TRYING TO HELP THE POOR.

MR. DREXEL'S COFFEE AND COAL EXPERIMENTS, AND WHY THEY FAILED.

Methods which Aim at Helping the Poor to Help Themselves—Working Up Beneficent Occupations to Attract Capital to Them.

Last Monday the two restaurants of the New York Coffee House Company—one at Grand and Columbia streets, the other at Spring and Greenwich streets—were closed. These restaurants were fitted up with libraries and reading rooms, and while no attempt was made to undersell other cheap restaurants, the food served was of good quality, and special pains were taken to maintain neat and clean tables for customers.

Mr. Joseph W. Drexel, the President of the company, explained that while the company had a benevolent object in view, it had not been intended to establish a charity. The object was to see whether coffee houses of the style established by the company could not be made to pay as a business enterprise, so that people would start coffee houses to make money just as they start barrooms to make money, and that wholesome resorts for people of caste and means would spring up.

"This was no sugar-coated pill about the business," said Mr. Drexel, a genial, florid gentleman, who is a member of the well-known firm of bankers. "We were not devising attractions to get people to hear religious exhortation or temperance lectures. The scheme was divested of everything that might seem like philanthropy or charity. Neither was intended, and, in this country, neither would be acceptable to the self-respecting poor. I don't think there was any feeling against the enterprise on the score. A man who went to one of the company's restaurants was not accepting a favor any more than when he went to any other restaurant. So far as getting patronage is concerned, the restaurants were successful. There used to be as many as eighty or ninety persons of an evening in the reading rooms, and good was undoubtedly accomplished. I don't know that we drew in larroon loungers. They are a pretty hard class to reach. Our idea was to found a class of business enterprises that would attract the patronage of the young, intelligent mechanic and his self-respecting family. We succeeded in that. But the restaurants failed as business enterprises, and hence failed to accomplish our idea. We lost about $6,000 after a trial of about two years, and we have abandoned the restaurant idea. The company, however, will continue operations in a different way. We shall place coffee stands in stations established in the Five Points House of Industry, and shall establish little coffee stations in the tenement house districts, and will peddle coffee through the streets from little wagons. We have a coffee stand in the Rector street station of the elevated road, and another down at the Whitehall street terminus. We shall probably establish one near the Post Office for the patronage of the street car conductors and drivers. In about two weeks we shall have a couple of coffee wagons going about, and we shall have more as fast as we can distribute them. We shall sell at a price as low as possible, but we shall not attempt to undersell other venders of hot coffee, and we shall conduct the enterprise on business principles. We shall be glad to induce others to go into the business, and we want to build up a business and a business view. We want to see people starting coffee carts for the same reason that they would start a corner peanut stand—to make money. If we can develop a business of that kind our object will be accomplished. Buying coffee by the wholesale and making a fine article of it is a science that I do not know that you can buy it from us by the gallon, pint, quart, gallon, or any quantity they desire, and if people are got into the habit of sending to the coffee house instead of to the corner bar room we shall accomplish the good that we have in view."

Mr. Drexel last winter carried on a coal business, the object of which was to give small consumers the opportunity of buying as cheaply as the rich purchased by the ton. Mr. Drexel delivered coal on the sidewalk in any part of the city to the Fourteenth street, in bags of 100 pounds, guaranteed full weight, for 25 cents a bag, which was at the rate of $5 a ton. "My idea," he says, "was to reach the people who are in the habit of buying coal by the pail or bushel, and have to pay $7 or $8 a ton for it. I distributed circulars explaining the advantages of the system. I had them translated into all the continental languages, and I had them left on sale in bakeries and drug stores all over the lower east side. The tickets were issued in the summer, my idea being to induce people to put by a five-cent piece for winter coal, when they had one to spare, and then come to the bakery or drug store, the lowest amount for which I delivered coal was twenty-five cents. On the back of the cards were printed the addresses of seven places at which coal orders could be left."

The reporter was shown specimens of these tickets, any one having seen the fine work done with fine copper plate engraving, the five-cent tickets printed in green, the ten-cent tickets in yellow, and the twenty-five-cent tickets in red, with the name of the firm their value appearing in white in the centre of the cards. When the tickets were issued in the summer, anthracite was selling at $6.75 a ton. In the winter it rose to $7.5 and $8.75, but the price of Mr. Drexel's coal was steadily maintained at $5 a ton, 25 cents per 100 pounds net weight, exclusive of the bag.

"The result of the experiment," said Mr. Drexel, "was not satisfactory. I had two deliveries a week, and the business was large, and, altogether, I found that delivery alone cost half as much as the coal. Of course I lost money in the enterprise, but what caused me to abandon it was the fact that it did not reach the people for whose benefit it was intended. There seemed to be a strong feeling against the small consumers, for a week I intended it. Perhaps a kindly word from the dealers from whom they were in the habit of buying influenced them. At any rate it failed, and only a small part of the coal reached the class I intended it for. It was purchased rather by tea pail at prices making a ton cost them $7 or $8 than go to the little trouble of buying tickets and giving orders for delivery. I found that the coal was going to offices, stores, and to people able to buy by the ton. This was particularly the case after a cart went up, and I was authorized to deliver at lower rates than coal could be bought at by the ton. I shall not make the experiment again. In fact, I find that in trying to ameliorate the condition of the poor, as in other things, prevention is better than cure. When people become confirmed in improvident, hand-to-mouth ways of living it is difficult to induce them to use forethought and economy for future advantage."

