STIRRING UP THE SENATORS.

MR. VOORHEES'S LIVELY ATTACK ON POLITICAL ASSESSMENTS.

Mr. Beck Knows Officers of the Government who have Retained Money from Employees' Salaries—The Bill for a New Library Building Passed—A Finance Bill.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—There was a lively time in the Senate to-day over a bill which Mr. Voorhees by unanimous consent was allowed to introduce out of the regular order, prohibiting officers and employees of the Government from contributing money for political purposes. Mr. Voorhees said it had become notorious that, notwithstanding the present law on the subject of political assessments, clerks and others in Government employ were being compelled, under the device of voluntary contributions, to give away money which they needed for the support of their families. This bill, he said, made it a penal offence for any person in Government employ to contribute money for political purposes. By thus imposing a penalty, not only on him who receives, but, as well, on him who gives, this thing could be stopped, and it could not be stopped in any other way. Ninety-nine out of every hundred clerks would be glad to be armed with this provision of law. Mr. Voorhees disclaimed any partisan intent. He had heard much about civil service reform, but he wished we had a return of the old fashion, when the man who used money in elections would lose his rank in society and his place among honest men, just as a horse thief would.

Mr. Hawley contended that it would not do to say a man should not contribute anything to a political party of his own free will, and a law making such a declaration, and providing a penalty for such an act, would be not only utterly useless in a free country, but it would be a blow aimed at the commonest rights of mankind. By the law as it stands a Government officer is prohibited from going into any Government office to collect money for political purposes. The measure proposed was a most extraordinary and unjustifiable one, and we ought to be ashamed to place such a law upon our statute books against the freedom of action of American citizens. For himself, Mr. Hawley claimed the right to give his own money to any proper political purpose. Some gentlemen seemed to suppose that everything political was dishonorable, whereas politics, next to the service of God, was the most honorable work in which a man could be engaged.

Mr. Beck said men get clear of the decision of the Supreme Court in the Curtis case by getting their clerks to do the work of collection of these political assessments. Men had been before Congress seeking confirmation who had retained ten or fifteen per cent of the salaries of Government employees under them in order to send delegates to conventions.

Mr. Dawes inquired, "Who is it that has retained 10 or 15 per cent. of the salaries of such employees?"

"I do not care to state names," said Mr. Beck, "but officers of this Government."

"Then I will not ask the names," said Mr. Dawes. "But does the gentleman state here that he knows that any officer of this Government has retained a percentage of the salary of employees of this Government for political purposes?"

"Yes, I do," Mr. Beck replied, "and the Finance Committee all know it, and plenty of others know it."

"Then," continued Mr. Dawes, "the gentleman should have called for the information and laid the facts before the Senate."

Mr. Vance said that it was shown that the salaries of employees of the Internal Revenue Department had been retained in the offices of the collectors, while blank checks had been sent around for the deputies and other officials to sign.

In moving a reference of his bill to the Committee on the Judiciary, Mr. Voorhees remarked that whenever, in a court of law, he had a case on which he knew the Judge's mind was made up before the trial, he always took a change of venue. For that reason he was unwilling to let the Senator from Connecticut have the bill. Mr. Hawley is the Chairman on the Committee of Civil Service and Retrenchment. Mr. Hawley said he had not asked that it should go to his committee.

"Then the Senator does not object to its going somewhere else?" inquired Mr. Voorhees.

"I don't care," replied Mr. Hawley.

"Well, I do," said Mr. Voorhees. "The enormous sums, he continued, which were now expended on elections corrupted the ballot box and debauched public virtue, and the sooner this pouring of money into the hands of party managers was stopped the better it would be for the country.

The bill was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

The bill reported by Senator Morrill from the Committee on Additional Accommodations for the Congressional Library, being the special order for to-day, was then taken up, and after debate was passed by a vote of 35 to 6.

Mr. Hale, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, reported favorably the bill to authorize the construction of additional steel vessels for the navy.

Mr. Morrill, from the Committee on Finance, reported what remained of his bill relating to the coinage. The committee cut out all but the first and second sections, which provide for the employment of five persons distinguished in art or in knowledge of coinage and metals, to investigate our coins, existing standard, efficiency, with a view to its improvement and greater perfection of execution as to metals, relative value of minor coins, and also as to devices, legends, and inscriptions.

A bill was introduced by Mr. McPherson to suspend the coinage of the standard silver dollar until 1886, and providing that the trade dollar shall be received in sums up to $5, at a value equal to that of the standard silver dollar, in exchange for postal and revenue stamps, and shall be immediately sent to the Treasury and coined into silver bullion: that gold and silver bars 900-1000 fine, manufactured at the mints, shall be legal tender to their full stamped value in payment of public obligations.

Mr. Voorhees's resolution calling on the Attorney-General to report the cause of delay of his department in advising the Postmaster-General as to the construction of the law authorizing the payment of certain Postmasters' salaries which have been due for many years, was adopted. The matter was referred to the Attorney-General six months ago, and he has not yet given the Postmaster-General an answer.

