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ALHAMBRA—2—8—Vaudeville.
ASTOR—2:15—8:15—Seven Days.
BELASCO—2:15—8:15—Is Matrimony a Failure?
BIJOU—8:15—The Lottery Man.
BROADWAY—2:15—8:15—The Midnight Sons.
CASINO—2:15—8:15—The Chocolate Soldier.
COLONIAL—2—8—Vaudeville.
COMEDY—2:15—8:15—The Melting Pot.
CRITERION—2:15—8:15—Israel.
DALY'S—8:15—The Belle of Brittany.
EDEN MUSEE—The World in Wax.
FIFTH AVENUE—2—8—Vaudeville.
GAIETY—2:15—8:15—The Fortune Hunter.
GARDEN—2:15—8:20—His Name on the Door.
GARRICK—2:15—8:15—The Harvest Moon.
HACKETT—8:15—Cameo Kirby.
HAMMERSTEIN'S—2:15—8:15—Vaudeville.
HERALD SQUARE—2:15—8:15—Old Dutch.
HIPPODROME—2—8—A Trip to Japan; Inside the Earth; the Ballet of Jewels.
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KNICKERBOCKER—8—The Dollar Princess.
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LYCEUM—2:30—8:15—Pomona.
LYRIC—2:15—8:15—The City.
MANHATTAN OPERA HOUSE—8—Tannhauser.
MAXINE ELLIOTT'S THEATRE—2:30—8:30—The Passing of the Third Floor Back.
METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE—8—Mme. Butterfly.
NEW AMSTERDAM—2:15—8:15—The Silver Star.
NEW THEATRE—2:15—8:15—The School for Scandal.
NEW YORK—2:15—8:15—The Man Who Owns Broadway.
SAVOY—8:15—Helena Richie.
ST. NICHOLAS RINK—8:15—Ice Hockey.
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New-York Tribune.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1909.

This newspaper is owned and published by The Tribune Association, a New York corporation; office and principal place of business, Tribune Building, No. 154 Nassau street, New York; Ogden Mills, president; Henry W. Sackett, secretary; James M. Barrett, treasurer. The address of the officers is the office of this newspaper.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

CONGRESS.—Both branches adjourned for the holiday recess until January 4. ==== Senate: A resolution calling on the President for all papers bearing on the Ballinger-Pinchot controversy was adopted; the President's diplomatic nominations were confirmed. ==== House: Mr. Mann reported his "white slave" bill.

FOREIGN.—The University of Copenhagen rejected the documents submitted by Dr. Cook to prove his claim to the discovery of the North Pole; Knud Rasmussen characterized the evidence submitted as "most impudent." ==== Zelaya's forces were reported defeated with heavy losses by General Estrada in a battle at Rama, Nicaragua. ==== A workman shot and slightly wounded M. Bratiano, the Rumanian Premier and Minister of the Interior, at Bucharest. ==== One man was killed and two persons were fatally hurt in a fire at the Metropole Hotel, at Winnipeg. ==== The House of Lords decided that trade unions had no right to make assessments on their members to provide pay for Parliamentary representatives.

DOMESTIC.—The Interstate Commerce Commission in its annual report to Congress asked for more power to regulate railroad rates. ==== Commander Peary expressed gratification at the rejection in Copenhagen of Dr. Cook's claim to have discovered the North Pole. ==== Kentucky wool growers met at Louisville to form a wool pool, modelled after that of the Burley Tobacco Society. ==== The completion of the new $1,000,000 trestle of the Norfolk & Southern Railway across Albemarle Sound was announced. ==== A young woman who attempted to commit suicide at Virginia Beach, Va., was identified as Margaret Marshall, until recently on the staff of a New York newspaper. ==== It was stated at Norfolk, Va., that repairs to the battleship Georgia, recently injured in a collision with the collier Vestal, would require two weeks. ==== Governor Hughes named a board to consider all changes in uniform for the national guard. ==== Senator Jotham P. Allds will probably succeed the late John Raines as leader of the Republican majority in the Senate.

CITY.—Stocks were dull and irregular. ==== Dressmakers here and in Chicago alleged to have cheated the United States customs out of $1,000,000 a year by the "sleeper trunk" fraud were arrested and held in bail. ==== Chairman Woodruff favored direct primaries in a statement. ==== Tales of the milk "dead wagon," alleged to have been used to kill competition, came out at the Attorney General's inquiry. ==== Striking shirtwaist makers paraded in automobiles loaned by Mrs. Belmont and Miss Anne Morgan. ==== The attempt to choose a successor to Borough President Ahearn failed again. ==== Thomas C. Harden was elected to succeed the late Senator McCarren. ==== Mrs. W. Gould Brokaw broke down and had to leave the courtroom in the trial of her suit for separation. ==== It was said that one of the convicted sugar employes had given the government prosecutors important new evidence.

