THE DRAMA.

MANSFIELD AS DIMMESDALE.

New Amsterdam Theatre.

It was the judgment of Nathaniel Hawthorne (given in a letter once possessed by the present writer), that his story of "The Scarlet Letter" is unsuited for dramatic interpretation; and experience has proved that his judgment was correct. The reason is obvious. The essence of a play is action: the burden of "The Scarlet Letter" is suffering. Every important person in it is miserable, and nobody in it does anything. Hester Prynne is a sweet, lovely, noble woman, whom passion and sin have brought to degradation and shame. Arthur Dimmesdale, her lover,—a clergyman, in a Puritan community,—is a good but weak man, whom cowardice constrains to keep a harrowing secret, and who suffers and dies of remorse. Roger Chillingworth, her husband,—a scholar, deformed, crafty, and malignant,—is, perhaps, the greatest sufferer of all, because not only bereft of peace, but dishonored, embittered, and presently constrained to devote himself to an infernal scheme of revenge,—aiming at the destruction of a human soul. Those persons observe each other, and, in a spiritual sense, they affect each other; but there is no movement among them. Hester and Dimmesdale are resolute to keep their secret. Chillingworth is determined to discover it. The minister ruminates, suffers, sighs, endures, and occasionally laments. The disguised husband stealthily observes him; cautiously probes his wound; furtively vivisects his nervous system; steadfastly pursues the heart of his mystery. The unhappy Hester patiently bears her stigma of public disgrace and her heavy burden of private grief and ever-growing dread. No expertness of constructive skill could animate that posture of circumstances, so as to invest it with convincing dramatic vitality. The most and best that can be done is to make a synopsis of the novel, in a series of pictures; and that has been well accomplished. Indeed, since this piece was first made known here, about fourteen years ago, at Daly's Theatre,—where Mr. Mansfield originally produced it,—changes have been made in it, for the better; but now, as then, such action as it contains has been, for the most part, effected through the introduction of alien expedients. The main incidents of the story are incorporated in the piece: Hester's penance, on the pillory; Chillingworth's discovery, when his victim is unaware, of the scarlet letter that Dimmesdale wears hidden on his heart; the defeat of the plan, that the desperate lovers have made, to escape; and the minister's ultimate confession and death. The subtle intellectual and spiritual attributes,—the delicate, etherial, evanescent touches of Hawthorne's dark, brooding, introspective genius,—are not reproduced, and cannot be. Hester's first anxious perception of the presence of Chillingworth, when, standing on the pillory, she looks over the solemn multitude; the effect of Dimmesdale's voice, when he adjures Hester to name her guilty paramour, and when the little infant looks up at him and stretches forth its arms; the horror of Chillingworth's coldly cruel vivisection of the startled minister's heart, when speaking to him of the rank grasses that have grown upon a grave; the pathos of Hester's bleak loneliness, when she sits upon the scaffold, listens to the voice of Dimmesdale, who is preaching his last sermon in the church, and hears his tones but not his words—those are among the many subtle beauties of the wonderful romance that elude dramatic art.

Enough, however, has been extricated from the original fabric to make a vehicle for theatrical expression, and Mr. Mansfield, in the character of Dimmesdale, presents a pathetic type of forlorn fortitude and hopeless sorrow. The love, the grief, the spiritual conflict of Dimmesdale are all expressed by him, and the figure is that of a heart-broken man, pallid, emaciated, wasting away with corrosive sorrow, never for even one instant at rest. The imperial points of the performance are the repulse of Chillingworth's officious intrusion, when once that secret enemy startles him; the midnight apostrophe, delivered on the scaffold; and the delirium of the confession. In those moments Mr. Mansfield's superb voice is used with splendid effect. But the actor is greater than the part: for, as Hawthorne himself has carefully explained, Dimmesdale was a true priest, a true religionist, with the reverential sentiment largely developed, and an order of mind that impelled itself powerfully along the tracks of a creed and wore its passage continually deeper with the passage of time. In no state of society would he have been what is called a man of liberal views": the actor's mental affinities, on the other hand, are all with bold, brave, brilliant, and massive views and feelings and with a free and puissant expression of them. In the original the minister's ordeal of slow agony, beneath his torturer's malevolent care, lasts seven years. All that time he is pretending to be a holy man before the world, while, in secret, he is, all that time, writhing with the agony of remorse and wasting with the canker of grief. To think of a wretch, thus weak and thus burdened, dying by inches, beneath the cold, patient, stealthy, inevitable eye of a secret, malignant, fatal enemy, is to form an ideal of dreadful suffering and of deadly peril, and also it is to shudder at a grim image of depravity: but to look upon the actual spectacle is only to see two men pretending to be calm. Mr. Mansfield has, for stage purposes, made as much of this sufferer as could be made,—for he displays passionate intensity, deep tenderness and a surge of mental agony, beneath a grave exterior which is maintained with obvious effort, and which often seems to tremble on the verge of frenzy. His portraiture of Dimmesdale's self-conflict, toward the last, is full of the suggestion of something infinitely pitiable in human infirmity and sorrow; and his delivery of the speech of confession (allowing for the paradox of acting in this instance, the tremendous strength of a dying man), had the wild, despairing, pathetic eloquence of a breaking heart.

