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—8:15—The Parisian Model.
CASINO—8—The Blue Moon.
COLONIAL—2—8—Vaudeville.
CRITERION—8:15—The Little Cherub.
DALY'S—8:15—The Belle of Mayfair.
EDEN MUSEE—The World in Wax.
EMPIRE—8:15—His House in Order.
GARDEN—8:20—Madam Butterfly.
GARRICK—8:20—Clarice.
GRAND—8—His Honor the Mayor.
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—The Man on the Box.
LYCEUM—8:15—The Lion and the Mouse.
LYRIC—8:15—The New York Idea.
MADISON SQUARE—8:15—The Three of Us.
MANHATTAN OPERA HOUSE—8—Don Giovanni
METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE—8—La Bohême.
NEW AMSTERDAM—8:15—The Spring Chicken.
NEW YORK—8:15—Minstrels.
PRINCESS—2:20—Hedda Gabler—8:20—The Great Divide.
SAVOY—8:15—The Man of the Hour.
WALLACK'S—8:15—The Rich Mr. Hoggenheimer.
WEST END—2—8—The County Chairman.

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New-York Daily Tribune.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1906.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN.—Roman Catholic services in Paris were attended by large congregations; the day passed quietly in the capital, though there was excitement in a number of provincial cities, where police dispersed the crowds. ==== A communication issued at the Vatican hinted that the letters seized at the Paris Nunciature might have been sent there in order to make out a case for the government. ==== The French Chamber of Deputies met in extraordinary session and passed the budget. ==== The federal and insular difficulties in regard to the division of public lands in Porto Rico have been amicably adjusted. ==== M. Greger horsewhipped Count du Porzics on the Bois de Boulogne. ==== Advices from Warsaw say that the government's policy of repression has been successful; a bomb was thrown at the commander of gendarmes at Radom, blowing off his leg. ==== Colonel Serrano informed the Ecuador government that he had defeated the rebels at Pasaje and was marching to attack the insurgent forces at Santa Rosa. ==== Ali Mirza, heir to the Persian throne, arrived at Teheran; the condition of the Shah was reported unchanged.

DOMESTIC.—Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Longworth were slightly shaken up when their automobile ran into a station platform near Washington. ==== The Norwich, the oldest steamer on the Hudson River, burned at her pier, at Kingston, N. Y. ==== The Rev. Dr. J. Winthrop Hegeman, of Ballston, N. Y., deplored the Crapsey trial in the course of a sermon. ==== Warrants were issued for two officials of the Farmers' and Drovers' Bank, of Waynesburg, Penn. ==== The president of the Louisville & Nashville Railroad criticised the policy of President Roosevelt toward railroads. ==== President Roosevelt was said by an official of the Brotherhood of Engineers who conferred with him to favor an eight-hour day for all railroad employes. ==== In a battle with burglars at New Kensington, Penn., one burglar was probably fatally wounded and another caught by a police officer; the captured man gave notice to the police before the attempted crime. ==== A woman is supposed to have perished in a hotel fire at Burlington, Vt. ==== The wreck of the steamer Buenaventura was blown to pieces by the revenue cutter Mohawk, off Montauk Point.

CITY.—An heiress, for thirty years thought dead, was said to be in an almshouse; her sister was accused of perjury. ==== It was learned that Spanish-American circles had been stirred by the operations of two card sharpers in the Club Ibero-Americano, which resulted in the formation of a new club. ==== The Rev. Dr. Grant said he could conceive of a time when the play would become a moral force and the Sunday theatre do good. ==== It was said that the Democratic state patronage would probably be settled this week. ==== Justice Brewer made an address on the "Higher Life of the Nation." ==== Archbishop Farley declared that France's policy toward the Catholic Church was one of spoliation. ==== The Rev. Dr. Silverman said that Christians were responsible for anti-Semitism, and could end it. ==== No decision as to the recent ultimatum of the American Federation of Labor was reached by the Central Federated Union. ==== Vice-President Rea of the Pennsylvania Railroad had declined, it was said, the proposition to build a subway in Eleventh avenue. ==== An expedition from Harvard arrived on its way to the headwaters of the Amazon for anthropological investigations.

THE WEATHER.—Indications for to-day: Rain. The temperature yesterday: Highest, 49 degrees; lowest, 34.

PLASTER ENRICHMENTS.

