# HOUSE DEADLOCK BROKEN.

*THE RESOLUTION TO CHANGE THE RULES RECOMMITTED.*

**Mr. Reed Fought Vigorously to Save it and Only Lacked Three Votes—The Authorship of a Celebrated Phrase in Dispute.**

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8.—Under the action of the Democratic caucus last night the deadlock in the House was broken this afternoon. The caucus was in session nearly four hours. It had a high old time. Some of the speeches were bitter, and the proceedings, if printed, would prove more than instructive and interesting. Mr. Carlisle gave his reasons for voting in committee for the proposition to change the rules. On their face they were cogent and satisfactory. The members of the caucus, however, disagreed with him as to the ultimate effect of such a change. They objected to blazing the way for arbitrary Republican action in the next House. Mr. Blount of Georgia made a magnificent speech in favor of committing the resolution changing the rules. He was backed by his colleague, Mr. Crisp. Gen. Oates and Mr. Breckinridge of Kentucky opposed the recommittal. Gen. Oates denounced in unmeasured terms one-man power in the House, and was brought to law by Felix Campbell of Brooklyn. Felix showed how "one-man power" had defeated the bill appropriating $100,000 for the erection of a monument over the bones of Revolutionary heroes starved in British prison ships. Felix applied Gen. Oates's denunciation to the two men who had defeated his bill. One was from Tennessee and the other from Texas. He left the two gentlemen to settle their accounts with Gen. Oates. Watchdog Holman made the best speech of the evening. It carried the caucus despite the efforts of Messrs. Springer, Townsend, and Weaver. The vote in caucus on recommitting the proposition to the Committee on Rules was 34 to 21. Mr. Springer asserted that this vote was not binding because it was less than a quorum of the Democratic members of the House. The vote to-day, however, showed that the members of the caucus disagreed with him.

The excitement this morning was very great. Few paid any attention to prayers. Tom Reed kept his seat, and the other members of the Big Four were absent. Springer wandered uneasily along the back of the hall, caressing the blood-red rose on his breast. Pig-iron Kelley was caught on the Democratic side of the House during prayers with a copy of the *Congressional Record* in his hand. Mr. Tarsney of Michigan made his first appearance since the holidays. While the Clerk was reading the minutes Tom Reed stood at the mouth of a Republican aisle, ready to open the fight. The Speaker poured in the usual number of executive communications and Senate bills for reference. Mr. Reed then called for the regular order.

"The question is on the demand for the previous question on the resolution changing the rules," the Speaker said. "The Clerk will call the roll."

Neither of the four Andersons voted. Messrs. Holman, Crisp, Morgan, Blount, and other opponents of the resolution changing the rules swung into line in accordance with the action of the caucus and voted with Mr. Reed on his demand for the previous question. The resolution could not be recommitted until the previous question was ordered. Messrs. Bynum, McMillin, and Johnson of North Carolina were evidently suspicious. They voted no. They were not the only ones who thought that the ensuing motion to recommit might be defeated by the votes of recalcitrant members of the caucus. The crucial test was approaching. If Reed secured his demand for the previous question and the House failed to recommit the resolution, Reed would score a magnificent victory and the Democracy be cheated in the House of its friends.

There was much activity among Mr. Reed's Democratic allies during the calling of the roll. Messrs. Outhwaite and Springer appeared at the Speaker's desk conferring with Mr. Carlisle. Outhwaite, Springer, and Carlisle spoke and had a whispered conference with Mr. Reed. Messrs. Springer, Townsend, and Heard afterward held a consultation on the left of the Speaker's desk. Mr. Reed then crossed the arena and talked with Mr. Springer. Meantime the opponents of the resolution were not inactive. Mr. Henderson talked with Mr. Kasson and Judge Barnes of Georgia, and Mr. Anderson of Iowa was moving through the chamber strengthening weak spots in the line of battle. Just before the announcement of the result the Hon. Joseph G. Cannon mounted the Speaker's rostrum and had a talk with Mr. Carlisle.