Mr. Potter of New York introduced in the House a bill providing for the issue of 2½ per cent. bonds as substitutes for the 3 per cent. bonds, the new bonds to be payable at the pleasure of the United States, and to be for the same amounts, to bear the same numbers, and to be paid in the same order as the 3 per cents for which they are substituted. The bill further provides for the substitution of 2½ per cents for the 4 and 4½ per cents, those substituted for 4 per cents to be payable at the pleasure of the United States after July 1, 1907, and those substituted for 4½ per cents to be payable after Sept. 1, 1891. In the exchange for 4 and 4½ per cents the Treasurer is authorized, if there is sufficient applicable money on hand, to pay in each case a sum equal to the aggregate present worth of the several quarter-yearly payments of interest from which the United States is released by such exchange, all interest in ascertaining the present worth being computed at the rate of four per cent., reinvested quarter-yearly.

All the 2½ per cents and the interest thereon are to be exempt from all taxes and duties in any form.

Upon the circulating notes of national banks, secured by deposit of 2½ per cents, the duty to be paid shall be one-quarter of one per cent. each half year, instead of one-half of one per cent.

When not otherwise provided by law, the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to apply any moneys at his disposal for the payment of the bonded debt of the United States, either to the purchase of the bonds redeemable at the pleasure of the United States, or to purchase of bonds not due as well as in his judgment cause the greatest saving of interest; and in determining this the duty or tax received upon circulating notes of national banking associations shall be considered a deduction from the interest paid upon bonds held by the United States Treasury to secure said notes.

Nothing in the act is to be construed to authorize any increase of the debt of the United States.

A resolution was adopted directing the Committee on Expenditures in the Department of Justice to inquire into the economy, efficiency, and good faith of all officials or persons in the pay of the Government in connection with the Star route prosecutions, and whether guilty parties have been duly prosecuted.

An amended resolution authorizing the Committee on Expenditures in the Indian Department to send a sub-committee, at an expense of $1,000, to Hot Springs Creek to investigate the work and the interests of the Government there, was passed.

A bill was reported for the retirement and recoinage of trade dollars.

The House spent some time in Committee of the Whole listening to Mr. Calkins's criticisms of the Naval Appropriation bill. He said the appropriation for completing equipment outfits for the new cruisers was ridiculously small, while the failure of the Committee on Appropriations to make any appropriation for ordnance outfit was a great mistake.

Ice Cutting Into the Land.

PORT JERVIS, Feb. 12.—A large force of men will begin to-morrow to cut a channel through the ice gorge in the Neversink at Rose's Point, a few miles from this village. Since the ice lodged there on Friday the water has washed down a wall built to protect the highway, and has cut a channel across the road and several fine farms. The suspension bridge is threatened by the rising of the river to-night. The monument marking the point where the States of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York join was toppled over by the ice in the Delaware and the top of it carried down stream.

COCK FIGHTERS PUT TO FLIGHT.

Making Time Better Shelter Over an Embankment to Avoid the Police.

A part of a cocking main was fought a few miles from this city early yesterday morning between Long Island and New York. The fowls had all been trained, and they were in splendid condition. Each side was to show fifteen cocks at weights ranging from 4 pounds 4 ounces to 5 pounds 12 ounces, and fight all that weighed in according to New York rules, with gaffs an inch and a quarter in length, the battles to be for $100 each, and $500 the odd fight. Odds of $100 to $80 were offered on the New York fowls.

Around the pit were seated residents of Albany, Cohoes, Providence, Rochester, Utica, Buffalo, and New Haven. Admission cost $10, and as the men filed past the doorkeeper it was noticed that the money in most all cases came from a big roll of bank notes. As they were supposed to be staid members of society, everything possible was done by throwing out pickets to prevent a surprise by the police.

FIRST BATTLE.—Long Island brought in a handsome black red with a white buckle, weighing 4 pounds 3 ounces, and New York showed a spangle weighing 4 pounds 8 ounces. From all parts of the pit there were cries of "$25 to $20 on New York." In the third buckle the spangle was badly coupled, and some excited men cried out, "Ten dollars to four on Long Island." These bets were quickly taken. The black red had no business in the pit, because when New York had steadied himself he meant mischief, and with a degree of strength astonishing in such a little fellow knocked the Long Island bird all around the pit. The black red, however, getting a tenacious gill hold, hit the spangle on the head and cut him so badly that he lost his strength and was demoralized. It required just ten minutes more for Long Island to lay his stone dead.

SECOND BATTLE.—New York sent in a black breasted red weighing 5 lbs. 1 oz., and Long Island a black breasted red with buckle red weighing 4 lbs. 13 oz. The betting was even. A bloody fight, lasting only seven minutes, resulted in the death of the Long Island bird.