We hope that New York is a great enough city to feel some sense of shame over the "plaster enrichments" in the Hall of Records. That is a building to which we were accustomed to point with pride as entirely worthy of one of the great cities of the world, an example for emulation hereafter, a standard for future municipal building. We were in the habit of looking forward hopefully to the time when the city might have a group of buildings as creditable as this one, so that the municipal departments might be properly housed. But now we learn that this exemplary structure was gauged in a spirit of false economy. It is full of shoddy, sham, "cheap John" construction, such as should bring the blush of shame to New Yorkers proud of their city. Its interior is not true to its exterior. The bravery of the latter is worthily sustained on the first floor of the interior, and the sham, with characteristic dishonesty, slinks into the upper stories, "where it will be little seen." There the finish of this $8,000,000 structure is imitation marble. It is not a case of honest, frank, candid economy, but a tawdry effort to hide the saving, to brazen it out with "something you can hardly tell from the real thing." There was not any justification for petty economy in a structure which was to cost $8,000,000, and in which utility was hardly more a desideratum than beauty; but if economy was necessary, why must the city resort to the smart and vulgar sort? Why did they not spare us imitation marble?

We fear that imitations have a strong hold upon the American taste. You find them in every walk of life. The manufacture of them makes up extensive industries. The imitation mahogany, the sham carving, the glass that blazes as diamonds and the fish skins that serve for pearls show the hold that imitations have upon the popular imagination, and it is not surprising that the representatives of the people, accustomed to the common liking for these vulgar compromises which "you can't tell from the real thing," preferred to the honest bareness of cement the tawdry ornamentation of "plaster enrichments." To finish the walls in bare cement would have been a solecism; to deck them out in "plaster enrichments" was to testify an appreciation of beauty, unattainable because of expense. Besides, no one would ever notice the difference!

Plaster amid marble in public buildings generally signifies graft, but not in this case. Here it means downright, honest vulgarity. It was due in part to the lack of definite purpose which characterizes public building in the city. One administration contracted for a building finished in marble throughout, a consistent thing as the artist planned it. The next, wishing to make a saving here so as to give the "boys" a chance somewhere else, countermanded the order for marble "trim" and substituted cement. What difference did it make how the inside looked so long as the outside was imposing? The next, struck by the poverty of cement, paltered over the cost of marble and ordered the imitation, which "you can hardly tell from the real thing." No artistic consideration seems to have entered into the determination of what should be the finish of the city's most serious effort at an artistic building. Then we wonder why we have not fine municipal buildings, why we have not a "civic centre," why we scatter the buildings we have about town so that they are lost in a wilderness of bigger things. But the situation is not without hope. "Plaster enrichments" signify aspiration. We want "something just as good," even if we are not yet educated up to demanding the real thing.

A DANGEROUS ISSUE.

It was proclaimed with some jubilation a few days ago that the Democratic party had an issue. Mr. Root's speech before the Pennsylvania Society had furnished it. The elation was natural, for we know of nothing else, unless it be offices, the possession of which would so rejoice the Democracy as an issue. Noah, when after a long and weary voyage the dove brought him an olive branch, can hardly have felt happier at beholding it. Columbus, after being out of sight of land for weeks, cannot have been more cheered by the view of San Salvador; nor can a keener joy have been vouchsafed to

> stout Cortez, when with eagle eyes
> He stared at the Pacific—and all his men
> Looked at each other with a wild surmise—
> Silent, upon a peak in Darien.

None of these hardy adventurers across unknown wastes can have been more full of joy and thanksgiving at the fulfilment of their hopes than the Democratic party would be if once more blessed with an issue. We are sorry to see evidence that the Democracy questions its first transports. It is not sure but that, after all, San Salvador is a mirage.

It was only natural that the Democracy should believe at first blush that it had an issue. States' rights are an ancient, historic and honored doctrine of the party. It is not every man who can tell on the spur of the moment how far he has got away from his old beliefs. The name sounded good. It was a cardinal principle of the Democracy, out of which many other minor doctrines sprang, and it was in harmony with the whole mass of Democratic theory. But a careful examination of the subject leads "The New York Times" and "The New York World," which are as anxious as any other Democratic journals to see their party reach the promised land of issues, to the conclusion that there are no votes in raising the states' rights cry under present conditions. Says "The Times":

> The tendency to centralization is one that must be reckoned with. It cannot be eliminated and it ought not to be ignored. It is the expression of the need of the people for an instrumentality suited to their wider activities and to the wonderful solidarity that has grown up in their relations of every sort. It corresponds to a condition of mind.

In a word, you cannot turn the hand of time back far enough to put new vitality into the states' rights issue.

"The World" finds another good reason why the issue will not do. Unless the Democratic party wishes to put itself in the position of defending "the interests," it will let states' rights severely alone. The people have turned to the federal government for protection against evils, sheltering themselves behind the authority of the states. "In these circumstances," says "The World," "neither the Democratic party nor any "other party is likely to burn its fingers with "the issue of states' rights in respect to the "control of corporation crookedness." The issue is dangerous as well as out of date. There is dynamite in it. Of course, neither "The Times" nor "The World" speaks for that large section of the Democracy of which Mr. Bryan is the honored leader. But unquestionably the force of the argument which "The World" advances will strike the Bryanite section of the Democracy. A believer in the federal ownership of railroads has hardly a tender regard for "states' rights."

