Amusements.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC—8:15—The Shepherd King.
ALHAMBRA—2—8—Vaudeville.
ASTOR—8:30—The Daughters of Men.
BELASCO—8—The Rose of the Rancho.
BIJOU—8:15—Mrs. Wilson-Andrews.
BROADWAY—8:10—The Parisian Model.
CASINO—8—The Blue Moon.
COLONIAL—2—8—Vaudeville.
CRITERION—8:15—Little Cherub.
DALY'S—8:15—The Belle of Mayfair.
EDEN MUSEE—The World in Wax.
EMPIRE—8:15—His House in Order.
GARDEN—8:30—Madam Butterfly.
GARRICK—8:20—Clarice.
HACKETT—8:30—The Chorus Lady.
HAMMERSTEIN'S VICTORIA—2—8:15—Vaudeville.
HERALD SQUARE—8—The Great Decide and About Town.
HIPPODROME—2—8—Neptune's Daughter and Pioneer Days.
HUDSON—8:15—The Hypocrites.
IRVING PLACE—8:20—Die von Hochsattel.
KNICKERBOCKER—8:15—The Red Mill.
LIBERTY—8:15—The Girl Who Has Everything.
LINCOLN SQUARE—8:15—Mrs. Temple's Telegram.
LYCEUM—8:15—The Lion and the Mouse.
LYRIC—8:15—The New York Idea.
MADISON SQUARE—8:15—The Three of Us.
MAJESTIC—8:15—The Light Eternal.
MANHATTAN—8:15—Clothes.
MANHATTAN OPERA HOUSE—8—Carmen.
METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE—8—Romeo et Juliette.
NEW AMSTERDAM—8:15—The Spring Chicken.
NEW YORK—8:15—Mamselle Sallie.
PRINCESS—8:20—The Great Divide.
SAVOY—8:15—The Man of the Hour.
ST. NICHOLAS RINK—Ice Skating.
WALLACK'S—8:15—The Rich Mr. Hoggenheimer.
WEST END—8—A Marked Woman.

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New-York Daily Tribune.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1906.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

CONGRESS.—Senate: The second speech on the case of Senator Smoot, of Utah, was made by Senator Dubois, of Idaho; in executive session a number of nominations were confirmed, but that of A. W. Cooley was again held up. —— House: It was unanimously voted to return to the old standard of spelling as the result of a conference with the President, at which he said if the House should go on record against the simplified system he would abandon his effort in that direction; an agreement was reached for a vote on the question of increase of salaries.

FOREIGN.—The Reichstag was dissolved after the government had been defeated on the supplementary budget to maintain the garrison in German Southwest Africa. —— Many applications for permission to hold meetings under the law of 1881 were filed by Catholics in France, in spite of the Pope's order; priests everywhere held masses, in defiance of the law, and the government began prosecutions, but there were no serious disorders. —— King Oscar of Sweden was seriously ill at Stockholm following an attack of heart disease. —— There was little change in the condition of the Shah of Persia, but the doctors found that his health had become seriously affected. —— There was renewed talk in London of the possibility that James Bryce might be selected as Ambassador to Washington. —— It was announced in London that Great Britain, France and Italy had signed an agreement, with the object of maintaining the status quo and open door in Abyssinia.

DOMESTIC.—Cardinal Gibbons, in an interview in Baltimore, upheld the attitude of the Roman Catholic Church in France, saying that the situation was misunderstood here. —— The attitude of Mr. Bonaparte, the new Attorney General, in regard to the enforcement of laws was defined in a statement he made. —— Secretary Shaw fixed the time and place for a hearing of the question of a site for the Pittsburg postoffice, as Tuesday, at Washington. —— Governor-elect Charles E. Hughes spoke at the annual dinner of the Chamber of Commerce, Rochester. —— The proposition of William Smith, of Geneva, N. Y., to found a college for women in connection with Hobart College was accepted by the Hobart board of trustees. —— The British freight steamer St. George reached Boston after a voyage of 34,000 miles, having escaped both typhoon and fire. —— The proposed $60,000,000 stock issue of the Great Northern Railway was pronounced illegal by the Attorney General of Minnesota. —— Plans for the biggest battleship in the world, with a tonnage of 20,000 and to cost $6,000,000, were presented to the House of Representatives by Secretary Bonaparte.

CITY.—Stocks were weak. —— Announcement was made that Frederick D. Kilburn, State Superintendent of Banks, would resign on January 1; he has been elected president of the Fidelity Development Company, of this city. —— The committee to try Senator McCarren on charges of treason to the Democratic party granted an adjournment at the request of the Brooklyn leader's lawyers. —— The Sugar Trust paid the $168,000 fines imposed for accepting rebates. —— The funeral of Bishop Seymour was held at Old Trinity. —— Bids were opened for the completion of work on the Blackwell's Island Bridge. —— Andrew Carnegie discussed the income and inheritance tax before the meeting of the National Civic Federation.

THE WEATHER.—Indications for to-day: Rain and colder. The temperature yesterday: Highest, 46 degrees; lowest, 29.

