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New-York Daily Tribune.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1904.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN.—A truce of six hours was arranged at Port Arthur to enable each side to bury its dead and remove the wounded from the battle ground on the slopes of 203-Metre Hill; the supreme prize court at St. Petersburg decided the seizure cases of the Arabia and the Thea in the owners' favor. —— The King of Italy conferred on J. P. Morgan the grand cordon of the Order of Sts. Maurice and Lazarus in recognition of his return of the stolen Ascoli cope. —— Many Americans are swindled by sellers of false paintings in Paris.

DOMESTIC.—It is said to be probable that the United States may find it expedient to intervene in San Domingo and establish a stable government, as was done in Cuba. —— President Roosevelt announced his intention to appoint William R. Willcox postmaster of New-York, and the nomination will be sent to the Senate on Tuesday. —— The election of Representative James A. Hemenway as the successor of Mr. Fairbanks in the Senate is said to be practically assured, other candidates having withdrawn. —— Charges by Congressmen against letter carriers may result in a general overhauling of the rural free delivery service. —— The State Department will firmly call the attention of Venezuela to the delay in settling the asphalt controversy, and express its dissatisfaction with the state of affairs in that country. —— Governor-elect William L. Douglas, at his home in Brockton, Mass., announced that Lieutenant General Nelson A. Miles (retired) had accepted the appointment as adjutant general on Mr. Douglas's staff. —— Prince Fushimi, of Japan, was the guest of Harvard University and the Boston Chamber of Commerce. —— The Western Miners' Federation declared that its unsuccessful strike would be declared off when Adams was inaugurated Governor. —— Evidence of ballot box stuffing was found in one Denver precinct. —— The armored cruiser Tennessee was successfully launched at Philadelphia.

CITY.—Stocks were strong and active. —— It was learned that Mrs. Chadwick's effects were all covered by a blanket chattel mortgage; it was reported that the woman's son, Emil, had a $7,500,000 bond. —— Flames destroyed more than half the buildings in the village of Westbury, Long Island, the loss being over $30,000. —— A gambler and a pugilist drew revolvers in Broadway, but were prevented from shooting each other. —— Governor Odell went to Newburg and Senator Depew to Washington. —— An Irishman of herculean proportions ran riot in an elevated train and fought six men. —— The father of a girl who committed suicide learned of her death when he received the story to put into type in a newspaper office.

THE WEATHER.—Indications for to-day: Fair and continuing cold. The temperature yesterday: Highest, 32 degrees; lowest, 27.

MR. GROUT'S SURRENDER.

Criticisms upon Controller Grout's unstable political character have hitherto generally been accompanied by the acknowledgment that he was a zealous guardian of the money of the taxpayers. But either he was playing a part when, in the guise of a reformer, he held up lighting bills amounting to over $6,000,000, or else he is betraying the people when, as the representative of McCarrenism in the municipal administration, he allows those same bills to the companies for which McCarren is the notorious lobbyist. Nothing has occurred in the lighting situation, so far as is known, which excuses Mr. Grout's change of face. If there is any good reason for it, Mr. Grout should instantly make a frank statement of the facts, to save his own reputation, for so far his defence, taking the form of a misrepresentation of Colonel Monroe, Mayor Low's lighting Commissioner, only serves to convey the impression of shuffling and conscious guilt.

When Commissioner Monroe was in controversy with the lighting companies Mr. Grout strongly urged him to consent to no unsatisfactory contract, and took high ground against paying exorbitant bills. Concerning the gas supply he said: "The company is a common "carrier, and must furnish the light. You offer "them what you think is a fair price for the "light, and if they do not accept it, let them "go to court and sue the city." Even as late as November, 1903, after he had gone over to Tammany, he signed a report saying:

> When a fair price for an article cannot be reached or even indicated by actual competition, the sum the city is to pay should be settled after investigation into the costs of production and delivery of the commodity supplied.

The companies have gone on furnishing the light as common carriers, but they have by no means been willing to sue and open the door to an investigation as to the fair price of their product. Instead they have won over Mr. Grout. Without this investigation the city officials have made an agreement to pay in full the very bills which Mr. Grout pronounced so outrageous when he was a reformer, and Mr. Grout now says: "I think Commissioner Oakley has done extremely well." He takes refuge in the pretence of important concessions made by the companies, but these concessions are trifling compared with what he himself demanded until he came under the spell of McCarren. The old bills are to be paid in full, and the only "concession" is the failure of the companies to extort interest on their excessive charges for the time they were in dispute. On new contracts a decrease of 4 per cent is arranged, but Mr. Grout, when a reformer, had demanded a decrease of 40 per cent, and was ready to go to court rather than take less.

