Amusements.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC—8—Babes in Toyland.
ALHAMBRA—2—8—Vaudeville.
BELASCO—8—The Girl of the Golden West.
BIJOU—8:15—The Music Master.
BROADWAY—8—Veronique.
CARNEGIE HALL—8—Recital.
CASINO—8:15—The Earl and the Girl.
COLONIAL—2—8—Vaudeville.
CRITERION—8:15—On the Quiet.
DALY'S—8:15—The Toast of the Town.
EDEN MUSEE—World in Wax.
EMPIRE—8:15—Peter Pan.
FIELDS'S THEATRE—8:15—The Press Agent.
GARDEN—8:15—As Ye Sow.
GARRICK—8:10—Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary.
HAMMERSTEIN'S VICTORIA—2—8:15—Vaudeville.
HARLEM OPERA HOUSE—8:15—The Catch of the Season.
HERALD SQUARE—8:15—Sapho.
HIPPODROME—2—8—A Society Circus.
HUDSON—8:20—Man and Superman.
IRVING PLACE—2:30—Der Kleine Däumling und der Menschenfresser—8:20—Mamzelle Nitouche.
JOE WEBER'S—2—8:15—The Prince Chap.
KNICKERBOCKER—8:15—Mlle. Modiste.
LIBERTY—8:15—The Gingerbread Man.
LYCEUM—2:15—8:15—The Little Princess.
LYRIC—2—8:15—The Babes and the Baron.
MADISON SQUARE—8:30—The Man on the Box.
MADISON SQUARE GARDEN—County Fair and Circus.
MAJESTIC—8:15—Moonshine.
MANHATTAN—8:20—Before and After.
MENDELSSOHN HALL—8:15—Song Recital.
NEW-AMSTERDAM—8:15—The Middleman.
NEW-YORK—8:15—The Mayor of Tokio.
PRINCESS—8:15—Zira.
SAVOY—8:15—The Walls of Jericho.
ST. NICHOLAS RINK—Ice Skating.
WALLACK'S—8:20—The Squaw Man.
WEST END—8:15—Monte Cristo.

Index to Advertisements.

	Page.	Col.		Page.	Col.
Amusements	8	4-6	Instruction	4	6
Auction Sales Real Estate	11	4	Marriages & Deaths	7	6
Bankers & Brokers	11	1	Meetings	8	4
Board & Rooms	9	4	Miscellaneous	8	4-6
Board Wanted	9	4	Notice of Dissolution	11	6
Carpet Cleaning	9	5	Notice of Summons	11	5
Citations	11	6	Ocean Steamers	4	5
Country Property for Sale	12	6	Partition Sales	12	6
Desks and Office Furniture	9	5	Public Notices	8	4
Dividend Notices	11	4-5	Railroads	11	5-6
Dom. Sits. Wanted	12	4-7	Real Estate	12	6
Dressmaking & Millinery	9	4	Referee's Sales	4	6
Drygoods	12	4-6	Restaurants	9	4
Drygoods	9	7-8	Remedies	9	5
Employm't Agencies	9	4	Savings Banks	11	1-2
Excursions	12	5	Special Notices	7	6
Financial	11	3	Steamboats	12	5
Financial Elections	11	1	Storage Notices	9	4
Financial Meetings	11	3	Surrogate's Notices	4	6
Furnished Rooms	9	4	To Let for Business Purposes	12	6
Help Wanted	9	5	Tribune Sub'n Rates	7	6
			Winter Resorts	10	5-6
			Work Wanted	9	5

Business Notices.

A Popular Advertising Medium.

Eleven Months' Gain.

963,773 Lines;

or,

Nearly 3,050 Columns.

(316 lines to a column.)

In the eleven months ending November 30, 1905, The New-York Daily and Sunday Tribune printed

963,773 Lines of Advertising

(excluding Tribune advertisements)

more than during the same period of 1904.

Circulation Books Open.

New-York Daily Tribune

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1905.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN.—Rebels and troops at Moscow at midnight of December 24-25 were exhausted, and firing had practically ceased; the lull was apparently temporary, the dispatches containing no intimation that the struggle had ceased; the insurgent leaders say that an army of 30,000 men is northeast of Moscow ready to march to aid the rebels; the revolutionists hope to pen the troops in the centre of the city. ==== A dispatch from Warsaw said that the strike of the post and telegraph employes had ended in a victory for the government and that there were signs of a resumption of work by the railway men; severe measures have been taken to enforce order. ==== The railroad men of the Baltic provinces have struck; Riga is reported under the control of troops and the bombardment is denied; provisional governments have been established in several towns. ==== President Morales has left Santo Domingo for an unknown destination, and considerable excitement is shown in the capital over his departure. ==== Precautions were taken in Shanghai to suppress a rising of natives against foreigners; it was reported that the attack had been set for last night. ==== Raymond Préfontaine, the Canadian Minister of Marine and Fisheries, died suddenly in France.