Mr. Doney, at the Bowery branch of the Young Men's Christian Association, has had large experience in philanthropic work among the poor. He says: "It is my experience that it is very difficult to help the very poor. They will accept charity, but when plans for their benefit involve self-help and exertion on their part they will not take any interest. Mr. Drexel is a man sincerely desirous of doing what he can to help his poor fellow citizens, but he finds it very difficult to do. Coffee houses have been a success in Liverpool, but never in this country, and I do not believe they ever will succeed here. The mode of living in this country and the character of our people is different. An Englishman sent to me when Mr. Drexel's coffee houses were first established that they would never be patronized to the fact that in Liverpool the working men live in lodging houses. When they go out to work they take a cold lunch with them, and when meal time comes they will go to a coffee house and eat their lunch with a mug of hot coffee. The habits of the poorer of the working people there are different. The wages are steady and their margin for personal expenditure is narrow. They will go to a public house and sit and talk the whole evening while spending the little that they have. Now to them the meeting place of a coffee house is a convenient place for the exchange of news, gossip, and talk over their affairs. Here men of the same station in life have more to spend and are more restless in their habits. Public houses here, as a rule, do not encourage people to sit and talk, but like them to travel when they are in the habit of spending their money in the hope of going out in the evening will visit half a dozen places before they come home. Then, however working people, as a rule, board instead of lodging, and their meals are cooked at lodgings so that they do not have to go out of doors to eat, and thus resort to coffee houses."

"Do you think," asked the reporter, "that the popular sense of equality in this country makes poor people resent anything that looks like treating them off as a class to receive patronage or charity?"

"That feeling certainly exists, and anything done for the advantage of the respectable poor has to be divested of any appearance of patronage in order to succeed. It would save charitable people a good deal of money and trouble if they would always bear that in mind. There are enough beggars to absorb all the money that could be given for benevolence, but no harm than good would be accomplished. Mr. Drexel understands this perfectly, and his undertakings avoid anything that looks like alms giving. I believe he got the idea of the coal enterprise from Philadelphia, where it is a success, but the characteristics of the poor people there are different. They are not packed into tenement houses, and thrift and forethought seem to be more general. The only thing by which the condition of the poor can really be improved is self-help, and that is inspired by moral influences. Little can be done with people whose habits are fixed. But the children who get an education in the schools have higher ideas of comfort and more ambitious aims in life, and can be helped by offering to them the means of helping themselves. That is where philanthropists can work to advantage."

At the time of Dr. J. G. Holland's death he was busy with a scheme to establish coffee houses throughout the city by a corporation known as the Metropolitan Coffee House Company, but it is reported that his death has caused the abandonment of the project.

THE BASE BALL SEASON OF 1881.

The Successes and the Short Comings of the Metropolitan Team.

The professional base ball season of 1881 in the metropolis was a very successful one in two respects. It showed that the national game was still popular, and also that a season of honest professional play could be maintained in this city. Moreover, the fielding exhibitions made by the Metropolitan representative team of the season was an exceptionally good one when the circumstances of its management are taken into consideration. But beyond these special points of the season's work there is not much to elicit commendation. The experience of the season shows that in order to secure financial success better accommodations than those at the Polo grounds are necessary; that a stronger team should be got together to represent the city; that better discipline should be enforced, and that more attention should be given to the important work of keeping the players in proper condition for the development of all their skill as ball players. Lastly, it is almost the unanimous opinion of the best patrons of the Polo grounds that something should be done to remove the annoyances which have existed the past season such as the sale of beer, &c., on the grounds, the presence of boisterous spectators, and the lack of sufficient seating accommodations and shelter from the sun. The majority of the spectators the past season have been obliged to stand in the sun during an entire game. These are matters which must be attended to this season if base ball is to remain a popular sport. It will not do to have the Metropolitan team for 1882 run on the cheap plan of the past season, or with the neglect of proper training and disciplining of players which characterized the management of 1881. It has paid well in 1881 to run the local professional club as it was run, because the patrons of the game were so eager to see base ball under honest professional playing that they were willing to submit to all the drawbacks they were subjected to. But these will not be tolerated another season, and unless marked improvement is shown, the next season will be a failure. A repetition of the experiment of 1881 will be found to be a costly one, but a big bonanza awaits an attentive management.

