Amusements.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC—8—Sweet Kitty Bellairs.
AMERICAN—8:15—Confessions of a Wife.
BELASCO—8—Acres.
BERKELEY LYCEUM—8:15—Three one-act plays.
BIJOU—8:15—The Music Master.
CIRCLE—2—8—Vaudeville.
COLONIAL—8—Vaudeville.
CRITERION—8:30—Cousin Billy.
DALY'S—8—The Duchess of Dantzic.
EDEN MUSEE—World in Wax.
EMPIRE—8:10—The Little Minister and 'Op o' Me Thumb.
GARDEN—8:20—The College Widow.
GARRICK—8:10—You Never Can Tell.
HARLEM—8:15—Mrs. Black Is Back.
HAMMERSTEIN'S VICTORIA—2—8:15—Vaudeville.
HERALD SQUARE—8:20—The Woman in the Case.
HUDSON—8:30—Stronghearts.
IRVING PLACE—8:20—Freund Fritz.
KNICKERBOCKER—8:15—Love and the Man.
LEW FIELDS'S—8:15—It Happened in Nordland.
LIBERTY—8:15—The Education of Mr. Pipp.
LYCEUM—8:30—Monologues—8:30—Mrs. Leffingwell's Boots.
LYRIC—8:15—Fantana.
MADISON SQUARE—8:30—Mrs. Temple's Telegram.
MAJESTIC—8:15—Buster Brown.
MANHATTAN—2:30—Richter's Wife—8:15—Leah Kleschna.
MADISON SQUARE GARDEN—10 a. m. to 11 p. m.—Motor Boat and Sportsmen's Show.
METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE—8—Roméo et Juliette.
NEW-AMSTERDAM—8:15—Humpty Dumpty.
NEW-YORK—8:15—The Shepherd King.
PRINCESS—8:15—Who Goes There?
SAVOY—8:15—Abigail.
WALLACK'S—8:20—The Yankee Consul.
WERNER MUSIC HALL—8—Higgledy Piggledy and College Widower.
WEST END—8:15—The Lost Boy.

Index to Advertisements.

	Page.	Col.		Page.	Col.
Amusements	12	6	Lost	8	3
Bankers and Brokers	11	2	Lost	11	3
Board and Rooms	8	3-4	Marriages and Deaths	7	5
Brooklyn Property for Sale	11	3	Ocean Steamers	11	4-5
Carpet Cleaning	8	2	Proposals	12	5
Country Property for Sale	11	3	Public Notices	12	5
Dividend Notices	11	3	Railroads	11	5-6
Dom. Sits. Wanted	8	6-8	Real Estate	8	5
Dressmaking & Millinery	9	2	School Agencies	11	4
Encouragement	11	6	Special Notices	7	5-6
For Sale	8	6	Steamboats	11	6
Furnished Rooms to Let	8	5	Surrogate's Notices	11	3
Help Wanted	8	5	Typewriting	8	6
Instruction	11	4	To Let for Business Purposes	11	3
Insurance Adjusters	11	2	Tuition Sch. Rates	7	5-6
			Trust Companies	11	3
			Winter Resorts	11	4
			Work Wanted	8	5-6

New-York Daily Tribune

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1905.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN.—All the railroads of Russia, with one exception, have been placed under martial law, and the situation in Russia proper, the Caucasus and Siberia continues to grow worse; one railway line from Warsaw is being operated, but there are no signs that the agitation is lessening. ==== The advanced forces on the Russian left have been driven back with heavy loss, and the Japanese are apparently preparing to attack the passes which form part of the main Russian lines on the east. ==== The Japanese captured another collier and are waiting to seize three vessels caught in the ice north of Hokkaido. ==== A dispatch from Vladivostok said that there were no signs of a blockade and that cruisers left the harbor occasionally to manœuvre. ==== Prince Frederick Leopold, who recently visited the Russian Emperor, started for the Far East. ==== The Prince and Princess of Wales, a dispatch from London says, will leave England in November for India and remain there until March. ==== The improvement in Sir Henry Irving's condition continues.

DOMESTIC.—The engineering committee of the Panama Canal Commission unanimously recommends the construction of a sea level canal, which, it is declared, can be accomplished in twelve years, at a cost of $230,500,000. ==== Senator Dryden has prepared a bill to provide for the federal control of insurance, as interstate commerce, which will be introduced at once to provoke discussion in the recess of Congress. ==== The last week of the present Congress finds the Senate with many of the important appropriation and other bills unfinished; the work of the House is much nearer completion. ==== A doubtful rumor was in circulation in Delaware that Addicks might withdraw his candidacy until the next legislature. ==== An explosion in a coal mine at Gary, West Va., buried fourteen men; nine bodies have been recovered. ==== Fire practically destroyed the terminal of the Illinois Central at New-Orleans. ==== It was said at Albany that the present week would probably see the question of cheaper gas for this city definitely settled; it is apparently a battle between the legislators and the lobby, with the Republican leaders determined to give the metropolis relief.