SPASMODIC PUBLIC OPINION.

The reopening of the discussion about the advertising signs in the subway is accompanied by the declaration that the city will take speedy action to bring the cases to trial. The fight is an old one. After two years of easy indifference on the part of the city and the public there is promise of a speedy move. Is it not typical of the action of public opinion? Two years ago some excited counsellors of public insistence upon public rights were for organizing a mob and tearing down the offending signs. The public naturally has many things to be wroth about, and in a twelvemonth will forget all about a round dozen objects of its just indignation. We venture to say that nine of every ten men have forgotten that they were ever angry over the defacement of the tiled walls of the subway stations with advertising placards, or, at any rate, have forgotten why they were angry.

We are said to have a government of public opinion, and in a measure we have, but how ineffective public opinion may be! Evils go on uncorrected from year to year. We grow angry, public opinion rises in its righteous wrath and sweeps away abuses. The storm blows over and the same old abuses reappear as thriving as ever. The police alliance with vice and crime stirred the people of this city as never before in contemplation of the hideous revelations of the Lexow investigation. The political party held responsible for the loathsome abuse was driven indignantly from power. A few years later the red light revelations showed that the same conditions still existed, and again there was a change of administration. Only recently it has come out that the same old alliance between the police and the gamblers, at least, still flourishes. Has public opinion been vigilant throughout the last twelve years against the profitable alliance of authority and vice? Not at all. Most of the time it has slept. In twelve years there have been a few weeks of alert public opinion. The rest of the time the public has been too busy with other concerns to trouble itself about misgovernment not conspicuously thrust upon its attention. So it is with a score of other evils. We put up with a highly defective traction service, inadequate and overcrowded cars, because we cannot spare the mental or emotional energy to insist upon a correction of the abuses. We are too busy with other things—earning a living, for example—to demand our rights if it costs an effort. If self-government requires public opinion to make it effective then we only govern ourselves sporadically.

Sustained public opinion bearing determinedly upon some abuse is extremely rare. An example was Chicago's attitude toward the streetcar companies of that city. The city had endured a shocking service until public indignation against the companies could not be diverted. The citizens assumed finally an uncompromising attitude and they kept it. They determined never again to leave the companies in uncontrolled charge of the streetcar service, and refused repeated offers of compromise, promising immediate betterment, but not radical reform. Spasmodic public opinion, however, such as we have exhibited in this city regarding police reform, is the rule in this country. Reform movements that are hopeful one year are forgotten the next. The fact is that Americans are a rather apathetic people. If a reform can be accomplished at once public opinion will usually accomplish it. But if the abuse can put up a shadow of a legal claim to a right of existence the matter gets into the hands of the courts, and in the slow processes of adjudication the evil is forgotten. A few years later, if the public mind recurs to its old passion, it is usually lulled by the promise of a "speedy move" to test the public rights.

STATE RIGHTS AND STATE DUTIES.

The cause of state rights—those legitimate and constitutional rights of the states which no thoughtful American wishes to see impaired—has had no more valuable champion than Secretary Root. His address on Wednesday evening in this city was hastily interpreted by some as a demand for or a threat of increased federal power at the expense of the states. It was not. It was in part, no doubt, an explication of the essential development of federal power. But it was no less a plea for the confirmation and perpetuation of state rights through the co-ordination with them of state duties. As such it is in an exceptional degree worthy of the attention of those who have been seeing portentous visions of centralized power and federal usurpation. For Mr. Root made it clear that if such visions were ever realized it would be the fault of the states themselves, and that it is not those who are seeking extension of federal authority but those who cling to an extreme interpretation of the state rights doctrine who are the chief menace to the states.

The fundamental fact is that this country, this union of states, must have government which serves the welfare of all its members. That would be equally true if it were a compact and centralized nation or if it were the loosest kind of a confederacy. A principal reason for the failure of the old confederacy was that this fact was not sufficiently and practically recognized and that there was too little striving after the common good in the governments of the various states. It was "to promote the general welfare" that the Constitution was ordained. Now it will not do to say that that supreme aim can be defeated by the action, or rather the inaction, of a single state. We can readily imagine what would be the result if some state were, for example, so to neglect the enforcement of sanitary laws as to make itself a plague spot and a menace to the health of its neighbors, or were to regard the criminal code so lightly and to be so lax in police administration as to make itself an asylum for evildoers. Such conduct on the part of any state would be generally recognized as intolerable. This country invaded Florida, substituted its own authority for that of Spain, and finally dictated the surrender of that territory to the United States, primarily because the inefficient administration of Spain had permitted it to become a public nuisance and a peril to its neighbors. So some way would be found, would have to be found, if any one of our states made of itself an offence to the common good.