The previous question on the passage of the resolution changing the rules was finally ordered by a vote of 18 to 20, four more votes than a quorum. The Speaker then recognized Watchdog Holman, who, acting in pursuance of the will of the caucus, moved to recommit the resolution to the Committee on Rules. On that motion he demanded the previous question. Judge Payson of Illinois tried to ring in an amendment instructing the committee to set down a date for the consideration of "An act granting pensions to ex soldiers and sailors incapacitated for manual labor, and providing for pensions to dependent relatives of deceased soldiers and sailors," but the Speaker ruled it out of order. The question then came up on Judge Holman's demand for the previous question. On a rising vote it was carried by 131 to 3. The point of no quorum was made, and the yeas and nays were secured. The vote stood yeas 218, nays 4, or 59 more votes than a quorum.

"The question now is," said the Speaker, "on the motion to recommit the resolution to the Committee on Rules. The yeas and nays are demanded. Those in favor of the resolution will vote ay, and those opposed, no."

The Clerk called the roll. The call was made amid great confusion. Messrs. Springer, Reed, Anderson, Blount, Townshend, and others began to do active missionary work. Members crowded into the arena in front of the Clerk and earnestly listened to the responses. Weak members were strengthened and the air was filled with entreaties. John Baker was the first Republican to create a sensation. He voted aye. Carlos French of Connecticut was the first to disregard the action of the Democratic caucus. He voted no. The four Andersons voted aye. Outhwaite bade defiance to the caucus and voted no. Messrs. Hayes, Hopkins of Virginia, Springer, Tarsney, Townshend, and Weaver turned their backs on the caucus. Mr. Taulbee was disposed to act with them, but, after changing his vote twice, landed with the majority of his party. The Republicans who voted with Judge Holman were Anderson of Iowa, Anderson of Kansas, Cheadle, Finley, Fuller, Gest, Lehlbach, and Turner of Kansas. Messrs. Nelson of Minnesota and Perkins of Kansas at first voted with them, but finally listened to the pleadings of Tom Reed and changed their votes. The argument used was the necessity of solidifying the Republicans against the edict of a Democratic caucus. Mr. Thomas of Wisconsin also yielded to Mr. Reed's solicitation. Mr. Lanham and Mr. Lawler of Illinois at first voted with the kicking Democrats. They afterward changed their votes. A dozen heads surrounded the Clerk's head watching the figures during the roll call. The confusion became so great that the Speaker finally announced that many gentlemen were unable to hear their names. "This is an important and close vote," he said. "The gentlemen will please preserve order." Then he beat a tattoo on the marble desk with the handle of his mallet.

Sunset Cox was among the last to vote. When he voted aye he gave a merry laugh from Mr. Anderson of Iowa. "Cox had to come to it," he said. "It does me good to see the unction with which he endorses this method of legislation." This delicate hit at the remarks of Mr. Cox on behalf of the resolution to change the rules was intensely relished by those surrounding Mr. Anderson.

Amid profound silence the Speaker announced that the resolution to recommit was carried by 120 yeas to 117 nays. Mr. Springer apparently felt the deal far more than Tom Reed. The latter had made a magnificent fight. He conducted it so superbly that his defeat seemed like a victory. He had forced the Democracy to make it a political question, and in a House carrying a Democratic majority of seventeen he had come within three votes of success. It is apparent that the fight has strengthened rather than weakened him as a candidate for Speaker.

The smoke of the battle had hardly cleared away before Sam Randall was on the floor. He reported the Civil Appropriation bill. Mr. Richardson of Tennessee then called up the special order of the day. It was the consideration of bills from the Committee on Printing. Apparently stung by his defeat, Mr. Springer antagonized Mr. Richardson. He desired to have the special order read, and was about to raise the question of consideration when it was discovered that under the rules it could not be done. The Clerk read the special order. It was secured some days ago by unanimous consent. It set aside an hour to-day after the reading of the Journal for the consideration of bills from the Printing Committee. Mr. Springer reluctantly gave way. Barnie Wilkins sat near him eating an apple. "Springer," said he, "I wouldn't put my finger in your mouth now for a fortune. You would bite it off, sure."