CITY.—An officer of the Long Island Railroad told of proposed improvements involving an outlay of $90,000,000. ==== The family of Richard Croker decided to distribute $5,000 among charitable institutions in memory of Frank H. Croker. ==== A special committee of the Department of Education reported against shortening the school day for small children. ==== Six men were arrested in connection with the murder of the woman whose partially clad body was found near Paterson. ==== The theft of school supplies valued at between $5,000 and $10,000 was discovered and a truck driver arrested. ==== The funeral of ex-Senator Jacob Worth was held at his home; hundreds viewed the body as it lay in state. ==== Magistrates Ommen and Flammer denounced the foul and dangerous condition of the Essex Market Court.

THE WEATHER.—Indications for to-day: Fair. The temperature yesterday: Highest, 41 degrees; lowest, 26.

THE KANSAS OIL FIELD.

The rivalry between the Standard Oil Company and the independent producers of petroleum in Kansas will direct public attention to the mineral wealth of a State which has hitherto been known chiefly for its suitability to agriculture. From about a dozen counties in the southwestern part of Kansas the yield of crude oil in 1903 was not far from 1,000,000 barrels, and last year the quantity was probably nearly five times as great. Having passed Louisiana and New-York since 1902, the Sunflower State now ranks seventh among the American contributors to the world's supply. California, Ohio, Texas, West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Indiana are still ahead of her, and to catch up with the rear of this section of the procession will be no easy task. Nevertheless, now that Kansas has begun to furnish 4 or 5 per cent of the oil of the United States, she occupies a position that must command respect, if not admiration. Within the last two or three years several refineries have been erected there, enormous tanks for storage have been built, and a number of pipe lines have been completed or are under construction. Additional importance is lent to these developments by the fact that portions of Indian Territory and Oklahoma, immediately south of the border of the Sunflower State, have also begun to yield. It is evident, therefore, that the field is an extensive one, though it has not yet been the scene of such sensational incidents as Eastern Texas.

Writing for a recent number of "The Mining Magazine," W. H. Heydrick remarked that competition between conflicting interests was first observed nearly a year ago. Early last year the Standard Oil Company began to reduce prices. It did the same for the Pennsylvania product, but Mr. Heydrick says that the cut in the latter case was scarcely 20 per cent, whereas that in quotations for Kansas oil was more than 36 per cent. The immediate effect was to discourage drilling. In June operations were in progress on 240 new wells, but in July the number fell off to 176, and in August to 140. This, of course, was what the company wanted, as it believed that for the time being there was danger of overproduction. The other producers saw no necessity for checking the business, and organized an association for the purpose of protecting themselves. That proceeding alone seems to have averted any further cuts of consequence, but the independent owners were not reconciled to the situation as it then existed, and have sought relief by an appeal to the legislature for the establishment of a refinery under State auspices.

Obviously, the commercial value of Kansas oil must depend largely upon the facilities which are provided for sending it to market. The policy adopted by the Standard Oil Company was to connect its local pipe lines with one which already reaches from the vicinity of Chicago to the Atlantic seaboard. Even without tapping Indian Territory, nearly six hundred miles of pipe were needed to connect Humboldt, Kan., with Whiting, Ind., on Lake Michigan, but the work of laying it was well under way last autumn. Before long, therefore, it should be possible to deliver the product of Southwestern Kansas to [illegible] refineries. This would be a notable performance, but not a strange one. Nothing is surprising nowadays. The course which Mr. Heydrick believed to be the wisest for the independent producers was to lay pipe to some convenient port on the Texas coast, say Port Arthur. Not more than five hundred miles would be required for that purpose. However, Port Arthur is not itself a market, and, even if it were, competition with the product of the Lone Star State would be encountered. Water transportation to more distant points would then be essential before the oil of Kansas could be sold. The problem thus presented is not an easy one to solve. Eventually the railroad companies whose lines extend to the northward, eastward and westward of the newly opened field will probably burn petroleum on their locomotives, and electric and other power plants will utilize it in a similar manner. Whether the domestic demand will ever equal the increasing supply, though, is exceedingly doubtful. Provision for exportation on a large scale, therefore, cannot be made too soon.

DEMOCRATIC REORGANIZATION.

In "The Atlantic Monthly" for February Mr. Edward Stanwood discusses what he calls "the Democratic predicament." The Democratic party, he holds, if it wants to live as a party, must find itself. It must abandon its futile efforts to be all things to all men. It must quit trying to pose one year as "safe and sane" and another year as blindly and fiercely radical. A choice must be made between radicalism and conservatism; and last November's verdict has made that choice an easy and a natural one. Says Mr. Stanwood:

> That cannot be a strong party in which both Mr. Cleveland and Mr. Bryan are leaders of factions, nor can it be strong if either of them is titular leader and the other nominally a follower. It is merely the expression of an opinion, which can be neither verified nor refuted, that at present Mr. Bryan reflects the political sentiment of by far the more numerous wing of the party. Assuming that to be the fact, the logical consequence of the existing situation is that those who form that wing should and will take permanent control of the organization. Inasmuch as they would be hampered in the future, as they have been in the past, by men who call themselves Democrats, but who have no sympathy with the forward policy, they should enter upon their new course with such clear and unmistakable statements of their purposes as to compel the withdrawal from the party of those who are with it, but not of it.