The fielding of the Metropolitan team of 1881 was quite up to the best League standard. The fielding was ably managed by Brady, and the players who occupied home positions did able service in their respective positions. The bases were admirably filled by Esterbrook, Brady, and Mallonee, the short field by Sav, and the out field by Kennedy, Clinton, Rossman, and Walker, the last named one of these players had their "off days," as they are technically termed, which means exceptional days, when they were not in proper physical condition for their best play. But on the whole they did good work, and, above all, are they to be credited with thoroughly honest service. As to the catch "battery" the pitchers and catchers—with one exception their records were altogether creditable. First-class pitching was done by Doyle and Neagle in the latter months of the season, and by Poorman in the earlier period. A mistake was made in the engagement of a player whose conduct during the engagement of a player whose conduct caused his dismissal from the team, but this might happen to any club. The change pitcher of the team who played in a majority of the matches was physically incompetent to fill a place as batsman or fielder, and he was useless in the form of a fair catcher, so lacking in the quality of a proper catcher. Mackey in the latter part of the season materially improved in discipline, as to more than offset by these drawbacks whatever advantages his skill in pitching might have yielded. In regard to the club catchers for the past season was served by a fair number of men, Dorgan, Hayes, Wise, Dowse, Farrow, Sullivan, and Kelly, all did creditable and faithful work in their arduous position. Some of the prettiest work behind the bat seen in any League games this season was done by the Metropolitan catchers.

During the past season the club played more games than in any previous season on record, and certainly no amateur club has even approached it; even the Boston Club record of 1878 is far behind. A summary of the record gives the following interesting statistics:

Metropolitans victories with League clubs	18
Metropolitans defeats with League clubs	31
Metropolitans victories with outside clubs	33
Total	81
Metropolitan defeats with League clubs	42
Metropolitan defeats with outside clubs	24
Total	66
Drawn games	2
Total games	151

They played 79 games with outside clubs, 60 with League teams, and 10 with college nines, between the opening of the season on April 2 and the closing match of Oct. 28.

MODEST YOUNG FISHERMEN.

The Principles, Researches, and Scientific Diversions of the Undine Club.

The Undine Fishing Club was recently organized by about fifty business men. It has a fine club house and about fifteen acres of land on the east coast of Jamaica Bay. All fishing clubs, however, have fine club houses, and some own more than fifteen acres of land.

"We differ from all other fishing clubs," said a prominent member, "in the fact that no member has ever seen the sea serpent or caught a sixty-five-pound striped bass. A man who has done either is not eligible to our club. For instance, no member of the Cuttyhunk Fishing Club would be allowed to join the Undines. There isn't one of them that says he hasn't caught a sixty-five-pound striped bass. It would be the same way with the Olympics. Every one of them has seen the sea serpent. Instead of the chief feature of our club is the fact that we are getting up a work on ichthyology, every member to do a chapter."

"There are many such works. What will be the special feature of this?"

"Why, each member is devoting himself entirely to his chapter to one subject. For instance, our Captain, Dr. Boynton, who is the champion oyster-eater of the club, is writing a thesis on the gregarious habits of the Sarcesburyed. It will create a sensation. Lieut. W. A. Ogden will present a chapter on brachyral decapods. Some people call them crabs. Secretary E. B. Moyer will devote his to remarks on the macroural decaped, generally known as the lobster. Treasurer J. Bagoe will treat of bivalved mollusk acephals, sometimes called oysters and clams. He studies their nature like a night in Fulton Market. Sam Robins's chapter will be on four-tailed decapods and the cause of their mysterious appearance and disappearance on Broadway in the early spring. They are called shrimps by persons ineligible to this club. Mr. A. A. Smith is our champion angler. Wait till you read what he says about mollusk cephalopods and their effect on striped bass. Down East they call 'em squid. George J. Brown is investigating the habits of the entomostracan decaped or limulus. Down along the Jersey coast simple people call them horseshoes. But perhaps one of the most learned chapters will be that which treats of tetradecapods. Hall of it will be on isopods by Tom Henderson. Many people call them sow-bugs. The other half will be on amphipods, better known as sand fleas. Charlie Haubner will furnish that. Dr. Lockhart is engaged on a chapter on the penurian and animal and decapods. Their barbarous name is hermit crab. Jem Rivington will tell the world all about the pale-brown, widely known as crawfish. Frank E. Owen came in the other day, after a few hours' angling, with ten fish which he insisted were white bait. They proved to be dog fish, and he was ordered to study that subject up. J. C. Demming will treat of the gasteropods, sometimes called snails. George W. Brown is engaged to write a chapter on the parthenope horrida, better known as the devil fish. Messrs. Carey, Malloy, and Henderson are fond of sailing, and own a yacht. They will unite in a chapter on cirripeds. Sailors call them barnacles, but what's in a name? Billy Simis owns a fast catamaran, and has agreed to pursue, catch, and write up the swift oxypodian. Many know it better under the name and crab. Engineer George Frost claims to have caught a sixty-five-pound striped bass off Coney Island, and will be trusted to write a chapter. Col. Smith and Col. Snead will treat of the xanthe floridus, a crustacean that will soon find its way to the tables of the wealthy. Alderman Seaman, Mr. Torrey of the Rockaway Railroad, Messrs. Stark, Wicks, Liton, and Lawton of the Executive Committee have all chosen subjects for chapters, but will not as yet divulge them. Uncle John A. P. Fisk was blackballed in consequence of a statement that he had seen the sea serpent. This he denies, and after his election he will be intrusted to get up a chapter on entomostracans."