DOMESTIC.—Christmas was generally observed in Washington, although mostly in a quiet manner; the President and his family spent the greater part of the day at the White House, having a family dinner at night. ==== The announcement of the summary removal of Irvin Baxter, United States District Attorney for Nebraska, was made at the White House. ==== Secretary Taft granted the application of General Miles for relief from further duty with the organized militia of Massachusetts. ==== Ex-Lieutenant Governor Woodruff, at Syracuse, gave an interview in which he reviewed the trouble with Michael J. Dady; he said it was a case of deciding between Dady and party success, and denied making threats. ==== It became known that C. M. Crouse, of Syracuse, had received threatening letters. ==== A child died while viewing her presents in Elmira, N. Y.

CITY.—A fire in a business building near Roosevelt Hospital, which caused a $60,000 loss, was got under control with difficulty because of a short water supply. ==== It was stated that the new traction deal would have to be submitted for confirmation to the directors and stockholders of the companies concerned. ==== W. G Brokaw, brother-in-law of J. E. Martin, who was killed in an automobile accident on Sunday, issued a statement favoring the examining and licensing of chauffeurs. ==== Fire, aided by inadequate water pressure, swept the six story building at Nos. 102 and 106 Wooster-st. ==== Members of the Building Trades' Employers' Association said that the labor outlook for the coming year was bright. ==== Six thousand men were provided for in the distribution of Christmas cheer in the Bowery. ==== Christmas was marred for many by tragedies.

THE WEATHER.—Indications for to-day: Fair. The temperature yesterday: Highest, 34 degrees; lowest, 26.

NAVAL PERSONNEL.

It is expected that soon after the holidays active discussion of various important questions relating to naval personnel will begin in Congress. Some of these questions concern promotion. It has been inaccurately said that the main object is to hasten the advancement of younger officers, which is likely to create a misapprehension. The real design of those who have for years been studying the subject is so to direct promotions in the navy that officers will reach command and flag rank at an earlier age in order that they may have longer periods in those grades and consequently acquire more experience. As matters now stand an officer may pass through the grades of captain and flag officer without having sufficient time to complete a single cruise in each of those grades.

Within two or three years, under existing laws, many flag officers will be retired after six months' service; whereas, for the proper performance of their duties, they should have at least two cruises at sea in command of divisions, squadrons or fleets. The system should be such that the department would not, as now, be forced to assign officers to command battleships, or even fleets, because they are the only men to whom that duty for a complete tour at sea can be given. There ought to be a group of officers who have commanded as flag officers, from whom, for example, to select a commander in chief for the Atlantic fleet. In a less degree, the same condition exists among commanding officers, and the department is precluded from selecting one out of a group because of his exceptional fitness as proved by experience and his record on cruises similar in character. It is compelled to take what is available in the way of ability, because the officer has the rank and enough time in it to perform the duty. While an officer's incentive to do good work and to devote himself to his profession is greatly increased, no doubt, by the prospect of reasonably rapid promotion, the ultimate end to be gained is not the advantage of officers as individuals, but the improvement of the service, especially by reason of increased efficiency among officers having command and flag rank, resulting in part from an added stimulus in the lower grades and still more from increased experience in the upper grades. That provision by which officers in the grades of captain and commander would be screened out is believed to be necessary, since an attempt to do this screening out in the lower grades, after the manner of the English service, would too long delay the accomplishment of the object aimed at.

One of the important parts of the proposed amendment to the Personnel bill provides that for some time to come midshipmen shall be graduated from the Naval Academy in three years, serve one year afloat as midshipmen on either battleships or armored cruisers and another year as ensigns, after which they shall be commissioned as junior lieutenants. This provision is designed to mitigate the evils resulting from present conditions at Annapolis, due to the deficiency in the number of officers in the service. It is urged that this deficiency prevents the assignment to the Naval Academy of an adequate corps of commissioned officers to maintain the necessary spirit, discipline and training of the midshipmen. Under such circumstances it is believed that a full term of four years produces a less valuable naval officer than the department would obtain by restricting the course to three years and supplementing it by a year afloat in the atmosphere of a first-class ship. Incidentally, this temporary arrangement while it lasted, would increase the number of midshipmen by one-third, which is regarded as a present necessity.

RECIPROCITY WITH GERMANY.

In seeking to arrange a tariff modus vivendi with Germany Secretary Root shows diplomatic foresight and sound practical judgment. His policy follows what is for the present the line of least resistance. It aims at more than temporary results, however, and leaves the way open for a future settlement based on fuller and more definite knowledge. The new German tariff law is to go into effect on March 1 next. By its terms the seven Continental countries which have concluded reciprocity agreements with Germany—Russia, Austria-Hungary, Rumania, Servia, Italy, Switzerland and Belgium—are to enjoy the advantage of minimum rates, while a maximum schedule is to be enforced against the rest of the world. The Berlin government is bound in justice to the seven signatory powers to denounce the most favored nation clauses in its compacts with other countries; and as we claim the privilege of making tariffs to suit our own interest and convenience we cannot complain if Germany chooses to exclude us from the privileged inner circle.

