# MISS CHARLOTTE O'BRIEN.

*HER TWO MONTHS OF STUDY AS TO HOW WE TREAT IMMIGRANTS.*

**Some Pertinent Criticisms and Also Some Words of Praise—Nine Days Among the Poor of New York City—Her Return Home**

Miss Charlotte O'Brien, daughter of the late William Smith O'Brien, who has rendered the same philanthropic service to the Irish that Miss Emily Faithful, now in this country, has rendered to Australian emigration, left yesterday morning for Ireland, very appropriately, in the Celtic. Miss O'Brien, whose features are of the true Thomond type, bearing a marked resemblance to those of her illustrious father, as seen in Foley's statue, standing opposite O'Connell's at Carlisle Bridge, was in the test of health and spirits, and promises another visit to this country next fall. Notwithstanding the early hour at which the vessel sailed, a number of her Irish friends, including the Hon. L. D. Kiernan, Judge O'Gorman, Dr. Wallace, Messrs. W. Stuart, James Rogers, Major Cunningham, and others, were at the wharf to bid her adieu. Since she came here on Sept. 19 she has been to the principal Eastern cities, journeyed in the South, and visited parts of the West and Northwest. "Everywhere," said she, before her departure, "I have met with the greatest possible kindness and hospitality, and notoriously has the press everywhere noticed my work, but I have not heard of a single unkind word being said. Your country has far more natural beauties than I at all expected. It reminds me of 'the land flowing with milk and honey.'"

"I spent nine days in the poor part of New York," said Miss O'Brien, "trying to find out all I could about Castle Garden and the immigrants here. I think I am better able to speak about Castle Garden than when your reporter talked with me before. I fear the state of things there is not satisfactory on the whole, not, I should say, because of any neglect on the part of the officers, but due simply to paralysis on account of the tremendous work that has to go through their hands. In fact, I think Castle Garden is rather standing in the way of improvements, because it throws the responsibility off the shoulders of the steamship companies, and the tax of fifty cents makes the companies unwilling to do more than to pay their share. There is no real reason for seeing what becomes of people after they go to the boarding houses. The Sun has published a bad case about an intelligence office. That sort of thing should not occur. When the immigrants first reach the docks they go aboard a barge which takes them to Castle Garden. They enter a narrow passage. Each individual passes a clerk who takes down his or her name, the country from which they come, and the State to which they go. All this is absolutely useless. The entries by the clerks are like this:

"Pat Conodn, from county Limerick to New York, en Seymus.

"The man stands aside, and as soon as all the names are entered the boarding house keepers and the friends of the immigrants are admitted into the building. The immigrant goes out with his friends or with a boarding house keeper. Next day the boarding house keepers are supposed to return a list of those they have staying with them. There exists no system for checking the correctness of this return. Probably five or six Pat Conodns came into one ship from Limerick. I have known three or four of one name on one vessel, and there may be 1,000 of one name in New York. The system is useless as a means of tracing these people. What I suggested to Mr. Jackson would be of some use to have clerks who should take down the directions in the town to which people are going, the answer was, as it is to every suggestion for improvement in Castle Garden: An! what can we do? We have 2,000, 3,000, or 4,000 people going through in a day. In the same way a labor bureau is supposed to be worked there, and is working to some extent, though not satisfactorily, I fear. I suspect that a very small proportion of the people who go through Castle Garden are aware of the advantages they might secure from it. From the reading rooms letters are sent to the intelligence offices, many of which are conducted in the most disgraceful manner, often in the interest of vice."

Miss O'Brien added that she believes there is between the Continent of Europe and these intelligence offices and the houses, they supply a regular system working. She has reason to suppose that something of the same sort is going on but very much worse in London and in the direct English and American boats, but on vessels that issue circulars in such a manner as to appear to be going from English ports, whereas in reality they are from English emigrants at Hull, London and, perhaps, Dublin. "We have been watching all this for two or three years," said she, "but without others working with us in New York it is impossible to prove it from the other side. I would very strongly urge upon the Germans and other foreigners in New York the fact that it has been brought to my knowledge that the vile going on with respect to the English and Irish traffic are small as compared with those going on with the Germans and other immigrants from the Continent."

In Philadelphia Miss O'Brien found a very satisfactory state of things. The American and Red Star lines are working with two Irish societies—the Hibernian Society, an old emigration society dating from the last century, which has only lately resumed work, and the Catholic Total Abstinence Society. Agents of these associations meet the incoming vessels, and the whole landing question is not only being satisfactorily met, but improvements are promised. There is a very fair depot there with all the necessary appointments and Westbound immigrants take the cars within the depot. Those going into the town are not permitted to leave the depot without giving up their names and the directions to which they are going, and unprotected women cannot leave except with a messenger and then only to go to boarding houses or employers. No messengers from the boarding houses are allowed in the depot. The societies also look after cases of distress, and in securing work for immigrants, and assist them in all that they are able to do. Miss O'Brien went from Philadelphia to Boston, and found in the latter city a much less satisfactory condition of things. No societies are watching the steamship lines, that land at Boston, and Portland, which bring immigrants to that port. These have covered sheds and facilities for telegraphing and porters to look after their passengers, but Miss O'Brien could get no satisfactory information as to how far this is done. "I had been previously aware," said she, "that women were being lured from the city wharfs, carried off, I mean. That I know to have taken place within the two or three years. The lines now profess to be more watchful. In Boston also there exists a sum of money in the hands of the Irish Charitable Union from an old emigrant fund dating over 100 years ago. It is not at present being used at all. While in Boston I addressed a meeting of this Charitable Union, and put before them what was being done in Philadelphia and I understand the request has to be laid by to be considered.

