(FROM THE NEW-YORK TRIBUNE WEEKLY REVIEW, FEBRUARY 24, 1906.)

Latest Foreign News About Books.

London, February 23.

The British publishers are continuing their policy of devoting their principal efforts to promoting the traffic in dead authors and of issuing small editions of the works of living writers. Every leading house in the trade announces cheap reprints of the classics of every degree of reputation. Among these announcements, probably that of the reissue of "Evelyn's Diary," newly edited by Austin Dobson, is the most noteworthy. It is interesting to note that Thoreau's "Walden" and Oliver Wendell Holmes's "The Autocrat of the Breakfast Table" have been included among these English classics. Mrs. Thurston's new novel, "The Gambler," but recently published here, although for several months on the American market, is selling as well as anything among the new books. Ellis Ashmead-Bartlett's "The Siege of Port Arthur," Clement Wragge's "A Romance of the South Seas," Charles Wagner's "Jeunesse" and Francis Henry Skrine's "Fontenoy" —are among the most promising of the recent publications. The race to produce the first book about the Prince of Wales's Indian tour will be won by Abbott.

I. N. F.

Paris, February 23.

Among the noteworthy books published this week are "Correspondence d'Alfred de Vigny, 1816-1863," which has been collected and edited by Emma Sakellarides, and is issued by Calmann-Levy; and "Les Femmes du Second Empire," by Frédéric Loliée, just brought out by Juven. This latter work consists of a series of anecdotal biographies of such prominent ladies as Mme. de Castiglione, Mme. de Metternich, Princesse Mathilde, Comtesse Walewska and many others. The author has been fortunate in having access to a mass of private letters and other unpublished documents, which enabled him to throw much new light on these interesting personalities. The book is illustrated with fifty engravings. Fasquelle is publishing a volume entitled "Nanet, son Histoire et son Œuvre," by Theodore Duret, illustrated with twelve original sketches. The principal novel of the week is undoubtedly "La Gargouille," a romance just issued by Louis Michaud. The heroine is a lady at once old and ugly, who, for these reasons, in the opinion of the author, Jeanne Leandre, is enabled to judge impartially of men, women and events. The story is replete with anti-feministic philosophy, and contains a frontispiece cleverly drawn by Charles Leandre.

C. I. B.

Books People Are Reading.

NEW-YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY.—The most popular books of the week, according to the demands of the circulating department, are as follows:

Adult Fiction.—Wharton's "The House of Mirth"; Glasgow's "The Wheel of Life"; Nicholson's "The House of a Thousand Candles."

Juvenile Fiction.—Lang's "Red Fairy Books"; Alcott's "Little Women"; Mulock's "The Little Lame Prince."

Miscellaneous.—Maeterlinck's "The Life of a Bee"; Shaw's "Plays, Pleasant and Unpleasant"; Burt's (editor) "Poems Every Child Should Know."

BUFFALO PUBLIC LIBRARY.—Buffalo, Feb. 23.—According to the demands made at the Buffalo Public Library during the past week, the following named books were the most popular:

Fiction—Betts's "Story of an East Side Family"; Quiller-Couch's "The Mayor of Troy"; Jacob's "Captains All"; Ward's "Betty Wales, Sophomore."

Juveniles—Brooks's "The True Story of Abraham Lincoln"; Pyle's "Story of the Champions of the Round Table"; Gladwin's "Widow O'Callaghan's Boys"; Hall's "The Boy Craftsman."

Miscellaneous—Kune's "Turkish Fairy Tales and Folk Tales"; Reppler's "In Our Convent Days"; Kent's "The Messages of Israel's Lawgivers"; Hooper's "The Country House."

PHILADELPHIA FREE LIBRARY.—Philadelphia, Feb. 23.—The books most read this week are as follows:

History—Evans's "Second French Empire"; Crawford's "Salve Venetia"; Phelps's "Louisiana."

Description and Travel—Elliott's "Two in Italy"; Cator's "Everyday Life Among the Head Hunters"; Irving's "Alhambra."

Biography—Rose's Life of Napoleon I"; Hart's "Salmon Portland Chase"; Thomas's "Musical Autobiography."

Miscellaneous — Bradley's "Shakespearean Tragedy"; Brumbaugh's "The Making of a Teacher."

Fiction—Chambers's "The Reckoning"; Glasgow's "The Wheel of Life"; Phillpotts' "The Portreeve"; Sinclair's "Divine Fire"; Squire's "The Ballingtons"; Thanet's "The Man of the Hour."

CONGRESSIONAL LIBRARY.—Washington, Feb. 23.—The following list of books called for indicates the tastes of readers in the library of Congress this week:

History.—Hallam's "Middle Ages"; Rainland's "The Expansion of Russia"; Neale's "The Reshaping of the Far East"; Ihne's "Rome."

Descriptive and Travel.—Lindsay's "India"; Stead's "Great Japan"; Beasan's "Imperial London"; Whitney's "Jungle Trails and Jungle People."