Borough President Littleton exposes the demagogy of the resolution of the Board of Estimate for a municipal lighting plant, passed as a sop to an aroused public sentiment. The Low administration, while holding up the companies, sought the power to establish such a plant, that it might have a club with which to secure fair rates. Its bill was defeated in the legislature by the machinations of McCarren. Now Mr. McCarren's ally, Mr. Grout, after surrendering to the companies, proposes a municipal lighting plant. His friend McCarren is at the old stand to prevent the passage of an enabling act, after the talk of one has served to cover Mr. Grout's betrayal of the taxpayers, and even if McCarren failed the law would be a case of locking the barn after the horse was stolen. The companies would have collected the $6,000,000 and secured contracts on their own terms, and the menace of a municipal plant would not trouble them much.

THE POSTOFFICE.

All citizens who are anxious to see the New-York Postoffice reformed and its service brought up to the requirements of business have reason to be pleased over the selection of William R. Willcox to be postmaster. Mr. Willcox is a young man of ability, energy and independence. As a lawyer he has gained the confidence of persons with large interests by his tact and capacity to manage important affairs. To the people of this city he is best known as the president of the Department of Parks in the administration of Mayor Low. In this office he made an excellent record, and great advance was seen both in the care and improvement of Central Park and in the development of new parks and playgrounds in the congested districts of the city. Mr. Willcox brought to his work industry, enterprise and intelligence. He sought the advice of experts in putting the parks in the best possible state, he enforced discipline and got for the taxpayers more nearly than ever before the worth of their money, and he displayed the rare official virtue of welcoming the critic who could tell him of shortcomings in his department and trying to correct them.

These are just the qualities needed in our postoffice, which has fallen so much behind the times. The new postmaster will have a heavy task, but he will likewise have great opportunities to win a reputation as an executive. He will need to seek the suggestions of business men who find the service inadequate to the demands of modern commerce, and try in a spirit of co-operation with them to key it up to their requirements. He will also need to secure an insight into the political ramifications of his office, and stand ready with perfect fearlessness to chop off heads wherever he finds his staff being used for improper purposes. Then he will need to look forward to the better equipment of his office. He must plan for the larger use of new inventions to facilitate the handling of mail, for the better organization of his force and for making the postoffice generally a really efficient instrument of the commerce of this city.

To do this he will require intelligent and liberal aid from Washington. For years New-York, while being the largest revenue producer for the postal service, has received scant consideration from Congress and the department. There is evidence of some change of spirit. Officials are realizing the wisdom of adapting methods to actual conditions here, and developing the service as a private corporation would do, by making whatever investment is necessary to the proper transaction of its business. Tradition and red tape have stood in the way of an adequate service and of a large government income which might be earned here if the government had the enterprise to invite a local patronage which is now largely devoted to telegraph and messenger companies.

Mr. Willcox is an open minded, farseeing man, who, we are confident, will do his best to make the New-York Postoffice what it should be. He is entitled to, and doubtless will receive, a more liberal and thoroughgoing support for reforms and innovations than Congress or the department has generally been inclined to give to any movement for the benefit of the metropolis.

A DRY, COLD AUTUMN.

The local weather bureau reports that the temperature in this city last month averaged 2½ degrees below the normal, and that the deficiency in October was a little over 2 degrees. The first three or four months of the year here were much colder than usual, but from the beginning of May until the close of September temperature eccentricities of one kind were offset by those of the other. The net change in the account during that period was hardly perceptible. About two months ago, however, the preponderance of cold again became marked. Under ordinary conditions there is a fall of 10 degrees from the mean temperature of November to that of December, or 2½ degrees a week. The statistics indicate, therefore, that in this vicinity—and probably in the greater part of the Middle Atlantic States and New-England—the season is only a few days ahead of time. If the difference has seemed greater, the erroneous supposition is due, perhaps, to the aggravating influence of searching winds.

From the early appearance of winter it is not safe to draw conclusions about the temperature of the next three or four months. Whether or not there will be a repetition of the severe experience of a year ago cannot be foretold easily. One can argue with equal propriety in two different ways from the same facts. On the one hand, it may be assumed that, according to the great law of compensation, the winter of 1903-'04 should be followed immediately by one of exceptional mildness. On the other, it may be urged that some unusual influence has been at work continuously for two or three years to produce abnormal cold. For either opinion there is apparently some ground. On the whole, it is better not to take anything for granted, but patiently to await future developments.

Here in the East there was a scarcity of rain in November. Indeed, except in August, there has been a slight deficiency for the last six months. A remarkable excess for a few days in summer counterbalanced these accumulated losses, at least in New-York City. The local shortage to-day is probably no greater than it was last May. Press dispatches from the West, however, show that other parts of the country have been less fortunate. In Ohio and Illinois the precipitation last month was smaller than for many preceding years, amounting to scarcely a fifth of an inch in certain localities. It is now too late for crops to suffer in consequence of a lack of water, but the effect on municipal reservoirs, millponds, railroad water tanks and even the navigation of some of the tributaries of the Ohio should already be noticeable. The States just mentioned and some others have been dependent for their rainfall on the barometric depressions which have come down the lakes and St. Lawrence Valley during the last few weeks, and those storms have been exceptionally dry. One which took a more southerly route last Friday and Saturday may have afforded a little relief, but by no means as much as is needed.

