MEXICAN PARTY POLITICS.

TENDENCIES OF THE LIBERALS AND OF THE CHURCH PARTY.

Important Questions Discussed in Cool Blood — Queretaro's Progress — A Pyramid of Stones on the Spot where Maximilian Died — A Mexican Millionaire's Factories.

QUERETARO, Dec. 1.—In the State of Queretaro the Church party has a larger majority, and in this State that party has never been defeated in an election since the organization of the Republic of Mexico. Consequently the Bishop of the State is the supreme ruler, and the Governor and Legislature are mere figure-heads. The Federal Government is regarded in the light of a foreign power, more or less friendly. A strong Federal garrison at the capital of the State gives assurance of this friendliness. The Liberal party, however, is at present in the ascendancy in Mexico, and the Federal Government and most of the State Governments are controlled by it. This party has produced such men as Juarez, Diaz, Lerdo, Zamacona, Romero, Gonzalez, and Fernandez of the present generation, and Hidalgo, Morelos, and Santa Ana of the last. It is the party of peace at home and abroad, of freedom of opinion, of popular education, and of internal improvements. The Church party is also a party of peace; but it is the peace of superstition and popular ignorance, of opposition to telegraph lines, railway trains, newspapers, postal facilities, female education, expression of free thought, and everything of a progressive nature which is believed to conflict with the ceremonies of the Church, the edicts of the Bishops, or the bulls of the Pope. The priesthood holds on to its waning power with dogged tenacity. The Clerical party in Mexico, with the unswerving fanatical support of the women, is yet a strong political power. But every year of railway building, of sub-marine cable construction, of the starting of steamship lines, of the introduction of American machinery, of the progress of internal improvements, of the spread of intelligence and the education of children under the auspices of the Government, finds the clerical party growing weaker and the Liberals gaining popular strength. In a few years more the priests will have no more temporal power in Mexico than they now have in France, Germany, or the United States.

Party spirit does not run high in this country, as it does in some other more enlightened. I can't account for the cool-blooded manner these Mexicans have of discussing important political questions, unless it be through the absence of the Celtic element. Perhaps, also, the external forms of politeness which cling to the Castilian race may have some effect. I asked Señor Don José Chavez to yell at the top of his voice in Castilian, "Bully for Tom Jones!" or "Hurrah for John Smith!"

Queretaro was the last stronghold of the empire. Here Maximilian gathered the few brigades of native troops, who determined to all hazards to support the imperial standard. The city has about 60,000 inhabitants, and is literally covered with churches and convents. It is situated on a slight elevation overlooking the surrounding plateau, and is a good point for the defensive operations of a besieged army. Maximilian regarded this city, with its heavy walls, castellated churches, and turreted convents as, under the circumstances, almost impregnable. The key to the situation was the Cerro de la Cruz, perched upon the highest point in the eastern part of the city. This hill was assigned Col. Lopez, one of Maximilian's most trusted officers. It was considered the post of honor, but Lopez proved treacherous, and the army of Juarez, being thus let into the heart of the city, soon overcame the Imperialists, and Maximilian, in trying to escape was made a prisoner. He was subsequently shot on a hill now called "The Mount of the Bells," about two miles west of the city. The hill is so called because of the legend that invisible bells were heard softly and sadly tolling as the body of Maximilian was borne away from the place of execution. There is yet a superstition that on each anniversary of the death of Maximilian these unseen bells can be heard echoing through the gorges of the adjacent hills, weirdly tolling in memory of the unfortunate Emperor.

The people of Queretaro were loyal to the empire, and have ever since revered the memory of Maximilian. The general Government has prohibited all public demonstrations commemorating his death, and has refused to allow any monument to be erected to mark the spot where he fell. Nevertheless, it is a custom here when visiting the Hill of the Bells to take a small stone and, while kneeling in prayer for the repose of Maximilian's soul, to reverently cast the stone on the spot where his body lay after the firing of the fatal volley. In this manner a pyramid of loose stones has arisen several feet high. A number of small wooden crosses stand here and there among the stones, rising a few inches above them, and hardly a day passes that fresh flowers are not placed around each little cross. One day I was sitting near the spot, under the shadow of a huge rock, watching the people come and go in what they consider a holy pilgrimage, when I observed approaching the pile of stones a little Indian boy of some eight years leading a little girl of five years. The boy had a small stone in his hand, which had perhaps received a priestly blessing, and the girl tenderly carried a few fresh flowers. The children timidly knelt before the pile, reverently made the sign of the cross several times, and then clasped their little hands in the attitude of prayer. In a few moments they arose, the boy laid the stone on the pile, and held the little girl on his shoulder while she placed the flowers at the foot of a cross. Then they went away as silently as they came.

In time the Government may become more indulgent and allow a polished marble and ornate bronze to be erected in place of the rough stones which now mark the spot where the brother of Francis Joseph met his tragic death. Great Britain has not recognized Mexico since Maximilian was shot. However, Mexico does not care a fig for John Bull's attempt to snub her, but snaps her fingers in his face, and tells him, "*No importa!*" She has been flirting with Uncle Sam and his Monroe doctrine. But matters look now as if diplomatic relations will soon be re-established between Mexico and Great Britain.

