fington flaunts her saucy charm as Sir Henry Wilder in white hat and dress with a red cloak; Charles Kemble poses before Phillips as Tamerlane, and John Fawcett before Shee; there is a series of Zoffany portraits and theatrical pieces—Samuel Foote in blue coat and pink waistcoat; John Moody as Father Foigart, Mrs. Garrick in gray silk gown and lace cap, Thomas King in "The Clandestine Marriage," Garrick and Mrs. Cibber in "Venice Preserved," and Garrick as Hamlet in the presence of the Ghost; there are several Clints, with Edmund Kean, as Sir Giles Overreach and Richard III, and old William Farren as the most interesting pieces; Charles Kemble holds the marks of tragedy and comedy, and Fechter broods as Hamlet; there are portraits of the elder Mathews, Jack Bannister and other actors by De Wilde; and there is a reminiscence of the old fashioned play, "The Stranger." In Sharp's sketch of Young as Mr. Haller, Jefferson as Rip Van Winkle is painted by himself, and the famous cast in "Much Ado About Nothing" at the Lyceum is reproduced in Mr. Forbes Robertson's drawing of the church scene. Miss Ellen Terry appears at Christie's as Ophelia, Cordelia, Portia and Lady Macbeth, but the last is the great part, because Mr. Sargent is the painter. Irving himself appears in many parts—Cardinal Wolsey, Charles I, Lear, Ravenswood, Benedick, Citizen Landry, Lesurques and Mephistopheles; but he will receive the heartiest greeting from the spectators at the auction room as Philip of Spain, for this is one of Whistler's well known pictures, with the actor at full length, with black doublet, hose and short coat, long, white trunks and shoes, and white feathers in the black hat and the dull gleam of gold embroideries.

It is a full dress rehearsal of the English stage that is to be witnessed at Christie's on these dull December mornings; and scenic effects are not lacking. Here are the designs for many of the great productions at the Lyceum: Alma Tadema's Antium and Rome for "Coriolanus," Burne-Jones's sketches for "King Arthur," Ford Madox Brown's illustrations for "King Lear," Seymour Lucas's drawings for "Ravenswood," Tenniel's designs for Shylock's and Othello's costumes, Telbin's Brocken for the witches' sabbath and Hawes Craven's studies for many plays, among them "Becket," in which Irving's last stage words were heard. Every detail of scenic art decoration was studied by this master artist, and no effort was spared in fitting himself into the impersonation of character. The heads of Dante, Napoleon, Robespierre and Charles I stand out among these scenic designs to remind one of Irving's habit of brooding silently over the characters which he was to impersonate; and when the engravings are examined in folio or in frame there is overwhelming evidence that genius like his consisted "in taking an infinite deal of pains in little things." Here are engravings, lithographs and aqua tints illustrating the costumes, incidents and life of France at the time of the great revolution, so that "The Death Cast," "Robespierre" and other plays might have the color and movement of the period. Here are Garrick, the Keans, the Kembles, Macready, Mrs. Siddons, Mrs. Oldfield, Mrs. Cibber, Peg Woffington, Mrs. Pritchard and Mme. Vestris in their greatest stage performances, where their costumes and poses could be studied and the inspiration of their stagecraft caught. All these worthies, who have given the cues to the chief English actor in the retirement of his library, are now rehearsing their parts with smirk or frown for a few matinees at Christie's; and when the last curio or drawing is rattled off down will come the curtain with a final tap from the most mechanical of sceneshifters, the auctioneer. The ghosts haunting Irving's rooms will not be seen again, but the playhouses will still be open, and on the stage there will be full range for affectations, foibles, mannerisms and brilliant talents of the actors of the past, who will live again in the art of their successors. But there will be no Irving with a unique personality on any stage. As Dobson in his imaginative tour of Hyde Park could meet all the familiar figures of Horace's satires, but not the master himself, so also the playgoers who have loved and honored Irving will continue to think of him as unmatched, unrivalled and ever to be missed from the theatre. I. N. F.

F. N. OWEN SENT TO BELLEVUE.

Frederick N. Owen, fifty-two years old, a civil engineer, was removed from his home, No. 15 East 17th-st., to Bellevue Hospital last night suffering from nervous prostration. He arrived at the institution in a private ambulance, accompanied by his brother, Walter G. Owen, a broker, who lives at No. 480 Central Park West. The engineer has been ill since last August, and upon the advice of the family physician he was removed temporarily to Bellevue.

WHAT IS GOING ON TO-DAY.

Annual dinner to men of the Bowery, Bowery Mission, 9 a. m.

Christmas dinner of the Timothy D. Sullivan Association, No. 207 Bowery, 11 a. m.

Annual dinner at the McAuley Mission, No. 316 Water-st., noon.

Little Mothers' Christmas dinner, Murray Hill Lyceum, 1 p. m.

National Academy of Design, annual exhibition, No. 215 West 57th-st.