Had not the Atlantic Coast been visited in the mean time by two or three disturbances apparently of a tropical origin, the seaboard might have suffered as the West has. These cyclones have been trying to shipping and have made much mischief on shore, especially with telegraph poles and wires, but they have not been without their advantages.

NOT HEROIC.

The man who tried to cross Lake Michigan in the strange craft of his own construction which he described as a rolling balloon and named the Fool Killer was found dead on the beach forty-eight hours after his voyage began. He had written on a card that the air valve had gone wrong and he was expecting to be suffocated; but whether or not he would otherwise have survived the exposure is uncertain. We wished no harm to the reckless adventurer who named his boat or vehicle or whatever it was so appropriately, but this at least may be said without reproach—that his fate has probably spared the world a display of maudlin admiration for a bogus "hero." Contrary to a somewhat prevalent impression, there is nothing really creditable about such an undertaking, however it turns out. The mariner who essays to cross the Atlantic in a 16-foot dory doubtless imagines that he is deserving of applause for the attempt and will be a rightful heir of glory if he succeeds. The truth is that he is courting a fool's death, and the world's net loss is small when his boat goes down.

The author of "The Country Parson" made some judicious observations on this general subject many years ago. Taking for a text "The "young man who went up the Alps bellowing out "'Excelsior,'" he remarked that the climber had no business to transact on the summit, but merely wished to pose as an extremely resolute and stubborn person. His ambition was, therefore, of a silly sort, and if he was entitled to any credit at all for resisting "the blandishments of "the maiden, who seems to have been a remark-"ably free and easy young woman," the motive for his self-abnegation was not commendable. Longfellow usually took sane views, but we dare say that his "Excelsior," which three generations of young Americans have learned by heart, has inspired many a foolish enterprise.

A POPULAR CELEBRATION.

Some of our patriotic friends in New-Jersey are now sitting up nights trying to figure out what kind of ceremonies would be most appropriate six weeks hence, when Franklin Murphy transfers the great seal of the State to Edward C. Stokes and the latter assumes the title, dignity, prerogatives and burdens of the Governorship. Mr. Stokes is not interjecting his views, having other things to worry him, so that the debate between those who favor Quaker simplicity and those who champion a gorgeous display of tinsel and trappings and parades of uniformed men goes merrily on without interruption.

The Governor-elect is the last person in the State willingly to make himself part of a circus. He is a serious, studious young man who has always avoided display and ostentation of every kind. If only his own feelings and desires were to be consulted, he would probably leave his house on January 17, walk across the street to the State House, either alone or with one or two friends, take the oath of office and immediately settle down to business. But that may not be. Custom and precedent, which have practically grown into an unwritten law, decree that the inauguration be made a popular celebration. The stalwart political workers all the way from old Deckertown to Sea Isle City must have an opportunity to show themselves in martial array along the main highways of the capital, accompanied by bands of music with the handsomest and proudest drum majors ever seen. National Guardsmen and Naval Reserves must needs be there to add a touch of color to the scene.

And then all who can will squeeze into the Taylor Opera House. The legislature will be there; the clerk of each house will call the roll and announce a quorum present. Around the lawmakers may be seen the judges and State officials and others whose names are known throughout the commonwealth. Before this audience the chief justice will step to the front of the stage and read from parchment the oath administered to each incoming Governor, and this Edward C. Stokes will repeat after him, sentence by sentence. Then Mr. Stokes will read his inaugural address. After that he will proceed to the executive chamber, where, amid a bewildering array of flowers, he will shake hands most of the afternoon and evening with thousands of enthusiastic admirers.

Exhausted, but doubtless pleased, he may, perhaps, being a philosopher, retire to rest musing on the saying of Marcus Aurelius regarding "those who have been most remarkable by the "greatest fame or misfortunes or enmities or "fortunes of any kind; then consider where are "they all now? Smoke and ash and a tale, or not "even a tale."

FARMING BY MACHINERY.

The changes which are rapidly taking place in the conditions of Western farming are full of promise to the Eastern farmer of intelligence and enterprise. If he is ready to meet the conditions of successful agriculture there is no reason why he should continue to complain of the impossibility of competing with the occupants of rich, low priced Western lands. Perhaps there never would have been any good reason for that complaint if the Easterner had been really awake to the nature of his problem. A Frenchman or a Dane would have taken his farm and, instead of letting it deteriorate, would have improved it and made money. The competition of the West was ruinous not so much in that it made Eastern farming intrinsically unprofitable as in that it unsettled habits of thrift and land nurture and drew people from one place to another, robbing soils as they went and leaving a trail of decadent agriculture behind them. This will go on so long as the government continues to hold out the allurement of unsettled lands.

