Anglo-American Memories

LVIII.

A SCOTTISH LEGEND AND A TALE OF TWO BEAUTIFUL WOMEN.

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London, March 1.

Among the recollections of Scotland which come thronging on from other days, the supernatural always plays a part. I admit they are not easy to deal with. If you believe in ghosts or in legends, a great majority of your readers do not believe in you. If you are a skeptic, the credulous pass you by with an air of pained superiority. If you neither believe nor disbelieve, you are set down as an agnostic; and there are great numbers of excellent people to whom the word agnostic implies reproach. An agnostic, however, is not one who believes or disbelieves, but who, whatever his private conviction may be, declines either to affirm or deny the truth of the matter in question.

But, although an unbeliever, I know of one story connecting itself with a famous legend, which is, so far as it goes, absolutely true, and this I am going to tell exactly as it happened.

In 1883 I was staying at Brechin Castle with Lord and Lady Dalhousie, and Lady Dalhousie proposed one morning that we should drive over to Cortachy Castle to lunch. Brechin Castle and Cortachy Castle are both in Forfarshire and fourteen miles apart. At that time Cortachy Castle was let to the late Earl of Dudley, the seventh Earl of Airlie, to whom it belonged, having lately died. There's a tragic atmosphere, for the eighth Earl was killed at Diamond Hill, in South Africa, in 1900; one of the many men of rank and position and fortune and everything to live for who, in the early disastrous days of the Boer war, gave up everything to fight for the flag and for their country and sovereign.

The family name is Ogilvy, and the family name and title are both old, going back to at least 1491. They were ambassadors and great officers of state, and the seventh Lord Ogilvy was made an earl. Two acts of attainder are testimony to the active part they took in those troubled times, and to their capacity for holding fast to the losing side. They were in the Earl of Mar's rebellion in 1715 and fought for the Pretender at Culloden.

Besides all that, the Ogilvys carried on for generations a feud with the Campbells. On both sides there were burnings and harryings and much shedding of blood. There's no need to ask which of them was the more in fault. The standards of those days were not as the standards of ours; and there was a good deal less of that homage which vice now pays to virtue. So it happened that one day early in the seventeenth century the Ogilvys found themselves besieged in Cortachy Castle by the then Earl of Argyll or his lieutenant. The besiegers sent in a herald with a drummer boy to demand the surrender of the castle. The Ogilvy people took the drummer boy and hanged him over their battlements, his mother looking on from the camp outside. As the fashion was in those days, she launched a curse, or more than one, at the Ogilvys, and a prophecy. She foretold that whenever, through all the ages to come, death or disaster should visit them they would first hear the beating of the drum by the drummer boy.

Such is the story as it was told to me. It is a well known tradition, and you are told also that her prophecy has been strictly fulfilled. The beating of the drum by the drummer boy has been heard at least once in each generation during the centuries that ever since then have witnessed the varying fortunes of this family. That is a matter as to which I neither affirm nor deny. How could I? I was not there. But the narrative is a necessary preface to the account of the day when the events I set out to describe did actually occur.

At luncheon Lady Dudley—known then and still as the beautiful Lady Dudley—told us that when Lord Hardwicke, one of the guests staying with them, came down to breakfast that morning he asked her whether the drummer boy legend applied to the tenants of the castle for the time being or only to the Ogilvys.

"Oh, only to the Ogilvys, of course."

"Then you won't mind my telling you that I heard the drummer boy beating his drum last night."

And Lady Dudley added:

"I did not mind in the least. Whether I believe in the menace or not, I never heard that it had anything to do with anybody but the Ogilvys. If it could affect anybody in this case it would be Lord Hardwicke, who heard it, and not us who did not hear it."

With which we naturally agreed. We finished our lunch peacefully and pleasantly, and at 3 o'clock Lady Dalhousie and I drove back to Brechin Castle, where there were in all twelve guests. We dined as usual at a quarter past eight, and shortly before ten the ladies left the dining room. Just after ten the door opened again. Lady Dalhousie sailed in, her face brilliant with excitement, but her manner serene as usual, and said to her husband:

"Dalhousie, Cortachy Castle is burnt to the ground; the Dudleys are here, and you must come at once."

At the drawing room door stood Lady Dudley, pale and beautiful, and warned us that her husband knew as yet nothing of what had happened, and asking us to be careful to say nothing which should alarm him. He was at that time very ill and his mind was affected. The rest of the evening after we went into the drawing room passed without any mention of the disaster to Cortachy. Lord Dudley sat down to his rubber of whist, won it and went to bed not knowing that the house in which he had expected to sleep had been destroyed by fire. When he was told next morning he said, "Very well," and turned again to his newspaper.

The explanation was this: After Lady Dalhousie and I left Cortachy, Lady Dudley took her husband for a drive, as usual. As they were returning, late, they were stopped by a messenger who handed Lady Dudley a note from the factor, saying the castle was on fire and there was no hope of saving it.