France, Great Britain, the Scandinavian nations, Spain and Portugal—all nearer neighbors than the United States—are to be so excluded. Yet in our case there are considerations which militate against this policy. The Berlin government would gladly put us on the preferential list if some plausible basis could be found for an interchange of commercial favors. We have at present a limited reciprocity agreement, founded on Section 3 of the Dingley act. Germany wishes to denounce this convention and to substitute for it a broader treaty. But Congress is strongly disinclined to sanction general commercial treaties, which bind us to modify our tariff rates to the benefit of one foreign seller and the detriment of another. Our trade is doubtless more essential to Germany than Germany's trade is to us; and the authorities in Berlin are plainly anxious to avoid a tariff conflict with the United States which would cripple German manufacturing and maritime interests.

Obviously, therefore, the wise thing for both countries to do is to seek some arrangement which will tend to perpetuate the mutually pleasant and profitable trade relations now existing. But time is needed to ascertain just what Germany can and will accept as an equivalent for the waiver of her maximum tariff, and what the United States can grant without too seriously infringing on the general policy of non-discrimination in foreign trade. A modus vivendi which will extend the life of the present reciprocity scheme and give us temporarily the benefits of the German minimum schedule will greatly relieve the situation, inasmuch as it will postpone a settlement for which sentiment in neither country seems quite ripe. With patience, care and the display of a conciliatory spirit on both sides a break in commercial relations can be avoided; and to that end Mr. Root's status quo policy is admirably adapted. There is reason to believe that under his dexterous and resourceful management an agreement will ultimately be reached allaying all frictions and yielding undeniable advantages to both countries.

THE ORIGIN OF GOLD AND SILVER.

About two years ago Mr. Frederick Soddy, an English physicist, observed that a gas which proved to be helium was given off from radium under circumstances suggesting that it was generated by the disintegration of the latter element. Subsequently Sir William Ramsay made tests which led him to the same conclusion. Since that time a number of lines of experiment bearing on the possibility of transmutation have been opened. One of these was designed to find out whether radium was derived from uranium. A second is described by Mr. Soddy in the latest issue of "Nature" to reach this country, and grew out of his suspicion that gold also might be both a product of a different element and the parent of others.

The first step in such an inquiry, of course, would be to accumulate a suitable amount of gold and confine it so that if gas were evolved the quantity and character could be determined. So rapid is the transformation which radium undergoes that results can be had in a few days. Inasmuch as gold is apparently not a radio-active metal, it would be safe to assume that if it disintegrates at all the process must be extremely slow. Obviously, then, the more raw material Mr. Soddy is able to procure to begin with the sooner he may hope for appreciable results; and he alludes enviously to the stores of it in the vaults of the Bank of England.

Mr. Soddy does not indicate just how he would go to work to ascertain the origin of gold. Perhaps he has not yet formed a plan of campaign. Here, again, he would require a supply of what he believes to be the proper raw material, and then would need to provide the right conditions for the change. He gives to the readers of "Nature" no hint of the element from which he fancies that gold has been derived. His silence may be due to an unwillingness to furnish a clew to other investigators; but it is more probable that he has not found a clew himself. The possible parentage of radium is suggested by the fact that that element has hitherto been discovered only in associations with uranium. Gold, on the other hand, has a variety of affiliations. The study of its genealogy, therefore, is beset with peculiar difficulties.

One cannot refrain from speculating, however, on the probable consequences of a revelation that it was derived from some cheaper and more abundant metal. There is yet no reason to imagine that the transformation could be promoted in any way. What Mr. Soddy did in his other experiments was to watch the process of evolution and try to estimate the rate at which it took place. He was more successful in his observations of the generation of helium from radium than in those which sought evidence of the production of radium from uranium; but in neither case did he appear to imagine that he could hasten the change. He does not avow any faith, either, in the possibility of hurrying nature, even if the ancestry of gold were once discovered. Hence the only practical result of the inquiries which he now proposes, supposing them to be successful, would probably be to inform the world whether this metal is being manufactured in the crust of the earth as fast as it disintegrates. If not, gold would doubtless appreciate. If production exceeded decay, it would depreciate. If there was no conspicuous difference between the rates at which the two processes went on, the value of the metal would remain unaltered.