Dinner to newsboys at Newsboys' Athletic Club, No. 74 East 4th-st.

Manger service, Trinity Church, 3 p. m.

Salvation Army dinner, Grand Central Palace, 6 p. m.

Newsboys' Christmas dinner, Newsboys' Lodging House, 7 p. m.

"His Excellency the Governor," by the Mummers, benefit for St. Joseph's Day Nursery, Waldorf-Astoria, 8:30 p. m.

Annual entertainment and distribution of gifts by the Sittig Brooklyn Christmas Tree Society, Alcazar Theatre, No. 281 Washington-st., Brooklyn, 10:30 a. m.

PROMINENT ARRIVALS AT THE HOTELS

BRESLIN—Major F. R. Shunk, U. S. A. GOTHAM—Senator Nelson W. Aldrich, Rhode Island. HOFFMAN—Congressman George N. Southwick, Albany. HOLLAND—L. P. Miller, Corning; R. A. Ally and J. White Todd, London. ST. REGIS—A. G. Van Nostrand, Boston.

THE WEATHER REPORT.

Official Record and Forecast.—Washington, Dec. 24.—With the exception of light local snows from the lake region eastward, rains in the extreme south portion of the South Atlantic States and in the North Pacific States, the weather has been generally clear today. It is much colder in the Atlantic States, and the temperatures range from 5 to 12 degrees below the seasonal average east of the Mississippi River. It is, however, much warmer in the upper Mississippi and lower Missouri valleys and slightly warmer over the remainder of the West.

There will be snow flurries Monday on the windward shores of the Great Lakes, continuing Tuesday on Lake Ontario and eastern Lake Erie. There will be rain or snow Monday and Tuesday in the North Pacific States and snow in Northwest Montana. Elsewhere the weather will be generally fair Monday and Tuesday. It will be warmer Monday in the Ohio and upper Mississippi valleys and the upper lake region. Over the remaining districts temperature changes will be unimportant.

Winds along the New-England and the Middle Atlantic coasts will be fresh west to southwest; on the South Atlantic Coast light to fresh north, becoming variable; on the Gulf Coast light north, becoming variable, and on Lake Michigan fresh to brisk and mostly southwest.

Steamers departing Monday for European ports will have fresh west to southwest winds and generally fair weather to the Grand Banks.

Storm warnings are displayed at the mouth of the Columbia River, at Aberdeen, Wash., and on the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

Forecast for Special Localities.—For Eastern Pennsylvania, Eastern New-York, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Delaware and New-Jersey, fair to-day and Tuesday; light to fresh west to southwest winds.

For New-England, fair to-day and Tuesday, except snow Monday night or Tuesday in Northwest Vermont and interior Maine; fresh west to southwest winds.

For Western Pennsylvania, fair to-day and Tuesday, except snow flurries Tuesday near Lake Erie; Tuesday warmer; fresh southwest winds.

For Western New-York, partly cloudy to-day and Tuesday; snow flurries near the lakes; fresh to brisk southwest winds.

Local Official Record.—The following official record from the Weather Bureau shows the changes in the temperature for the last twenty-four hours, in comparison with the corresponding date of last year:

	1904.	1905.		1904.	1905.
3 a. m.	44	38	6 p. m.	26	34
6 a. m.	42	35	9 p. m.	26	31
9 a. m.	42	33	11 p. m.	23	30
12 m.	36	34	12 p. m.	23	—
4 p. m.	27	34			

Highest temperature yesterday, 39 degrees; lowest, 30; average, 34; average for corresponding date last year, 35; average for corresponding date last twenty-five years, 33.

Local forecast—Fair to-day and Tuesday; light to fresh west to southwest winds.

A HOHENZOLLERN HEIR.

Ex-Crown Prince of Rumania May Become Ruler of Baden.

In order to appreciate the interest which is being manifested all over Germany in the impending visit of the stork to Princess Max of Baden (daughter of that Duke of Cumberland who is de jure sovereign duke of Brunswick), it must be explained that the question of the succession to the throne of Baden and of the advent to the crown of a Roman Catholic in lieu of a Lutheran dynasty is at stake. The present grand duke, who is very ill, and his grand duchess have an only surviving son, who is afflicted with consumption, and whose marriage to the only sister of the Grand Duke of Luxemburg has remained childless. Next in line of succession to the Crown Prince of Baden comes his first cousin, Prince Max of Baden, son of a younger brother of the aged ruler of Baden, and through his mother a great-grandson of that Prince Eugene de Beauharnais who was the stepson of the first Napoleon.