THE WEATHER.—Indications for to-day: Snow. The temperature yesterday: Highest, 31 degrees; lowest, 19.

ALREADY YIELDING.

State Chairman Woodruff's announcement of the organization position in respect to direct primaries concedes at the outset more than half of what Governor Hughes and his supporters have been contending for. Most important of all, the organization yields in regard to the utility of the direct system. According to Mr. Woodruff, it is ready to support a plan for the direct choice of candidates for local offices, including, perhaps, candidates for the state Senate and for Congress. But when this is granted most of the force is taken out of the objections to the general adoption of the direct system. The contention has all along been that direct nominations were "socialistic" and "un-American"; that they worked badly and brought untold evils in their train. But if they have all these faults they ought not to be adopted for local offices, and those who concede their adaptability to local conditions will have to find some new ground of opposition to their general application.

The organization is going to make its stand on the retention of the convention system for the nomination of state officers and for municipal nominations, with, however, some improvement and stiffening up of the primary laws; but it will find difficulty in opposing direct nominations in one field and supporting them in another. Such extensive concessions before the fight in the Legislature has begun promise a complete surrender before the session is over. When a law is finally passed it will probably be found that the concessions made by the advocates of direct nominations are verbal rather than substantial. The necessary basis for a compromise may be found in a change of the name of "state nominating committee" in the Hinman-Green bill into "state convention" and an increase in its membership. Thus the "state convention" will be preserved and the direct system adopted and every one will be happy. In a compromise names are sometimes everything.

THE DANISH VERDICT.

The decision of the experts who examined Dr. Cook's report to the University of Copenhagen that he failed to prove his case will almost universally be held to justify the further judgment that he did not reach the pole. His story was studied with deliberation by men whose competency and disinterestedness cannot be questioned, and it was found to fail at a vital point. It contained a series of statements of a succession of positions which he professed to have attained. His notes did not show, however, the calculations which would have enabled him to determine where he was. Whether or not he was able to make the requisite measurements of the altitude of the sun or stars, and thus to compute his latitude, does not appear. He failed to show such capacity in his narrative, and that lack is fatal to the credibility of his claim. It is only fair to assume that had it been in his power to present the only kind of proof which would satisfy an experienced navigator or astronomer he would have offered it. Only one interpretation can, in our judgment, be placed on the deficiency.

Perhaps it is fortunate that after leaving the Arctic regions Dr. Cook did not return directly to the United States, but went to another country, where he was obliged by force of circumstances to submit his claims first to the judgment of foreigners. An adverse verdict rendered here might have been attributed in some quarters to prejudice against him and friendship for his rival. Coming from a country which had every reason to treat his report with the utmost consideration, it is not open to any such suspicion. It will carry conviction to every fair minded person with overwhelming force. It disposes of Dr. Cook's claims completely and forever. Unworthy fears which are now shown to have been utterly groundless have been entertained that the University of Copenhagen, having conferred a degree on him a few months ago, might feel that consistency required it to stand by Dr. Cook through thick and thin. It has not done so. Its final decision shows a complete sense of responsibility to the civilized world, and perhaps no little moral courage also. The university, as well as the King of Denmark, when Dr. Cook was in Copenhagen yielded to an excessively generous impulse. For that incautious and premature committal full atonement is now made.

Fitly to characterize the offence of which Dr. Cook has been guilty is not easy. His intentions when he left home for the Arctic may have been honest, but it is clear that at length he resolved to attempt a colossal deception. He has not succeeded, but he must be judged by his purpose. He has accepted honor and pay bestowed on the supposition that he had performed a feat of almost superhuman difficulty. He has sought to deprive a rival of justly earned fame and emoluments and has tried to impose on the whole world. One conceivable possibility may be suggested in his behalf. If he is not the victim of a monstrous delusion, he is the author of a monstrous fraud.

FIFTY YEARS IN INDIA.

The notable changes in Indian government in the direction of enlarging native participation and influence, upon which we recently commented, were effected almost coincidentally with the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the direct authority of the British crown over that empire. It was just after the end of the Great Mutiny, in 1858, that old "John Company" relinquished control of India to the Queen, though it was not until many years later that her majesty was proclaimed Empress. It is therefore fitting to review these last fifty years as a separate and integral epoch in Indian history, marked with the results of direct British administration, the characteristics of which may profitably be noted as a vindication or a condemnation of British rule.