The question whether or not silver also is a derivative has recently been under discussion by correspondents of "Nature." Dr. Donald Murray and Dr. Norman R. Campbell regard the association of that metal with lead in galena suggestive of such a possibility. Unfortunately the ratio between the amounts of the two elements found in that ore varies enormously. It is not uniform like that between the quantities of uranium and radium in pitchblende. Besides, silver as well as gold is found in a variety of combinations. These facts are, perhaps, not absolutely fatal to the Murray-Campbell hypothesis, but they strongly discredit it. Still, as a guide to further research, a hint of this kind is not without value. Nor is any great harm likely to ensue if the men who adopt it have an exaggerated idea of its significance, and are unduly sanguine about the outcome of attempts to test it. Hope is a great stimulant to investigation, and if results should be announced which were fallacious competent critics would review them before the public had been seriously misled.

Experiments relative to the origin and stability of gold are more interesting, if not more promising, than those concerning the nature of silver; and it is to be hoped that Mr. Soddy will find the means to conduct the research which he contemplates, whether Dr. Murray and Dr. Campbell proceed with theirs or not.

THE CRIME OF RUSSIA.

There could be no more welcome news today than contradiction of the news of yesterday. It would be grateful merely to be permitted to hope, on reasonable grounds, that the reports from Russia will prove to be exaggerated. But such news does not come, and strong ground for such hope does not exist. We are compelled to fear that Russia is now involved in such horrors as no civilized land has known for more than a hundred years. It is a nation running amuck. It is civil but not civilized war.

We may call it civil war because it is so widespread. The Baltic provinces, on the western border, have revolted and proclaimed an independent republic. Odessa, in the south, has long been drenched in blood. Saratoff, in the east, is in a state of anarchy. And Moscow, in the very heart of Great Russia, has become the worst storm centre of all. We may say the Baltic provinces are filled with aliens, and Odessa is a home of the Jews. But Saratoff is a Cossack province, and the Cossacks have long been the chief stay of the empire, while Moscow is the Holy City of the true Russians. Great city, small town and open country, all are in a frenzy of revolt. There is not one province in the empire to which the Czar might go in confidence that there he would be girt about with loyal hearts. There is not a corner of the realm that plays or seeks to play the part of La Vendée.

One fact in the medley of uncertainties stands out distinct and unmistakable—that is, the responsibility for this crime of the age. It is fixed upon the reactionary devotees of the autocracy, who for the last year have been creating and intensifying mutual distrust between the Czar and the people. Had they been truly loyal to the Czar and upheld his benevolent designs the liberal transformation of Russia would have been effected long ago with no such cost of life and property. But their professions of devotion to him were false. They were seeking only a perpetuation of their own gains, and to secure that end they were willing to sacrifice both Czar and people. They have succeeded in bringing upon both Czar and people immeasurable woe, but they cannot prevent the consummation of the revolution.

The extreme revolutionists have greatly erred, no doubt; and the plotters of anarchy have been utterly evil. But all these were few compared with the whole of Russia and would have been impotent had there only been truth and loyalty in those who should have been men of light and leading. It is not at the Czar, unhappy heir to two centuries of despotism, nor at his Prime Minister, burdened with tasks beside which the making of peace at Portsmouth was a midsummer holiday; it is not at the peasant, groping and crying in the dark, nor at the fanatical conspirator, mistaking the glare of torches for the rising sun—it is not at any of these, but at the ring of selfish nobles, military chiefs and hidebound bureaucrats, the old guard of autocracy, which means not autocracy for the Czar, but for those who would make and keep him their tool, that the world points the finger of execration.

THE ROYAL ARCANUM DECISION.

Justice Gaynor's decision in the Royal Arcanum suit commands and deserves much attention as radically involving the interests of that large and important organization. It is to the effect that the decree of the Supreme Council increasing the assessments of members amounts to an impairment or change of contract, and is therefore void. Of course, an appeal will be taken, largely, it is assumed, on the ground that the Royal Arcanum exists under a Massachusetts charter and therefore a New-York court has no jurisdiction over it. It is desirable that the matter shall be settled as promptly as possible by the court of highest authority, for both an important principle and very large financial interests are at stake.

It can scarcely be denied that the increase in assessments does amount to a change of contract. A member joined the organization years ago, and in consideration of a life insurance policy of $3,000 agreed to pay what purported to be a fixed assessment rate of, say, $2 52 a month. Now the officers of the organization tell him that to keep his policy in force he must pay, say, $4 29 a month. Certainly that seems, on the face of it, an impairment of contract. The fact that a similar but smaller increase a few years ago was acquiesced in without protest is not to be regarded as a justifying precedent, nor will there be convincing weight in the plea that members of a fraternal organization ought not to stick upon points of law, but should acquiesce in anything that is held to be "for the good of the order." The decisive question seems to be whether there is anything in the charter of the organization or in its contracts with members which gives its officers a legal right thus to alter contracts without the members' consent.