Several years have elapsed since Prince Max of Baden, after having been jilted on the very eve of the day appointed for the wedding by Grand Duchess Helen of Russia, now Princess Nicholas of Greece, consoled himself by marrying the Duke of Cumberland's daughter, and until now there has been no male issue to this union. Should the visit of the stork in February bring another girl, the worthy people of Baden, who are almost to a man strict Lutherans, will be once more confronted with the prospect of the advent of a Catholic ruler to the throne. For Prince Max of Baden, who is far from strong, and who spent several months in a sanatorium after being jilted so cruelly by Grand Duchess Helen of Russia, is the last of his line, his uncle, Prince Charles, being morganatically married to Baroness Rosalie Beust, and according to the laws of succession to the throne in Baden, ratified alike by its reigning house and its legislature, the throne would, in default of male issue of Prince Max, go to Prince William of Hohenzollern Sigmaringen (head of the non-reigning and Catholic branch of the house of Hohenzollern), by virtue of his being the grandson of Princess Josephine of Baden, who died only five years ago.

It was by reason of his prospects of succession to the throne of Baden that Prince William of Hohenzollern, after being duly proclaimed Crown Prince of Rumania, and heir to the crown of his father's younger brother, King Charles of Rumania, waived his rights at Bucharest, in favor of his younger brother, Ferdinand, the present Crown Prince of Rumania. Prince William preferred the grand ducal throne of Baden—Baden being in point of size the fourth most important of the federal states of the German Empire—to the throne of Rumania. Prince William's mother is a Portuguese infanta, a sister of the late King of Portugal, and his father, Prince Leopold, who died a few months ago, was that scion of the house of Hohenzollern whose election to the throne of Spain, in 1870, brought about the war between France and Germany. Prince William himself is married to a princess of the royal house of Bourbon, of the Neapolitan branch of that most Catholic dynasty, and, of course, her children are being brought up as members of the church to which both their parents belong.

WAS THE CROWN PRINCE KIDNAPPED?

Once before have the people of Baden been confronted with the prospect of being ruled by a Roman Catholic prince; for Grand Duke Charles of Baden married Stephanie de Beauharnais, adopted daughter of the first Napoleon, and niece of the Empress Josephine. Stephanie had three daughters and two sons. Of the latter the eldest survived his birth by a few days only. But in May, 1816, she gave birth to another boy, Alexander by name, who was proclaimed Crown Prince, and who, like his sisters, was brought up, not as a Lutheran, like his father, but as a Roman Catholic, like his mother. It was just at the time when the people of Germany, and, of course, those of Baden as well, were beginning to recover from the horrors of the Napoleonic wars, which for so many years had spread terror and destruction throughout Central Europe, and the idea that they, the good Lutherans of Baden, were destined to become the subjects of a prince who was French through his mother, a grandson of Napoleon, through her adoption by the latter, and a Catholic, was so abhorrent to them that a strong and powerful party was formed with the avowed object of eliminating the infant Crown Prince from the succession in favor of his father's uncle, the ultra-Protestant Prince Louis.

A year later it was announced that the infant Crown Prince had suddenly succumbed to some childish malady or other, of a character to render it impossible that the corpse of the little fellow should lie in state. The story related, however, and generally believed, was to the effect that during a temporary absence of Grand Duchess Stephanie a dying child had been substituted for her own boy and placed in his cradle, the healthy little Crown Prince being kidnapped and carried away. Stephanie's husband, Grand Duke Charles, did not long survive this affair, and on his death his uncle, the Lutheran Prince Louis, succeeded to the throne.

Years afterward a young man was found fainting of hunger at the gates of Nuremberg and was taken to the police station. He was entirely unable to communicate with anybody, having no power of speech, and no acquaintance with either reading or writing, never having apparently conversed with any human being. He fell into charitable hands, and gradually was taught and educated, whereupon he by degrees became able to give some account of himself. From this it appeared that he had been kept since his childhood like a beast, in a dark room, seeing nothing, hearing nothing and knowing nothing. When it was necessary to cleanse him he was drugged. This existence contined from the time he could remember until the day when he was placed blindfolded in a cart and driven to the spot at the gates of Nuremberg, where he was subsequently found by the police.

WORK ON THE MYSTERY.

Among the many people who interested themselves in his case was the wealthy and immensely clever Earl of Stanhope, grandfather of the present Earl of Rosebery. Having almost unlimited wealth at his command, the Earl, assisted by his gifted daughter, the late Duchess of Cleveland (mother of Lord Rosebery), set to work to unravel the mystery existing in connection with the young man, who had been named Kaspar Hauser by the people who had befriended him.

By dint of research the earl managed to collect almost incontrovertible evidence that Kaspar Hauser was no other than the kidnapped son of Grand Duchess Stephanie, and therefore the rightful sovereign of Baden. The widowed grand duchess on learning this was greatly agitated, and it was arranged by Lord Stanhope that she should meet the young fellow at Donauschlingen. The grand duchess reached the meeting place one afternoon in the company of Miss Sophia Greville, sister-in-law of old Lord Augustus Loftus, who was for so many years British Ambassador at Berlin, Vienna and St. Petersburg, and who died only the other day. The grand duchess had hardly alighted from her carriage before she was notified that Kaspar Hauser had been mysteriously assassinated that very morning in a secluded portion of the public gardens. His breast and back were pierced by several wounds, inflicted apparently with an Italian stiletto, and in spite of the fact that Lord Stanhope offered a reward of $5,000 for the capture and identification of the murderer no clew was ever obtained to the crime, which, together with the romance associated therewith, has furnished the themes of innumerable novels and dramas.

