Amusements.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC—2—8:15—The Chorus Lady.
ALHAMBRA—2—8—Vaudeville.
ASTOR—8:15—Seven Days.
BIJOU—8:20—The Lottery Man.
BROADWAY—8:15—The Jolly Bachelors.
CASINO—8:15—The Chocolate Soldier.
COLONIAL—2—8—Vaudeville.
CONEY ISLAND—Dreamland and Luna Park.
CRITERION—8:20—The Bachelor's Baby.
DALY'S—8:20—A Matinee Idol.
EDEN MUSEE—World in Wax.
EMPIRE—8:15—Caste.
GAIETY—8:15—The Fortune Hunter.
GARRICK—8:20—Her Husband's Wife.
GLOBE—8:15—The Old Town.
HACKETT—2:15—8:15—The City.
HAMMERSTEIN'S—2—8:15—Vaudeville.
HERALD SQUARE—8:15—Tillie's Nightmare.
HIPPODROME—2—8—A Trip to Japan; Inside the Earth; the Ballet of Jewels.
HUDSON—8:15—The Spendthrift.
KNICKERBOCKER—8:15—The Arcadians.
LYCEUM—2:15—8:20—The Spitfire.
LYRIC—8:15—Jim the Penman.
MADISON SQUARE GARDEN—2—8—Real Estate and Ideal Home Show.
MAXINE ELLIOTT'S THEATRE—8:15—Lulu's Husbands.
NAZIMOVA'S THIRTY-NINTH STREET THEATRE—8:20—Little Eyolf.
NEW AMSTERDAM—8:15—Madame X.
NEW YORK—8:15—Three Twins.
WALLACK'S—8:15—Alias Jimmy Valentine.
WEBER'S—8:20—The Climax.

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New-York Tribune.

THURSDAY, MAY 19, 1910.

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; Ogden M. Reid, secretary; James M. Barrett, treasurer. The address of the officers is the office of this newspaper.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

CONGRESS.—Senate: By a vote of 40 to 23 the Senate amended and accepted the House provision of the railroad bill which places the defence of suits before the Interstate Commerce Commission in the hands of the Attorney General, but permits the commission and shippers to intervene and even to continue the suit in case the Attorney General withdraws. ==== House: The bill to extend to the territory of Hawaii the laws of the United States concerning appropriations that are enjoyed by the territories within the United States was passed.

FOREIGN.—An explosion of dynamite demolished the barracks of the rural guards in Pinar del Rio, killing a hundred persons and wounding a similar number. ==== Hundreds of thousands of persons passed by the body of King Edward in Westminster Hall, and a line six miles long was waiting when the doors were closed; it seems unlikely that another ruler will lie in state in England. ==== Captain de Crespigny, of the Life Guards, a well known polo player who recently visited the United States, shot and killed himself on Lord Brassey's estate, where he was a guest. ==== M. Nau, an aeronaut, fell with his monoplane at Juvisy and was seriously injured. ==== Commander Peary gave a lecture in Vienna and received the gold medal of the Imperial Geographical Society. ==== Mme. Viardot-Garcia, formerly a noted singer, sister of Malibran, died in Paris. ==== Forty-seven workmen were drowned by the upsetting of a ferryboat on the River Dnieper.

DOMESTIC.—The state Senate at Albany defeated the Hinman-Green direct nominations bill by a vote of 25 to 23 and the Grady-Frisbie Democratic League primary measure by a vote of 26 to 11. ==== Representative William S. Bennet in a letter to Governor Hughes asked the latter's co-operation in facilitating naturalization in the state courts. ==== A caucus of Republican Representatives will be held in Washington early next week on the postal savings bank bill. ==== Vice-President Sherman, in a speech at Kalamazoo, Mich., spoke in behalf of the administration and the tariff law. ==== Many observatories reported spots on the sun, Father Brennan, of Kenrick Seminary, St. Louis, reporting thirty; it was said to be doubtful if the phenomena were caused by Halley's comet.

CITY.—Stocks were dull and heavy. ==== In the trial of Charles R. Heike and five former employes of the American Sugar Refining Company all objections to testimony relating to conditions on the sugar wharves when the government raid was made were overruled by the court. ==== John Kerby, jr., president of the National Manufacturers' Association, made a sharp attack on the National Civic Federation. ==== Roswell D. Williams, the Tammany district leader, and his co-defendants charged with conspiracy, took the stand in their own defence and made general denials. ==== Belle Moore, the alleged "white slave" trader, was placed on trial in General Sessions. ==== The Rev. Dr. George Alexander, of this city, was said to be the favorite for moderator of the Presbyterian General Assembly, which opens in Atlantic City to-day.