The hour was spent in passing resolutions providing for the printing of public documents. A Senate bill making an appropriation for printing 10,000 colored lithographs, showing the uniforms of Continental soldiers, soldiers in the Mexican war, and elsewhere, provoked much comment. Copies of the lithographs were scattered over the Clerk's desk, and the members were invited to gaze at them. The extra 10,000 were to be distributed among the members of the House. The show inflamed the watch dogs. All were on the qui vive, and the life was shaken out of the bill in short order.

At the end of the hour the regular order was the calling of committees for reports. Mr. Springer was about to move to dispense with the second hour, when Mr. Crisp, Chairman of the Committee on Elections, called up a privileged report. It was the report of the committee on the election contest between Col. Elliott of Beaufort and Robert Smalls of South Carolina. Smalls contests Elliott's seat. Mr. Smalls is a portly negro, who wears gold-rimmed spectacles and a Grand Army button. Twenty-seven years ago he stole a steamboat from the authorities in Charleston, ran her past Fort Sumter on a dark and stormy night, and delivered her to Uncle Sam. He sat on the Republican side of the House when Mr. Crisp called up the report. The Democratic majority of the committee reported in favor of Col. Elliott. The Republican members made a minority report in favor of Mr. Smalls. The interest in this contested election case is intensified by a report that Mr. Smalls supported Mr. Elliott as a candidate for Congress last fall in the same district.

Mr. Springer jumped upon Mr. Crisp as soon as the report was called up. He raised the question of consideration. The House decided against him—yeas, 73; nays, 41. Gen. Weaver then came to Mr. Springer's assistance. He made the point of no quorum. The General and Mr. Crisp were appointed tellers. It took twenty minutes to raise a quorum between them. The result was then announced—yeas, 100; nays, 68.

"If there be no objection," said the Speaker, "the substitute proposed by the minority will be considered as pending."

Meantime Mr. Springer and Gen. Weaver held a consultation. At its close the Illinois member asked unanimous consent to dispose of the Oklahoma bill on Wednesday. Objection was made. Gen. Weaver is an ardent supporter of the Oklahoma bill. He moved to reconsider the vote on the Elliott-Smalls case, and Mr. Crisp promptly moved to table the motion. The yeas and nays were ordered, and Crisp's resolution was carried, 156 to 15. Thereupon Gen. Weaver gave an exhibition of the "one-man" power. He moved that when the House adjourns it be to meet on Thursday next. This ran along the usual parliamentary rut, with a division and tellers. It was lost—yeas 7, nays 159, just a quorum voting. Gen. Weaver next moved that when the House adjourns it be to meet on Friday next. Tellers were again secured, but the members were weary of dilatory motions and remained in their seats. A half an hour passed, and then Mr. Crisp said that although it was apparent that there was a quorum present he disliked to ask for a call of the House, and would move to adjourn. He added that he would call up the report in the morning. The House then adjourned.

In the heat of the contest this afternoon the Hon. Henry Cabot Lodge called a member's attention to an inaccurate statement in THE SUN to-day. An editorial article credits the phrase "Public office is a private snap" to Senator John James Ingalls. Mr. Lodge says that the real author of the applauded maxim is the Hon. Preston B. Plumb, Mr. Ingalls's colleague in the Senate. AMOS J. CUMMINGS.

*LIVE WASHINGTON TOPICS.*

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8.—"The condition of public business," said the Hon. Thomas B. Reed of Maine, after the House adjourned this afternoon, "indicates that the policy of the Democrats is to do just as little as possible during this session of Congress in order that as much work as possible may be thrown upon the next House, in which we shall have a majority so small that, with a great press of public business, the Democrats may annoy us a good deal. So, instead of performing their public duties for the period for which they were elected, the Democratic members are refusing to vote, or are making dilatory motions, or in some other way attempting to prevent anything being accomplished. Of course all rules rest upon the assumption that a man will perform his duty. You can't make a set of rules assuming the contrary, and when a member of the House refuses to vote he refuses to do his duty.