ALLEGED CURSE ON THE HOUSE OF BADEN.

Somehow or other the maledictions and imprecations called down by the Grand Duchess Stephanie upon the persecutors of her son, supposing him to have been Kaspar Hauser, seem to have borne fruit, for a species of blight has ever since rested upon the reigning house of Baden. Thus, Grand Duke Louis, who was brought to the throne through the disappearance of Stephanie's boy, buried his only two sons before his own death, in 1830. He was succeeded by his brother Leopold, whose reign was darkened by rebellion, bloodshed and invasion, while his domestic happiness was clouded by the insanity of his eldest son. The latter succeeded his father during a moment of lucidity, but soon had to be deposed, on the score of his madness, his brother, the present grand duke, being elected to his place as sovereign of Baden. Nor does the curse seem to have stopped here, for one of the present grand duke's sons has died of typhoid and the other is consumptive and childless; while in the event of his nephew Max failing to leave a male heir the throne of Baden will, after all, pass to a Catholic prince, a great-grandson of Grand Duchess Stephanie, and a Hohenzollern.

PRINCE OF PLESS BECOMES A DUKE.

Emperor William has just created another Prussian dukedom in favor of the septuagenarian Prince of Pless, who holds the office of Grand Huntsman to the Crown. Both of the new duke's sons are well known in America, Prince Henry, who was formerly connected with the German Embassy in London, having come over here for the purpose of representing the Kaiser at the inauguration of the new Chamber of Commerce building in New-York. There have been rumors current at different times of his appointment to succeed Baron Speck von Sternburg as German Ambassador at Washington. He married Miss Daisy Cornwallis West, whose sister is the Duchess of Westminster and whose brother is now married to Miss Jennie Jerome, of New-York, the clever widow of Lord Randolph Churchill and mother of Winston Churchill, the new Under Secretary of State for the Colonies. The princess, who is one of the most famous beauties of the courts of St. James's and of Berlin and equally popular at both, is widely known in America through her portraits. She has one five-year-old boy, whose godfathers are King Edward and the Kaiser. The new duke's second son, Count Conrad Hochberg, has paid several prolonged visits to America, while his brother, Count Frederick Hochberg, is married to Lord Fermoy's sister, and has thus become a brother-in-law of Mrs. J. Burke Roche, of New-York, and an uncle of Miss Cynthia Roche.

The Duke of Pless is perhaps the wealthiest of all the great nobles of Germany, possessing not only vast estates but also rich and productive mines and ironworks in various parts of the empire, especially in Silesia. The patronymic of the family is Hochberg, and it was first ennobled in 1650, when the title of Baron Fürstenstein was conferred upon it. Sixteen years later Baron Fürstenstein was advanced to the rank of Count Hochberg, and the late King Frederick William IV of Prussia raised the Count Hochberg of his day to be Prince of Pless.

NEW PRESIDENT OF THE Y. M. C. A.

Lord Kinnaird, who has just been elected president of the International council of the Young Men's Christian Association in succession to the late Sir George Williams, is one of the many banker peers of the upper chamber of the British legislature, being the principal partner of the old established London bank of Ransom, Bouverie & Co., and a director of the banking house of Barclay & Co. He is an old Eton boy and a Trinity, Cambridge, man, passionately fond of athletics. He captained the Eton football team as a lad, and is one of the most regular attendants at all the great cricket matches. His title is an old one, having been created in 1682, and must not be confounded with that of Lord Kynnaird, which is borne by the eldest son and heir of the Earl of Newburgh. Lord Kinnaird's eldest son, like the other first born of Scotch peers, bears the title of the master. He is a fine, tall young fellow, whose disposition toward philanthropy and seriousness is tempered, as in the case of his father, by his very pronounced taste for everything athletic. Lord Kinnaird has a fine old place in Perthshire and a stately town house in St. James's Square, which for several seasons he placed at the disposal of the late Mr. Gladstone.

MARQUISE DE FONTENOY.

MUSIC.

CONCERT AT THE OPERA HOUSE.

The announcement that Rossini's "Stabat Mater" would be given at Mr. Conried's regular Sunday popular concert, drew to the Metropolitan Opera House last night a large audience, which seemed greatly pleased with the performance. It was given with the co-operation of Mme. Rappold, Mme. Louise Homer, Mr. Dippel, Mr. Plançon and the entire Metropolitan Orchestra and chorus, under the direction of Mr. Arturo Vigna. This was preceded with a miscellaneous concert, in which Miss Paula Ralph sang. The orchestral numbers included two novelties. One was a descriptive composition by Bolzoni, called "Il Ruscello" ("The Brook"), and the other was a work by Sibelius, a Finnish composer, entitled "Finlandia." The latter has a patriotic and revolutionary meaning, suggesting in turn the misery of an oppressed nation, the appeal to revolt and the triumph of the rebels.

