LIVE WASHINGTON TOPICS.

PRESIDENT HARRISON MAKES ANOTHER EFFORT TO FILL THE OFFICES.

W. W. Thomas, Jr., Nominated for Minister to Sweden and Samuel Thayer to the Netherlands—John W. Mason, Steve Elkins's Candidate, for Internal Revenue Commissioner—Charles E. Mitchell of Connecticut for Commissioner of Patents.

WASHINGTON, March 18.—The President excused himself generally to callers this morning on the ground that he was busy with official matters, and received only those with whom he had made engagements. Gen. B. F. Butler called during the morning, and the President granted him an interview. Mr. William W. Phelps also called, but on being informed that the President was busy left the house with the remark that he would call again. Among those who saw the President were Secretaries Blaine, Windom, and Noble, Senator Allison, and ex-Senator Palmer.

The President sent the following nominations to the Senate to-day:

Smith A. Whitfield of Ohio to be Second Assistant Postmaster-General.

Abraham D. Hazen of Pennsylvania to be Third Assistant Postmaster-General.

John W. Mason of West Virginia to be Commissioner of Internal Revenue.

J. Granville Leach of Pennsylvania to be Appraiser of Merchandise in the district of Philadelphia.

William W. Thomas, Jr., of Maine to be Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States to Sweden and Norway.

Samuel R. Thayer of Minnesota to be Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States to the Netherlands.

Charles E. Mitchell of Connecticut to be Commissioner of Patents.

Nathan O. Murphy of Arizona to be Secretary of Arizona.

David M. Lines of Louisiana to be Special Examiner of Drugs, Medicine, and Chemicals in the district of New Orleans, La.

John P. Ward of Oregon to be Appraiser of Merchandise in the district of Willamette, in the State of Oregon and Territory of Washington.

United States Marshals—W. Budd Deacon of New Jersey; John S. Burton of Mississippi, for the Northern District of Mississippi; Edwin I. Kursheedt of Louisiana, for the Eastern District of Louisiana; Brad. D. Slaughter of Nebraska, for the district of Nebraska.

William H. Whiteman of New Mexico to be Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the Territory of New Mexico.

The Postmaster-General to-day appointed J. Lowrie Bell, formerly traffic manager of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad, Superintendent of the Railway Mail Service, vice Bancroft, resigned, and James N. Tyner of Indiana to be Assistant Attorney-General for the Post Office Department.

Mr. Mitchell, nominated for Commissioner of Patents, is a patent attorney, living in New Britain, Conn. He is about 45 years of age and is well known throughout New England. He was backed by the Connecticut delegation and by a large number of patent lawyers in New York and New England.

Mr. Thomas of Maine, who is named for the Swedish mission, gets his old office back again, he having been the Minister of the United States to Sweden and Norway when Mr. Cleveland became President.

Samuel R. Thayer, nominated Minister to the Netherlands, is a lawyer of Minneapolis. He is 47 years of age, a native of New York State, and graduated from Columbia College in the class in which ex-Postmaster Miller and Charles Emory Smith. He went to Minneapolis and entered upon the practice of his profession. He has never held public office, and was not an applicant for appointment now, the nomination having come to him unsolicited through the efforts of Senator Davis and others, who vouch for him in the warmest terms.

Mr. J. W. Mason, nominated as Commissioner of Internal Revenue, is a resident of Grafton, W. Va., and a lawyer by profession. He served in the Union army during the war, and has since devoted himself to the practice of law. He has been an active politician for many years, and is a member of the Republican National Committee. He is now in Washington, and expects to take possession of his new office Thursday morning.

Mr. W. Budd Deacon, nominated for the marshalship of New Jersey, held that office under President Arthur. He lives in Mount Holly, and is at present a member of the State Senate.

James N. Tyner, appointed Assistant Attorney-General for the Post Office Department, has been in public life for more than thirty years. He was a Presidential Elector in 1880, and during the war was a special agent of the Post Office Department. He was a member of Congress from 1869 to 1875. President Grant appointed him Second Assistant Postmaster-General, and upon the resignation of Marshall Jewell he became Postmaster-General, serving as such until the end of Grant's Administration, March 4, 1877. In April of that year he was appointed First Assistant Postmaster-General, and held the office until 1881, when he resigned.