"What is it?" asked Lord Dudley.

"Oh, nothing much," answered his wife. "The kitchen chimney has been on fire and the place is in a mess. I think we had better drive over to Brechin and ask the Dalhousies to give us dinner."

This ready wit carried the day, and saved Lord Dudley the shock which his wife dreaded. But the whole company of guests at Cortachy were also left homeless, and they also came to Brechin and slept there. I never quite understood how, for Brechin Castle can put up, in a normal way, fourteen people, and we slept that night fifty-six. But Lady Dalhousie, besides being a reigning beauty, had practical talents, and managed it all as if an inundation of unexpected guests were an everyday affair.

There is one thing to be added. Past Cortachy Castle flows a shallow stream with a stony bed. It was early in September. The water was very low, and what there was rippled and broke over the stones with a noise which, at night and amid uncertain slumbers, might easily be mistaken for the beating of a drum by a man whose mind was full of the drummer boy story. After I had heard about Lord Hardwicke at luncheon I had walked along the banks of this burn, and the faint likeness of the waters beating on the stones to the beating of a drum occurred to me. Perhaps a mere fancy on my part. I don't press it. If anybody prefers to believe in the legend I don't ask him to believe in my conjecture. By all means let him nourish his own faith in his own way.

He may like to know, moreover, that Lord Hardwicke, now dead, was one of the last persons in the world to conceive or cherish an illusion. A well known man of the world; in his way a celebrity, if only for his hats, which were the glossiest ever seen outside of the Stock Exchange. He had gone the pace; "climbed outside of every stick of property he possessed," said one of his friends, and had acquired a vast and varied stock of experience in the process. On the face of it, not at all the kind of man to believe too much; nor to believe in anything, as was said of Mr. Lowe, he could not bite.

He came into the dining room that night at Brechin, and stayed on the next day. Among Lady Dalhousie's guests was Mr. Huxley. Certainly a man of the world was Mr. Huxley, but of a different world from Lord Hardwicke's. They had never met. You might have said they had not a subject in common. But they talked to each other, and to the surprise of the company it presently became evident that they got on together. I said as much to Mr. Huxley afterward. He answered in his decisive way:

"Don't make any mistake. Lord Hardwicke has powers of mind for which, even his own set, so far as I know, has never given him credit. We did not talk about the weather. He was a man who would put his mind to yours no matter what you talked about, and it would take you all your time to keep up with him."

Years afterward I reminded Mr. Huxley of this, and asked him had he ever met Lord Hardwicke again.

"No, never; and I regret it. But we did not move quite in the same orbits. I have hardly seen anybody since who made such an impression on me. It's not a question of orbits; it's a question of men."

I asked Lord Hardwicke about the same time whether he remembered meeting Mr. Huxley.

"Remember? How many Huxleys are there in the world that you should suppose I could forget this one?"

It is one of the distinctions of English life in general, and of London, to which New York will perhaps some day attain, that sooner or later it brings together men and women, each of the first rank in his or her own department, and each unlike the other. They have long understood here that a society which is not various ends in monotony; and of all forms of dulness that is the dullest.

G. W. S.

ACTORS' TAFT MEDAL READY.

The gold medal which will be presented to President Taft by a committee of the twelve leading actresses of America when he opens the Actors' Fund fair, at the 71st Regiment Armory, May 9, was struck yesterday. It was designed by Chester Beach, who was commissioned by Archer M. Huntington, president of the American Numismatic Society. The face portrays Charity coming forward with Comedy and Tragedy on either side, and stretching forth her arms in an appeal for aid. On the reverse side in bass-relief are the comic and tragic masks. The medal bears the words, "Actors' Fund, New York, 1910."

John W. Alexander, president of the National Academy of Design and chairman of the art committee of the Actors' Fund fair, selected the design from among several hundred submitted to him. One thousand replicas in silver will be struck for the distinguished guests and five thousand in bronze for the public.

WHITE RATS ON MARCH 17.

The third annual prize masque ball of the White Rats of America will be held at Terrace Garden on St. Patrick's night. It is expected that five thousand actor folk, booking agents, wine agents and men about town will attend. Prizes ranging from a $1,000 lot on Long Island to an actor's wig will be distributed.

Among those who will attend are Gerson's Midgets, from the Hippodrome; Montgomery and Stone, Miss Blanche Ring, Nora Bayes, Donald Brian, Miss Annette Kellermann, Miss Claire Romaine, Miss Florence Moore and representatives from all the musical plays on Broadway. The chorus girls of "Bright Eyes," at the New York Theatre, will dance a "chantecler" ballet.

THEATRICAL NOTES.

Miss Kitty Cheatham will give a matinee performance at the Stuyvesant Theatre at 3 p. m. Wednesday, March 16, in aid of the music school of the East Side Settlement House. The benefit will be in charge of the music committee of the woman's auxiliary of the settlement, which consists of the Misses Bartlett, Mrs. Charles Kynett Carpenter, Mrs. David H. Graham, Mrs. Thomas F. Garvan, Mrs. Herbert Noble, Mrs. Edward Talmage and Miss Helene Trenholm. Tickets are for sale at the box office of the theatre.