"While in the West," said Miss O'Brien, "I saw a great deal of Bishop Ireland and of Mr. William J. Onahan of Chicago, who has in fact, worked the colonization scheme in Minnesota. I visited a large number of the settlers, both in Bishop Ireland's colony, Avoca, Curry county, Minn., and in Mr. Sweetman's. Most of the people had not been there more than three years, and many more had been there eighteen months, yet they are certainly prospering. Their houses are filled with grain, their stock is increasing, and they are happy. The country is extraordinarily healthy, and rheumatism is not known. It has a singular charm about it. It is alive with wild birds, and you cannot go a hundred yards without coming upon flocks of them. It is very cold in winter, but the air is wonderfully healthy to breathe. While in the West I was feeling my way toward the establishment of some society which should work in connection with the Eastern ports and form a link between the Irish in the East and employers in the West by advancing railway fares in especial cases to those fit for employment, and who could find it in the West, but would not have the means to get there."

Miss O'Brien paused to say that she was delicate ground, since the Land League opposes Irish emigration, and she desired to explain her views and position on the subject.

"I think," said she, "that no one who has not a very intimate knowledge of life in Ireland can realize the many causes that tend to create this flood of emigration. I think political causes and lack of work and distress have much to do with the trade emigration. Not so with the female. I believe the women come to America partly because so many of their friends are here, partly because of the wages here, the greater probability of good marriages, and, beyond everything else, because of love of adventure. I don't think the Land League or any power on earth will keep the girls at home; and they do some over, simply as it is better to protect them, and to get them into places where they will be mothers of a fine race of men, than to leave them amid the perils of those Eastern cities. The idea I put up for a society, is under way. The seed has been sown in Bishop Ireland and others in Milwaukee, St. Louis, Chicago, and elsewhere have the matter under consideration. It is too early to say what will come of it. Such a society could work at once with Philadelphia, where all that is required is to be found, but in the other cities agencies would need to be established.

"When I was in Chicago," Miss O'Brien continued, "I got the priest to take me among the poor. Everywhere I got the priest to do this and to give me information. I think where people are earning wages steadily in New York they get as much, perhaps, more than in any other part of the country I have visited; but I think they get a great deal less for the money, worse lodging, more unwholesome districts for living in, and altogether more of the surroundings of the lowest stratum of society in the old world than they do elsewhere. In the new cities people have their own homes and nothing stands between them and their rise in society. The whole class works up together. I was in the house of a poor widow in Chicago who had little or no means of support and a number of children. Her house was a mere shanty, but she had it all to herself. It was one that the priest had picked out, as one of the poorest, yet I should consider life in such a place far preferable to life in a tenement house, such as a man earning $12 a week lives in in New York. In Montgomery, where, by the way, there is a considerable Irish settlement, the wages appear to be low for America, yet I was told by the priest that there was absolutely no poverty in it. The poor negroes forming the lowest class are infinitely better dressed than the poor at home in Ireland or a large proportion of the poor here in New York. Even in Philadelphia small four-roomed houses are to be had for less than the miserable little tenements of New York."

Miss O'Brien's address is, "Miss C. G. O'Brien, Emigrant Home, Queenstown, Ireland," and she says she will be obliged for information by mail from any one who can give her any.

*CALLING FOR A NEW CHARTER.*

**Tammany's Address—Mr. Cox's Rod in Pickle for River and Harbor Thieves.**

The Tammany wigwam in Fourteenth street was crowded last night by the thirteen hundred members of the Tammany General Committee. John Kelly occupied his accustomed seat in the front row, and on either side of him sat Congressmen and Congressmen elect, Assemblymen, Aldermen, and other office-holders. Col. Thomas Dunlap, the veteran officeholder, and Felix McCloskey, who is said to have held Thomas Jefferson's horse while Mr. Jefferson took the oath of office as President of the United States, sat together in a box. John B. Haskin, the big Tuscarora chief, was called to the chair. Then the Secretary read an address to the Democracy.