Mr. Root did not, of course, contemplate the possibility of any such extreme case. But the same principle must apply, in due measure, to any of less urgency. What he did argue and plead for, in a manner which should prove effective, is that the states shall protect their proper rights by performing their duties. He recognized, as all should do, that the natural growth of the nation and the closer interweaving of interstate interests have not only promoted the growth of a spirit of nationality, but also have made necessary the development of those rights and powers of the federal government which were amply provided in the Constitution, but which were not needed and were, therefore, held in abeyance until recent years. National government and state governments alike have rights, but the neglect of duty is not among them. It would be self-stultification to say that the welfare of the people must suffer because the federal government or some state government would not do its duty and could not be compelled to do so. The whole theory of our government is that government exists not for its own arbitrary sake, but for the sake of the people and their welfare. Those functions which can best be performed by the states should be left to the states, whether the Constitution prescribes such reservation or not. Those which can best or can only be discharged effectively by the federal government should be discharged by it. That is the theory and intent of the Constitution, and there can be no surer way to maintain the Constitution and to preserve the fine balance between state rights and national sovereignty than for both federal and state governments to be as scrupulous in fulfilling their duties—to the whole Union—as they are vigilant and sensitive in protecting their rights against invasion or impairment.

THE GERMAN CRISIS.

The serious controversy between the German Emperor and the Reichstag over the military credits for the Hottentot war, which has culminated in the dismissal of the recalcitrant Reichstag and the ordering of a new election, was not unexpected. It was foreshadowed some days ago, when Herr Bebel, of the Socialist Left, and Herr Roeren, of the Catholic Centre, made a fierce attack upon the government for the cruelties and corruption which, they asserted, characterized the conduct of that war, and for the savagery which had marked German colonial administration there and elsewhere. Horrible cases of flogging, mutilation and murder, even wholesale butchery of infants, were cited, with elaborate details of names, places and dates. The whole Left and Centre and much of the Right listened sympathetically, and evidently believed the charges which were made, while the reply of Herr Dernburg, the director of the Colonial Department, was pretty generally regarded as unconvincing. It may be added that public opinion throughout the empire in a large measure rallied to the support of the government's critics and made it plain that further prosecution of the Hottentot war or of colonial enterprises would not be countenanced unless there was a radical reformation of methods.

It is, of course, one thing to arraign government officials for individual wrongdoing, or even for the maintenance of a vicious system, and a very different thing to refuse to vote supplies for the maintenance of an army which is actually in the field and prosecuting a war. The latter is, however, what the Reichstag did. Obviously, if that refusal were to stand, the army would have to be withdrawn from Damaraland, and German Southwest Africa would practically have to be abandoned to the Hottentots. That is something which the Emperor could not be expected to consider as within the limits of possibility. After all the German criticism and scorn which were heaped upon Great Britain for finding the Boer war so difficult and tedious a problem, it would be simply intolerable for Germany now to confess herself beaten and driven out by the despised Hottentots. Already what was at first looked upon as a three days' skirmish has expanded into a great war, whose participants are numbered by tens of thousands, whose cost runs into the millions, and whose duration is measured by years. Yet, like Arnold's "weary Titan," the empire must stagger on to the goal, no matter how distant it may be.

We cannot wonder at the Emperor's hotly resenting the action of the Reichstag, which to him must appear much like high treason, nor is it at all surprising that he has taken the extreme step of dissolving the Reichstag and making an appeal to the country. Yet there may well be grave doubts as to the temper of the new Reichstag, which will have to be elected promptly and to assemble within ninety days. The steady and rapid growth of the Socialist party has been the most marked feature of German politics at election after election. At the present time that party is stronger than ever before, and it has unquestionably struck a popular chord in making its attack upon the colonial policy of the government, or upon the gross abuses of that policy which the majority of Germans probably believe to exist. It is a venturesome thing to appeal to the electorate on that issue at this time and to ask the people to support the government in a war which has always been unpopular and which has not yet been able to show victorious results, and which, moreover, it is openly charged and widely believed, was directly provoked by the gross misconduct of the government's own agents. Yet such an appeal is now made, as the alternative to abandonment of Southwest Africa.

THE COST OF ARMOR PLATE.

Several months ago, in compliance with a resolution adopted by Congress, the Secretary of the Navy appointed a board to consider what it would cost the government to make its own armor. The report on the subject, of which an abstract is printed in "The Iron Age" this week, derives additional interest from Mr. Bonaparte's recommendation that the Navy Department be authorized to establish the necessary works if the manufacturers should attempt to raise their prices.

Concerning the expenditure for a factory the board accepts the figures which another commission supplied about ten years ago. These indicate that the government could erect suitable buildings and install the proper machinery for about $4,000,000. This estimate includes no allowance for land, but it is evident that the total investment would be less than that made by private manufacturers, the companies owning plants at South Bethlehem and Pittsburg having asserted that they cost $5,625,000 and nearly $6,000,000, respectively.

Neither of these manufacturers nor their rival, the Midvale Company, would afford any information about the cost of production, but one of them gave to Mr. Bonaparte's representatives a formula by means of which a computation which is deemed satisfactory was made possible. This apparently embraced all the various items of expense which deserve consideration. The conclusion is therefore drawn by the board that the government could make armor plate less than five inches thick for $273 a ton, and plate exceeding that limit for $297. At present, private contractors are getting $346 a ton, and there is a fair presumption that if the government should establish its own works it could save $50 a ton. It is also thought reasonable to suppose that the Carnegie, Bethlehem and Midvale companies are making a profit of fully 14 per cent on their products, and that when the two first mentioned contractors received something like $440 a ton their profit was scarcely less than 50 per cent.