"On the Level" is the title of a one-act comedy drama in which Miss Franklyn Gale and company will appear on Monday night at the Fulton Theatre, Brooklyn, under the management of William Morris, over whose circuit Miss Gale is said to have made an unqualified success.

There will be a special matinee performance of "The Third Degree," at the Grand Opera House, on Friday, March 18, for the benefit of the Actors' Fund. Henry B. Harris, the manager of the company, and John H. Springer, manager of the theatre, together with the members of the company, have agreed to donate the entire gross receipts.

MAJOR LINSON QUITS REGIMENT.

Major William H. Linson, senior major of the 71st Regiment, who served with it in Cuba as a captain during the war with Spain, has resigned after a service of over twenty-five years. He will probably be succeeded by Captain Edward J. Flack, of Company D, senior line captain. First Lieutenant John List, battalion adjutant of the regiment, will resign next month for business reasons.

KHARTOUM EXCITED.

Great Preparations to Greet Colonel Roosevelt.

Khartoum, March 12.—No event in recent years has excited such interest among the residents of Khartoum as the approaching visit of Theodore Roosevelt, who, with his son and the other members of the American hunting and scientific expedition, is expected to arrive here on Monday. The exact hour of arrival cannot be fixed, as the transport service on the Nile is not a certain quantity. But whatever time the former President of the United States reaches Khartoum, he may be certain of an enthusiastic greeting.

Great preparations have been made for his entertainment. A house party will be given at the palace in his honor, as well as numerous entertainments at the palace and elsewhere, including an official dinner at the Soudan Club.

On their way to meet Colonel Roosevelt are his wife and daughter, who sailed from Naples on March 4 for Alexandria. They, too, are expected to arrive at Khartoum on Monday. Three days will be given up to entertainment and sightseeing, and on March 17 the trip to Cairo will begin.

During the visit to the Sudd district Colonel Roosevelt had luncheon and tea at the American mission. He showed great interest in the work among the Shilluks and addressed four hundred of them through an interpreter. He will deliver an address at a similar meeting at the mission here prior to his departure. The ex-President is much interested in educational problems in Africa, and visits have been planned to the Gordon Memorial College, which was built by Lord Kitchener with subscriptions collected in England in 1898; the Assiu College, the girls' school at Luxor and other institutions of learning. Colonel Roosevelt will be invited to lay the cornerstone of the girls' college at Cairo.

ROOSEVELT'S ENGLISH VISIT.

Ex-President Wants to Make It as Unostentatious as Possible.

London, March 12.—Former President Roosevelt purposes to make his stay in England as quiet and unostentatious as possible. He has refused hundreds of invitations from public and private sources, including those for banquets to be tendered by the Pilgrims' Society and the American Society, both of which organizations confidently counted upon entertaining him and are greatly disappointed.

The American Embassy is receiving a mass of correspondence regarding Mr. Roosevelt's visit. Many of the most prominent persons are exceedingly anxious to secure the ex-President as a guest at their homes. Ambassador Reid has been compelled to decline in Mr. Roosevelt's name practically all of these insistent invitations.

JUSTICE GOFF MAKES RECORD.

His Court Disposes of Sixteen Important Cases in Two Months.

On the eve of the opening of an additional court in the Criminal Branch of the Supreme Court to cut down the overcrowded calendar District Attorney Whitman has received a tabulated statement of the work accomplished by Justice Goff in this branch during the January and February terms at the Criminal Courts Building. It establishes a record not only for length of a continuous sitting, but also for the number of important cases disposed of. Justice Goff will sit in the extra court to be opened in the county courthouse to-morrow.

According to the statement, Assistant District Attorney Frank Moss prepared and presented during the forty-four court days of the January and February terms sixteen cases, in seven of which the indictments charged murder in the first degree. One of these murder cases, in which Frank McGrath was defendant, was tried twice, using up about one-third of the total of forty-four days. He was convicted, as were also four of the others in some degree. Only two charged with murder in the first degree—Lau Tong and Lau Shong—were acquitted. The remaining cases tried involved offences ranging from assault to murder in the second degree, four of the defendants being acquitted.

The number of cases on the standing calendar was appreciably decreased by pleadings, twenty-one of the defendants pleading when their cases were called for trial.

ONONDAGAS WHOOP IT UP.

Feasting and Noise in Plenty at Society's Yearly Gathering.

Two hundred braves gathered at the third annual dinner of the Society of the Onondagas, at the Waldorf-Astoria, last night and made so much noise as to put to shame the Indian tribe that once made what is now Syracuse and its environs its hunting grounds. They came to the feast at the call of the "Caw-Caw-Caw," shrilled by Totadaho, the grand sachem of the tribe, Collin Armstrong, and president of the society.