The better part in the story is Chillingworth, to which Mr. Andrews, although he has often played it, is, constitutionally, unequal. In Chillingworth's nature human resentment against the cruelty of fate has engendered the malignity of a fiend. His aspect is calm, but the fires of hell are burning in his bosom. He is prudent, vigilant, self-contained, but he is restless beneath his mask; he is forever weaving his web; forever closing the avenues of escape; forever preparing to strike the final blow—whereof the consequences are to reach beyond the grave. He is specious, subtle, deadly. He aims to avenge himself, not by killing the body, but—if possible—by killing the soul. The settled belief that eternal damnation awaits the soul of a sinner, sent to his account with the burden upon him of unconfessed sin, is the basis of his conduct, and it is essential to the hellish fabric of his awful design. The moment when that fatal man uncovers the breast of the sleeping sufferer, and beholds the scarlet letter that has been hidden there (in the play this is artfully made to occur on the scaffold, at night), is a moment of tragedy as terrible as it is true; and it is a moment that only a tragedian could illumine and sustain. The character of Chillingworth is unsympathetic. No audience could ever be humanly fascinated by the image of a deformed fanatic of jealousy and hatred, who is striving to augment and prolong the torments of a sinner in this world and to procure the damnation of his soul in the world to come; yet it is not difficult to perceive that, if there were an adequate scheme of action for Chillingworth to bustle in, an actor of genius might invest that personality with attributes that would make it both piteous and awful.

The personality and the temperament of Hester Prynne might be deduced from her conduct—even if they had not been clearly denoted by the novelist. She is tall, sumptuous, elegant. She has abundant dark and glossy hair, strongly marked brows and black eyes. Her features are regular, her complexion is pure and rich, her voice is deep and gentle, her deportment is stately, and she moves with dignity. Her feelings are intense, and she is remarkably self-contained. Only on a few occasions—as when the legal authorities propose to assume the custody of her child, and when she warns Dimmesdale of the presence of the enemy at his hearthstone—does she yield to her emotions, and outwardly display the tremendous passion of her soul. She is all woman and one of the highest types of her sex. The great difficulty with the part is that its representative must suggest so much by presence and is so largely restricted as to opportunities of action. The procession of thought that passes through her mind, when she is exposed upon the scaffold, would deeply impress a spectator—if he could see it; but all that the actress can do is to stand still and think. On this occasion the part of Hester Prynne was undertaken by Miss Florence Rockwell, a performer who has not yet learned how to speak easily, but who speaks always from the surface and never from the depths; whose vocalism continually shows effort, and to whom, since she has talent and seems to be ambitious, the necessity of thought, study, and the liberation of feeling under due control, should be earnestly commended.—To-night Mr. Mansfield will act Jekyll and Hyde.

CAST OF "THE SCARLET LETTER."

Governor Bellingham	Clarence Handyside
The Rev. John Wilson	Sheridan Block
Roger Chillingworth	A. G. Andrews
The Rev. Arthur Dimmesdale	Richard Mansfield
Captain Hiram Weeks	Leslie Kenyon
Master Brackett	Henry Wenman
Hester Prynne	Florence Rockwell
Dame Hartley	Vivian Bernard
Mistress Barlow	Alma Hathaway
Mary Willis	Irene Prahar
Little Pearl	Ory Dimond

LINCOLN ON THE STAGE.

Liberty Theatre.

A piece called "Lincoln" was produced last night at the Liberty Theatre, and Mr. Benjamin Chapin, the author of it, presented himself in its central character, that of the Martyr President. Other historical characters were assumed by Mr. Chapin's professional associates, and an earnest endeavor was made to illustrate familiar aspects of life at the White House and in official Washington, in the dread time of the Civil War. Mr. Chapin was welcomed with kindness and observed and heard with patient attention. His play proved to be a sketch, made up of incident and colloquy; his performance that of a copyist. Mr. Chapin does not impersonate, and therefore he is not yet an actor. He may know how a part ought to be acted, but he does not display the faculty of acting. He is a reader; a poser; an amateur. He makes up his face and person to look like Abraham Lincoln, and the make-up is good: the aspect of Lincoln is correctly copied: but there the endeavor ends. Mr. Chapin does not assume Lincoln's identity, nor does he, by impersonation, give any clearer idea of Lincoln's nature,—of the man inside of that rugged and homely exterior,—than would be communicated by a wooden image. The performance conveys but little indication of natural aptitude for dramatic expression, and, probably, the performer has adopted the vocation of the actor too late in life. Mr. Chapin's assumption of Lincoln reminds the observer of a national leader, patriot, benefactor, a remarkable man, in a period of terrible national trial, and to that extent it is interesting, meritorious, and commendable. Miss Maude Granger, popular long ago, at the Union Square Theatre, reappeared on this occasion, and was greeted with kindness.

