THE DRAMA

"The Commanding Officer" at the Savoy Theatre.

The mischief that can be done by virtuous persons is sometimes parallelled, both in life and in melodrama, by the deeds of the vicious. The Savoy melodrama illustrates this ancient but unpopular truth. The Savoy melodrama, like the rose, would remain unchanged were its name altered. Its name is "The Commanding Officer," but the play is less about that sturdy soldier and gentleman than about his wife and sundry other persons. Colonel Archer exists to point morals and adorn tales of woe. He is one of the tyrannically virtuous folk who wreck hearths, hearts and homes with as little remorse as ever was known by vicious tyrants of history and this morning's news.

The overpowering colonel has a tiff with his wife. He goes away for a month, during which relaxing period the lady, who is much his junior, flirts with a former suitor, who is by no means the villain of the piece. The villain is an amateur photographer. He is also a lieutenant in Colonel Archer's regiment. The lieutenant snapshots the lady and the lover in a most engaging moment. The lover, Brent Lindsay, cannot, of course, be entirely a saintly person, because he owns a mine, but he will pass in a crowd of the merely respectable. The lieutenant attempts to blackmail Mr. Lindsay, who makes an offer of $2,000 for the film of the snapshot. The film is to be delivered at Mr. Lindsay's apartments at 2 o'clock in the morning. And, as usual in melodrama, the colonel's wife undertakes to go there for it at the same hour. Then, of course, the complications which ever accompany such cases set in with vigor, and the colonel returns to his post and home just in time to find his rude and innocent Western world overturned by murder, scandal and intricate misunderstanding. There is the usual melodramatic blindness of all the good persons. These latter are unable to see through the hole in a millstone when the sun shines steadily upon that chiselled space. The hero, another lieutenant, is arrested for the murder of Lindsay; the reputation of the ingenue is taken in vain, and the wife is suspected far beyond her undeserving. It all comes out right in the end, and everybody lives happily, it may be supposed, ever after, not excepting the murderer, that amateur-photographing, blackmailing and lying lieutenant first mentioned. For by a curious code of ethics and a novel perversion of military law, the officers of the regiment let this cheerful knave resign and go scot free after they have discovered his villanies. They even bribe the sheriff.

Mr. Theodore Burt Sayre, who is responsible for the authorship of this vivid presentation of the verities of civil life and military probability, is probably quite unabashed, since his audiences appear to find entertainment and solace in his handiwork. If his notions of justice are less severe than those of the melodramatists of a happier and less sophisticated period, who shall chide him? It is quite the thing nowadays to set up new "schools" of this and that, and it may be that Mr. Sayre is working his way toward a "school" of drama which shall let the galled jades go free and the innocent bear the burdens. His villain, if not triumphant, does not make villany unattractive, and his virtuous folk, if severely tried, are as trying as they can be and still retain the sympathy of this great and good world. This melodrama does not quicken the pulses. It leaves the beholder as cool as the Nevada mountain tops, near which the action is supposed to shape itself. The acting is entirely worthy of the playwright's four acts. A. W.

CAST OF "THE COMMANDING OFFICER."

Colonel Richard Archer	Charles Millward
Major Abner Bingham	Frederick Watson
Lieutenant Waring	Robert T. Haines
Lieutenant Hammond	Edward Martindel
Lieutenant Billings	John Junior
Dr. O'Connell	George Riddell
Brent Lindsay	Charles Lane
Sheriff Baker	George C. Staley
Floyd Carroll	Isabel Irving
Belle Archer	Gertrude Dallas
Mrs. Bingham	Rosa Rand
Gwendolen Bingham	Phyllis Sherwood
Mary	Edna Bern

"INGOMAR" FOR LINCOLN FUND.

Miss Taliaferro and William Farnum Will Head Cast.

Miss Mabel Taliaferro, William Farnum and a capable cast will give a special performance of "Ingomar" at the Liberty Theatre, at 2:15 p. m. to-day, under the auspices of the New York committee of the Lincoln Farm Association. Miss Taliaferro will play Parthenia and Mr. Farnum Ingomar.

August Belmont, Otto H. Kahn, Henry Phipps, Isaac N. Seligman, Frank A. Vanderlip, William G. McAdoo, Mrs. William Bayard Cutting, Archer M. Huntington, Mrs. R. Fulton Cutting, Miss Clementina Furniss, Mrs. Paul Morton and Mrs. Pierre Lorillard are among the subscribers.

The entire gross receipts will go to the fund for the erection of Lincoln Memorial Hall, which is now in process of construction at Lincoln's birthplace, Hodgenville, Ky.

BESSIE DE VOIE FOR VAUDEVILLE.

Miss Bessie De Voie, whose suit against Frank Gould for $250,000 heart's ease is still pending, is about to enter vaudeville. She will appear at Hammerstein's Victoria Theatre next week.