Queretaro has a grand alameda of old oaks, interspersed with the Mexican ash and a few trees of other varieties. It is skilfully laid out in promenades and circular *glorietas*, and a wide boulevard, lined with forty rows of trees, encircles the entire park. A stone wall surrounds the alameda with arched gateways for entrance and exit, and stone seats are scattered about all over the enclosure. Fountains and music stands are appropriately distributed, and altogether it is a pleasant place to visit, either in a carriage, on horseback, or loitering on foot. But the alameda is not so pretty as the Zocalo in the centre of the city. This is a beautiful little park, which at the time of the French invasion was merely a piece of cobble stones. Marshal Bazaine, under direction of Maximilian, had it laid off in serpentine walks traversed by four grand central promenades at equal angles to each other, and planted trees, shrubbery, and flowers on all the space not covered by walks and fountains. The cobble stones were removed, and the walks and promenades were covered with dressed granite slabs as smooth as a floor. Neat iron seats were fastened to the stone pavement at convenient distances, and three large fountains were located at the proper points to secure the best effect. The whole is a beautiful little specimen of the good taste of the French military engineers. The central fountain is a piece of excellent workmanship. It was cast in Philadelphia, and is a present to the city of Queretaro from the millionaire Rubio, lately deceased. It is now nearly twenty years since the French planted this zocalo, and the eucalyptus and other quick growing trees are above thirty feet in height, while the orange, the lime, the banana, and the apricot have for years produced their fruit in regular season.

One of the curiosities most interesting to a visitor to Queretaro is the immense stone aqueduct through which is received the water supply of the city. It is borne upon broad arches, supported by heavy piers, and is about 120 feet in height. I judge its length, from where the water leaves the tunnel through the mountain to the point where it flows into the receiving reservoir, to be about a mile and a half. The masonry is heavier than necessary, and the cost of the structure strikes a modern mechanical engineer as something fabulous. This aqueduct is also a gift to the city from the elder Rubio. It secures a plentiful supply of the purest water.

About three miles from this city is the Cañada. The place is the beginning of a long gap through a range of mountains, called in Western mining parlance a big gulch or cañon, and designated here by the word Cañada. In places the gap is wide enough for small fields of corn, barley, or vegetables, and a good sized creek or small river runs through it. At the western end of the Cañada, where the Rio enters the plateau of Queretaro, is located the largest cotton factory in Mexico. La Cañada covers an extensive area, is built chiefly of stone, and has a population of some 18,000 souls. The whole business—factories, machine shops, water dams and privileges, flour mills, warehouses, tenements, lands, the corporation and all—belongs to three brothers, sons of the elder Rubio. The entire property, including some thousand acres of adjacent lands, is said to have cost millions. One can form an idea of the enormous expense of such an enterprise at the time it was started, 1842, when it is stated that all of the heavy English machinery was transported in sections from Vera Cruz to Queretaro, about 300 miles, on the backs of pack mules and donkeys. One of the factories, called the Hercules, has on the grounds in front of the main entrance colossal marble statue of that ancient athlete. The statue was imported from Italy, and it cost a small fortune to purchase it, and another small fortune to transport it to its destination. It is one expression of a whim of the elder Rubio, who carried out his idea of ornamenting the grounds surrounding his factories as if they were royal palaces.

Don Cayetano Rubio, the late owner of *Las Fabricas de la Cañada*, was one of the richest men in Mexico. Besides his large inheritance, chiefly in haciendas and silver mines, he accumulated money rapidly, his Midas-like touch seeming to convert everything that he handled into gold. He was a shrewd, far-seeing trader, and always kept on good terms with the existing Government. There was a custom in Mexico a few years ago by which the Government would lease to its favorites and supporters for a limited time certain small ports of entry on the Gulf and Pacific coasts. Capitalists who could get into the ring made large amounts of money, and it is said that Señor Rubio obtained several millions in this way. But long ago the small merchants combined and broke up the system.

Two years ago Queretaro was a quiet city of many churches and a regular slow-going trade. Now the shrill blast of the locomotive awakes the echoes of the mountain gorges, as it comes thundering down the Cañada. The old city has taken on renewed life, and feels the thrilling impulse of commercial activity as the trains of the Central Railway roll up to and away from the newly built station. Notwithstanding all this progress, much time will be required by the people of Queretaro to get over their long-felt dislike of the rushing, driving, self-asserting Americano.

REPORT OF SECRETARY CHANDLER.