For New York city the address calls for a new charter. It recommends the selection of representatives in the Board of Apportionment by the business interests of the city, without reference to any predilections entertained by the Mayor or the heads of the different departments." It opposes the giving of the absolute power of appointment to the Mayor, which it says would be undemocratic. Then it says:

We consider that the best interests of the cities throughout the State demand the substitution of single-headed departments for the divided Commissions now in operation, and that the city, especially, has made recent beneficially, both in the administration of the departments and in the reduced expense to the taxpayers. This change should be made in the police, as the action of the Department of Charities and Correction and the Board of Police, which latter, being charged with the protection of life and property, should be non-partisan and person of the citizens, should remain non-partisan. We think the authority in the Police Department vested in one head is a large duty like one man, it would be liable to be utilized as a dangerous factor in elections and in the hands of a party. In all other departments the adoption of single-headed Commissions, with a clear and undivided responsibility to the principal department of the government, would tend to increase their efficiency and compel more economy, careful and conscientious methods than now prevail, and should be followed in other cities of the State. We would then recognize the necessity of devoting the time and personal attention to the business of the particular department.

The address was adopted, and resolutions were passed thanking Mr. Kelly for his efforts to unite the city Democracy, and Mr. McKeon for his efficiency in preventing fraudulent voting. Then the Tuscarora chief introduced Congressmen S. S. Cox. Mr. Cox congratulated the committee on the Democratic victory in the State, and then said that the victory would not stand until 1884 and 1885 unless the men elected to Congress and other legislatures should be constantly adhered to the Democratic party, of the right of the people to govern themselves. Taxes must be reduced, grasping monopolies must be controlled, the tariff laws must be reformed, and the public lands must be given to the people, and not to railroad corporations. "I intend," he added, "as soon as the new Congress assembles, to offer a resolution calling on the Secretary of War to report how much of the River and Harbor appropriation is unexpended. Then I purpose to move that the unexpended sum be paid back into the Treasury. Then the people can see how many Republican Congressmen will dare to vote against such a proposition."

Speeches were also made by Congressmen Orlando B. Potter and John Hardy and Assemblyman James Haggerty.

*SURF BATHING IN WINTER.*

**Astonishing People who Keep Up the Habit Throughout the Entire Year.**

"Bathing," said the proprietor of a row of rather weather-beaten boxes on the beach at the Highlands, N. J., "cannot be said to cease entirely at any time of the year. Of course, after the middle of September it would be useless to keep the boxes open, but now and then somebody comes to the beach in the middle of winter, undresses hastily, and plunges in. But he seldom remains in the water more than a few seconds, and, to say the truth, I have seldom seen the same face twice. The finest days are chosen for such work, but, no matter how brightly the sun is shining, it is an awful ordeal, and only to be undertaken by persons of strong constitutions. They come out, for the most part, looking as blue as indigo and shivering, instead of freezing. Dress themselves on the beach as though they had no time to lose and race along the sand for half an hour. People who visited Long Branch last fall may have seen a boy about 15 years of age, who used to come here a couple of years ago. He lived about a mile from the beach, and every morning from the 1st of May to the 1st of October, rain or shine, was paddling in the water. The most singular thing about him was that he could not swim a stroke, and did not seem disposed to learn the art. I offered to teach him, but he said he didn't think he would ever be goin' beyond my depth and gettin' drowned.

"He never bathed in the surf, but always in the smooth water inshore. He would stand breast deep for half an hour, occasionally ducking his head in the water, but for the most part contented with splashing the water over himself with his handes or wading slowly about. When he came out he did not seem to be chilled, and unlike most of the others, he dressed himself at leisure, and strolled home whistling. He was not a profitable customer, for he never bathed in summer. He said he hated warm baths. His family is bavagoon to Nantucket, so I suppose he is now astonishing its inhabitants there."

*THE PENSION BUSINESS.*

**Prospects of a Heavy Drain on the Treasury and Fears that Fraud May Run Riot.**

WASHINGTON, Nov. 16.—Commenting on the pension business to-day, a high officer of the Government said that Congress and the country would begin soon to realize the important effect the Arrears law will inevitably have upon the finance and revenue issues. He said that during the three months ending Sept 30 the pension payments amounted to more than $23,000,000. This was before the additional force of nearly 1,000 clerks had been appointed, organized, and set to work. The adjustment of claims would soon be so rapid that the drain upon the Treasury would be simply enormous. The Commissioner of Pensions appeared to be determined to run his bureau at high pressure and court popular favor by speedy examination of pending cases. In the present condition of the Pension Office the effect of this hurry will inevitably be the allowance of many improper claims. Hundreds of new clerks were selected in a hap-hazard way, and it is common talk in the Pension Office that many of these clerks are utterly unequal to the proper discharge of their important duties, as they had not had the education, experience, and training necessary to the accurate examination of the evidence submitted in pension claims; and yet to them had been intrusted the difficult work of judicially considering and weighing this evidence, and of practically deciding cases involving in the aggregate tens of millions of dollars. Some of the older officers of the Government who have had long experience in the examination of claims against the United States, submitted to me ex-parte evidence, say that there is no reason why fraud should not run riot in the Pension Bureau.