Preceding the dinner was the opening ceremonial, an Indian rite, conducted by Totadaho Armstrong, in which he smoked the pipe of peace, and after which the whole society buried the tomahawk under a veritable deluge of napkins. This over, the call of the crow was again given, now from a distant part of the room, and Totadaho Armstrong cried:

"I hear the call of the crow—the cry of the ready feast. The maws of strong braves must not remain unsatisfied. So let us eat." And then began a yelling such as is seldom heard, and the feast was on.

Speeches were made by Professor William K. Wickes, of Syracuse, and Professor John H. Barr, vice-president of the Chamber of Commerce of Syracuse, while the local contingent was represented by J. Robert Rubin, Deputy Assistant District Attorney, and President Armstrong, the toastmaster.

James L. Quackenbush was elected president for the ensuing year.

SUFFRAGE MEETING POSTPONED.

Announcement Cards Were Too Large—Uncle Sam Refused to Deliver Them.

The meeting of the Jeanne d'Arc Woman Suffrage League, which was to have been held last night to hear the reports of the delegates sent to Albany to the recent hearing was postponed until next Thursday. The league recently ordered a special postal card, with a picture of Jeanne d'Arc in armor on it, which was to be used in announcing the meetings. However, Uncle Sam objected to carrying such a large postal card for one cent, and the announcements were not delivered.

Speaking of her impressions of the hearing which so many suffragists, suffragettes and anti-suffragettes attended at Albany on Wednesday, Mrs. Van Slingerland said that she was disgusted with the amount of time which was taken up by the anti-suffragettes. When it came time for the suffragettes to present their side of the case, she said, a great many people were too tired to listen.

She also said that the anti-suffragettes were always clamoring that it was the duty of every woman to care for her home and children, and that it was a great wonder to her they did not stay at home instead of going all the way to Albany to antagonize the suffragettes' cause.

DAMROSCH JUBILEE

CONDUCTOR 25 YEARS.

Makes Strong Plea for "Opera in American."

Walter Damrosch, musical director and conductor of the Symphony Society of New York, was the guest of honor last night at a testimonial dinner in the Plaza Hotel. The affair was arranged by his friends and associates in the musical world to commemorate his twenty-fifth anniversary as a conductor in this city.

In responding to the tributes of the many speakers Mr. Damrosch evoked applause when he urged the singing of grand opera in English, declaring that it was a musical tongue and could be "adapted properly to the music of the masters."

More than four hundred men and women, many of them prominent in other fields of artistic and literary endeavor, attended and applauded the speakers, among whom were Dr. Henry van Dyke, who presided; Paul D. Cravath, Otto E. Kahn, Mme. Carreño, Francis Lynde Stetson, Rubin Goldmark, Dr. John H. Finley, Dr. H. Holbrook Curtis, St. Clair McKelway, Mme. Nordica, Mme. Gadski, H. E. Krehbiel, W. J. Henderson, Victor Herbert, James M. Beck, Dr. Thomas C. Hall, Dr. Emanuel Baruch.

Mme. Gadski sang, and Mme. Nordica spoke and afterward sang Shubert's "Ode to Music." The chorale from "Die Meistersinger" was sung by the New York Symphony Orchestra, directed by David Mannes.

The flood of tributes to Mr. Damrosch was then started by Dr. van Dyke, who said in part:

"It has taken twenty-five years to prepare this dinner. It is, in fact, a silver wedding banquet in honor of the marriage of music and manhood in the life of Walter Damrosch. There is more than one life in which that mystical and symbolic union has been consummated.

"Again and again the great human art of music has chosen and drawn to her breasts a man, a real man, vigorous, virile, courageous, resourceful, devoted, and bound him to herself and to her service with ties which read 'until death do us part.'"

Cheers for Damrosch.

Mr. Damrosch was unable to speak for more than a minute, when he arose because of the outburst of applause. He said:

It was in 1884 that Hilborn Roosevelt, close friend of my father's and president of the Symphony Society, suggested to his uncle, James Roosevelt, who was then president of the new Metropolitan Opera House, that it might be wise, after the failure of the inaugural season of French and Italian opera under Abbey, Schoeffel & Grau, to try German opera and to invite my father to form an opera company for this purpose.

Many of you present to-night remember what that first season of German opera meant to the whole musical development of New York, and through New York to the country. It meant the real introduction of Wagner on the stage; it meant higher musical standards of ensemble; it meant better chorus and orchestra, more rehearsals, and altogether an atmosphere of devotion to art for art's sake which had been wanting to a great extent in previous operatic seasons. His death threw on me a sudden weight of responsibilities which for a long time nearly crushed me.

I have become more and more convinced that the highest pleasures, the finest development of that art, can be obtained only in absolute music, without the addition of the art of painting or of the drama. It is not for me to decry any of the great works which such combinations have produced. But I would be untrue if I were to say that these works appeal to me to-day as much as a symphony or a string quartet. To-day I revere in Wagner much more the musician when he forgets his own theories and gives full vent to the musical impulse within him.