But the cattle ranges are being fenced in, and the great wheat fields are showing the effect of a continued drain. The West in its turn must take up diversified farming. Its methods, while for a time exceedingly profitable, were exceedingly wasteful and were possible only on cheap land. As the country is settled up equilibrium is restored. But the East, to compete, must learn one lesson from the West and adapt its farming to the conditions of modern industry. It must farm more and more with machinery. Government statistics show that through machinery the cost of producing crops has decreased 50 per cent since 1850. The per capita supply of cereals has almost doubled since 1840. The farm laborer is five times as effective as he was then. Our product has increased entirely out of proportion to the numbers engaged in agriculture. Cotton is now the only one of the nine principal crops requiring a greater absolute amount of labor than in 1840. In the other crops, with a vastly increased output, there has been, according to Dr. H. W. Quaintance, of the University of Missouri, in a recent paper upon "The Influence of Farm Machinery on Production and Labor," an actual decrease in the amount of labor employed. This change has indeed been marked in the East, but it has been carried further in the West, where the steam plough and other instruments of farming at wholesale are used. But that wholesale farming has been wasteful farming, and the opportunity of the East lies in doing the same thing without the waste. Its policy should be intensive farming on a large scale. "With antique sinew and with modern art," it should carry on that gardenlike cultivation which supports in Europe such large rural populations on small areas, with the aid of that machinery which in the West makes possible the farming of large tracts with little labor.

This need not necessarily mean the destruction of small holdings, though it does mean in a measure their cultivation as a unit. No small farmer can afford the original outlay for the most modern farm machinery, or the waste entailed by its use for only a few days in a year. But there is no reason why farmers in the Eastern States, except in rocky districts like parts of New-England, where there are other promising opportunities awaiting intelligent improvement, should not in co-operation lay out their fields so that they could be tilled and reaped by machinery, and so that a few men with machines could be employed through the whole season during which any particular class of work is to be done, just as the owner of the steam thrasher of any neighborhood now is. Farming properly done on this basis means making the most of the land, while now much of it is entirely neglected or only half tilled because of the difficulty of getting farm labor. It means carrying on farming like manufacturing, at full pressure. Land under intensive cultivation can be made to yield enormous crops, but such cultivation has been practically impossible under past conditions in this country because of the cost of labor. Even our best farming has only been half farming, according to the highest foreign standards. In Europe lands far less rich than our neglected Eastern fields are sources of large wealth. We have not Europe's incomparably thrifty peasants, but we have something better. We can by intelligence—with the aid of machinery—bring cultivation to just as high a state on much broader fields. Some day the Eastern farmers will realize the delusion of thinking that westward the course of agricultural empire has taken its way, and will know that in their own soil there is more wealth than in the California gold mines, if they will develop it with equal scientific enterprise.

Among other things "the last man and the last cartridge" must by this time be almost within General Stoessel's sight.

As decided by the Supreme Court, a sandwich, even though accompanied by liberal and numerous potations of fluids, is not a meal. The Raines law hotels will have to add to their present restricted menu to come within the protection of the statute under which they exist.

It is said that twenty thousand permits a year are granted to open streets, and that, once opened, they are rarely closed properly. In this statement is found a sufficient explanation of the condition of the streets of the metropolis against which twenty thousand teamsters have made a protest. Why such a condition of affairs is tolerated by the Bureau of Highways is one of the mysteries connected with the municipality of New-York.

Mississippi is penniless, and Vardaman is her Governor. Misfortunes never come singly.

The cheerful readiness of Leader Murphy to spare Controller Grout from Tammany to the Citizens Union for Mayoralty candidate is one of the amenities of politics which seem pleasanter than they really are.

Fair Japan, Ancient Rome and Old St. Louis did not long survive the glories of the great Louisiana Purchase Exposition, but made their exit skyward in flame, as did many buildings of the Columbian Exposition at Chicago. A short life and a merry one on "the Pike" was their destiny.

European crowned heads in their opening addresses to parliaments generally speak wisely as to the problems which confront the legislators. The King of Italy, for instance, expressed himself with moderation and tact in his opening address to the representatives of the country in the national body last week. Many thousand Italians who have been in the United States long enough to put aside sufficient money on which to spend a few months in Italy are now taking passage abroad, intending to return here to resume toil in the spring. They will have new ideas to communicate during the winter to their relatives and friends.

Swift's biting sarcasm in verse,

> When nothing's left that's worth defence
> They build a magazine,

is recalled by a noted receivership of the day. Usually a receiver is appointed only when there's little worth receiving left.

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

There has been a great increase of consumption and insanity among the Southern negroes since they acquired their freedom. Dr. Thomas J. Mays, writing in "The Atlanta Constitution," ascribes it to conditions dependent on the cessation of slavery, and quotes figures and data in support of his contention. The increase of these ills among the blacks is, in the first place, due to the heavy economic and industrial burdens which were suddenly placed on their shoulders, and which they had neither the wisdom nor the organized constitutional strength to discharge, and, in the second place, to improvidence of living, to poor and improperly prepared food, to ignorance of the laws of physiology, to bad hygienic surroundings, to overcrowding, laziness and irregular work, to improper care and nursing when ill, to lack of self-restraint, alcoholism and dissipation of all sorts. The argument is advanced that they were better off in slavery and that consumption and kindred diseases were then far less destructive. In summing up the testimony adduced by numerous authorities on this subject, it is said that "the prevention of pulmonary consumption resolves itself into such efforts of education as will impress the masses with the importance of leading a life similar to that which made the slave population of the South practically immune from that disease before the Civil War."