Biography.—Sichel's "Emma, Lady Hamilton" and "Memoirs of the Verney Family"; Simkinson's "Thomas Harrison"; Froude's "Cæsar."

Fiction.—Sinclair's "The Divine Fire"; Williamson's "My Friend the Chauffeur"; Doyle's "The Return of Sherlock Holmes"; Von Hutten's "He and Hecuba"; Hichens's "The Garden of Allah"; Warner's "The Rejuvenation of Aunt Mary."

Miscellaneous.—Maeterlinck's "Monna Varna"; Symon's "Plays, Acting and Music"; Mencken's "George Bernard Shaw—His Plays."

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY.—Boston, Feb. 23.—Among the books most frequently in demand at the Boston Public Library during the week were the following:

Fiction.—Bret Harte's "Her Letter"; Wiggin's "Rose o' the River"; Reppler's "In Our Convent Days"; Brown's "Paradise"; Jamison's "The Penhallow Family"; Wade's "Ten Little Indians"; White's "An Only Child"; Tomlinson's "The Red Chief"; MacGrath's "Hearts and Masks"; Lyons's "Mister Bill"; Crockett's "The Cherry Ribband"; Adeler's "The Quakeress"; Warner's "The Rejuvenation of Aunt Mary"; Squires's "The Ballingtons"; Tybout's "The Wife of the Secretary of State."

Miscellaneous.—Brown's "The Wealthiest Man in the World"; Long and Lodge's "Stepping Stones of American History"; Burrough's "Ways of Nature"; Stanwood's "James G. Blaine"; James's "English Hours"; Higginson's "Part of a Man's Life"; James's "In and Out of the Old Missions of California"; Seton's "Animal Heroes"; Whiting's "The Florence of Landor."

What N. Y. Booksellers Say They Are Selling Most.

The six best selling books in New-York this week, as reported to The New-York Tribune Weekly Review, were taken in the following order:

1. "The Wheel of Life"	Ellen Glasgow	(Doubleday, Page & Co.)	$1 50
2. "A Maker of History"	E. Phillips Oppenheim	(Little, Brown & Co.)	1 50
3. "The Conquest of Canaan"	Booth Tarkington	(Harper & Bros.)	1 50
4. "In Old Bellaire"	Mary Dillon	(The Century Co.)	1 50
5. "On the Field of Glory"	Henryk Sienkiewicz	(Little, Brown & Co.)	1 50
6. "The House of Mirth"	Edith Wharton	(Charles Scribner's Sons)	1 50

LITERARY NOTES.

Another attempt to teach good manners by printed directions has just been issued by the Appletons. It is entitled "The Complete Hostess," and is the work of Clara E. Laughlin, "assisted by" Priscilla Leonard, Eleonora K. Marble and Mrs. John Foster Kirk, jr.

Some idea of the perils of royal birth will be gained from the forthcoming publication by Henry Holt & Co. of a volume by Dr. F. A. Woods on "Heredity in Royalty." The author considers the cases of over three thousand different members of reigning families in an attempt to reach an estimate of the mental and moral status of the world's rulers of to-day, and illustrates his conclusions with over one hundred portraits. This intimate and sanguine inquiry recalls the incident related in Alphonse Daudet's "Kings in Exile," where an exiled queen takes her little son to a physician, who tells her that he is afraid to perform an operation on the boy because his blood is so poor that he would be scarcely likely to survive it. "It is the blood of kings!" the Queen replies proudly.

A. S. Barnes & Co. make the important announcement that they have taken over the publication business of the United Educational Company, formerly E. L. Kellogg & Co. and E. O. Vaile, including the four periodicals known as "The Teachers' Magazine," "The School Journal," "Our Times" and "Educational Foundation."

Esperanto, the new universal language, was recently put to a novel test at the expense of an unfortunate class. The students at the Perkins Institution for the Blind, in Boston, were recently inveigled into giving a so-called entertainment in which addresses, songs and a little comedy were rendered in that ambitious dialect. It is stated that Esperanto textbooks for use by the blind are now being prepared, and that steps are being taken to organize a national society in the United States for the propagation of the new language, similar to the one already existing in France. The recent experiment in Boston seems as unnecessarily cruel as dropping a lead "nickel" in a blind man's hat.

A novel of anonymous authorship dealing with the events of the war between Texas and Mexico is announced for early publication by the Saalfield Publishing Company. It is entitled "The Rose Croix."

An enterprising literary resurrectionist has started a report that Mrs. K. E. Blake's novel of the Rappite community at New-Harmony, Ind., entitled "Heart's Haven," is in reality the story, with the same locale, on which Mary Hartwell Catherwood was engaged at the time of her death, completed by another hand. As a matter of fact, Mrs. Catherwood had made but little progress with her Rappite novel when she was compelled to lay down her pen, and it dealt with a theme and period quite different from those of Mrs. Blake's story.