Here the veteran fisherman paused to take breath, and it was suggested that the work appeared to be more on oxypodians, tetradecapods, crustacea, and obnoxious inhabitants of the sea than on ichthyology.

"Well, you see," replied the veteran, "ours is a club of fishermen, and the boys haven't caught many fish yet. We thought we would get up the first volume on subjects we are familiar with. Next summer we will issue a volume on fish that will make your hair curl."

Nearly Half Spent in Salaries.

The special committee of the Brooklyn Common Council appointed to visit the Truant Home have issued that the children there are poorly clad, that there is a great scarcity of bed clothing, that $4,000 at least is needed to put the building in good repair, and that of the $12,240 appropriated last year, $5,000 has been paid in salaries. From such statements these children have been inmates of the Home in the past year.

Cars Blown from the Track.

DENVER, Nov. 13.—Two passenger coaches of a Colorado Central train were on Friday blown from the track, two miles east of Georgetown, by a severe wind storm. The coaches were badly smashed. There were thirteen passengers on board, all of whom were more or less injured. No one was dangerously.

WEDNESDAY'S DISASTER.

Yesterday Afternoon's Meeting of Indignation and Sympathy.

A meeting was held in Irving Hall yesterday afternoon at the call of a committee of the Social Democratic party, to express sympathy with those who were bereaved by the fall of the buildings at Grand street and South Fifth avenue, and also to give voice to the popular indignation over the neglect of the authorities who failed to prevent that calamity. From a misapprehension as to the hour set down for the meeting the hall was not entirely filled. Mr. S. Schimkowitz, the Chairman of the meeting, said it was a shame and a disgrace that the hall was not crowded to the doors, but that it was a greater disgrace that such an accident as that of the falling of the buildings on Wednesday last should be suffered to occur. The rich people of the city do not, he said, undergo such dangers as they subject their poor tenants to. The blame for the disaster belonged to the political parties who are in power in the conduct of the affairs of the city.

The first speaker of the meeting was John Swinton. He was followed by Dr. Donal, who said that about two years ago a place of amusement, belonging to the richest man in New York, fell in, killing four people and wounding many others. This happened after the building had been inspected by Dudley. No one was punished. Within the year and a half two buildings have fallen, and many more have been reported unsafe, but little has been done to make them secure, simply because there is no punishment for such a crime, and the politicians, who are in power and control the situation, have the trembling fear in the fact that the few hold all the power for the sole purpose of becoming rich quickly and at the expense of the people.

Robert Bissert asked if it was not now nearly time that a cry of "No rent" were raised in New York, where the poor people are forced to live in man traps. The inspectors of buildings, he said, were politicians, who are useful on the day of election, but may be shysters who know nothing of buildings. They are appointed by the men whom the people elect, and to the people belongs the blame. He said that he had just had word of the death of another victim of the accident in Grand street. "If it had been John Kelly," he exclaimed, "what a tumult there would have been! But the poorest child of a laboring man is as precious to the community as the first man of the country. The duty now to be performed," he continued, "is the punishment of those people by whose neglect so many suffer. There is not, he said in his closing remarks, a tenement house in this city fit to live in. The tenements are simply rat traps or death wells, and there is not a tenement in this city whom I would wish so ill as that he be confined in one of these houses."

These resolutions were then read, received with applause, and adopted by acclamation:

Whereas, The people of New York are horrified and shocked at the sad disaster that happened on Nov. 9, by the falling of the buildings at South Fifth Avenue and Grand street;

Whereas, This calamity can be traced to the culpable neglect of the duty of the authorities to the people;

Resolved, From evidence already before the public, the aforesaid department had full knowledge of the unsafe condition of said buildings;

Resolved, That this meeting deplores that the lives of its fellow citizens should be intrusted to a department so negligent of its duties.

Resolved, That we can no longer place any confidence in a department of Building Department of the city as at present constituted and officered.

Resolved, That this meeting tenders its heartfelt sympathy to those who have been bereaved by the late disaster, and that it also expresses its indignation against the authorities in whose care and whose care alone lives are trusted were more concerned in their personal and political aims than in protecting their dailies and saving the lives of many valuable lives.

Addresses were made by Dr. Kippel, William Danemeyer, and Col. Osborne Ward, the last two in German.

UP TO TREMONT AND BACK.

A Beautiful Day that Ended the Westchester Walking Club's Season.