THE WEATHER.—Indications for to-day: Fair. The temperature yesterday: Highest, 68 degrees; lowest, 52.

TELLING THEM TO BE GOOD.

In forbidding the Nicaraguan belligerents to bombard the city of Bluefields or to fight in its streets the American commander takes high ground, for which, however, there is apparently ample justification in both law and equity. Bluefields is not, we believe, a fortified place, and we are informed that it is not occupied by a military force. In those circumstances the ordinary rules of war should certainly exempt it from bombardment. It is, moreover, obvious that bombardment would inevitably do much harm to American lives and property, and it would seem to be as legitimate to forbid the infliction of such damage as to let it occur and then exact reparation.

On grounds of equity also the United States has a strong case for such intervention. The aimless prolongation of this miserable bickering in Nicaragua is getting to be intolerable. There is notoriously no issue at stake worth a moment's fighting, yet the United States is compelled to keep its forces on guard there month after month for the protection of its citizens and their property. There ought to be a limit to that sort of thing. We intervened in Cuba largely because the war there had degenerated into an indeterminate conflict in which nothing was being gained by either party. There is the same reason for intervention in Nicaragua, and while we certainly should not wish to see anything like a military occupation of that country and have no idea that our government contemplates such a step, it does seem fitting that such a place as Bluefields should have the protection of our navy against a wanton attack.

This is to be said the more confidently because there is reason to suspect that an attack on Bluefields was planned largely for the sake of provoking, if possible, American intervention. We would not, of course, grant that maladroit desire in the way in which it is meant, by involving this country in the ruction as a partisan of one or the other faction. But the action which is now reported would appear to be well suited to preserve the neutrality of this country, while protecting the rights of its citizens and disappointing the mischievous designs of belligerent plotters.

A BARREN VICTORY.

The state Senate has voted to ratify the income tax amendment to the federal Constitution, but the assent of the upper branch of the Legislature must remain barren unless the lower branch can be induced to reverse its two successive votes against the amendment. At this stage of the session a reopening of the fight in the Assembly is not probable, nor, in our opinion, would it be justifiable. The present Legislature has no mandate from the voters either to ratify or to reject the income tax amendment. The Senate, which has just approved it, was elected in 1908, when no one conceived that a proposal to enlarge the federal power to tax incomes would be submitted to the states. Members of the Senate are therefore voting merely their own opinions, unless it be admitted that the Democrats in that body are under an obligation to make good the income tax declaration of the last Democratic national platform.

Nor can it be said that the members of the Assembly elected last fall received instructions from the people on the income tax question. Few candidates took the trouble to say whether they would vote for ratification or not. In the counties included in this city, certainly, the amendment was completely ignored, the fight for the control of the city government absorbing the attention of the voters of all parties. New York's Legislature meets every year. There is ample opportunity to act on the amendment, and it would be much wiser to leave the final decision to a legislature possessing a better understanding of the wishes of the voters and a clearer delegation of authority to act in their behalf.

The Southern states were all expected to vote for the amendment, because it carried out a notion and a promise of the Democratic party. But Southern commonwealths are waking up to the fact that the amendment, as drawn, invades state rights and would allow the federal government to tax the instrumentalities of the states. Virginia has already rejected the proposition on that ground, and Louisiana is expected to follow Virginia's example. The Governor of Louisiana, Jared Y. Sanders, has advised the Legislature, which has just met in extra session, to refuse ratification. The leading Democratic newspapers in the state are also counselling rejection, using in opposition the arguments made by Governor Hughes. "The New Orleans Picayune" put the case thus in a recent issue:

> The federal income tax amendment invites the people to a public entertainment in which the chief spectacle is to witness the cutting off of the mane and tails of all the lions of wealth, but while we are enjoying the spectacle of the humiliation of the pride of others we are having our state's mane shaved and tail clipped.

The question with every state legislature which seriously considers the amendment is whether it is to the best interest of a state to weaken itself doubly by yielding up a fruitful source of revenue and by exposing its securities to depreciation through charges on them from which they are now protected, simply in order to give the general government a little freer hand in using the direct taxing power.

A SUCCESSOR TO HASKELL.

It is hard to think of Oklahoma without Governor Haskell or of Haskell without Oklahoma. Their separation violates the eternal fitness of things. Nevertheless, the country must prepare to become acquainted with Haskell's successor, for Haskell's term of office is nearly over and already the state resounds with the efforts of those who are trying to prove themselves worthy to fill the chair of Oklahoma's first Executive.