The expression of Lincoln's simplicity (which, in fact, was of the kind that covers astute wisdom), is so artificial as to be colorless and insiped. The assumption of strength, in the shape of bland acquiescence, produces only the effect of radical weakness. There is no suggestion of anything adamantine and formidable in the man. Innate greatness cannot be put on by little persons, nor by the use of a paint brush. Repose, self control, Mr. Chapin possesses—all the more that his temperament is apparently of the gelid order. He takes time for all his points and he makes them well. Numerous old jokes attributed to Lincoln—stories on which the moss has long been growing—are incorporated into Mr. Chapin's text, and there is a thin vein of love story in the fabric—about a young man wrongfully thought to be a Confederate spy resident in the North, who gets into trouble but is befriended by the ever-merciful President. The dreadful suspense of those cruel war days is suggested in this piece, but the suggestion also glides into mind that it would be wise and good for the theatre to let the Civil War and all its horrors and heartburnings alone.

The best performance of the night was that of Stanton, by Francis McGinn—who afforded a truthful and dramatically effective expression of Stanton's masterful character, irritable temper, impetuous behavior, and often violent speech. Miss Daisy Lovering gave an earnest, sincere, pleasing performance of a sweet and gentle girl—not much to do but well done. The house was full.

W. W.

CAST OF "LINCOLN."

Abraham Lincoln	Benjamin Chapin
Edwin M. Stanton	Francis McGinn
Major General Joseph Hooker	David R. Young
Major Walter E. Flood	W. H. Pascoe
Captain Ralph Bixby	Malcolm Duncan
Edward	Julien Barton
Uncle Joe	J. H. Lewis
Thomas	Master George Clarke
Mary Todd Lincoln	Maude Granger
Kate Morris	Daisy Lovering

ACADEMY OF MUSIC.

Expectation as to the presentment of "The Darling of the Gods" at the Academy was amply fulfilled. The fine Japanese scenery made a brave display, and Miss Haswell gave a bright, piquant, interesting performance of the heroine, Yo-San.

W. W.

BIZET'S "DON PROCOPIO."

Opera Bouffe Produced at Monte Carlo.

Monte Carlo, March 11.

The admirers of the musical genius of Georges Bizet owe a debt of gratitude to the Prince of Monaco, upon whose initiative M. Raoul Gunsbourg has mounted and produced for the first time the opera bouffe "Don Procopio," which was composed by Bizet in 1858, when he had barely completed his nineteenth year. "Don Procopio" is a light, graceful, refined composition in two acts, based upon an old Italian comedy that Bizet discovered in the Naples Library and which he set to music. A ridiculous old uncle, Don Andronico, persists in compelling his niece Bettina to marry Don Procopio, a rich but miserly old neighbor. Bettina secretly loves a handsome young officer, Don Odoardo. Bettina calls her brother Ernesto to aid her in foiling the plans of her uncle and of the old miser, and this is eventually accomplished, so that the merry little idyl ends as gayly as its prototypes, "Scapin" and the "Barber of Seville."

This light opera is charming and unpretentious, and only here and there vaguely reveals the young composer's power and pathos, that at a later period of his career ripened and became so brilliantly developed in "Carmen" and in the incidental music of Alphonse Daudet's "L'Arlésienne." The production of "Don Procopio" to-night at the Opera House here was highly successful. The harmonic texture of Bizet's first operatic composition is distinctly modern. Among the numbers keenly appreciated are the trio in the first act, the serenade and the love duet in the second act and the delicious entr'acte symphony, which is a perfect gem of orchestration. It is gratifying to find that this hitherto unheard of opera comique, that may be described as the "song of spring" of the composer of "Carmen," has charms that fully hold their own with the early compositions of Bizet's most intimate comrades, Charles Lecocq and Léo Délibes. The leading parts were creditably sung by the favorite tenor of the Opéra Comique, M. Rousselière, and by Mlle. Angèle Pornot, one of the most pleasing sopranos of the same theatre.

C. I. B.

PREMIER ALWAYS SHADOWED.

There is one very important servant of the Empire whose name is seldom heard. He has many a time saved his country from being plunged into war, and he is always in possession of state secrets which, if divulged, would mean a political upheaval and a complete reshuffling of parties. He is the Premier's—any Premier's—chief secretary.

A minute before the Cabinet assembles, the Prime Minister's chief secretary thoroughly explores the room. He shakes the curtains, looks behind the furniture, and tours every anteroom for possible eavesdroppers. He keeps guard outside the anteroom so long as the council sits, allowing no one to enter even the anteroom.