Frederick Haynes Newell, chief engineer of the United States Reclamation Service, has recently revised his well known work on "Irrigation" (Thomas Y. Crowell & Co.), adding another chapter and numerous illustrations to keep pace with the rapid march of development in reclaiming arid Western lands. The new edition of the book is now in press.

A reader with a memory for the books he peruses calls attention to the fact that the recent life insurance scandals and investigation were in a measure forecast by the supposititious Oriental who gave his interesting and satirical views of American life and manners in "As a Chinaman Saw Us." He quotes therein the plain statement of the president of a large life insurance corporation that the companies are obliged to buy off blackmailing statements and legislation.

Frederick Jones Bliss's "The Development of Palestine Exploration" was published last Saturday by Charles Scribner's Sons. The author who has taken an active part in actual field work in the region, has aimed to give a vivid and appreciative account of the other explorers in the Holy Land, and of their notable discoveries.

Moffat, Yard & Co. have acquired the sole right to publish the reproductions of the paintings of Charles Schreyvogel, the delineator of frontier life, whose picture, "My Bunkie," won the Thomas B. Clarke prize at the National Academy exhibition in 1900. The first print to be published under the new arrangement is entitled "Saving the Lieutenant," and will be issued early in March. The subject illustrates the rescue of a young officer by his veteran troopers from an Indian attack.

The appreciation with which the publication in the original, of Xavier de Maistre's "Voyage autour de ma Chambre" was received has led Houghton, Mifflin & Co. to add Bernardin de Saint-Pierre's "Paul et Virginie" to the list of their Riverside Press editions. The text follows that of the original first edition, is set in type of Didot style, imported from Paris, and is embellished with reproductions of the original engravings. These illustrations are not photographic facsimiles, but have been in each case re-engraved on wood by M. Lamont Brown, and the prints are Japan paper proofs, separately mounted. The binding is of decorated French paper boards, with paper label, and the edition is limited to 280 copies, of which 250 have been placed on sale.

Delay has occurred in the publication of the second volume of the revised and enlarged edition of Grove's "Dictionary of Music and Musicians," but the Macmillans promise its issue some time in March. Many of the articles have been entirely rewritten for this edition, and many new ones have been added, American music and musicians receiving due recognition. The work will ultimately fill five bulky volumes, and will be illustrated with plates as well as with the original cuts scattered through the text.

The fourth volume of the Rev. Morgan Dix's "History of the Parish of Trinity Church," which the Putnams are publishing this month, brings the account down to the time of the accession of the author, the present rector. In these four volumes Dr. Dix tells the story of the growth of his parish from its organization by the Colonial Assembly and its establishment by royal charter, respectively in 1693 and 1697, to the year 1862. He shows how Trinity's annual income of $500,000 is spent supporting twenty-four chapels, maintaining seventeen parochial schools and charities, and making annual grants to many struggling churches. Not the least interesting function of work is the dignified answer it makes, in its simple and direct narrative, to the misrepresentation and abuse with which Trinity Corporation has been assailed.

Professor Edwin W. Bowen, of Randolph-Macon College, in an interesting article on "What Is Slang?" in the current number of the Popular Science Monthly, ranges himself alongside of Professors Lounsbury and Mathews in the contention that slang has its proper place in linguistic economy. Dr. Bowen protests that he is far from holding a brief for slang, but he does maintain, against the reactionary attitude of the purists, that slang is not to be absolutely condemned as the main source of corruption of our speech, but that, contrariwise, it is an important factor in the growth of our vernacular, serving a useful purpose in repairing the waste "which necessarily occurs in English, as in every spoken language." The waste in slang is, of course, infinitely greater than in the established speech. They are the seeds from the bursting pods of language, that, scattering here and there, live in most cases only long enough to decay. Only the hardiest, the fittest, take root and grow. Swift saw ruin for the English tongue in the use in his day of such abbreviations as phiz for physiognomy, hyp for hypochondriac, mob for moblie vulgus, poz for positive, rep for reputation, incog for incognito, plenipo for plenipotentiary, among many others. Of these only mob has worked its way into definite recognition. Rep only survives in demirep, and hip in hipped. Other neologisms condemned by Swift have been accorded hearty welcome. It is difficult to realize that he "viewed with alarm" the introduction of such words as battalion, ambassador, operation, communication and preliminary. Professor Bowen holds, accordingly, that it is "the height of folly for any one, no matter how highly esteemed as an author, to attempt the role of reformer of the speech." He will have only his labor for his pains. These violations of established usage he claims actually furnish evidence of the vitality of the speech. He says:

Professor Brander Matthews, in an admirable paper on the subject, divides slang into four classes, and we can hardly do better than to follow his general classification. The first class embraces those vulgar cant expressions which are the survivals of thieves' Latin or St. Giles' Greek, and those uncouth, inelegant terms which constitute the vernacular of the lower orders of society. This is the kind of slang heard in the police courts, the kind the newspaper reporter too frequently resorts to, in order to give spice to his account. It has been introduced into literature by some of our recent novelists, notably Dickens. The second class of slang is not quite so coarse, and includes those ephemeral phrases and catchwords which have a fleeting popularity and which, because they meet no real need, are soon forgotten utterly. They live but a day and pass away, leaving behind no trace of their existence. Of this class are campaign slogans and such inane expressions as "Where did you get that hat?" "Chestnut," "Rot," "I should smile," and many others equally stupid. It is these two classes of slang that have brought the term into disrepute and merited contempt. For this sort of slang is very offensive to delicate ears and justly deserves the speedy oblivion which overtakes it.