"There has been a great amount of filibustering since I entered the House. This thing originated with the Southern men. They were always in the minority and their domestic institutions were in such condition that they felt the need of being able to obstruct business, and they arranged the rules so that the minority would have large power. That has been the policy of the Democratic party ever since. In the Forty-sixth Congress, the rules were revised with a view to enlarging the power of obstructionists. Mr. Randall wanted to prevent anything being done, and he wanted the House to spend its time revising the rules, and he even made a motion to take a recess, a privileged motion, like a motion to adjourn. There isn't the least question of Randall's Democracy. He is a protectionist, but he has all the opposition to progress, all the propensity for obstruction that characterizes the genuine Democrat. Messrs. Garfield and Frye assented to this because as the Republicans were in a minority they thought it was good politics to enlarge the power of a few men. They forgot that while they were in the minority so were a few political points they were in a majority on a hundred non-political measures in Congress. The result is we have a set of rules under which two men can stop all proceedings in the House.

"When I came here filibustering was an extreme measure, resorted to only at critical moments and persisted in only long enough to attract the attention of the House to what the majority were doing. Nobody resorted to filibustering to defeat a measure. Now, filibustering is resorted to almost every day. Two or three men, moved by a mere whim, resort to it to defeat a bill whose passage is desired by all the other members of the House. The past three days the House did absolutely nothing, because Mr. Anderson thinks he knows more about the Pacific Railroad Funding bill than two-thirds of the members of the House can possibly know, and to-day the entire session was wasted because Mr. Weaver has decided that if a bill he wants considered cannot be taken up, no bill that two-thirds of the members of the House want to consider shall be taken up. The House must govern itself by the whims of individuals, or a mere struggle of physical endurance must ensue."

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# MRS. POTTER AS CLEOPATRA.

*A BOLD STAGE VENTURE BY THE FORMER SOCIAL BELLE.*

**Shakespeare's Tragedy of the Roman General and the Egyptian Queen Handsomely Represented at Palmer's Theatre.**

Mrs. James Brown Potter, at Palmer's Theatre, last evening, had her first hours of anything like triumph on the stage since she had become an actress. Her venture as *Cleopatra* had been regarded as foolhardy and sure to involve her in personal failure, no matter how acceptable all the rest of Shakespeare's "Antony and Cleopatra" might be made. But it did not turn out so. Mrs. Potter was chief and central in a very luxurious representation of the play, being belittled by neither the other performers nor the excess of gorgeous showiness. Not that she had so suddenly ceased to be a poor actress and become a good one. Her speech was as faulty as ever. She spoke between teeth that seemed clenched sometimes, and which bit off parts of words at others. In much of her utterance she was a veritable tragedy queen of burlesque. If ever she had recited cleverly, as she used to be credited with doing in her amateur days, the skill had been lost at her advent into professionalism, and not yet recovered in the slightest degree. Of course she evinced an understanding of the text. What intelligent woman could help learning its meanings with proper study and tuition? Her vocal intentions were clear enough, but she had not the ability to realize them, except in here and there a sentence. That she should not have attained to better facility in expressive speaking must have struck every critical auditor as singular.

But of faults of gesture, walk, and pose Mrs. Potter had almost rid herself. During the previous week on the same stage she had been awkward nearly to ungainliness, but the attitudes and motions of her *Cleopatra* were usually about what they should have been to comport with the sensuousness of the Egyptian queen. The regulsh wantonness of her bewitching of *Antony* had the abandon of complacent and confident grace, and all of its seductive charm rightly suggested a creature exuberant with the very devilry of passion. All through the scenes of endearment she was the lithe, clinging, alluring Egyptian woman, never an impressive or commanding queen, but ever a temptress to the verge of lewdness and beyond, as the gloom and death of the later passages her misdirected vehemence of declamation was accompanied by action that was, in several instances, violent to a degree of grotesquery, but in the main her plentiful pantomime was shapely and sightly.