The moment the meeting is ended he is first to enter and examine the chamber again. He looks for any forgotten scrap of paper which may bear important information, and frequently find one. He destroys the top sheets of blotting pads, and burns all the tiny pieces of paper which, already clipped into minute shreds by the ministers themselves, had been used for making notes during the deliberations of the Cabinet.

The Premier never leaves town for many hours without his chief secretary. He does not invite that functionary. The secretary necessarily knows all his chief's movements, and he shadows him everywhere, quite as a matter of course. Not even the "Inner Cabinet" knows as many important state secrets as the Premier's chief secretary.—Answers.

DYNAMITE HURTS TWO.

One Death May Result from Explosion in P. R. R. Excavation.

Two men were injured, one possibly fatally, by an explosion of a quantity of dynamite at 33d street and Seventh avenue in the Pennsylvania Railroad excavation last night. They were George Lewis, a negro, of No. 536 West 50th street, who was taken to the Roosevelt Hospital with a fractured skull, and William Teasman, who received contusions and was also taken to the Roosevelt Hospital.

NASSAU GRAFT AGAIN.

Townsend Scudder Protests Agtinst Auditing Tax Sale Bills.

Mineola, Long Island, March 26.—Graft and collusion among the officials of Nassau County and the publishers of the recent tax sale notice were charged to-day before the Board of Supervisors at the meeting called to audit the $15,000 bill of the publishers for the tax notices, and several were present to oppose it.

Ex-Congressman Townsend Scudder charged that the tax sale notice was nothing but a cloak to get graft from the county, and denounced the publishers and County Treasurer Charles Lewis, whom he holds responsible for the great length of the notice which put such a big expense upon the taxpayers. He asked the board to let the publishers sue, and said he would defend it without cost to the county.

William McCarthy, one of the publishers of "The Roslyn News," a paper interested, denounced Mr. Scudder, and said he was not acting fairly on the matter and was only trying to lucur an expense on the publishers. Ex-Assemblyman George Wallace protested against the board auditing the bill as it was not made out according to law. The board referred the matter to its counsel.

"PARTY SPLITS GOOD."

Bring Out Best Elements, Says Odell at Binghamton Dinner.

Binghamton, N. Y., March 26.—Ex-Governor Odell at the Press Club dinner to-night touched strongly on the political situation and the advantage that accrues from political differences. He said that a split in a party was advantageous, as it brought out the best elements of the party, and there was no man or measure who eventually became popular, but was at first derided by its opponents, that leaders were not bosses, though sometimes they attempted to be, and all bosses were not leaders.

The dinner was in honor of Lieutenant Governor Bruce, ex-Governor Odell, George Palmer, Senator Edgar T. Brackett, Assemblyman Edwin Merritt and ex-Senator eGorge E. Green. Assemblyman James T. Rogers was toastmaster. Nearly two hundred of the leading citizens and politicians of the county attended.

A. BELMONT TO ADDRESS DEMOCRATS.

August Belmont will preside to-night and make a speech at the monthly dinner of the Democratic Club. Mr. Belmont never has figured to any noticeable extent as a public speaker. He was a delegate to the last Democratic National Convention and took an active part in the nomination of ex-Judge Parker. Some of the other speakers will be Robert B. Roosevelt, Justice Morgan J. O'Brien, Delancey Nicoll, Representative Charles A. Towne and Justice Giegerich.

WHAT IS GOING ON TO-DAY.

Circus at Madison Square Garden.

State Railroad Commission hearing on East Side car service, No. 17 Battery Place, at 10:30 a. m.

Lenten parlor talk on "Egypt," by Mrs. Mary E. Moffat, home of Mrs. William Kellogg Tillotson, No. 128 West 79th street, 10:30 a. m.

Edward Howard Griggs, on "Browning, the Crowning Revelation of Manhood: Caponsacchi," League for Political Education; Berkeley Lyceum Theatre, No. 19 West 44th street, 11 a. m.

Mrs. Joseph Augustine Cozzino, on "The Rise of the Immigrant Under the Influence of a Republic;" Society for Political Study, Genealogial Hall, No. 226 West 58th street, 3 p. m.

The Rev. Dr. J. Ross Stevenson, on "The Pre-Eminence of Christ;" Young Women's Christian Association, No. 7 East 15th street, 8:15 p. m.

Board of Aldermen meets, City Hall, 1 p. m.

Organ recital, Broadway Tabernacle, 4 p. m.

Hoppe-Slosson world's championship billiard match, Grand Central Palace, 8 p. m.

Temple Beth-El Club, public meeting, vestry rooms of temple, 8 p. m.

Medico-Pharmaceutical League meeting, Hotel Astor, 8 p. m.

New York Adult Blind Protective Union, mass meeting, Teutonia Assembly Rooms, Third avenue and 16th street, 8 p. m.