From the report recently made to Secretary Bonaparte it appears that the reduction in price, which resulted a year or two ago from genuine competition puts this country in a relatively fortunate position. The United States now pays $346 a ton, Japan $400, Austria and Germany $450, Italy $521, France $569 and England $626. What proportion of these sums represents actual cost there is no means of determining. Steel can be made more cheaply in the United States than anywhere else in the world, but it is credible that foreign manufacturers of armor plate are netting from $150 to $250 a ton.

Secretary Bonaparte recommends two distinct methods of obtaining relief, in case American manufacturers should combine to raise prices. He would like to see the privilege of buying plate abroad, as well as the power to erect its own works, given to the Navy Department. A larger freedom would be enjoyed if both opportunities were open than if the government were limited to the scheme for a plant of its own, but to the idea of going to Europe for armor the figures just quoted lend little encouragement, though it is possible that in the hope of securing further business some foreign manufacturer might offer to supply the United States for a time at a loss. The acceptance of such a proposition would put the government under no obligation to buy plate on less advantageous terms thereafter, and one such transaction would probably be an effective rebuke to anything which resembled extortion.

MORE TROUBLE FOR "THREE-CENT TOM."

Mayor Tom Johnson's true believers' company, which is trying to illustrate the virtues of three-cent fares to the people of Cleveland, seems to have struck a serious snag. After a great deal of litigation, including nearly thirty injunctions obtained by the street dailway monopoly, and libel suits for $2,500,000 brought by Mayor Johnson against the railway monopoly and the newspapers publishing its advertisements, the monopoly obtained a decision the other day which, if it stands, ties up three-cent fares indefinitely. In the opinion of the judge the Mayor has been overzealous in promoting the three-cent project.

It seems that Mayor Johnson procured the formation of the Forest City Railway Company (the three-cent concern), that he did all he consistently could to help it obtain a franchise, and that he personally guaranteed the stock of the company, as well as payment of the railmakers, car builders and contractors, who constructed the line. He did not own the company, but he lent his credit to it. No one accuses the Mayor of any corrupt purpose. The profits of three-cent railroading are not likely to be such as to tempt him strictly from an investor's point of view. But his zeal to get a three-cent project in operation and his desire to organize a street railway company which would hold its roads ready and anxious at any time to surrender them to the city for municipal ownership and operation, got the better of his sense of propriety. The court held that the Mayor had almost as much personal interest in the success of the project as if he owned it. The court says:

> While the mere zeal and activity of the Mayor in securing additional and cheaper transit for our people should be commended rather than condemned, when he allows himself, from whatever motive, to be so identified with an enterprise that his pecuniary interests will be promoted by obtaining advantageous grants from the city for his company, such contracts are corrupt and invalidated and are void.

We shall be sorry if the judicial decision proves such a setback to the three-cent railway as it seems to be. The project was in a hopeful condition, and it would be of general interest to see if it could be carried out profitably on any extensive scale. The ways of the street railway reformer are hard. Tom Johnson has been fighting for three-cent fares for many years, and now his own excessive zeal seems to be defeating his pet project. His financing of the three-cent scheme was in the public interest and cost him money, with no possibility of its ever repaying him or of its ever proving profitable, since he had simply loaned his personal credit; yet legally his financing of it while Mayor wears an improper look. Litigation is once more the order of the day in Cleveland, and Johnson is as far as ever from fulfilling his promise of a three-cent fare.

"Paris is tranquil," and we shall not be surprised if it remains so; and all France, too. Times have greatly changed from the days when, with a tithe of the present temptation, the mob would have thrown up barricades and have organized a provisional government. The French Republic of to-day has learned to govern itself.

Paying fines about twice as large as the rebates which they secured is not a profitable business for corporations.

And there are some who call the sort of thing they are doing at Madison Square Garden just now "sport"! Save the mark!

The impatience of the judges at the delay in providing a substitute for the unsanitary Tweed courthouse is quite pardonable. More than one death has been directly attributable to the abominable and apparently irremediable condition of that wretched pile. If a factory were in so bad a condition the intervention of the courts would be invoked in behalf of those employed in it. Surely the judges have a right to speak for themselves as well as for others.

Mexico follows the example of Italy in merging all her railroads under government ownership. Let us hope she will have better luck in the enterprise than Italy has had.

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

Birthdays do not often receive legislative recognition, but the Vermont Senate adopted on Tuesday last a resolution of congratulation to Colonel George Grenville Benedict, Editor and proprietor of "The Burlington Free Press," who celebrated his eightieth birthday anniversary on Monday, the resolution being telegraphed to Colonel Benedict by the Secretary of State. Further to mark the day, about thirty of his friends gave him a silver loving cup, accompanied by a letter full of good wishes, and the employes of "The Free Press" showered him with flowers and felicitations. Colonel Benedict was born in Burlington and was graduated from the University of Vermont in 1847. After his return from the Civil War, in which his service was distinguished for bravery, he became Editor in Chief of "The Free Press," succeeding his father, Professor George Wyllys Benedict.