The following is the programme:

Overture, "La Favorita" ..... Donizetti
Cavatina, "Plus grand dans son obscurité," from "La Reina de Saba" ..... Gounod
Miss Paula Ralph.
Scherzo for strings, "Il Ruscello" ("The Brook") ... Bolzoni
Chorus from "I Lombardi" ..... Verdi
Metropolitan Opera Chorus.
Symphonic poem, "Finlandia" ..... Sibelius

ROSSINI'S "STABAT MATER."

Introduction, "Stabat Mater Dolorosa" .....
Mmes. Rappold and Homer,
MM. Dippel and Pol Plançon and chorus.
Aria, "Cujus Animam" ..... Mr. Dippel
Duet, "Quis est Homo" ..... Mmes. Rappold and Homer
Aria, "Pro Peccatis" ..... Pol Plançon
Aria and chorus, "Ela Mater" ... Pol Plançon and chorus
Quartet, "Sancta Mater istud agas" .....
Mmes. Rappold and Homer, MM. Dippel and Plançon.
Cavatina, "Fac ut Portem" ..... Mme. Homer
Aria and chorus, "Inflammatus" . Mme. Rappold and chorus
Chorus, "In Sempiterna Sæcula" ..... Chorus

KUBELIK'S RECITAL.

Carnegie Hall was well filled yesterday afternoon when Kubelik, the Bohemian violinist, gave a recital under the management of Hugo Gorlitz and Karl Junkermann. The following was the programme:

Concerto, G minor ..... Bruch
Kubelik.
Prelude, Op. 28, No. 17, } ..... Chopin
Mazurka, Op. 68, No. 1, }
Traumies Wirren ..... Schumann
Miss Agnes Gardner-Eyre.
Concerto, D major, with Cadenza by Emile Sauret, Paganini
Kubelik.
Scherzo, E flat minor, Op. 4 ..... Brahms
Miss Agnes Gardner-Eyre.
Slavischer Tanz, No. 16 ..... Dvorak
Zephyr ..... Hubay
Souvenir de Moscow ..... Wieniawski
Kubelik.

OBITUARY.

MATTHEW P. WOOD.

Matthew Patterson Wood, consulting engineer, scientist and author, died on Saturday morning at his home, No. 12 West 31st-st. He was the author of many articles and papers on technical subjects, and, in 1904 published a work entitled "Rustless Coatings; Corrosion and Electrolysis of Iron and Steel," which is used as a textbook by the leading engineers of this country and Europe. Mr. Wood, who was seventy years old, was a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Institute. In the Civil War he was superintendent of motive power of the United States railways, serving under General Herman Haupt. He was also confidential agent for Secretary Stanton in the same period. At the request of Horace Greeley, Mr. Wood became a member of the American Institute. While serving in the Civil War he held a commission of major in the 1st United States Engineers (Volunteer). He had been a Mason since 1857. About twenty years ago Mr. Wood's health broke down from overwork. After that he did little practical work, confining himself to the mastery of the technical subjects connected with his profession, and writing. A widow and a sister, Miss F. A. Wood, librarian of Vassar College, survive him. The funeral will take place tomorrow.

CHARLES F. RICHARDS.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Wilmington, Del., Dec. 24.—Charles F. Richards, of Georgetown, one of the most noted lawyers of this State, and father of Attorney General Robert H. Richards, died last night in the Presbyterian Hospital, Philadelphia, from congestion of the lungs. He was fifty-nine years old, one of the most prominent Republicans in Delaware, and had been an active anti-Addicks leader for years. He received a number of complimentary votes for United States Senator at the 1901 and 1903 sessions of the General Assembly. Mr. Richards, who is survived by a widow, three daughters and two sons, was taken ill in Philadelphia last week while on a shopping trip with his wife.

NICHOLAS VAN DYK.

The funeral of Nicholas Van Dyk, who for many years was actively connected with the spice and tea and coffee trade, took place at his late home, No. 424 Jefferson-ave., Brooklyn, yesterday afternoon. He died on Friday, in his seventy-sixth year. Mr. Van Dyk was born on the present site of the Brooklyn Postoffice. For many years he and his brothers carried on the mustard and spice mills established by his family in 1760. For twenty-five years prior to his retirement, three years ago, he had been in the tea and coffee business at No. 116 Bridge-st., Brooklyn. He was member of the Society of Old Brooklynites and of several patriotic orders. He left two sons, two daughters and eight grandchildren.

Recommendations.—St. Peter—Hold on there, Mr. Crœsus. What's in that bundle? You can't take your wealth in here, you know.

Shade—That isn't wealth. That's a bag full of receipts and personal letters from the different institutions to which I have given donations.—(Brooklyn Life.