THEATRE MANAGER LOSES.

Justice Dowling decided yesterday, in the action brought by W. N. Lawrence, manager of the Comedy Theatre, against the Shubert Theatrical Company that the latter, on the payment of $2,500 to the plaintiff, may sublet the theatre to F. Ray Comstock. It was shown that the contract stipulated that upon such payment the Shuberts could at any time take the theatre from Lawrence's management.

THEATRICAL NOTES.

Frank Daniels will end his engagement at Daly's Theatre in "The Belle of Brittary" on January 8. On January 10 he will be followed by Marguerite Clark and William Morris in "The King of Cadonia," an English musical comedy by Frederick Sourdale, Adrian Ross and Sidney Jones.

A benefit vaudeville performance will be given at the New York Theatre this afternoon in aid of the Technical Trade School for Girls, which is situated at Second avenue and 15th street.

Miss Lulu Glaser will be seen shortly in her new musical comedy, "One of the Boys." She will be supported by a cast including Jobyna Howland, Edith Sinclair, Walter Lawrence, Edward Favor, Arthur Cunningham, George H. Graham, William Glaser, Doris Mitchell, Irene Friselle and Almenore Francis.

Burton Holmes will give a series of travelogues at Carnegie Hall on Sunday evenings, at 8:30 o'clock, beginning December 16, and at the Lyceum Theatre on Mondays and Tuesdays at 3 p. m., beginning on January 17 and 18. His subjects will include Ceylon, Egypt, Sicily, Naples and Norway.

The 250th performance of "Cameo Kirby," here and elsewhere, will be celebrated at the Hackett Theatre in January by the presentation of cameos to the audience by Dustin Farnum and Miss May Buckley, who have the leading parts in the play.

"The Chocolate Soldier," which is in its eighteenth week in New York, broke all Casino records for a Wednesday matinee yesterday. Every seat and every box in the entire auditorium was sold, and the standing room was occupied to the limit of the legal regulations.

George Feydeau's rollicking farce "Der Floh im Ohr" ("The Flea in the Ear") will be played for the first time at the Irving Place Theatre to-night. The fairy play "The Little Wonder Tree" will be presented every afternoon this week.

LITTLE THEATREGOERS PLEASED

Musical Setting of Fairy Drama "Cinderella" a Big Drawing Card.

The holiday performances of "Cinderella," which are being given daily at 3 p. m. and 8:30 p. m. in the Carnegie Lyceum, under the management of Edward E. Rice, are drawing crowds of children daily. The play consists of the fairy drama set to music, and a series of tableaus called "Enchantment," a lighting illusion produced by the use of a large mirror.

The little ones follow closely the adventures of the tiny household drudge, whose part is played daintily by Miss Isabel Daintry. They laugh heartily at the antics of the quaint George Fortescue, who impersonates Chlorinda, the wicked sister. Jeanette Lowrie as Prince Charming, Lela Thompson as Thisbe, Lila Blow as the Fairy Godmother, Walter Perkins as the Baron and Blanche Homans as Dandini, come fully up to their expectations.

For the occasion Mr. Rice has renamed Carnegie Lyceum "The Young Folks Theatre." If the play is a success Mr. Rice will establish a permanent playhouse in New York for children.

DUSKY LULU A RIBBON CAT.

White Aigrette Also Gets the Blue at Show in Garden.

All aisles in the Madison Square Garden led to the concert hall yesterday and last night, for the eighth annual show of the Atlantic Cat Club opened at 11 o'clock in the morning, and the poultry and pet stock that are being shown throughout the remainder of the Garden became for a time a secondary attraction. The exhibition will remain open until to-morrow night, although the poultry show stays a day longer.

The first class judged, that for female white cats with blue eyes, was one of the most important in the show. Miss Hopkins's White Aigrette received the blue, and second and third went respectively to Miss Marion Johnson's Chorus Girl and Mrs. J. R. Kroeh's Magnolia II. Lady Blakeney, entered by Miss A. L. Pollard, was not in form for even a fourth prize, which was not awarded.

Of the male white cats with yellow eyes, Miss Pollard's Champion White Monk was first, and the second went to Miss Johnson's Fame. Of the novices in this class Miss Helen M. De Veau's Togo got first and Miss Pollard's Rothwell second. Miss Lottie M. Conger's Wilful Enid was the only entry in the class for female black cats and got a blue. For black males (novice) the second award went to Miss Ella Von Benthuysen's Rastus. No first prize was awarded in this class.

Dusky Lulu, whose owner's name is withheld, took first in the class for black females (novice). Second went to Miss Van Benthuysen's Dusky Bell. The male smokes were in good numbers and quality, and made an interesting class. Champion Kewlock II, entered by Mrs. Otto, took the blue ribbon, and second and third were given to the same owner's Kewey and Watershio Cæsar, entered by Mrs. George Pool.