The speech of Mr. Root and the discussion it has provoked have been peculiarly illuminating. The incident has resulted in a sort of taking account of stock of our ideas. A host of persons who had not recently indulged in a mental inventory know now where they stand in regard to the position of the states and the nation in the government of this country. We have what "The Times" calls the "condition of mind" of the country, and it is such that the Democracy turns discreetly away from its old doctrine of states' rights.

HONORING PEARY'S COURAGE.

In his graceful tribute to Commander Peary, while presenting the medal of the National Geographic Society, President Roosevelt indulged in no exaggerations. The explorer to whom this mark of respect was paid has displayed in a conspicuous manner two kinds of courage. He has persisted in his efforts after a series of discouragements which would have led most men who had entered that field of endeavor to abandon altogether the task of finding the pole. He has also exhibited the form of daring which is so essential in war. The perils of sledging on the icy covering of the Arctic Ocean, broken as that surface is, certainly equal those of battle. Indeed, in one respect they surpass the risks of military service. As campaigns are conducted to-day, the real leader is usually in the rear, and not exposed to the fire of the enemy. Peary's campaigns have been so organized that he himself was always at the front, and the number of his companions has been systematically reduced until there was only one beside him.

The methods employed by Peary at the most critical stage of his undertakings were distinctly more dangerous than those on which Nansen chiefly relied. When the Norwegian began his historic voyage in the Fram, he expected to be borne to the vicinity of the pole by a current in the Arctic Ocean whose existence he was one of the first to discover. His faith was vindicated in the main, but he did not by drifting alone reach a point as far north as he hoped. It was necessary for him to supplement the favorable trend of the polar currents by a resort to sledging, but the latter feature of his programme had been, in his own mind, merely incidental to the other. What is more, he was apparently never tempted to try again after he had discovered how much sledging would be required to accomplish the object in view. Peary frankly concedes the advantages of drifting, one of which is the comparative safety of the explorer and his men, but the plan is not suited to his taste or temperament. He prefers more energetic, even if more perilous, measures.

In the remark that Peary's achievement reflects honor on the country, the President expressed a sentiment which he has entertained for years. When the last leave of absence was granted to the explorer by the Navy Department Assistant Secretary Newberry told him that the President regarded the venture as a national enterprise. Mr. Roosevelt thus recognized the probability that some one having the proper combination of skill and courage would reach the pole within the next few years, and with sympathetic foresight comprehended the pride which Americans would feel if the feat were performed by one of their fellow countrymen. Of that feeling Peary himself received a hint on the occasion of his recent lecture at the American Museum of Natural History. It was a throng of extraordinary size which at that time sought to set eyes on the man who had surpassed the feats of Nansen and Cagni, and carried the Stars and Stripes north of the 87th parallel of latitude.

THE LAST, WE HOPE.

The impression seems to prevail among those whose melancholy duty it was to report for the press the six days' bicycle race which ended on Saturday night that there will not be another in this city for a long time to come. We hope their premonitions will be verified. If the business should perish because of its unfitness to survive, without anything being done to expedite its demise, that would be a satisfactory release. But it appears to us that last week's exhibition supplies sufficient reasons for interference on the part of the authorities in case it becomes necessary to invoke their assistance. All accounts agree that it was physically and morally unwholesome to an extreme degree. It attracted the worst dregs of the population, whose conduct became more and more offensive, until toward the last the police were required to undertake a cleansing process in the interest of decency and order.

If the show had not been accompanied by scenes of debauchery and conducted in an atmosphere repugnant to all the senses and proprieties, it would still have been objectionable from numerous points of view. It is hard to imagine how anybody whose taste is not depraved can call such a thing sport, and, as a matter of fact, we suppose that to most of those in attendance its chief allurement during a great part of the time—aside from the opportunity which it offered to vicious propensities—was the constant expectation, frequently rewarded, of exciting accidents. When one or more of the performers were brought near to death by a collision which interrupted the dull monotony of their revolutions the crowd looking on felt a detestable thrill of pleasure, and there were many such moments in the course of the week. Moreover, whatever the fact may be, a belief that the whole affair was fraudulent pervaded the place, and left little room for honest enjoyment of the spectacle on the part of those to whom such displays make a strange appeal.

One thing is certain: If there is ever to be another six days' bicycle race in this city it must be under such authoritative supervision from the start as will prevent anything approaching a repetition of the sights and sounds which attended the one brought to a close too late last week. There is no good excuse for permitting such a congregation of criminal, vicious and dissolute creatures to assemble day after day in a place of public resort and then leaving them to their own devices.