The other two classes of slang, on the contrary, are of a finer type and have a reason for their being, something to commend them to popular favor. It may well be that from this type new idioms and phrases are recruited into our literary language. However, a certain stigma attaches to this better variety of slang, also, in the judgment of many, stimply because it is slang. Yet it is heard on the lips of educated and cultured speakers, much to the disgust of those who are fastidious as to the propriety of usage. When it is employed in the written speech, the more careful writers brand it with inverted commas, the barbarian earmarks which attest its social inferiority. Occasionally a bold writer like Mr. Howells breaks down these barriers which convention has set up and gives a polite slang expression the stamp of his approval and authority. In this way these social outcasts, the pariahs of our literary speech, are now and then elevated to the dignity and rank of good society, and finally establish themselves in standard English.

CUBAN DEAD HONORED.

Sumner Returns from Expedition to Mark Battlefields.

The United States army transport Sumner, Major Chauncey B. Baker commanding, arrived at Pier 12, Wall-st. and the East River, early yesterday morning, after a cruise of eighteen days to Cuban ports, where monuments to those killed in the Spanish-American War were dedicated. On board were the members of the Santiago Battlefield Commission, a party of army officers who fought in the Cuban campaign, their wives and representatives of several magazines and The Tribune.

The first Cuban port touched was Guantanamo, where a monument was erected to the marines who were killed when Admiral Sampson was endeavoring to make the harbor a safe naval base. The Sumner then sailed to Santiago de Cuba, where there was a remarkable demonstration on the battlefield of El Caney and Santiago. When the work which the commission has instituted there is completed this battlefield will be one of the most perfectly marked in the world.

The last monument unveiled was at Daiquiri, where the 5th Army Corps, under General Shafter, made its first landing. This monument was erected by the Spanish-American Iron Company, which has large mines in the vicinity, and was unveiled with suitable ceremonies by General A. R. Chaffee, president of the Society of the Army of Santiago, under whose auspices the expedition was made.

On last Tuesday the members of the party were received in state by President Palma and a portion of his Cabinet at the palace in Havana. The men of the party were entertained at the American Club.

Lieutenant General S. M. B. Young, who represented President Roosevelt, remained in Havana for a visit of a month. His daughter, Mrs. George W. Read, who accompanied him, returned on the Sumner to her home in Washington.

General Adna R. Chaffee, Mrs. Chaffee and Mrs. Helen V. Chaffee also left the party at Havana, sailing from there for Mexico, where they will remain a month. General Chaffee has decided on Los Angeles as his permanent home since his retirement from the army.

Rear Admiral Charles E. Clark, of Oregon fame, and Mrs. Clark left the Sumner at Fortress Monroe and will go to Washington when Mrs. Clark has fully recovered from a serious case of poisoning which followed plucking some flowers at Morro Castle, Santiago. Rear Admiral and Mrs. Higginson, the other representatives of the navy, returned to their home in this city.

The West Point contingent, headed by General and Mrs. A. L. Mills, and including Colonel Edgar S. Dudley, Captain Frank Coe, Mrs. R. L. Houze, Miss Hawkins and Mrs. L. C. Andrews, took an afternoon train for their post.

Among those who landed here were Colonel A. C. Sharpe, secretary of the Society of Santiago and in command at Fort Logan H. Root, Arkansas, and Mrs. Sharpe; Lieutenant Colonel Webb C. Hayes, secretary of the Santiago Battlefields Commission; General W. H. Bisbee, retired; Colonel George S. Grimes, in command at Fort Hamilton, and Mrs. Grimes; Colonel John B. Kerr and Mrs. Kerr, of Governor's Island; Major Frank Keck of the 71st Regiment, New-York; Colonel C. V. Lauman of the 1st Illinois, Captain William P. Stone, in charge of the Fifth Band, Artillery Corps; Captain P. C. Fauntleroy, surgeon of the expedition; Mrs. E. S. Greble, Miss Anna Greble, Miss Valdane, W. W. Willson, Hugh W. Ditzler, S. A. Paxson and William Sheridan.