MORE OF THE SIMPLE LIFE.

[By the elimination of the elaborate bill of fare, and by the adoption of the simpler plan of luncheon rooms, such as are found in the business centres of our large cities, our inquiry leads us to believe that . . . the members of the House would find the changes fully in accordance with their desires and real necessities.—(Report of the House committee to suggest a plan for the betterment of the restaurant.]

> Oh, brown the wheats and let 'em come;
> Draw one right in the cup.
> Some pure Vermont, not on the bum;
> Ham and, the bright side up!
>
> A slaughter in the pan for one,
> With meulies on the side;
> Before the oleo and bun
> Bring some Kentucky pride.
>
> Horseradish on a dog, with rye;
> Milwaukee in a stein—
> (There ain't no tip in that old guy,
> Yuh needn't do it fine).
>
> Hot mince with jiu jitsu cheese;
> A glassful from the cow—
> Well, move along his fodder, please,
> He's waitin' for it now.
>
> A dozen right up from the bay;
> Some Java, hot, with sinkers!
> And, saving time in this neat way,
> So lunch the nation's thinkers.
> —(Indianapolis News.

"The Electric Review" says that Paris will have forty miles of subway when the work now begun is completed. It is carried out in sections, and at present two of the sections are finished and have been in use since the latter part of October. One of them runs across the central part of the city, and connects at each end with one of the existing lines. It passes the St. Lazare station, the Opera and the Bourse. The line runs entirely in tunnel. One of the remarkable points of construction is the huge masonry and iron work block which lies in front of the Opera. It contains three superposed tunnels, as in the future there will be three roads crossing at this point.

As to Law.—Necessity bemoaned her limitations. "You'll be ashamed of your old mother, who even in this day of correspondence schools, knows no law!" she exclaimed, with an affecting quaver. "Hush!" rejoined Invention, soothingly, "I will more than ever make virtue of you, which has no need of law."—(Puck.

What is described as the largest number of communicants of one Church ever gathered together for conference in Christian history met in St. Louis recently at the International Missionary Convention of the Disciples of Christ. There were over sixteen thousand delegates, nearly every land to be reached by the Christian Gospel being represented. The society has seven hundred missionaries in foreign service, thirty mission schools and seventeen hospitals. Its income in the last year was nearly half a million. In the entire Church there is a membership of over a million and a quarter. In this country it has over eleven thousand churches and nearly seven thousand ministers. Its figures show an average annual contribution of each member of $6 25. The organization exhibits all the signs of vitality and power, and is carrying on its work everywhere with extraordinary vigor and success.

The Usual Size of Him.—Little Elmer—Papa, what is a hypochondriac?
Professor Broadhead—A hypochondriac, my son, is a person who has no disease, but many complaints.—(Puck.

Within the last few months it has developed that a great number of fullblood Cherokee Indians are becoming cocaine fiends. A little investigation shows that druggists are disposing of a great deal of this drug, but what is more startling still is that there are a lot of persons who have been going into the country and selling cocaine to the Indians. It is a new vice for the Indians, but it is wonderful how it is taking a hold on them. It is said that the drug is being bootlegged, as it has been the custom to bring in liquor. The authorities will start an investigation.

Mamma—Now, Elsie dear, what is a cat?
Elsie—Dunno.
Mamma—Well, what's that funny little animal that comes creeping up the stairs when every one's in bed?
Elsie (promptly)—Papa.—(Illustrated Bits.

About People and Social Incidents.

AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

[FROM THE TRIBUNE BUREAU.]

Washington, Dec. 3.—The President and Mrs. Roosevelt gave a dinner to-night, at which Mr. and Mrs. Robert Goelet, Miss Roosevelt, the Misses Warder, Miss Josephine Boardman, Miss MacVeagh, Nicholas Longworth, Viscount de Chambrun, Count Sala, Lieutenant U. S. Grant, 3d, and William Hitt were present. The table decorations were Bridesmaid roses and Roman hyacinths. After dinner there was a small musical entertainment, at which vocal and instrumental selections were given by "Le Cantori Napolitani." The guests included some of Miss Roosevelt's young friends and debutantes of the season. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Goelet are spending Sunday at the White House. The President and Mrs. Roosevelt will give a dinner on December 8, followed by a musical entertainment.

President Roosevelt this afternoon promised Provost C. C. Harrison that he would deliver the Washington's Birthday address to the students of the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Harrison made the journey from Philadelphia for the purpose of presenting the invitation, and was immensely pleased at the success of his mission.

Vice-President-elect Fairbanks called at the White House this afternoon and had half an hour's conference with the President on legislative matters.

Speaker Cannon, who was one of the President's callers in the forenoon, arrived at the office building to find the anteroom full of members of Congress and bureau chiefs waiting their turn.