He Advises that Seven War Ships be Built Every Year Until we Have a Navy.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7.—Secretary Chandler, in his annual report, says the three new steel war vessels now building will be completed about Jan. 1, 1885. The Chicago will have no superior in the world in the combination of speed, endurance, and armament. In the Boston and Atlanta speed and endurance have been given full development, while their fighting power has been increased by placing the battery in a central superstructure on the spar deck, and adopting a brig rig, leaving the extremities clear for fore and aft fire. The dispatch boat Dolphin will be completed about Aug. 1, 1884. The cost of completing the monitors Puritan, Amphitrite, Terror, and Monadnock is estimated at $3,598,382. The Secretary recommends their completion, as they will provide floating harbor defences sufficient for present purposes, and may justify us in further postponing the construction of expensive broadside armored ships.

"It seems to me that the present condition of our navy makes it necessary that the work of reconstruction should be continued as rapidly as a due regard for economy will admit. The Advisory Board recommends the construction of seven additional unarmored steel cruisers, designed to conform to the types represented by the Chicago, the Boston, and the Dolphin. Of the other four, two to be heavily armed cruising gunboats, and two smaller.

The Secretary agrees with the Board in condemning any policy looking to the present construction of cruisers that shall rival in speed the fastest transatlantic steamers. These fast ocean steamers comprise less than one hundredth part of the ocean steam tonnage, and, in the event of a war, most of them would be withdrawn from their ordinary pursuits. A war vessel matching them in speed would cost at least $4,000,000. The Secretary adds:

"The immediate object should be at moderate expense to replace our wornout cruisers with modern constructions, that our naval service, and for this reason the reconstruction should for the present be continued on the lines already begun. It is not now, and it never has been, a part of our policy to maintain a fleet able at any time to cope on equal terms with the foremost European armaments. The possibility of such war is not just sight of, but with our isolated position and traditional policy, it is a remote contingency, and we should cherish no ambition to take the lead among the naval powers of the world, certainly not until we become foremost in the possession of a merchant marine to furnish the material for a navy, and be prepared to assert at all times our natural, justifiable and necessary ascendancy in the affairs of the American hemisphere, we insist on a navy which, in its degree, shall be as fully to "keep alive the knowledge of war," and of such a kind that it shall be a knowledge of modern war, capable on the instant of being expanded into an invincible squadron. It is well known that we have not the elements of such a force to-day.

The specific plan, which, in the opinion of the department, should be adopted, looks to a gradual replacement of the present decaying fleet by modern constructions. The provision of the act of 1883 limiting the repair of wooden ships to twenty per cent of their cost, should be continued in force, in order that no money may be expended in rebuilding worn-out structures of an obsolete type. Provision should then be made for building new cruisers with due care and economy, by an annual outlay extending over a considerable period. At least seven modern vessels should be built in each year, until the cruising fleet has attained a new steel navy, of the annual expenditure of four millions which such a plan would require, from one-third to one-half can be saved by abandoning attempts to rebuild the present wooden fleet, and by other wise retrenchments in the naval appropriations.

The Secretary says the gradual reduction of the number of officers in the navy is in progress. The navy yards should be organized so as to exclude all political considerations from their management. The bodies of Lieut. De Long and his comrades will be transferred to Orenburg and thence to the United States as soon as winter travel is practicable.

THE DWIGHT INSURANCE CASE.

Questions of Fact to be Submitted to the Jury—The Closing Arguments Begun.

NORWICH, N. Y., Dec. 7.—The last days of the Dwight trial are attracting great attention from insurance men in every part of the State. To-day the court room was crowded to its utmost capacity. At the opening of court the counsel for both sides announced that they had agreed upon the questions of fact to be submitted to the jury, and upon which the arguments of counsel should be based. The Court approved them, and they were read as follows:

First—Was the occupation of Walton Dwight for ten years previous to Aug. 22, 1878, that of a real estate and grain dealer, within the meaning or intent of the contract?

Second—Was Walton Dwight engaged in the sale of ale, wine, or other intoxicating liquors at any time within five years previous to Aug. 22, 1878, within the intent and meaning of the contract?

Third—Was Walton Dwight connected with the sale of wine, ale, or other intoxicating liquors at any time within five years prior to Aug. 22, 1878, within the intent and meaning of the contract?

Fourth—Had Dwight at any time prior to Aug. 22, 1878, had spitting of blood resulting from disease of lungs or other respiratory organs?

Fifth—Was the policy of insurance on the life of Dwight in the suit in this action obtained with procurement and fraudulent intent of defrauding this defendant?

Sixth—Did Walton Dwight die by suicide?

Seventh—Was the ailment of Walton Dwight at Williamsport, Pa., in March, 1887, a mere temporary ailment from which he recovered?

It is understood that the jury is to render a general verdict, either for the amount of the policy, with interest, or for the defendant, no cause of action.