It was as an individual exhibit, indeed, that Mrs. Potter astonished her spectators and won a distinction that will not soon leave her. Her face had long been renowned for its beauty, and now she greatly extended the public's acquaintance with her corporeal self. At the first disclosure by her of *Cleopatra* in the disembarkation from the barge, she wore skirts so gauzy that her legs, presumably in flesh-colored hose, were quite visible through the slight drapery. A fairer figure had hardly ever been in a Shakespearean heroine, nor one a freer view in any play outside of burlesque and comic opera. The many ensuing gorgeous costumes were more enveloping, until the time came for the suicide by means of the poisonous worm's bite. Then there was a climax of bodiness to the text, which, it will be remembered, makes *Cleopatra* liken the worm to a babe that suckles its nurse to death. Mrs. Potter uncovered herself in an exploit of realism that was remarkable, even in these days of dramatic actuality. Without discussing the question of decency raised by the access to the need of being able to obstruct business, and they arranged the rules so that the minority would have large power. That has been the policy of the Democratic party ever since. In the Forty-sixth Congress, the rules were revised with a view to enlarging the power of obstructionists. Mr. Randall wanted to prevent anything being done, and he wanted the House to spend its time revising the rules, and he even made a motion to take a recess, a privileged motion, like a motion to adjourn. There isn't the least question of Randall's Democracy. He is a protectionist, but he has all the opposition to progress, all the propensity for obstruction that characterizes the genuine Democrat. Messrs. Garfield and Frye assented to this because as the Republicans were in a minority they thought it was good politics to enlarge the power of a few men. They forgot that while they were in the minority so were a few political points they were in a majority on a hundred non-political measures in Congress. The result is we have a set of rules under which two men can stop all proceedings in the House.

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Franko, and Victor Herbert played the quartet in A minor, op. 41, and with Miss Lucie E. Mawson the quintet op. 44. The string parts were finely rendered. A special word is demanded in favor of Miss Mawson. It was not so much in the quintet that she exhibited her great proficiency as a pianist, as in the first movement from the A minor concerto, op. 54. The orchestral parts reduced to piano score were played by Miss Emily Buchman. Miss Mawson plays with astonishing power and fire, and against a full orchestra in a large hall her work would have had the best effect. The audience last evening enthusiastically demanded more, and she played the Arabesque in C with as fine delicacy as she had played the concerto forcefully. Few of the numbers on the programme were rendered in less than first-rate manner, and if discrimination were to be made the honors would surely fall to Miss Helen Dudley Campbell. She sang "My Soul is Dark" and "Sunshine," two songs violently contrasted in poetic sentiment and musical style. It would be difficult to say which she sang best, for each was perfect in expression, and there seemed to be nothing lacking in the natural and cultivated qualities of the voice. The next evening of the club will be devoted to the music of Brahms.

**"The Inconstant" Revived at Daly's.**

Mr. Daly produced at his theatre last evening for his annual comedy revival Capt. George Farquhar's comedy, "The Inconstant; or, the Way to Win Him." Not since 1873 has it been seen in this city, and Mr. Daly's revision of the old and highly immoral comedy makes the revival practically a first performance of the play. The revision has been made with all of Mr. Daly's skill, and the remodelled play fits his company in most respects as well as the modern German and French plays that he ordinarily uses.

The play was greeted by a crowded house, and was, as a whole, received with every mark of pleasure, so that its run will doubtless achieve all the success that its adapter expects. In the first four acts there is nothing to interfere with the pleasure of a modern audience; but the fifth act, modified though it be, is still a rather highly spiced morsel for our playgoers. It dragged a little, too, last evening, and though its action can easily be quickened, slowness will make its immorality unpardonable.