It has been a half century of far less fighting than any other since the days of Dupleix and Clive. Indeed, it has seen no disturbances of the peace whatsoever beyond petty border wars and punitive expeditions, and although there have been many of these their sum total has not approximated that of a single one of the wars of old. Moreover, it has been a time of concession rather than of aggression in territorial sovereignty, for while Great Britain has acquired and annexed some additional lands, she has surrendered a still larger area to its native rulers.

In the participation of Indians in the government there has been much progress. Half a century ago there was not an Indian in the Legislative Council, on the bench of any important court or in the Civil Service. Now there are many of them in all those places. At the present time about nine-tenths of the original civil suits at law and three-fourths of all magisterial proceedings are before native Indian judges, while the local administration of provinces and municipalities is chiefly in the hands of natives, partly elected and partly appointed.

Financial and industrial progress has been enormous. The foreign trade of India has increased from less than $200,000,000 to considerably more than $1,000,000,000 a year. Railroads have grown from 300 to 31,000 miles, passengers from 2,000,000 to 330,000,000, and freight from 253,000 to 64,000,000 tons. The railway service employs 525,000 persons, of whom more than 508,000 are Indians. The number of postoffices has increased from 750 to 70,000, the miles of telegraph from 3,000 to 270,000, and the savings banks, which did not exist before, now number 8,000, with 1,200,000 depositors and $50,000,000 deposits.

It might naturally be assumed that with all this political and material progress there had been advancement in the general condition of the people and their standard of life, and investigation abundantly proves that assumption to be justified. The population is steadily increasing, and vastly improved provision is now made for the care of the sick, aged and otherwise helpless. The average Indians, including artisans and ryots, live to-day in better houses better furnished, wear better clothes, eat better food, buy more luxuries and enjoy generally a perceptibly higher standard of life than did their fathers fifty years ago. They doubtless also acquire more wealth, for in these fifty years the absorption of gold and silver by India, largely for hoarding by the people, has been at the rate of $42,000,000 a year, while in the twenty years before the mutiny it was at the rate of less than $12,000,000 a year.

It may be that the problem of Indian government has as yet only begun to be solved. Beyond doubt there is a vast deal to be done for the improvement of the condition of the masses of the people. But when we compare the condition of the empire under the Moguls with that under the British Company, and then that under the company with that under the crown, it must be cheerfully testified that extraordinary advancement has been made, of a character and to an extent in the highest degree creditable to the power by which it has been achieved.

CATERERS' RESPONSIBILITY.

Mention has already been made in our columns of the suit recently brought against a restaurant keeper at Chatham, England, for serving oysters which were contaminated with typhoid germs and the eating of which was followed by disastrous consequences. In several particulars the case was of much interest to Americans as well as to Englishmen, since similar occurrences are by no means unknown in this country.

Two naval officers dined at the restaurant and ate oysters. Soon afterward they were both taken ill with what appeared to be ptomaine poisoning, but recovered. Later both were stricken with typhoid fever in an acute form. One of them died and the other was dangerously ill for a long time, but finally recovered. His protracted illness prevented him, however, from accepting the offer of an important promotion and compelled him to remain on half pay for about a year. On regaining his health he brought suit against the proprietor of the restaurant for indemnification for the losses which he had suffered.

It was shown that the oysters had been taken from the River Medway, which is a recipient of sewage; that various cases of typhoid at Chatham had been attributed to the eating of oysters from the river, and that an official warning had been issued against the further use of them a month before they were served to the plaintiff. A physician testified that in his opinion the oysters were the bearers of the infection in this case. It was, he said, well established that oysters could convey typhoid, the germs being, however, not in the oyster itself, but in the fluid which was lodged in its gills. The presence of contaminating sewage did not affect the health, appearance, smell or flavor of the oysters, some of the finest containing the germs; but it was possible to make the oysters innocuous by thorough washing.

The jury found that the plaintiff contracted the disease from the oysters, that he had relied upon the defendant to supply him with good food, that the defendant did not exercise reasonable and proper care in procuring and serving the food, but was guilty of negligence, and that therefore the plaintiff was entitled to damages in the sum of $500 in addition to $830 for the expenses of his illness. That judgment was accordingly entered by the court.