NOTES OF THE STAGE.

Mr. Walkley Sees Lemaitre's New Play—Success by Marriage.

A. B. Walkley, dramatic critic of the London "Times," has been to Paris to see Jules Lemaitre's new play, "Bertrade," a comedy of the old aristocracy of birth and the new aristocracy of wealth. Mr. Walkley finds it interesting, but not, dramatically, up to M. Lemaitre's best. The style, however, seems unmistakable. "Why, my dear Huguette, are you a socialist?" "Oh, Tolstoy, you know; et puis—et puis—c'est amusant." Huguette may be a sham socialist, but she is a real Lemaitrist.

Again, in Mr. Walkley's words (he is speaking of the aristocratic hero): "He becomes, for once, quite voluble and gay when reviewing the pleasures of his youth with a lady whom he knew as a so-called 'actress' under the Second Empire, and who is now Mme. de Rommelsbach, the wealthy widow of an Austrian baron. The scene between these two old cronies, with its sparkling Lemaitresque 'couplets' on the Second Empire, was the first real 'hit' of the evening. Oh, the crinolines and the cocottes, Compiègne and Mabille, and that delicious little exhibition of 1867! And in those days how every one made light of money! 'And yet every one had it!' This mot thrilled the house with delight, and is sure to go the round of Paris to-morrow."

Henry Arthur Jones, who recently paid us a visit, has written on the American theatre in the Christmas number of "The Dramatic Mirror." Speaking of the players he saw here, he writes:

I saw many memorable pieces of acting on my visits to the New-York theatres. If, as I think you must concede, the all round performance of a play is technically somewhat below the level of a kindred London performance; if the ensemble of the acting is rather less finished, more ragged, more imperfect, yet I think many of your performers rise to great heights and show more individual power and inspiration than our leading London performers. I need not mention such favorites on both sides of the Atlantic as John Drew and Fay Davis, except to acknowledge my own debt of gratitude to both of them. I was naturally charmed with Maude Adams, though unfortunately I was able to witness only one act of her delightful performance of "Peter Pan." To come to more serious drama, one could not show in London at the present moment any piece of emotional acting at all comparable with Margaret Anglin's Zira. I think you have in her an emotional actress of the highest quality, and I can understand, though I had no opportunity of judging, how great are my obligations to her for her performance of the heroine in "Mrs. Dane's Defence." Again, I have rarely been moved to pay such a tribute of tears and admiration in a theatre as I paid to David Warfield's "Music Master," a performance where great intensity of feeling is blended with the finest and most delicate humor, and both are unerringly guided and controlled by a superb technique. I was fortunate enough to be present on the first night of Mr. Belasco's new play, and was astonished at his marvellous manipulation of stage effects and the perfection of his stage management. I think in Blanche Bates, again, you have another very powerful emotional actress, who is capable of grasping and imparting a great emotional situation.

This sentence is taken from a weekly "press sheet," sent out by some industrious publicity promoter: "Miss De Compe is an heiress and she will appear at the American Theatre in March."

Miss Genevieve Merritt will give a costume recital of "Arms and the Man" at the National Arts Club next Wednesday evening.

"Coming Thro' the Rye," the musical comedy by George Hobart and J. S. Hiller, to be presented at the Herald Square Theatre beginning January 8, will be the first New-York offering from George W. Lederer in four years. The cast engaged for "Coming Thro' the Rye" includes Joseph Coyne, Dan McAvoy, William Riley Hatch and Miss Nena Blake.

"The Crossing" is being rehearsed by Winston Churchill and Louis Evan Shipman, the authors, who are making it ready for the New-York engagement, to begin at Daly's Theatre with a matinee New Year's afternoon. It is a four act romantic drama founded upon Mr. Churchill's book, with scenes laid in the city of New-Orleans late in the eighteenth century. The leading role of Nicholas Temple will be played here by John Blair, and in his support will be Mable Bert, John Gilmour, Arthur Lawrence, Etienne Girardot and others.

"The Lion and Mouse," played by a second company, with Arthur Byron at its head, will begin a Western season in February. The Eastern company will probably remain in this city for some time to come.

John Ayers, the veteran superintendent of Proctor's Fifth Avenue Theatre, is to-day receiving the congratulations of his friends on a Christmas present in the shape of a large diamond horseshoe scarfpin, containing nineteen stones. It was given to him after the performance on Saturday night by the entire house staff and stage crew.

Santa Claus arrived ahead of time at Proctor's Fifty-eighth Street Theatre, where he made gifts to more than one thousand children after the matinee performance on Saturday. Every boy and girl in the house, from the top row of the upper gallery to the boxes on the orchestra floor, ascended to the stage, receiving from Santa's own hands the things he had brought for them.