THIRD BATTLE.—New York was represented by a white pyle weighing 4 lbs. 12 oz., and Long Island a black breasted red weighing 4 lbs. 10 oz. The rates ruled $50 to $40 on New York. The fowls went together fairly and gave two or three hits, when Long Island shot his steel deep into New York's body, which changed the betting to $50 to $30 on the red. New York came again, however, and knocked an eye out of Long Island. Smartly counting began. The pyle, although cut almost to ribbons and pounded, that is to say, when the betting was at the rate of a pound to a shilling, or $20 to $1 against him, and after the handler of the Long Island bird had counted ten nine times, he staggered to his feet and pecked, which just saved him from defeat. After the battle had been almost lost on the count many times, and each handler in turn had almost counted ten ten times, according to the rules, the other bird would begin the fight again. Finally the handler of the New York bird managed to stand his bird on his legs before the Long Island bird, and the latter was counted out. Time, 53 minutes.

While the handlers were cutting out and sealing another cock made for the fourth battle, a picket rushed into the room and shouted:

"Bergh's men have got on to us!"

The crowd did not wait to hear more, but rushed wildly for the doors. It was an indescribable scene of confusion. Everybody wanted to get out first. When they did get out they jumped into their coaches and drove away as fast as possible. Some of them, in their great hurry, could not at once get their bearings, and went straight ahead over a steep embankment. One little Englishman, to whom a hack containing some cocks had been intrusted, went down the embankment heels up. He kept his hold on the bag, although he lost his hat. The last seen of him he was making tracks bareheaded for the railroad station, with the bag tightly gripped. When the police arrived everything was quiet, and they returned without a prisoner. The men and birds had flown.

MAJESTY OFFENDED.

Off to the Police Station for Presuming to Speak Right Out to a Toll Taker.

A truckman with a load of scenery and theatrical properties attempted to cross the bridge to Brooklyn at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon. Before he was fairly on the bridge Toll Taker Richard Barry seized the horse's head and jerked him to a standstill. Two carriages had driven up close behind the truck, waiting their turn to cross the bridge. Barry began to back the truck horse, bringing the rear of the truck, with its scenery, against the carriage horses. In the crowd that had collected were Mr. Joseph Howard, Jr., and a companion. Mr. Howard stepped forward as Barry was jerking the truck horse back and said: "There are teams in the rear there. Give them a chance to get out."

Barry dropped the bit, used an insulting epithet, and yelled: "I'll get you out. What right have you got in here?"

"I'm connected with the press, and writing up just such obstructions as these is a part of my duty. Besides, I am a taxpayer, and I am not on the bridge, but on the public roadway that leads to the bridge."

Barry called for assistance, and he and Bridge Policeman George Clark attempted to hustle Mr. Howard and his friends off the sidewalk. They resisted stoutly. The crowd hissed the policemen. Clark shook his fist in Mr. Howard's face, and, thrusting himself against the truck, swore that he would "fix" him if it cost him six months. Then, with the assistance of Peter J. Murray, another bridge policeman, Mr. Howard and his friends were pushed and pulled across the sidewalk and up on to the bridge floor.

"Well, this is simply an outrage!" said Mr. Howard. "I don't know what these men are trying to do, but——

"You shut your mouth," said Clark, "or I'll run you in."

"Shut! haven't I the right to speak?"

"No, you haven't, you"—followed by a storm of abuse.

Mr. Howard protested, and Murray and Clark seized him by either arm and dragged him off to the Oak street police station. They were followed by a crowd of at least 300 persons. Many protested against the arrest, and volunteered to go as witnesses for Mr. Howard.

Sergeant Mangin, at the station, roughly refused to hear any explanation, and ordered the arrested citizen to be taken to the Tombs. Mr. Howard was accordingly taken through the streets, still followed by the crowd, to the Tombs. There Justice Power, after taking the policemen's affidavits and hearing a story of the assault from Mr. Howard, at once discharged the prisoner.

SAID TO BE THE GOVERNOR'S BILL.

A New Face Put Upon Railroad Taxation Legislation in New Jersey.

TRENTON, Feb. 12.—A new face has been put upon the railroad taxation question to-day by the introduction in the Assembly of bill 253 to reform the whole system of corporation taxation. It was introduced by Mr. Prall of Passaic, but the printed bill bears the name of Mr. Savage of Middlesex, and it is understood that it emanates from Gov. Abbett.

The principles in the corporation property shall pay a tax to the State of one-half of one per cent. upon the true value of all its real and personal property and franchises, and that the real and personal property shall be taxed for municipal and county purposes in the taxing district where it is located, at the same rates and in the same manner as the property of individuals is taxed. A State Board of three Assessors, appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate, with a salary of $3,000 a year each, is to assess corporation property for both State and local taxes, and to enforce the collection of taxes levied a receiver is to be appointed, and corporate powers suspended at the suit of the State, or of the authorities of any taxing district, whenever a corporation fails to pay its tax within six months after it becomes due.