COLLEGE BABIES.

The treatment given to the disorderly freshmen of the College of the City of New York by Judge Olmsted last week was in all respects admirable. As a corrective for youth who think that matriculation in a college is a patent of manhood and that manliness consists in being lawless, nothing could have been better than a few days' confinement in the care of the Children's Society along with lost babies and runaway girls and small boys who haven't parents to spank them. Youngsters masquerading as "college men" have long been making a nuisance of themselves in subway stations and other public places, and from time to time groups of them have been arrested for disorderly conduct and allowed to get off easily or heroically, until they have come to think it at least smart if not safe to inflict their "college pranks" on the community. They were probably willing to face courts and have the glory of enduring punishment for student brawls, but to be punished not as disorderly collegians but as mere naughty children and remanded to the public nursery for four or five days must have been a thorough cure for bumptiousness.

Judge Olmsted showed great practical common sense in dealing with these boys when he held them from Monday until Saturday with the Children's Society in solitary confinement, and then sent them home with a fine and a lecture which must have made them feel that there was nothing heroic about posing as lawless collegians only to be treated as little street loafers. That is the way to take the charm out of a great deal of college disorder. It is much more fun, in the eyes of youth, to be a bad man than a naughty boy, and the college and public authorities who treat student rowdies as children in need of a light diet and an early bedtime show a useful knowledge of human nature.

MONEY AND BUSINESS.

Early last week there was a rather better feeling in the stock market, accelerated by liberal purchases for London account, but the improvement was of brief duration. It soon became evident that there was little prospect of any real relief in the money market, and the second "melon cutting" by the Great Northern was received with very poor grace. Subsequently that stock declined severely because the stock issue was declared illegal. There were more announcements of increased dividends, and statements of earnings were all that could be desired, but there was no general demand for securities, and it was apparent that the financial stringency had reached a point where some holders were compelled to liquidate. Of course, these were not men operating with long term money borrowed when rates were easy, as those accommodations were made to carry over the end of the year, and it is possible that the time seemed propitious for aggressive work by the short account. If the recent decline is largely due to operations of this nature, it may prove both interesting and exciting when the struggle comes between the two powerful opposing interests. In view of this possibility and the poor prospect of any continued ease in the money market for a good while to come, it is not a time for speculators with limited capital to become involved.

Bankers began to improve their position last Monday by reducing loans, as some of the most conservative of the old institutions had fallen below the legally required reserve. This produced a sensationally high market, not only for call money but for short term time loans. Subsequently, the Secretary of the Treasury once more came to the rescue both by increasing deposits and offering to purchase bonds. This helped the call money situation a little, although rates still continued high, but the time money market found little relief in a measure that contained the limitation that the increased deposits must be returned to the Treasury by February 1. Many things are surmised as to what the government will do when these funds and others have to be repaid, but time money rates cannot be determined by optimistic guesses. The Secretary may anticipate the redemption of more bonds, but the matter is uncertain. Meanwhile the movement of funds continues against this centre on transfers with the interior, and the small consignment of gold from Canada had no weight, while Treasury operations show balances against the banks nearly every day. In addition to the abnormal demand for money that is seen in all directions, there are several temporary factors now in evidence, and as soon as the Christmas factor is disposed of it will be time to begin to prepare for January dividend payments.

It is probable that there will be a repetition of the experiences of last December when the time comes to take inventories and overhaul machinery for repairs. In the commercial world it is necessary to take stock in order that reports may be made of the year's business, and these labors will be exceptionally heavy at the close of the most active year in the nation's history, but the importunate demands of customers will make it a difficult matter to devote proper attention to these details. Retail trade has broadened throughout the country in a satisfactory manner, cold weather having become more or less settled, and some sections have had sufficient snow to bring out a good demand for overshoes and other seasonable products. This trade has been late at some points, but the net result promises to be satisfactory. As was expected, the demand for Christmas supplies is running far beyond all previous years, and the tenor of mercantile reports would be entirely satisfactory were it not for the one drawback of slow pay, which is causing complaint at many leading cities and in some of the most important branches of business.

Cotton declined sharply upon the publication of the government figures, which had been awaited for some days with unusual interest. The Census Bureau reported that up to December 1 the quantity of cotton that had been ginned was 10,025,445 bales, against 8,889,663 last year. As the amount still to come forward was entirely a matter of conjecture, the ginning statement was less definite than the estimate of the Department of Agriculture placing the final yield at 12,564,000 bales. As this was about the quantity of cotton generally expected, it was surprising that prices were so sharply depressed, but these official figures have so often been a million bales too small that the market acted as if the usual allowance must be made this year. Yet it is possible that the statisticians have profited by former errors and have arrived at a more accurate figure. At any rate, the situation contains a large element of uncertainty, but there was nothing uncertain about the way in which the brokers proceeded to dispose of their option holdings and to go short of the market. On the other hand, wheat declined slightly in response to an official statement that the new winter wheat crop would amount to 503,475,000 bushels, which is above all previous records.

