Amusements.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC—8—The Wizard of Oz.
AMERICAN—8:15—Down the Pike.
BELASCO—8:15—The Music Master.
BIJOU—8:25—Mrs. Black Is Black.
BROADWAY—8:30—The Two Roses.
CARNEGIE HALL—8:15—New York Symphony Orchestra Concert.
CIRCLE—2—8—Vaudeville.
CRITERION—8:20—The Second Fiddle.
DALY'S—8:15—Judith of Bethulia.
EDEN MUSEE—World in Wax.
EMPIRE—8:30—The Duke of Killicrankie.
GARDEN—8:20—The College Widow.
GARRICK—8:15—Brother Jacques.
HAMMERSTEIN'S VICTORIA—2—8:15—Vaudeville.
HARLEM—8:15—The Serio-Comic Governess.
HERALD SQUARE—8:10—The School Girl.
HUDSON—8:20—Sunday.
IRVING PLACE THEATRE—8:20—Die Goldne Eva.
KNICKERBOCKER—8:15—The Usurper.
LEW FIELD'S THEATRE—8:15—It Happened in Nordland.
LIBERTY—8:20—Little Johnny Jones.
LYCEUM—8:30—Mrs. Gorringe's Necklace.
LYRIC—8:15—The Fortunes of the King.
MAJESTIC—2—8—Winsome Winnie.
MANHATTAN—8—Leah Kleschna.
MENDELSSOHN HALL—8:15—Kneisel Quartet Concert.
NEW-AMSTERDAM—8:15—Humpty Dumpty.
NEW-YORK—8:15—Woodland.
PRINCESS—8—Othello.
SAVOY—8:15—Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch.
WALLACK'S—8:20—The Sho-Gun.
WEBER MUSIC HALL—8—Vaudeville.
WEST END—8:15—His Last Dollar.

Index to Advertisements.

	Page.	Col.		Page.	Col.
Amusements	16	5-6	Financial	15	1-6
Auction Sales Financial	15	1	Help Wanted	10	8
Auction Sales Real Estate	12	3	Instruction	15	6
Bankers and Brokers	15	3-5	Lost	10	8
Bank Reports	15	2-3	Marriages and Deaths	9	5
Board and Rooms	10	1	Ocean Steamers	12	5
City Hotels	12	5	Proposals	15	6
Carpet Cleaning	10	7	Railroads	12	5-6
Cop'tnership Notices	15	3	Real Estate	12	3
Country Property for Sale	12	3	Special Notices	9	6
Dividend Notices	15	1	Steamboats	5	6
Dom. Sits. Wanted	11	5	Storage Notices	10	8
Dressmaking & Millinery	10	7	Tribune Sub. Rates	9	6
Drygoods	10	4-5	Trust Companies	14	6
Employm't Agencies	10	7	Toilet Articles	10	8
Excursions	12	4	To Let for Business Purposes	12	3
Financial	14	3-6	Winter Resorts	12	4
			Work Wanted	11	4-5
			Watches	11	4

New-York Daily Tribune

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1904.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

CONGRESS.—Senate: The Pure Food bill and the Philippine Railroad bill were under consideration. ═══ House: A bill transferring control of forest reserves from the Department of the Interior to the Department of Agriculture and 148 private pension bills were passed; Mr. Hill's bill, providing for redemption of silver certificates in gold coin, was discussed.

FOREIGN.—Four Russian battleships and two cruisers are said by the Japanese to be completely disabled at Port Arthur, and the heavy guns of the besiegers are shelling the town; the arsenal, official reports say, was set on fire. ═══ The agitation in Russia over the popular demand for a share in the government is spreading; St. Petersburg newspapers openly urge the creation of a parliament; trouble is feared at the opening of the trial of Sasoneff to-day. ═══ There were further skirmishes along the Shakhe, but the report of a general engagement was not confirmed; the Japanese preparations for winter are said to be practically complete. ═══ There are rumors in St. Petersburg that Russia will protest to Great Britain against the stopping of coal supplies for the Baltic fleet. ═══ A bark and three schooners were wrecked in a heavy gale on the Newfoundland coast. ═══ The election of Mr. Morgan as head of the Metropolitan Museum has started an agitation among European art collectors to prevent sales to America. ═══ The Cathedral of St. Mark, at Venice, is said to be in urgent need of repairs.

DOMESTIC.—President Roosevelt announced that Secretary Morton had consented to remain in the Cabinet after March 4. ═══ The United States Supreme Court decided that the Western Union Telegraph Company does not possess the right to maintain its poles on the lines of the Pennsylvania Railroad. ═══ Two indictments were found against Mrs. Cassie L. Chadwick by the grand jury of Cuyahoga County, Ohio; Iri Reynolds, of the Wade Park Bank, of Cleveland, testified as to loans of the bank's money and how he and other officials had been misled.

CITY.—Stock market breaks. ═══ The physician of Andrew Carnegie made a certificate that the ironmaster was too sick with lumbago to testify in Cleveland in the Chadwick case. ═══ Controller Grout said he intended to sell the franchises of many local corporations because of failure to pay taxes. ═══ Dr. Samuel T. Carter was unanimously sustained in his attack on the Westminster Confession by the Nassau Presbytery. ═══ Two employers were arrested on charges of violating the child labor law. ═══ Charges of fraud were made in a petition in involuntary bankruptcy filed against Munroe & Munroe, brokers, who failed recently. ═══ Ammonia fumes greatly hindered the firemen in a tenement house blaze; two persons were hurt.