There are indications that the Democrats will favor this bill and that the Republicans will insist on pushing the bill to tax gross incomes of corporations, which is being prepared by the special committee of which Senator Griggs, a Republican, is Chairman. The introduction of the bill at this time is apparently intended as a forestalling of the report of that committee.

The Press Club Subscription to the John B. Wood Fund.

The Press Club subscription to the fund for the relief of the widow of Dr. John B. Wood aggregates now over $500. In a letter to the President of the club enclosing $100, George W. Childs says:

I thank the Press Club for the opportunity to join its members in their tribute to the memory of so accomplished a journalist and so estimable a man. Mrs. Wood has my earnest sympathy in her bereavement.

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks have taken this action:

Whereas, The New York Press Club is raising a fund for the relief of the widow of the late Dr. J. B. Wood; and

Whereas, Although Dr. Wood was not numbered among us as a brother, we do always an active friend of our order, and, although yet we deem the profession to which he belonged one especially entitled to the regard of our true brotherhood; and

Whereas, The assistance of the press has been to our fraternity one of the main causes of its success in accumulating its charity fund, and we believe that when its members know that we should devote a portion of that fund to partially repaying our debt of gratitude; therefore

Resolved, That the sum of fifty dollars be forwarded to Mr. F. A. Merriman, President of the New York Press Club, as the contribution of this lodge in aid of the proposed fund.

Three gentlemen on the Brooklyn *Times* have sent $12 to the Wood fund, and Charles A. O'Rourke, $10.

Baltimore's Cable Road in the Air.

BALTIMORE, Feb. 12.—Mr. Henry Pennington of Philadelphia is an incorporator of a company just formed here to construct a cable motor railway from the northern to the southern limits of the city. The capital stock is $250,000. The plan of the company is to erect an endless cable in midair on a line with the second stories of dwelling houses. The authority for the work has been obtained from the Legislature, and the railroad will be immediately constructed.

Going to Pieces on the Rocks.

BOSTON, Feb. 12.—All further efforts to recover any property from the wreck of the City of Columbus will be abandoned. The tide runs with such velocity where the wreck lies that the vessel is rapidly going to pieces. Nothing of value has been recovered. The next storm of any severity will probably obliterate all trace of the steamer.

RAGING WESTERN WATERS.

FRESH APPREHENSION KINDLED BY STILL GROWING FLOODS.

Buildings Undermined and People Camping on the Hillsides—Relief Supplies Not Equal to the Demand for Food at Wheeling.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 12.—The sun shone this morning for the first time since the floods began, but since noon the sky has again become overcast, and there are fears of more rain. The water at 1 P. M. was 68 feet 3¼ inches, lacking but half an inch of being 2 feet higher than last year. The increased velocity of the current in Second and Front streets cuts off the number of boats that can ply between the water's edge and the suspension bridge. If this continues it will cut Covington off from Cincinnati, and increase the discomforts of the situation.

Until to-night the Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton road has been able to reach its depot. It will be unable to get trains out in the morning. This leaves the Cincinnati Northern the only road able to take its trains from its depot. It carries passengers for the Cincinnati, Washington and Baltimore and the Pan Handle roads out to its junction with the former road, and for the latter to Loveland. Trains on the Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati and Indianapolis road are obliged to stop at Chester Park, seven miles out. The Ohio and Mississippi boats can no longer land at Storr's Station, and will use the ferry to convey passengers to and from the boats. The Cincinnati Southern is arranging for a ferry to reach its depot on Great street.

Five thousand distillery cattle now at the stock yards will have to be removed in the morning. The water has reached Chester Park and Maud S. and Kittson's horses will probably have to be removed from their stables.

The citizens are contributing largely to the relief fund, and the city is refusing help from abroad. The *Times-Star* has started a popular dime subscription, heading the list with $200.

The troubles of the Post Office and mail carriers increase. All the through Northern, Eastern, and Northwestern mails must be carried by wagons to Chester Park.

At Jefferson, Ind., 9,000 people have been compelled to move to the second stories. Four relief boats have been sent to Pomeroy, Ia., where the people are camping on the hill tops. Many persons are suffering from the cold.

NEWBURG, Ky., Feb. 12.—The situation here is growing still more frightful. The worst fears about the damage to the foundations of buildings have been realized. To-day a fine residence, built last year, costing $10,000, toppled over and is in ruins. Many more buildings are in danger. Many people are in houses unable to get away, and must be lost if the houses fall. The Relief Committee is receiving very liberal contributions. Mr. Dueber, who appealed to the jewellers of the country yesterday, has already received $800 from Chicago. He is erecting a temporary shelter on high ground, and after the flood he will give the lumber to the homeless for the rebuilding of their houses.

WHEELING, Feb. 12.—The subscriptions here for the relief fund reach $13,000, but all of it has been spent, and the supplies sent in from elsewhere have been consumed as fast as received. The homeless are on short allowance, owing to the short supplies, and appeals for aid from the neighboring towns come in, and the committee is powerless to help them. Many more thousands of sufferers from the flood contribute to help others. The state of affairs is heartrending.