Smith A. Whitfield, the nominee for Second Assistant Postmaster-General, is a well-known Ohio Republican, about 45 years of age. He was appointed Assistant Postmaster at Cincinnati, and then Postmaster, which office he held five years.

Abraham D. Hazen, nominated to be Third Assistant Postmaster-General, held that office for some years prior to the spring of 1887, when he was superseded by Mr. Hazen, who was a Democrat. Mr. Hazen is a Pennsylvanian.

The Senate has confirmed the following nominations:

John A. Kasson, William Walter Phelps, and George H. Bates, Commissioners to the Samoan Conference at Berlin. J. E. Dalton, Postmaster at Salem, Mass.; Cyrus Bussey, Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

There is considerable opposition manifested to the confirmation of the nomination of Lewis Wolfly to be Governor of Arizona, and it is said charges have been made against him for presentation to the Committee on Territories. The nature of these charges, if they exist, cannot be learned; but it is expected that at the next meeting of the committee a favorable report will be ordered on his nomination.

A cable message just received here from Mr. Perry Belmont, ex-Minister to Spain, dated from St. Raphael, a bathing resort in the mountains some distance out of Madrid, says that he is waiting the arrival of his successor, and will then devote some time to travel in Spain, in company with his mother, Mrs. August Belmont, who has joined him there.

The Chinese Minister is said to be the most liberal patron of the cable companies in Washington, and spends even more money for telegraphing than the Government of the United States. Almost every act of his is governed by instructions asked and received from his Government, and, although he uses a cipher by which he can put the meaning of ten words into two, his telegraphic bills average $1,000 a week, and often exceed that sum daily for a week at a time. One day last week he sent $2,000 worth of despatches to China concerning the riots at Milwaukee, and received replies that must have cost at least as much more. In fact, enough money was spent in communicating the information regarding the Milwaukee troubles to indemnify the Chinese of that city for all the damages suffered by them. Cable messages to China are sent first to Havre, then to Aden, thence across the Arabian Sea, through Hindostan and Siam, to Pekin, and they cost about $4 a word.

Samuel R. Thayer of Minnesota, who was today nominated to be Minister to the Netherlands, vice Robert B. Roosevelt of New York, was appointed by Mr. Blaine as a personal favor to Senator Davis. Mr. Thayer and Mr. Davis are warm friends. The new Minister is very wealthy, but represents no political strength, and did not have the endorsement of the Congress delegation. The Michigan Senators and Representatives were pressing the Rev. E. B. Fairfield, the first Lieutenant-Governor of the State, for this place, and are somewhat disappointed that he did not get it. It is somewhat singular that Minnesota has twice blocked the plans of the Michigan delegation within two weeks. In the reorganization of the Senate committees last week Senator Stockbridge was a candidate for the place left vacant on the Commerce Committee by the departure of Mr. Palmer. Michigan has had, by reason of her immense lake interests, a representative upon this committee for twenty-five years; yet Mr. Stockbridge's claims were ignored, and the place given to the new Minnesota Senator, Mr. Washburne. The appointment of Mr. Thayer to-day to the place for which Mr. Fairfield was strongly endorsed leads to the suggestion that Mr. Blaine has not forgotten that in 1884 the Michigan delegation and the Michigan Senators were opposed to his nomination, and that on election day he pulled through the solid Republican State with a slim majority of a trifle more than 3,000 votes.