THE WEATHER.—Indications for to-day: Fair and colder. The temperature yesterday: Highest, 36 degrees; lowest, 19.

MR. GROUT'S REPENTANCE.

Controller Grout has recognized the drift of public sentiment about his surrender to the gas combination, and characteristically abandons his former position to get on the side with the greatest political advantage. His change is somewhat awkward, but a man who has turned against every political interest he ever supported, who was a Shepard Democrat and left Shepard for McLaughlin, and then left McLaughlin for Low, and then left Low for Murphy, and then left Murphy for McCarren, must have acquired some of the agility needed to be violently against the gas companies in the days of reform, effusively for them in the days of Tammany, and then against them again as soon as he sees a popular storm brewing.

Mr. Grout is adroit in discovering changed circumstances which will serve him as a cloak of consistency. The attempts of others, private citizens, to guard the treasury of which he has seemed the fierce watchdog give him an excuse for repudiating his agreement to pay the controverted gas bills. That is a strange confession. He could not stand up for the taxpayers till somebody showed him how! A little more than a year ago he was as strenuously opposed as could be to paying the gas bills. He was sure that the right thing was to force an investigation and make the companies prove the justice of their claims. Suddenly all his courage evaporated. A haze obscured his mind. He became convinced that he must pay the bills of the combination which his leader, McCarren, serves. A horrible vision of interest charges loomed up in front of him, and to avoid it he agreed to pay in full the bills he had pronounced extortionate. Then he saw his mistake. The deal did not pass unnoticed. Misrepresentation of ex-Commissioner Monroe as approving the surrender when he only approved the Welsbach light arrangement did not satisfy the public. Mr. Grout saw himself throwing away his carefully nurtured reputation as an austere guardian of public interests, the only man in official life of whose honesty he was completely satisfied. So he has done his best to get back to his original position as an opponent of the gas companies. Yet, poor man, he has to confess that he can only fight behind others who refused to surrender when he did!

The excuse that the private litigation against Commissioner Oakley's new contract alone enables the Controller to stand out, and that without it his settlement of the gas bills was the best thing to be done, is pitifully weak. Mr. Grout could at least have voiced his disapproval of the contract instead of praising as a good bargain what he pretends to regard with aversion now that somebody else has attacked it. Even though the contract stood, if he had denounced it, if he had fought against it half as hard as Mr. Coler fought against Ramapo, and forced investigation into the fairness of the disputed bills, he could have secured a ruling on the merits.

Now that he wants an excuse for his sudden change, he discovers that the claim for interest, which he was before sure could be collected by the companies, probably could not be collected. Therefore he finds there was no consideration for his agreement and repudiates it. But, if he was a faithful guardian of the treasury, why did he not discover this before making the settlement? Was it merely that he did not want to discover it or anything else in the way of his accommodation with the gas interests? Mr. Grout's new light comes too late, and is too evidently forced by a frantic desire to square himself with an indignant public, to command confidence. If the taxpayers are finally relieved from the extortion of the gas companies, it will be no credit to Mr. Grout, who, after denouncing them and proclaiming unyielding opposition to them, gave them practically everything they wanted, and only changed about when he found his course unexpectedly unpopular and dangerous to his insatiable ambition.

EVENTS IN ST. PETERSBURG.

The conduct of the Russian authorities in relation to the riotous outbreak in St. Petersburg on Sunday seems to indicate even more clearly than their precedent action that the Czar is dispassionately considering the demand for a change in governmental institutions which was firmly but respectfully embodied in the recent memorial of the zemstvo representatives. The steps taken to repress the advertised demonstration of the Social Democratic Labor party were perhaps ill advised, inasmuch as they increased public curiosity and excitement, but it is evident that the police were under instructions to deal as gently as possible with the mob, and we see no reason to doubt the statement contained in the dispatches that a similar gathering in New-York would have been dispersed by measures at least as stern.

But even more significant of Prince Mirsky's disposition and influence with the Czar is the fact that St. Petersburg newspapers in sympathy with the liberal movement were permitted to comment as they pleased on Sunday's occurrences and to renew their demand for a constitutional government. No clearer sign could be given of the imperial determination to let the voice of discontent be heard, temporarily at least, at home and throughout the world. What ultimate purposes the Czar may be revolving in his mind it is impossible to say, but he is apparently making no effort to hinder an orderly expression of opinions, however hostile to the existing scheme of things.

It would be a proof of courage and a large mind if the Czar, instead of making Sunday's outbreak an occasion for yielding to the persuasions of the reactionaries, should refuse to permit his judgment to be swayed by proceedings for which the accredited representatives of the zemstvos are not responsible and which they most of all deplore. It was reported on Sunday that his uncle, the Grand Duke Sergius, Governor General of Moscow, and M. Muravieff, Minister of Justice, had resigned in recognition of their inability to discredit Prince Mirsky and thwart his policy. If it should now be seen that they had gained no advantage of position from the action of the Social Democrats, the belief would be greatly strengthened that the Czar is inclined to grant, not indeed all that the delegates of the provincial assemblies lately demanded, but an important measure of relief from present conditions.