DINNER FOR MAYOR-ELECT.

Guest with Mrs. Gaynor at Home of Martin W. Littleton.

Mayor-elect and Mrs. William J. Gaynor were guests of honor at a dinner given by Mr. and Mrs. Martin W. Littleton last night at their home, No. 113 East 57th street. Other guests were Miss Anne Morgan, Mrs. Annan Bryce, Miss de Wolf, Dr. and Mrs. John Huston Finley, Chief Judge Edgar M. Cullen, of the Court of Appeals; Richard Stanchfield and Job E. Hedges. Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Carnegie had been invited, but could not attend, owing to Mr. Carnegie's injury.

Mrs. Littleton gave a luncheon for Mrs. Gaynor yesterday afternoon, at which were Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont, Miss Morgan, Miss Bryce and Miss Green.

Judge Gaynor sent word out to the reporters last night that he had been receiving much good advice from the ladies about making up his cabinet and had almost decided to appoint Judge Cullen as Corporation Counsel.

GENERAL JAMES JOURDAN ILL.

President of Brooklyn Union Gas Company Suffers Nervous Break-Down.

General James Jourdan, president of the Brooklyn Union Gas Company, is confined to his home, No. 174 Washington Park, Brooklyn, suffering from a nervous breakdown. His condition was aggravated by the death of his daughter, Mrs. Frederick W. Budd, whose funeral took place on Tuesday. The general was unable to attend.

General Jourdan, besides holding the presidency of the gas company, is a director of the Union Ferry Company, the East River Gas Company, the Century Realty Company, the Interborough Rapid Transit Company, the New York and New Jersey Telephone Company, the People's Trust, the Rapid Transit Subway Construction Company and the Subway Realty Company.

TO URGE SCHOOL NEEDS ON BOARD

The executive committee of the Board of Education resolved yesterday to present to the incoming Board of Estimate and Apportionment a statement of the needs of the public schools, in view of the veto by the Mayor on Tuesday of an appropriation amounting to $6,699,000.

General George W. Wingate said at the meeting of the board that the action of the Mayor would practically make stationary the building operations of the department, and that unless summary action were taken by the new administration a most serious result to the children of the city would promptly ensue.

HOMER DAVENPORT HAS RELAPSE.

San Diego, Cal., Dec. 29.—Homer Davenport, the cartoonist, who is seriously ill at the home of A. G. Spalding, at Point Loma, rallied during the night, but suffered a relapse to-day. His condition is critical. Some months ago Mrs. Davenport instituted suit for divorce, and got an award of $400 a month alimony for herself and three children pending trial of the case.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS A PASTOR.

The twenty-fifth anniversary of the ordination of the Rev. Dr. Lorenzo Mason Clarke, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Henry street, near Clarke, Brooklyn, was celebrated last evening in the lecture room of the church. Dr. Clarke spoke to his congregation on "Twenty-five Years in the Ministry: A Review and a Meditation."

WHAT IS GOING ON TO-DAY.

Free admission to the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the American Museum of Natural History.

Annual meeting of the New York State Teachers' Association, Teachers College, morning and afternoon.

"Budget-making" luncheon of the Merchants' Association, No. 54 Lafayette street, 1 p. m.

Ernest Thompson Seton on "The Rudiments of Civilization Among Animals," at meeting of the Société des Beaux Arts, Waldorf-Astoria, 2 p. m.

Christmas festival of the New York Infant Asylum, Amsterdam avenue and 61st street, 4 p. m.

Lecture by the Rev. Henry S. Nash at meeting of Equal Franchise Society, Garden Theatre, 4 p. m.

Annual dinner of the Pottery, Glass and Brass Salesmen's Association, Hotel Astor, 7:30 p. m.

Annual Christmas festival for seafaring men, Old Mariners' Church, No. 46 Catherine street, 7:30 p. m.

Concert of the Harvard Glee Club, Waldorf-Astoria, 8:30 p. m.

PLAN BIG MEETING

FOR WAIST STRIKERS.

Rumors of Settlement Made and Quickly Denied.

Final preparations will be made this afternoon by the committee of arrangements, of which Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont is chairman, for the big mass meeting in Carnegie Hall on Sunday night to protest against the attitude of certain police magistrates and policemen toward the girl pickets of the striking waist makers who have been arrested. Mrs. Charles Beard, of the committee, said last evening:

"There will be many speakers at the meeting. Among those who up to date have agreed to speak are Martin W. Littleton, Miles M. Dawson and Miss Leonora O'Reilly. In our protest on Sunday night we will have specially in mind Magistrates Cornell and Barlow. We believe their sentences passed on the girl pickets were unduly severe and unfair, and competent lawyers will explain how pickets who were punished in the courts had only been exercising what we consider to be their legal rights. The girl pickets who served terms in the workhouse will be seated in the front row on the platform. The boxes will contain representatives of the societies under whose auspices the meeting of protest has been called.