The summing up was then opened at 10 A. M. by Attorney-General Russell for the defense. He said the case involved a large amount of money sought to be collected by the representatives of a man who had placed $350,000 upon his life when he had just emerged from bankruptcy, and had but $6 in his pocket, and could not support his wife and child. The plaintiff is not the poor widow the counsel would have them think. She has received already $60,000 from other companies upon policies held by Dwight. Dwight in forty days made thirty-one applications for $400,000 of insurance. In doing this he had deceived the companies in his answers to the questions put. Counsel entered into a calculation as to the expense of the premiums. Dwight's expectancy, he said, was twenty-five years. The premiums in that time would amount to $337,000, from which he would obtain $330,000. From this fact he argued that the policies were procured for a fraudulent purpose, and therefore void. Death was in his thoughts when he procured the insurance, and it came suddenly four days before his next quarterly payment of premiums became due. Attorney-General Russell will resume his argument in the morning, and will not close before noon. The Hon. Henry Smith will close for the plaintiff.

President Arthur's Message of Condolence.

Funeral services for Col. Michael W. Burns will be held in St. Peter's Church, in Barclay street, on Monday morning. The pall bearers selected are Gens. George H. Sharpe, Daniel E. Sickles, Aaron G. McCook, Henry A. Barnum, Charles K. Graham, George W. Palmer, and Martin T. McMahon, Major P. M. Haverty, State Senators Gibbs and Michael C. Murphy, John J. O'Brien, and Chester S. Cole. President Arthur sent the telegram to the widow yesterday

"EXECUTIVE MANSION, WASHINGTON, Dec. 7, 1883.

"*Mrs. M. W. Burns, 58 Beach street, New York:*

"I am much grieved to hear of the death of Col. Burns, and send you my sympathy in your great affliction. C. A. ARTHUR."

Col. Burns, after his service in the war, had a part in the Fenian invasion of Canada in 1866, and was appointed Adjutant-General of New York by Gen. T. W. Sweeney, the Commander-in-chief. He was arrested in the act of crossing the St. Lawrence River, and was released by order of the Secretary of War, after six days' detention.

Their Licenses Are Forfeited.

District Attorney Peckham writes to Police Justice Murray that the conviction of a liquor dealer for violating the Excise law annuls his license, without any formal action by the Excise Board. This, he says, was settled by the General Term of the Supreme Court in the second district in the case of The People ag'st Tighe. In that case it was held that a conviction of a licensee, ipso facto, is the express works of the statute of 1873, operating to annul and void his license, and it can no longer afford him any justification or protection. There can be no question in my mind," Mr. Peckham says, "as to the duty of Police Justices to follow the law as stated in that decision so long as it remains unreversed."

Charley John Confesses his Crime.

Charley John, a dapper young Chinese, pleaded guilty yesterday, in the General Sessions, of breaking into the tailor shop of Henry Feldman, 2,317 Fourth avenue, on the night of Nov. 18. Charley John is the first Chinese ever convicted in this State of burglary. In view of his previous good character, Judge Gildersleeve committed him to the Elmira Reformatory.

A great opportunity for bargains is now offered at Cowperthwaite's, 151 to 153 Chatham st., New York and 498 to 412 Fulton st., Brooklyn. We must make room for new goods, and have marked down our prices on parlor suites, walnut, ash, and painted bedroom suites, carpets, bedding, and stoves. Our usual liberal terms to those who do not wish to pay all cash.—*Adv.*

Woollen and merino underwear, scarlet and white flannel, own make Cardigan jackets, dress shirts $1.25, $1.50; best value in city. J. W. Johnston, 200 Grand st.—*Adv.*

Our aristocracy, illustrated with crests and coats of arms, will appear in Sunday *World*. Look out for it.—*Adv.*

YALE MEN EATING BELATED TURKEY.

The Hon. W. M. Evarts Breaks a Lamp Globe with a Latin Sentence.

President Porter of Yale College shook hands 225 consecutive times at Delmonico's last night as the New York alumni came in to give him a Thanksgiving greeting. The graduates were each done up in broadcloth and white linen, and when they got through shaking hands they marched into the big dining hall and ate their Thanksgiving dinner. The Hon. William Maxwell Evarts lent the glory of an immaculate dress suit to one corner of the room. The turkey was the fifth dish of the prolonged feast. It was served with cream sauce and garnished with boiled chestnuts and sweet peas.

Chairman Depew, with a long blue ribbon in his buttonhole, stood in front of a big mirror, and said that the alumni had called the dinner a thanksgiving one because it was given in commemoration of the reconciliation and forgiveness extended by the faculty to the contrite alumni upon their resolving that the old Yale "Jubilee" must go. The alumni hailed the occasion with joy because it gave to them the opportunity to give the faculty a a large and candid piece of their mind. Mr. Depew then went on to eulogize Yale as the most complete, magnificent, and brilliant educational institution in creation. When Lord Chief Justice Coleridge said that it reminded him of Eton school, it was a remarkable remark that would have crushed any younger institution entirely out of existence. But Yale men simply felt that his Lordship spoke without a preparation and from misinformation.

Walter McC. Depew sat down, D. A. Jones, who was champion college ball pitcher for two years, whistled with a power that threw the professional flute quite in the shade, and instored the alumni to hammer the table till the glasses danced. President Porter said that Yale athletes were a blessing to the college. The alumni waved their handkerchiefs and shouted till they were hoarse over this sentiment, and wound up by giving "Three times three for Noah Porter, LL. D."