This verdict in fixing the blame upon contaminated oysters, which had been taken from a sewage-fouled river, is not novel, but is of interest for its cumulative authority, particularly in this country, where it is a not uncommon practice not only to take oysters from such waters, but also to expose clean oysters to fouling by deliberately laying them down in such waters for a time just before marketing them. But more novel and more important was the establishment of the caterer's responsibility for the character of the food which he served and for the results of eating it. Such responsibility to a certain extent has long been recognized, but not often, if ever, to quite so marked an extent as in this case. The justice of the principle is not, however, to be impeached, though, of course, like many other perfectly sound principles, it is susceptible of serious abuse. It is fitting that caterers should be mulcted when they knowingly or negligently serve unsound food. But it would be a hardship to have suits brought and damages collected for all cases of illness which followed eating at a hotel, and which the gluttonous or dyspeptic sufferer might attribute to the food rather than to his own indiscretion.

CAUSES OF LAWLESSNESS.

There is doubtless much truth in General Bingham's diagnosis of the origin of that popular lawlessness which is commonly and without injustice imputed to Americans. It is not meant that Americans are as a rule lawbreakers. But far too many of them in all walks of life fail to regard the law with the respect to which it is entitled. They evade it when it suits their convenience or profit to do so and when they can do so safely. They ignore it. They look upon it with a certain degree of contempt. And when they obey it they do so not because it is the law, *per se*, but rather because compliance is just as convenient and profitable as disobedience, or because any other course seems unsafe.

General Bingham's theory that this is partly due to the character and practices of some of those who are charged with the administration of the law is reasonable. If a judge is perceived to be corrupt men will have little respect for his judgments. If a prosecuting officer shows partiality among those whom he should arraign for law-breaking he brings the machinery of law enforcement into suspicion and contempt. The policeman who takes a bribe, levies blackmail or pilfers the fruit stall at the street corner sets an example of lawlessness which is sure to be imitated in great things as well as small. It is unhappily undeniable that a considerable amount of malfeasance of one sort or another is practised by public officers of the law. It is only human nature that it should have its effect in the diffusion of a lawless spirit among the people.

This is not, however, the whole of the indictment. General Bingham also attributes the prevalence of the lawless spirit to the pernicious example of respectable and personally law-abiding citizens who neglect, through indolence or otherwise, to seek the enforcement of the law when they see it violated. It may be that this is a more fruitful inspiration of lawlessness than the other. There is little question that a large part of the law-breaking which occurs in business, in "high finance," could never occur or would be promptly exposed and punished if only the honest men in the same businesses were aggressively as well as passively honest and were as prompt and resolute in checking irregular practices by their associates as they would be in handing over to the police an office boy who was caught pilfering the till or a burglar who was drilling into the safe.

So the minor instances of law-breaking which so greatly annoy and injure the public and bring reproach upon the city, particularly the breaches of order and of sanitary regulations which discredit our public transportation lines, would soon be suppressed if only every respectable citizen who sees them would put himself to the trouble of doing his share to enforce the law. Once in a month or so some public spirited citizen does arrest or procure the arrest of an offensive lawbreaker in a subway train or elsewhere and at the cost of a little time and some personal inconvenience has him suitably punished. But for every one who does this there are scores who diligently look the other way when the law is broken, erroneously regarding it as none of their business and wishing not to be bothered with it.

And so, after all, this argument moves in a circle and brings us back to the people themselves as the real lawbreakers. For the people are responsible for the unfaithful administrators in the first complaint and even more directly for the complacent or cowardly winking at lawbreaking in the second. What is needed is that every citizen should realize in a practical way that in a government of the people by the people the enforcement of law is the direct personal business of every member of the community. For a citizen to ignore law-breaking on the ground that it is the business of the police or the District Attorney is as illogical as it would be for a householder to ignore a fire or a trespasser on the ground that he hires his servants to take care of the property.

Santa Claus was a little premature with Dr. Cook.

Noble ambition is like a lamp that shines brightly. Mr. Gaynor might read to Murphy in a haughty voice (from Epictetus, needless to say): "The reason why I lost my lamp was that the thief was superior to me in vigilance. He paid, however, this price for the lamp, that in exchange for it he consented to become a thief; in exchange for it to become faithless." Having read, let Mr. Gaynor say, "Commissioner, you will never get my lamp, for, as you well know, 'doulos Epiktetos genomen kai som' anaperes,' etc.—and what he could stand I can stand, and I will 'tread this earth' as he did rather than let go my lamp."—The New York Evening Journal.