Out of compliment to Harry E. Converse and Mason Peters, managers of "The Gingerbread Man" company, some hotels, including the Hotel Astor, the Cadillac and the Belleclaire, are serving with each order in their restaurants and dining rooms a miniature gingerbread man six inches tall. Twenty-five thousand of these dough statuettes have been contracted for and will be served as souvenirs at various Broadway hotels during the engagement of "The Gingerbread Man" at the Liberty Theatre.

The Majestic Theatre will shelter two companies of players next week of greatly different character. Marie Cahill and her musical comedy assistants will occupy the stage at the regular performances, while virtually all of the time that is left will be devoted to the rehearsals of the new Lottie Blair Parker play, "The Redemption of David Corson," which is a dramatic play.

George Edwardes's London Apollo Theatre Company will continue to present "Veronique" at the Broadway Theatre. Its successful run must soon be brought to a close through contracts made for its presentation in other cities. Miss Ruth Vincent, Miss Kitty Gordon, Miss Lena Maitland and John Le Hay head this organization, which presents an array of musical and comedy talent not equalled in New-York in many years.

New Year's night Miss Fay Templeton will begin an engagement at the New Amsterdam Theatre in Klaw & Erlanger's production of George M. Cohan's new play, "Forty-five Minutes from Broadway." Miss Templeton and her new piece have held the stage at the Colonial Theatre in Chicago for several months, scoring a great success, and will come to New-York direct from that city. Some idea of the hit this attraction has made can be gauged from the statement that it played to $104,851.50 in the first eight weeks of its run in Chicago, and that "capacity" is the sum of its box office statement for every performance at the present time.

Henry de Vries, the English actor who created favorable comment in London in the last season by his portrayal of seven different characters in "A Case of Arson," arrived here yesterday on the steamship New-York from Southampton. He was accompanied by his wife. He opens an engagement at the Madison Square Theatre on January 8.

FIRE DROVE OUT GUESTS.

Firemen and Chief Hurt in Los Angeles, Cal.

Los Angeles, Cal., Dec. 24.—The Van Nuys Broadway Hotel, one of the first class hostleries of the city, in the heart of the business district, was almost completely destroyed by fire early to-day. One hundred and ten guests, most of whom were in bed when the fire broke out, escaped in their night clothes and nearly all suffered the loss of their baggage and personal effects. Five firemen were injured in the collapse of the rear second floor. They fell into the basement and all suffered more or less serious injuries.

Fire Chief Lipps was seriously cut by broken glass. The total financial loss will approximate $200,000.

T. H. Benton, ex-State Auditor of Nebraska, wife and daughter, occupied rooms on the fourth floor and barely escaped with their lives, losing all their valuables, baggage and money, estimated at $5,000. Mrs. P. Hanisch, of Chicago, escaped from her room on the fourth floor, but lost effects valued at $4,000. Several other individuals lost amounts ranging from $25 to $2,000.

FUNERAL OF FRANCIS GORDON BROWN.

J. P. Morgan, the banker, yesterday attended the funeral of Francis Gordon Brown, at Flushing. Mr. Brown's widow is a sister of Mr. Morgan, and she leaned on the arm of her brother at the funeral. The Rev. H. C. Wallace conducted the service according to the ritual of the Protestant Episcopal Church. The burial was at Woodlawn.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

PLEA FOR WALLED CITY OF MANILA.

One of the Most Ancient Landmarks of This Country Now in Peril.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: In yesterday's issue of your valued paper I noted, with surprise and much regret, a communication, "Manila Wall Doomed," under the heading "Army and Navy News." I cannot understand how a few years could have made such changes in the historic walls as to make them unsafe. Some years ago an ordnance officer, stationed in that city, told me they were unusually well constructed. It is possible that they are too damp for stores. But there is ample ground along the Pasig, toward Santa Ana, for the construction of storehouses.

As to earthquakes, I experienced one of the most severe in recent years within the walled city. I was awakened from sleep by the violent wrenching of the bed, and there was a perceptible rocking of the room, while the pendant electric light swung like a pendulum. I do not recall that there was any fear about the collapse of the city walls. Certainly, to look at them, the earth would have to open to destroy them. Even should they fall, there could hardly be any destruction of life, as the houses are not against them on the inside and outside there is the moat. I do not think we have anywhere in our great country so fine an example of a mediæval fortress as in the walled city of Manila. The walls of St. Augustine cannot be compared with it, except in the general style common to all Spanish buildings. Yet great care is exercised to preserve the Spanish missions in California and the few other historical landmarks in our new country.

The greatest care is also used throughout Europe to preserve castles, trees and everything which has the slightest attraction for tourists.

Interest in our new possessions must attract travellers, as well as those interested in the development of the islands. The only relic the islands have of the ancient days is the walled city of Manila, with its massive cathedral, imposing ayuntiamento, or public buildings; the Chartel d'Espagne, the characteristic old Spanish barracks, the great quarters of the Spanish clergy, several other palaces, the University of Manila, etc., and the quaint, narrow streets. Business and residence sections are outside the walls. Already the thoughtless hand of "improvement" has opened the walls for wider entrances. Let this suffice. May the historical societies and antiquarians rise up again to prevent this destruction of a precious and unique relic of the past, the walls of Manila. Yours respectfully, R. S. NICHOLS.