Mr. Evarts gravidly rose to his full height and, depositing his right forefinger in a condition of perfect repose in the buttonhole of his waistcoat, bowed elaborately to President Porter and wandered back forty years in reminiscence. He revived an old acquaintance who was addicted to a buzz-saw, and who explained a habit of talking to himself while buzz-sawing by saying:

"Well, you see, Judge, it's a great pleasure to hear a sensible man talk, and an equally great pleasure to talk to a sensible man."

Mr. Evarts furthermore warned Mr. Depew that if he went on year after year praising Yale so exuberantly he would either kill the alumni dinner, or the alumni dinner would kill him. Mr. Evarts after that quoted a Latin sentiment of extraordinary length. At the end of it a chandelier globe exploded and tumbled upon the heads of the alumni. The alumni, Mr. Evarts said, would stand by Yale while it stood by Greek and Latin, and the alumni nearly brought the roof down with cheers when Mr. Evarts said that he was going to join a Society for Making Short Speeches.

FIRE IN A SLEEPING CAR.

Two Passengers Burned—It was Unavoidable and will Not Occur Again.

A sleeping car attached to the Chicago express which left New York at 9 o'clock on Thursday night, on the Hudson River Railroad, was discovered to be on fire near Castleton at 1 o'clock yesterday morning. A man named Murphy of Buffalo was severely burned on the head, and F. Wirthman of West Hoboken, N. J., was taken from the car in an unconscious condition at Castleton. The car was completely gutted. Murphy, who is a railroad man, was taken to Albany. His wife reached Albany in the afternoon. It is stated that the accident was the fault of the porter. His physician said that if he had not inhaled flame his condition was not dangerous.

At the railroad offices no information regarding the accident could be secured. At the office of the sleeping car company an official said there were only four or five passengers in the sleeping car. Two of them were injured, and they not dangerously. Mr. Wirthman was employed by Keller & Ruhl, cloth merchants at 157 Wooster street. A report from Albany says the burned sleeper were locked and had to be broken open with axes was dented.

It was simply an unavoidable accident," the official said, "and will not occur again."

Conrad H. Ruhl of Keller & Ruhl said last evening that their first information indicated that Wirthman was disappointed in a bet on the Yale-Harvard game, but would recover. He was a commercial traveller, and was on his way to Buffalo. His face and hands were badly burned.

The Collision in Newport Harbor.

NEWPORT, Dec. 7.—Inspectors Beckwith and Hovey arrived to-day and investigated the collision between the steamer Eolus of the Wickford line and the torpedo station steamer Billow, which occurred a fortnight ago to-night. After the collision the Billow proceeded on her way to the torpedo station, and sunk just as the last passenger stepped ashore. The testimony showed that when the Billow whistled once the Eolus responded with a single whistle, signifying that she was the course the Billow suggested was satisfactory. The Eolus should therefore have ported her helm; instead she went to starboard, the captain explained that he had gone to port but he would have run into some vessels which were in the way. The inspectors held that under the circumstances he should have sounded his danger whistle, which he did have on board, and blown it, but in a contrary direction. The inspectors do not think there was any serious blame or neglect on the part of the Eolus, and it is understood that the Captain will simply be cautioned.

The Fund W. Frauds.

CHICAGO, Dec. 7.—John Fleming and Frank L. Loring, whose trial has been in progress during the last two weeks before Judge Blodgett, in the United States District Court, for fraudulent use of the mails and false pretences, were found guilty this afternoon on all the counts of the indictment. A firm known as Fleming & Merriam advertised to do a commission business on the Chicago Board of Trade, and received a great many remittances in the United States mails. Counts in "I find W." and it is estimated that they collected in this manner to exceed $1,000,000, which they pretended to be using on the Board of Trade, according to the Board of Trade, sending to the subscribers from time to time large dividends upon their investments. The Federal authorities exposed the fraud and Fleming fled to Canada, but was quietly arrested in Hamilton, Dak. Merriam is supposed to be a myth. The law makes the maximum penalty in such cases a fine of $5,000 and imprisonment in the discretion of the Court.

The Carver of a Forger.

HOUSTON, Tex., Dec. 7.—J. W. Rose, a wealthy carriage manufacturer, disappeared on Sunday. His wife and her supposed stepson appeared before the Grand Jury and said that Rose is Cornelius Kruse, who, in Kingston, N. Y., in 1876, committed a heavy forgery, deserted his wife and two children, and came to Texas. He made money here, and married a Mrs. Dagnall. Rose returned to Kingston in 1879, and promised to bring his first wife to Texas. Failing to do so, a few months ago his son followed him and threatened to expose him. Rose shot him six times, but only wounded him. Upon this shooting the Grand Jury found a bill against Rose, Rose assuring him that his second wife was only his mistress, and at the same time inducing her to say that she had done the shooting. The boy is now in Houston to compel preparation for his mother, but his father's whereabouts are unknown.