The Westchester Walking Club went for its last walk of the season yesterday. After belying its name all summer, and mapping out walks in all the suburbs except Westchester, the members decided to do something for the name of the club. Yesterday's meeting was at the southern end of Harlem Bridge. In obedience to the unwritten law of the club, every member's boots were highly polished. The practical wisdom of this rule has always been keenly appreciated at the end of the day's tramp, except by the member who pays for the cigars, because his are the boots which, on careful inspection, are guilty of belonging to strangers. Well-worn in hard and fall overcoats on, the members set off at a round pace for Pelham.

The air was as pure and sweet as if it had been a June morning, and after the pedestrians had walked across Harlem Bridge and almost two city blocks on the Bronx side, they found the banks of the Harlem, they concluded that it was a June sunshine on their backs, and overcoats came off. Indeed, it was not difficult to imagine that it was a spring day; the long rain had brought up new grass at the roadside and in the fields, the air was almost balmy, and zephyrs blowing on the blue surface of the distant Sound. The dead leaves that whirled before the faces of the pedestrians from the trees by the wayside were voted anachronisms.

Presently sidewalks and road merged into one sticky morass, and a halt was called and a council of war held to determine whether to go forward to Pelham as the geographer of the club had originally planned, or to seek a firmer footing. As it would seem be doubtful whose boots were the skinniest if the original course was held, and cigars would therefore be not forthcoming, the club turned back toward West Farms and thence speed on to Tremont. There dinner was enjoyed, toasts were drunk, and speeches were made, wherein the members said their formal farewells for the season. Then an invitation to visit the country seat of Mr. Pietro Mina, in New York vicinity, was accepted, and house, grounds, horses, and conservatory were visited and admired. After refreshments and cigars in Mr. Mina's house the pedestrians found night coming on and quickened their pace to High Bridge, and thence to the starting point, making in all a distance of about twenty miles.

The club joined hands in a circle, sang "Auld Lang Syne," and said good night.

MURDEROUS FANATICS.

The Rev. Robert Collyer Looking in the Bible for Guiteau's Inspiration.

Guiteau's declaration that he was divinely inspired to murder President Garfield was the topic of the Rev. Robert Collyer's sermon at the Church of the Messiah yesterday morning. It was not rare, Mr. Collyer said, for murderers to set up such a defence. In one of the Eastern States not long ago a man who had murdered his children declared that God had demanded the sacrifice, and compared himself to Abraham.

"If the cause of this madness remains," said Mr. Collyer, "you cannot stamp out the curse by hanging the guilty man, or sending him to an asylum. Men must be taught what true faith is. Had Guiteau been a Jew the people would have said to the Jews, 'There is something wrong about your faith, and if this thing goes on we shall hold you in some degree answerable for the consequences.'

"We should see where the bad spot is in our faith, and endeavor to cure it. The sacrifice of Abraham, where he would have slain his own child, and of Jephthah, who murdered his own daughter, are stories locked up in a system of faith. God could have nothing to do with such black intentions. The churches still hold to the idea that the whole Bible is a divinely inspired book. There are preachers who recite its myths and legends in a dramatic and impressive manner to susceptible audiences, as if they were events of yesterday, and occurred only a little way up the Hudson. It is not an uncommon thing to hear of men who have gone mad under the influence of such teaching. This bigotry to the Bible, this bondage to the letter, makes men commit murder.

"Let us say to these churches and ministers, 'Here is something you must look to!' It was asked of Col. Ingersoll after the assassination, 'What can you say to comfort us now? Not one word!' Although this is true, it is also true that there is nothing in Mr. Ingersoll's belief that would have prompted Guiteau to the commission of his crime. We must say to the ministers, 'You must revise your standards and take this evil doctrine out of them. It is an insult to the white majesty of Heaven.' The old black custom of human sacrifice should be blotted out. We must appeal to the insight of our brethern, to their grace, to their good sense, and ask them seriously to consider what they say and think."

A Panic in an Opera House.

TROY, Nov. 13.—A panic occurred at the Griswold Opera House yesterday during the representation of the "Two Orphans." L. W. J. Webster of Albany had charge of the calcium light, the rays of which were to be thrown on to the stage during the duel scene. Webster, who was intoxicated, first turned on the oxygen instead of the hydrogen, and when he applied the match there was a terrific explosion, followed by a panic in the upper tiers of seats. In all the excitement people cried out "Fire" and a general stampede followed. The shutters in front of the boxes swung open, and several ladies fainted, but to the end no serious hurt. Webster is in jail.

Youthful Precocity

After taking the form of delirium in crime, &c., is remedied by endeavoring the use of Mathalla's Prepared Calcium Carbonate. They are entirely harmless and destroy the desire for tobacco.—Adv.

"First a cough carried me off.
And then a coffin the carried me off to."

This happened to your neighbor's son last year from your cough and Dr. B. V. Pierce's "Golden Medical Discovery" in time. It is specific for weak lungs, spitting of blood, night sweats, and the early stages of consumption. 50 at druggists.—Adv.

THE TEN PLAGUES OF TO-DAY

THE REV. DR. TALMAGE DELIVERS A BLAST AGAINST TOBACCO.