THE DRIFT FROM THE PLANTATION.

In a recent letter to "The Montgomery Advertiser" Booker T. Washington discusses with his usual good sense the question of farm labor. The South is filled with complaints that the negroes are irresponsible and flock away from the plantations to the towns. The lack of cotton pickers is to-day an acute difficulty, but too many persons devote their energies to denunciation of the blacks who do not do the work, instead of to intelligent efforts to make them contented in the country.

Mr. Washington points out that the drift from the farm to the town is not a tendency confined to his race. The scarcity of farm labor exists all over the country. New-York is thronged with idle white men who could not be induced to live in comfort on a farm, and perhaps some of the conditions which make rural life in the North unattractive to many who would benefit by it operate equally on the Southern negro. Mr. Washington, however, wastes no time on such considerations. He wants to help the South and promote the welfare of his own race. He believes that agricultural labor is morally and economically the best employment for the bulk of the negroes, and seeks a remedy for the present unfortunate drift. His first step is to find out why the negroes leave the country. He went among the idle colored people of Atlanta and other cities and heard their excuses for not being where they would be more useful to themselves and the community. He says:

> These people who have talked may be right, they may be wrong, they may state facts or they may state untruths, but this I know, they represent the attitude of a large class of colored people, who give the following as chief reasons for leaving the farms: Poor dwelling houses, loss of earnings each year because of unscrupulous employers, high priced provisions, poor schoolhouses, short school terms, poor school teachers, bad treatment generally, lynchings and whitecapping, fear of the practice of peonage, a general lack of police protection and want of encouragement.

Mr. Washington shows that, while lynching and peonage may prevail in only a few places, the report of them fills the negroes everywhere with apprehension and sends the more ambitious where they think they will be better protected. This is especially true of the outrages against respectable colored people who by their prosperity have aroused the ill will of the baser sort of whites. He avows that lynching and other outrages are almost entirely the work of the baser minority, and demonstrates to the intelligent property owning people the economic wrong done them by these enemies of the white as well as the negro race. He urges the improvement of country schools for the blacks and the inclusion in them of a primary course in agriculture which would interest the children in farm life and make them naturally efficient farm workers. Then he urges the provision of better dwellings and the holding out of similar appeals to the better class of negroes, instead of the pursuance of a policy which puts them as low as possible in the scale of civilization and keeps on the farm only the least ambitious and efficient.

While pointing out what the white employer needs to do if he wants trustworthy negro labor, Mr. Washington does not forget negro shortcomings, and tells his people that they must be law abiding, and must learn to be more regular and faithful, if they do not wish to forfeit their right to earn a living in the South and make way for Italians and other foreigners, who will come in to do the work now reserved for them. As time goes on it looks as if the solution of the race problem was to be found in economic necessity. The South wants to grow cotton and otherwise prosper. It wants the negro labor, and wants to make it efficient. The desire to secure a contented and civilized working population must in the end overcome prejudice against anything which raises the negro for fear it is a portent of social equality. Mr. Washington holds that much of the loud declamation against the negro is now a mere matter of habit, and comes from men who in their private relations are friendly with the negroes and ready to aid in their advancement. The talk is a sort of outworn political ritual. Nevertheless, it does harm, both by discouraging worthy negroes and promoting the recklessness of the worthless white elements.

MORE TROUBLE FOR PATERSON.

The plucky town of Paterson, N. J., had just about recovered from the devastating effects of fire and floods when more trouble came along as a sort of Pandora's Christmas box.

Recently the insurance companies announced a substantial increase of rates in the Silk City, and a loud protest went up. Manufacturers, business men and the aldermen put their heads together and talked the situation over with the insurance men. The latter finally agreed to withdraw the demand for higher rates if the Fire Department were improved and its equipment enhanced. Nothing definite was done, however, and then a committee representing the National Board of Fire Underwriters appeared on the scene. This committee wasn't long in framing a plan which took the form of an ultimatum. Under it the city is required to spend offhand nearly $400,000 for Fire Department purposes and to maintain the department on a scale which would mean altogether an annual increased expenditure of about $175,000.

Patersonians are almost a unit in denouncing the proposition as unfair discrimination. Besides, they assert, to attempt compliance with it would bankrupt the city. There is something in both contentions, and most people will be prone to sympathize with Paterson. But the citizens cannot be blind to the fact that the Fire Department has not been kept up to the highest point of efficiency possible with the money expended. The department is bossed by the aldermen, and, if 5 per cent of what one hears be true about the methods of the City Fathers in making appointments and enforcing discipline, it is not surprising that the insurance people are dissatisfied.

A fire commission, either elective or appointive, should be able to make drastic and desirable improvements without much extra expense. Paterson has an able, honest, fearless Mayor, who could be depended upon to select competent commissioners. If, however, there is a prejudice against appointive commissioners, then they could be elected by popular vote on a general city ticket. In any event, the department should be withdrawn from the jurisdiction of the aldermen, whose management of it has been pretty nearly as bad as it was possible to be.

LET HIM BE INVITED.