An Appeal to the Workingmen.

BOSTON, Dec. 7.—Rufus B. Phinney, President of the Workingmen's Association of Lynn, has issued an appeal to the workingmen of the State and nation. He says that after the greatest strike Lynn ever saw—in 1877—78—the workingmen elected 29 of the 30 members of the city Council, which gave them full control of municipal affairs. From that time, says last year, they have elected the Mayor and a majority of the City Council. Their experience has proved the necessity of organizing a new party, to be called the "National Workingmen's party." He calls upon workingmen everywhere to be held in some central city, an organization of the National party, and the nomination of candidates for President and Vice-President.

Attacking Railroad Property.

EASTON, Pa., Dec. 7.—The Sheriff of Northampton county has attached the surveyor's instrument, draughting tables, and office fixtures of the Pennsylvania, Slatington and New England Railroad Company at Portland, and will sell the same on Tuesday next. He also expects to attach a locomotive and several cars. Some of the contractors have also come under the Sheriff's hammer. The personal property of Contractor Danforth, consisting of tools and material for a bridge across the Delaware River at Portland, has been seized, and will be sold on Tuesday.

Disaster to a Freight Pool.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 7.—It is reported that a wheat freight pool, composed of Solomon Wangenheim & Co., M. Waterman & Co., and others, lost from $2,000,000 to $3,000,000 by the heavy fall in rates. Chase alleged to have caught to the extent of $300,000. As the Ring is composed of several smaller pools the individual losses will probably be light. Wangenheim & Co. and Waterman & Co. are extensive commission merchants, not the regular wheat shippers, whose charters have been mainly taken at profitable rates.

James M. Underwood Hanged.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Dec. 7.—James M. Underwood, for the murder of Robert J. Pendergrass, a wealthy planter of Yell county, was hanged to-day at Dardanelle, Ark., in the presence of 3,000 persons. Underwood waylaid and shot his victim from an ambush. He confessed the crime, and imputed the incentive to the murder to the wife of Pendergrass, for whom Underwood had formed a passion. He reiterated this story on the scaffold.

Carpets, Rugs, and Upholstery.

Sheppard Knapp & Co., at Thirteenth street and Sixth avenue, are offering special inducements in carpets, rugs, and upholstery. They are selling Wiltons worth $2.75 a yard at $2.25; Moquettes formerly sold at $1.75 are now sold at $1.50; in the choicest designs and of the best qualities, and body Brussels have been reduced from $1.50 to $1.10. Mr. Knapp has recently imported a large one of Oriental rugs, and they are selling at less than auction price. A part of the cargo was sold at auction the other day, and higher prices were received than are asked for goods of the same quality at the store. In the upholstery department are many special inducements in hand painted plushes, silks, satins, laces, curtains, and table spreads.

Mother Swan's Worm Syrup.

Infallible, tasteless, harmless, cathartic, for feverishness, restlessness, worms, constipation. 25c.—*Adv.*

Our aristocracy, illustrated with crests and coats of arms, will appear in Sunday *World*. Look out for it.—*Adv.*

Skin diseases or diseases of scalp! The remedy is Dr. Benson's Skin Cure. Beware of imitations.—*Adv.*

AMUSEMENTS.

Metropolitan Opera House.

The second performance of Meyerbeer's "Roberto il Diavolo" called out a large audience last evening. The artists employed in its representation were the same as on the previous occasion. The chorus was apparently more sure of the music than before, and sang the choruses of the first act with spirit and precision. The orchestra was, as is not unusual at this house, unpleasantly noisy on many occasions, completely covering even the penetrating voices of Mmes. Fursch-Madi and Valleria, and reducing some of Signor Stagno's work to mere dumb show. The singers appeared all to be in good voice; even Mme. Valleria, for whom an apology was made, showed no signs of the indisposition from which she was suffering. The celebrated trio in the third act was sung so well that it narrowly escaped an encore; it secured, as it was, a vociferous recall for the artists engaged in it.

"Roberto" is one of the operas which give great opportunities to the ballet, and almost the only one which gives a really good chance to the *premiere*; for in this opera the ballet is not forced in as an adjunct, but is a legitimate part of the plot.