The importance of the final decision to the welfare of the organization is scarcely to be overestimated. If Justice Gaynor's decision stands, then in this state at least the old rates will have to be restored and maintained as long as the members live. Increased rates can be collected only from those who are willing to pay them and from those who have joined the order since October 1 last—a very small fraction of the whole. But it has been positively stated by the officers, as the justifying necessity for increasing rates, that the organization could not continue in solvent existence without such increase. Therefore Justice Gaynor's decision, if sustained, would seem to menace the very existence of the order. It goes without saying that the downfall of so large and important an organization would be a deplorable misfortune, the danger of which is not to be contemplated with equanimity, and it is earnestly to be hoped that, whether or not this decision holds, some way will be found of keeping the Royal Arcanum in prosperous existence. The first step to that end must be a final judicial determination of the questions now at issue, so that the order may know exactly where it stands.

There is in the new British Ministry no dearth of practical "organization" politicians. Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman himself is president of the Scottish Liberal Association and also of the London Liberal Federation. Sir Edward Grey is president of the Eighty Club. Sir Robert Reid is president of the Young British Liberals' Federation. Earl Carrington is president of the National Liberal Federation and of the National Liberal Club. The Earl of Crewe is chairman of the political committee of the National Liberal Club. Lord Tweedmouth is chairman of council of the Scottish Liberal Association. Mr. Birrell is chairman of the Liberal Publication Department. Mr. Gladstone is chairman of committee of the Liberal Central Association and chairman of the managing committee of the National Liberal Club. Mr. Vernon-Harcourt is president of the League of Young Liberals. Mr. Lloyd-George is president of the Welsh National Liberal Council. Also, the wives of some of them are active in politics, the Countess of Aberdeen being president of the Women's Liberal Federation and of the Scottish Women's Liberal Federation; the Countess of Crewe being president and Mrs. Birrell and Mrs. Buxton honorary secretaries of the Liberal Social Council, and Mrs. Bryce chairman of executive of the Women's National Liberal Association. All these are regarded as "official" organizations, and are actively engaged in extending the Liberal and Radical propaganda. They are, however, essentially differentiated from the "machine" as it exists in some parts of America.

"The New-York Sun" discloses some impatience with a writer in "The Boston Herald" who tells how hasty puddin' ought to be made. Our neighbor exclaims: "Yes! yes! but where do "you get the right kind of meal, man? Where "do you get the meal?" Observation and experience dictate the melancholy judgment that, while the right kind of meal may still be turned out, here and there, in the clandestine proceedings of remote New-England households, it is no longer procurable for cash in the marts of trade. We hate to say so, and should rejoice to be able to acknowledge the corn, as it were; but facts are facts.

Hat in hand, President Cipriano Castro politely sends his greetings to "the industrious American people," and wishes them "health and prosperity in the new year." Same to President Castro. May his shadow never grow less, and may his debts and debtors diminish to the vanishing point!

Congressman Sulzer thinks that Crœsus could not play poker with John D. Rockefeller. Possibly not, but it relieves the situation to surmise that he would not have cared to, while as to Mr. Rockefeller it is certain that he would not play poker with any one. Mr. Sulzer's illustration, therefore, is not a particularly happy one.

The automobile party that rained half dollars in the Bowery on Christmas Eve is justified in assuming that the Bowery has no objections to devil wagons of that variety and no fears of "tainted money."

With what fine indignation can a man repudiate the monstrous imputation that he was driving his automobile at twenty-five miles an hour, when it was really running at only twenty-four and a half miles!

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

Personal note from "The Freeborn (Iowa) Courier"; "Elder Thompson preached in Cascade Sunday and took dinner at the Johnston's. He says the Johnstons set a fine table."

OLD NAMES FOR NEW.

["Where are the Marys, Annies and Lizzies of former times? The last three maids I have had are named Maud, Florence and Ethel." Such is the bitter complaint of a lady correspondent of "The Telegraph."]

They tell us, ere this age began,
The masses never stooped to folly;
The scullery maiden's name was Ann,
The cook's was generally Molly;
The tresses of my lady's hair
Were braided then by Meg or Mary;
To answer calls was Jane's affair,
While Prue presided in the dairy.

Now simple manners are no more—
Each mother's help's a Maud or Mabel;
An "airy" Lillian scrubs the floor,
While Gwen and Gladys wait at table;
The task to Guinevere assigned
Is cleaning pots and pans and platters;
While Enid (when she's so inclined)
Attends to culinary matters.

I feel it is a crying shame—
The well bred dame—small wonder!—grudges
To share her once exclusive name
With mere plebeian household drudges!
So for her I have found a plan,
To which I'm hoping she will rally:
'Tis this—to name her children Ann,
Matilda, Mary Jane and Sally!
—(London News.