"Oh, I guess I'll get out of here!" exclaimed the Speaker, with a good natured laugh. "There's a whole lot of fellows in here that have more business than I have to transact."

The President observed the threatened outward move on the part of the Speaker, and called him in.

"Haven't a thing to say," cried the Speaker. "I just dropped in, and can come in again at any old time."

"Your official position commands attention whenever you call," replied the President; "so come on in and have it out."

"And do you know," said the Speaker, as he left the building, "I went in and wasted twenty minutes of the President's time. I ought to be ashamed of myself."

Representative Champ Clark, one of the few Democrats who saved their official heads in Missouri, dropped into the President's office this morning to tell him that he had seen the landslide coming.

"If I had not seen it," said Mr. Clark, "I would not be back in my old seat in Congress next term. As it was, I saw the handwriting on the wall, and got out and hustled good and plenty. Had the rest of the Democratic members done the same thing we might have a different tale to tell to-day. Instead of getting out and working like beavers to override the tidal wave, most of our fellows held back, in their confidence of good old Missouri's rock-ribbed Democracy, and the wave swallowed them up."

Senator Reed Smoot, of Utah, paid his respects to the President this morning. Senator Beveridge in a short talk with the President was heartily congratulated on his active work in the recent campaign. Senator Alger spent some time conferring with the President regarding what is known as the Lake Bluff site for the naval training station. Senators McComas, Foraker, Clay and Newlands were among the day's visitors, together with a number of Representatives, the majority of whom caled to pay their respects and congratulate the President on the result of the election.

THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS.

[FROM THE TRIBUNE BUREAU.]

Washington, Dec. 3.—Sir Chentung Liang Cheng, the Chinese Minister, gave a dinner at the legation this evening, when his guests were Mr. and Mrs. Lansing, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Curtis, Mr. and Mrs. H. B. F. MacFarland, Mr. and Mrs. F. I. Allen, Mr. and Mrs. John B. Henderson, jr., Mr. and Mrs. McCallum, Mr. and Mrs. Yung Kwai and Mr. and Mrs. F. P. Sargent. The Minister will give another dinner on the 12th.

The Belgian Minister and Baroness Moncheur gave an informal dinner this evening. A small company came later for bridge whist.

The French Ambassador has returned from Charlottesville, Va., where he made an address before the University of Virginia.

The German Ambassador has gone to New-York for a short visit.

Count Sala, of the French Embassy, has returned to his post, accompanied by his mother, Countess Sala, who will be his guest.

NOTES OF SOCIETY IN WASHINGTON.

[FROM THE TRIBUNE BUREAU.]

Washington, Dec. 3.—The home of the Secretary of the Navy and Mrs. Morton will be opened on Thursday, December 8, for a sale of Christmas articles, under the auspices of the Washington Co-operative Society, a philanthropic organization made up of well known women of Washington.

Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Cromwell entertained at bridge whist to-night, a company of additional guests coming afterward to supper. Among the players were Attorney General Moody, Mr. and Mrs. De Koven, Mr. and Mrs. Keep, Mrs. Reyburn, Mrs. Slater, Mrs. Alexander Legare, Miss Williams, Mr. Wauters, of the Belgian Legation; Representative Gillet, Captain Stanton and Arthur Peters. The later arrivals included Mr. and Mrs. McClintock, Mr. and Mrs. Horace Westcott, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas T. Gaff, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Ellis, Miss Josephine Patten, Marshall Langhorne, Captain Gilmore, Lieutenant Bristol, Dr. Westray and James Churchill, of New-York. Mr. and Mrs. Cromwell will give a small tea to-morrow evening, when their guests of honor will be the Secretary of the Navy and Mrs. Morton.

Mrs. Audenried gave a luncheon to-day in compliment to the Misses Hildreth anl Elizabeth Dunn, debutante daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Lanier Dunn. Among the guests were Miss Hitchcock, Señorita Azpiroz, daughter of the Mexican Ambassador, and Miss Ridgely.

Mrs. Hoyt, wife of the Solicitor General, gave a dinner this evening for her debutante daughter, Miss Elinor Hoyt.

The home of the Vice-President-elect and Mrs. Fairbanks, which they have occupied throughout their life in Washington, has been redecorated and refurnished, and Mrs. Fairbanks is busy superintending the final details. As president general of the Daughters of the American Revolution Mrs. Fairbanks is more than gratified that Memorial Continental Hall, now being built by the Daughters of the American Revolution, will be practically completed by April 19, when she will retire from the presidency of the organization.

Major Charles L. McCawley, U. S. M. C., has been elected president of the Bachelors' German, to succeed the late Jesse Brown. The other officers and members of the committee, which has been reduced from eight to six, and will have active charge of the three balls given each winter by the social organization, are P. Lee Phillips, Captain J. C. Gillmore, jr., U. S. A.; Reginald Huidekoper, John Van Ness, Philip and George Howard. The first dance of the season will be given on January 11 in the ballroom of the New Willard.