The play is so little known that a brief synopsis of its plot may be acceptable. *Old Mirabel* has two wards, *Oriana* and *Bizarre*, the former of whom is engaged to *Young Mirabel*, the inconstant. This gallant returns home from Italy with *Captain Duretelle*, careless of his sweetheart, and only anxious to break his contract. Through four acts his mistress pursues him in vain, doing even so far as to assume the guise of madness to move him. Move him at first she does, but only for an instant, for discovering that her insanity is assumed, he casts her off again airily and starts off again in search of further adventures. *Oriana*, in the inevitable disguise of a page, follows him into the house of a courtesan, where he is set upon by four cutthroats. He sends his page for "the red Burgundy, marked 1,000," and *Captain Duretelle* turns the tables on cutthroats and courtesans by appearing on the scene with his soldiers. *Young Mirabel* is so much affected by his mistress's devotion that he vows constancy to her henceforth.

With this main plot are woven the love adventures of honest *Captain Duretelle* and pretty *Mistress Bizarre*, which of course end happily.

Mr. Charles Fisher acted *Old Mirabel* with care and good effect, carrying out fully the author's intentions as shown in the descriptions of the characters printed in the first edition of 1702, which Mr. Daly, as a quaint conceit, inserted in his play bill: "An aged Gent. of an odd compound between the Peevishness incident to his years, and his Fatherly fondness for his Son." John Drew was the *Mirabel*, and practically created the part anew. He was easy and graceful, and even in Farquhar's ungentlemanly scenes appeared a gentleman. In the earlier scenes he had no great difficulties to encounter, but his acting in the mad scene was true and manly. With Miss Rehan as *Oriana*, he made the scene almost tragic, and the roar of laughter from the audience that followed his discovery of his mistress's plot contained a good deal of relief. Miss Rehan was *Oriana*, the same Miss Rehan that has pleased us for so long, in the first three acts, but striking a higher key in the mad scene that was almost pathetic. She had little to do in the last act, but suggested, in the page's few lines, the love and tenderness of the woman *Oriana* for the man who was deserting her.

Miss Cheatham played *Bizarre* capitally, making a success with the audience little if any less than that made by Miss Rehan. *Captain Duretelle* was played by Mr. George Clarke with the requisite amount of swagger, bashfulness, and bravery. The love making between the *Captain* and *Bizarre* was irresistibly comical.

Mr. Holland was *Ducard*, *Oriana's* brother, and Miss Gordon was *Lemorce*, into whose house *Young Mirabel* is decoyed.

It is an instance of bad taste to burlesque the cutthroats as Mr. Daly's actors do in their make-up, for though his mistress's pursuit between their actions and their looks, it adds nothing to the artistic value of the last act. Except for this fault, unnecessary, and the necessary unpleasantness of the last act, there is nothing in this latest "old comedy revival" to interfere in any degree with the success which it will have among a modern audience.

**The New York Philharmonic Club's Concert.**

The programme of the New York Philharmonic Club's second concert at Chickering Hall yesterday evening was not quite so interesting as that of their last one. The quartet was Schumann's in A major, op. 41, for two violins, viola, and violoncello. This was well played, with the exception of a few uncertain harmonic stops from the first violin. Mr. Holst Hansen sang four songs: "Her Eyes," by Robert Franz; "Arise! For the World Rejoices," by Franz Ries; "Spring Greeting," by Edward Lassen, and "Ich grolle nicht," by Schumann. His voice is a baritone of some richness, and would show to better advantage if his enunciation were purer. He sang acceptably, and was twice recalled. Grieg's sonata in C minor for the violin and pianoforte, op. 45, was played by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Arnold. It was given clearly and carefully, but without the grace and sentiment necessary to bring out the poetic Norwegian element, which is one of Grieg's greatest charms. The concert closed with a sextet for two violins, viola, violoncello, double bass, and flute, composed by Claudius Kurth, Jr., for the Philharmonic Club. The work is interesting and seemed familiar, owing to numerous phrases borrowed from older compositions. The theme of the scherzo is evidently taken from Beethoven. The members of the club, Messrs. Arnold and Faeber, violins; Hemmann, viola; Schenck, violoncello; Kalkhof, double bass, and Weiner, flute, participated. Mr. L. Michaelis was the accompanist. The audience was large.