Senator Payne of Ohio telegraphed a subscription of $1,000 to-day. A telegram was received from the Secretary of War authorizing the Mayor to expend $2,000 and use the department. The Relief Committee reports that the worst need is clothing and bedding.

LAWRENCEBURG, Ind., Feb. 12.—The situation grows worse and worse. The Mayor, for the first time, to-day asked for help from abroad. More houses have been lifted from their foundations. People are removing from the second floors and abandoning their goods because they have no place to take them. The current is so swift that boating is dangerous. A family was rescued from a second story yesterday where the water was four inches deep.

PITTSBURGH, Feb. 12.—The rivers are swelling again at the rate of two inches per hour. Despatches from all points above here report continued rain and rising water. The people living in the bottoms are filled with apprehensions of another flood. With nineteen feet of water here now, the submerging of the lower districts of the two cities is quite probable. The situation among the sufferers in Allegheny is worse than on any day since the flood, and the cries for relief and instances of destitution have been reported. Many of the homeless victims have been thrown out of employment by the flooding of the workshops. 3,500 persons were supplied with food to-day.

LOUISVILLE, Feb. 12.—The river is rising half an inch an hour. The railroad tracks from Jeffersonville to New Albany have been abandoned. Most of the railroads transfer by boat from the bridge to New Albany. The river is nearly two feet over last year's rise. The Kentucky River is rising three-fourths of an inch an hour at Frankfort.

LITTLE ROCK, Feb. 12.—A steady rain fell all night and this morning. The Arkansas is rising rapidly, and it is believed that by to-night the water will be higher than for seven years.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 12.—Advices from Cairo, Mo., to Cairo and south of Charleston, to Belmont, on the Iron Mountain Railway, have been discontinued.

The river at Cairo is 46 feet 8 inches high, and is rising at the rate of half an inch an hour.

Washington, Feb. 12.—The War is taking measures for the immediate relief of the sufferers. Orders were issued to-day for Gen. Amos Beckwith, Assistant Commissary-General at St. Louis, to go to Cincinnati, where he will have charge of the distribution of supplies. He will establish headquarters at Cincinnati, and act under orders from the Secretary of War. Orders were also issued for the purchase of supplies and the charter of a sufficient number of boats to distribute them at once at places where they are most needed. An officer of the army will accompany each boat and superintend the issue of supplies.

Mayor Edson received yesterday from the Mechanics' and Traders' Exchange $91.70 for the sufferers by the overflow. A joint committee of the Coffee Exchange and the Importers' and Grocers' Exchange collected $2,225. The Stock Exchange will appropriate to the same purpose $3,000 left over from last year's subscription.

In Philadelphia the Society for Organizing Charity have appropriated $4,000. The citizens' meeting appointed Messrs. Drexel & Co. treasurers, to open a subscription list.

The Pennsylvania Railroad Company has contributed $4,000 for the sufferers. The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad will transport provisions free for distribution.

In Boston a citizens' committee has been appointed to collect subscriptions.

Policeman Donavan Sits by the Fire.

Policeman Donavan of Jersey City noticed a light in the grocery of Jacob Wintgin, in Monmouth and Fourth streets, early yesterday morning, and, finding the front door open, he entered the store and saw two men packing up groceries.

"What are you men doing here?" he asked.

"We are preparing some orders which must be delivered early in the morning," was the reply.

Donavan accepted an invitation to take a seat near the stove, in which a bright fire was burning. The two men having filled a large basket with the choicest articles in the place, one of them remarked:

"I guess I will take these goods home and deliver them the first thing after breakfast."

The basket was too heavy for him, and the policeman helped him put it on his shoulder. The other man remained in the store, and, after putting up a few more packages, took a seat near the policeman.

"Won't you come out and take a drink?" he said, finally.

The policeman replied that he did not drink, but said that he would not refuse a good cigar.

"All right, if you will remain here for a few minutes I will bring you one," said his companion, who then put on his hat and an overcoat belonging to the proprietor of the store and went out.

The policeman waited for half an hour, but the man did not return. It then dawned upon him that he had been hoodwinked by thieves, and he reported the occurrence at the station house. The goods stolen are valued at $80. Donavan has been suspended.

To Inquire Into Stock Dividends.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—The Senate Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads, at a special meeting this afternoon, authorized the Chairman to name a sub-committee of three to continue the consideration of the Postal Telegraph bills, and to conduct the inquiries provided for under the Platt and Van Wyck resolutions. The former aims to ascertain whether the cost of telegraphic correspondence has been notoriously affected by stock dividends made by the Western Union Telegraph Company, and the latter is a resolution regarding any propositions for consolidation which may have been made to the Western Union to the Baltimore and Ohio Telegraph Company.