It is reported from Washington that members of the committee having charge of the arrangements for President Roosevelt's inauguration next March are anxiously considering whether or not Governor Vardaman should be invited to attend. While there is every reason why the State of Mississippi should not be slighted, it is feared that if the Governor were to receive an invitation he would make it an occasion for sending a characteristic reply. Of course, nobody wishes to bestow needlessly on Governor Vardaman an opportunity to demean himself in public again as he did when he insulted Mr. Roosevelt in a letter to the president of the St. Louis Exposition. If it were a question of inviting him as an individual to the inauguration, the committee would probably not hesitate to leave him out; and, inasmuch as he will be asked to appear in his representative capacity, if he is asked at all, it does not impress us as a very perplexing case as it stands. The best citizens of Mississippi might almost prefer to have their State ignored if they were sure that the Governor would acknowledge an invitation with another outbreak of the boorishness on which he seems to pride himself; but the committee cannot take that for granted, nor need it assume in advance that he would choose to invite a second and even severer sentence of condemnation from his own people.

If the committee's doubt is caused by consideration for the President, it is quite as unnecessary. It could do Mr. Roosevelt no harm, in fact or in public estimation, to be again assailed by Governor Vardaman's coarse impertinences. There might, indeed, be some compensation for another indulgence of his proclivities, for he would surely be repudiated, denounced and separated further in the public mind from the company of honorable citizens who represent real Southern sentiment. If, therefore, our opinion were asked, we should advise the committee to send an invitation to the Governor of Mississippi as a matter of course, without the slightest solicitude as to the nature of his response, especially in view of the fact that a failure to do so would be at least as likely to produce the result which the committee dreads.

UNINVITING WINTER.

No one can have observed the weather which has prevailed for the last week or ten days in the eastern part of this country without being struck by one fact. It is astonishing to see how large a business can be done on a small capital by a snowstorm. The air is filled with flakes for a day at a time, the streets are made almost impassable for man and beast, even railway trains are hindered in some mysterious manner, so that suburban schedules are upset, and yet the official observers report only a puny three or four inches of precipitation. This is not enough to cause a serious blockade or to cover the fences along country roads with drifts, yet the situation is intensely disagreeable, owing largely to the circumstance that the storms have come in rapid succession and—at least in the vicinity of the metropolis—have been attended by an unusual prevalence of northeasterly winds. The latter are attributable, no doubt, to the route recently followed by depressions from the northwest. Instead of coming down the lakes and going to sea by way of the St. Lawrence, they dive toward the Ohio Valley and Virginia coast. There is always an inflow of air from all sides to the centre of a storm, and New-York has recently been affected by the northerly half, instead of the southerly half, of these unwelcome visitors.

Up to the present time the winter has not been characterized by extreme cold. The fall of the mercury in this city to 9 degrees early on Sunday was hardly unseasonable. Closer approaches have sometimes been made to zero during the first ten days of December, though the severest demonstrations rarely occur before January. As yet the country has not experienced anything more than suggestions and imitations of "old fashioned winter." There has not been ice enough to invite skating, much less to justify an ice harvest. None of the cold waves that have been recorded this season have continued long enough to make these things possible. The alternation between freezing and thawing conditions has been too rapid for lasting consequences.

HOLIDAY SHOPPING.

The stores and the streetcars, the railroad trains and the carriages in and about New-York have all been extremely occupied since December began with the visits of people bent on purchasing Christmas goods. Preparations for this year's sales have been on a generous scale. It is certain that never before were the arrangements so complete in this city for an extensive holiday trade. New stores have been built, additions have been made to those formerly constructed, and the most liberal attractions have been devised to meet the wishes of buyers. It is altogether probable that never in its history did New-York present so glittering and fascinating a spectacle in its displays for holiday purchases.

But such weather as that of yesterday in this city has not been wholly favorable. As we draw nearer to Christmas, the spirit which attracts people to the stores becomes stronger and the multitude of patrons of the shopkeepers grows larger. The city is able to provide more ample facilities for the buyers and to transport them more smoothly and swiftly than ever before. But stormy, disagreeable weather like that of yesterday will increase the difficulties of the patrons of the shops in the two weeks yet remaining before the setting up of holiday trees. The American holiday spirit is rather too much inclined toward postponement, toward waiting almost to the last moment of preparation, and in Christmas buying, as in many other things, delays are dangerous. The shops will be crowded, and the salespeople too busy to give proper attention to laggard customers. New-York has bestirred itself to make ample arrangements in time. To wait until every place of Christmas activity is overcrowded will be unwise.

The promptness and cheerfulness with which Controller Grout has changed front must be perplexing to Commissioner Oakley, who is now left standing alone in the gaslight.

When David B. Hill, after retiring from politics January 1, goes abroad, he should not fail to call upon Colonel Watterson in Paris. The colonel's Parisian French and his acquaintance with the gay capital will help Mr. Hill to feel that there are some things worth living for, even aside from politics.

St. Petersburg has been giving an illustration of Jean Bourdeau's remark: "Anarchy is socialism in action."

It has been commonly supposed that little sentiment attached to hotels, and that guests quitted one hotel for another lightheartedly. The "Old Guard" at the Gilsey House disprove this assumption, and henceforth it is to be presumed they will be star boarders at the noted oldtime hostlery.

Economy is to be the watchword of Congress. Cutting the coat according to the financial cloth is under all circumstances a wise policy.