Hasheesh and Hydrate of Chloral Touched Upon, with an Emphatic Warning Against Opium—The Evil of Ministerial Example.

"Our modern cities have their ten plagues as blasting, destructive, and doubtful as the ten plagues of Egypt," said Dr. Talmage in his morning sermon yesterday. "The first plague I shall mention," he continued, "is the plague narcotic. In all ages the world has sought out some flower or herb or weed to stimulate, to alleviate, or to compose its griefs. A drink called nepenthe calmed the nerves of Greeks and Egyptians. Theban women knew how to compound it. Nepenthe passed away and next came hasheesh, manufactured from Indian hemp. Workmen clad in leather garments walk through fields of hemp, and the exudation from the hemp adheres to the leathern garments, to be afterward scraped off and prepared. Whole nations have been stimulated, narcotized, and made to beetle with the use of accursed hasheesh. Visions are conjured up gorgeous and magnificent beyond all description, but it finally drags down body, mind, and soul. I knew one of the most brilliant men in this city taken captive by this drug. Friends tried in vain to save him. First body gave way, then mind gave way. He became a raving maniac, blaspheming God into a starless eternity.

"Opium is the scourge of the nation. In 1861 we used 100,000 pounds. In the last year we used 533,000 pounds! In 1876 there were 225,000 opium consumers in this country. Last year there were 500,000. That is appalling. Don't think that those are merely barbaric Asiatics, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, after conquering the world was conquered by opium. There are thousands, more women than men, who are being bound body, mind, and soul by this terrible drug. There is a great mystery about some families. You don't know why they don't get along. The opium habit is stealthy, deceitful, deathful. You can cure 100 drunkards where you can cure one opium eater. Have you just begun to use it for the assuagement of physical distress? Then you shall. The pleasures at the start will not pay for the horrors at the end. Morphia is a blessing from God for the relief of pain, but it was never intended to be prescribed for years. Statistics show that there are 30,000 opium eaters in Chicago and 20,000 in St. Louis. At that rate there are 70,000 in New York and Brooklyn.

"With some, hydrate of chloral is taking the place of opium. Baron Liebig knows that one chemist in Germany makes pail a ton of hydrate of chloral a week. There are multitudes taken down with this drug. Look out! I the speaker should call for hydrate of chloral! You never heard a sermon against opium; but it seems to me that there ought to be ten thousand pulpits turned into a quickening flame, thundering Zion's warning against this black narcotic.

"You all know what hasheesh describe as nicotians. You know it is the inspiriting, elevating, enterprising, and also affecting, dyspepsia breeding, health-destroying tobacco. I shall not be offense very personal on this subject, for you nearly all use it. You say that God made it, and it is good. Yes, it is good to kill moths, to kill ticks on sheep, to strangle all kinds of vermin, to destroy poisonous places. You say God created it for some particular use. Yes, so He did henbane and tiny vipers and copperas and belladonna, and all these poisons. You say men live to be old who use it. Yes, in the sense that the man lasted who was poisoned. Smokers are dried up into smoked herrings. You should advise your children to abstain from it because the whole medical fraternity of the United States and Great Britain pronounce it the cause of widespread ill health. Drs. Agnew, Hamilton, Woodward—the whole medical fraternity, allopathic, homeopathic, hydropathic—all say it is a deadly drug.

"The use of tobacco tends to drunkenness. It creates unnatural thirst. The way that leads down to a drunkard's grave and a drunkard's hell is strewn thick with tobacco leaves. That man is not thoroughly converted who has not only got his heart cleansed, but has got his mouth cleansed. Ben Franklin said he never saw a well man in the exercise of common sense who would say that tobacco did him any good. Thomas Jefferson argued against the culture of tobacco. Horace Greeley said: 'It is a turning stomach.' Daniel Webster said: 'Let those who want to smoke go to the horse shed.'

"One reason why there are so many victims of the tobacco habit is because so many ministers of religion smoke and chew. They smoke until they have bronchitis, and then the dear people must send them to Europe. (Laughter.) I am among the three or four ministers who die of cancer in the mouth, an evil caused by their tobacco. There has been many a clergyman whose tombstone was all covered up with eulogy who ought to have had an inscription, 'Killed by too much favoritism.' Some smoke until the room is blue, their spirits are blue, the world is blue. The American clergymen who are indulging in this habit should repent. How can a man preach repentance when he indulges in such a habit? I have known Presbyteries and General Assemblies and General Synods where there was a rule made that not for ministers to smoke in. I am glad the Methodists of the United States have in nearly all of their Conferences passed resolutions against this habit. It is time we had an anti-tobacco reform in the Presbyterian, the Baptist, and the Congregational churches. Ministers of religion to-day indulging in narcotics, dying by inches, and they don't know what is the matter with them. My own experience was that it took ten cigars to make a sermon. A generous tobacconist of Philadelphia once offered to keep me in cigars if I would settle in Philadelphia. But I said to myself, 'If I smoke more than I ought now, how much more would I smoke if I had an unlimited supply?' That was twenty years ago. I quit then once and forever.