John W. Mason of West Virginia is Steve Elkins's candidate, whose selection for Commissioner of Internal Revenue has been anticipated for a week. His appointment is a part of the price the Administration is willing to pay for making West Virginia a Republican State. The last election in that State was so close, and Gen. Goff came so near grasping the Governorship and a seat in the Senate, that the President thinks it worth while to give this office, one of the best in his gift, both from a monetary and a political point of view, to a State that is at present Democratic. Secretary Blaine has long cherished a hope of seeing a State where he has considerable property vote with the Republican party. In his "Twenty Years in Congress," Mr. Blaine discussed the Virginia debt question in a manner calculated to gratify the West Virginians, and his influence has been exerted with that of his partner, Elkins, to show the people of that mountain State that the Republican party is just as willing to give them a big office as the Democratic Administration. The fact that Commissioner Miller was from West Virginia seemed of itself a good reason why, at a time when the State hangs trembling in the balance between the two parties, President Harrison should take a man from that State for Commissioner of Internal Revenue. The office has a vast amount of patronage, and storekeepers and gaugers and collectors and their deputies are all capable of great usefulness in political management, and the appointment of Blaine's and Elkins's candidate is a sufficient assurance that the internal revenue office will be worked politically for all it is worth. Mr. Elkins has now got a firm grip on the Post Office, Treasury, and Navy Departments, and is in a position to act as the chief political engineer of the Administration.

Charles E. Mitchell of Connecticut is the standing and perennial candidate of Senator Platt of Connecticut, who comes from a community of inventors, and was for years Chairman of the Committee on Pensions. Seven years ago Commissioner Marble offered his resignation, to take effect on the confirmation of his successor, and went over to New York with the usual feeling of office-holders, that he had been foolish to waste so much time in the Government service, and with the idea that he would harvest large sums of money rapidly when working for himself. Senator Platt got President Arthur's promise to appoint Mr. Mitchell to succeed Marble, but Marble didn't find his New York engagements as satisfactory as he had anticipated, and came back here. President Arthur allowed him to withdraw his resignation, and Mitchell was never nominated, which was rather embarrassing to him, as the President's promise to appoint him had been made public. Mitchell is one of the most prominent patent lawyers in the country, and was very generally endorsed for this appointment by the patent bar. The President said months ago that he recognized the importance of having a first-rate patent lawyer in charge of the office, and promised to appoint any man whom the patent attorneys of the country asked for. Mr. Mitchell will find the Patent Office in good shape. Mr. Hall has received the highest compliments from lawyers who have practised before him, from Roscoe Conkling down, and gentlemen conversant with the affairs of the office say Mr. Hall is the best Commissioner the office has had for twenty years.

A call at the residence of Justice Matthews this morning elicited the information from a colored servant that "Mrs. Matthews instructs me to say to callers that the Justice is ever so much better."

A representative of a prominent engineering firm of Philadelphia, who was present at the opening of bids for building the machinery of the armored cruiser Maine, gave it as his opinion that the specifications (which were prepared by the Bureau of Steam Engineering) were the most complete and most perfect of any machine specifications which he had ever seen. He added that if his firm were given an order to build machinery regardless of expense, but to be complete in every particular, they would unhesitatingly take the Maine's specifications as a model.

Secretary Windom has appointed Mr. T. E. Byrnes of St. Paul to be chief of the appointment division of the Treasury Department, vice Mr. F. E. Smith, resigned. Mr. Byrnes is President of the Republican League of Minnesota. He is a personal friend of Mr. Windom's, and will have confidential relations with him in his new capacity.

It is believed at the Department of State that the Samoan Commissioners will not be able to start for Berlin before the middle of April, as the matter with which they have to deal is rather intricate and preparation for its consideration involves an exhaustive study of a large amount of diplomatic correspondence, as well as of the long protocols of the former conference. The Commissioners have already visited the State Department and conversed briefly with Secretary Blaine, but have not yet received instructions for their guidance in the approaching conference.

Mrs. Harrison was to-day presented with a silk plush badge, in a handsome plush case, ornamented with silver, by the Republican club of the 104th Assembly district of New York. The presentation was made by Mr. F. B. West.

In a circular issued by the Treasury Department custodians of public buildings are warned against assigning persons to duty in anticipation of their appointment, and are directed not to administer oaths under any circumstances before appointments have been made by the department.