There was more talk of a strike settlement yesterday. Mrs. Eva McDonald Valesh, the representative of the woman's organization aiding the strikers, said she had been called on by a representative of the Associated Waist and Dress Manufacturers, who proposed that the strikers draw up a statement of exactly what they wanted for consideration by the manufacturers.

I. B. Heyman, president of the manufacturers' association, said he believed Mrs. Valesh was mistaken, as no member of the association had any authority to make such a proposition. He also said there could be no further conferences with representatives of the strikers.

The strike leaders, however, called a secret meeting in Clinton Hall for the small hours of the morning, to prepare an amended proposal to be submitted to the employers. During the afternoon N. Behar, secretary of the Federation of Jewish Organizations, had a long interview with the executive committee of the manufacturers' association and urged another conference to end the strike. The manufacturers refused.

Marcus M. Marks, who, with John Mitchell, tried twice to bring about a settlement of the strike, was still of the opinion yesterday that another conference might be held. When seen at his home last evening he said:

"I have been represented as criticising the manufacturers, but that is a mistake. We are altogether neutral in the matter. I am still in touch with both sides, and hope for a settlement. Matters, I believe, are working in that direction. The whole dispute has now settled down to the question of what degree of union recognition would be acceptable to both sides. Mrs. Valesh was mistaken in taking the man who called on her, and who is a friend of the strikers, for a manufacturer."

INVADE EAST SIDE.

Mrs. Belmont Presides at Meeting of Suffragists.

Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont's campaign for "votes for women" on the East Side began last night with a crowded meeting at the Thomas Davidson Society's house, at No. 307 Henry street. An overflow meeting was held on the second floor.

Mrs. Belmont, who was the honorary chairman, was the centre of attraction. However, her only utterance was confined to an introduction of the speakers and the expressed hope that woman suffrage would be taken up by the East Side.

Miss Caroline Crossett, who is the daughter of the former president of the New York woman suffrage state organization, and Dr. Barton O. Aylesworth, of Colorado, were the principal speakers.

According to Dr. Aylesworth, the vote for women in Colorado has made the average annual wage for the women of that state $354, as against an average of $286 in other states.

The overflow meeting was addressed by Mrs. Mary Hanford Ford, of Kansas City, Mo., and Miss Bertha Ryshpan.

VASSAR GIRLS AID STRIKERS.

Wall Street Invaded for the Sales of Copies of a Newspaper.

Young women who have won honors at college mingled with striking waist girls yesterday in a picturesque plan of aiding the strikers by going through the streets and selling copies of a special issue of "The Daily Call," the entire proceeds of which are to be devoted to the aid of the striking waistmakers.

Each volunteer seller wore on the front of her dress a white placard with the words "30,000 Ladies' Waist Makers on Strike for Better Conditions." They trooped into Wall street, invaded the precincts of the curb brokers and sold copies at prices ranging from 5 cents to $1 each.

Miss Elsie LaG. Cole and Miss Elizabeth Dutcher, both Vassar graduates, went into the matter with great energy. Miss Cole sold copies from a truck in Wall street while Miss Dutcher sold copies in the New street section. Both of them went to the uptown sections also, Miss Dutcher in a taxicab and Miss Cole part of the way on a truck.

Yetta Goldberg and Sarah Schnirr, seventeen-year-old strikers, ventured into the office of J. Pierpont Morgan, and asked if they could see him. When they explained their business a clerk gave them a dollar for a copy.

It was thought last night that the sale of papers, in which 150 girls joined, including members of the Women's Trade Union League, will realize $2,000 or so for the strikers.

MISS PHELPS MAKES DEBUT.

Reception for Granddaughter of Former Minister to Germany.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Hackensack, N. J., Dec. 29.—Miss Dorothy Phelps, a daughter of Captain and Mrs. John J. Phelps, of Teaneck, and a granddaughter of the late William Walter Phelps, Minister to Germany, was the debutante at a reception given in her honor in the Armory Hall, Hackensack, this evening.

Among the New York guests present were Mr. and Mrs. John P. Bartlett, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Buel, Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Colgate, Mr. and Mrs. Royal Cortissoz, Mr. and Mrs. Grant Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. Harold King, Mr. and Mrs. A. Barton Hepburn, Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Hillard, George W. Johnston, Dwight Arven Jones, Walter Percy Knapp, E. W. Morse, Daniel Nason, Henry B. Platt, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Platt, Mr. and Mrs. Walter H. Page, Mr. and Mrs. Dudley Phelps, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Symington, Mr. and Mrs. George F. Trowbridge, Mr. and Mrs. John E. Wayland, Professor and Mrs. Ira H. Woolson and Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Isham.

WILL OF MRS. E. L. F. PRICE.