"If you smoke cheap tobacco I want to tell you why it is cheap. It is a mixture of burdock, hemlock, sawdust, cole foot, mountain weed, fuller's earth, lime, salt, and a little tobacco."

Dr. Talmage told the story of a man who saved $29,102.93 in 29 years by refraining from smoking cigars at 6½ cents each. He urged his hearers to deny themselves for the sake of setting a good example, in the same spirit that Gov. Briggs of Massachusetts never wore a collar, because he had promised never to wear one so long as a friend abstained from drinking intoxicating liquor.

AN EYE ON SECOND AVENUE TRAVEL.

The New Haven Railroad's Purchase of River Front at Leggett's Point.

The New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad Company bought recently thirty-four acres of land, known as the Arnold estate, at Leggett's Point, fronting on the Sound, opposite North Brother Island. A report has been published that the company intends to build on this site a freight and passenger depot, in order to form a connection, by means of a rapid transit road yet to be built, with the Second Avenue Elevated Railroad, and thus be able to draw a passenger as well as a freight traffic from the entire length of this city.

President George L. Warren said that he did not know what could have given rise to the rumor. The property, he said, was purchased because it was for sale, and because the price asked seemed to be reasonable. It was thought to be good property in a convenient neighborhood, which the company might possibly form transfer wharf for the trains to New Jersey and Pier 50, North River, or for a variety of purposes, and on which it could not lose much money.

"Of course," Mr. Watrous continued, "we were not unmindful of the fact that one branch of the Harlem River and Portchester rapid transit route terminates at Leggett's Point, and that rapid transit lines are very convenient to the people. A company friendly to this road obtained the necessary permission of the Rapid Transit Commission to build a bridge over the Harlem at Second avenue, and to run its cars on the surface, either alongside of the tracks of our Harlem River branch road, or, if it is thought best, on those tracks. It has also a right to build a branch to Leggett's Point. I have no doubt that the bridge will be built at some time, but for the present we have no fixed plan of building on this site, and not even a fixed plan of operation."

Rattling on the Meadows.

Police Commissioner Lally of Hoboken informed the police of that city Saturday that two gangs of boys, numbering nearly one hundred in all, were having a battle with stones on the meadows back of the city, the gangs having imported boys from the lower part of the city, while the other was from the Palisade district. The attacks were made from behind the dikes, which afford good protection, making it unsafe for pedestrians in the neighborhood.

A detail of police scattered the boys. Only one truncheon was applied, and that was the first since the Hoboken riots. Rioters like the one described have to be reined in with a firm hand, and the police force of the Town deserves credit for the way they handled the boys.

A Church Converted Into a Theatre.

The Union Congregational Church in Elm place, Brooklyn, where the Rev. Jo Wild used to deliver his sermons on the lost tribes of Israel, has been converted into a theatre by William Barry and Hugh Fay. The theatre will be opened tonight under the title of the Grand Opera House. The old stone front of the church has been preserved. The stage is where the Sunday school room used to be.

The Canal Investigation.

ALBANY, Nov. 13.—The Senate Committee to investigate matters in relation to the canals of this State will meet in the new Capitol here on Tuesday afternoon next. Many prominent lumber dealers and forwarders have been summoned to attend the investigation.

Diamond Collar Buttons, $5 each. Decided bargains. J. H. Johnston, 147 Bowery. Gold skein winding watches, $5.—Adv.

THE PEDDLER BOY OF READING.

A Lad who has a Full Suit for Every Day in the Month and Three Changes for Sunday.

READING, Pa., Nov. 12.—The boy peddler, with twenty-nine fine suits of clothing, twenty-four overcoats, and thirty-three pairs of kid gloves, has his home in this mountain city, and is well known to all travelling commercial men who get along this way. Periodically the boy breaks out in local advertisements announcing an addition to his extensive wardrobe, as follows: "Thomas Jefferson Cummings has the honor to announce that he has just added another suit to his fall afternoon wear, and now his fine wardrobe consists of forty fashionable full suits, twenty-four overcoats," &c. It is his boast that he can appear on the street every day in the month and wear a different full suit of clothing each day, and allow at least three changes on Sunday. Cummings is about 18 years of age, peddles notions, with a basket on his arm, helps to support a widowed mother, says cash for all he gets, sells close, works hard, and is a standing Republican candidate for Congress in this Gibraltar of Berks County Democracy.

On the streets of the city his appearance is that of a Bean Brummel. His dress is exceedingly loud, his weakness running to green kid gloves, corn-colored ribbons, pink eyeglasses, and silk hats of the latest style. In the country, on his business, his appearance is that of a poor, humble, meek, and lowly Hebrew, and his customary salutation to the people he calls on is, "How pay on a poor boy and help him along?" The young man is exceedingly kind, affable, and agreeable, and succeeds in selling large quantities of goods at very fair prices. The farmers have a strong liking for him, and when they visit Reading on business and see the well-dressed young swell sauntering past in broad cloth, kids, and gold-headed cane, they little dream that the young man is the peddler boy they know so well at home.