For a glimpse of one of the candidates we are indebted to a broadside in which General Brant Kirk, lawyer, journalist and ex-travelling man, "of "Southern fame and a campaign orator "of national reputation," "announces for Governor." General Kirk "would pen "gamblers and bootleggers. They cost "the courts millions. Would devote same "to raise teachers' salaries and to roads, "bridges, that farm lands may advance." Thus he has a well conceived programme. He not only favors a great variety of improvements, but has a simple way to provide the wherewithal without touching the sensitive pockets of the taxpayers. The criminals are costing the state $2,000,000. Get rid of the criminals and spend the $2,000,000 on good roads and other desirable things. His platform is broad and composed of many planks. He "favors" about everything that any man could conceivably favor. In general, he says:

> I advocate the dethronement of trusts, the enthronement of the people and the elimination of the demagogue. Let intelligence have sway and the wheels of progress be not clogged; then our state will indeed be grand, imperial Oklahoma, the pride of her people and the admiration of the world.

Oklahoma is already the admiration and wonder of the world. But a reading of the paper in which General Kirk "announces for Governor" and a study of his statesmanlike countenance which adorns it convinces us that her reputation would be safe in his hands.

We say this without any knowledge of the other Democratic candidates except such as we get from the general's announcement, which contains an "open challenge" addressed "to the public, the "Democratic candidates for Governor "and to Colonel L. P. Ross in particu-"lar." "Colonel L. P. Ross in particular" is presumably the leading rival of General Kirk. He is the favorite of the liquor interests, but General Kirk "spent "six weeks of his time three years ago "working and stumping for prohibition "and gave $100 to the cause," while the other candidates, "Cruce, Murray and Robertson," were on the fence, or, as the general more elegantly puts it, "were dormant." They will hardly be permitted to remain dormant much longer, for the general posts $200 and challenges them one and all to a joint debate "in "the seventy-six counties of the state," the challenge not to hold good unless it is accepted for seventy-six "goes," so to speak.

Of some of the challenged we confess to having formed an unfavorable impression. Of Mr. Murray, we learn that "he "owns and controls 1,400 acres of the "best of intermarried Indian land. Mr. "Cruce got a big slice of intermarried "Indian land, too." We suspect they are what is known as "squaw men." However, there must be a good deal of "intermarried land" in Oklahoma, for the general would not be understood to be prejudiced. He says: "I would not cast "any reflection on either of these inter-"married princes or on any intermarried "citizen, nor on the Indian race. They "are a great people. I love the fair "Indian maiden; but must say, at times "she does not exercise the best judgment "in selecting a white politician for a "husband." Mr. Murray, however, does not make good use of his intermarried land, as witness: "Mr. Murray's friends "claim he is a farmer. I will wager that "I can grind all the corn, cane and al-"falfa (not cockleburs) in a coffee mill "that he ever raised by the sweat of his "own brow. Mr. Murray tries to farm the "farmers more than he does his farm." The general here is on safe ground, for he belonged to a farmers' club when he was eighteen years old. He appeals "to "Democrats, not demagogues; thinkers, "not fools." He will not appeal in vain.

HOME RULE ON HIGHWAYS.

The latest amendment to the Callan automobile bill at Albany is doubtless welcome to the majority of users of motor cars, though we doubt its acceptability to the advocates of municipal home rule. It deprives all municipalities excepting large cities of the power to prescribe traffic regulations for their highways and puts them under a general state law. We cannot say that we were much impressed by some of the arguments put forward *pro* and *contra*, especially by the plea that it might take two weeks to run from New York to Buffalo if local rules were in force. The level of Lake Erie would not be perceptibly raised by the tears of the myriads who were denied the indispensable privilege of running cars from New York to Buffalo in record breaking time. But there is undoubtedly a good deal to be said on both sides of the question, and perhaps most of it is on the side of the amendment denying home rule.

We have pointed out that a system of separate and different rules for individual municipalities would make it necessary for the automobilist to carry and frequently consult a guidebook or a gazetteer if he was to avoid trouble, and also for every boundary line between towns and villages to be conspicuously marked. It seems doubtful if the good to be attained, if any, would repay this trouble. Indeed, it is not easy to see why there should be any differences in speed and other rules in places of similar character. We may grant that traffic rules on Broadway, New York, must differ from those on a turnpike between Squedunk and Podunk, but why should the eighty-two inhabitants of Squedunk be permitted to enforce eleven and a half miles an hour as the maximum speed permitted on their end of the turnpike while the eighty-seven citizens of Podunk permit nineteen and three-quarters on their part of the same highway?