It has been another good week at the leading industrial plants of the nation, with a very small percentage of idle machinery, although many plants are unable to get enough hands to keep all the wheels turning. Probably the cotton mills, as a whole, have sold further into the future than any other industry, and the disposition is much in evidence among manufacturers to ask slight advances in price rather than to take this remote business at present figures. That there was no question of reduced prices for cotton goods during the violent reaction that occurred in cost of raw material testifies to the scarcity of stocks. Reports indicate that new business in shoes and the materials of this industry is on a moderate scale, but pervaded by so firm a tone that there is evidently no anxiety regarding the future. The steel mills are working at full capacity except in the few cases where pig iron cannot be secured, and this is usually due to freight blockades, while statistics of the production of pig iron indicate that the present rate is far above all previous records, and that the new year will at least start with every prospect that more than 27,000,000 tons will be produced.

So much importance was attached by the French government to a wise selection of engines for its war vessels that several undertakings were held back until a commission could visit England and investigate the matter. A unanimous report has now been made in favor of the turbine, and accordingly that type of "propellent" will be adopted.

When there is an appetite there is a way. Out in prohibition Kansas they sell beer in plugs, like tobacco.

An unusually large number of persons and animals in Eastern Connecticut have recently been bitten by dogs supposed to be suffering from hydrophobia. Under such circumstances it is always highly desirable to ascertain whether or not the suspicion is well founded. To learn the truth it is necessary only to kill the dogs which are believed to be mad and send their brains to an expert for examination. This procedure would always settle the question in two or three days, and usually it would relieve a great deal of apprehension.

It is gratifying to know that New England cotton mills are able to increase the wages paid to employes, especially in view of the competition of child labor in some of the Southern states.

Never did the German Kaiser speak truer words than when last week he dwelt upon the importance of good cooking. Upon that depend in large measure health, happiness and prosperity. There is no better assurance of long life and health than an invariable supply of food so cooked as to be nourishing and easily digestible. There is no stronger guarantee of domestic bliss than a right condition of the morning chops and coffee. There could be, perhaps, no greater benefit to the poor than to teach them how to prepare their food in an economical, appetizing and healthful manner. But with all his praise of good cooking and his exhortations to its universal practice, will his imperial majesty undertake the task of providing the world with good cooks or of telling suffering humanity where it can find them?

A wireless telephonic conversation was held in Germany the other day by persons twenty-four miles apart. Much greater distances must be covered by the apparatus which was then on trial before it will rival Bell's great invention, but it will be worth while to watch further developments closely.

Enthusiasm over the proposal to have the city acquire and operate all the Union Ferry lines on the East River should be seasoned and moderated by contemplation of some recent and present performances in the domain of municipal ferriage. There are those who intimate, as the result of observation and experience, that the venerable triremes of the South Brooklyn service are not always as expeditious in their movements as was the ship Argo in the passage of the Symplegades.

PERSONAL.

Dr. James M. Yeager, formerly president of Drew Seminary for Young Women, at Carmel, N. Y., was elected a member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives from Mifflin, his native county, at the recent election.

"The New Orleans Picayune" loving cup, an annual award to the citizen who has done the most meritorious service for the city of New Orleans in the preceding year, was presented to Charles Janvier last week.

At the annual meeting of the Académie des Inscriptions et des Belles-Lettres, held in Paris last month, M. Georges Perrot, the secretary of the society, read a paper on the life and work of the late M. Desiré Raoul-Rochette, the French traveller and archæologist, in which he took occasion to refer in flattering terms to the "princely" generosity of the Duc de Loubat in supplying to the Ecole d'Athènes the funds necessary to carry on the work of excavation at Delos, which has resulted in bringing to light a vast amount of archæological treasure. M. Perrot called attention to the fact that as long ago as 1838 M. Raoul-Rochette, who visited Delos on voyage from Syria to Athens, detected "at a glance" the richness of the island as a field for exploration, proclaiming his belief in these words: "The mass of ruins which covers nearly the entire surface of the sacred island is so vast that it would require the continuous labor of a hundred workmen digging for many months to uncover all the buried monuments there. It is a task, however, which only a government is qualified to undertake, and I shall venture to bring it to the attention of King Otho, who intends to excavate at Delphi, and who would certainly find no less to reward him at Delos." These prophetic words had been realized, M. Perrot pointed out, not by Greece, however, but by private French enterprise, supported by the enlightened benefactions of the Duc de Loubat.