Those who left the party at Fortress Monroe to go to Washington were Colonel and Mrs. James T. Kerr, Major Walter D. McCau, Major and Mrs. William D. Beach, Major and Mrs. Edward Burr, Major W. A. Mann, Major F. W. Sibley, Captain Hollis C. Clark, Captain Charles W. Exton, Captain Dennis E. Nolan, Lieutenant Colonel De W. C. Poole, Mrs. George E. Hamilton and Mrs. Chauncey B. Baker.

MR. OGDEN ON THE PRESS.

It Is Still the Voice of the People, He Says.

"The Newspapers and Public Morals" was the subject discussed yesterday morning by Rollo Ogden and Norman Hapgood before the Society for Ethical Culture at Carnegie Hall.

Mr. Ogden said he thought public rebuke would have its effect on a certain class of discredited publications. When the publishers of these discredited papers defended themselves by insisting they were giving the public the class of news it wanted, the speaker declared they insulted the public. If the public refused to buy and advertise in that class of publications and refused with a pronounced moral vigor, Mr. Ogden thought the beginning of a great improvement would have been made. Every paper liked, he said, to feel that it possessed a responsive clientele and its readers' approval. The best forms of inspiration came from the outside. To-day, with all its faults of vulgarity and inclination to overstate facts, Mr. Ogden thought the press voiced the general sentiment of the people on the more important questions.

The improvement desired, Mr. Ogden said he did not think was to be found through legislation, but rather through sound public sense. With all its evils, the press of to-day was making itself felt as the voice of the people. But the press should not overlook its own shortcomings. Recently leaders in the social, financial and even the religious world had fallen sadly. No power except the press could have brought home to these men their awful mistakes—mistakes that were all but crimes. Mr. Ogden said he felt sure that those connected wth the press were not insensible of their great opportunities.

Mr. Hapgood said that two years ago the District Attorney had closed up the loan sharks, but they crept back because the columns of the newspapers were open to them. In closing he said that the truth could not be told by any one party, nor by any one class of papers. Even one yellow paper had forced another yellow paper into a better course, at the same time improving itself. The newspaper standards had been raised and the speaker thought the reform real and lasting.

NATION NOT CHRISTIAN.

DR. SILVERMAN SAYS SO.

Justice Brewer's Book Criticised by Jewish Rabbi.

The sermon preached by the Rev. Dr. Joseph Silverman at Temple Emanu-El, 43d-st. and 5th-ave., yesterday morning, was an attack upon the book written by Justice Brewer, of the United States Supreme Court, showing that the United States is a Christian nation.

Dr. Silverman said in part:

And now comes Justice Brewer in a book and attempts to show that this country is a Christian nation, and that there is no necessity for amendments to the Constitution along that line. His premises are false, and of necessity his conclusions are erroneous. In his book he classifies the peoples, and he assumes a lot of things to be true which are not true, and the book is liable to pervert the mind of the unthinking.

In his book, after granting that Christianity is not an established religion of our country, and that Congress can make no law to establish a religion, the justice says that nevertheless we can speak of our Republic as the leading Christian nation of the world. I am surprised at the conclusions he arrives at after reading the premises he establishes. The majority of the people of this country are not Christians. There are more than forty million people of this country who are not Christians, and by what right can he call the nation Christian?

Judge Brewer refers to the general observation of Sunday as proof of the fact that we are a Christian nation. Sunday is recognized as a day of rest by the majority of the people, and if that majority were to select another day as a day of rest, that would be the day of rest, just as Sunday is now.

Judge Brewer makes one point in his book, that about the appointment of chaplains in our army and navy. To my way of thinking, it would be better for the church authorities to appoint these chaplains, rather than have the government do so. I see no reason for a chaplain in Congress or in the legislative halls of our various States.

I deplore the diffusion of Judge Brewer's book. It gives the impression that in this country there is a union of Church and State. If the impression goes out that there is here a quasi-union between Church and State, the European ecclesiastics will take advantage of it to further the continuance of the union of Church and State in their own countries, where the people are trying to separate them.

Our government is only a development of the original Hebraic republic. We might claim that this was a Jewish government, but we make no such claim. Our government is founded on the laws of Moses. Those were God's laws, and they were not given to the Jews alone, but to the whole world, to all the people for their observance. Those laws form the groundwork of our government.

TO SAVE HUDSON BEAUTY.

Hearing on Bill to Extend Powers of Palisades Commission.

The Assembly Committee on Finance will give a hearing at Albany in a few days on the Carpenter bill to enlarge the powers of the commission on the Palisades Interstate Park, which for some nine years has been acquiring control of the Palisades, to create an interstate park and prevent the destruction of the Palisades by quarrymen. The final purpose of the Carpenter bill is to enable the commission to extend the area of the proposed park from Piermont, eighteen miles above Fort Lee, which is the northern limit of the Palisades proper, to Stony Point, fifteen miles further north, where the government has a reservation. This would create a continuous preserve from the northern limits of Hoboken into the heart of the Highlands, and put an end to the destructive work of the quarrymen, who have already injured great areas of the lower Palisades and have totally effaced the once beautiful Indian Head.