The Proposed Reduction of the Navy.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—The House Committee on Naval Affairs to-day reconsidered the recommendations recently sent by it to the Committee on Appropriations for a reduction of the number of naval staff officers, recommendations which, having been referred back to the Committee on Naval Affairs by the Committee on Appropriations, on motion of Representative Harmer the recommendations were laid aside, thus leaving the question of the number of staff officers with the Committee on Appropriations.

Proposal to Close Wrapping Paper Mills.

ALBANY, Feb. 12.—The Paper Makers' Association of this State has decided, if the consent of eighty per cent. of the manufacturers of light and heavy wrapping paper is obtained, to request all mills in the State to shut down for three months from April 1.

Out To-day, Out To-day.

"Speak Barnum's Reply." "The Life of Marie Colombier." Translated from the French and published in No. 377 of *The Seaside Library*. Price 20 cents. For sale by all newsdealers. Ads.

AMUSEMENTS.

Mme. Modjeska.

Mr. Barrymore's play appears to be successful at the Star Theatre, and to have in it the elements of endurance. There is no question of the result so far as Mme. Modjeska is concerned. She has been enthusiastically received in it, and has achieved an artistic triumph which, indeed, with her intelligent art, charming presence, and perfect refinement, she might easily win in a play of even less merit than "Nadjezda." From the dramatic rather than the literary point of view this drama is very effective, in spite of its being obscure and crude in its story and over-sensational in some of its situations.

Mr. Maurice H. Barrymore, the author, has evidently consulted Mme. Modjeska's enthusiasm for her native Poland, and has remarkable skill in working out a stage situation. In the prologue, which passes in Warsaw, Modjeska is *Nadjezda*, the wife of a Polish patriot, who is cruelly executed by her former suitor, *Prince Zaborouff*. The Prince is employed in stamping out sedition in Warsaw, and to complete his revenge sends the dead body of his old rival to *Nadjezda's* home. The corpse is displayed with more visible gore than is common in the bloodiest of the old tragedies. *Nadjezda* takes poison and dies with her body hanging supinely across the corpse, with her upwrthe face and disheveled hair confronting the audience. Much may be said for this situation on the score of realism and originality, and the audience were palpably startled, if not shocked.

Beginning in the prologue with an inversion of the usual order of butchery in a melodrama, the first act opens in Nice twenty years later. Mme. Modjeska is now *Nodine*, the daughter of *Nadjezda*. Under the tutelage of a revolutionary agent, *Khoreitch* (Mr. Clements, who is rather too highly pitched as a villain), she is seeking revenge for her mother's wrongs at the hands of the Prince, a decrepit *roué* of the type recently introduced to an admiring public by Mr. Mansfield. In this instance Mr. Ian Robinson is the successful personator. Mr. Barrymore plays well (barring a little superfluous profanity) the part of *Nodine's* lover, *Paul Devereux*, who, unbeknown to himself or her, is the son of the Prince and her mother. *Paul* has been drawn into the schemes of the revolutionists, and is appointed to kill the Prince.

Modjeska makes a splendid scene of her pretended acceptance of the Prince's proposition to take her to St. Petersburg with him, in which she feigns abandon, drinking and dancing, delaying his departure, and saving *Paul* from committing murder at the station. All the sequences of the scene are brought into play in the last act, where she kills the Prince and commits suicide. The minor parts are fairly well done, and, with the exception of the absurd American girl abroad, *Eureka Grubb*, are reasonably true to life. Mr. Barrymore receives gratifying marks of public favor as the author of the drama, which, with the breath of Mme. Modjeska's life breathing through it, as it does, is sure to have considerable longevity.

The Philharmonic Club's Concert.

The Philharmonic Club gave the fourth of its series of six concerts at Chickering Hall last evening. The first piece upon the programme was a trio for piano, violin, and violoncello by Schumann. Mr. S. B. Mills took the piano part, giving, as is usual with him, a strong and manly interpretation of the work.

A *Romanza* and *Scherzo*, which Mr. Dudley Buck had composed for and dedicated to the club, was then played, and gave much pleasure. Mrs. Wells B. Tanner sang Lassen's "It was a Dream," and afterward the aria of the "Queen of Night" from Mozart's "Magic Flute." In both she made a very favorable impression, showing a mastery at once over the simple ballad and the bravura styles. Two more sharply contrasted pieces than these could scarcely have been chosen, and they call for essential different vocal gifts. It is to Mrs. Tanner's credit that she acquitted herself equally well in both. After a very nice arrangement for the sextet, the concert ended with an admirable rendering of a quintet for strings by Mendelssohn. This was by far the most masterly and interesting composition on the programme, being in Mendelssohn's happiest vein, and bringing the concert to a brilliant conclusion.

OREGON'S STRONG MAN.

A Giant who Smashes Two-inch Planks—He Meets Sullivan—The Result.

From the Astoria Independent.