New-York is the most populous and important community in the Union. It ought to be made a model for all other great aggregations of people in the strict enforcement of the laws and in the thorough guardianship of its best interests by the Police Department. But this has not yet been accomplished, and a great deal remains to be done.

Tammany's outlook in Brooklyn seems more discouraging than it did just after Election Day, when the vote in support of McCarren was astonishingly feeble. The opponents of the Fourteenth Street element have gained a good deal of ground since then. At the meeting of the Democratic General Committee of Kings County on Tuesday evening the McCarren forces showed a ballot of 220 to 75. It will be exceedingly difficult for Mr. Murphy to make much impression on such a majority as that.

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

"The London Chronicle" says that the late Sir Arthur Sullivan wanted to direct Sir Alexander Mackenzie to a house of which he had forgotten the number. He said the doorscraper was B flat, and Sir Alexander kicked the scrapers in the street till he heard the note.

"FOR DOGS AND CATS."

Around the new, low fountains
The P. C. autocrats
Have placed a sign of wisdom
That reads: "For Dogs and Cats"

Will it catch the eye of puppies
Or kittens, do you think,
And lure them from destruction
To a strictly harmless drink?

Or will the knowing sparrow,
In thankful attitude,
Spy this and flit, remarking,
"Beg pardon, I intrude"?

Do they expect the bison,
The sprightly kangaroo,
The graceful boa constrictor,
Will want to drink there, too?

Or must the yak and emu,
On little city bats,
Be barred from this refreshment
Designed "For Dogs and Cats"?

—(Life.

The physical infirmity of Gomer Davies, of Concordia, is well known to his brother editors, says "The Kansas City Journal." One of his legs is off at the knee. He will not wear a cork substitute, but contents himself with a wooden peg, on which he stumps around most cheerfully. It cannot be denied, though, that he has considerable trouble with his artificial limb. In the early days of the Republican Valley the only timber available was green cottonwood, and Davies had to carry a pruning knife and trim off the sprouts on his leg whenever it came wet weather. Now he is in trouble again—which same he recounts as follows: "When a young schoolma'am gets inoculated with the fad of pyrography it is hard to say to what extent it will take her. She wants to burn all sorts of pictures on all sorts of bric-à-brac and furniture, and we know a man who has to hide his wooden leg every night to keep his daughter from burning pictures of a snail, snake or some other such reptile on it while he sleeps."

"I'm a selfmade man," remarked the loud-voiced individual. The other looked at him closely. "I cannot accept your apology," he said.—(Brooklyn Life.

The German newspapers have a good deal to say about the American election, and present a great variety of views on that occurrence. One journal says that the imperialist idea, supported by militarism, and those of the absolute maintenance of the Monroe Doctrine and the protective tariff have triumphed. The "Tagliche Rundschau" thinks that Herr Roosevelt is so fully the embodiment of the imperialist idea, which at present rules America, that his defeat was not to be considered as a possibility. The "Berliner Post" and "Kreuz Zeitung" agree in general with this view, and the latter thus forecasts the consequences which will ensue. A closer connection with England will come about, and pretty soon a break with Germany—that is, as soon as the United States feels that it is able to play a lone hand without depending on British assistance. However, in time the natural adversary of America will be England, and the present concord between the countries will not continue. In general, the German press sentiment is that Roosevelt's election is a good thing for Germany. The semi-official "Norddeutsche Zeitung" says that it is not only a proof of his popularity but an approval of his policy. The "Berliner Tageblatt" believes that Germany is, as it ought to be, pleased that a representative of German culture, a master of the German tongue and one with such lively and liberal sentiments of sympathy for Germany, its sovereign, people and institutions is to direct American policy and administration during the coming olympiad. In the press voices at large in the Fatherland concerning this topic there is some chatter, and now and then a spice of malignity, but in the main it is sensible and friendly and of a sort, in Junius's phrase, to do "no discredit to a newspaper."

TO AN INDIAN SKULL.

(Found in a Broadway excavation.)

Gaunt relic with the vacant smile,
What you think of Manhattan Isle
Your tribesmen sold in trustfulness
For thirty dollars, more or less?

My! if your legs were with you yet,
You'd kick, I am disposed to bet,
Because you sold out in a slump
Before your stocks began to jump.

Step lively, please! this hallowed ground
Ill suits your mouldering rest profound;
Since these God's acres have been sold
For very near their weight in gold.

Where once your wigwam fluttered, see
Yon million dollar steel tepee—
Where once your war dance gave its thrill,
Now flings the nightly vaudeville.

Here sat your god of wood and stone—
Ah, how his pagan time is gone!
Now through the tweed clad tribes is borne
The Calf of gilded hoof and horn.

Where once your tribesmen trod the trail
Behold the hansom smartly sail,
Wherein the Johnnie sits alone,
With skull as hollow as your own.

Well may you hear, with loosening teeth,
The "L" above, the "sub" beneath,
The "auto's" toot, the rumbling van—
Sleep on, poor relic—if you can!

—(Life.

In the nursery the letter of the law occasionally leaves something to be desired, according to "The London Chronicle." A very little lady had been told that it was rude to contradict. She schooled herself not to contradict, with great conscientiousness. But one day a half-jesting accusation made against her by some unsuspecting member of the grown-up part of the house nearly made her fall from a state of grace. Luckily, her imagination supplied her with a compromise. In a voice trembling with tears and passion, she gasped out: "I—I really think you are mistaken—you—you beast!"

