are at the Inchiquin villa, which they have opened for the season.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Childs and Mrs. Charles M. Oelrichs have likewise gone to Newport for the summer.

Mrs. Hilborne L. Roosevelt has closed her home, No. 301 Lexington-ave., and gone to her country house, on the Rumson Road, Seabright, N. J., for the season.

The road coach Pioneer was chartered yesterday by Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Ceballos, who took a party to Ardsley. It was composed of Miss Lulu Ceballos, Miss Gladys Roosevelt, Miss Natalie Howland, Miss Bessie Hewitt, Miss Edith Hewitt, David Dows, George and Herbert Bodman and J. M. Ceballos, jr. Reginald Rives drove. The Pioneer has been engaged for to-day by Price Collier, by William Manice for to-morrow, by Miss Frances Ogden Jones for Thursday and by Alfred G. Vanderbilt for Friday.

Alfred G. Vanderbilt was whip of the road coach Venture yesterday, which he drove from the Holland House to the Gravesend track. The Venture's passengers were Mr. and Mrs. R. Burnham Moffat, Miss Mary G. Curtis, Miss Lois Low, Miss Elizabeth Davis, Miss Ann Sampson, Miss Helena P. Curtis, Benjamin R. Curtis, William J. Coffin, Lyon Gardiner, Dr. David Allen and Dr. Norman Ditman.

TUXEDO PARK NOTES.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Tuxedo Park, N. Y., May 30.—Memorial Day here was one round of gayety, and the weather, which was threatening, did not interfere in the least with the social affairs. Those who came up on Saturday remained over to-day to witness the first handicap clay pigeon shoot given by the Tuxedo Gun Club or to take part in the golf handicap, which also drew a large audience.

In the lawn tennis tournament, which came to a close to-day on the courts of the Tuxedo Tennis and Racquet Club, William B. Dinsmore, jr., won first prize. A large number attended, including Deane Miller, T. S. Taller, Erskine Hewitt, George Scott, J. Couper Lord, P. Lorillard, jr., J. Henry Smith and others.

Mr. and Mrs. J. McG. Woodbury came out on their automobile on Saturday, and remained over to-day at the clubhouse. George F. Baker, jr., J. F. D. Lanier, George I. Scott and Lloyd Warren also camue out by automobile, remaining over to-day.

Among those who entertained at dinner to-night were Mr. and Mrs. John Greenough, whose guests were Captain D. R. De Chair, royal naval attaché of the British Embassy at Washington, and Mrs. De Chair; Mr. and Mrs. John Murray Mitchell, Mr. and Mrs. Spencer Trask, Mr. and Mrs. Henry S. Redmond, Mr. and Mrs. George H. Hull, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Seton, jr., Mr. and Mrs. P. L. Ronalds, jr., Mr. and Mrs. Grenville Kane and Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Poor.

Among to-day's arrivals are F. S. Witherbee, Stewart Witherbee, E. T. Irvin, J. B. Townsend, William M. Dudley, Miss Alice Van Rensselaer, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Tams, Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Pooler, Mr. Edward Valpy, G. Tarleton Goldthwaite, Deane Miller, H. M. Tilford, Alexander Morten, H. H. Rogers, jr., Mr. and Mrs. S. Montgomery Roosevelt, C. de R. Moore, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Benkard, W. H. Russell, Mr. and Mrs. Archibald G. Thacher, Joseph McAnerney, Raleigh C. Gildersleeve and Stuart Walker.

WAR VIEWS OF EXPERTS.

Taking of Port Arthur Not Considered So Important Now.

[FROM THE TRIBUNE BUREAU.]

Washington, May 30.—It is a question among the military experts here whether the main body of Japanese troops is in the Kwan-Tung peninsula or in the vicinity of Feng-Wang-Cheng, and there is a marked division of opinion on the subject. If the fact were known here it would aid in determining the Japanese purpose and, of course, in deciding what the Russians would be obliged to do under the circumstances. Most army officers here do not believe that it is important to Japanese strategy now to take Port Arthur, unless the investment of that Russian base and port could be achieved without the great sacrifice which must be exacted of the Japanese. The next developments at Kin-Chow and south of that point are awaited with keen interest, especially as it is conceived by some observers that the Russians have arranged to advance from the north and obtain the advantage of getting the invading army in a position where a surrender may be dictated.

Those officers who believe that the main Japanese force is at and near Feng-Wang-Cheng say that it ought not to be long before there is an engagement between that place and Liao-Yang. There are two reasons given for this theory, one being the necessity of quick action on the part of the Japanese in order to obtain further advantage before the roads become absolutely impassable and before the invading army is hampered by the difficulties of getting supplies from home; the other is that the Russians must soon show their plan of campaign, if they have any. Hardly any army officer doubts the sagacity of Kuropatkin, or questions that he is without a complete system of defence and offence. The present delays, of course, are preliminary movements of the commanders of the opposing forces for the subsequent advantage of position.

One interesting feature of the day's news is the report that another Japanese army corps has left home ports for the scene of operations. Its destination is guessed to be that part of Corea which has been invaded by the mounted Cossacks, a force which, according to the experts here, imperils the security of the Japanese position in that country and further north across the Yalu.

An interesting report has been received at the War Department from an army officer who witnessed the embarkation of Japanese for the scene of operations. He says that the greatest secrecy was imposed on all the Japanese officers; that the work of loading the transports was accomplished with great dispatch; that in one day something like fifteen thousand men and one thousand horses were placed on board the transports, without confusion and with much celerity, and that in taking on the passengers as many as thirty-one men were counted at one time in the enormous "sling" used for hoisting the soldiers on board the ships. The transports are without bunks, the men sleeping on straw on the second deck. The officer was deeply impressed with the activity and the absence of noise, and, as he is of the quartermaster's department, his observations on the subject of loading the transports are of more value than reports from other sources.

CARDINAL SATOLLI'S VOYAGE.

Gibraltar, May 30.—The German steamer Prinzess Irene, having Cardinal Satolli on board, arrived here at noon to-day from Naples. The Cardinal telegraphed to his friends from here, saying he was in excellent health. The weather on the voyage to this port was fine, and the Cardinal was much pleased with the attention shown to him by the Americans on board.

"TYPICAL NEW-YORK EXHIBIT."

From The New-York Globe.

Is there any other city in the world in which such a racket would be in progress as is under way in the newspapers now about the condition of Forty-second-st.? What is it all about? Simply because the property owners and tenants along that thoroughfare have been for four years or more treated as if they had no rights which anybody was bound to respect. Their street was taken possession of by a contractor, who proceeded to rip it up to suit his pleasure, and to keep it ripped up as long as he chose. He had his contract from another contractor, who in turn had it from the Rapid Transit Commission. Nothing more intolerable than his conduct could be devised, unless he had undermined the foundations of the abutting houses and allowed them to tumble into his ditch.

Now, long after the tunnel work for which the excavation was made is ended, the street is left in the condition of a section of a Western mining camp. The newspapers are filled with requests for information as to who is responsible? Which contractor is the culprit? or, if neither is, has the Rapid Transit Commission any responsibility? Does anybody doubt that if either the chief contractor or the commission really set about it to force the sub-contractor to do his duty he would do it at once? Either of these authorities has ample power to do this, or else has no power to do anything. It is absurd to say that a sub-contractor can do as he pleases with the public streets and nobody have power to make him behave himself.