"Here's more evidence of prosperity."
"What is it?"
"Several people hurt in a mad rush to pay taxes."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Tar and feathers are not a peculiarly American punishment. Richard the Lion Hearted first proclaimed this punishment. It was when he was setting out for the Third Crusade that he gave warning that "a robber who shall be convicted of theft shall have his head cropped after the fashion of a champion, and boiling pitch shall be poured thereon, and the feathers of a cushion shall be shaken out on him, so that he shall be known."

When Bishop Berry, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, was a young preacher he once gave a lecture in a rural community. Wishing to be witty, he announced to his audience that he was a berry and called upon them to state what kind of berry. Nearly every berry known in the vicinity was guessed, and the speaker refused to share the qualities of any of those named. At last an old lady, who was not sympathetic with the seeming levity of the lecturer, arose and exclaimed in a squeaky voice: "I know what kind of a berry you are. You are a gooseberry, and a very green one at that. Go on with the lecture." And the lecturer did—quickly.—Christian Work.

In Paris, according to the "Cris de Paris," they have counted the saloons in the various wards. The ward in the vicinity of the exchange has the record, with a saloon for every forty-seven of its inhabitants. The market district follows, with one for every fifty-two inhabitants, while the Champs Elysées has one for every 162. The quarter near the Military School has a saloon for every 172 people.

Church—It seems to be the custom now for an audience to hum something they have heard on the stage when leaving the theatre.
Flatbush—Yes, I believe it has become quite common.
"The other night we had 'Uncle Tom's Cabin' at the Opera House, and the bloodhounds did some great growling."
"Indeed!"
"Yes, and when the audience went out nearly every one was growling."—Yonkers Statesman.

The candle nut is a native of the Pacific Islands, and the name is derived from the fact that the kernels are so full of oil that, when dried, they can be stuck on reeds and used as candles. The people of Hawaii, after having roasted these nuts and removed the shells, reduce the kernels to a paste, which, when flavored with pepper and salt, is said to be a most appetizing dish. The husk of the nut and the gum which exudes from the tree have medicinal values, while the burned shell is used to make an indelible ink, with which tattooing is done.

STALE.

The Chinese had the printing press
When Moses was a boy,
And printed all the news, I guess,
About the fall of Troy.

The things that ours we proudly call—
Machines to reap and sow—
The Chinese knew about them all
Six thousand years ago.

Gunpowder, paper, ice cream, steel—
They knew about each one
Before the Roman placed his heel
The conquered world upon.

They hit on everything, 'twould seem,
And I've no doubt, oh, no!
Some Chinese poet used this theme.
Six thousand years ago.

—Pick Me Up.

CUPID AT RACING SPEED.

From The Troy Times.

Cupid does not always ride in a hurry-up wagon, but sometimes he gets there in record time. As a rapid-fire matchmaker Ernest Karnan, a Hammond (Ind.) grocer, is entitled to a medal. Above Karnan's grocery lives Mrs. Anna Henning, a widow. She purchased some groceries of Karnan on Tuesday, November 27, and wofully remarked that she would have to eat alone on Thanksgiving. "Why don't you get married?" asked the grocer. "I would if I could get a husband," declared the widow. "Give me $5 and I'll get you a husband," said Karnan, and the bargain was made. On Wednesday John Freyman, a cigar manufacturer and a widower, came in to look at some turkeys. Karnan led the conversation into the realms of matrimony, and made Freyman confess that if he could get a wife to cook his Thanksgiving dinner he would be willing to pay $10. Karnan sent for the widow, and Freyman proposed in the store. The wedding was celebrated with a big dinner party for the friends of the couple at Freyman's home.

TONS OF SOOT.

From The Boston Transcript.

A scientific investigator in Cincinnati has been trying to arrive at a definite idea of the amount of soot deposited in the city in the course of a year. One of his tests was to place two buckets, three-fourths filled with water, on eleven roofs in different parts of the city. At the end of three months a careful analysis of the contents of the buckets to ascertain the amount of carbonaceous matter was made. The result is that in the downtown area the falling soot amounts to 541 tons a month, or eighteen tons daily. On a square mile of the city the soot deposit is 171 tons a month, or 343,728 pounds, an average of several pounds to each inhabitant. In one of the suburbs the soot in the bucket was 464 grams to the square foot for a period of thirty days. For the same time the deposit at a central point in the city was 22,550 grams to the square foot.

BRYAN'S NONSENSE.

From The New York Herald.

Mr. Roosevelt is quite right in his declaration that a strong navy is the surest guarantee of peace, and for his consistent support of the naval service he deserves the commendation of the country. Mr. Bryan's reference to the navy as "an instrument of brute force" is, on the other hand, arrant nonsense.