Closing exercises, East Side Evening High School for men, Rivington, Forsythe and Eldridge streets, 8:30 p. m.

Linnaean Society of New York, meeting, Museum of Natural History, 8:15 p. m.

Mass meeting, under the auspices of the New York Equal Suffrage League, Clinton Hall, No. 153 Clinton street, 8 p. m.

Meeting of yacht owners to form handicap racing class, New York Athletic Club, 8:30 p. m.

Theosophical Society, free lecture by Dr. Eleanor M. H. Moore, on "The Phenomena of Thought," No. 226 West 58th street, 8:15 p. m.

People's Institute, lecture by Professor H. A. Garfield, on Nomination Reform," Cooper Union, 8 p. m.

Free day at the Museum of Art and the Zoological Park.

Free lectures of the Board of Education: Wadleigh High School, 115th street, between Seventh and Eighth avenues, Thomas McVeigh, jr., "Ireland" (illustrated); Public School 30, No. 224 East 88th street, Dr. Magnus C. Ihlsang, "Historic Scandinavia" (illustrated); Public School 109, 99th street, between Second and Third avenues, Miss Mary V. Worstell, "The New York Zoological Park;" Alfred Corning Clark Neighborhood House, Cannon and Rivington streets, Theodore I. Jones, "The Telephone of Bell" (illustrated); American Museum, 77th street and Central Park West, Axel Hull Fish, "The Land of Lewis and Clark" (illustrated); Institute Hall, No. 218 East 106th street, Mrs. Minnie Louise K. Salinger, "Henry IV"; Judson Memorial Hall, Washington Square, corner Thompson street, Joseph M. Vincent, "Life in the Maine Woods" (illustrated); Mission of the Immaculate Virgin, Great Jones and Lafayette streets, Fred H. White, "The Moki Indians" (illustrated); St. Cornelius Church, No. 423 West 46th street, Mrs. Emma P. Telford, "Arizona, the Cradle and the Wonderland of the New World" (illustrated); University Settlement, No. 184 Eldridge street, Dr. Edward B. Coburn, "The Care of the Eyes;" West Side Neighborhood House, No. 501 West 50th street, Professor John S. McKay, "Alternating Currents" (illustrated); Public School 2, 109th street and Third avenue, Professor Georges Casteguier, "France—From the Restoration to the Fall of Louis Philippe;" Public School 13, Park avenue, 215th and 216th streets, Williamsbridge, Charles Barnard, "The Catskills and the Adirondacks" (illustrated).

THE WEATHER REPORT.

Official Record and Forecast.—Washington, March 26.—The Western disturbance has reached the southern portion of the lake region and caused general rains in the Mississippi and Ohio valleys and the lake region. It has also caused a general rise in temperature throughout the interior valleys and in the Atlantic coast states. The weather to the westward is unsettled, with occasional snow or rain in the plateau and Rocky Mountain region, and general rains on the Pacic Coast.

Rain is indicated for Tuesday in Atlantic coast states north of Florida, also in the upper Ohio Valley and the lower lake region. In the upper lake region light snow will fall, and in the Rocky Mountain region there will be rain in scattered localities both Tuesday and Wednesday.

Fair weather is probable east of the Rocky Mountains Wednesday. Temperatures will rise in Atlantic coast districts Tuesday, and it will be somewhat cooler in the Mississippi and Ohio valleys. For Wednesday lower temperatures are indicated in Atlantic coast districts.

Special Forecast.—Warnings for flood stages have been issued for the rivers of California. Warnings have also been issued for a rapid rise in the lower Missouri and in the Mississippi between Alton and Chester.

The winds along the New England coast and middle Atlantic coast will be fresh, possibly brisk southerly. South Atlantic coast fresh southwest to south.

Steamers departing Tuesday for European ports will have brisk south winds and rainy weather to the Grand Banks.

Storm warnings are displayed on the Atlantic coast from Delaware Breakwater to Eastport.

Forecast for Special Localities.—For New Jersey, Eastern Pennsylvania and Delaware, rain and somewhat colder to-day; Wednesday fair, colder; brisk south winds, shifting to west.

For New England and Eastern New York, rain and somewhat warmer to-day; Wednesday fair and colder; brisk south winds, shifting to west.

For the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia, rain and warmer to-day; Wednesday fair and colder; fresh, possibly brisk south, shifting to west, winds.

For Western Pennsylvania, rain and colder to-day; Wednesday snow flurries and colder; fresh northwest winds.

For Western New York, rain to-day, colder in extreme west portion; Wednesday snow flurries and colder.

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:

	1905.	1906.		1905.	1906.
3 a. m.	44	32	6 p. m.	52	45
6 a. m.	46	32	9 p. m.	51	45
9 a. m.	48	37	11 p. m.	51	45
12 m.	55	40	12 p. m.	49	—
4 p. m.	53	48			

Highest temperature yesterday, 45 degrees; lowest, 32; average, 38; average for corresponding date last year, 50; average for corresponding date last twenty-five years, 39.