*THE STEINWAY STRIKE.*

**The Men Meet Mr. Steinway and Tender Propositions which he at Once Rejects.**

A committee of three from the body of the striking pianomakers of the firm of Steinway & Sons called yesterday upon Mr. William Steinway and intimated that a general committee was desirous of waiting upon him. The committee called at 3 o'clock. It was composed of six of Steinway's old hands and three men from the general Pianomakers' Union. Mr. Steinway insisted that Mr. Hagan, the man who recently charged that the firm were selling pianos manufactured by other firms as their own, who was among the committeemen, should withdraw, or he would refuse to listen to the committee. He objected to one member of the committee, and the committee withdrew, after which the committee handed Mr. Steinway the following communication:

*Messrs. Steinway & Sons:*

We, the striking workmen of Steinway & Sons, in consideration of the departure of Mr. Somers, are willing to offer the following compromise: 1st, the firm shall write a letter to the effect that Mr. Somers is finally removed from both factories, we are willing to abstain from demanding removal of such workmen from your stores as desire to work in Hall, on Fourteenth street, as remained at work when we struck. But we must demand that those striking workmen who are willing to return to work may occupy their places, and therefore we insist upon the dismissal of all such workmen as have made idle men engage to occupy our places.

In the name of your associated workmen."

Mr. Steinway refused to consider any proposition that assumed to dictate to him that should be done by the firm and assured the men that only such men would be taken back as applied individually for work to the foremen of their respective departments. The committee then withdrew. Mr. Steinway says that Mr. Somers, the bookkeeper of the Astoria factory, whom the strikers originally demanded should be removed, had sailed to Germany with his invalid wife, and that he would return in six months to resume his place in the Astoria factory.

The strikers insist that Mr. Somers has left for good, notwithstanding Mr. Steinway's statement, and assert that he will come to accept the new terms, although he declined to yesterday.

*AMUSEMENTS.*

**New York Oratorio Society Concert.**

In a community addicted to the study of thorough bass and permeated with the mystic and mediæval theology of the Romish Church, a composition like Berlioz's "Messe des Morts" might well seem one of the loftiest products of human genius. While one class would revel in minutely tracing out its ingenious structure, the other would be thrilled with the profound and awful emotions of its lesson and its associations. Neither of those conditions, evidently, obtains in the America of today. But the smallest minority of people nowadays know much about musical composition, and a realistic age has substituted the dry light of pure intelligence for the unquestioning faith of the past. To such a community the production of the "Messe" must come with diminished force in proportion to the lack on the one hand of technical knowledge, and on the other of capacity to thoroughly enter into its religious atmosphere.

The question as to the possibility—to people unskilled in artistic processes—of appreciating the artistic product is too complex and profound for our present limits. It is safe to assume, however, that of the people who intelligently enjoy good music, but a minority are prepared to follow out its constructive processes with the pleasure of intimate knowledge. Fine, too, as may be the correspondence between the thought and its vehicle, the average feeling, even of honest music lovers, will always demand a large share of consideration for the stamina of the voice and its taste. Musical grammar and rhetoric are good, but only in so far as they aid in recounting a drama or singing a poem.

While therefore, there will probably always be a minute class of people who enjoy the "Messe" from end to end, it can hardly fail to appear to the general public of very unequal interest. A second representation at the Academy last night brings out much beauty not evident on hasty hearing, while it confirms the opinion, already expressed in these columns as to the general work, —that it is on the whole a very difficult composition not only to perform, but to listen to, and that the really fine and striking passages are separated by comparatively long intervals of less pleasing matter. Berlioz was, as has been suggested, a wonderful musical grammarian, and apt, in the conjugation and declension of his harmonic themes, to forget that the auditors interest in the story might sometimes flag for want of enjoyable and comprehensive material. In his interest over modulation and counterpoint he often fails in large, consequent, melodic development, and broad, striking and harmonic effects. He is never anything but strong, but often perfectly pedantic and dry, if not tedious. A tone poem dealing with such awful themes as death, resurrection, and eternal salvation or reprobation would hardly be acceptable as an opera ceuvre; but even in such tremendous matter the claims of pure beauty have their rights.

Among the numbers which seem more or less enjoyable this moment might be the opening Requiem, the Rex Tremendæ, the Domine Jesu, the Hostias, and the concluding Agnus Dei. Very curious, rather than beautiful, was the effect of the Offertory, with the wonderful contrast of the chorus to the accompaniment to the symphony of the strings. Against these may be set the gorgeous tone color and overpowering dramatic feeling of the Tuba Mirum, the beautiful melodic interweaving of the Lacrymosa, and the ingenious chromatic intricacy of the Sextet, Quærens Me. The general taste, however, will probably find the gem of the whole composition in the exquisite pathos and devout feeling of the Sanctus, sung by Sig. Ravelli with an artistic perfection as rare as it is delightful. Sig. Ravelli has been known here as a fine vocalist, but as a finished artist, but the representation of last night shows him an oratorio singer whose equal would be far to seek.