Music is at once the most spiritual and impersonal of all the arts, and I cannot believe that it is right to put it to such a portrayal of brutal realism as the torture scene in "La Tosca" or the last act of "Mme. Butterfly," or, worse still, the unrelieved and ugly decadence of a "Salome" or an "Elektra." Even admitting that the drama may hold the "mirror up to life" and treat such themes, music should glorify all that it touches, and unless it can do this its use can add nothing to a dramatic theme. You will laugh when I tell you that nowadays I can get my greatest pleasure from a Wagner music drama by taking the orchestral score upon my knee and reading it through in my own room.

Wants Opera in "American."

Popular as opera is in this country to-day, generously as it is supported, especially in New York, we must still endure the humiliating spectacle of an opera house which is, to all intents and purposes, a foreign institution. Opera in French, Italian and German is given there by singers who arrive here a day before their first rehearsal and leave again the day after their last performance. So provincial is our attitude toward our own country and our own language that we do not seem to think it is possible to make English the regular tongue of our opera house.

Can you imagine French as the regular language at the Berlin Opera House? Can you imagine German as the regular language at the La Scala, Milan? Do you suppose for one moment that any of these countries would endure any other tongue but their own, except at such performances as may be given to favor some great singer from elsewhere? It is preposterous to assert that English is not a musicous tongue, and cannot be sung or adapted properly to the music of the masters. That has been the fault of the miserable translations which literary hacks have hitherto furnished.

The argument is sometimes made that we could not prevail on the great foreign singers to sing in English. My dear friends, America pays these singers four times as much as they could receive in Europe. Many of them would be glad to take part in such a movement for artistic reasons, and do you suppose for one moment that the others would refuse the enormous sums which they now receive if the conditions were made that they must learn a certain number of roles in English?

I have dreams of opera in "American" at the Metropolitan Opera House, in which the director, conductors, artists, chorus and orchestra shall all be Americans, either adopted or born, and not, as now, merely visitors who treat our country as but a temporary sojourn for which money, money, money is in many cases the principal motive. If a foreigner is necessary to become the director of our opera, let us have him by all means, but let him make America his home.

Henry E. Krehbiel, in discussing the history of music in this country during the last quarter century, said:

My critical colleagues of to-day deplore the decay of the art of song as it existed only half a century, or even less, ago; and I sympathize with them, as in duty bound I must. The critics of two generations ago lamented the loss of the art as it had existed a century before them, and the members of the guild who preceded them wept when they reflected that all the singers of the old Roman schools were dead, and that skill in singing had died with them. So Aristoxenus, one of the teachers of Alexander the Great, I believe, bewailed the fact that the art of music-dramatic composition had gone down to its grave with Æschylus. It is only from the young critic, scarcely out of his swaddling clothes, that we hear the jocund song of the superiority of all things that are to the greatest of the things that were.

HARROLD SINGS LYRIC ROLE.

Appears as the Duke in "Rigoletto"—Other Opera News.

The chief event of interest in the opera world of yesterday was the appearance of Mr. Orville Harrold, Mr. Hammerstein's new American tenor, as the Duke in Verdi's "Rigoletto." Mr. Harrold had appeared previously at the Manhattan as Canio in "Pagliacci," a role which, if effective, is not at present suited to the young tenor's vocal welfare. But yesterday afternoon he sang for the first time a lyric part. It gave Mr. Harrold his first real chance to show his powers at their best, and he made the most of it.

His voice was delightfully fresh and clear, especially in the upper register, and, barring one or two lapses from the pitch, he sang with accuracy. But what was most pleasing of all was the regard he showed for nuance of phrase and the real feeling he put into his singing. Especially fine was his singing of "La donna e mobile," an aria that the audience forced him to repeat. His make-up and costume were effective and he acted with more assurance than might have been expected from a singer of so little experience.

The performance showed that Mr. Harrold is peculiarly fitted for lyric roles. He has yet, of course, much to learn, but with careful training he should fulfil the hopes of his discoverer, Mme. Tetrazzini sang Gilda, Mr. Sammarco the Jester and Mr. Scott Sparafucile.

"Carmen" was the opera at the Manhattan in the evening, with Mlle. Cavalieri in the title part and Mr. Devries as Don José.

At the Metropolitan the afternoon opera was "Werther," followed by the ballet "Coppelia," with the Russian dancers. "Germania" was given in the evening.

CARUSO SINGS IN "GERMANIA."

Black Hand Leave Tenor Alone, but Guard Keeps Close Watch.

Mr. Caruso sang again last night undisturbed by the Black Hand. His two faithful bodyguards, Central Office Detectives Mundo and Scrivani, were at the Metropolitan throughout the performance of "Germania." They stationed themselves at the entrance and carefully scrutinized every Italian that entered, but neither saw any one approaching the appearance of a Blanck Hander.