Local Forecast.—To-day, rain and somewhat warmer; Wednesday, fair and colder; brisk southerly winds, shifting to westerly.

OBITUARY.

NATHAN S. COHEN.

Nathan S. Cohen, a well known newspaper man and editor, died yesterday at his home, No. 171 West 136th street. He was forty-seven years old. He leaves a wife, son and daughter. He was a police reporter for the old "Star" for years and held the posts of city editor, Sunday editor and managing editor, successively, on that paper when under the management of Lieutenant Governor Dorsheimer. He was night editor of "The World" and "The Herald" for a short time. Under Albert Pulitzer's management he was advertising manager of "The Morning Journal" and held that position during the short regime of John R. McLean. After "The Morning Journal" changed hands and was bought by William R. Hearst Mr. Cohen continued in this position until 1897, when he became business manager and publisher of "Das Morgen Journal," Mr. Hearst's German paper. He was a member of the Sphinx Club, Hardware Club, German Press Club and of the board of trustees of the Alumni Association of the Seventy-fifth Street Public School. He was also an ensign in the naval reserve.

MRS. NANCY O. PHILLIPS.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Derby, Conn., March 26.—Mrs. Nancy O. Phillips, wife of Dr. Albert W. Phillips, of this city, former Mayor and surgeon general on Governor Cook's staff, died at Grace Hospital, New Haven, yesterday from acute nephritis, following an operation. Mrs. Phillips, who was sixty-nine years old, was a direct descendant of Daniel Pratt, who was a drummer in the Revolutionary War and later corporal. She was well known in Daughters of the American Revolution and women's club circles, and at St. James's Episcopal Church. She leaves one child, Mrs. Frank E. Bradley, of Manhattan.

CHARLES G. HOLLAND.

Charles G. Holland, who had been connected with the New York office of The Associated Press for forty years and who was for years day manager of that office, died yesterday from Bright's disease at his home, at No. 235 West 108th street. He was sixty years old. Mr. Holland began his newspaper career in the Washington office of The Associated Press. He came to New York in 1866, since which time he had been continuously in the same employ. He leaves a widow and a daughter, and a brother, James Holland, of Washington.

JOHN M. KIRK.

John M. Kirk, who was manager of the passenger department of the Red Star Steamship Company, died yesterday morning at his home in the Hargrave, No. 112 West 72d street. He had been ill for three days. Mr. Kirk had been connected for forty years with the Inman, American and Red Star steamship companies.

ISAAC J. ALLEN.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Morristown, N. J., March 26.—Isaac J. Allen, well known in legal and literary circles, died last night at the home of J. B. Couse, where he had been boarding. Mr. Allen had a cold, which finally brought on a general breaking up of his system. He was ninety-three years old. He was born near Denville and his parents moved to Ohio when he was six weeks old. He was educated in Ohio and studied law. He also was a graduate of medicine. He was a law judge in Cincinnati for many years, and from 1861 to 1865 he was editor-in-chief of "The Ohio State Journal." President Lincoln appointed him consul at Hong Kong, China. He was so well liked by the Chinese people that they offered him twice his salary as consul if he would advise them in their business dealings with other countries. He refused the offer, however, and returned to this country. His last active occupation was to assist in the revising of the last edition of "The Standard Dictionary." For sixteen years he had not been engaged in active business, but for his own amusement he had done a large amount of literary work in newspapers and magazines. For many years he was a member of the Ohio Society of New York. He had lived in Morristown since his retirement from business. A son, Theodore, who is in business in Cincinnati, survives him. The funeral will be held at Mr. Couse's house on Wednesday and the burial will be in Fairmount Cemetery, Newark.

SAYS EX-JUDGE PROMISED DIVORCE.

Gave Back Money When He Found It Illegal, Asserts Mrs. Christmas.

Justice Davis, in Supreme Court, continued yesterday the action brought by Alice M. Christmas and Edward G. Coppinger to have their marriage annulled because divorces, previously obtained by them, were found to be fraudulent.

Ex-Judge Leonard, who said he had advised Mrs. Christmas, was shown a letter with his signature. He declared that it was the handwriting of "a man named Schosley, who had deskroom in the office and was afterward sent to state's prison for grand larceny."

Mrs. Coppinger told of a visit to her house by a Mr. Leonard. She asked him if he thought she could get a divorce in three weeks. She declared that he said he would get her the decree on the ground of non-support. When she heard the decree was illegal she said she went to Mr. Leonard. "He said I was foolish," she said, "but I afterward received my money from him."

The case was postponed until April 3 to examine young Leonard, the ex-judge's son.

THE MISERY OF THE RUSSIAN PEASANTS.