The movement which caused the introduction of the Carpenter bill was the result of an attack on Hook Mountain by three quarries, which have blasted out some thousands of tons of rock from the face of the mountain. The public indignation which brought about the creation of the Palisades Commission slumbered for some years. The progress made by the commission long since assured the preservation of the Palisades proper, but public indignation was aroused again when the attack was made on Hook Mountain last year. The societies and citizens from whom were obtained the funds with which the Palisade properties were purchased determined, if possible, to drive the quarrymen from every foot of property available to them on the west shore of the Hudson. The ownership of much of the west shore of the river, from Haverstraw to Newburg, insures the preservation of the greater part of that territory. The United States government reservations at West Point, Iona Island and Stony Point are, of course, permanent. Much of the river shore between West Point and Iona Island is already owned by private estates and is safe against destruction; but between Piermont, to which point the work of the commission has already been successfully extended, and Stony Point there is a strip of fifteen miles, much of which has yet to be acquired before the eviction of the quarrymen is completed.

Under the act which created the Palisades Commission, and under which it has operated, its powers of purchase are limited to the area of the Palisades alone, and it has no rights of acquirement beyond Piermont. In order to acquire the additional territory it was found necessary to extend the powers of the commission by legislation, and with this in view the Carpenter bill was drawn. Repeated efforts have been made to obtain the introduction of the measure in the Senate, but lack of interest on the part of some Senators and decided opposition from others have prevented it. The opposition to the Carpenter bill has been led by representatives of the quarry owners, who are making a determined fight and are bringing considerable pressure to bear upon such members of the legislature as can be reached by them. The argument of the quarrymen is that the passage of the bill will deprive them of their inalienable rights as property owners and will entail great losses which they cannot hope to recover from the commission. They have reported their holdings on Hook Mountain alone to be valued at something more than $2,000,000. Investigation by the sponsors for the Carpenter bill has shown, however, that the Hook Mountain properties are actually assessed at $50,000, which, under the law, is eighty per cent of their full value.

LESSONS FROM MR. M'CALL'S DEATH.

Cannot Physicians Find a Cure for Mental Worry or Fear?

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: In your editorial on the death of Mr. McCall in to-day's Tribune you refer to his sincere belief in his own integrity, in which you concur. I believe the sober, better judgment of the public agrees with you in your statement. I would like to ask, however, what seems to be the matter with the general moral education of so brilliant a mind that will lead a man honestly to think he is doing right when actually he is doing wrong? Mr. McCall's was no exception. We can all see the trend of the times. The rank materialism of the age which permeates all society and which has crept even into the sacred precincts of the Church (both Protestant and Catholic) is undoubtedly the cause of their loss of vitality and power to-day, and which never disturbs the conscience of its members, who are in many cases the men who are planning the evils that are threatening the business name of our country and creating the unrest visible and invisible all over the land. Is our system of moral and religious education wrong, as so many educators believe?

Another question presents itself. A few weeks ago Mr. McCall was very robust and rugged and cheerful. Because of terrific mental strain and worry he developed something which caused his death. The direct cause of his illness and death was undoubtedly mental. If this is true, why have the physicians of our day been so slow in discovering some way of treating humanity for mental worries? If, as has been said, eight out of ten of the illnesses are due to mental causes, why not find a cure for that mental sickness called worry, or fear, or whatever it is? Is it unreasonable to expect our doctors to find a cure for the cause of such cases instead of doctoring the effect and nearly always losing the patient? I don't believe medicines of the present day will cure such cases, but it seems strange ways have not been found more practical and successful than the old failures have developed in the past. If there was something in Mr. McCall's mental make-up that could kill, why not something in that same mental make-up that could cure?

J. H. C.

New-York, Feb. 20, 1906.

BIG MANŒUVRES TOO COSTLY.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: I am more in favor of manœuvres held in different parts of the United States every few years than I am in favor of manœuvres such as were held at Manassas. The question of transporting even a small number of troops from New-Mexico to Manassas is out of the question, on account of expense. To hold manœuvres out this way would place Eastern States in the same position, so far as expense is concerned. I am unable to say what neighboring States might do as regards manœuvres. The militia in this Territory does not have enough camp work. We have not the funds to pay for encampments, and the only manner in which they can be held is to draw from the government allotment, after we are fully uniformed, armed and equipped. We endeavor to give our militia as much target practice as possible and encourage it in every way; and to further this work it is our intention to send a team to the national match this year, if possible.

A. P. TARRINGTON, Adjutant General.

Santa Fe, N. M., Feb. 17, 1906.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

"AN AUDACIOUS SCHEME."