Senator Edmunds has left Washington, and will not return during the present session of the Senate, unless it continues much longer than any one thinks it will. Mr. Edmunds forgot to leave his address at his house, so that the few Vermont Republicans who drop into Washington looking for a job are obliged to depend entirely upon the influence of Mr. Morrill. Mr. Edmunds has gone to Georgia for the benefit of his health and that of his family. They do not like the March winds of the capital, and they are in the habit of going South each spring. The godfather of the Senate had hardly got out of town when his colleagues promptly confirmed the nomination of Cyrus Bussey of New York to be Assistant Secretary of the Interior. Mr. Edmunds would have nothing to do with the matter since he wrote the curt note to Secretary Noble asking him to identify Mr. Bussey. That telegraphic note found its way into print, to the great disgust of Mr. Edmunds. The reply to it was a disappointment also, for it fixed the status of Mr. Bussey as a citizen of New York, and a good man for the place to which he had been nominated, so satisfactorily that even the New York Senators could offer no objection to the confirmation. The Republicans express considerable surprise at the action of Mr. Edmunds in leaving the city at a time when there is so much for him to attend to here, and some of them are of the belief that he is one of the fast growing circle of Republicans who are just a little bit disgruntled with the new President and the manner in which he is conducting affairs. Mr. Ingalls is acting Chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary in the absence of Mr. Edmunds, and he presided at the meeting this morning that acted favorably on the nomination of Mr. Bussey.

The Republican Senators are very anxious to bring the session to a close at the end of the present week. This desire has been made known to President Harrison, but he is not yet able to give his consent. He wants to let the session drag on until next week, because he has certain officials confirmed, and he cannot get the Cabinet members to act promptly enough in selecting the men they want appointed. The trouble is that all but two of the Cabinet officers, Messrs. Blaine and Windom, are entirely new to Washington life, and with the exception of Uncle Jerre Rusk they are wholly unknown to the politicians and other public men. They have had no experience in dealing with office seekers, or the crowds of general callers that visit the Departments every day, and nearly all of their time is consumed in getting rid of them. They are, therefore, very slow in selecting men for appointment, and it is impossible to make them hurry. President Harrison has explained these things to the Senators who have called upon him, but has agreed to try and get all the nominations needing immediate confirmation to the Senate by Thursday, so that they can be acted upon, and final adjournment reached on Friday or Saturday. The Senate sessions are at present very perfunctory affairs. To-day the session lasted three hours; half an hour was spent in confirming nominations, and the rest of the time in discussing the question of whether the Senate has the constitutional right to transact any legislative business at an extraordinary session. The Republicans are divided in opinion, but the Democrats are all of one mind. They say that the Senate at its present session has the constitutional right to act on nominations solely. The purpose of the Democrats in taking this stand is to fight off the proposed investigation and discussion of the Southern outrages which some of the radical Republican Senators are disposed to dip into. The Democrats are very earnest in their arguments, although a search of the records for only a few years back will show that they have previously taken just the opposite ground, and have voted to take up legislative business at a called session. Mr. Gray is the leader to continue the new Democratic side of the argument to-morrow. The discussion will probably be continued at odd times during the week for the purpose of filling in the day, and at the end of the week, if the nominations are all in, the Senate will adjourn.

Mr. Wanamaker has looked over the various candidates for Superintendent of Railway Mail Service, and has made a personal selection in the person of J. Lowry Bell of Philadelphia, a practical railroad man. Mr. Bell held the office of traffic manager of the Reading road, with a salary of $15,000, up to a month ago, when the office was abolished and he was left without a job. The selection is considered a very strong one.

A test case, involving the question of offensive partisanship, is to be submitted to the Cabinet to-morrow. One of the Illinois Congressmen has asked the removal of a Democratic postmaster whose management of his office the Congressman admits has been satisfactory, but whose political activity has made him objectionable to the Republicans in the town. When the Congressman submitted the case to the Postmaster-General, the latter said he was disposed to favor the removal, but, of course, the President only had power to act, and the action in this case would be a precedent for hundreds of others. So he said he would bring the matter up at to-morrow's Cabinet meeting.

Reception to James Russell Lowell.