Some striking figures are published by the "Novoe Vremya" as to the forces at the disposal of the Russian commander in chief in Manchuria at the close of the late war. When peace was concluded General Linevitch had at his disposal 12,500 officers, 917,000 men and 270,000 horses. But from the beginning to the end of the war there had been carried to the front 20,000 officers, 1,270,000 men, 230,000 horses and more than 1,000 guns. Subtracting these figures and making allowance for the 80,000 men already on the spot when war broke out, the Russian losses appear roughly 7,500 officers and 483,000 men.

Couldn't Catch Him.—Farmer Foddershucks—Yes, M'ria, them Washin'ton politicians tried ter bunker me, but I was too smart fer 'em.
Mrs. Foddershucks—Land sakes! What happened?
Farmer Foddershucks—Well, when I got to Washin'ton I went to a hut-tel. An' a slick lookin' feller—Senator, prob'ly—shoved a big book in front o' me an' said, "Register, please." "Not much," says I, "I registered t' home last fall. Want ter git me run in fer repeatin', don't yer?"—(Cleveland Leader.

Chief Justice Fuller was not long ago the guest of a Southern man who had a servant, named John, famous for his mint julep. Soon after Judge Fuller's arrival John appeared, bearing a tray on which was a long, cool glass, topped with crushed ice and a small tree of mint. With low bows and many smiles, according to "The Buffalo Commercial," he presented it, and watched anxiously while Judge Fuller appreciatively sipped it. "That touch the right spot, sah?" he queried. "It does, John; it does," the judge replied. John disappeared, but was soon recalled by the tinkle of a handbell. The judge looked up, with a twinkle in his eye. "I think I've got another spot, John," he said.

Fresh!—The woman who was doing her Christmas marketing was difficult to please. She had overhauled every comestible in the shop, and insisted on getting the best in stock at a penny a pound cheaper than the marked price, and now it was a question of eggs.
"Are you quite sure these eggs are fresh?" she asked.
"They are, madam."
"You will guarantee them?"
"I will, madam."
"But how am I to know that you know they are fresh?"
"My dear lady," said the exhausted shopman, with incisive emphasis, "if you will kindly step to the telephone, and ring up our farm, you will hear the hens that laid them still cackling! I'm afraid I can't say any more than that."—(Answers.

The Chinese Cooly question, with which the new British Ministry has to deal in South Africa, may be understood from this description by a correspondent of the Chinese scare in Johannesburg: "The white workers in the mines carry revolvers; the police are armed with ball cartridge and bayonet; camped yonder at Auckland Park is a mobile column of mounted men, ready to move against an enemy at a moment's notice; the country folk on the other side of the swelling rise are armed to the teeth and live at night in barricaded and fortified houses."

AS USUAL.

She stands upon the ladder tall,
Her Christmas wreath all ready;
She holds the nail against the wall,
Prepared to hit it steady.

But hark! what means that fearful wail?
Its anguish would affright one—
It simply means she hit a nail,
But it was not the right one.
—(Chicago Post.

About People and Social Incidents.

FESTIVITIES AT CAPITAL.

AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, Dec. 25.—Christmas was observed at the White House with all of its oldtime gayety and good cheer. Several friends of Theodore, jr., and Kermit came with them from their college and school at Harvard and Groton, respectively, to spend the holidays, and, with the young persons already under the historic roof, made a crowd of as jolly juveniles as ever gathered there. One of the first important affairs of the day was the inspection of Archie's Christmas tree. For several weeks he has been acting mysteriously, according to his brothers and sisters. He has held long conferences with the White House electrician, the White House carpenter and the White House florist, and has been detected moving bulky packages into his room, with the assistance of these artisans. The door of his room has been kept locked to all intruders except those helpers, who were bound to secrecy. The result as viewed in the darkened room this morning was declared by all to outclass any Christmas tree they had ever seen. The electrician and the florist and the carpenter had put forth their best efforts, and the tree was a perfect blaze of electric lights. Archie acted as Santa Claus, and had presents for every member of the family, as well as for a number of his schoolboy friends and for the servants at the mansion. The exchange of gifts consumed most of the morning, and until late in the afternoon an almost continuous procession of messenger boys and wagons arrived, bearing floral offerings for different members of the family.

President Roosevelt paid a visit to his office about noon, and worked for three-quarters of an hour with Secretary Loeb on such pressing correspondence as could not be postponed until the morrow. After finishing this task the President and all the family, with the exception of Mrs. Roosevelt, went to the home of Captain and Mrs. William Sheffield Cowles, to witness the unveiling of Sheffield Cowles's Christmas tree, and they all remained to luncheon. Miss Roosevelt when she left the White House wore a walking costume of dark blue velvet, with a velvet hat and a long light blue ostrich plume. The President and the two elder boys were attired for walking. After luncheon the President, Theodore and a couple of the latter's friends took a long horseback ride in the suburbs.