Inasmuch also as a large and increasing mileage of roads, and particularly roads frequented by automobiles, has been built or improved at general state expense in recent years, it seems appropriate that such roads should be under a certain measure of general rather than of purely local control. Of course, the establishment of a general highway law for the regulation of automobiles will impose a responsibility upon the state, both in the framing and in the enforcement of such a law, which otherwise would be remitted to the local municipalities; but it may well be held that such responsibility and its accompanying authority should properly be vested in the state. Nor will it escape notice that the state system, with a provision that fees and penalties are all to be turned in to the general state fund, will tend pretty effectually to do away with certain local abuses, such as the setting of "automobile traps" and the exaction of extortionate fines.

On the other hand, local municipalities will have a right to demand from the state a larger measure of protection from abuses of the highways than is now always afforded under some state systems. There is a great deal too much reckless and dangerous speeding of machines, and if the prohibition of home rule should result, as some fear, in an increase of that evil, there would be much just dissatisfaction. State regulation will be acceptable only on condition that it is effective.

TAKING OVER THE POSTOFFICE.

In these days when the federal power is supposed to be encroaching steadily and remorselessly on the powers reserved to the states it is encouraging to know that a vigorous counter movement is being planned by some of the ever vigilant defenders in Congress of imperilled state rights. Under the leadership of the Hon. Augustus Octavius Bacon, of Georgia, a valiant attempt is to be made to recoup some of the losses sustained by the states in recent clashes with the central government by challenging and dividing a jurisdiction which has hitherto been supposed to be exclusively national. Mr. Bacon and those who agree with him want to have the states admitted to partnership in the administration of the postal service. They want to transfer the right to name postmasters within any state to the voters of the various communities in that state, or to the Senators and Representatives whom the state sends to Congress.

The Georgia Senator is not to be hampered in his crusade by the arrangements made in the Constitution for the appointment of federal officers. He remarked in the Senate the other day:

> Mr. President, I wish to say that I regard it as a fundamental proposition, which applies not only to officers elected at the polls but equally to officers selected by executive appointment or in any other way known to the law, that every man who holds an office ought to hold it as the choice of the people whom he serves.

But since it is legally impracticable just at present for a community to elect its own postmaster, Mr. Bacon is willing to have the principle of state and local sovereignty established indirectly. How he would do it is indicated in the following colloquy between himself and his colleague, Mr. Clay:

> Mr. Clay—Is it not true that this evil would be remedied to a great extent if we will adopt this rule in the Senate: Agree that no man shall be confirmed to an office in a state unless the Senators from that state are in favor of his confirmation? I lay down the proposition that if the Democratic party were in power to-day and the two Republican Senators from Vermont should stand on this floor and say that an appointee in that state is unfit for public office and that he ought not to be confirmed I should feel it my duty to vote against his confirmation. I believe the Senators from a state ought to control the confirmation of appointees in that state.
>
> Mr. Bacon—Mr. President, I go a little further than my distinguished colleague. I do not say simply that a man ought not to be confirmed who is disapproved by the Senators from a particular state, but I say that I do not think any man ought to be confirmed who is not approved by the Senators from that state.

The management of the postoffice has always been considered a peculiarly federal duty. Even the Articles of Confederation gave Congress "the sole and exclusive right" of "establishing and regu-"lating postoffices from one state to "another, throughout all the United "States." The Constitution vested absolutely in the national government the power to establish postoffices and post roads. It did not say anything about an obligation to exercise that power so as to conform to the wishes expressed at the polls of the people in each community in which a postmaster was to be appointed. Mr. Bacon and his associates have now undertaken to defederalize the postal service and make it an agency not of the nation but of the states. They may not succeed, but their enterprise proves that the old anti-federalistic spirit has not been snuffed out. If the federalists do not sit up and take notice the Postoffice Department may soon be reduced to "innocuous desuetude" and the towns and villages of Georgia be fixing postal rates by referendum and electing postmasters *ad libitum* under the provisions of the recall.

PHILADELPHIA'S BOND RATE.

The failure of Philadelphia's $8,000,000 4 per cent loan the other day shows that New York City is not the exception in having to offer a higher rate in order to borrow money. Philadelphia will raise its rate to 4¼ per cent, as New York did at the recent sale, and will then be able to dispose of its bonds.