*MR. CHAMBERLAIN AND HIS BRIDE.*

**The Citizens of Birmingham Give Them a Hearty Reception.**

BIRMINGHAM, Jan. 8.—The Hon. Joseph Chamberlain and his bride received a most cordial greeting from the people of Birmingham to-night. The reception was held in the Town Hall. The entrance of Mr. and Mrs. Chamberlain, who were accompanied by Mr. Chamberlain's sons and daughter, was the signal for great cheering, which was again and again renewed, the organist meanwhile playing a wedding march. Handsome bouquets were presented to Mrs. Chamberlain, who was greatly pleased at the heartiness of the reception, and repeatedly bowed her acknowledgments.

The bride was dressed in pink satin, and her ornaments were diamonds and sapphires. The presentation of the wedding gifts and accompanying addresses followed. The gifts consisted of a pearl necklace with a diamond clasp, from the citizens, and a brilliant diamond brooch containing fifty-five gems in the shape of a six-pointed star, the gift of the women of Birmingham.

Mr. Chamberlain, in replying to the addresses, said they surpassed his expectations in the warmth of their greeting to his wife. Her ancestors left England over 250 years ago, (Cheers.) Although he neither expected nor desired to lessen her love for the country of her birth, he knew she was prepared to take up life among them in all its fulness, and that she would say with Ruth: "Thy people shall be my people."

*THE POST-HOLIDAY TRADE.*

**H. O'Neill & Co. Find a Method of Stimulating It by Judicious Advertising.**

The new departure in advertising which H. O'Neill & Co. are trying for their Sixth avenue and Twentieth street store seems to work very well, judging from the crowds of ladies who thronged the building yesterday. The idea of Mr. O'Neill is to distribute advertising through the week rather than concentrate it in the Sunday papers, which has hitherto been the fashion. The holiday rush seems to be supplemented by a demand for more staple goods. Many veteran shoppers have been holding back for the bargains that always succeed the holidays, and this year the demand for bargains has been fully supplied.

There is a notable increase in the sale of ornamental furniture, statuary, bronzes, and clocks, and a steady demand for furnishing goods. The mild weather has rather discounted the fur trade, but as the season advances the demand for furs increases.

The rapidity with which the immense stock of O'Neill's goods is being reduced goes to show that advertising on week days as well as Sundays is a success for the dry goods trade.

# SOCIETY GIVES ITS ALMS.

*A SPLENDID PAGEANT AT LAST NIGHT'S CHARITY BALL.*

**Mrs. William Astor in Velvet and Diamonds and Commodore Elbridge T. Gerry Lead the March—Some of Those Present.**

"Charity"—the single word blazed out in a crescent of glittering jets of gas over a dais at the west end of the Metropolitan Opera House at midnight last night, while a scene of bewildering loveliness filled the space between the stage and the golden horseshoe of boxes beyond. It was the splendid Charity ball, and the proceeds are to go to the Nursery and Child's Hospital.

There were lots of pretty débutantes at the ball in bewitching toilets, conspicuous among whom was Miss Madge Wickham, who came with Mrs. Calvin Brice. She is a strikingly beautiful brunette, and she wore a gown of white tulle and satin, with her dark hair in Marguerite braids. Mrs. Brice wore black satin, with lace and diamonds.

Mrs. William Astor, with Commodore Elbridge T. Gerry, led the grand march at 10½ exactly, the Commodore, with his usual promptness, insisting that the ball, like a yacht race, must start on time. Following these two came Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt with Mr. A. E. Kingsland, Mrs. F. N. Goddard with Mr. Foster, Mrs. Alexander Leith with Mr. Richard M. Hunt, Mrs. Chester Griswold with Mr. Elliott Roosevelt, Mrs. Richard M. Hunt with ex-Mayor Edward Cooper, Mrs. Roosevelt with Le Grand Cannon, Mrs. Thomas Hicks with Col. Oliphant, Miss Hurst and Charles A. Munn, Mrs. Roger A. Pryor and Col. Pryor, and Miss Hewitt and Mr. Gurney.