Murphy would say: "I don't want your lamp. It's your goat I'm after." What sayeth "doulos Epiktetos" about goats?

It is evident that Commander Peary had authority for his swift and emphatic denunciation of Dr. Cook. The opinion will prevail, nevertheless, that he could have afforded to wait.

Judge Gaynor asks if things have got to the pass where waste baskets must be guarded from newspaper thieves. That branch of the question of letters purloined and published may be worthy of discussion, but we surmise that the community is more concerned just now to know what the Mayor-elect thinks of those who wrote and received the letters referred to.

It has been doubtful for a good while if the investigation for which Secretary Ballinger has asked and to which the President has assented could be indefinitely averted. It is far better to have all the facts ascertained and impartially set forth than to let partisans run a free course with half facts and interested deductions.

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

In speaking of the telephone possibilities George W. Peck, manager of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, said that a "telephone newspaper" established at Budapest was doing a flourishing business. It is called the "Telefon Hirmondo," has 6,200 subscribers who pay $7.50 a year, and in return receive "the news" at certain periods of the day. The "stentors" who furnish the news items are persons of strong, clear voice and have a clear enunciation. The issue begins at 10:30 a. m. and ends about 10:30 p. m., unless a concert or some late happening is to be reported. Stock Exchange reports reach the subscribers several hours ahead of the evening papers, and for those subscribers who have missed the earlier calls a résumé of the news is given at 1:30 and at 6 p. m. According to the published statements, there are "concerts from 5 to 6, varied by literary criticisms, sporting news, etc. On Sundays the news is reported only from 11 to 11:30 a. m. and concerts from 4:30 to 6 p. m. On Thursday evening at 6 there is a concert for children."

WAR CRY OF TAMMANY'S BRAVES.

Perhaps we'll lose our jobs next year
by Gaynor's eccentricity,
But we are not the sort to fear
The horrors of mendicity.
By gum!
There's nothing bum
About the way
We can make things pay!
And, say,
When we do have to cut the job,
By kindness or mandamuses,
We'll start a correspondence school
And skin the ignoramuses.
See?

W. J. LAMPTON.

When the German Emperor visited Prince Henckel-Donnersmarck at his home, Castle Rendeck, recently, says the "Kattowitzer Zeitung," he gave his host a photographic portrait. This was after dinner, when the men were lounging over their coffee and cigars. Governor Von Schwerin said that the picture would be still more valuable if it bore an autograph, and the Emperor, saying that he never shirked a duty, wrote: "Nemo me impune lacessit" under the picture. It was not the first time that he had made use of the motto of Scotland—"No one wounds me with impunity"—in that way. In 1897 the Minister of Justice, Friedenthal, celebrated his seventieth birthday, but modestly refrained from letting the Emperor know the date. After the event the Emperor sent his congratulations and a portrait bearing the same Latin inscription. The people at Rendeck are wondering who did the "wounding."

"Nobody listens to advice."
"You're wrong. One fellow always does?"
"Who's that?"
"The fellow who's giving it."—Cleveland Leader.

At the recent election in Johannesburg, Africa, Harry Graumann was chosen mayor of the city. Writing to an English paper a correspondent says: "Mr. Graumann is a young and deservedly popular man, a leader in the industrial world and the first Jew to receive the high distinction."

"Civilization," remarked the cannibal king, "promotes some strange ideas."
"To whom do you especially refer?" inquired the missionary.
"Among you the ultimate consumer is regarded with sympathy. Here he is considered very lucky."—Washington Star.

"When one speaks of a 'Chinese quarter' in our country," writes an American from Germany, "he has districts like those of San Francisco or New York in mind, where houses are crowded with 'chinks' in the dress of their country, where there are queer looking and bad smelling shops and where the strange people, the red signs and the un-American atmosphere make one uncomfortable. In Berlin the small Chinese quarter near the Lehrter railway station is made up of young men who, with few exceptions, dress like their German neighbors. They have a club, learn German more readily than our Chinese learn English, and are not laundrymen, but mostly stone cutters."

Lady (who has been shown over one of the ships, to sailor who has been her guide)—What a pity gratuities are forbidden on your ship!
Sailor—So was apples, mum, in the Garden of Eden.—London Opinion.

A little girl of four who attended the kindergarten was asked what they did at school. She replied: "They call our names, and if we are there we say 'Present,' but if we are not there we say 'abscess.'"