The will of Mrs. Emilie L. Fernandez Price, mother of Bijou Fernandez Abington, well known on the stage under her maiden name, was filed in the Surrogates' office yetserday. She leaves all her real property to her husband, Edward E. Price, and to her daughter in equal shares. Mrs. Abington receives all the residue of her mother's estate absolutely. The testatrix also asks her daughter to select and give to Louise Galloway and Agnes Morelle some personal memento as a token of her affection. Mrs. Price's estate is valued at $2,000 real estate and $1,000 in personal property.

MORGAN TO ENTERTAIN BISHOPS

Sherry Will Have Charge of Cincinnati House During Convention.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Cincinnati, Dec. 29.—Louis Sherry will, it developed to-day, have charge of Dalvay, the home of Alexander McDonald, when J. Pierpont Morgan comes to live in it for a week at the time of the convention of the Episcopal Church next October. Mr. Sherry was here last Sunday, and after an inspection of Dalvay, declared it to be one of the most splendidly appointed homes he had ever seen. He will bring with him a chef, a corps of cooks and a supply of foodstuffs. Mr. Morgan will entertain all the visiting bishops of the Church at the McDonald house.

Desiring a house in Cincinnati where he could entertain on a lavish scale, Mr. Morgan asked John D. Rockefeller to suggest one. Mr. Rockefeller named Dalvay, where he had been entertained, and Mr. Morgan then sent Mr. Sherry to inspect the house.

WINSTON CHURCHILL SAILS.

Will Spend Four Months in Europe and Egypt.

Winston Churchill, the American novelist and politician, sailed for Liverpool yesterday on the Cunard liner Lusitania. He will remain abroad four months. Mr. Churchill said he would go direct from Liverpool to Egypt, and spend some time in a leisurely journey along the Nile. After his visit to Africa he will make a tour of the European continent, spending more time in France and England than in the other countries.

The novelist said he had not had a vacation in seven years, as his time had been entirely taken up with writing and attention to politics in New Hampshire, where he lives. He said he was satisfied with what had been accomplished for a direct primary law. Mr. Churchill said he had begun work on a new novel dealing with American life, called "The Modern Chronicle."

HARVARD PLAYWRIGHT COURSE

Professor Baker Trying to Interest Wealthy Men in Project.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Boston, Dec. 29.—Professor George P. Baker, of Harvard, is trying to interest the wealthy men of the United States to found a department at Harvard for the teaching of the art of playwriting. Henry B. Harris, the theatrical man, has started the contributions with a subscription of $25,000.

Professor Baker is greatly interested in the publication of American plays. Edward Sheldon, the young Harvard man who wrote "Salvation Nell," was educated in Professor Baker's classes. The instructor will go to New York this week to interest wealthy men in his project.

MR. ROOSEVELT'S BIG PARTY.

It Has Travelled Fifty-four Miles Into the Jungle in Six Days.

Kampala, Uganda, Dec. 29.—A telephone message from Kabula Mliro, forty-six miles distant, states that the American expedition camped on Monday night at Katwe. Katwe is eight miles beyond Kabula Mliro. Colonel Roosevelt and the others of the party are well, and so far have not experienced rainy weather.

The hunters have covered fifty-four miles since leaving this place on December 23. The immediate objective point is Kisingo, fifteen miles from Katwe. As it left here the expedition was made up of seven white hunters and scientists, three hundred porters, seven tent boys, six skinners, five gun bearers, four grooms for the four mules and two cooks.

MODERN LANGUAGES USELESS.

Dr. Schurman Suggests Radical Change in College Curricula.

Ithaca, N. Y., Dec. 29.—"What is the use of retaining the study of German and French and other modern foreign languages? What are the grounds for maintaining them? If you exclude college and university teachers, probably not one in five hundred who have learned the languages will ever use them or could if they were called upon to do so."

President Jacob Gould Schurman of Cornell University suggested this radical change in college curricula, in speaking before the convention of the Modern Language Association of America here to-day.

THE WEATHER REPORT.

Official Record and Forecast.—Washington, Dec. 29.—A high pressure area that was over the plains states Tuesday night has developed eastward and southeastward over the great central valleys and the South, accompanied by a cold wave that covered the plains states, the Missouri and upper Mississippi and Ohio valleys and Tennessee Wednesday morning, extending during the day into the east Gulf and south Atlantic states and the lower lake region. Cold weather continued in the upper lake region, the middle Atlantic states and New England, and, taken as a whole, temperatures are to-night from 10 to 35 degrees below seasonal average from the plains states eastward.