Much has been made of the great increase in New York City's debt as a factor in compelling it to pay a higher rate on its bonds. No doubt that has had an effect, but Philadelphia's experience has been similar to New York's, and Philadelphia cannot be regarded as a heavy borrower. In the decade beginning with 1900 the total bond issues of that city amounted to only $67,314,700, a sum considerably less than New York sometimes borrows in a single year. Yet the interest rate that Philadelphia has had to pay has advanced very much as New York's interest rate has advanced. In 1900 Philadelphia could borrow money for 3 per cent. The city borrowed only $3,000,000 that year. Nevertheless, the interest went up to 3½ per cent the next year, and although the annual borrowings remained small the rate jumped to 4 per cent in 1907 and now is at 4¼ per cent, the same rate which New York, with its heavy demands on the money market, has to pay.

We violate no confidence in saying that Weather Forecaster Scarr is the best natured man in town. Though he must have foreseen that he would receive a fusillade of idiotic questions yesterday, he put on no substitute, but stuck bravely to his post.

John A. Kasson, who died yesterday at Washington in his eighty-ninth year, was for many years a figure of importance in national politics. He represented Iowa in the House of Representatives for six terms, at intervals between 1863 and 1885, was Minister to Austria-Hungary and to Germany and discharged numerous minor diplomatic missions. He was a man of cultivated tastes and solid accomplishments and a useful public servant. The unusual scope of his public career is indicated by the facts that he was a delegate to the Free Soil National Convention in Buffalo in 1848 and was employed as late as 1901 as special agent of the State Department for the negotiation of reciprocity treaties.

We note the disappearance of the Hon. William J. Bryan from the list of preferred creditors of the Democratic party.

Man's inhumanity to man is not for an instant comparable with the heartlessness which prescribes plain dress for the Radcliffe graduates at commencement this year.

The Democratic primary in Florida for the nomination of a candidate for United States Senator resulted in a draw between Senator Taliaferro and his chief opponent, ex-Governor Broward. The former got 21,045 votes and the latter 21,018. A third candidate received 4,660 votes, so a second contest between Mr. Tallaferro and Mr. Broward will be necessary. The opposition to the present Senator's re-election seems to be based, curiously enough, on the fact that he worked to secure protection on Florida products.

Between seemingly authoritative announcements of the hour and minute at which the comet would begin its transit across the sun's face slight discrepancies may be observed, but they should cause no surprise. While the method of computation adopted for the calculation resembles that of forecasting an eclipse of the sun, it differs in at least one particular. In the first instance the exact size of the obscuring body is known, and it is practically unchangeable. The apparent diameters of both the sun and moon are, to be sure, affected by their distance from the earth, and this undergoes slight but accurately determined variations. Yet it is feasible to tell with great precision how large is the object to be hidden and how large is the one which will hide it. On the other hand, the nebulous envelope about the solid material in a comet's head often grows and shrinks amazingly in a few weeks. Such a lack of uniformity may defy the cleverest mathematician. Even more puzzling, for the same reason, must be the task of predicting when the earth will be immersed in a comet's tail.

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

Dr. W. E. Evans, Chicago's Commissioner of Health, has issued a series of "healthograms"—epigrams relating to sanitation and health. Here are a few samples:

"Filth for flies and flies for fever.

"When you don't know what to eat—eat nothing.

"Dark living rooms speedily plant candles at your head.

"Teasing baby to make it laugh is a crying shame.

"The birth of a fly may mean the death of a baby; kill the flies and save the babies.

"A heap of rubbish about your house is a tombstone to your self-respect and civic pride."

"They're very desirable people to know."

"Why so?"

"They own a summer cottage and a big launch and they entertain liberally."—Detroit Free Press.

On Empire Day, May 24, Earl Grey will formally unveil the memorial in University avenue, Toronto, which has been erected to the Canadians who fell in the South African war. When completed the memorial will cost about $40,000, and of this amount almost the whole has been subscribed. It is hoped that General Sir John French will be present at the ceremony.

"Pa, what are wallflowers?"

"Pinks of propriety, my son."—Boston Transcript.

HALLEY.

Did anybody here see Halley,
Halley with a great long tail?
Did anybody here see Halley,
And suddenly turn pale?
Did anybody here see Halley,
Halley, they said, was It?
Did anybody here see Halley,
And throw a comet fit?
Did anybody here see Halley,
Halley, that starry josh?
Did anybody here see Halley,
And feel his passing wash?
Did anybody here see Halley,
Halley, whom all of us know?
Did anybody here see Halley,
Halley and his bobtail show?
Did anybody here see Halley,
Halley they'd billed to come
With a show that was worth the money,
But, oh! say, wasn't it bum?
Did anybody here see Halley?
If anybody did, by heck!
He ought to be bounced if he didn't
Hand him one in the neck.

W. J. LAMPTON.

"And can you conscientiously recommend this young man as a minister of the Gospel?"

"Sir, I've seen him put a 15 collar on a 15½ shirt without uttering a profane word!"—Cleveland Leader.