High as is the estimation in which Mme. Cavalazzi is held, and great an artist as she is known to be, her performance last night must have been a pleasant surprise even to many of her warmest admirers. It is but rarely that we in this country have an opportunity to enjoy any exhibition of the *classic* school of dancing; indeed, since the retirement of Mme. Lanner from the American stage, Mme. Cavalazzi may be said to be the only representative of that school which it has known. Between such dancing as that of last night and the mincing exhibitions of *bravo de force* common in such pieces as the "Black Crook" and its companion spectacles, there is as much difference as between a standard composition played by Joachim and the latest show piece scraped out by a fashionable fiddler. Mme. Cavalazzi is one of the very few modern artists who are legitimately the successors of Taglioni and the two or three contemporaneous dancers who elevated the art to its highest possibilities. In dancing of this kind, virtuosity, considered by itself, has as little place as in a Bach fugue or a Beethoven sonata; its presence and assistance are necessary, but it is never obtruded. No difficulty is introduced simply because it is a difficulty, and one which the performer can master; but everything is subordinated to the production of purely artistic emotion, and everything that skill, grace, and poetic feeling can do to elaborate and present that conception is utilized. To see Mme. Cavalazzi last night in the scene of the temptation of *Roberto* was to see a poem in motion. Too little attention has hitherto been paid here to this particular branch of art, because too little has been understood about it; but such an artist as we now have here in Mme. Cavalazzi could easily arouse an interest and develop a new public for an art which is nearer allied to that of music. If the managers of the Metropolitan Opera House would but put on the stage some *ballet d'action*, such as the exquisite "La Giselle," for example, our public would have a chance to learn what beautiful and worthy ends the dance may serve, if the despised art of dancing can be made to subserve.

In spite of the undeniable excellence of some of the vocalists engaged in the representation of the opera last night, it is not too much to say that Mme. Cavalazzi, in her one scene, fairly proved herself a prima donna equal honors with the best. We have dealt thus fully with this subject because it is one which rarely presents itself so naturally, and is nevertheless well worthy of consideration. An artist in any department is a rarity, and when one appears it is the least that can be done is to give him or her the full meed of just recognition.

At the matinée to-day "Don Giovanni," with the three *prime donne* in the cast, and on Sunday evening the usual concert will take place.

Mme. Gerster in a New Role.

Mme. Gerster last evening added a charming role to her repertory, and, what is even more to the purpose, added a fresh and signal triumph to the many which she has won since her first appearance in this city. Her success was so unequivocal, and the opera took so well with the audience, that it seems a pity and a wonder that it should not have been discovered until this late moment what a lovely *Adina* Mme. Gerster would make, and how perfectly she possessed all the gifts to give effect to this brilliant part.

This is all the more to be wondered at since the opera is so very easily given, and exacts so little from the manager. A soprano, a *buffo* baritone, a tenor, and a bass—these, with the chorus, are all that the opera demand, but they must be good singers and good actors as well. This being the case, the music will carry everything along in its own joyous rush of melody.

It will not do to say that it is equal to Rossini's "Barber of Seville," because no Italian comic opera is that, but it follows close on its heels, and, if not quite equal to it, it comes very near to it. It sparkles with melody and brightness from beginning to end; it has an excellently constructed libretto; the story is nothing, but it is lucid and simple, and it serves its purpose and the situations are good.

Those who remember the part Gerster made of one of the departments yesterday, should be sure to take us in on their holiday round. In fact, nothing can be more appropriate as a present to a gentleman friend than an "all the line of goods to which we are now paying special attention."

A Great Furniture Store.

Marked improvements have been made in the building at 740 and 742 Broadway since J. W. Crossley, dealer in carpets, secured possession of the entire building and opened a great stock of furniture. Steam elevators now communicate with every floor, and the firm announces that in its extensive furniture business it will continue to associate its name with cheap prices. A great line of body Brussels carpets has been marked down to almost actual cost to make room for the stock of furniture. Bargains are also offered in Wiltons, Axminsters, moquettes, and ingrains.

A Stalwart Old Enemy.

One of the toughest old adversaries of human comfort and most difficult to exterminate is rheumatism. Many middle-aged people suffer torture with it, and the old folks who have it find it the pest of their lives. The case of a venerable lady of Southern Ohio, who is the great interest to the victims of this tough old enemy, Mrs. Sweetsapp: "I have been using Perry Davis's Pain Killer for about eight years. As soon as I apply Pain Killer I have almost immediate relief from pain."—*Adv.*

CAN'T FIND JAY GOULD'S BOOKS.

Innocent Mr. Morosini Describes with a Shrug His Patient Search.

Sig. G. P. Morosini, a partner of Jay Gould, George J. Gould, and W. E. Connor, in the firm of W. E. Connor & Co., was the principal witness examined yesterday in the suit of the Metropolitan Elevated Railway Company against the Manhattan. He created a sensation in court when he shrugged his shoulders and said that the books of the firm had mysteriously disappeared. A subpœna for these books had been served by the plaintiffs, who relied on them to show enormous transactions in the elevated railroad stocks about the time the famous October agreement was being agitated. Sig. Morosini knew absolutely nothing about the business of his concern. His occupation, he said, was to sign checks. He never knew what his partners did, and did not bother himself about details. Mr. Gould and Connor did not speculate in the office.

"You have been subpœnaed to produce the books of the concern. Have you them with you?" sternly asked counsel for plaintiff.

"I have not got them. I ask everybody where those books were. I hevair saw them myself. I ask the bookkeepers and the rest of the boys. They say they don't know where those books are. I look in the safe and all around the office for them myself," Signor Morosini shrugged his shoulders again.

"Where is Mr. Connor?"

"Mr. Connor is in Europe."