Correspondent Says Croton Commission's Impudence Is Colossal.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: The effort of the Croton Aqueduct Commission to prolong its tenure of life and enlarge its powers, through legislation authorizing it to build a $10,000,000 filtration plant at the Jerome Park reservoir, has not received the public attention which the audacious scheme deserves. The impudence of this commission is colossal. In 1895 it made a contract for the construction at Jerome Park of a distributing reservoir with a capacity of from two thousand million to three thousand million gallons. When the project was first designed the necessity for this addition to the city's distributing reservoir system was well understood.

The only distributing reservoirs are in Central Park, and they hold less than three days' supply. The Jerome Park reservoir, if completed as planned, would contain at the present rate of consumption of water, about eight to ten days' supply. A break in the long line of the Croton Aqueduct, which brings the water to the pumping stations at High Bridge and 179th-st., or a clogging of the siphon under the Harlem River would render Manhattan absolutely dependent upon the storage in Central Park, which would soon be exhausted. Hence, the reason for the Jerome Park reservoir. To finish the reservoir would mean suicide for this commission. Hence its policy of inactivity; hence, also, the filtration scheme, which neither the history of the commission nor the law of its creation warrants its undertaking.

The contract for the Jerome Park reservoir bound the contractors to finish a reservoir, to be constructed in two sections, on November 1, 1902. This time limit was several times extended, but has long since expired. The contractors a year ago made an unsuccessful effort for more time. In the spring of 1902, because of complaints of labor strikes, operating to prevent the completion of the reservoir, the legislature was induced to enact a law which authorized the Board of Estimate and Apportionment and the Aqueduct Commission, with the contractors' consent, to bring the contract under the eight-hour system.

The original contract of 1895 long antedated legislation fixing the hours of labor. The supplemental contract was entered into on October 2, 1902. The provisions of this last contract require careful notice. By its terms the contractors, in consideration of the payment by the city to them of an additional consideration based upon what was assumed to be the additional labor cost by the substitution of an eight-hour for a ten-hour day, agreed that they would finish the westerly reservoir on August 1, 1903 and the easterly reservoir on August 1, 1904, the penalties for delay to be as set forth in the original contract. And they further agreed that for all laborers employed by them at the reservoir eight hours should constitute a day's work and that no laborer employed in the performance of the contract should be required, permitted or allowed to work more than eight hours in any one calendar day, except in cases of extraordinary emergency, caused by fire, flood or danger to life or property.

It was in consideration of the contractors' express agreement that the laborers should work for eight hours a day only, and that they would complete the two sections of the reservoir as above stated, that they city agreed to pay them an additional bonus, fixed by the Aqueduct Commission at $464,443 40. By variations in the character of the work, increasing the quantity of certain materials, the bonus or excess cost has already far exceeded the estimate of $464,000, and the easterly reservoir is not half completed! The cost of the reservoir, according to the original contract, was to be $5,473,069. The supplemental contract was supposed to add $464,443 40. Yet the actual payments already amount to $6,747,243 99, an excess over the estimated cost of $809,740 59, and the work is by no means done. It is estimated that the additional payments for what remains to be done will amount to $1,000,000.

Needless to say neither the easterly nor the westerly reservoir was finished at the time designated. There have been extensions, but further time was refused more than a year ago. But the increased payments have been kept up. The contractors, according to the State Labor Department, appear to have defaulted upon both clauses of the contract. Upon what theory the extra payments have been justified, I am at a loss to understand.

If the statement of the Commissioner of Labor be true, the contractors have no right to a dollar of this extra fund. They have defaulted in completing the reservoir, and if they have also defaulted in applying the eight-hour day, what consideration is the city getting for paying them $500,000 in excess of the prices fixed in the original contract of 1895? But what is to be thought in this view, of the conduct of the Aqueduct Commission? I am well aware that in some quarters it is considered a species of lèse majesté to criticise either this commission or the contractors. I am not asserting these things as facts, but they need thorough investigation. That the time limit upon the faith of which the city agreed to pay this large bonus has been exceeded, is, I think, undisputed.

The Commissioner of Labor states that, as far back as September last, he brought the facts in regard to the strike and the violation of the contract to the attention of the Controller of the city of New-York. Why did the late Controller permit these payments to be made? Not the faintest expression of dissent has been heard from the Controller's office. The present Controller, of course, has as yet had no opportunity to familiarize himself with the subject. Some explanation of these payments should be demanded. They may be all right, but it is assuredly proper for taxpayers to be informed of all the facts.

The proposed legislation would not merely give a new lease of life to the Aqueduct Commission. It would probably go further. It will probably provide some means for compensating the contractors for the damages they are supposed to sustain from being deprived of the opportunity to finish their present contract, although it is commonly rumored that the present contract is a losing one for the contractors, and that they would gladly have cancelled it at any time had the city been able to relieve them from its terms.

In conclusion, I wish to ask why the Aqueduct Commission does not fill the westerly reservoir to the flow line, and thus test the walls which were criticised by the Merchants' Association. This course was recommended by Messrs. Burr, Freeman and Hering, but so far as I am aware, such a test has never been made.