Herr Johann Strauss, a nephew of the eminent composer, has been sentenced to a week's imprisonment for debt in Vienna. His liabilities are said to amount to $35,000.

Crown Prince George of Servia, who is reported to have gone insane, is the eldest son of King Peter and the deceased Princess Zorka, daughter of the Prince of Montenegro. He was born on September 10, 1887. His brother and probable successor to the throne, Prince Alexander, is one year younger.

Lyman K. Bass, who has been nominated by the President as United States District Attorney for Western New York, is the son of a former law partner of Grover Cleveland. His mother, after the death of his father, married the late Senator Edward O. Wolcott.

William E. Sanderson, the new Republican Mayor of Springfield, Mass., is a "boss" in the yards of the Wason Company, car manufacturers, and has worked for day wages all his life.

The Rev. Albert Negahnquet, of Kansas, now conducting religious labors among his fellow-racemen in Oklahoma and Indian Territory, is the only living Roman Catholic priest who is a full-blood Indian. Father Negahnquet was born on the Pottawatomie Reservation, near St. Marys, Kan., in 1877.

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

The announcement that "The London Daily Mail" is about to issue a weekly edition for the blind draws attention to the other British journals published in Braille type, which have had a long and useful career, though they have seldom been seen by the general public. The first weekly newspaper for the blind was published on June 1, 1892, and called "The Weekly Summary." It has always been issued below cost price, and its promoters derive no benefit from its publication. Another was started only last year, called "The Braille Weekly," and issued from Edinburgh.

Bess—Yes, the engagement's off. He told her she ought to give up novels and read something more substantial—something that would improve her.
Ben—Well?
Bess—Gracious! Don't you see? The idea of a man intimating to his fiancée that she could be improved in any way!—Philadelphia Press.

Every cat owner in Berlin has now to pay a tax, which is equivalent to a license, and each cat has to wear a metal disk round its neck as evidence that the tax has been paid. Any cat found on the streets without this metal disk is taken off to the municipal lethal chamber by the police. This method has already considerably lessened the number of cats in Berlin. The Emperor—who has a hatred of cats almost amounting to a mania—is said to have induced the Berlin municipality to take action.

"Mamma, what would you do if that big vase in the parlor should get broken?" said Tommy.
"I should thrash whoever did it," said Mrs. Banks, gazing serenely at her little son.
"Well, then, you'd better begin to get up your muscle," said Tommy, gleefully, "'cos father's broken it."—Cardiff Times.

At the last session of the Paris Academy of Medicine Dr. Vidal called attention to the great danger of contagion from the use of Oriental carpets. These carpets come from countries in which dysentery and other diseases prevail. The disease germs settle in the fibres of the material, and their transmission to the user is a probability if the textiles are not carefully disinfected. Dr. Vidal told of two cases that illustrate the danger. They occurred recently in Paris. An elderly man, a collector of rugs, received a dealer who exhibited to him a number of Oriental samples. He finally bought two Japanese tapestries, upon which the purchaser's three-year-old child played for a while. Eight days later the child died, having been infected with dysentery. A few days later the father also had an attack of the same disease that resulted in death.

"Dear me, cabby," said an old lady, as she alighted from a four-wheeler at Liverpool Street Station, "your horse's knees are bad."
"Don't you go and think it's becos 'e's got into a silly 'abit of tryin' to stand on 'is 'ead in the street, ma'am, 'cos it ain't," was the reply. "That there 'oss is a serious thinkin' 'oss, 'e is, ma'am; a werry prayerful animile 'e is, too. 'E's been prayin' this last six year as 'ow 'is pore old master'll one o' these days come across a kind-'earted party what'll give 'im a copper or two over 'is bare fare, but, Lor' bless yer, ma'am," he added, as he looked at the shilling the old lady had handed him, "'e's losin' faith fast, and unless somethink soon 'appens 'e'll die a bloomin' hinfidel."—Tit-Bits.

"The Canadian Cigar and Tobacco Journal" gives some hints to those who smoke pipes. Everybody thinks he knows how to smoke a pipe, but to do it perfectly is not easy. "Time is a keynote of successful pipe smoking," says "The Journal," "and another is gentleness. Take it easy. Don't crowd the pipe to the top of the bowl. Never get a pipe hot. Keep cool, and keep your pipe cool. You can relight a pipe, and if you are an old smoker you will be all the better for it. When you have finished do not refill a heated pipe."

"Sir," said the quizzical customer to the furniture mover, "those men you sent with the van to take my goods to my new house were most peculiar. Are you sure they're all quite sane?"
"Are they?" replied the other. "Why, I am surprised to hear such an accusation as that. What makes you think they are insane?"
"Because they acted so oddly. They didn't even break a mirror or a statuette, they did not scratch the piano, and they utterly failed to pack the lace curtains with the kitchen utensils."—Tit Bits.