"'Tis not 'Sawdusto,'" she explained,
"Nor 'Mat in Middlings,' hulled and grained,
Nor yet 'Near-Fodder,' nor 'Chew-Chew'—
This breakfast food is something NEW—
"Excelsior!"

—(Boston Post.

About People and Social Incidents.

AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

[FROM THE TRIBUNE BUREAU.]

Washington, Dec. 12.—Governor and Mrs. Myron T. Herrick, of Ohio, were guests of the President and Mrs. Roosevelt at luncheon to-day.

The President received a call this afternoon from Governor Brodie and Major W. H. H. Llewellyn, of Arizona, who are here opposing the joint Statehood bill.

Invitations to visit Southern cities continue to be received by the President. To-day he shook hands with a delegation from Montgomery, Ala., headed by Representative Wiley. In response to their urgent request that he place Montgomery on his visiting list, the President said he would be glad to stop there if his itinerary could be so arranged, but, as it had not yet been planned, he was unable to make any definite promises.

Among others to visit the President to-day were Representative Brick, of Indiana, who called to present the name of Colonel A. F. Fleet, superintendent of the Culver Military Academy, for a place on the West Point visiting board; Judge Grosscup, of the United States District Court, at Chicago; Irving B. Dudley, United States Minister to Peru; John Hopley, United States Consul at Montevideo; Senators Cullom, Alger and Ankeny, Secretary Morton, Attorney General Moody and Chairman Cortelyou. Mr. Cortelyou called to take up a few matters with the President before leaving town for several days on his vacation.

NOTES OF SOCIETY IN WASHINGTON.

[FROM THE TRIBUNE BUREAU.]

Washington, Dec. 12.—Representative and Mrs. Henry Kirke Porter, of Pennsylvania, gave a musical to-night, which was attended by several hundred guests from official and general society. The host and hostess were assisted by the latter's daughter, Miss Hegeman. The programme consisted of selections by the Kunits String Quartet, of Pittsburg, assisted by Emil Paur, pianist. Mrs. Porter has invitations out for three receptions, on January 3, 10 and 17.

Mr. and Mrs. John Cropper gave a dinner this evening in honor of Associate Justice and Mrs. Brown. The other guests were the Austrian Ambassador and Mme. Hengelmüller, Senator and Mrs. Foraker, Mr. and Mrs. John W. Foster, General and Mrs. William H. Draper, Colonel and Mrs. Bromwell, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas T. Gaff, Miss Cropper and Admiral Harmony.

Mrs. Reginald De Koven introduced her daughter, Miss Ethelle De Koven, this afternoon, at a tea and dance in the ballroom of the New Willard. Miss De Koven wore light blue crêpe and carried American Beauty roses. Assisting the hostess were Mrs. George Howard, Mrs. Corcoran Thom, Miss Wetmore, Miss Townsend, Miss Mary Southerland and Miss Lovering.

Miss Elizabeth Glover and Jonkheer von Swinderen, the Minister from the Netherlands, who are to be married December 21, were entertained at dinner this evening by Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Bell.

The Assistant Secretary of the Navy and Mrs. Darling have returned from a trip to the Pacific Coast and Florida.

NEW-YORK SOCIETY.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Worthington Bull, who were married last Tuesday at Saratoga, sail to-day on the Kaiser Wilhelm II to spend the winter abroad. Mrs. Bull was Miss Maud Livingston, daughter of Mrs. Robert Cambridge Livingston. Another newly married couple sailing on the same vessel are Major and Mrs. Colin Campbell. The latter was Miss Nannie Leiter, the engagement of whose sister, Miss Daisy Leiter, to the Earl of Suffolk has just been formally announced.

Mrs. Frederic Neilson sails to-day from Europe for New-York, and on her arrival here will live at her house, No. 100 Fifth-ave.

Mrs. Henry S. Redmond's dinner at her house in East Fifty-fifth-st.; Mrs. Frederick Pearson's "at home" at her house in East Fifty-seventh-st. for her daughter, Miss Josephine Pearson; Mrs. Henry C. Coe's entertainment of the Neighborhood Club at her house in East Tenth-st.; a theatre party given by Charles Allen Munn for his niece, Miss Augusta Munn, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Norcross Munn, followed by a supper at Sherry's, and a number of subscription dances, among them one at Delmonico's of the organization known as the Tuesday Evening Dances, formed several years ago by John D. Rockefeller, jr., and now managed by Mrs. Ira D. Barrows, are among the features of society's programme for to-day.