"Le Journal," of Paris, some of whose war correspondents in the Russo-Japanese struggle were wounded and taken prisoners, has studied the conditions of Russian life which are at the bottom of the general discontent prevailing in the Czar's empire. As a result of the investigations of several technical editors and reporters sent by "Le Journal" to Russia before, during and after the recent revolutionary outbreaks there, it was shown that "Russia suffers from a terrible evil, which paralyzes all her movements and suppresses all initiative. That evil is a deep, implacable misery, which has been accentuated the last forty years. All those who have traversed Russia have been struck by the poverty of the villages and their remoteness from one another. Their inhabitants, badly fed and worn out, bear on their faces the trace of continual privation. Cattle are lean, for they meet the same fate as their owners—they do not eat often—and when a year of dearth comes, it means famine, with all its horrors."

The Russian peasant has always been poor, but it seems as if before the abolition of serfdom he did not gauge his misery. Since he has become free—of serfdom only—his misfortune appears to him on all sides. The peasant lives by the land. Unfortunately, the rural population having more than doubled, the quantity of land conceded to the peasants has become insufficient. Proprietors rent them lands; but most of the time at a price which exceeds the revenues which those lands might bring. The peasant is aware that he will never be able to pay up, but he calculates that at least for a time he will eat and live. Such is the economical situation of the peasant, and he is, as everybody knows, the principal element of the whole population of the Russian Empire. Out of 129,000,000 inhabitants there are more than 100,000,000 peasants. This enormous mass of people is compelled to borrow out of its lean budget from 25 to 50 per cent in order to face their charges. The net revenue of the peasant varies between 25 and 50 rubles annually. With that sum he has to procure food, clothes and pay taxes. Those taxes called "direct" absorb almost one-third of the peasant's revenue. Such is the situation, and it explains why the peasant question is the one which most occupies the mind of patriotic and intelligent Russians.

INDICTED OFFICIALS PLEAD.

The first batch of indicted Hudson County officials to appear in court and plead were the Weehawken Councilmen, Patrick McCann, Edward W. Berger, Thomas C. Minshael, Frederick J. Bergman, jr., and John Reilly, who are accused of having exceeded the appropriations. They were arraigned yesterday, and entered pleas of not guilty and provided bail each in the sum of $1,000. McGann was also arraigned on another indictment for having sold coal to the town and then voted for the payment of the bill. The bail was also fixed at $1,000, and was supplied by McGann's business partner, John Callery. The bondsmen who qualified for the other councilmen is Frederick Bauman.

TRANSATLANTIC TRAVELLERS.

Among the passengers who will sail to-day for Bremen on the Kaiser Wilhelm II are:

Mr. and Mrs. William M. Ballin	J. Borden Harriman.
Mr. and Mrs. Allen Curtis.	L. V. Harkness.
Mrs. James R. Dilforth.	Mrs. Peter Cooper Hewitt.
Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Cromwell.	Mrs. J. B. Haggin.
W. H. Davidge.	Mr. and Mrs. John Innes Kane.
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph D. Grant.	Eugene W. Presbrey.
Mrs. Ogden Goelet.	Robert A. Van Wyck.
	Baroness von Heggle.

Travellers who arrived yesterday from Antwerp on the Finland were:

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Cranford.	Miss Ramona Koenemann.
Countess de Scheffgotsch.	Mr. and Mrs. H. Sargood.
Mrs. L. R. Plummer.	Miss Jane Sutherland.

MORTGAGE BILL HIT.

Two Amendments Introduced—Put Over Until To-morrow.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Albany, March 26.—The Assembly gave up an hour of its session to-night to a debate on the Dowling Mortgage Tax bill, and then put the measure over until Wednesday, without taking decisive action. The Dowling bill amends the present mortgage tax law by abolishing the annual tax and substituting a recording tax of one-half of 1 per cent. Assemblyman Wade criticized the Dowling bill bitterly, declaring that it was drawn for the allied real estate interests. He introduced two amendments, to protect the state and the outraged borrower, he said.

"This mortgage tax bill is the most obnoxious measure that this Legislature has been asked to pass this year," said he. "My first impression was to let the bill go through, bad as it is, as an index of what this House permits itself to do. This bill is so bad that even the introducer doesn't know how bad it is. It comes here from an organization that has resorted to every device and deception to defeat the most equitable mortgage tax that was ever put on our statute books.

"One provision of this obnoxious measure is enough to damn it irretrievably. It is so worded that the trust companies and savings banks and money lenders who have been evading the payment of taxes under the present law on mortgages of demand may escape absolutely any payment to the state. It is so ingeniously drawn that it abolishes all the provisions of the present law and makes tax collections under it impossible before the state can force the payment of that tax.