His savings are entirely invested in clothing and articles of adornment. At times he is not seen for weeks. He is then out on the country highways, coining money in a small way. He neither smokes nor drinks, and has no expenses worth speaking of. Then, suddenly, he will break out in Reading, set the fashions for a week or more, and as suddenly afterward disappear. He generally leaves home on Monday morning, invariably starting before dawn, in order that his acquaintances may not see him in his country makeup. He carries a large Saratoga trunk with him, and he offers his fresh supplies shipped to various points along his route. On Saturday night he generally returns, looking decidedly weather beaten, but if there is an opera or theatre in town he is generally in the front row of the parquet by 9 o'clock, dressed in the most fashionable swell in the land. He is quite a favorite among commercial men, who know him as "Collins, the boy millionaire." It is currently reported that he is to be married, and that an insurance has been placed on him (marriage insurance) of $125,000. Cummings claims that he has the largest wardrobe in the world of any person of his age. He is five feet five inches tall, and weighs 128 pounds.

LIEUT. FLIPPER'S TRIAL.

Testimony with Respect to his Arrest and the Search of his Quarters.

FORT DAVIS, Nov. 12.—Lieut. L. Wilhemi, Adjutant of the First Infantry, was called by the Government in the Flipper trial to-day. He testified that he knew Flipper, and that he saw Col. Shafter counting commissary funds with Flipper on July 2. Col. Shafter called Flipper's attention to a check for $1,410 43 as a very large check for an officer to have. Flipper said: "Yes; I had a lot of small checks which I could not and did not wish to send to the Chief Commissary, so I sent them to the San Antonio National Bank for deposit, and drew my personal check against them." Witness identified this particular check. He saw Shafter and Flipper in Shafter's office on Aug. 10, conversing relative to a despatch from the Chief Commissary, stating that the July statement received showed large amounts of funds in transit which had not been received. Flipper said that he had had trouble in getting his books as late as July 9, and, anxious to forward it, wrote a letter transmitting receipts and invoices, and deposited them all in the post office, in a sealed envelope, late at night. He did this work at his quarters, and kept no copy at the Commissary's office. On Aug. 11 he said he informed Col. Shafter that his quarters were to be searched by Lieuts. Wilhemi and Edmunds, and that they would apologize if they were doing any injustice. Wilhemi and Edmunds accompanied Flipper to his quarters, and thoroughly searched his house. Flipper said that he had no objection to the search being made. They found a number of statements for May, June, and July. A statement for Aug. 6 was found in a trunk among clothing afterward claimed by Flipper's servant. Flipper's and the servant's clothing was piled promiscuously in a wheelbarrow, as were also their toilet articles. They found a number of official papers scattered around the room in such an unsatisfactory condition that Flipper was put under arrest and taken to the guard house. They took possession of all valuables found upon his person, and a commissary bill on Flipper's person, and a personal note written by Flipper, claiming that he had endorsed checks to the Chief Commissary, which was found to be untrue. The checks found on the servant girl were given to witness for safe keeping, and afterward given to Lieut. Colonel Shafter, Commissary. All except the $1,410 43 check Lieut. Edmunds transmitted to the Chief Commissary.

BROOKLYN'S IMPERFECTIONS.

Views which the Rev. J. D. Fulton Says have Received Mr. Low's Approval.

The Rev. Justin D. Fulton asked permission yesterday to suggest to his congregation certain changes which he said were within the reach of Brooklyn's residents, and which would increase their influence as citizens and benefit that city. Brooklyn had a right, Dr. Fulton said, to an outlet to the East and to the West without first crossing over to and passing through the crowded thoroughfares of New York city. There was no lack of brain in Brooklyn, but the brain slept there, the very train which helped to impress New York and make it what it is. The trouble was that it slept too deeply for Brooklyn's interest. The educational facilities in Brooklyn, he said, were not commensurate with the wants of the young. There were many excellent private institutions, but the public schools were not properly managed. The men selected to regulate them must be clergymen. As to the parks, Fort Greene and the City Park were not safe for children. There were no statues of any of the men who had made Brooklyn great in her parks. To make Brooklyn what it should be, Dr. Fulton contended, the principal thing was the enforcement of temperance legislation.

Dr. Fulton said that he had spoken with Mayor-elect Low, and the views which he expressed in his lecture had received Mr. Low's approval.

Philadelphia Policy Men Hit Hard.

From the Philadelphia Times of Nov. 12.

The lottery policy backers of Philadelphia were financially handicapped yesterday when the New York drawing came in, and in the case of Dowling's case, "there was no machine for about twenty-four hours. Three rows exceedingly popular with policy players—the 'catch-all,' 'combination' and 'straight' and the result was that some of every 'pocket' were left holding against paying out. The rows that won are as follows: Catch-all, 2, 21, 86, "dead;" 9, 16, 24, and