There were twenty-six seated about the table in the state dining room to-night, and Christmas decorations and Christmas cheer prevailed. The dinner party was an informal one, and included all of the members of the President's family, Captain and Mrs. Cowles, the President's brother-in-law and sister, and Representative Nicholas Longworth. The last named will go to Cincinnati to-morrow, and Miss Roosevelt will spend some days in New-York visiting her relatives and incidentally looking after her trousseau, which must be ready by the second week of February.

Secretary Loeb announced to-day that owing to the holiday season no Cabinet sessions would be held until after New Year's, and added that no business callers, except those upon the most imperative errands, would be received by the President.

AT THE VICE-PRESIDENT'S HOME.

Vice-President and Mrs. Fairbanks entertained their family at a Christmas Eve dinner last evening, and left town to-day for Indianapolis. They will return in time for the New Year's reception at the White House. Mrs. Fairbanks will observe the custom of giving a New Year's Day reception, but will not be at home the following Wednesday.

The Vice-President and Mrs. Fairbanks will give a dinner in honor of Representative Nicholas Longworth and Miss Roosevelt, whose wedding day is thought to be February 17. Senator and Mrs. Elkins, Senator and Mrs. Newlands, Mr. and Mrs. Boardman, Colonel and Mrs. Clarence Edwards and Miss McGillan, who accompanied the Taft party to the Philippines, will all entertain in the same manner for Miss Roosevelt.

THE CABINET.

The Secretary of State and Mrs. Root had only a family dinner party to-night. Besides their daughter, Miss Edith Root, they have as guests for the holidays their two sons, Elihu, jr., and Edward W. Root, who are students at the Harvard Law School.

Secretary and Mrs. Taft had all their family with them to-day, including Robert Taft, from his school at Watertown, Conn.; Miss Helen Taft, who attends the Cathedral School, and Master Charles Taft, who goes to the Force Public School in this city. In the course of the day Secretary Taft visited the War Department and devoted a short time to the consideration of military affairs awaiting the action of Congress.

Secretary and Mrs. Bonaparte spent Christmas at their winter home in Park-ave., Baltimore.

With the exception of the Secretary of the Treasury and Mrs. Shaw, who dined to-night with the Secretary of Commerce and Labor and Mrs. Metcalf, all of the Cabinet members enjoyed small family dinner parties at home.

DIPLOMATIC.

Almost without exception the foreign ambassadors and ministers entertained the members of their staffs at dinner to-night, having as additional guests only their holiday house visitors.

The British Ambassador entertained the members of his staff and also Sir Percy Sanderson, British Consul General in New-York, and his sister, Miss Sanderson, who are the annual Christmas house guests at the embassy.

The German Ambassador and Baroness von Sternburg, who are spending their holiday at Aiken, S. C., will return to Washington at the end of this week, and will be present at the President's New Year reception and Secretary Root's breakfast.

The Austrian Ambassador and Baroness Hengelmüller unveiled the Christmas tree for their little daughter, Mila, yesterday afternoon, there being present a number of their friends, and the Christmas festivities have been kept up all day. To-night they enjoyed a strictly family dinner.

The largest Christmas entertainment given in the diplomatic corps to-day was the children's party at the Cuban Legation, when the two children of the Minister and Mme. Quesada, Aurora and Gonzales, invited more than a hundred of their little friends to the unveiling of a tree and a merry time from 3 to 6 o'clock. On the brilliantly lighted and decorated tree were presents for the children and prizes for the winners of games and favors. There were music and dancing, and, altogether, one of the gayest parties of the Christmastide. Among the guests were Archibald Roosevelt, Quentin Roosevelt, Philander Knox, Virginia Perez Triana, Angela Capetana Quesada, Margaret Braper, Margaret Perine, Margaret Barbour, Carolina Nabuco, Mariana Nabuco, Jorge Nabuco, Mauricio Nabuco, José Nabuco, Adela Godoy, Julio Godoy, Jorge Godoy, Cecilia Calvo, Rafael Calvo, Marta Calvo, Joaquin Calvo, Carlos Angulo, Domingo de Obaldia, Manuel Davalos, Maria Lan, Louis Lan, Blanche Walker-Martinez, Osmann Gureyn Bey, Ali Haidar Bey, Matilda von dem Bussche, Karl von dem Bussche, Elvira Veloz, Louise Veloz, Mila Hengelmüller, Frank Kim, the Masters Chentung, the Masters Pedernairas, Arthur Foraker, Doris Haywood, Wilson Haywood, Mary McCauley, Sophy Johnston, Henry Butler, Eleanor Reyburn, Dora Clover, Beatrice Clover, Gladys Hinckley, Margaret Smith, Alice Boutell, Mary Howery, Elizabeth Howery, Ruth Parker, Katharine Brown, Laura Merriam, Scott Thropp, Douglas Thropp, Louise Hellen, Mary Hellen, Ellen Bruce Lee, Henry Davis Lee, Frances Moore, Preston Moore, Cora Kim, Clark Moses, Hamilton Warner, Harmer Reeside, Joseph Humphrey and Tom Hudgins.