Last night Mrs. R. Fulton Cutting gave a dance at her house in East Sixty-seventh-st. for her daughter, Miss Elizabeth Cutting, about one hundred and fifty guests being present. The cotillion was led by Monson Morris, dancing with Miss Cutting. After the dancing supper was served at small tables. Among those present were Miss Janet Fish, Miss Marion Fish, Miss Katherine Barney, Miss Nora Iselin, Miss Fannie Iselin, Miss Alice Roosevelt, who is staying with the Cuttings; Miss Gladys Vanderbilt, Miss Constance Knower, Miss Katherine Barney, Miss Caroline Drayton, Miss Jean Reid, Miss Dorothy Kane, Miss Gladys Mills, Miss Beatrice Mills, Miss Mabel Gerry, Miss Ruth Twombly, Miss Eleanor Roosevelt, Miss Annah Ripley, Miss Evelyn Sloane, Miss Jessie Sloane, Miss Mary Newbold, Miss Wenonah Wetmore, Mr. and Mrs. James A. Stillman, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred G. Vanderbilt, Mr. and Mrs. William Woodward, Robert L. Gerry, Peter Goelet Gerry, Henry Coleman Drayton, James Henry Smith, James Hazen Hyde, Worthington Whitehouse, T. Suffern Tailer, Henry R. Winthrop, F. Delano Weekes, L. Cass Ledyard and Marshall Kernochan.

Earlier in the day Mrs. Henry Parish, jr., gave a reception at her house in East Seventy-sixth-st. for Miss Selmes. In the receiving party were Mrs. Douglas Robinson, Mrs. Benjamin Welles and Miss Eleanor Roosevelt, while in the morning Albert Morris Bagby's musical, with Miss Bella Alten and M. Gilibert on the programme, attracted a large number of well known people to the Waldorf-Astoria.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Stevens Ulman are receiving congratulations on the birth of a daughter on Sunday morning at their home at No. 57 East Fifty-sixth-st. Mrs. Ulman was Miss Gertrude O. Barclay.

Mrs. John Jacob Astor will give her annual dance this winter on January 20, at her house in Fifth-ave.

Mrs. John De Witt Warner will introduce her daughter, Miss C. Lilian Warner, at a reception on Saturday.

Mrs. John Wolfe has arrived in town from Tuxedo for the season and has taken the house No. 113 East Thirtieth-st., where she proposes to give a series of receptions for her granddaughters, Miss Marian and Miss Edith Kane, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Grenville Kane.

Mr. and Mrs. George W. Folsom, who are at the Hotel Leonori, Madison-ave. and Sixty-third-st., leave here early next month for Bermuda.

Mr. and Mrs. Frederick W. Vanderbilt have arrived in town from their place at Hyde Park and are at their house in Fifth-ave.

Mr. and Mrs. William Sloane return from their wedding tour this week and will take posession of their house No. 60 West Forty-ninth-st.

Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton McK. Twombly have issued invitations for a large dinner for their niece, Miss Gladys Vanderbilt, on December 21.

Lispenard Stewart will give a dinner for one hundred on the night of January 9 at Sherry's for his niece, Miss Anita Stewart, one of the debutantes of the season, subsequently taking his guests on to Mrs. Astor's ball. Mr. and Mrs. Rhinelander Stewart will also give a dinner dance at their house in West Fifty-seventh-st. on January 3 for their daughter.

GATHERED ABOUT TOWN.

To the milk of human kindness and of an unknown cow, and the efficacy of the regulation nursing bottle, a kitten now being reared in the subway station at Forty-second-st. owes its life. The kitten was one of four taken into the station by the mother cat before their eyes were opened, and for several days the family remained there free from the roar of street traffic and the torments of dogs and street gamins. The mother cat was a particularly handsome cat for one of the common variety, and a homegoer on the subway who had seen her when she was absent from the place where she had concealed the kittens one day popped her into a bag and took her home. Three of the kittens were dead when the station employes found the family whose nutriment had literally been kidnapped, but the fourth was still alive. One of the ticket sellers, who has a kindly heart for all animals, took the lone survivor, and, without much hope of success, tried to get it to manifest interest in one of those nursing bottles to which the human race clings in the days of its infancy. To his surprise, the kitten took to the bottle as readily as a baby would. Now the ticket seller is pointing with pride to the fatness of his charge and looking forward to the time when the cat will make his past more companionable, for he intends to keep it there with him.

A man boarded a Jerome-ave. car with a dog under his arm. "Here," said the conductor, who did not notice the animal until after the car had started, "don't you know you can't carry that dog on this car without a pass?" "That's all right," replied the dog carrier. "I know the rules as well as you do; I had a hand in making them. Just go along and collect your fares and never mind this dog if you want to keep your job." The conductor was nonplussed. He consulted with the motorman. Presently he returned, and looked at the dog and his master critically. "Are you a stockholder," he finally asked. "Never mind who I am," returned the passenger, "say no more and you'll avoid trouble." The conductor said no more. At the end of the line the man and the dog transferred to a Mount Vernon car. "You can't come in here with that dog," said the new conductor, "unless you have a pass." "You report to the office to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock," said the passenger, taking advantage of the conductor's irresolution at his words to brush his way into the car. "If you're a stockholder, it's all right," said the conductor, after thinking hard. "I was only doing my duty." "All right," said the passenger, magnanimously, "say no more about it. You needn't report to the office. I'll tear up this slip I had marked your number on." "Thank you, sir," said the conductor. The passenger rode to the end of the line. "Pardon me," asked another passenger, who had heard all that had passed between the owner of the dog and the two conductors, "but do you play much poker?" "No," was the answer. "Well, you ought to," returned the other. "I never saw such gigantic nerve and bluff made good."