A downtown confectionery establishment had in its show window yesterday a card surrounded by boxes and pyramids of candy bearing this inscription: "If you are going to sit up to see the comet and have the children with you, so that you may all be together in case something happens, take candies home with you. It will keep them awake and sweeten the time. If we are here to-morrow we will take back all they did not eat."

"She claims to be much younger than she really is, I think."

"Yes. She admitted the other day that she could easily remember when Travis won his first golf championship."—Chicago Record-Herald.

Up in Yonkers one of the fire companies in the outskirts has a horse which is a great favorite not only with the firemen but with the neighbors. He roams at will in the vacant lots for blocks from the house, but he is on the job at the first tap of the bell, and never seems to be behind the less privileged animals which have to stay in the house. This steed gets his regular meals at home, but he is a welcome guest at all the nearby houses where there are children, and receives a good many dainties to eke out the bill of fare provided by the municipality.

"Why did you break off your engagement with George?" asked the friend of the family, who had the rubber habit.

"Because he's a quitter," replied the fair suffragette. "He was willing to love and honor me, but he wouldn't promise to 'obey' in his part of the marriage service."—Chicago News.

DR. JUDSON MISQUOTED

Does Not Consider Present Age "Most Decadent in History."

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Recent press dispatches attribute to me in an address the statement that "the present age is the most decadent in history, with the exception of the days just before the fall of the Roman Empire and before the French Revolution."

I did not make that statement. Such a generalization would be idle at best. I do not believe it to be true, and did not assert it. HARRY PRATT JUDSON,

Office of president, University of Chicago,
Chicago, May 16, 1910.

A WORD OF THANKS.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: On my return to my office after a brief absence, I notice the space generously accorded by The Tribune to the needs of the Northfield work in the insertion of my recent letter.

I wish to express my personal thanks for your kindness and to assure you how deeply sensible I am of the confidence and sympathy thus cordially expressed by you in the work. We are hearing from a number of friends who have seen the appeal and are responding to it. I esteem very highly the sympathetic attitude of the press, which has so frequently helped us in the past.

W. R. MOODY.

Northfield, Mass., May 17, 1910.

IRISHMEN ALL OF THEM.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: It is not generally known that Professor Halley (the name is a variation of Healey) of Halley's comet fame had a Tipperary origin. The O'Halleys were hereditary physicians in Ireland and a branch of the O'Briens. Their original home was Feralt, County Tipperary.

Mr. Crommelin, of the Greenwich Observatory, who had the unique honor of actually predicting, long before the comet was visible, when the great telescopes should be pointed to see it, is an Irishman and a native of County Antrim. It is interesting to observe in this conection that some of the greatest astronomers in recent years were Irishmen. The late Earl of Rosse, the late Dr. Romney Robinson, Dr. Rambaut and Sir Robert Ball, who was appointed from Dublin to the professorship of astronomy at Cambridge, England, are all Irishmen. J. H.

New-York, May 18, 1910.

FOR RELIEF OF COMMUTERS.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: In re matter of proposed increase in passenger commutation rates on the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad, it seems that the only relief open to the large number of commuters who reside outside of the State of New York is before the Interstate Commerce Commission. The customary procedure is for a person aggrieved to file a complaint before the commission, and the proceedings thereafter are quite similar to proceedings in the United States courts. This necessarily involves the employment of competent counsel and a very considerable sum for disbursements, a burden which is too onerous for one commuter or even a number of commuters to bear.

In "the act to regulate commerce" the Interstate Commerce Commission has power to institute an inquiry upon its own motion, and on behalf of several commuters the writer addressed the commission, requesting that such inquiry be instituted, and in a reply received yesterday I am notified that it now has the matter under consideration.

Favorable action, however, cannot be expected unless the Interstate Commerce Commission is convinced that the feeling against the proposed increase is general and not confined to a few, and for that reason it is earnestly requested that each commuter who is opposed to such increase address a letter immediately to said Interstate Commerce Commission at Washington, protesting against the increase and stating from what station the writer commutes, the present rate and the amount of the proposed increase.

WILLIAM B. DUNCAN.

New York, May 18, 1910.

HAPPY THOUGHT NUMBER ONE.

From The Savannah News.

An Indiana doctor says people should have only happy thoughts while they are eating. Happy thought: We'll hang and draw and quarter the trusts that are making us pay so much for food!

STANDING ROOM ONLY.

From The Denver Republican.

A New York woman had her father committed to an insane asylum because he babbled of baseball. If this precedent is to be considered as established, every state should begin to enlarge its asylums right away.