These are in no sense novel ideas. The Tribune has commented time and again on the folly of the Democratic "reorganization" programme of 1904. We have held that the Democratic "return to sanity"—preached so vigorously by Mr. Cleveland and other Eastern leaders—was a political and logical impossibility. We have insisted that in spirit and tendency the Democratic party is now unalterably radical, and that the "safety and sanity" crusade of 1903 and 1904 was bottomed on gross misconceptions of political conditions and popular sentiment. Long before Judge Parker was nominated we declared that his candidacy was based on false pretences and false premises, and that it was foredoomed to failure.

It is easier to see now that Mr. Cleveland, Mr. Hill and the Southern managers who made Judge Parker's nomination possible were absolutely self-deluded when they assumed that the Democratic party could be recalled to "conservative" ideals. We scarcely think Mr. Stanwood goes far enough when he says that "it is "merely an expression of opinion, which can "be neither verified nor refuted, that at present Mr. Bryan reflects the political sentiment "of by far the more numerous wing of the "party." Mr. Bryan has already taken up the party reins, and the attitude of the Democrats in Congress shows he is again the undisputed Democratic leader. All signs point, indeed, to an increase of radicalism in the Democratic programmes of the near future. Only the South holds back, and for reasons of its own pleads loyalty to certain conservative ideals which it still finds useful. But if the party is to be a force again in politics, it must—as Mr. Stanwood justly says—be purged of the influences which thwart its natural development. It must cast out the so-called "conservatives" who are "in it but not of it," and who invoke its traditions and use its name for wholly ulterior purposes. And this purgation promises to be one of the political processes most worth noting in the next four years.

AUSTRALIA'S VITAL PROBLEM.

Australia has been confronted for the last twenty years with an ominous decline in the birth rate. The deep concern which the fall in New South Wales from 38.44 in 1884 and 31.75 in 1894 to 25.28 in 1903 has given thoughtful Australians is indicated by the rejoicing at what is called "a most gratifying report" of a birth rate of 26.77 for 1904. This is lower than the rate for 1902, and seems but a trifling improvement on the lowest rate reached, but it is something. It is eagerly heralded as marking the turn of the tide and strengthening the hope of permanent white supremacy and progress in Australia.

Unless the tide has turned in other provinces, that hope would seem to rest on a slender foundation. Race suicide has been threatening all Australasia, and we have no figures to show a change except in New South Wales. In 1902 both Victoria and South Australia had lower birth rates than New South Wales. In 1901 in all Australasia there were 239 births per thousand of married women of childbearing age, while in 1891 there were 276, and in the same period the illegitimate birth rate also slightly decreased. As Australia and New-Zealand are comparatively undeveloped countries with a homogeneous population, this falling off cannot be explained by the pressure of inferior races and the caste feeling which keeps the Anglo-Saxon population under such circumstances from the lower grades of labor and so lessens for many the chance of marriage and the desire for children.

Unless a race is inherently degenerate, any such phenomenon as is observed in Australia must be due to some untoward economic or social cause. Doubtless the severe industrial depression which afflicted Australia a few years ago had its effect, but it would not account for the culmination of the trouble so long after the return of prosperity. Perhaps a more potent restriction upon the growth of population is the dominance of trade unionism and the trial of socialistic experiments. For some years in several of the provinces the tendency has been to surround all employment with a cordon for the benefit of those already embarked in industry and render it difficult for newcomers to find a place. The restriction of apprenticeship and the creation of close corporations of labor might naturally interfere with that free play of enterprise and that opportunity for the ambitious which encourage the early founding of families. This is a phase of the problem which has not received due attention. If socialism, which is advertised to smooth the material path of humanity, really operates to restrict population as well as individual enterprise, the fact should be grasped by the sociologists.

Mr. Coghlan, the government statistician of New South Wales, finds much comfort not only in the increasing birth rate, but in the decreasing death rate, which for 1904 was 10.66, as against an average of 11.87 for the previous ten years. Not merely the rates, but the aggregate numbers, are encouraging. The total of births was the largest since 1895 and 2,731 in excess of the previous year, while the deaths numbered 15,411, as against 16,497 in 1903. So, too, the number of marriages increased by 670, being 10,429, the largest number in the history of the province except in 1901 and 1902. These figures, dealing only with one year and one province, are, of course, insufficient for any trustworthy induction. But they are so at variance with the discouraging reports of the past that they offer some ground to hope that the state building genius of the Anglo-Saxon race has not yet exhausted itself in Australia, where alone it has a free field, unembarrassed by the necessity of uplifting vast bodies of backward natives or assimilating immigrants of other stock.