Kind Old Gentleman—Here, here, little boy; what are you crying about?
Ragged Little Boy (between sobs)—'Cos a women went along here a while ago and she sed she was sorry I was poor, but if I'd just think I had a big Christmas dinner, 'twould be just the same's though I did. So I thought out the bulliest dinner and I et everything I wanted, an' now I can't make my thinker stop, and, oh, gee! I've got such awful pains.—Chicago Record-Herald.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

PENNIES IN SAVINGS BANKS.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: I notice in one of the papers this morning a story about a woman who had laboriously saved one thousand pennies and who tried to deposit them in various savings banks throughout New York City. According to her story, she found no bank that was willing to receive this deposit. I would like to say on behalf of the Maiden Lane Savings Bank, of which I am president, that these pennies were not presented to that bank.

It is our theory that a savings bank is run for the convenience of the people and not for the comfort of its clerks and officers. Two of our expert cashiers could have handled one thousand pennies in fifteen minutes, and we are ready to go to this amount of trouble at any time to take care of any one who wishes to become a depositor with us. We are trying to obliterate entirely the idea that the officers and clerks in a savings bank have a right to treat their depositors to suit themselves and to put them to every possible inconvenience.

Our bank is located at the corner of Broadway and Maiden Lane, and we know that we are dealing with clerks, whose time is important not only to themselves but to their employers, and it is our effort to enable them to transact their business and get away from the bank as quickly as possible. We believe that we gain by making it easy for them both to deposit money and to withdraw it.

LOUIS WINDMULLER, President.
New York, Dec. 21, 1909.

ASKS HELP FOR NEGRO SCHOOL.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: The Slater Industrial School, located at Winston-Salem, N. C., is one of the most important schools for colored people in the entire South. Its influence has eliminated every vestige of race friction in that vicinity.

The institution is not an experiment, but a splendid reality. The land, buildings, appliances, etc., cost $50,000. The state officials, seeing the salutary effect upon the colored people, have offered the school $12,000, provided the trustees raise the same amount. With $24,000 cash in hand, the capacity of the school will be doubled, as the colored people will do much of the manual labor free. Thus, every dollar given now will multiply four times when it becomes bricks and mortar.

It is totally impossible for the trustees to raise the $12,000, as they have taxed themselves to the extreme limit to build the institution up to what it is to-day. It would be a calamity, and a sad one, to the school, to fail to meet the generous offer of the state.

As the educating and uplifting of the negro is the only solution of the race problem, I hope all who read this letter will feel it a duty to send a small contribution, say $2, to the treasurer of the school, Mr. William A. Blair, care of the People's National Bank, Winston-Salem, N. C., in order that the $12,000 may be raised and the capacity of the school more than doubled.

JOSEPH P. RAWLEY.
New York, Dec. 17, 1909.

SUGGESTIVE POSTCARDS.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Immoral postcards and photographs have been boldly distributed in the last few years in all parts of the country. There is no town or city in the land where you cannot find cards sold openly on most suggestive and vulgar lines. If the police do not take it up in the small towns I should think it would be the clergymen's place to investigate all stores where these cards are sold.

CANADIAN.
Halifax, N. S., Dec. 18, 1909.

PESSIMIST IN BUSINESS ETHICS.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: At the meeting held at Clinton Hall recently, Messrs. Page, Wise and Seligman made speeches in which they enunciated principles worthy of high praise. It would be quite an improvement to have them applied more broadly and oftener in the commercial world.

The rich and powerful take advantage, when contesting at law or otherwise, of the helpless and resourceless. Self abnegation seldom goes so far as to consider the question of equity or justice to the helpless.

If merchants, bankers, etc., are careful of their reputations in transactions which must of necessity be made public, are they as careful in cases where the obscure person is concerned?

Teaching honesty is highly praiseworthy. A good reputation is a very good thing, but we have seen many good reputations vanish rapidly, many of them proving to be only a thin veneer for injustice and actual dishonesty.

HONEST FAIR PLAY.
New York, Dec. 20, 1909.

CONGRESS AND INAUGURATION.

From The Jamestown Post.

If the date of the inauguration of the President should be changed from March 4 to April 30, as now proposed, the time of the convening of Congress should also be changed from early December to January and provision made for the assembling of a Congress in two months after its election, instead of thirteen, as now. Little or nothing is ordinarily done before the holiday recess.

THE "MISFORTUNATE" MURPHY.

From The Rochester Democrat and Chronicle.

Leader Murphy of Tammany appears to have lost more prestige by permitting his letters to fall into the hands of his arch enemy, Mr. Hearst, than he did through the defeat of most of his ticket at the last election. It belonged in that class of blunders which have been described as worse than crimes.