The President will probably lose no sleep over the personal aspersions in this attack, for he is in most excellent company. Like Washington, he has urged with saneness and foresight the necessity of creating and maintaining an effective fleet, both as a means of vindicating the nationality of the flag and of insuring the preservation of peace.

THE FRENCH DAY OF REST.

From The Christian Register.

France has long been tossed about between the extremes of an infidelity that deserves the name and aggressive Catholicism. The English Sabbath has been peculiarly abhorrent to Catholics, to infidels, and to all the classes between them. But now at last the natural demand for a day of rest has asserted itself. Without fixing upon Sunday, it has become the law that all working people may demand one day in seven for rest from labor. No religious obligations are imposed, and recreations are not prohibited. The French have probably arrived by devious ways of experience at a knowledge of human nature of the kind which in Asia, many thousands of years ago, was the occasion for the appointment of a day of rest which came down to us as the Hebrew Sabbath and the Christian Sunday.

About People and Social Incidents.

AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, Dec. 13.—The President and Mrs. Roosevelt entertained at their first state dinner of the season to-night, the dinner being in honor of the Cabinet. Mrs. Roosevelt wore a gown of yellow brocade, with point lace trimming. In the large party seated about the state dining table were the President and Mrs. Roosevelt, the Vice-President and Mrs. Fairbanks, the Secretary of State and Mrs. Root, the Secretary of the Treasury and Mrs. Shaw, the Secretary of War and Mrs. Taft, Attorney General Moody, the Secretary of the Navy and Mrs. Bonaparte, the Secretary of the Interior and Mrs. Hitchcock, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Commerce and Labor and Mrs. Metcalf, the secretary to the President and Mrs. Loeb, Colonel and Mrs. Charles S. Bromwell, the Surgeon General of the Navy and Mrs. Rixey, Senator Proctor, Senator Foster, Mrs. P. C. Knox, Representative and Mrs. Dalzell, Representative Payne, Representative and Mrs. Sherman, Representative William M. Howard, Henry White, Governor and Mrs. Winthrop, Commander Robert E. Peary, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Morton, Mr. and Mrs. Theodore P. Shonts, Miss Moody, Miss Ide, Miss Shonts and Captain Harding.

The Governor of Porto Rico and Mrs. Winthrop and the ex-Secretary of the Navy and Mrs. Paul Morton are house guests of the President and Mrs. Roosevelt.

President Roosevelt received an invitation to-day from the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick to attend the annual dinner at Philadelphia and the dedication exercises at the same time of the statue of Commodore John Barry, "the father of the American navy." The delegation of Friendly Sons was headed by Admirals Melville and Walker, retired. Public business in March will prevent the President's attendance, but he thanked his callers for the invitation and recalled the fact that he had been their guest on more than one occasion in the past.

Other callers at the White House to-day included Attorney General Moody, Secretaries Root and Bonaparte, Senators Flint, Allee, Bulkeley and Spooner, Representatives Sperry, Curtis, Cushman, Southard and Parsons, the members of the Codifying Commission, which has been revising the laws, and to-day delivered its final report to the President; A. J. Groner, of North Dakota, and John W. Mesick, H. O. Benham and J. Carey Palmer, members of the Delaware Legislature.

IN WASHINGTON SOCIETY.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, Dec. 13.—Miss Root entertained a dinner party of young people at the home of the Secretary of State and Mrs. Root to-night.

Mrs. L. Z. Leiter is again at her home in Dupont Circle, and will remain here for the season.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas F. Walsh have as house guests Miss Dorothy Kane, of New York, and Miss Lillian Hurd, of Denver, for whom they will give a large dinner, with young people as guests, next Tuesday.

Mrs. William Sheffield Cowles arrived at her N street home to-day from her summer estate.

Miss Juliet Williams entertained all of the debutantes at a tea this afternoon, inviting them to meet Miss Barry, daughter of General and Mrs. Thomas H. Barry.

Bishop Satterlee returned to Washington to-day from a brief visit to New York. Miss Satterlee remained there for a longer visit.

Miss Cannon will open the home of the Speaker for a tea in compliment to the Misses Shonts, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Theodore P. Shonts, next Monday. They will be formally presented to society next week.

General George M. Sternberg entertained at dinner to-night Senator Warren, Senator Perkins, Thomas F. Walsh, Colonel Biddle, William J. Boardman, Commissioner Macfarland and others, his guests being invited to meet Crosby Noyes.

NEW YORK SOCIETY.

Mrs. J. Pierpont Morgan gave a small dinner dance last night at her home in Madison avenue for her niece, Miss Grace Tracy, daughter of Mrs. Charles Tracy and a debutante of the season. Mrs. W. Pierson Hamilton, Mrs. Harry Payne Whitney and several other friends of Mrs. Morgan gave dinners in connection with the dance, to which they afterward took on their guests. The entire drawing room suite on the Madison avenue side of the house was used for the dancing. Monson Morris led the cotillon with Miss Tracy, and among the favors were red leather blotters, red leather handkerchief cases, card and cigarette cases, framed cartoons of Teddy bears, muffs, canes and other trinkets.