ABOLISH THE CORONERS.

It is to be hoped that Senator Elsberg's bill abolishing the office of coroner will become a law this year. Last year the bill was passed, and Mayor McClellan vetoed it. The Mayor's only reason was that the office was an ancient one and deserving of respect on the ground of antiquity. Possibly this year the Mayor may see the question in a different light. He has before him an object lesson on the workings of the ancient office. One coroner stands convicted of bribery. District Attorney Jerome has openly charged that the office is not conducted as it should be. The spectacle of Jackson fighting for a new trial after conviction of crime shows that the office is not honorable, even if it is ancient, in the Mayor's view.

The Elsberg bill should be passed promptly and considerations of antiquity should not be allowed to prevent its becoming a law. Erie County has got rid of its coroners. The same relief should be afforded New-York.

SCHOOL AND FACTORY.

A correspondent takes us to task for suggesting in the course of an article advocating stricter child labor laws that in some places a matter of capital importance was "the improvement of "schools to give such training to the children "that they will really benefit rather than suffer "by exclusion from the factories." Our correspondent asks "why the exclusion from fac"tories now without waiting for the 'training' "would cause the children to suffer, and also "what would be the character of training neces"sary to make this exclusion beneficial."

The Tribune did not say that the children needed to be trained precedent to exclusion from factories, as our correspondent evidently thinks, and, in fact, misquotes us as saying in another part of his letter. We merely called attention to the fact that in some parts of the country schools were so poor that a child might actually be better off in a factory. There are undoubtedly some factories that are better than some schools, so far as education and morals go, and our object was not to defend factory work for children, but to urge the necessity of providing everywhere for the children to be excluded from the factory something better than the surroundings which invite to the truancy and vice which are worse than wage earning for the rising generation.

Every child should have school opportunities, but he should also learn to work. Under old conditions of industry, the farm, the kitchen and the small shop furnished children with some practical training along with their school work. Our life has been transformed by city conditions and factory development and the use of machinery, yet to a great extent our schools are conducted on the theory that every child will at home be fitted for industry. The result is that our country is filled with young men and women who have learned to despise hand work, but who have neither the natural capacity nor the acquired knowledge for anything else. We have altogether too many loafers conscious of their eligibility to the Presidency. We need schools whose training is adjusted to the fact that nine-tenths of the pupils who attend them will some day be under the inevitable necessity of earning their bread by the sweat of their brow, if they are not to recruit the ranks of the vicious and criminal.

We may be accused of seeking to break down American ideas of equality. Perhaps our correspondent will call this a manifestation of caste spirit. But it is not. We are simply concerned to adapt education to the real needs of the educated. The boy who has mastered a craft and its possibilities is more of a man and has more chance to rise in the traditional American fashion than the boy who comes out of school ashamed to labor and not knowing how to make a living even if he wants to. By all means let our schools inculcate ideals of equality and liberty, but let them also teach the dignity of labor and show their pupils how to labor so that they may easily find opportunities for work, take delight in their work and be able to utilize those larger opportunities in life which come from work well done.

We have in this country an industrial civilization. Our business life is organized on a basis of industrial efficiency. The railroad president holds his place because he has mastered its requirements just as the engine driver does. But our schools are managed in great part as if they were fitting for the life of mediæval England or ancient Rome. Now, adaptation to the time does not mean mere "practical" study and the loss of breadth, but it does mean that discipline of hand, eye, brain and character which will make up for the present day absence of home training and fit our children to be efficient members of society and be not the slaves of the work which, sooner or later, they have to do, but masters of it, with that joy and freedom which only mastery can give.

WARRIORS WITH TONGUE AND SWORD.

If tongues were swords, the Russian cause might be more hopeful; provided they were used against the Japanese and not against fellow Russians. For the amount of wrangling and recrimination among the army and navy officers of the Czar is great and is still growing, to a degree unprecedented, so far as we can recall, in the history of war. We suppose these things are truly reported, since the news of them comes chiefly through French, German and other pro-Russian channels. But they must be regarded as ominous for Russia. They indicate a lack of unity and sympathy among the war chiefs which amounts to little less than demoralization. The effect upon the rank and file and upon the people must be mischievous. It is certainly surprising and depressing to the world at large.