Cold weather will continue Thursday and Friday in the Atlantic states, and on Thursday in the lake region, the Ohio and lower Mississippi valleys, followed by rising temperature Friday. In the upper Mississippi Valley and the plains states it will be warmer Thursday and Friday. The Northwestern low area will move southeastward, attended by snow Thursday or Thursday night in the Northwest, and by Friday in the Missouri and upper Mississippi valleys and the upper lake region. By Friday night there will probably be rain or snow in the Ohio Valley, and snow in the lower lake region. West of the Rocky Mountains the weather will be partly cloudy to cloudy with rain or snow over the northern districts. Storm warnings are displayed on the Atlantic coast from Jacksonville to Newport News, and on the north Pacific coast. Warnings of freezing temperature were ordered Wednesday morning for the east Gulf coast and Northern Florida, and frost warnings for Southern Florida as far south as Miami.

Steamers departing Thursday for European ports will have moderate west to northwest winds, with cold and generally fair weather to the Grand Banks.

Forecast for Special Localities.—For New Jersey: fair, colder to-day; Friday fair, not quite so cold, light to moderate, west to northwest winds becoming variable Friday.

For Eastern Pennsylvania, fair to-day, colder in south portion; Friday generally fair and not quite so cold, moderate northwest winds becoming variable.

For Eastern New York, fair, continued cold to-day; Friday partly cloudy, not quite so cold; moderate west to northwest winds.

For New England, fair, continued cold to-day and Friday; moderate west to northwest winds.

For Western Pennsylvania, generally fair, continued cold to-day; Friday fair, not so cold, moderate west to northwest winds becoming variable.

For Western New York, local snows to-day, except fair in southeast portion; continued cold Friday, partly cloudy, not so cold, moderate west winds becoming variable Friday.

Observations taken at United States weather bureaus at 8 p. m. yesterday follow:

City.	Temperature.	Weather.
Atlantic City	8	Cloudy
Albany	18	Clear
Boston	22	Cloudy
Buffalo	10	Cloudy
Chicago	4	Clear
Cincinnati	10	Clear
New Orleans	42	Clear
St. Louis	4	Clear
Washington	18	Clear

Local Official Record.—The following official record from the Weather Bureau shows the changes in temperature for the last twenty-four hours, in comparison with the corresponding date of last year:

	1908.	1909.		1908.	1909.
3 a. m.	37	21	6 p. m.	43	23
6 a. m.	34	21	9 p. m.	40	13
9 a. m.	32	21	11 p. m.	40	11
12 m.	42	25	12 p. m.	39	—
4 p. m.	45	25			

Highest temperature yesterday, 26 degrees (at 2 p. m.); lowest, 11; average, 18; average for corresponding date last year, 38; average for corresponding date last thirty-three years, 32.

Local forecast: Fair to-day; Friday partly cloudy; not quite so cold; moderate west to northwest winds.

MUSIC

THE PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY.

There was discouragement in the small attendance at the third concert of the Philharmonic Society's historical series last night, and also in the music. The programme contained three numbers only, the first of which, Schubert's "Unfinished" Symphony, had been played at the last concert in the regular course less than a fortnight ago. The other numbers were Mendelssohn's concerto for violin, played by Maud Powell, and Schumann's Symphony in D minor. Not one of the performances was a source of unalloyed delight, though there was a great deal that was admirable in the playing of Miss Powell, especially in the latter portion of the slow movement of the concerto. In the first movement and final rondo she made some sacrifice of finish and repose for the sake of dash and spirit. In like manner Mr. Mahler, by excessive speed and overmuch rhythmical accentuation, made the first and last movements of the Schumann symphony sound capricious, restless, nervous. H. E. K.

SLEZAK SINGS RADAMES.

Large Audience Welcomes Tenor's First Appearance in "Aida."

Immenso Phta sat upon his golden throne last night, and all Egypt did him reverence, likewise as large an audience as the Metropolitan Opera House has held for many a day. Yet when the god looked down upon his worshippers he must have trembled through every fibre of his huge, inarticulate body. Great as he was, there was a greater before him, a very Atlas of a warrior, splendid in golden helmet and jewelled breastplate. It was little wonder that henceforth Phta's vengeance was insatiable. All of which means that Verdi's "Aida" was being sung with Leo Slezak making his first appearance in New York in the part of Radames.

"Aida" is the third Verdi opera in which Mr. Slezak has been heard since the opening of the season, and he again proved his fine artistic calibre. He dominated every scene, and his clarion voice rang out superbly in the climaxes. He sang the "Celeste Aida" with effectiveness and the Nile scene with fire and passion, yet always with regard for phrase. The rest of the cast was the same as at previous performances. Mme. Gadski singing Aida, Mme. Homer, Amneris; Mr. Amato, Amonasro, and Mr. Didur, Ramfis. Mr. Toscanini conducted.

The opera at the Manhattan was Offenbach's "Les Contes d'Hoffman," with Maurice Renaud in his triple impersonation, and Mme. Cavalieri as the Venetian courtesan.

OPERA FOR THE COMING WEEK.