The unaccompanied sextet sung by Mrs. Ames, Miss Dossert, Signor Ravelli, and Messrs. Woram, Coletti, and Heinrich was beautifully executed, with an amazing delicacy of phrasing and certainty of intonation, considering the considerable difficulty involved. The same praise applies to the Oratorio Society for their execution of the choral work, which was perpetually better—as such performance generally is—at the close than at the opening.

The Parsifal Overture also gains, as all good work must, on nearer acquaintance. Sombre as it is it is a most beautiful and poetic vehicle for bringing the soul of the listener into the mood and wrapping him in the emotional atmosphere, essential to his appreciation of the main action of the opera.

**A Novel Entertainment in Chickering Hall.**

The building fund of Sorosis must have realized an acceptable amount from the benefit entertainment given in Chickering Hall last evening by the Courtney company. The entertainment was novel, consisting of the reading of enough of Sir Walter Scott's "The Lady of the Lake" to preserve the thread of the story, and interspersing ballads and other vocal pieces chosen with a view to their appropriateness and supposed to be sung by the characters in the scene at the time as presented by the readings. The principal parts were played by Mme. Louise Gage-Courtney, Miss Hattie J. Clapper, Mr. H. R. Humphries, Mr. Ivan E. Morawski, Mr. William Courtney, Miss Minnie Ashley, and Mr. Charles Courtney, and Mme. Gage-Courtney was suffering somewhat from a cold, but she repeated "The Minstrel Boy" in response to urgent applauding. All of the solo singing evoked applause, and the duets and quartets were generally good, particularly the closing piece, "Oh, Wert Thou in the Cauld Blast." Miss Swayze's reading was distinct and pleasing throughout, and was at times forcible.

**A French Farce for Towele's Benefit.**

Herr Towele's benefit at the Thalia last evening was marked by the presence of a large and very friendly audience that appeared to enjoy itself immensely. "Gavaut, Minard & Co.," a French farce in three acts, by Goudinet, was the play selected for the occasion, a production of very light timber, but possessing two parts that gave Messrs. Towele and Knaack the opportunity of playing together and of appearing on the stage most of the time. *Gavaut* and *Minard* are partners who have had an intimacy extending for twenty-five years. They live in the same house with the wife of one, three daughters of the other, a bookkeeper, and a lively servant girl. Towele and Knaack represent the two partners, and by their amusing character play kept the house in continual merriment. Apart from the fun with which their burlesque acting invested these parts there was little in the play to cause enthusiasm or deserve mention. Some very handsome and elaborate flower pieces were contributed by admirers of Herr Towele.

**Benefit of the Park Theatre Fire Sufferers.**

A large but not an overflowing audience was in Wallack's Theatre yesterday afternoon to see Mrs. Langtry as *Rosalind*, and to assist in raising a handsome sum for the relief of the families of the two men who lost their lives in the Park Theatre fire. The boxes and parquet seats were not all filled, though each of the boxes had its occupants, and in all of them faces familiar to playgoers were to be seen. Among them were Lester Wallack, John Stetson, Mr. McCaull, Nat Goodwin, John McCullough, Max Maretzek, and Miss Agnes Booth. The total amount realized by subscriptions and taken at the door, it is hoped, will be known to-day. Most of the money will go to the relatives of the two men killed and to the stage carpenter whose leg was broken, the poorer attaches of the theatre who lost property will not be forgotten.

**Smith's Accomplished Housekeeper.**

Gottlieb Smith, a German baker of 485 Fifth avenue, Brooklyn, yesterday reported to the police that he had been robbed of $450 in cash, two silver watches, and bank books representing $300, and a broche shawl by his housekeeper, whom he engaged two weeks ago. He put an advertisement in a German newspaper, and in response a woman aged 45, who said she was Pauline Granger, a school teacher from St. Louis, applied for the position. She had a pleasing address, spoke fluently in German, French and English, and was so amiable that he not only engaged her, but received her cordially as a member of his household, and gave her a room on an upper floor. He felt that he had secured a treasure, and when on learning that he was deeply interested in Five Maenner, she laughed off several stanzas of the song and sang them to him. He was captivated. Everything went happily until on Wednesday night he missed his valuables and his housekeeper. She came without baggage, and nothing is known of her.

**Youngsters with Shoppers' Pocketbooks.**

Boys not far advanced in their teens pick the pockets of the shoppers along Broadway from Clinton place to Madison square, and in Sixth avenue from Fourteenth street to Twenty third street, as well as in the cross thoroughfares named. On Wednesday, Wm. White, aged 15; Thos. Mitchell, 14; Arthur Evans, 16, and John Smith, 15, were caught in the act of picking pocketbooks. They were committed in $500 bail. Yesterday Inspector Byrnes's detectives arrested George Martin, aged 13; Robert Edwards, aged 10, and Ernest Fritz, aged 10. Two purses containing cards of women well known in society were found in their possession. The boys were locked up at the Central Office. "The trouble is," said the Inspector, "the ladies won't prosecute when they see what little kids they are, and we may have our labor for our pains."