A recent output is from an admiral who bears the suggestive name of Lockinsky, commander of the torpedo defences at Port Arthur. He has apparently nothing good to say of any one. Admirals Stark and Withoeft he denounces as "bedchamber admirals," who were unacquainted with their duties and were seasick whenever afloat. The latter charge may be passed by. Nelson or Dundonald might have had mal de mer. But we are inclined to think that Admiral Togo would give a somewhat higher testimonial to Stark's and Withoeft's capacity in battle. They kept him busy much of the time. Worse still, Admiral Lockinsky rails at Admiral Skrydloff for "establishing himself ashore at Vladivostok" instead of coming down and breaking the Port Arthur blockade. We do not know whether Skrydloff or one of his lieutenants was in actual command of the Vladivostok ships, but we do know that those vessels did some uncommonly vigorous raiding, giving Japan the worst quarter hours she has had in the whole war and commanding the admiration of the whole world. Beyond question those ships did all that could have been expected of them, and more. Of course, they could not have raised the siege of Port Arthur. It would have been madness for mere cruisers to pit themselves against Togo's floating fortresses; but to rail at them for inactivity seems to us a good deal as though some disgruntled Boers had denounced De Wet for sluggishness.

There is also a report that General Stoessel is speaking with bitterness of Admiral Rojestvensky and other naval officers, apparently blaming them for not coming to his relief in time to save him from surrender. If so, we must think he judges them unjustly. But, whatever the merits of any particular case, such wrangling in the presence of the enemy bodes little good for Russia. She needs the most perfect harmony of action and the most perfect sympathy between both branches of her service and among all her officers. If she has them not she can scarcely hope to avoid the menace which proverbially comes upon the house which is divided against itself.

MONEY AND BUSINESS.

Compared with the inactivity prevailing a year ago in the security market, last week was a phenomenally busy one, and the trading was of a better character, owing to a little more interest on the part of the general public. The average of the sixty most active railway stocks rose to the highest point of the year, and within $3 a share of the record established in 1902, while compared with the corresponding date last year the market averaged an advance of $27 a share. Conservative brokers frequently advise their customers that this advance would seem to discount the prosperity of the country, but logical deductions are of little avail in a market so largely professional. Union Pacific was again the prominent feature, establishing a new high record almost every day, but on Thursday attention was turned in large measure to the Steel securities, owing to sensational rumors regarding proposed consolidations. Activity has also been conspicuous in the bond department, very large sales of Union Pacific convertible 4s being made, while both issues of Japanese bonds exceeded most of the domestic railway issues in volume of transactions.

At last it is possible to note a decided advance in the money market. For a long time call loans did not rise above 2 per cent, and the bulk of the business was accomplished at 1¾ per cent; but now there is a distinct rise of about 1 per cent, the maximum being 3 and the usual rate 2¾ per cent. No such difference appears in the rates for time money on Stock Exchange collateral or the market for mercantile paper, although both are in a slightly better position. One result of the advance above 2 per cent for call loans was the withdrawal of trust company funds from the banks in order to make the loans direct, which tends to contract the loan item in the associated bank statement, although not altering the local financial situation in any way. Although little money has been withdrawn by the interior, the tendency is away from this city, as indicated by Chicago and New-Orleans payments of internal revenue by drafts on New-York. A little more gold went to South America, making exports of $66,250,000 in less than four months. There is no prospect of any further shipments of specie to Europe just now, rates of foreign exchange having declined very sharply during the last week. Offerings of finance bills in connection with the Southern Pacific bond payment and purchases of stocks by London were largely responsible for the fall in sterling exchange, as offerings of commercial bills were not large.

Trade conditions throughout the country make a somewhat striking comparison with the preceding week owing to the gratifying improvement of the weather. A holiday each week tended to restrict the total volume of business, but the later reports indicate that rapid progress is being made wherever the severity of winter no longer handicaps operations. This influence is felt in almost every branch of business, particularly in the wholesale and jobbing trade at the big cities, which is so largely dependent at this time of the year upon out-of-town buyers. Retail trade in the country towns was also reduced by the impassable condition of roads, and manufacturing activity now responds to the better supply of fuel and other materials that could not be moved during the freight blockade. One very satisfactory result of the severe winter weather will be the almost complete exhaustion of heavy wearing apparel and similar products in the hands of dealers. While it is still a little early for vigorous prosecution of building operations, work has begun at some Southern points, and elsewhere the movement of materials gives an indication of what is to come.

Prices of the leading staples have moved very irregularly, wheat showing considerable strength in spite of the insignificant demand from abroad and the lack of interest on the part of domestic millers. Speculative holders of nearby options are able to maintain their position because of the small available supply and the light interior receipts, but with improved traffic facilities it is possible that there will be a more liberal movement at primary markets, in which case quotations may fall to a more rational position. The winter wheat outlook is reported favorable, and it is certain that current prices will encourage Northwestern farmers to plant a large crop of spring wheat. The most satisfactory feature in the corn market is the liberal export movement. After opening somewhat stronger because of a vigorous demand from Manchester, cotton declined rather sharply, as the Southern movement indicated that planters were less inclined to hold back their crop. Liverpool has been the chief support of the cash position, but speculators find it more difficult to maintain option prices. Improved conditions at New-England mills would tend to strengthen the raw material if it were not for the fact that it is difficult to reconcile a quotation of eight cents for spot middling uplands with a crop of over 13,000,000 bales.