Earlier in the day Miss Tracy had a large reception given for her by her aunt, Miss Grace Bigelow, at the latter's house, in Gramercy Park.

Delmonico's was the scene last night of the first of the Thursday Evening Dinner Dances of the season. These affairs, organized several years ago by Mrs. Frederic J. de Peyster, have continued to be a feature of the winter ever since. The patronesses this year include Mrs. Frederic W. Whitridge, Mrs. Benjamin Nicoll, Mrs. Herbert Parsons, Mrs. Rudolph Kissel, Mrs. Maturin L. Delafield, Mrs. George Hyde Clark, Mrs. John Hone, Mrs. Woodbury G. Langdon, Mrs. George R. Schieffelin and Mrs. Charles S. Schermerhorn. Mrs. Robert Endicott, who had charge of the dances last winter, has just been placed in mourning by the death of her mother, and was therefore absent, as was also Mrs. Frederic J. de Peyster, who is likewise in mourning. Mrs. Hone and Mrs. Harold F. Hadden received the guests on behalf of the patronesses. Each of the patronesses had a table of her own for the dinner. Mrs. Whitridge's party including Lord Terence Browne. After the dinner the cotillon was danced, led by Alexander M. Hadden, the favors including small Christmas trees, candlesticks and other trifles. The dance was followed by a supper. Among those present were Miss Elizabeth Stevens, Miss Antoinette Heckscher, Mr. and Mrs. Barent Lefferts, Miss Helen Rives, Miss Katherine Fairfax, Miss Mildred Townsend, Miss Eleanor Whitridge, Miss Grace Ruggles, Miss Lucy and Miss Ruth Landon, Hamilton Fish Benjamin, Dongan de Peyster, Julian Hinckley, Howard Hitchcock, Percy Bramwell, Herbert Pell, Schuyler Schieffelin and Ledyard Stevens.

Announcement is made of the engagement of Miss May Tuckerman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bayard Tuckerman, to G. Hermann Kinnicutt, son of Dr. and Mrs. Francis P. Kinnicutt.

Alexander Hadden will lead at the cotillon which Mrs. J. Todhunter Thompson is giving at Sherry's on January 10 for her debutante daughter, Miss Jane Thompson.

Hamilton R. Fairfax has issued invitations for a small dance at Sherry's on January 9.

Herbert Lloyd, who is to be married to Miss Julia Trowbridge in the Brick Presbyterian Church on December 20, gives his farewell bachelor dinner this evening at Delmonico's.

Mrs. Frederic Neilson, since her return from Europe, has been staying at the Collingwood, and has arranged to go abroad again, being booked to sail on January 30 with Mr. and Mrs. Hollis H. Hunnewell. Her other son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Vanderbilt, are also sailing for Europe very shortly, on January 7.

Mrs. Adrian Iselin has issued invitations for a dance for Miss Louise Iselin, to take place on January 4 at Sherry's.

Mrs. William Douglas Sloane will give a dinner dance on January 11 at her house, in West 52d street.

Mrs. W. Emlen Roosevelt gives a dinner dance this evening at Sherry's for Miss Lucy Roosevelt, who is one of the debutantes of the season.

Among the receptions this afternoon for debutantes will be those given by Mrs. William Alexander at her house, in West 37th street, for Miss Frances Alexander; by Mrs. Richard W. Stevenson, at her house, in West 10th street, for Miss Marion Stevenson, and by Mrs. Francis Forbes at her house, in West 56th street, for Miss Adelaide Forbes.

Miss Hester Davis made her début yesterday afternoon at a reception given for the purpose by her mother, Mrs. Howland Davis, at her house, in Madison avenue.

OLD MANUSCRIPTS GIVEN.

Ambassador Reid, at Regents' Meeting, Presents Them to State Library.

Albany, Dec. 13.—Whitelaw Reid, American Ambassador to Great Britain and Chancellor of the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York, presided to-day at a meeting of the Board of Regents. Mr. Reid presented to the State Library, with the compliments of Lady Meux, of England, two volumes translated from Ethiopic manuscripts in the British Museum.

Speaking of the relations between America and Great Britain in an interview this afternoon, Mr. Reid said:

> The relations between the two nations were never more cordial during the last 120 years than they are to-day. While a feeling of deep regard for Americans has been held by the so-called "middle class" of Englishmen for years, it now permeates all classes.

In relation to the opinion in England on the Japanese question, Mr. Reid said it was the general belief there that the situation had been greatly exaggerated.

The Regents appointed Bella J. Fraser, of Albany, as a member of the State Board of Nurse Examiners in place of Miss Anna Alline, of New York City, who had been appointed inspector of nurses in training schools.

An absolute charter was granted to St. John's College of Brooklyn. Charters were also granted to the West High School of Rochester and to the Olean public library.

PROFESSOR OSBORN DECLINES POST.

Why He Is Unable to Accept Secretaryship of Smithsonian Institution.

Washington, Dec. 13.—Professor Henry Fairfield Osborn, of New York, who a few days ago was elected secretary of the Smithsonian Institution by the board of regents, has informed the regents that he will be unable to accept the office. Official announcement of Professor Osborn's declination was made to-day.