"Orfeo ed Euridice" will open on Monday night at the Metropolitan Opera House. "La Bohème" will be sung on Tuesday, "Tannhäuser" on Wednesday and "Aida" on Tuesday. "Pagliacci," followed by "Histoire d'un Pierrot," will be the bill on Thursday afternoon at The New Theatre, and "Don Pasquale" and "Histoire d'un Pierrot" on Friday evening.

OBITUARY.

GEORGE W. M'NEAR.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

San Francisco, Dec. 29.—George W. McNear, the largest wheat dealer in California, is dead in his Oakland home. Mr. McNear began in a small way to ship California wheat and barley to Great Britain, but the business increased rapidly, and he built the Port Costa grain sheds, at which which deep-water vessels loaded.

For twenty years the grain exporting business of the state was divided between the following firms, called the "Big Four": George W. McNear & Co., Balfour, Guthrie & Co., Girvin & Eyre and Eppinger & Co. Mr. McNear shipped most of his grain direct to England.

CARL ZERRAHN.

Milton, Mass., Dec. 29.—Carl Zerrahn, a musical conductor and for more than forty years leader of the Handel and Haydn Society, of Boston, died to-day at the home of his son, in this town, after a month's illness. Mr. Zerrahn was born in Malchow, Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, in 1826, and came to this country with a band of musicians known as the Germania Musical Society, under the leadership of Carl Fergmann, in 1848.

In addition to his leadership of the Handel and Haydn Society, Mr. Zerrahn conducted the Worcester festival, as well as choral societies in St. Johnsbury, Vt.; Ogdensburg, N. Y., and other places.

The funeral will be held on Friday morning at the Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit, Matapan.

MRS. JOHN W. AITKEN.

Word was received in this city yesterday of the death in Paris on Tuesday of Mrs. Helen Powers Aitken, wife of John W. Aitken, senior member of the wholesale and retail drygoods house of Aitken & Son. She was the daughter of the late Daniel W. Powers and Helen Craig Powers, of Rochester, and was married to Mr. Aitken in February, 1877. Mr. Aitken is a trustee of the Bowery Savings Bank and a director of the Fifth Avenue Safe Deposit Company, the Iberville Lumber Company and the Second National Bank.

OBITUARY NOTES.

JOHN M. HAMILTON, for twelve years postmaster of Batavia, N. Y., died yesterday from heart disease. He was prominent in Republican politics at one time and served as County Treasurer.

J. MASON MAREAN, president of the Pilgrim Rubber Company, of Boston, collapsed in Cambridge, Mass., while waiting for a streetcar yesterday and died within a few minutes. Marean, who was sixty-two years old, was formerly a woollen manufacturer of Chicago.

LEWIS NIXON'S BROTHER DEAD.

Taken from Train, He Expires Suddenly from Pneumonia.

William Nixon, brother and business associate of Lewis Nixon, the shipbuilder, died in the Jersey City Hospital yesterday, after having been taken from a Central train at the terminal shortly after midnight. He had spent a few days at his old home in Leedsburg, Va., and was suffering from a severe cold. Against the advice of his physician he insisted on going to New York to keep an engagement. Pneumonia was the immediate cause of death.

Lewis Nixon was informed of his brother's death and went to Jersey City at once.

William Nixon was forty-three years old and was a successful merchant at Leedsburg before he joined his brother in New York. He was a bachelor, and his home was at No. 141 Waverley Place, Manhattan.

PROFESSOR SUMNER BETTER.

Professor William Graham Sumner, of Yale, who has been ill at the Murray Hill Hotel since Monday, when he was suddenly stricken with apoplexy, was reported last night to be much better, with the chances bright for his being able to return to his home soon. C. Graham Sumner, his son, said his father was resting easily.

WALTER SHIRLAW BURIED.

Madrid, Dec. 29.—The body of Walter Shirlaw, the artist, who died of pneumonia on Sunday, was buried in the English Cemetery here to-day.

LOSES HIS BRIDE.

Miss Crosthwaite Weds Another Instead of Charles Blaine.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Lexington, Ky., Dec. 29.—News was received here to-day of the marriage of Miss Lourine Crosthwaite, a well known young woman in Lexington society, to Goodwin Chase, of Los Angeles, which was celebrated in the California city. The information was a shock to Samuel Crosthwaite, the father of the bride, as invitations had been issued for her marriage to Charles Blaine, of Spokane, a nephew of James G. Blaine. The wedding was to have taken place to-day.

Pending further news from Mrs. Crosthwaite, who is in California with her daughter, the father refused to discuss the marriage other than to say that it was a big surprise to him. Miss Crosthwaite has been in Los Angeles for several months, attending a seminary, and it is supposed she met Chase only recently, and after the announcement of her forthcoming marriage to Blaine.

NO PHARMACY BOARD ACTION.

Attorney General Denies Application of Melvin E. Bellinger.