Commander Wood Spencer, aid to the Admiral of the Navy, and his family, are established in their new home in M-st.

NEW-YORK SOCIETY.

Only three weeks remain before Christmas, and shopping in connection with the latter occupies much of the attention of society just at present, imparting an aspect of more than ordinary life and animation to the avenue and to the fashionable shopping districts. A few still linger at their country seats, where they are entertaining week end parties to-day. But most people are back in town, and dances, dinners and theatre parties follow one another in rapid succession, while on three nights a week the modish world is to be found assembled at the opera.

Among the weddings of note which are set for this week is that of Miss Edith Devereux Clapp and Count Rene du Temple de Rougemont, on Tuesday afternoon, at 4 o'clock, in St. Francis Xavier Church, in Sixteenth-st. The ceremony will be performed by Archbishop Farley, and will be followed by a reception given by Mrs. M. Devereux Clapp, the mother of the bride, at her house, in Fifth-ave., where the presents received by Miss Clapp will be shown to her friends to-morrow. The bridegroom gave his farewell bachelor dinner last night at the St. Regis, his guests including Alfred G. Vanderbilt, Ernest Iselin, William K. Vanderbilt, jr., William Woodward, Brinckerhoff Thorne, Henry Rogers Winthrop, John Clinton Gray, jr., and M. Des Porte de la Fosse, first secretary of the French Embassy at Washington and a cousin of the bridegroom.

Another wedding which takes place on Tuesday is that of Henry Worthington Bull and Miss Maud Livingston, daughter of Mrs. R. Cambridge Livingston, at Saratoga. There will be neither bridesmaids nor ushers, and the ceremony will be a quiet affair, Frederick Bull acting as his brother's best man. The newly married couple are booked to sail for Europe on December 13. Henry W. Bull entertained a number of his friends at a farewell bachelor dinner at the Union Club last Wednesday night. The party included F. Holbrook Betts, Rawlins Cottenet, Reginald Brooks, J. Griswold Livingston, Alfonso de Navarro, Hermann B. Duryea, Frederick Bull, Henry F. Godfrey, Francis C. Bishop and John Griswold Livingston.

On Wednesday the wedding of Miss Gertrude Agostini to Dr. Fellowes Davis, jr., will take place at the home of the bride's parents. The ceremony will be performed by the Rev. William M. Grosvenor, of the Church of the Incarnation. Mrs. Eugene J. Beales will be the matron of honor. She is the bride's sister. Pierpont Davis will be best man. The ushers are Dr. Eugene Pool, Dr. Harold Barclay, Edward De W. Walsh, J. Lorimer Worden, Ralph Curtis, Bartholomew Jacob and Albert R. Huidekoper. Dr. Davis gave his farewell bachelor dinner last evening at the Union Club. On the same day Mrs. Leopold Francke, who was Miss Elsie Huntington, and Lindsey Tappin will be married. The wedding will be a small affair at the East Twentieth-st. house of Mr. and Mrs. Charles R. Huntington, the parents of the bride, and only relatives and a few intimate friends will be asked.

On Thursday the Church of the Heavenly Rest will be the scene of the marriage of Miss May W. Soley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Russell Soley, to Howard C. Dickinson. Miss Una Soley will be her sister's maid of honor, and the bridesmaids will be Miss Elsie Howland, Miss Gertrude Pell, Miss Julia Edgar, Miss Elizabeth Morton, Miss Margaret Doane Gardiner and Miss Henrietta Hoffman, of Baltimore. John Lowell Blake, of Boston, is to be the best man, and Edward H. Delafield, John Dix, Robert Sedgwick, Marshall R. Kernochan, William Hoffman, Le Grande C. Griswold, Arthur Dixey and Richard K. Thorndyke, of Boston, will be the ushers. Mrs. Soley will give an "at home" at her house in East Eightieth-st. to-morrow afternoon, when the bride's presents will be shown to her friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry I. Barbey, in consequence of being placed in mourning through the death of their son-in-law, Count Hermann de Pourtales, at Geneva, have turned over their parterre box, No. 19, at the opera, on Monday evenings, to Mrs. E. K. McCreary. Mr. and Mrs. Pembroke Jones have secured the Juilliard parterre box, No. 2, for the remaining performances of the season on odd Mondays and even matinees.

A number of people went yesterday to Irvington-on-the-Hudson to attend the wedding of Edmund Monroe Sawtelle, son of General and Mrs. Charles A. Sawtelle, of Washington, and Miss Julia Worthington, a niece of Mrs. W. Lanman Bull and a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Worthington, at the latter's country place at Irvington.

Mr. and Mrs. Frederick W. Vanderbilt, with Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton McK. Twombly and Miss Ruth Twombly, as well as Mr. and Mrs. F. Egerton Webb, are spending the weekend at Shelbourne Farms, Vt., as the guests of Dr. and Mrs. W. Seward Webb.

Mr. and Mrs. Anson Phelps Stokes and the Misses Stokes have arrived in town from Noroton, Conn., and expect to sail for Europe early in the new year.