Mr. Fallières was, until recently, believed to be the only President of the French Republic who had no double, but his counterpart has been found. The man who most resembles him physically is a respectable merchant of the Rue Saint Honoré, who plays his part with decorum and dignity. He wears exactly the same kind of blue butterfly necktie with white dots as the President, the same kind of hat and exactly so oddly cut a beard. And on his promenades he is always accompanied by a friend who could easily be taken for the President's private secretary. Dignified and with measured steps, the enviable double walks through the Faubourg Saint Honoré and feels overjoyed at being saluted on all sides.

Church—At a recent church fair in England one of the means used for increasing the receipts was a guessing contest as to the weight of the pastor.
Gotham—Before or after?
Church—Before or after what?
Gotham—Before or after preaching.
Church—What difference would that make?
Gotham—A good deal. Some pastors are much heavier when preaching.—Yonkers Statesman.

DR. AKED STILL UNDECIDED.

Pastor of Pembroke Chapel Talks of His Call to This City.

Liverpool, Dec. 16.—The congregation of Pembroke Chapel is strongly urging the Rev. Dr. Charles F. Aked, its pastor, not to accept the pastorate of the Fifth Avenue Baptist Church in New York, which was recently tendered to him. Dr. Aked said to-day that he had not finally decided what he would do, though since his illness his work at Liverpool had been too heavy for him. He emphasized the immense possibilities afforded by a ministry such as had been offered him in New York, but said that monetary considerations would in no way influence him. He had not received an offer of $25,000 a year, he said, or half that sum.

The Rev. Dr. Aked was recently asked to accept the pastorate of the Fifth Avenue Baptist Church in New York, in succession to the Rev. Dr. Rufus P. Johnston, resigned. During the course of a sermon at the Fifth Avenue Church after the tender had been made him, Dr. Aked said he would not give a definite answer to the congregation until he had returned home and consulted his parishioners. He said it had been one of his fondest desires to labor in the United States and to end his life under the American flag.

AUTOMOBILE FIGURES.

From The Baltimore Sun.

Those who are fond of figures and who are in a position to obtain the data declare that if the present rate of increase in the number of automobiles continues there will be at the close of next year something more than 300,000 of the horseless vehicles in use in the United States. At the present time it is claimed that there are more than 250,000 in use in this country, and as the demand for cars of every kind is fast increasing the 300,000 mark will easily be passed before the new year is out.

New York State still leads in the number in use, having a little in excess of 35,125 registered and licensed. New Jersey is second with 25,507, Massachusetts third with 17,299, and Pennsylvania fourth with a registration of 13,899.

The month previous to the earthquake in California there were 300 cars sold. The month of the earthquake there were 270 machines sold and only thirty-seven owners sold their machines. Very few automobiles were destroyed by the earthquake. Since the earthquake 1,797 cars have been registered, showing practically no falling off in the actual automobile business for the state.

THE LABORER WORTHY OF HIS HIRE.

From The Philadelphia Record.

Every time the question of Congressional salaries is raised the cry goes up from Tom, Dick and Harry in private life: "If $5,000 isn't enough for our Representatives let them resign—we'll take their places gladly." But Tom, Dick and Harry are not the sort of men we want at Washington. The man who has brains enough to serve his district intelligently in the National Congress is usually identical with the man who has brains enough to make more than $5,000 at home.

LONDON NOTES.

Humors of the Lords—Death of Charlotte Brontë's Husband.

London, December 8.

The Lords have been developing unsuspected talents for humor during the Education debate. It was a dull, prosaic subject, which they were discussing day after day, and the peeresses were in the gallery in strong force to hear them. They began with formal and stilted conversation among themselves, and ended by talking to the ladies' gallery. They could not be so ungallant as to be serious, much less downright dull, when the peeresses had left their bridge tables and needed light entertainment. One debater after another has tried to be amusing, and has been rewarded with smiles from the gallery and compliments in the evening. If the peers labored under restraint in their humor over the Education bill with the full muster of bishops and with Lord Halifax's gleaming eyes upon them, they felt licensed to be as funny as they liked when the Land Tenure bill was carried to second reading. Lord Carrington set the ball rolling in what was subsequently described by Lord Onslow as a sporting speech. So long as he seemed unconsciously humorous, the Lords in Opposition mocked him with merriment, but as soon as his frank bonhomie was understood they were laughing with him from sheer exuberance of spirits. How could it be otherwise when he repelled the idea that he was striving to do away with sport by referring to supporters behind him as "men well known in the hunting field and celebrated for their prowess with the rifle and the shotgun!" His side glance at Lord Courtney, Lord Eversley and other peers, who could hardly have hit a flock of barns, pointed the jest, and the grave Lord Chancellor joined the lords in opposition in unrestrained merriment.