Manufacturing returns are still decidedly encouraging, the best news coming from the iron and steel industry, which has made good progress during the last week. Blast furnaces are receiving very large orders for pig iron, and although it is probable that production may be slightly larger than consumption at the present time, yet the numerous steel mills that are about to resume work will soon dispose of any excessive quantity of raw material. A little hesitation in the woollen goods market is caused by some indication of weakness in raw material, but all the heavyweight lines have now been opened and most of them withdrawn because the entire production was sold. Cotton spinners would fare badly if they depended entirely upon domestic business, but fortunately some of the mills have sold their entire production up to October 1 to China. Footwear shops are actually shipping more boots and shoes through Boston than they were at this time last year, notwithstanding the fact that after this spring business is disposed of there will be very few orders on hand, owing to the tardiness with which fall contracts are placed.

Judge Grosscup, of the United States Circuit Court, Chicago, whose injunctions have made him famous, has himself, as a capitalist and promoter, been enjoined. The injunction is a double edged legal weapon which has no fears of being fined for contempt of court.

Niagara Falls and man are supposed to have begun their existence on earth about the same time, and both have left their records written, though in neither case are historians or geologists agreed as to the question of age. Whether man will survive the falls or whether they will thunder on after he has disappeared is a question that in some respects may be said to depend upon the men living to-day. If their greed destroys the falls, they will need no other epitaph in future ages.

And now it seems Tammany has all along been in favor of 75-cent gas. The way in which Tammany can dissemble its love for the people—until an election approaches—is wonderful.

The sale of a mountain of cinnabar in Alaska for $1,500,000, or nearly one-fourth of the original price paid for the entire Territory, is suggestive of many reflections even to Americans of to-day, but what would Pliny, who held that cinnabar was a mixture of the blood of the dragon and the elephant, have had to say had such a discovery been made in his day?

The Indiana Legislature has passed a bill prohibiting the manufacture and sale of cigarettes. But what are these Indianapolis reformers going to do to the fragrant and rampant Pittsburg "stogie"?

So far no one has interviewed the Hon. David Wark, member of the Dominion Parliament, as to his opinion of Dr. Osler's remark about men being useless after the age of forty. Mr. Wark is 101 years old and still doing legislative work; therefore his opinion about mere youths of forty would be interesting.

Economically there are numbers of good things to be said about the shark to balance the reproaches it commonly gets in such abundance. Its fins make an edible jelly which is a rare table luxury, especially among the Orientals; its liver supplies useful oil for machinery; its skin can be turned into leather equal to that of the alligator; its backbone furnishes fine walking sticks, and from its teeth and jawbones numerous fanciful and useful articles are fabricated. A company has been formed to exploit the shark commercially, and will probably run into a shark trust and grinding monopoly one of these days, calling for legislative interference.

PERSONAL.

Mrs. Isabella Beecher Hooker, the only surviving child of Dr. Lyman Beecher, a sister of Henry Ward Beecher and Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe, celebrated her eighty-third birthday on Wednesday, in Hartford, Conn.

The Rev. C. C. Bruce, chaplain and superintendent of the Seamen's Church and Institute, of Portland, Ore., is next in line to his father, Lord Thurlow, of the Scottish peerage. He is a grandson of the Earl of Elgin, who was succeeded as Governor General of India by Lord Curzon.

The twentieth anniversary of the accession to the bench of the United States Court for the Southern District of Georgia of Judge Emory Speer was observed by the Bar Association and the Chamber of Commerce of Macon with complimentary addresses, to which Judge Speer responded.

Lieutenant Zebulon Montgomery Pike, an officer in the United States Army, discovered the famous peak that bears his name on November 15, 1806. The Chamber of Commerce of Colorado Springs has started a movement to honor the 100th anniversary of this event in 1906 by a celebration to be participated in by the entire State.

Lynedoch, the title chosen by Graham Murray, the new British peer, was first borne by Thomas Graham, a famous British general of the Wellington period, who was born in 1748, the son of the laird of Balgowan, in Perthshire, and he raised in 1793 the 90th Regiment of Foot, and served with it at Quiberon and Isle Dieu.

Mme. Melba's maiden name was Nellie Mitchell. Her father, David Mitchell, now seventy-six years of age, is rated as one of the wealthiest men in the Australian Commonwealth. He is a native of Scotland. All his life he has been noted for his lack of emotion as well as for his rigid Presbyterianism.

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

Bill Nye used to tell of an Indiana man who successfully managed a skunk farm. "Last year," said Bill, "he worshipped at the Baptist church, but this year the congregation has paid him $5 a week to worship in secret."

New Boarder—Don't you ever get tired of these nondescript salads the landlady furnishes us?

Philosophical Boarder—On the contrary, I never cease to regard them with wonder and admiration for their extraordinarily cosmopolitan character.—Chicago Tribune.