It was reported early in the evening that a strange Italian had attempted to get into the chorus, but no confirmation of the report could be obtained.

CAN'T SING HERBERT SONG.

Victor Herbert got a preliminary injunction yesterday against William Pruette, from Judge Lacombe, in the United States Circuit Court, restraining the actor and singer, who was a member of Fritzi Scheff's company in "Mlle. Modiste," from singing in public the song "I Want What I Want When I Want It," one of the numbers in the operetta. Mr. Herbert will have to file a bond to indemnify Pruette if the injunction is not made permanent in the final decree.

MR. AND MRS. FAIRBANKS SAIL.

Leave Liverpool for New York After World Trip.

Liverpool, March 12.—Former Vice-President Charles W. Fairbanks and Mrs. Fairbanks sailed for New York to-day on the steamer Mauretania.

Other passengers were James A. Patten, Rear Admiral Garcia, president of the Argentine Naval Commission; Vice-Admiral Sir Percy Scott, of the British Navy, and Sir Robert W. Perks, the prominent Methodist who gave a luncheon in honor of Mr. Fairbanks yesterday.

PHI SIGMA KAPPA CELEBRATES.

Cortelyou Calls Taft Ideal of "The College Man as an Executive."

When George B. Cortelyou, ex-Secretary of the Treasury, began to respond to the toast of "The College Man as an Executive" last night at the Phi Sigma Kappa fraternity dinner at the Hotel Manhattan, he asked the men present to drink a standing toast to the President of the United States. "For he is the leading example to-day in the country of the college man as an executive," added Mr. Cortelyou.

"The college stands now as it has in the past for the best development of manhood," continued the speaker. "One of the most serious perils of the day is the tendency of the average citizen to allow his political conduct to be determined for him by others. In time the citizen will through non-use lose his voting sense. The colleges can create a class of self-regulating citizens with individuality, who will preserve unimpaired their political ideals."

About one hundred and fifty men attended the dinner, which was held to commemorate the thirty-seventh anniversary of the fraternity.

BURNHAM LEFT ONLY $28,391 96.

Will of Former President of Mutual Reserve Life Insurance Co. Filed.

The appraisal of the estate of Frederick A. Burnham, for many years president of the Mutual Reserve Life Insurance Company, who died on December 23, 1908, as filed in the office of the Surrogate yesterday, shows that he left an estate amounting to only $28,391 96 in real and personal property.

The personal estate amounts to $23,891 96, and the real estate is valued at $4,500. Deductions are made amounting to $7,098 21—on account of debts due, $829 50; funeral expenses, $750; expenses of administration, $5,000, and commissions of the executrix, $442 91—leaving the net value of the real and personal estate $21,383 75.

In addition to these deductions, an action is pending against the estate, brought by the receivers of the Mutual Reserve Life Insurance Company, for upward of $200,000. Mrs. Catharine M. Burnham, of No. 66 East 78th street, is the sole legatee and executrix of her husband's estate.

Burnham was indicted after the exposure of the insurance frauds by the legislative committee, for which Governor Hughes was counsel, and was convicted. On appeal the conviction was reversed.

WALDO GETS AFTER HOTEL.

Astor's Concert License Held Up Pending Fire Precautions.

Fire Commissioner Waldo, on the recommendation of Fire Chief Croker, held up the concert license which the Hotel Astor applied for when the Columbia undergraduates first appeared in "King of Hilaria" on Monday night. However, the play ran the entire week without interruption on the part of the Police or the Fire Department.

On Wednesday two uniformed firemen went to the hotel and inspected the grand ballroom, which is being used as a concert hall. They recommended that illuminated signs be placed at the various exits of the room, fireproof material put on the floor under the spot light and that all the scenery be made fireproof. W. H. Muschenheim, the manager of the hotel, said that all these requirements had been complied with and that the hotel had applied for a license for the remainder of the theatrical season.

It is expected that, since the hotel has now taken the necessary precautions, a license will be issued immediately.

WICKFORD BOAT DISABLED.

Many New York Passengers on Steamer Bound for Newport.

Newport, R. I., March 12.—With her engines disabled, the steamer General, of the Wickford Line, was saved from drifting ashore to-day by the tug Solicitor, which put out in response to distress signals. The steamer, on which were many passengers from New York coming to Newport for the week end, became helpless just outside Wickford soon after she had started for Newport. She was towed back to Wickford, where her passengers were landed and sent to Newport by way of Providence.

"PRACTICAL REFORM WORK BY A NEWSPAPER."

From The Fourth Estate.

The New-York Tribune printed an analysis of the city's finances which it compiled at great expense of time and money, and which showed conditions that few persons were inclined to believe. Especially were they somewhat incredulous because they could not believe that any newspaper could get up such an analysis with authority, but last Monday the publication of the Controller's official report showed that the calculations of The Tribune were entirely correct.