**He was Expected.**

A scraping at the lock of his door at 252 Division street woke up Policeman Summers of the Delancey street police at noon yesterday. He had been on duty all the night before and was sleeping late. He quietly looked over the transom and saw John Wilson at the door. Summers dressed himself in his shirt and drawers, armed himself with his pistol and night club, awaited events. Soon the door yielded and Wilson entered. Summers bagged him and took him to Essex Market, where Justice Patterson held him.

**An Estimate on the Value of Two Fingers.**

August Adler, a boy, yesterday recovered a verdict of $4,000 against N. Y. Asbestos, for the loss of two fingers by an accident in the latter's factory.

# AMERICA'S LOST COMMERCE.

*DIVERS VIEWS AS TO WHAT IS NEEDED FOR ITS REVIVAL.*

**Secor Robeson Asks a Question which Congressman Cox Answers—What Shipowners Ask in the Way of Legislative Relief.**

The joint committee of Congress on American shipbuilding and shipowning interests met yesterday morning at the Fifth Avenue Hotel. Congressman Page of California was absent. Secor Robeson appeared at noon. He said he had read in THE SUN that the committee was to meet, and he made sarcastic allusions to the election, remarking that after 1883 he should charge for all legal services asked of him. Mr. John Roach, the shipbuilder, was present. Congressman Cox and others pored studiously over the mass of documents presented.

Congressman Dingley first handed in a table of imports and exports from 1840 to 1882, and the percentage carried on American vessels. In 1840 the figures of exports and imports were $239,227,465, and the percentage was 82.9. After 1860 the percentage declined rapidly, and in 1882, with exports and imports of $1,567,071,700, the percentage carried in American bottoms was only 15.5.

Mr. F. W. Houghton, on behalf of accredited representatives of the shipbuilding and shipowning interests of Maine, Massachusetts, New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore, read an address. The representatives present were: Henry D. Welsh of the Philadelphia Maritime Exchange, Chairman; Parker M. Whitmore of the Bath (Me.) Board of Trade; J. Edward Burtt of the New England Shipowners' Association; Benjamin Boyson, President of Ball of the Maritime Association of the Port of New York, and E. D. Bigelow of the Board of Trade, Baltimore. In the address it was stated that the commercial associations of the places named appointed committees in convention, which unanimously agreed on several recommendations as the united judgment of practical representatives of shipowning and shipbuilding communities in various competing sections of the country. The legislative relief asked for is as follows:

The abolition of three months' extra wages to seamen discharged in foreign ports, especially the clause which makes it a misdemeanor for a master to leave a seaman sick and destitute seamen be changed from the present fixed rate of $10 for the passage money to the rate per day.

Any Captain, on passing examination, to be allowed to pilot his own vessel.

The clause in the construction, outfit, or repair of American vessels in the foreign trade to be duty free, and all vessels for the foreign trade built exclusively of American materials be admitted free of duty, and the Government a bounty of $— per ton register.

An appropriate system, whereby vessels may take an apprentice for a term of years, and receive from the Government $100 per annum for three years for each, the apprentice also to receive $100 per annum.

An executive department of the Government, to be known as the Department of Commerce, its chief to be a Cabinet officer.

Mr. William Rogers of Bath, Me., produced a pamphlet in which the queries of the Congressional committee previously published were answered by himself, Arthur Sewall, and Jarvis Patten. They say in substance that, having had opportunity to compare the company vessels built of Sleeper woods in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, where it is presumed they can be constructed very cheaply, they can duplicate many of these vessels with similar workmanship and woods as low as $45 a ton, and at a reasonable margin as profit. Therefore, reasoning from the standpoint as regards wood, they conclude that those who in this country build of iron and are experts in that branch ought to do the same, and they believe they can when this Government affords the opportunity to obtain their material on equal terms as do their foreign competitors, so some Consuls assumed a ship to be legal plunder.

Mr. J. Edward Burtt of Boston said the effect of the three months' extra pay to discharged seamen in foreign ports was once good, but now in American ships was a thing of the past, and there was not one in ten in the foreign trade. Now, with steam and cable communication, the extra pay was unnecessary. It had been a great source of fraud. In one ship, where the crew had been discharged at Hong Kong, the extra pay was $1,500, and the same thing happened to the same ship again at Shanghai shortly afterward. In the American law was the same as the English law, the Americans could ship sailors on equal terms. At the port of New York American vessels had always the poorest pick of sailors. Mr. Burtt said he did not believe in foreign ships, but thought a drawback or rebate would enable Americans to compete successfully with foreign iron ship builders. In wooden ship building we could still beat the world.

Mr. Parker M. Whitmore of Bath said that English ships under present laws took all our best sailors. He paid $994 blood money for a crew in Boston two seasons a year ago. A change in the law should be made, so that, as with foreign nations, contracts could be made direct between the shipowner and sailor. The American law would not permit a sailor to be discharged without extra pay, except at a home port. Often the sailor never got the three months' extra pay at a foreign port; the Consul got it.