The Duke of Northumberland caught the inspiration of this pleasantry for the benefit of the peeresses. He described the noble lord, the president of the Board of Agriculture, as a commercial traveller scurrying over the country and puffing another fellow's wares. He gave this imitation of Lord Carrington's commercial manner on the road among farmers: "I have a little article in my bag which you may like to see. It is not an invention of my firm. It is another person's patent, but my firm has taken it up." This allusion to the fact that the government had adopted a private member's bill was a fair sally, and it was followed by a comical explanation of the titled drummer's lack of success in finding customers among the farmers. The seconder of the vote of thanks to the Cabinet Minister had been careful to add that he did not agree with the bill; and this reminded the duke of the Scottish revivalist's fervid sermon, closing with the appeal for all who wished to go to Heaven to stand up. When a majority of the congregation had risen at the minister's bidding and again seated themselves, the alternative choice was offered for all who were bent upon going "to the other place." After an awkward pause one man got on his feet with the exclamation: "I have no particular leaning that way, but I really do not like to see you standing alone." It was an old story without doubt, but it served the old Tory purpose of illustrating the attitude of farmers toward an unimportant bill. The lords were convulsed with merriment, Lord Carrington laughing with the loudest; and the peeresses went home with the impression that the legislative proceedings were quite as amusing as one of Mr. Shaw's comedies of "intellectual discussion."

Lord Crewe, as the leader of the minority on the government benches in the Education debate, has played his part with fine variety. Smooth mannered, flexible, tactful, he has been conciliatory, yet firm withal, and his polished sarcasms have been even more entertaining than his pleasantries. Helpless in the presence of a hostile majority of prelates and Tory peers, he has been armed with resources of power outside the privileged house, and his acrid criticism of bigotry and intolerance has veiled his contempt for opponents who are unable to agree among themselves. A satirist, if he keeps his temper and avoids vehemence, can be more amusing than a professional humorist, and Lord Crewe has been a favorite with the peeresses without commanding their sympathies for his cause. In closing the debate for the third reading of the Education bill he affected the manner of a tragic comedian holding up the mantle of Cæsar, showing what gaping rent had been made in the principle of public control, and addressing the Tory Lords scornfully as accessories to the crime. That was good art, and it was not carried too far, for in the next breath he declared that Cæsar was not yet dead, and that he hoped he might be spared the necessity for attending the funeral. The peeresses were forced to admire his literary skill and to smile at the comic spirit of his melodrama.

Altogether there has been not a little wit and effective irony in the gilded chamber, and even the solemn Law Lords who have been hearing the appeal of the West Riding case have been witnesses of a situation whimsical in its topsyturveydom. The law officers of the Liberal government have been arguing high and low in favor of the legality of the Education act, for which the Unionist government was responsible, and the discussion has turned upon the single pivot whether Mr. Balfour did what he meant to do or unconsciously reversed himself and did what he had no intention of doing. The same ministers who have been occupied for twelve months in killing off that act are now concerned in proving that it was not dead when they took up arms against it. This must be accounted the most grotesque farce in English politics.

The conversion of "The Times" into a limited liability company will not involve a change of management. Mr. Arthur Fraser Walter will be the governing director; there will be a board of directors with powers strictly defined, and the present proprietors in the partnership will be shareholders. Those now owning and directing "The Times" will continue to do so, and there will not be any transfer of the property to outside capitalists. The journal will remain as thoroughly English and as independent as it was under the three generations of the Walter family who preceded Mr. Arthur Fraser Walter. This change in corporate form is made by common consent of the partners at will for convenience in conducting a group of varied interests. No public announcement has been made, but it is evident that "The Times," not content with lending books to its subscribers and with selling them at reduced rates when the demand for them falls off, will publish them at low prices and prove that there is a large market for them. This may be the final stage of the book war, in which both the publishers and "The Times" are claiming victory all along the line. The Book Club has not been closed; the lending operations are conducted on a large scale; the sales of books have increased and there is no lack of variety in the holiday traffic. "The Times" has allowed authors and publishers to attack it with virulence and discourtesy in its own columns, and this has been an exhibition of impartiality and fair play which has impressed the public favorably. The loss of publishers' advertising has been considerable, and this sacrifice has been a proof of sincerity. The main body of subscribers are standing by the Book Club and are buying their books at its counters. If they have been unable to obtain some new books which they are asking for, they will find ample compensation in the cheapening of current literature, of which there is now a good prospect. Let "The Times" lead off with six-shilling novels published on its own account at two shillings, or