NOTES OF SOCIETY IN WASHINGTON.

Lieutenant General and Mrs. Chaffee, who have leased their K-st. house for the season and are now at the Arlington preparatory to going to California to live permanently, entertained a family party to-night, consisting of Captain and Mrs. Hamilton, Miss Chaffee and Adna Chaffee, jr., the last two named coming on from their schools for the holidays.

Speaker Cannon and Miss Cannon expected to spend the holidays in Illinois, but found at the last moment that the former's affairs would keep him here, so neither made plans for accepting or extending invitations. They dined at home alone to-night.

General Nelson A. Miles arrived here to-day and will probably not return to Massachusetts, where he has resigned from Governor Douglas's staff.

Washington showed itself inclined to home dinners to-night, and there were no really large parties entertained.

Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Hague had a few intimate guests and Mrs. Charles Campbell also gave a small dinner party.

The real Christmas affair of the evening was the subscription leap year dance to-night, when young women of social prominence not only invited the men whom they wished to escort them, but asked them to dance as well. There were beautiful favors for the cotillion and a supper was served, all the expenses being defrayed by the young women getting up the affair. Miss Grace Bell and Miss Postlethwaite were the true promoters of the dance, while acting as chaperons were Lady Durand, Mrs. Richard A. Townsend, Mrs. Richard Wayne Parker, Mrs. Charles J. Bell, Mrs. Alexander Legare and Mrs. Horace Westcott.

NEW-YORK SOCIETY.

The Hon. Neil Primrose, second son of Lord Rosebery, and now about twenty-four years old, has arrived in this country and is staying at Tuxedo for the holidays. His brother-in-law, the Earl of Crewe, is Lord President of the Privy Council in the new Liberal administration.

Mr. and Mrs. I. Townsend Burden, with their daughters, Miss Evelyn and Miss Gwendolyn Burden, who have been living at the St. Regis since their return from Europe, move into their new house, in East 92d-st., to-morrow.

Mr. and Mrs. James A. Burden, jr., have just moved into town from their place at Westbury, and are at their new house, No. 7 East 91st-st.

Henry Pierrepont Perry, on the occasion of his marriage to Miss Edith Lounsbery on February 1, at St. Thomas's, will have his brother-in-law, Pierre Lorillard Ronalds, as his best man, and Grosvenor Phelps, Arthur Iselin, Loomis White, Wistar Kendall, Cooper Lord, Ben Ali and Richard Lounsbery, jr., as his ushers.

Mrs. Sidney Dillon Ripley, who has let her house in East 79th-st. for the season, has been staying at the St. Regis with her daughter, Miss Anna Ripley, since her return from Europe.

Most of the hospitality dispensed by society yesterday in town was restricted to near relatives and intimate friends, and family dinner parties were given last night by Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton McK. Twombly, Mrs. William Barclay Parsons, D. O. Mills, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Clews, Mr. and Mrs. William A. Perry and Mr. and Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, jr., whose guests included Senator and Mrs. Aldrich.

Mr. and Mrs. Payne Whitney are spending the holidays with Mrs. John Hay, at Washington.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred G. Vanderbilt have a large house party staying with them at Oakland Farm, their place near Newport.

Others who preferred a rural to an urban Christmas were Mr. and Mrs. George Gould, who spent it at Georgian Court, their place near Lakewood; Dr. and Mrs. Seward Webb, with their children, including Mrs. Ralph Pulitzer and her husband, at their place in the Adirondacks; Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Vanderbilt, at Hyde Park; James Henry Smith, at High Point, N. C., whence he returns to-morrow; Mr. and Mrs. W. K. Vanderbilt, sr., at Idle Hour, their place on Long Island, and Mr. and Mrs. William Bayard Cutting, sr., at Oakdale, Long Island. Their son, W. Bayard Cutting, and Lady Sibyl Cutting are at St. Moritz, Switzerland, and will remain abroad until summer.

Mr. and Mrs. Frederick H. Allen have arrived from Europe, and are spending the holidays at Bolton Priory, their place at Pelham Manor. They are still in mourning for the recent death of their brother-in-law, the Count de Galliffet.

Mrs. Harold Farquhar Hadden will give receptions on January 18 and 25 for her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Douglas Robinson, at her house in East 76th-st.

Among the dances set for this evening are that given by George Seney, for his niece, Miss Eleanor Hoyt, at the St. Regis; by Mrs. Henry Reese, for Miss Gretchen Hoyt, at Sherry's; by Mrs. Hermann Oelrichs, for her niece, Miss Blanche Oelrichs, at her house at East 57th-st. and 5th-ave.; by Mrs. Artemas Holmes, for Miss Hilda Holmes, at her house in Madison-ave., and by M