The quickest growing plant in the world is the kudzu, a species of bean. It is said to have been known to grow sixty feet in three months.

WHEN MY SHIP COMES IN.

> One room I'll have that's full of shelves,
> For putting out books, and the books themselves
> Shall be of a sort that a man will choose
> If he loves that good old word "peruse":
> The kind of books that you open by chance,
> To browse on the page with a lovely glance,
> Certain of finding something new,
> Although you've read it ten times through.
> I don't mean books like "Punch" in series,
> Or all the volumes of "Notes and Queries";
> But those wherein, without effort, your eyes
> Fall where the favorite passage lies,
> Knowing the page and exact position—
> It's never the same in another edition.
> "The Vicar of Wakefield" and "Evelina,"
> "Ela," "The Egoist," "Emma," "Catriona,"
> Fuller and Malory, "Westward Ho!"
> And the wonderful story of Daniel Defoe,
> And Izaak Walton and Gilbert White,
> And plays and poetry left and right!
> No glass doors and no "fumed oak"—
> Plain deal and fumed by myself with smoke;
> Stained, if at all, to a pleasant brown,
> With ledges and places for putting books down.
> And there I'll sit by a blazing log,
> With a sweet old briar and a glass of grog,
> And read my "Pickwick," "Pendennis," "Huck Finn,"
> Costly there—when my ship comes in.
>
> —(Cornhill Magazine.

The largest diamond in the world that was recently found is not of the crystalline sort used as a gem. If it were its value would be fabulous, for it is seventeen times larger than the famous Victoria diamond, the largest of modern finds, which was sold for $1,500,000. Its value depends upon the use to which it can be put when broken up, for it is of the amorphous kind, known technically as a carbon.

Before Longfellow bought the house in Cambridge so associated with his memory it was owned and occupied by old Mrs. Craigie.

Mrs. Craigie was a woman of many eccentricities, Moncure D. Conway says in his recent book of "Reminiscences":

"Some one once tried to persuade her to have her trees tarred to protect them from caterpillars, which also invaded her neighbors' trees.

"She refused to be so cruel to the caterpillars.

"'They are our fellow worms,' she said."—(Youth's Companion.

Only one man in the city of London outside the Tower possesses the password which enables him to answer the challenge of the sentries at any time. It is the Lord Mayor, and the password is given to him by authority of the King.

Before saying it looks to you as though the backbone of winter is finally broken, knock heavily on wood.—(The Atchison Globe.

The offending battery at St. Petersburg which fired case shot at the Winter Palace by accident or design has recalled an anecdote of another Russian battery, says "The London Chronicle." It was at the siege of Warsaw, where a Russian marshal ordered the battery to concentrate its fire on a certain point. Nothing came of this, and the marshal rode up to the artillerymen in great wrath. "What imbecile is in command here?" he demanded. "I am," said an officer calmly. "Consider yourself under arrest. Your shells are no good." "What can you expect?" retorted the officer. "They won't explode. See for yourself." He took up a shell, lighted the fuse, and held it out to the marshal, who stood with his hands behind him waiting the result. If the shell had burst both men would have been blown to pieces. But the fuse went out and the marshal remarked simply: "You are quite right."

PSNOBISME?

(It is stated that a gentleman of the name of Smith proposes, by way of differentiation, to adopt the signature of "Psmith," on the analogy of the mute p in "psalm.")

> Hear, all ye countless Smiths and Schmidts,
> Who long have exercised your wits
> In numerous ways to mask or mimic
> Your world-pervading patronymic!
>
> Ye Smits and Schmitzes, Smyths and Smythes
> (Or Smiths (whereat my tongue-tip writhes),
> A Mr. Psmith has added lately
> His variant, which arrides me greatly.
>
> It shouts aloud this silent P,
> A patent of gentility,
> To match, with little extra trouble,
> Those small initial P's writ double.
>
> Soon in the Landed Gentry books
> We shall be meeting Psmokes and Psnooks,
> And last, with rival ardor whetted,
> Ptompkins and Ptubbs will get Debretted!
>
> —(Punch.

A bar for prison windows which will resist the work of a saw has been patented by a Philadelphia inventor. It has a number of longitudinal holes near the surface, which are filled with glass. This is very severe on the saw, and is likely to discourage the sawyer.

"Panting" in his exertions to walk on the ice "coated" pavement, the wise man in (vest)ed in an accident insurance policy which "suited" him.—(Insurance Press.

LONDON NOTES.

Young Men in Public Life—Lord Hugh Cecil.

London, February 18.