Our citizens are all familiar with Sylvester Le Gowriff, a native of France, who has lived in Astoria for some time. Probably no man on this coast has as much muscular power as this giant of strength. In wrestling he has thrown a number of professional wrestlers in San Francisco, and his wonderful powers of endurance have surprised every one who has seen his exhibitions. Last winter, on a wager, he performed a remarkable feat. Two men seated themselves in chairs, and Le Gowriff, grasping the bottom back round of each chair, lifted one with each hand and set them on a counter three feet high. Not long ago he was making his brags that he could break a two-inch plank with his fist, and a number of gentlemen anxious to see this done, tried to find a plank, but unsuccessfully. They produced three boards one inch thick, and nailed them together and set them up. Sylvester marched up to the boards and let drive with his fist, and the boards were split in several pieces. His fist did not show even a bruise or scratch. It is not known that this wonderful man has the requisite scientific knowledge to cope with a man like Sullivan, but one thing we are certain of, if he ever gets a blow in on Sullivan, the great champion of the world will be relieved from his world of the next. Sullivan has published to every city he has visited that he will give $1,000 to any man that will stand up to him for four rounds, each round to last three minutes. Le Gowriff has accepted the proposition.

THE RESULT.

From the Northwest News.

John L. Sullivan, the champion, arrived at Astoria yesterday afternoon on the steamer Oregon, and was received by an immense crowd. The exhibition given at Occidental Hall was well attended. Everybody wanted to see the champion, and more than that, they wanted to see Le Gowriff stand up before him. After some sparring between members of the combination, Le Gowriff and Sullivan made their appearance. Le Gowriff is a well-built, muscular fellow, and is a perfect giant in strength. In wrestling he has thrown a number of professional wrestlers in San Francisco, and his wonderful powers of endurance have surprised every one who has seen his exhibitions. Le Gowriff, who has met Sullivan, exhibited a look that showed he had lost hope of being able to stand up the four rounds, and it was well he did so, for he was not then doomed to disappointment. Sullivan simply did a little tight sparring for about nineteen seconds, and then he gave his left hand and hit Le Gowriff a slap on the face that sounded like a meeting between a fog horn and a political orator, knocking him down and completely out of time. The yells sent up at this feat were terrible.

The New Orleans Races.

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 12.—The winter race meeting was continued here to-day. The first race, seven furlongs, was won by Benconsfield, with Campaniel second, and Bonlotte third. Time, 1:32. Pools: Bonlotte, $20; field, $17.

The second race, mile and an eighth, was won by Fellowplay, Katie Orr second, and Brooklyn third. Time, 1:56. Pools: Fellowplay, $18; field, $20.

The third race, one mile, was won by Princess, Little Buttercup second, and Fair Count third. Time, 1:47½. Pools: Brunswick, $25; field, $20.

The fourth race, mile and a quarter, was won by Exalte, with Albione second, and Centennial third. Time, 2:16. Pools: Centennial, $20; field, $20.

Base Ball Notes.

A New Orleans base ball club which went to Havana to play with a club there was defeated by the latter 5 to 3.

The Chicago Base Ball Club may lose its grounds on Lake front. The Illinois Central Railroad wants the space for the station house. The goods stolen are valued at $80. Donavan has been suspended.

Bumping into the Train Ahead.

CHATTANOOGA, Feb. 12.—The second section of a south-bound freight train ran into the rear end of the first section on the Cincinnati Southern Railroad, near Rockwood, Tenn., this morning. The caboose, cars, and engine were badly damaged. Frank Burke, a brakeman, was killed, and another man seriously injured.

Sporting Notes.

Mike Barry of Portland, Me., and Denny Delaney of Biddeford are matched for a hard glove fight for $250 and the light weight championship of Maine.

Jem Mace offers to bet £1,000 in England that no man can knock him out in four rounds. Marquis of Queensberry rules, with gloves or bare knuckles, although he is 53 years old.

Red Connolly of this city has recovered from the effects of being thrown over the bannisters on his back, in the notorious fouight with Pat Gallagher, and wants to fight again for $100 a side, or to box Mike Coburn's unknown four rounds. Marquis of Queensberry rules.

Dominick McCafferty, the heavy weight of Pittsburgh, will have a friendly fight with Harry Hale, and will give any man $50 who can defeat him in four rounds with soft gloves. John Clark of Philadelphia is expected to be on hand with John Wyatt, who is to try and get Hale's $50. Steve O'Donnell will be ready to swing clubs there with Ed Lee in Bacr, who claims the championship.

The soft glove contest for $1,000 between Hall of Middletown, Conn., and Jem Carney of Providence, and Johnson of Italy will take place this evening at Clarendon Hall in this city. Shollard arrived yesterday accompanied by a large delegation of sporting men from the interior, and Hall and his backer, Young Nikey, arrived also. Italy weighs 135 pounds, and his trainer is pleased with his condition. There is already a considerable amount of money up on the fight. Shollard stands 5 feet 11½ inches high and weighs 185 pounds. Mike Coburn will name a man to challenge the winner.