J. HAMPDEN DOUGHERTY.

New-York, Feb. 24, 1906.

RAILROADS AND THE PUBLIC.

Why Are Not Rates for Passengers Made as Low as Possible?

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Your answer to the suggestion that railroad men of practical experience should be among those charged with rate making brought to mind a thought I have expressed many times in reference to the management of passenger traffic by nearly all of the railroads. The cars are made comfortable, and even luxurious, the stations attractive, and travellers are assisted in many pleasant ways, but when it comes to the question of rates it is another story.

The demand for comforts and conveniences is recognized, but the natural inclination of any one to travel when the transportation is in hand and a ticket calling for cash is not necessary, is not seen at all, and in addition to this lack of perception is added the demand of a deposit to secure special rates under restrictions or a fare that is excessive, for it must be excessive, or the lower rate would not be accepted at all. The trolley roads are showing plainly that low rates bring profitable business, for there are lines built as well as the steam roads and bonded as heavily that are earning good money for the stockholders, and it has long been a source of wonder to me why the passenger agents did not see this.

In talking with a railroad official lately I stated that every one buying a $30 mileage book counted it an outrage on the part of the company, and it was my opinion that if $10 and $20 books, with no restrictions, were sold, not only would there be a large increase in the passenger traffic, but the companies would have as much if not more money on deposit than they now have. In Pennsylvania the claim is made that the present method is really a rebate, money being deposited with the company securing a special rate, this being discrimination and being wrong from a legal standpoint.

If there are any arguments in favor of continuing the present system, they should be presented to the public, so that they do not feel that they are being treated unfairly, and if there are none there is no reason for asking that railroad men should be asked to assist in rate making, for they show that they have not up to this time known how to handle the passenger rates as they should.

These are the views of an ordinary business man, and not a railroad man in any sense of the word, and if there is anything wrong in them it would please me to have it brought out and fully explained, for there is no desire to be unfair in this letter. The only argument advanced against the ideas above expressed ever heard by the writer is that too many passenger trains bother the freight traffic, and there is more money in freight than in passenger handling. If that is so, why is so much done in the way of advertising for this line of business, and why are so many fine cars constructed and comforts furnished?

F. E. L.

Waverly, N. Y., Feb. 21, 1906.

MILITIA SHOULD BE PRACTICAL.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: I favor national manœuvres every other year, not, however, precisely such as were had at Manassas. I think it possible to work out a manœuvre plan which would give better results to all concerned. I believe the General Staff has already done that. I think it desirable that the militia of different States should combine for manœuvres, if practicable. The State of Washington, in which I live, gives to its militia a little more camp work than most of the others.

The national appropriation of $2,000,000 for the militia of the United States, which is provided for in the bill now before Congress, would best be spent as the Governor of a State may decide.

It is not worth while to spend any money on the support of the militia unless a diligent and intelligent effort is made to make the force efficient in practical things—shooting, camping, cooking, marching and discipline.

JAMES R. DRUM, Adjutant General.

Olympia, Wash., Feb. 17, 1906.

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OSTEOPATHY DEFENDED.

What It Is and What It Is Doing in Relieving Patients from Pain.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: May I be allowed the courtesy of your columns for a few words in response to the letter published in yesterday's issue of your paper by Dr. St. John Roosa? Undoubtedly he thinks he is perfectly right in all that he says and does in his efforts to prevent the passage of the bill at Albany, but, like the majority of allopaths, he does not quite know that osteopathic treatment is doing more and more for those whom allopaths have failed to relieve. As one of the foundation stones of osteopathy is to use no medicine whatever, they surely cannot be trying to make "a short cut to the practice of medicine." From Dr. Roosa's letter one would conclude that almost any man or woman could, with slight preparation, begin the practice of ostgopathy. Several years ago my daughter was severely injured by a fall on the ice. My family physician, after examination, told her that there was nothing to be done, save by an operation, which might be fatal; that she would gradually grow used to the condition of things, as she recovered from the nervous shock. This opinion was confirmed by two other allopaths whom I consulted. In the mean time my daughter became so much worse that, in despair, I consulted an osteopath, and she began treatment. He discovered seven bones dislocated, with congestion of the spine and threatening helplessness. After sixteen months of painful treatment (for she had lost a whole year), she is now so well that for nearly two years she has been working each day and doing exacting brain work at that. The osteopath who saved her life and reason was a graduate of a Western college of medicine, with a post graduate course at St. James Hospital, London. After resuming his practice at the West he became dissatisfied with some of the methods of surgery in certain cases, and went to Kirksville, hoping for some fresh light. As a result, he became convinced that through osteopathy and the disuse of medicine far better results could be obtained.

It seems to me that allopaths, in their persecution of osteopaths, must really be more moved by alarm about their own practice than by indignation against what they call the practice of "ignorant, unprepared-by-study men and women." Not long ago an allopathic physician told me that osteopathy was simply scientific massage!