Since Mr. Gladstone's death and the late Lord Salisbury's retirement from public life England has been governed by young men. The Prime Minister is fifty-six, and, while old in comparison with the second Pitt, he is younger than his recent predecessors in that great office have been, Lord Rosebery alone excepted. Mr. Balfour is surrounded with young men in his Cabinet. Lord Selborne, Mr. Wyndham, Mr. Brodrick and Mr. Austen Chamberlain are in their forties, and several Ministers are in their thirties. With the exception of the Lord Chancellor, who is hale and hearty, whatever his age may be or how many judges he has nominated, the veterans of the Unionist party have retired. The Duke of Devonshire, Lord Goschen, Lord James, Mr. Ritchie and Sir Michael Hicks-Beach have fallen into the background. Lord Londonderry is younger than the Prime Minister, and Lord Lansdowne has barely passed sixty. The Birmingham leader is sixty-nine, but so alert in he in body and mind, so jaunty and youthful in appearance, that it is hard to believe that he is a veteran in politics. He has rallied about him the youngsters on his own side of the Commons; he has recruited his tariff commission with business men in their forties, and his "battlers" in the conduct of his reform campaign are men in their thirties, like Mr. Pearson. The Opposition bench is occupied by veterans, but the active skirmishers who force the fighting are young men, like Mr. Lloyd-George and Mr. Churchill. So far as England is concerned, it is an era of young men in public life; and so it is also on the Continent and across the seas, where the Czar and the King of Italy are in their thirties, the German Emperor and President Roosevelt in their forties and the Emperor of Japan has barely passed fifty. The Emperor of Austria-Hungary and the King of Denmark are almost the only veterans on thrones, and King Edward VII in the course of his short reign has renewed his youth in active participation in public affairs.

If confirmation were needed of the statement that young men are either ruling or powerfully influencing the world, it would be found in the proceedings of the opening week of Parliament. The most brilliant speech has been made by a young man of thirty-six, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman. Mr. Balfour, Mr. Asquith and Mr. Chamberlain have been prominent figures in the debates on the address, but it was not until Lord Hugh Cecil was heard that members said one to another: "This is the best speech since Mr. Gladstone disappeared from the House." The comparison has been a natural one, for while he is not a master of debate, he speaks like the Grand Old Man, with moral force and a tone of authority. There is something in the quality of his voice that compels men to listen to him. What he says has the supreme note of personal conviction. When he began to speak in the Commons several years ago he was called a monk from his interest in ecclesiastical affairs, and in his white heat of earnestness his face twitched, his arms gesticulated wildly, his body swayed and his voice was preternaturally solemn. These faults of delivery have been mended, but the moral power of the speaker has remained. In a listless time, when nobody concerns himself deeply in public affairs and everybody is overanxious about what is regarded as good form, Lord Hugh Cecil is terribly in earnest. Yet he has compensations to offer to auditors who are either frightened or bored by earnestness. He has lucidity of style, nobody can misunderstand his meaning. He has freshness of thought and vigor of mind. He has the keen wit and fine irony which his father displayed in the famous "Saturday Review" articles. There is never a dull moment when he is on his feet. He has a natural dignity of utterance, which becomes eloquence when his heart is in his work. He has the courage required for taunting the Prime Minister in polished epigrams, and he does not flinch from answering Mr. Chamberlain defiantly when interrupted by him. All these gifts and graces he displayed during the debate this week, and when he finished his speech it was considered a masterly performance on each side of the House.

The significance of the intervention of the member for Greenwich in the debate lay in his ingenious argument that the interests of Free Trade would be promoted by keeping the Ministry in office. Mr. Chamberlain had not concealed his own preference for an early dissolution of Parliament, although he was not prepared to force it by direct action of the advanced tariff reformers. The Liberals were eager to have the general elections brought on at the earliest possible moment. The Prime Minister was bent upon holding his ground tenaciously and averting what could hardly fail to be a disastrous appeal to the country. Lord Hugh Cecil, as the leader of the Free Trade Unionists, defined their motives and intentions with precision and authority. They have no thought of following Mr. Churchill across the floor to the Opposition benches, and thereby compromising their attitude on the Education act and other questions. They mean to remain where they are and to keep up their fight for Free Trade within the Unionist party. They do not intend to vote against the government when they consider that time is against Mr. Chamberlain and that there is a reasonable expectation of wearing him out. Lord Hugh Cecil did not say this brutally, but he made his meaning clear. The downfall of the government was not to be accomplished with his help or by the secession of Free Traders looking to him for guidance. Whether the Prime Minister was ambiguous or explicit, whether he was Mr. Chamberlain's ally or was halting between two opinions, he was to be kept in office this year and, if necessary, the next as well. Lord Hugh Cecil declined to be an accomplice in overthrowing him, when vacillation was proving helpful to the Free Trade cause and Mr. Chamberlain's movement was losing rather than gaining ground by inaction and delay. That was the meaning of this remarkably eloquent and brilliant speech. When it was finished the House was convinced that the general elections could be brought on only by accident, or by tariff reform defections; and Mr. Chamberlain knew that his most dangerous adversary was the young member whose meridian was Greenwich rather than Birmingham.

The