Judge Van Brunt said that the plaintiff in the action had a right to have "those books" produced, and that the witness had not sufficiently excused the non-production of them. The Court was not satisfied that the books were not in the control of the witness.

Then Signor Morosini shrugged his shoulders and was excused to look up the firm's securities, with the advice to produce the books on Monday morning if he had to spend the intervening time in search for them.

Pilots Seeking Legal Advice.

"We shall send a committee to-morrow to a prominent Judge of the United States Court," said a pilot yesterday, "to advise us as to the proper steps for us to take in the matter of the running down of pilot boat Columbia No. 8, by the steamship Alaska. We are satisfied that the steamship did not stop for the pilot to come on board, but kept on her way, and in the gale which was blowing she swung her stern to the sea, a wave from her bow and then cut down the pilot boat. Then she reversed her engines, but it was too late to save one of the poor fellows in the sea."

The pilots have subscribed $1,000 for Mrs. Fortlitate, the wife of the cook of the Columbia. The subscriptions for the relief of the bereaved families now amount to $3,000.

Another subscription list was started in Wall street yesterday headed by John J. Kiernan, Fisk & Hatch, J. & E. Seligman & Co., Kuhn, Loeb, & Co., Vermilye & Co., and Kidder, Peabody & Co., each of whom subscribed $50.

Two Rounds Between Sunday School Superintendents.

NEWARK, Ohio, Dec. 7.—D. W. Young, the venerable superintendent of the Universalist Sunday school, quarrelled with L. Kennan, superintendent of the Presbyterian Sunday school, and called Kennan a liar on the public square. The war of words attracted hundreds of spectators. Young and Kennan stand high in the community, and are prominent workers. Curiosity was on tiptoe to see how the young Sunday school man would act after being called a liar, but few were prepared to see the draw back and gave Young a blow which knocked him down. In just two brief rattling rounds the old gentleman did Kennan up artistically, and stretched him on the pavement. At this point the crowd rushed in and separated the combatants.

Behind the Flyers.

The charming weather brought out the drivers in full force this week, but yesterday capped the climax. The roadsters were crowded with sporting men, and the fast horses come storming down the road. There were many exciting brushes among celebrated trotters.

Mr. William H. Vanderbilt came down Seventh avenue behind his new purchase, a brown gelding called T. C. Eastman, at a clipping gait. Mr. Isidor Cohnfeld was out with his fast team, Maxey Cobb and Helene, that showed a mile over Fleetwood track in 2:22½. Mr. Bayard Wallace was behind his fast trotter, Jim Fisk. Mr. Napoleon Bond, Hallowe'en, hitched to an elegant top wagon. Jerry Coster drove his promising team, Ringle and Charley L. Mr. Wm. H. Harlock drove his stassing bay gelding, Beechwood Hill and Wallace.

Mr. Nathan Strauss with his bay gelding George Ripley and Mr. Harry Dutton of Boston, who owns the bay gelding Gentleman Jim, were driving up and down avenue, in with Thomas Trimble, who was driving his roan gelding Ricket. They had a brush, and made a splendid trot out for over a mile, and although George Ripley performed double sight he came in winner by a length.

Mr. Warren Jenkins sat behind the bay gelding Warren J., a fast young horse with fine action. Mr. James J. Martin piloted his chestnut mare, May F. Neil Dunlap astonished the drivers with the speed of his bay mare, Ida B.

The National Game.

The annual convention of the American Association will take place at Cincinnati on Wednesday next. New clubs will be admitted from Brooklyn, Indianapolis, Washington, and either Richmond, Va., or Toledo. The American Alliance is to be abolished. All but one club is in favor of the admission of the Brooklyn and Indianapolis clubs, and a majority favor the increase of members to twelve clubs.

The Chicago Tribune yesterday signed papers for a five years' lease of new grounds. The reserved players who have signed with union clubs are to be expelled unless they repudiate such engagements before March.

The Providence Ball Club is unable to secure grounds upon which to play, and it looks as if the club would be forced to disband. Many people there own land that would make fine ball grounds, but they will neither sell nor lease their land for that purpose.

College Foot Ball.

The Yale College freshmen have challenged the Harvard freshmen to play off the recent foot ball match, which resulted in a tie; the game to be played before Christmas, and outside of Cambridge.

Among the changes in the rules made at the College Foot Ball Association last evening was one that a goal at a safety would in the future count two points instead of one, and a touchdown four instead of two. Delegates from Columbia, Yale, and Princeton were present at the meeting, and gave a full and free interchange of their team to the Intercollegiate Association.

SPORTING NOTES.

Tom Sayers is to ride for Mr. C. L. Hunt of St. Louis next year.

Fitzpatrick will wear the blue and gold of Commodore Kittson next season.

Green Morris will have a team of fourteen strong racers at Jerome Park.

Capt. J. L. Harris, a prominent cotton dealer in New Orleans, is about to enter the arena of the turf.

Albert Frey, the boy pool player, won first prize at both the Bath and Fort Richmond pool tournaments.

The *Spirit*