Mr. G. C. Goss said the sailors' boarding houses got the advance pay, and the shipowners were virtually at the mercy of the sharks, who would not ship a sailor until his last cent was spent in the landlord's house.

Mr. John H. Ballard of Bath advocated the passage of a law preventing seamen from becoming the prey of landlords, and that the law should be amended so that the agreement between sailor and shipowner could be waived by mutual consent. A foreigner was once as great a rarity in a ship's crew as an American is now.

Secor Robeson asked: "Don't the value of a ship depend upon the trade she carries? Ain't a subsidy pure protection?"

"It's a pure steal," said Congressman Cox.

Secor Robeson: "Mr. Cox."

Mr. E. D. Bigelow of Baltimore thought the question of subsidies an unpleasant one to discuss. He favored buying ships wherever he could buy them the cheapest.

Messrs. Henry D. Welsh, Joseph D. Potts, Clement Griscom, Charles H. Cramp, and Philip Fitzpatrick of the Philadelphia Maritime Exchange wished the Government to "provide for the payment of certain rates of compensation to all American built steamships launched prior to Jan. 1, 1883, whose majority interest is owned by American citizens or by American corporations; such vessels to become or remain entitled to such payment, and to be able to carry on board ten tons of cargo; their officers should be American citizens, and they should be engaged in the foreign carrying trade."

**A Barkentine Disabled by a Collision at Sea.**

BOSTON, Nov. 16.—Capt. Preston of the barkentine Meredita of Boston, from Pascagoula Oct. 19, with 46,000 feet of lumber for James A Abbott, arrived last night. She sailed on the 13th from Vineyard Haven for this port. At 7 P. M., eight miles southeast of Race Point light, she saw a steamboat's starboard light and one masthead light on her starboard bow. The steamboat hauled to and showed her port light. The barkentine was then kept away and showed her port light to the approaching steamer, which came up alongside within 50 yards of the barkentine and blew her whistle twice. Capt. Preston then saw a red light under the starboard bow, which caused the helm to be put away, but she had scarcely begun to move when the steamship collided with the barkentine, struck the latter's mainmast and knocked it over the side. The steamer was such that the barkentine's jibboom, knightheads, top gallant forecastle, and all her headgear were carried away. After the collision the damage was sounded, and it was found that the vessel was making no water. The steamship proceeded on her course with the schooner in tow. The barkentine's mainmast was found to be about the bay at the mercy of the waves, until, on Nov. 15, at 1 P. M., off Thatcher's Island, the steamship William Sprague came along and towed her to this port.

**The Star Route Jury Bribery Case.**

WASHINGTON, Nov. 16.—Shortly after noon to-day counsel for the Government and the defence in the case against Fred E. Shaw, charged with corruptly approaching Edwin D. Donlinan, a juror in the Star route case, appeared in the Police Court and announced their readiness to proceed. Gov. Wells was about to read the affidavit of juror Donlinan, on which the charge is based, when Col. Pelham arose and said that inasmuch as the witnesses for the defence were not here, and because he believed that the Court would not unlicensed, he would waive the examination.

Mr. E. Ellery, who was conducted with Fall in the attempt to influence the Star route jury, has evidently disappeared. Mr. Ker said to-day: "The Department of Justice wants to see Taylor. We want to have a little talk with him." He was said in a merry mood, but up to the time no warrant is known to have been issued for Taylor's arrest.

**Christopher Flogekstiles's Claim for an Office.**

WASHINGTON, Nov. 16.—The Garfield Board of Audit has received a letter from Christopher Flogekstiles, a glazier of this city, who says that he is in possession of one of the bullets fired at the late President in the Baltimore and Potomac depot, which lodged in his glass and putty box and shattered the contents. He says that he is far from making any claim against the estate, but expresses a hope that the board will assist him in his endeavor to make an honest living by securing the position of a watchman or something similar in one of the Government departments.

**Street Cleaning Fund Exhausted.**

TROY, Nov. 16.—Considerable excitement was caused here yesterday by the discharge of the entire force of street sweepers. Mayor Fitzgerald summoned the Comptroller before him to-day, when it was learned that the appropriation for street cleaning was almost exhausted, although only seven and a half months of the fiscal year had expired. An investigation into the sudden disappearance of the funds is in progress.

**Fall of a Passenger Elevator.**

LOUISVILLE, Nov. 16.—At 11¾ A. M. to-day the passenger elevator in McKnight's carpet house on Main street, containing five passengers, fell from the second floor to the basement. All were hurt.

**Beatty's Organs and Pianofortes**

(Washington, N. J.), most desirable holiday presents; special prices now ready; illustrated catalogue free.—*Adv.*

Ten dollars saved on fur-lined circular, $25 on sealskin sacque, $20 on sealskin dolman, if purchased from C. C. Shayne, manufacturer, 103 Prince st.—*Adv.*

*DOUBLE AND SINGLE TROTS.*

**A Gala Day in Gentlemen's Driving Park—Famous Horses Out.**

Mr. Frank Work, driving his famous team Edward and Dick Swiveller, was among the first to pass through the gate of the Gentlemen's Driving Park yesterday afternoon to see the free trots announced by the association. Mr. W. H. Vanderbilt, behind Early Rose, and hundreds of owners of fast road horses followed in line, until the stalls and sheds of the great trotting track were filled and horses were sent into the field.