A number of dances figure on the programme of the week opening to-day. Three of the most important are the First Junior Cotillon, which has, in a measure, taken the place of the former Assembly and Patriarchs' ball; the first of the series of dinner dances organized by Mrs. Frederic J. de Peyster and J. Montgomery Strong at Delmonico's on Thursday, and the Saturday evening dances on Saturday at Delmonico's under the patronage of Mrs. Charles R. Huntington, Mrs. John Clarkson Jay, Mrs. E. Morgan Grinnell, Mrs. Hilborne L. Roosevelt, Mrs. Sackett Moore Barclay and Mrs. F. Livingston Pell. The First Junior Cotillon takes place on Tuesday night at Sherry's. Stowe Phelps will lead, dancing with Miss Elizabeth Dodge, and among the patronesses are Mrs. Hilbourne and Mrs. Emlen Roosevelt, Mrs. Grenville Kane, Mrs. Arthur and Mrs. Cleveland Dodge, Mrs. Douglas Robinson, Mrs. Dallas Bache Pratt and Mrs. Herbert Parsons.

Another dance of the week is that which will be given on Friday by Mr. and Mrs. Henry F. Shoemaker, in the Ladies' Annex of the Metropolitan Club, for their daughter, Miss Blanche Shoemaker, one of the debutantes of the season. The dance will be preceded by a dinner.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. Hubbell have issued invitations for a dinner dance for Friday at their house in East Thirty-first-st., for their youngest daughter, Miss Ruth Hubbell.

Further entertainments for debutantes this week include the reception given by Mrs. Frederick Pierson for her daughter, Miss Josephine Pierson, at her house in West Fifty-seventh-st.; the luncheon of Mrs. W. Barclay Parsons, for her debutante granddaughter, Miss Sylvia Parsons, at her house in Fifth-ave., on Wednesday, and an "at home" on the same afternoon by Mrs. William Fellowes Morgan at her house in Stuyvesant Square, for her daughter, Miss Beatrice Morgan, who has come out this winter. On Saturday at least a dozen young girls, including Miss Edith Landon, Miss Catherine Rhoades and Miss Edith Constable, will make their debuts at receptions given for them by their respective mothers. Several more made their bows to society yesterday afternoon, among them Miss Blanche Shoemaker, at an "at home" given by her mother, Mrs. Henry F. Shoemaker, at her house in West Fifty-third-st., the reception being followed by a dinner and a theatre party. Those who remained for the dinner included Miss Edith Landon, Miss Mildred Barclay, Ashton De Peyster, Sidney De Kay, Miss Marjorie Motley and Hendrick Hudson. Mrs. Theron G. Strong also had an "at home" yesterday afternoon for her daughter, Miss Martha Strong, at her house in East Sixty-fifth-st., the reception being followed by a dinner. Miss Nannie Brown likewise made her debut yesterday afternoon at a reception given for her at Sherry's by her aunt, Miss Ellen Whipple Brown, who will have a large theatre party for her on December 16, followed by a supper at Sherry's.

Miss Gabrielle Dexter, daughter of Mrs. Stanley W. Dexter, made her debut yesterday afternoon at a reception given by her mother; Mrs. John G. Carlisle had an "at home" at her house in Gramercy Park for the debut of her two granddaughters, Miss Jane and Miss Laura Carlisle, and Miss Eva Lawrence's coming out was signalized by a reception given by her father, Frank Lawrence, at his house in Madison-ave.

Mme. Sembrich will sing and Victor Herbert's Orchestra will furnish the instrumental music at the first of the series of Albert Morris Bagby's musical mornings, which takes place to-morrow as usual at the Waldorf-Astoria.

Mrs. Theodore Van A. Trotter has issued cards for an "at home" at her house, in East Thirty-seventh-st., on Monday, December 19, for the debut of her daughter, Miss Helen Trotter. The reception will be followed by a dance in the evening. Among those who will assist in receiving will be Miss Blanche Shoemaker, Miss Dorothy Grinnell and Mrs. Walter L. Suydam, jr.

Mrs. Henry Parish, jr., has issued cards for an "at home" to-morrow week at her house, in East Seventy-sixth-st., for Miss Isabel Selmes, who is spending the season in New-York.

Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Packer Prentice, of No. 9 West Sixteenth-st., will give a large theatre party on Christmas Eve for her niece, Miss Martha Prentice Strong, one of the debutantes of the winter.

Announcement is made of the engagement of Miss Kathleen Massey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Massey, to J. Wright Brown, son of Mr. and Mrs. Waldron Post Brown.

Invitations have been issued for the marriage of Henry Lawrence Underhill, of Croton-on-Hudson, and Miss Eliza J. Payne, of New-York, on Tuesday afternoon, December 20, at the Fifth Avenue Baptist Church, near Forty-sixth-st.

Miss Gladys Durant Rice, one of the season's debutantes, will be at home on Friday, December 9, at No. 81 Irving Place. She is the oldest daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Clarence C. Rice.