There is great rivalry among the elevated roads and subway guards for what is known as midnight runs—that is, for places on trains which run between 11 o'clock p. m. and 3 a. m. Every once in a few months the runs of the conductors and guards are changed, and those longest in the service get first choice. The "midnights" are always the first choice, and are preferred to daytime runs. The reason for this partiality is that there are tips to be had in the late night and early morning hours, whereas there are none in the daytime. A tired roysterer, a sleepy night worker, or a man overcome by Tenderloin or dinner potations gets into a car. He knows he is going to fall asleep, and that he will get carried by his station if he is not awakened. So he tells the guard the station where he wishes to get off and goes to sleep in security. At his stations the guard wakes him, and receives a dime or a cigar for his pains. Several guards on particular runs add $3 or $4 a week to their salary in this way.

If one wishes to see checkers played in its most primitive form, as prehistoric man might have played it if he had known the combinations, he should go to West-st. On the steps of the warehouses there he will find knots of longshoremen deeply immersed in checker games, which they play between loading or unloading cargoes. One of the stone steps is their checker board. On it they mark off the squares with chalk. Pebbles chalked white are the men of one player and unchalked ones the men of the other. It is a most popular game among longshoremen, and among their number are able players.

That the battle is not always to the strong was attested before an extemporized audience on Broadway, near the Hof Brau House, one day recently. Two men—one a stalwart individual approximating two hundred pounds avoirdupois, and another shorter in stature, and less by forty pounds in weight—developed a violent difference of opinion. The big fellow became belligerent, and was disposed to shake the smaller. The latter was agile and athletic, and welcomed the challenge. In less than half a minute the more ponderous one of the pair was measuring his length on the sidewalk, with his alert antagonist on top and administering facial punishment. The arrival of a policeman ended the scrimmage, and the big fellow was grateful for the direction to "move along," while the bantam weight, who had won the plaudits of the crowd, was turned loose for the obvious reason that no magistrate could be found who would have punished one of his proportions for his fisticraft when so clearly outclassed by the aggressor in the quarrel. The small man is an artist and the big man a painter. The latter was volunteering uncomplimentary criticism of the artist's work, and out of that the quarrel grew. The painter had proof at the finish that the artist is a decorator who executes with promptness and dispatch.

The rewards offered for the return of articles of value lost or stolen have been made the basis of a new industry conducted by members of the highwaymen's guild. Explained by a citizen who was made a victim, the method of operation is as follows: The person who has advertised that he will pay a reward is addressed through the mails, and in the communication it is represented that if the amount of the reward is sent by a messenger to a specified street and number at a certain hour the missing article will be turned over. The directions are plausibly phrased and excite no suspicion, so that in a majority of cases the conditions would be readily complied with. The conspirators lay in wait for the messenger, and on his arrival at the place designated he is decoyed on some specious pretence to an out of the way locality. He is asked to show the money, and if he makes good he is put to sleep with a sandbag or other equally effective soporific. The money then disappears, as do the promotors of the new industry.

"Some women are so thoughtful and considerate of others," was the tribute of a hotel clerk, as a woman guest turned from the desk. "I cash all that woman's checks, because, as she explains, she 'doesn't like to bother the bank.'"

Speaking of the danger of young lawyers in being overzealous in the interests of their clients, a prominent professor in one of the New-York law schools was telling a class the other day of a young graduate of the school who made an expensive error of judgment a few months after starting practice. "'I had a bill to collect,' the lawyer told me," said the professor, "'and as the debtor paid no attention to my letter asking him to pay the bill, I wrote him again, and got him to come to my little office. Well, he came. We talked about the account, and he would make no promises, and I got mad, closed the door, stood with my back against it, and told him he shouldn't go out until he paid. I stood there a minute, and then I began to think of what I had learned about "false imprisonment." It took me an instant then to let the man go out. He went. Two weeks later I settled with him for $250.'"

Her grief had evidently abated. She was wearing the habiliments of mourning, but the vivacity that marked her conversation with a feminine companion and the ungrudging interspersion of smiles as she talked seemed out of harmony with the insignia of bereavement. "It is a month since Charley died," she was heard to say, and a moment later, "Don't you think my mourning outfit is swell? I think it is stunning. I always did look well in black, anyway."

RAID ON EUROPEAN ART FEARED.

Mr. Morgan's Election Starts Plan to Prohibit Sales to America.

Berlin, Dec. 12.—The election of J. Pierpont Morgan to be president of the board of trustees of the Metropolitan Museum of Art has caused Siegfried Lilienthal, one of the best known art critics in Berlin, to fear that the United States will strip Europe of her art treasures. He has begun an agitation for international action to prevent art treasures from going to the United States. Herr Lilienthal has obtained the written views of Corrado Ricci, director of the art galleries at Florence; Pio Joris, of Rome; Wilhelm Bode, director of the Royal Gallery of Paintings at Berlin; Henri Maret, of Paris; Georges Cain, director of the Carnavalet Museum at Paris; Professor Adolphe Venturi, director of the National Gallery at Rome, and José Benlliure, director of the Spanish Academy of Fine Arts at Rome. With the exception of Herr Bode, they all are in favor of laws to prohibit the taking of works of art from Europe to America.

KAISER'S GIFT TO MENELIK.

Berlin, Dec. 12.—Emperor William will send his life size portrait to King Menelik by Dr. Rosen, head of the recently appointed German mission to Abyssinia.