Mrs. William Astor's gown, an emerald green velvet en train, was a superb creation of the dressmaker's art. Its front was covered with silver embroidery in the shape of flowers set with Rhine stones; a triple necklace of diamonds; a stomacher of diamonds, twelve rows deep, pendant from the corsage; a diamond tiara in the hair, and a dozen diamond stars were worn. Mrs. Astor carried a large bouquet of orchids.

Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt wore a gown of old rare tulle with a short train, with side panels of velvet and décolleté corsage; a necklace of large diamonds, two diamond stars, and a crescent in the hair.

Little Elsie Leslie, who plays *Lord Fauntleroy*, was the guest of Mrs. Goddard. She wore a dress of white mull with a large pink sash. She was the smallest dancer at the ball.

Miss Phyllis of Rome, N. Y., wore a dress of black satin, with diamonds. Mrs. Frederic N. Goddard wore a white silk brocade dress *en train*, with a bodice of pink roses, and a front of white lace and moiré, and a diamond necklace.

*THE TRENTON LEGISLATURE.*

**Werts President of the Senate, and Hudspeth Speaker of the Assembly.**

TRENTON, Jan. 8.—The Republican Senate caucus this morning gave the nomination for President to Senator George T. Cranmer of Ocean, and named for the other officers the same list as last year, including Richard B. Reading for Secretary, and Furman Richardson of Cape May for Sergeant-at-Arms. The Republican Assembly caucus chose Jonathan Goble of Ocean as the candidate for Speaker, and the same persons for the other positions as were in office at the last session.

The Democratic Assembly caucus met in the Assembly chamber at 11 o'clock, and remained in session several hours. Mr. Heppenheimer of Hudson presided. There was not the big row expected. Frank McDermitt of Essex, who was expected to cause trouble, had been mollified, and simply made a speech in his own behalf. Robert S. Hudspeth of Hudson was then nominated for Speaker. Ex-Assemblyman John J. Matthews of Union received the nomination for Chief Clerk, defeating Henry Wilson of Bergen. Mr. Marsh of Essex got the nomination for Sergeant-at-Arms.

The Legislature was organized this afternoon. Both houses met at 3 o'clock. In the Senate Secretary Reading called the members to order, and the roll call showed all the old members except Nevius of Monmouth to be present. Senator Cranmer of Atlantic was chosen temporary Chairman. The Democratic caucus nominees were all elected. The Republicans made no nomination except for President. They named George T. Cranmer of Ocean. Senator George T. Werts of Morris, the Democratic nominee, was elected.

Gov. Green's message was delivered to the Clerk and ordered printed. It contains a long argument to show that the appointing power, which has largely been taken from the Governor and conferred on the Legislature, should be restored to the Governor. For the purification of the ballot box he recommends the isolation of the voter, so that the purchaser of a vote cannot tell how the man who has taken his money really votes. The method he proposes is to allow no one within 100 feet of the polls except the person voting, the election officers, and the challenging committees. He says that to make this isolation complete the tickets should be printed at public expense and given to the voter by a public officer just before voting. The names of all the candidates being printed on this ticket, the voter can strike off the names of those for whom he does not wish to vote. He is opposed to the law passed last winter dividing the State into districts. He renews his recommendation that a prison be provided for that class of prisoners intermediate between those who are proper subjects for the State's reform school and the confirmed criminal. He declares the Senatorial representation provided for by the Constitution unjust, and that the Senate should be representative of population, and not of county lines. He adds on the subject of constitutional amendments:

"The attempt to legislate for municipalities by general laws has been a failure, and experience has shown that different places require different laws. Many are hindered and hampered with charter provisions from which they cannot be relieved, and each year shows the necessity for special provisions for almost every city or town. The experiment of amendment by a Commission and legislative action did not prove successful, and a Convention seems to be the only means to effect a satisfactory revision."

After the introduction of a number of bills the Senate adjourned to to-morrow morning.

Among the new bills is one repealing the Sun