TWO KENTUCKY COLONELS.

From The Hartford Courant.

There are at least two Kentucky colonels who see in the political activity of the South's prohibition preachers a most un-Democratic and portentous encroachment of the Church upon the domain of the State. One is Colonel Henry Watterson, who has been copiously eloquent on the subject in his newspaper. The other is Colonel "Jack" Chinn, who considers the knife more dependable than the pistol, and who was walking with the late William Goebel when the lurking hillman's bullet found its billet. Colonel Chinn is a legislator now, and he has advertised his purpose to introduce at the coming session of the General Assembly a bill making it a misdemeanor to discuss "political issues" in any house of worship. There will be ructions in the old state house at Frankfort when the Chinn bill makes its appearance there.

TOO SUGGESTIVE.

From The Troy Press.

"The Watertown Times" wants that city to be a convention centre. Name is against it.

AFTER "SWEARING OFF."

From The Minneapolis Journal.

One learns more metaphysics from a single temptation than from all the philosophers, says Lowell. This may come in handy ten days after you have sworn off.

People and Social Incidents

AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, Dec. 21.—The President attended the Cabinet meeting this morning, conferred with Special Ambassador Creel in the library of the White House this afternoon, held a conference with the Secretary of State and received the new Chinese Minister.

Senator Scott discussed West Virginia affairs with the President, introducing Major Charles D. Elliott, United States marshal for the northeastern district.

The President signed a number of papers from the State Department this afternoon, among them the recall of Ambassador White and the credentials of the ambassadors and ministers confirmed to-day.

The President received Chang Yin-tang, the new Chinese Minister, in the Blue Room. The minister was accompanied by the retiring minister, Wu Ting-fang. The President was assisted in receiving by the Secretary of State and Captain Archibald W. Butt. He bade Minister Wu farewell.

The President's callers included Speaker Cannon, Senators Scott, Gore and Rayner and Representatives Payne, Burleson and Calderhead.

Miss Helen Taft joined her parents and her two brothers at the White House to-day, and will remain until after the new year. She will carry out Mrs. Taft's idea of keeping her social engagements outside of the White House while here.

There will be no Christmas tree at the White House this year, but a profuse distribution of holly and other Christmas decorations. Interest on Christmas morning will centre in the library, on the second floor of the house, where gifts will be distributed.

President Taft and members of his family are beginning to receive Christmas presents from all over the country. Many of these come from friends and relatives, but a large proportion of them are from admirers the President has never seen. Two big packages which arrived by express yesterday turned out to be rather crude oil paintings. One was a bust of the President and the other was a full length group picture of the President's family. They were the work of a young Italian in New York.

THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, Dec. 21.—The Austrian Ambassador and Baroness Hengelmüller will follow their usual custom and unveil a Christmas tree at the embassy Friday afternoon and evening, when Baroness Mila Hengelmüller will entertain her young friends.

The French Ambassador and Mme. Jusserand entertained at dinner to-night at the embassy the Attorney General, Henry White, former Ambassador to France; Prince Koudacheff, Russian first secretary; M. Enlart, director of the Trocadéro Museum in Paris; the librarian of Congress and Mrs. Putnam, Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Emmons, Mrs. Merrill, Mrs. Shepard, Miss Lucy Kean, Miss Elizabeth Kean, Miss MacVeagh, Count and Countess de Chambrun, John B. Henderson, jr., M. de Peretti de la Rocca, first secretary, and M. Tailhand, third secretary, of the French embassy staff.

The Swiss Minister and Mme. Ritter had to dine with them at the legation to-night the British military attaché and the Hon. Mrs. Bernard James, the Japanese Counsellor and Mme. Matsui, the French naval attaché and Viscountess Benoist d'Azy, Mrs. Joseph Hobson, Mrs. Norman Williams, Mrs. Churchill Candee, Miss Kinen, of Paris, Baron Demeter Hye, Austrian second secretary Mr. Skybak, Norwegian secretary, and Mr. Martin, Swiss secretary.

The Swedish Minister and Mme. de Lagercrantz are among the diplomats invited to join the large house party at the home of Senator du Pont for the Christmas holidays.

Mr. von Prittwitz und Gaffron, German attaché, will leave Washington after the new year and sail on January 4 for Germany.

A. Rustem Bey, Turkish Chargé d'Affaires, has issued invitations for a dinner at the embassy for January 14 in honor of the British Ambassador and Mrs. Bryce. He has also issued invitations for a dance at the embassy on January 24.