Bloomsburg, Penn., Dec. 19, 1905.

WANTS NOMINATION DAY HOLIDAY.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Apropos of the very extensive and earnest discussion regarding the election laws and ballot reform, I beg to state that though the direct nomination movement be successful in this State the men who devote their lives to politics, who make politics a business, will be triumphant in securing the nomination of their candidates. Those who do political work, in season and out of season, are, and ought to be, rewarded for their sacrifices of time, pleasure and money. The people, however, demand, and are entitled to, a square deal in the selection of candidates for public office.

All primaries or nominations ought to take place on primary or nomination day, and this day ought to be declared a legal holiday. All contracts made on nomination day should be void, all public offices and business houses to be closed and business in general suspended. You will readily see that this holiday will give all citizens an opportunity to take part in primaries or nominations.

In order to avoid the creation of an additional holiday, I beg to suggest that primary or nomination day be substituted for Labor Day. If Labor Day occurs too early to hold primaries or nominations, then a later day may be appointed by the legislature. SOL. OPPENHEIMER.

New-York, Dec. 21, 1905.

DOES NOT REPRESENT THE "MATIN."

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Some of yesterday afternoon's and this morning's papers have published a statement that a Georges Dupuy, who arrived yesterday by La Lorraine, is a representative or a correspondent of the Paris newspaper the "Matin." As the head representative of this paper in the United States, I would appreciate it if you would kindly publish a denial of the above statement, M. Dupuy being in no way connected with the "Matin."

MAX L. PAROUTAUD.

New-York City, Dec. 24, 1905.

CISTERNS AS LOCAL WATER SUPPLY.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Anent New-York's water supply, may I ask why cisterns should not be constructed to catch the water from Manhattan's square miles of roofs? Surely this should not be beyond engineering skill. Surely it would cost less than aqueducts to Oneida or Ontario, let alone the meanness of wasting the rain that falls on you and appropriating that which falls on other people. C. E. D. PHELPS.

New-Brunswick, N. J., Dec. 20, 1905.

WANTS JEWS' COUNTRY.

Dr. Schechter Pleads for One at Zionists' Meeting.

A mass meeting, under the auspices of the Federation of American Zionists, was held last evening at the Educational Alliance, in East Broadway, to define the attitude of the Zionist movement toward relief for Jews in Russia, in view of recent massacres and the taking part of Jews in revolutionary activity in that country. Speakers at the meeting declared that there was no hope for Jews in Russia, even if revolution should succeed there, and that the recent massacres were only fresh proof that the only hope was in the acquirement of Palestine as a legally secured home for Jews, the place of refuge to which all persecuted Jews could go.

The Rev. Dr. Solomon Schechter, president of the Jewish Theological Seminary, was the principal speaker, appearing for the first time on a Zionist platform. He declared that while assimilation of Jews in America might be possible, it was impossible in any nation of Europe.

"A nation with a history and a literature of its own, but without a country of its own, is only a gypsy camp," he said. "The Jews should not be assimilated in any country. I do not mean that a Jew in this country should not be a good American. God forbid. I have only one son, but if the institutions of this country were threatened by war, I would tell him to take his gun and fight for the country. In this country, if anywhere, where people of all nationalities have helped to mould its character and institutions, Jews might become assimilated with the rest, but if the Jews are to fulfil their historic mission in the world at large they should have a country of their own, where Jewish art, literature and political and social institutions could find an atmosphere in which to grow and thrive."

The Rev. Dr. Israel Friedlander said that massacres in Russia could make no change in the Zionist movement, except that they had aroused in all parts of the world a Jewish national feeling. It was noteworthy, he said, that massacres of the Jews in Russia had created little feeling among Christians.

"Even to-night," he said, "the night which to Christians means peace on earth and good will to men, the Christian world knows neither peace nor good will in regard to the Jews, and it is for that reason that the movement for the relief of Jews in Russia has been confined to our own people."

A circular, meant to give the objects of the meeting, stated that legal rights for the Jews in Palestine could be obtained with sufficient financial backing.

"Palestine and its adjacent lands are able," it is said, "according to all modern reports, to sustain not alone thousands, but even millions of people. The number of Jews in the world is twelve millions. The Zionist movement does not expect that all Jews will be in a Jewish land, any more than all Englishmen are in England. Palestine and the neighboring lands are, therefore, large enough to sustain all those Jews desirous of living there."

Died.

Death notices appearing in THE TRIBUNE will be republished in The Tri-Weekly Tribune without extra charge.

Birnie, Isabella P.
Dunlop, Robert.
Ferguson, Rev. George W.
Henderson, William.
Herriman, Margaret McC. S.
Lee, Deborah T.
Mansfield, Burton.
Reynolds, Lucina J.
Sands,