People and Social Incidents

AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Washington, May 18.—The President discussed legislative matters with several Senators and Representatives. The exit of Senators Aldrich, Root, Kean and Crane was followed by emphatic denials from the President that he had read the insurgents out of the party or had made disparaging statements about them. The reports being circulated among the Senate and House insurgents are entirely without foundation, said the President's callers.

Representative Loud talked to the President about the action of Canadian authorities in prohibiting the exportation of pulp wood.

Lloyd C. Griscom was a guest at luncheon at the White House to-day.

Representatives Slayden, Burgess and Gillespie called in the interests of Representative Russell, whom they have recommended for appointment as United States federal judge of the Eastern District of Texas.

President Taft has commuted to life imprisonment the death sentence of Private Charles W. O'Neill, of the 12th Cavalry, who, in a fit of jealousy, shot and killed Minnie Sharbeno, his sweetheart, and who was to be hanged on May 28. This action was taken after a conference with Representatives Scott, of Kansas, and Chapman, of Illinois. They said that they did not believe the murder was premeditated.

Charles H. Thornton, serving a five-year sentence for embezzling funds of the Hamilton National Bank of Chicago, and whose term expires January 8, 1911, will be able to keep his promise to his fiancée to wed some time during December of this year, President Taft having set the date of his liberation for December 9, 1910.

The President received the delegates to the twenty-fourth annual convention of the United Typothetæ of America this morning. They were introduced by Representative Weeks and President E. Lawrence Fell.

Among the White House callers were the Attorney General, the Secretary of Commerce and Labor, Representatives Young, Crow, Bennet, Ransdell, Watkins, Austin, Sterling, Moon, of Pennsylvania; Morse, Howell, Kustermann, Candler, Helm, Taylor, Pujo, Finley, Alexander, Good and Wiley, who was accompanied by Director Smith, of the Geological Survey.

President Taft, accompanied by Captain Butt and General Edwards, played golf this afternoon.

THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, May 18.—The Ambassador from Germany will go to Schenectady for the commencement exercises at Union College in June, and will be honorary chancellor and deliver an address. Mr. Bryce, the Ambassador from Great Britain, was to have made the address, but was compelled to cancel the engagement by the death of King Edward.

The Minister from Sweden will go to New York on May 27 to sail for Europe, where Mme. de Lagercrantz has preceded him by several weeks. When they return in the fall they will bring with them their children, who have remained with relatives in Sweden since the Minister and Mme. de Lagercrantz returned here some months ago.

The Minister from Bolivia entertained informally at luncheon to-day in honor of Señor Montes, former President of Bolivia and now Bolivian Minister to London, who is on his way to England. John Barrett, of the Bureau of American Republics, and a few of the South and Central American diplomats were guests.

Captain Arturo Cuevas, recently appointed naval attaché of the Chilian Legation, has arrived in Washington.

IN WASHINGTON SOCIETY.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, May 18.—Senator and Mrs. Depew returned to Washington this evening from Atlantic City, where they stopped for a few days after leaving New York. The Senator entertained a large dinner party to-night in honor of Senator Root, who will leave Washington on Friday for The Hague. The Senator's guests were the New York Republican delegation in the House, the Speaker, the Secretary of the Senate, E. H. Butler, of Buffalo; William Barnes, jr., of Albany, and Lloyd C. Griscom, Timothy L. Woodruff and John A. Switzer, of New York.

Miss Mathilde Townsend returned to Washington to-night from a visit of several days at Atlantic City and New York.

Mrs. Beekman Winthrop entertained informally at luncheon to-day in compliment to Mrs. Robert Winthrop, who is her guest for some days.

Justice White entertained a number of guests at dinner at the Country Club to-night.

Major General and Mrs. J. Franklin Bell left Washington to-day for Great Neck, Long Island, where they will remain for several weeks.

Miss Henrietta Fitch has gone to Philadelphia to visit her brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Albert P. Gerhard. Chief Engineer Henry W. Fitch, U. S. N., and Mrs. Fitch will go to Bayhead, N. J., for the summer, leaving here shortly.

Dr. and Mrs. Fremont Smith will close their house on Thursday of next week and will go to the Kossuth Cottage, their summer home at Bar Harbor, for the season.

Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Hague have closed their Washington house and are in Newport.

Miss Dorothy Wagner, daughter of the late Colonel A. L. Wagner, U. S. A., and Mrs. Annie H. Wagner, was married at noon to-day to Lyman H. Nelson, of New York and London. Canon Austin officiated and a reception followed the ceremony. Miss Gertrude Wagner was her sister's only attendant and Palen Nelson, of New York, was best man for his brother. Among the New York people who came on for the wedding were Mrs. Richard Nelson and Miss Nelson, Joseph A. Faye, Redmond Kersey, of Brooklyn, and Frederick Nelson and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Schenck. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson will sail soon for London, the future home.