There were many fine exhibitions of trotting and several noteworthy contests.

The first trot was for a cup for horses that had never beaten three minutes, best two in three, mile heats, to top road wagons, members who had never driven in a race, when an admission fee was charged, to drive. There came to the post Mr. N. Strauss's Blandina, Mr. A. A. Bonner's Blossom, Mr. J. C. La Vergne's Capadura, Mr. A. Cordova's Six-Fifty, Mr. J. G. Seamen's Jersey Lily, Mr. Lowther's Lonsdale, and Mr. Thomas Canary's Harry Miner.

Mr. Strauss drew the pole, and drove his black mare with the steadiness and judgment of a veteran professional. Getting away in good shape, he won in two straight heats, after close work. Blossom being second in the first heat, and Harry Miner third. In the second heat these two reversed their positions. Time, 2:30 and 2:38.

The announced double-team trot between E. S. Stokes's Lyman and mate and C. S. Bonham's Castle Boy and mate, to top wagons, for $2,500 a side, was declared off, Mr. Stokes paying forfeit. After being bantered somewhat, Mr. Stokes made a fast match with Mr. Bonham for $1,000 a side, best two in three, to Keeton wagons. Before the teams started Mr. Bonham's pair handled by John Murphy, were favorites at $100 against $20 on Mr. Stokes's team, driven by Dan Mace.

Dan started off with a slight lead on the first heat, but he went wide at the turn and lost ground. Then it looked dollars to cents that Murphy would win. Getting his team together on the backstretch, Mace passed Murphy and opened a gap of two lengths, with which he entered the straight. In endeavoring to catch up in the straight Castle Boy and mate acted badly, Lyman and mate beating them in by about seventy yards.

When the teams appeared for the second heat Castle Boy and mate were at sixes and sevens, trying to throw away from each other. Before starting they were unhitched and the off horse placed where the high one had been. This failed to improve their speed or lead to unity of action. Dan gained the lead from the start, and then proceeded to lay off the entire eighty yards ahead of Castle Boy and mate he emitted one of his old-time howls of triumph. The second heat and trot were won in 2:31.

In spite of the fact that the third trot, best two in three, to top road wagons, a match for speed was arranged between Mr. David Bonner's chestnut horse Andy, and Mr. C. Dickerman's brown mare Lady Tucker. The race was three in five to harness. The two trotted well together in the first mile, Lady Tucker taking the heat by an open length in 2:39½. Lady Tucker showed the way to the half-mile pole in the second heat, when Andy came up and trotted truously that Andy, dashing on, won the heat by six lengths in 2:36½. Andy cut capers in the third heat, and was beaten by a dozen lengths in 2:40. The trotting was necessitated a postponement until this afternoon.

Between the heats of the regular trots Mr. Vanderbilt speeded Early Rose and Mr. Work let out his team for fractions of a mile. Marvin drove Early Rose to a mile in 2:18, a half in 1:11, and Widdicomb (three years old) a half in 1:08½. Mr. McCoun's Pickard whirled a top wagon around the circuit of a mile in 2:27, and some other exhibitions of speed were given. A crowd occupied the club-house end of the grand stand.

**Racing at Brighton Beach.**

The first race at Brighton Beach yesterday was for a purse of $200 for three-year olds, seven-eighths of a mile. There were six starters. Vexation sold at $100; Cromwell, $60; The Judge, $70; field, $50. Vexation won; The Judge second, Charley Kempland third. Time, 1:32. Mutuals paid $14.75.

The second race was for a purse of $200 with selling allowances, three-quarters of a mile. Sixteen starters. Bellerophon sold at $100; Magnolia, $60; Spartacus, $55; Bridesake, $40; Edwin A., second, Spartacus third. Time, 1:18. Mutuals paid $20.75.

The third race was for a purse of $200, winner weights, for all ages, one mile and an eighth, with three starters. Romulus sold at $100; R. Morse, $60; Kitty Clark, $55. Romulus won, Kitty Clark second, Kitty Clark third. Time, 2:02. Mutuals paid $14.75.

The fourth race was for a purse of $200, handicap hurdle, one and one-half miles. Eleven starters. Fun, with four starters, W. C. Daly's Bridesake and Jim McGowan sold at $210; Rochester, $80; Captain York, $20; Bridesake won, Rochester second, Rochester third. Time, 2:17. Mutuals paid $7.20.

**Manetta's Two Miles.**

*From the Turf, Field and Farm, Nov. 17.*

Two years ago the brown mare Manetta, backed against Guidice's good wagon with the running horse Longman, brother in blood to the great Longfellow, trotted two miles on Mr. Bonner's three-quarter track in 4—5—5—5, and was then pronounced the