The New-York Tribune, therefore, is entitled to credit for having pointed out the need of the very reforms which the Controller is now proceeding to secure.

OBITUARY

JAMES O'CONNOR.

London, March 12.—James O'Connor, a Nationalist member of the House of Commons, who has represented the West Division of Wicklow since 1892, died to-day. He was born in 1836.

James O'Connor, Fenian convict, Parliamentarian and journalist, was born in the Glen of Imaal, County Wicklow, Ireland, in 1836. While still in his boyhood he affiliated with the extreme revolutionists. Soon after he began writing for "The Irish People" and other organs of unrest and quickly attracted attention by his fiery utterances.

He joined the Fenian organization, and in 1865 was arrested with Luby, O'Leary and Kickham, of "The Irish People." Convicted of treason and sentenced to seven years of penal servitude, he was released before the expiration of his term, and at once returned to his attacks on the government. He served another term of imprisonment with Parnell in Kilmainham Jail, but this imprisonment was a short one, and left him as fearless as ever.

In 1892 he was elected to Parliament from the western division of Wicklow and retained that seat till his death. He was the centre of many a stormy debate in the House. At various times during his career as a journalist he was on the editorial staff of "The Irishman," "The Flag of Ireland," "Shamrock" and "United Ireland."

BISHOP HENRY SPELLMEYER.

Atlantic City, March 12.—Bishop Henry Spellmeyer, of St. Louis, who has been presiding over the sessions of the seventy-fourth annual conference of the New Jersey Methodist Episcopal Church, died suddenly this morning in his rooms at the Hotel Dennis. Death was due to an attack of acute indigestion. Announcement of his death from the rostrum of St. Paul's Church, in which the conference was being held, created a stirring scene, women bursting into tears and men being visibly affected.

Bishop Spellmeyer was born in New York in 1847, and was graduated from New York University with the class of '68. He studied for the ministry at Union Theological Seminary, and for thirty-four years was a pastor in Newark and neighboring towns. In 1882 he received the degree of Doctor of Divinity from Syracuse University. He was a member of the General Conference in 1896, 1900 and 1904. He was also a member of the book committee from 1896 to 1904 and chairman of the entertainment committee in 1900 and 1904.

The Bishop was a trustee of the Drew Theological Seminaray, of Syracuse, and of the Centenary Collegiate Institute. He was made a Bishop in 1906 and went to live in St. Louis. He married Miss M. W. Smith in Haverstraw, N. Y., in 1871, who survives him.

THE REV. JOHN HAGGERTY.

The Rev. John Haggerty, known as Brother Augustine, of the Christian Brothers, who devoted the greater part of his life in the education of the young, died in St. Francis's Hospital on Thursday from paralysis. He was first attacked by the disease about four years ago, while an instructor in La Salle Academy, No. 44 2d street, and had not been active since then.

Brother Augustine was born in London, England, in 1847, and was brought to the United States at the age of one year by his parents. After graduating from Manhattan College he became an instructor in La Salle Academy. He was ordained a Christian Brother in 1862, receiving the degrees of Master of Science and Bachelor of Science. He was a noted mathematician. Two brothers and several sisters survive him.

EDWARD F. COST.

St. Louis, March 12.—Edward F. Cost, president of the Midland Securities Company, organized by John W. Gates and associates, died from paralysis here to-day. He leaves a wife and a son.

Mr. Cost was formerly associated with the Armour Packing Company as traffic manager, and with the Big Four, Seaboard Air Line and the Kansas City Southern. Of the latter two companies he was vice-president. The funeral will be held in Indianapolis.

THE REV. E. P. MILLER.

St. John, N. B., March 12.—The Rev. E. P. Miller, formerly grand chaplain of Odd Fellows for Connecticut, died at Jemseg to-day, aged sixty-one. The Rev. Mr. Miller came from Groton, Conn., ten years ago to take charge of the Jemseg Baptist Church.

OBITUARY NOTES.

JOHN L. BURGESS, senior member of the firm of Burgess & Todd, of New York City, commission merchants, is dead from pneumonia at his home, No. 25 North Maple avenue, East Orange, N. J. Mr. Burgess, who was fifty-one years old, was a native of Franklin, Delaware County, N. Y. He leaves a wife and two daughters.

THE REV. SAMUEL J. THICKETT, seventy-six years old, a retired minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church of New Rochelle, died yesterday at the home of his daughter, Mrs. George Clark, in Sycamore Park, New Rochelle. He leaves a wife and three children.

LAWRENCE J. RICHARDSON, sixty-nine years old, one of the wealthiest citizens of Oswego, N. Y., died at that place last night. He lived for many years at Elmira, N. Y.

THE WEATHER REPORT.