NEW YORK SOCIETY.

Miss Mary Harriman, daughter of Mr. E. Henry Harriman, will be married to Charles Carey Rumsey on Thursday, May 26, at the little church at Arden, N. Y., where her father, the late E. Henry Harriman, is buried. The wedding will be very small and quiet and only the immediate relatives will be present at the ceremony, which is to be performed by the rector, the Rev. Mr. McGinnis, who lives in Chester. The engagement of the young couple was announced two weeks ago. Mr. Rumsey, who is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Laurence D. Rumsey, of Buffalo, is a daring 'cross-country rider and polo player and a clever sculptor.

Miss Mathilde Townsend, daughter of Mrs. Richard Townsend, will be married on the same date—May 26—to Peter Goelet Gerry, a brother of Robert L. Gerry, who married Miss Cornelia Harriman, a sister of Miss Mary Harriman, a little over two years ago. Their wedding will take place in Washington.

Miss Helen Frith, daughter of L. Xavier Frith, will be married this afternoon to Hendrik Hudson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles I. Hudson. The wedding will take place at the home of the bride's father, No. 35 West 37th street. The bride's attendants will be her sister, Miss Louise Frith; Miss Anna Gardiner and Miss Antoinette Heckscher. Hans Kierstede Hudson will act as his brother's best man and the ushers will include Alfred Wagstaff, jr., Rowland Stebbins, Walter Kobbe and C. Alan Hudson.

The "Chantecler" entertainment for the benefit of the New York Diet Kitchen will be given in the Palm Garden of the Casino in Central Park this afternoon and evening under the patronage of Mrs. Joseph H. Harriman, Mrs. William Wilcox, Mrs. William W. McAlpin, Mrs. Ernest Thompson Seton and others. Young women of society dressed in Chantecler costumes will act as waitresses. Tea will be served at five o'clock and later a table d'hote dinner during which the café chantant will be held.

Mrs. J. Hood Wright will open her country place at Fort Washington next week.

Mr. and Mrs. H. de B. Parsons will take possession of their country place at Rye, N. Y., on Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Stuyvesant Fish will open their country place at Garrison, N. Y., on Saturday, where they will remain until they go to Newport for the season at the end of next month.

Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Dallas Bache Pratt, who are at the Gotham, will sail for Europe on June 1.

Mrs. M. Orme Wilson gave a dinner last night at her house, in East 64th street.

Miss Katherine S. Fowler, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Powell Fowler, will be married to Dunlevy Milbank, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Milbank, on June 1, in St. James's Church, Madison avenue and 71st street. Mrs. Francis M. Palmer will be her sister's matron of honor and two other sisters, Miss Ruth and Miss Eleanor Fowler, Miss Ruth Haskins, Miss Ethel Spencer, Miss Esther McCullough and Miss Margaret Schulze, of St. Paul, will be the bridesmaids. Jeremiah Milbank will be his brother's best man, and the ushers will include Vivian Spencer, Emmet Harris, Francis F. Palmer, Morris Groves and Frederick Lockman. Mr. Milbank will give his bachelor dinner at Delmonico's on May 27 and Mrs. Milbank will give a dinner on Monday at her place in Fort Chester for her son and his fiancée. Mr. and Mrs. Fowler will give a dinner for the entire bridal party in the Metropolitan Club annex on Wednesday.

SOCIAL NOTES FROM NEWPORT.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Newport, May 18.—Miss Freda Paine, Miss Marianna Fullam, Mrs. William Sargent Kendall and Austin L. Sands returned from New York this evening.

Mrs. Clarence Pell and Miss Charlotte Pell arrived to-day for the season.

Mrs. Edward Potter arrived from New York this evening and is a guest at the La Forge cottage.

General and Mrs. J. Fred Pierson, of New York, are expected for the summer early next month.

Mrs. Walter N. Eldridge and Miss Katherine Neill, who have been visiting in New York, have returned.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. Hillhouse will come for the season to-morrow.

Mrs. Barger Wallach returned to New York to-day.

Arnold Hague, who has been making a short visit, departed for Washington to-day.

The Misses Ida M. and Ellen F. Mason left here to-day for Dublin, N. H.

IN THE BERKSHIRES.

Lenox, May 18.—Collector William Loeb, jr., of New York, who is a guest of R. A. C. Smith, of New York, on a motor trip, was present