Albany, Dec. 29.—Attorney General O'Malley has denied an application made by Melvin E. Bellinger to allow an action to be brought in the name of the people to oust the State Board of Pharmacy from office. Bellinger questioned the constitutionality of the act creating the board and the method of electing its members. The Attorney General holds that inasmuch as there are one or two actions now pending on appeal which involve practically all the questions raised by Bellinger, it would be inexpedient to permit another action.

Governor Hughes recommended to the last Legislature that the board be reorganized.

AN APPEAL FOR CHARITY.

A family, consisting of a man, his wife and four children, is in need of help. The man, after being a partial invalid for ten years, has suffered from a paralytic stroke since last December. The children are all under working age and are not strong. His wife can do little to help support the family, her work being specially to take care of the children.

The Charity Organization Society does not wish that this family should be broken up and appeals for $160, which will provide a needed monthly pension during the coming year. Contributions may be sent to the Charity Organization Society, No. 105 East 22d street, and will be gratefully acknowledged.

The Charity Organization Society acknowledges with thanks the following contributions in response to previous appeals of this kind: Mrs. E. V. Hull, $10; Mrs. Nathaniel B. Potter, $10; H. D. Babcock, $5; cash, $2.50; "Friend," $2; "Boy of Fourteen," $10; anonymous, $10; Frederick B. Elliott, $15; "L. A. Cerf," $5; cash, $1.

TRUSTEES RATIFY CHURCH SALE.

At a meeting of the corporation of the Fourth Avenue Presbyterian Church, held last night, the action taken by the board of trustees in selling the property for $660,000 to Mills & Gibb was ratified, and it was announced that Hope Chapel, the property of the church, had been leased to the Board of Home Missions. A committee was appointed to find a new location for a place of worship.

FORMER LINCOLN OFFICE BURNS.

Danville, Ill., Dec. 29.—The old War Museum, where President Lincoln had his office when he was riding the circuit as an attorney, was burned to-day. The museum contained many valuable relics, among them a number of shells. These exploded during the fire.

WEDDINGS.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Syracuse, Dec. 29.—Ernest Cuyler Brower and Miss Marian Willetts, both of New York, the latter a daughter of Mrs. Joseph C. Willetts, whose summer home is at Skaneateles, were married at noon to-day at St. James's Episcopal Church, in that village. Mrs. Samuel Roosevelt Outerbridge was her sister's matron of honor. The ushers were Prentice Willetts, brother of the bride; Archibald McLaren, Frederic Herrick, Mr. Fairchild, Mr. Zellhoffe and Mr. Bainbridge, of New York. Miss Dorothy Ruxton, Miss Adelia McAlpine Pyle, of New York; Miss Anne Dorman, of Brooklyn; Miss Dorothy Van Dyke, of Princeton, N. J.; Miss Rosamond Underwood, and Miss Dorothea Woodruff, of Auburn, acted as bridesmaids.

Miss Carol Smith, daughter of Captain J. S. Smith, of Weatherford, Tex., and sister of Mrs. I. A. Hall, of Paterson, N. J., and William Edward Hughey, of Bellevue, Iowa, were married yesterday afternoon at the Presbyterian Church, 73d street and Madison avenue, by the Rev. Daniel Russell, who came here from Bellevue to perform the ceremony. The bride was given away by her father. The best man was Major I. A. Hall, of Paterson, Mr. Hughey is a mining man of Nevada.

MARRIED.

ADAMS—STEELE—At the home of the bride's parents, Newburg, N. Y., December 29, 1909, by the Rev. John Huske, rector of St. George's Church, Miss Josephine Clifton Steele, of Newburg, N. Y., and Mr. John M. Adams, of Augusta, Ga.

SHELLEY—ROOSEVELT—On Tuesday, December 28, 1909, at the Church of Zion and St. Timothy, New York, by the rector, the Rev. Henry Lubeck, LL. D., Christine Kean, daughter of W. Emlen Roosevelt, to James Etter Shelley, First Lieutenant, United States Army.

Notices of marriages and deaths must be indorsed with full name and address.

DIED.

Aitken, Helen P.	Gilman, Arthur.
Bloom, Charles F.	Howell, Marion B.
Branagan, Honora W.	Kitsell, James
Clarke, Dumont	Knox, Rachel E.
Clearman, John W.	Murdoch, William
Conmy, Patrick E.	Robinson, Ailene I.
Dumazeaud, Aime.	Sheridan, Greenleaf K.
Fenz, Marie	Van Ness, John N.

AITKEN—In Paris, France, December 28, Helen Powers Aitken, wife of John W. Aitken, of this city, and daughter of the late Daniel W. Powers and Helen Craig Powers, of Rochester, N. Y.

BLOOM—On Wednesday, December 29, 1909, Charles F. Bloom, in the 72d year of his age. Fune