Official Record and Forecast.—Washington, March 12.—The Southern storm moved northeastward, and Saturday night its centre was a considerable distance off the middle Atlantic coast. Within the last twenty-four hours this disturbance caused rains in the south Atlantic states and rain and snow in Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Missouri, New Jersey, Eastern Pennsylvania and on the south coast of New England, and high northerly winds on the Atlantic coast from Cape Hatteras to Cape Cod. In all districts other than these, however, the weather remained fair during the last twenty-four hours.

The temperatures continue below the normal in the Eastern and Southeastern States, and frost formed Saturday morning as far south as Central Mississippi. In the region west of the Mississippi River and over the Great Lakes the temperature continues abnormally high, readings of 70 degrees being reported as far north as South Dakota. The indications are that the weather will be fair Sunday and Monday in all parts of the country, except that it will be unsettled Sunday morning on the immediate middle Atlantic coast.

The temperature will rise Sunday in the south Atlantic and middle Atlantic states and the upper Ohio Valley, and high temperatures will continue in the Western districts.

The winds along the New England coast will be moderate to brisk northerly, diminishing and becoming variable; middle Atlantic coast, moderate northwest; south Atlantic coast, light to moderate westerly; east Gulf coast, light west; west Gulf coast, light variable; Lake Michigan, moderate westerly.

Forecast for Special Localities.—For Western Pennsylvania and Western New York, somewhat warmer to-day; Monday fair; moderate southwest to west winds.

For New England, Eastern New York and New Jersey, fair to-day, preceded by unsettled weather on the coast; Monday partly cloudy; moderate to brisk north winds, shifting and becoming variable.

For Delaware, Maryland and the District of Columbia, fair weather and rising temperature to-day; Monday fair, with moderate temperature; moderate north to west winds.

Official observations of United States weather bureaus (taken at 8 p. m. yesterday) follow:

City.	Temperature.	Weather.
Albany	38	Clear
Atlantic City	38	Cloudy
Boston	36	Cloudy
Buffalo	36	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:

	1909.	1910.		1909.	1910.
3 a. m.	29	36	6 p. m.	44	43
6 a. m.	28	36	9 p. m.	41	41
9 a. m.	32	35	11 p. m.	41	42
12 m.	38	38	12 p. m.	40	—
4 p. m.	44	40			

Highest temperature yesterday, 46 degrees; lowest, 25; average, 40; average for corresponding date last year, 36; average for corresponding date last thirty-three years, 36.

Local forecast: To-day fair, preceded by unsettled; Monday partly cloudy; moderate to north winds, diminishing and becoming variable.

THE BELMONTS SAIL.

Newly Married Couple Start for Mediterranean.

August Belmont and his bride, who before her marriage was Miss Eleanor Robson, the actress, sailed for the Mediterranean yesterday on the North German Lloyd liner Berlin. Their names did not appear on the passenger list, but the rooms which they occupied, which were the regular rooms of Captain Langreuter and his chief officer, were credited to "Miss G. Smith, maid and valet."

Mr. and Mrs. Belmont, however, were unable to hide their identity, for the presence on the pier of Mrs. Madge Carr Cook, the bride's mother; Raymond and August Belmont, jr., the banker's sons, and John Hetterick, his former secretary, was sufficient evidence that the Belmonts were going to sail.

"Well, you have found us," said Mrs. Belmont to the reporters. "I should say they have," said Mr. Belmont, with a smile. "Yes, we are going abroad for a few months, and I don't mind saying that I do not care to discuss politics or finance." Asked if there was any foundation for the rumor that there was a plan under way to combine racing meets with aviation flights, Mr. Belmont said:

"Matters in aviation generally are not quite yet in shape to permit definite arrangements with any of the racecourses, but surely flying is already a sport as well as a transportation problem and a field for science and experiment. The most natural places for aviators to go up from at present are the well equipped racecourses all over the country, and none of them are more convenient and desirable than the racing plants around New York.

"They are the best equipped courses to meet aviation needs of all kinds without any expense or time of preparation. The Westchester association and other associations would look with much favor on a combination of horse racing and flying events at the various tracks."

Mr. and Mrs. Belmont will spend much of their time cruising about the Mediterranean in the steam yacht Beryl, which Mr. Belmont had chartered abroad.

AN ENGAGEMENT.

Mr. and Mrs. Dumont Delano Rogers, of Pelham Manor, N. Y., announce the engagement of their daughter, Helene, to John Frederick Mahlstedt, of New Rochelle, N. Y.

SACRED TO SPORT.

"Sacred to the memory of Sport, aged 9 years 3 months and 18 days." This is the inscription on a white marble shaft which was erected yesterday at Kanis Ruhe, a cemetery for pets, at Yorktown Heights. It marks the resting place of the bull terrier which was Miss Maxine Elliott's constant companion.

This dog was the object of much solicitation while travelling with Miss Elliott, who obtained special permits for him to share her compartment in Pullman cars. Oftentimes Miss Elliott would refuse to register at hotels where dogs were not allowed. She took the pet to the theatre with her every night and allowed him the freedom of her dressing room and the stage.

DIED.

Bill