IN WASHINGTON SOCIETY.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, Dec. 21.—Mrs. Sherman, wife of the Vice-President, will leave Washington to-morrow morning for her home, in Utica, N. Y., where she will be joined later in the week by the Vice-President for the Christmas holidays.

The Vice-President and Mrs. Sherman were the guests of honor at a dinner this evening, with Mrs. L. Z. Leiter as hostess. Mrs. Leiter's other guests were the Secretary of the Interior and Mrs. Ballinger, Justice and Mrs. Oliver Wendell Holmes, Senator and Mrs. Aldrich, Senator and Mrs. Root, Senator Burton, Mrs. Henderson, of London; Brigadier General and Mrs. Clarence R. Edwards, Colonel and Mrs. John R. Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Leiter, Miss Kean, Major General J. Franklin Bell and Brigadier General O. H. Ernst.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Cleveland Perkins entertained a number of guests at dinner to-night to meet the Swedish Minister and Mme. de Lagercrantz.

The Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Roland Cotton Smith have issued invitations for a dinner to be given in honor of Miss Helen Taft on January 3, for their debutante daughter, Miss Margaret Cotton Smith.

Mrs. Richard Harlan entertained guests at luncheon to-day to meet Miss Putnam. In the party were Miss Nabuco, Miss Marjorie Bryce, of London; Miss Frances Noyes, Miss Margaret Wing, Miss Oliver, Miss Alice Boutell, Miss Martha Bowers, Miss Morgan, Miss Smith and Miss Maud Conrad.

Miss Cannon, daughter of the Speaker, left here to-day to spend the holidays in Danville, Ill.

Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Legare entertained guests at dinner to-night. Mrs. T. N. Page received several hundred guests at a tea this afternoon and Mrs. Philip Sheridan was among the hostesses entertaining luncheon parties.

Miss Maud Merriam invited guests to meet at a tea this afternoon Mrs. William Sidney Graves, wife of Captain Graves, U. S. A.

NEW YORK SOCIETY.

Mrs. Richard Stevens's dinner dance at the St. Regis occupied a conspicuous place on yesterday's programme of society. Dinner was served at six tables in the ballroom, which was decorated with holly and mistletoe. There were sixty-eight at dinner, and about half a hundred guests came in afterward for the dancing, a feature of the cotillion, led by Phœnix Ingraham, with the hostess, being two Christmas trees ablaze with light, which were hung with stockings containing souvenirs for the dancers, and favors comprising silver pencil cases, pocket knives, green silk parasols, vanity outfits, powder boxes and the like. The cotillion was followed by supper. Among those present were Mr. and Mrs. John R. Drexel, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Payne Whitney, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Goelet, Mr. and Mrs. Goodhue Livingston, Mr. and Mrs. J. Norman de R. Whitehouse, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Dana Gibson, Mr. and Mrs. Pembroke Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Cushing, Mr. and Mrs. Archibald S. Alexander, Mr. and Mrs. J. Gordon Douglas, Mr. and Mrs. William Earle Dodge, Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Oakley Rhinelander, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick H. Allen, Mr. and Mrs. Austen Gray, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Larocque, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Widener, Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Randolph, Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Gould Jennings, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence H. Mackay, Mr. and Mrs. Everett Colby, Mrs. Belmont Tiffany, Mrs. William K. Vanderbilt, jr., Mrs. Charles H. Marshall, Mrs. Sidney Dillon Ripley, Mrs. James B. Haggin, Miss Mabel Gerry, Miss Anna Sands, Miss Harriot Daly, Miss Marjorie Gould, Peter Goelet Gerry, Robert Walton Goelet, Lispenard Stewart, Devereaux Milburn, Ashbel H. Barney, Theodosius F. Stevens, Gordon Fellowes, Thomas Slidell, Lloyd Warren, Worthington Whitehouse, Louis Biddle, of Philadelphia; Stephen Elkins, jr., Charles A. Munn, Thomas Ridgeway, Clement Newbold, of Philadelphia; Vicomte de Perigny and Comte de Tallyrand Perigord.

Mrs. Charles S. Guthrie gave a theatre party last night for her niece, Miss Eleanor Lamson, the debutante daughter of Mrs. John L. Lamson. She took her guests to the Knickerbocker Theatre and afterward to Sherry's for supper and informal dancing. In the party were Miss Helen Alexandre, Miss Laura V. Webb, Miss