In a letter transmitted to the board of regents Professor Osborn explains the reasons why he has found himself, regretfully, unable to accept the office. He writes that he is deeply moved by the generous action of the board in conferring upon him the greatest honor he ever has received, but it comes at a time, says the official statement, when he is nearing the completion of the publication of the results of thirty years of research work. He further refers to the fact that the prosecution of his researches is dependent upon the collections he has brought together in New York and the staff of trained assistants who are working with him, so that a change of residence would practically mean a change of career. He expresses the hope that the board of regents will understand that he has reached the decision after most conscientious consideration, and that he may still retain the respect and esteem which prompted them to vote for him.

CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR PITTSBURG.

Andrew Carnegie to Give Fund to Maintain Institute, Relieving Taxpayers.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Pittsburg, Dec. 13.—Andrew Carnegie will endow the $5,000,000 Carnegie Institute with a fund sufficient to maintain the institution, as a Christmas present to the people of Pittsburg, according to a semi-authoritative announcement made here to-day.

Mayor Guthrie talked to Mr. Carnegie in New York a few days ago, and, it is said, arranged for the endowment. Heretofore the institute has been maintained by the city, but when the additions making it three times as large are completed next spring the demands on the taxpayers would have been large.

DAVIS GIVES CHURCH TO GASSAWAY.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Cumberland, Md., Dec. 13.—Henry G. Davis will build a Presbyterian church, to cost about $50,000, at Gassaway, W. Va., a growing town on the coal and coke railroad. The Davis Memorial Presbyterian Church at Elkins was built by Mr. Davis for his son, who was drowned off the coast of Africa.

MORE TALK OF MR. BRYCE.

His Selection as Ambassador Now Thought Probable.

London, Dec. 13.—It is officially stated that no determination has yet been reached concerning the appointment of an ambassador at Washington to succeed Sir Mortimer Durand, but the renewed talk of James Bryce as a probable tenant of the post meets with much more general credence than at first. There are not lacking indications even in official utterances that the author of "The American Commonwealth" may be the ultimate selection for the embassy, which, it is now remarked, is the most important in the diplomatic service of Great Britain. The previous mention of Mr. Bryce's name brought out such favorable comments on both sides of the water that they materially strengthen the chances of his selection.

The government officers have decided not to be restricted to the diplomatic corps in the selection of Sir Mortimer's successor, and they desire to compliment the United States by choosing a statesman of the foremost rank. Mr. Bryce's familiarity with American men and affairs strongly commends him in governmental quarters.

James Bryce is Chief Secretary for Ireland and has held several other Cabinet places. He is a well known author and traveller, a lawyer by profession and was regius professor of civil law at Oxford from 1870 to 1893. In addition to "The American Commonwealth" Mr. Bryce is the author of "Studies in History and Jurisprudence," "The Holy Roman Empire," "Transcaucasia and Ararat," "Impressions of South Africa" and "Studies in Contemporary Biography." He married, in 1889, Miss Elizabeth Marion Ashton, daughter of the late Thomas Ashton, of Ford Bank, Manchester.

WINDOWS FOR PLYMOUTH CHURCH.

First of a Series Completed by Frederick S. Lamb.

Frederick Stymetz Lamb has just completed the first of a series of eight stained glass windows which he is designing for Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, Henry Ward Beecher's old church. Each of the windows will measure 5½ by 12 feet, and they are to be placed on the north and south sides of the church, above the galleries. Later three other windows, to be known as the Beecher Memorial windows, will be placed at the west end of the church, opposite the pulpit.

Mr. Lamb went to Plymouth, Mass., to see the actual landing place of the Pilgrims, which is the subject of the window just completed, and it is historically correct in consequence. He has also endeavored to allow the light to penetrate the church by using light glass in which to frame his picture, instead of having all the glass dark, as in most stained glass windows.

The window portrays the landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth. In the foreground is a group comprising Elder Brewster, Carver and one of the young maidens among the voyagers who sought opportunity to worship God according to the dictates of their conscience.

The uncompleted windows will tell the story of the causes which led to the coming of the Pilgrims and their activity.

CLEVER COMEDY AT IRVING PLACE.

Herr Willi Thaler, the Viennese comedian now playing an engagement at the Irving Place Theatre, appeared last night in the chief role of a clever and entertaining comedy by Leo Walter Stein and Ludwig Heller, entitled "Die von Hochsattel." The piece deals with the complications arising in consequence of the adoption of the opera singer's profession by a young nobleman whose family has become impoverished. The father, an aristocrat of the old school, is offended in all his prejudices and susceptibilities by what he considers a vulgarising experiment, and in this role Herr Thaler has a part exactly suited to his talents as an eccentric comedian. The humor of the piece is both genuine and refined, and the support given the star by Willi Kaiser, Fräulein Milly Reimann, Frau Marie von Wegern and Adolph Winds was excellent. The comedy rises in merit to a level quite above that of the ordinary laugh provoker.