"One of my amendments prevents this scheme from carrying by keeping the present law in effect until these money lenders have paid their mortgage tax under the present bill. The other amendment I have introduced to protect the borrower. The Real Estate Alliance people are so much concerned that one of them promised me last year that if we would cut out the provision of the present law, which protects the borrower from an exorbitant charge of interest, they would withdraw all opposition to the measure. This year they have taken good care that the borrower shall have no protection at all. They want him to pay a bonus on the tax as well as the limit of interest.

"My amendment simply prohibits the charging of more than the legal rate of interest. This bill may be passed, but in the passing the House will go on record. For myself I shall fight the bill to the last ditch."

Assemblyman Dowling, the introducer, said the bill was the result of the best thought of many tax experts, and simply embodied the recommendations of the Governor's message. Mr. Patton offered an amendment exempting from the tax all mortgages to loan and building associations under $3,000 in amount. After the debate had continued for an hour several Assemblymen demanded that it be put over, so that they might get an understanding of the amendments. Mr. Wade consented.

SENATE CUTS FURTHER.

Committee Reduces Appropriation Bill Below Assembly's Mark.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Albany, March 26.—The annual appropriation bill, amended by the Senate Finance Committee, was presented to the Senate to-night. Instead of restoring tht wholesale cuts made by the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means in the allowances for departments, the Senate committee makes a further reduction in the total of $23,195, but among its alterations are various changes and restorations of amounts cut off by the Assembly which carry much significance.

Among these are an increase of $9,000 in the allowance to the State Gas Commission which Senator Stevens wants abolished. Another is an increas of $18,500 for Jastrow Alexander, State Inspector of Gas Meters, whose place, under the provisions of a bill introduced by Assemman Moreland, majority leader, would be abolished. Increases of $39,300 are made for the judiciary, $30,000 for the State Engineer, $47,600 for the Department of Agriculture, $26,850 for the Department of Forest Fish and Game, $34,500 for the Insurance Department and various other smaller increases. Much of this increase, it was explained, was to make up for salaries and allowances due under the statutes which the Assembly committee had arbitrarily cut off.

The decreases which Senator Malby's committee recommends are all in the departments for which no statutory requirements exist. He cuts from the Assembly's allotment to the Department of Education $45,600; from the Metropolitan Bureau of Elections, over which there is some little political controversy, $14,800; from the Excise Department, $41,560; from the State Health Department, $10,320; from the Lunacy Commission, $87,640; from Public Printing an even $50,000; from the Prisons Department, $23,500, and from the Department of Public Works, $45,800.

In all these decreases the political observers here trace some political motives. The decrease in the allowance for Superintendent Morgan of the Elections Bureau, they point out, is because he was ardently for Herbert Parsons as chairman of the New York County Republican Committee.

RAINES'S BALLOT REFORM BILL IN.

Change in Form Proposed to Avert Old Difficulties—New Tally Sheets.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Albany, March 26.—Senator Raines introduced to-night a bill making two important changes in the form of ballots and tally sheets. The bill was drawn by C. V. C. Van Deusen, ex-Deputy Superintendent of Elections. It provides that where a person is nominated by two or more parties or independent bodies for an office to which two or more are to be elected, his name shall be printed on the same line on the ballot under the title of the office, irrespective of the order in which it was certified by the nominating bodies.

The second change, as to independent nominations, provides that the voting circle shall not be printed over the name of an independent body unless it has nominated candidates for a majority of the offices.

The old blank tally sheet is to be done away with, and separate tally sheets for each office and each constitutional amendment are provided.

RAINES LAW REFORM HELD UP.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Albany, March 26.—The Prentice bill to abolish disreputable Raines law hotels by requiring the approval of the building, police and health authorities before a license is granted to a hotelkeeper, was held up in the Assembly to-night. Action was postponed until Wednesday on objection of the minority.

"This piece of work was conceived in a carpenter shop and mutilated by a blacksmith," said "Paradise Park Jimmy" Oliver. "It won't do what it sets out to do, and it will hurt a whole lot of honest hotelkeepers who are entirely innocent of wrong."

PASS ALDERMEN'S SALARY RAISE.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Albany, March 26.—The Assembly did all it could to-night to double the salary of New York City Aldermen by passing without opposition the Story bill, which increases their annual stipend to $2,000.

"I want to call the attention of the metropolitan members to the fact that most of the New York City bills this House is passing call for salary raises," said Assemblyman Moreland, the majority leader. "However, it is an affair of home rule, and we up-staters won't oppose the raises if our Republican friends from the city support them."

Married.

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

RUMSEY—DAVIDGE—On Monday, March 26, at 137 East 37th street, by the Rev. Morgan Dix, D. D., Frances Beverley, daughter of William Hawthorn Davidge, to David Rumsey, esq.

WOOSTER—ENSMINGER—On March 14, 1906, Henrietta Ensminger, daughter of William Ensminger, of Pittsfield, Mass., to Thomas T. Wooster, by the Rev. M. K. Bailey, at Grace Chapel, New York City.

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