Reward—$5,000 gold for a case of cough, cold, or asthma that Adamson's Botanic Balsam cannot cure. Depot, 362 4th av. Price, 10c., 50c., 75c. Try it.—*Adv.*

DEFENDING FREE CANALS.

THEIR CHAMPIONS WIN A LIVELY BATTLE IN THE ASSEMBLY.

Declaring that the State Must Now Increase the Capacity of the Canals—Another Blow at the Health Officer's Enormous Fees.

ALBANY, Feb. 12.—A warm debate in the Assembly to-day on a measure designed to increase the capacity of the canals revealed the existence of the old differences as to the free canal policy. The bill under consideration in Committee of the Whole was one introduced last year by Mr. Lighton of Onondaga and this year by Mr. Geddes of the same county. It provides for the enlargement of lock 46 on the Erie Canal in Utica, so as to permit the locking of two boats at the same time. It appropriates $30,000 for this purpose. It is claimed that by thus enlarging the locking capacity of the canal two days' time could be saved in the passage from Buffalo to New York.

It was charged by the anti-canal men that the bill was only an entering wedge, and that when one lock had been lengthened money would be asked to extend the other seventy.

The free canal champions accepted this interpretation and declared frankly that the duty of the State did not end with the making of the canals free, but that their capacity must be increased. It was a novel sight to see Littlejohn and Husted arraying themselves against the corporations on this question. Both supported the bill warmly. Mr. Littlejohn thundered a good deal of eloquence against Vanderbilt and his stock-watering schemes which had wrung millions out of the people, and very effectually answered Mr. Shoemaker, an Onondaga statesman with a cracked voice, who depicted Mr. Vanderbilt as a philanthropist and friend of the horny-handed farmer.

Mr. Husted described the Erie Canal as the great regulator of transportation in this State, and told how it kept down the freight tariffs of the New York Central and Erie Railways.

Mr. George Clinton of Erie, the grandson of the builder of the Erie Canal, made a strong speech on the same side, and Messrs. Howe, House, and Haggerty also spoke for the bill. Even St. Lawrence county, in the person of Gen. N. M. Curtis, and Jefferson, represented by Mr. Hunt, were willing to vote for the bill as an experiment, so that the opposition on the floor was reduced to Boynton of Essex and Shoemaker of Onondaga. The clear before the discussion was finished that the bill had a majority in its favor, and it was sent to a third reading by a viva voce vote.

Mr. Wilcox of Erie again called attention to day to the enormous fees of the Health Office, and gave the Republicans another opportunity to show their good faith in promising reform. He introduced a bill allowing the Health Officer $10,000 a year salary and $6,000 a year each for two deputies. The bill requires the payment into the State Treasury of the surplus fees out of the Health Officer's fees. The design is to make the Health establishment self-sustaining. Speaker Sheard referred the bill to the Committee on Commerce and Navigation, but Mr. Wilcox made a fight and got it sent to the Committee of Cities, of which he is a member, and where he can keep an eye on it. He will press a report on it as soon as possible.

Mr. House introduced the bills presented in the Senate last week by Mr. Gibbs, making the heads of all New York city departments, including the President of the Board of Aldermen, elective. The bills provide that vacancies may be filled by appointment by the Mayor. Mr. House got the bills sent to the Judiciary Committee, he not being willing to intrust them to Mr. Roosevelt's Cities Committee.

The Senate passed the bill prohibiting the renewal of existing labor contracts in the prisons, or the making of new contracts. This bill was agreed upon by the Republican Senators in caucus, and was very reluctantly supported by some of them, who feared, however, that enough Republicans would vote with the Democrats to pass the bill, and decided to take whatever credit came from passing it to themselves. The Republicans in the Assembly evidently were not in the Senatorial scheme, for when the bill came up from third reading Mr. Hooley, the labor champion, tried to get it ordered at once to a third reading. Littlejohn, Erwin, and half a dozen others were ready with objections. If it should appear that the Republicans are juggling with the whole question, and have purposely planned to get the two Houses at variance, it will not be surprising.

The Senate spent most of its session over a resolution offered by Mr. Dennis McCarthy, the Republican leader, which is intended to compel Capitol Superintendent Terry to discharge Deputy McIntyre. McCarthy spoke long and bitterly against McIntyre, and was neatly flayed by Mr. Jacobs, who showed that McCarthy's grievance was that two incompetent workmen put on the building by him had been discharged by Mr. Perry. Mr. Jacobs charged McCarthy on his deals with Tammany Hall, and otherwise overhauled him in a way that the spectators enjoyed. The resolution went over.

Mr. Cullen introduced in the Senate a bill taking the power to make contracts for street cleaning in New York from Commissioner Coleman and conferring it upon the Board of Estimate and Apportionment.

Mr. Ely introduced in the House a bill abolishing the offices of Captain of the Port of New York and of Harbor Masters.

Assemblyman Oliver delivered an eloquent speech in defence