Fellowcraft Club at 32 West Twenty-eighth street gave a reception last evening to Mr. James Russell Lowell. The walls of the club parlors were hung with the paintings of the loan exhibition now being held at the club. Mr. Lowell came to town yesterday and is a guest of his niece, Mrs. Josephine Shaw Lowell. On Thursday evening Mr. Lowell will be at the Authors' Club. He returns to Boston in a week.

LOW PRICES FOR TROTTERS.

Some Rare Bargains at Kellogg & Co.'s Great Combination Sale.

There was a marked difference between the gathering at the twelfth annual combination sale of trotting stock by Peter C. Kellogg & Co., in the American Institute building yesterday, and that at the recent sale of the California-bred trotters in the same building by the same auctioneers. At the California sale a score or more millionaires stood among the thousand buyers ready to outbid each other on any animal that might strike their fancy, while yesterday very few, if any, horsemen of note or great wealth appeared among the several hundred present, so there was no disposition to run the stock up to fancy prices. In fact, the animals offered on the opening day were rather ordinary and as yet unknown to fame, although some of the well-bred youngsters disposed of may, as in the case of untried colts heretofore sold at these sales, develop into stars. Only one horse of the fifty-five head disposed of ran up to $500, and that was the bay stallion Mariner, eight years old, dam by Goldsmith's Abdallah, bred by Mr. H. S. Russell of Massachusetts. This stallion was secured by Mr. N. J. Sinnot of Brooklyn for $565. The three next highest were Surah, a five-year-old filly, by Oak Hill out of Sue Bailey, bred by W. O. Selkregg, bought by Mr. L. Jones of Park row, New York, for $450; Sue Bailey, 10 years, by Star Almont, dam by Delmonico, was sold to L. V. Bell of New York for $420, and Buffalo Bill, b. g., 2 years, by Vermont Messenger, was bought by Mr. G. Crawford, also of New York, for $400. The above were all that brought $400 and over. Fifty-five head sold for $9,576, an average of $174.10.

The horses were sold in this order:

Billy, b. g., 1885, by Oak Hill—Belle; S. Frank	$120
Tippe Tib, b. g., 1886, by Young Tib—Nancy; G. W. Sage	70
Hattie Pinn, br. f., 1887, by Goldsince, Jr.; E. G. Goodwin	50
Lady B., blk. m., 1884, by Kenneth—Belle; J. N. Walters	190
Bay mare, 1881, by Swift's Stephen A. Douglas—dam untraced; S. Frank	110
Agnes, blk. f., 1885, by Hambletonian Chief, Jr.—Addie G.; R. J. Moorehead	100
James, b. g., 1879; pedigree not traced; M. McDonald	180
Doll, b. m., pedigree untraced; S. McGee	45
Bay filly, 1886, by Fleetwood—Doll; H. K. Wilson	140
Bay filly, 1887, by Fleetwood—Doll; E. C. Goodwin	90
Instinct, b. f., 1888, by Gen. Washington—Juss	—
Scudder, b. g., 1888, by Touchstone—Pidgeon; S. Wilkins	40
Tommy, b. g., 1888, by Touchstone—Randolph Maid; G. Crawford	150
Buffalo Bill, b. g., 1887, by Vermont Messenger—Randolph Maid; G. Crawford	400
Randolph Maid, b. m., 1874, Don Giovanni—Blonde; G. Crawford	385
Mariner, b. s., 1881, by Smuggler—Trimbeline; N. J. Sinnot	565
Judge McJames, br. s., 1876, by Rysdyk—Nelly Bush; F. K. Menzie	115
Synopsis, b. s., 1884, by Chandos—Lady Angie; B. Crawford	140
Baxter, b. s., 1876, by Rysdyk—Jennie Burnett; G. L. Clark	70
Wallbom, ro. c., 1886, by Baxter—Tycta; G. Crawford	130
Bay gelding, 1887, by Beausire—Fanny Hulett; G. Crawford	100
Chestnut filly, 1887, by Beausire—Clark mare; G. Crawford	170
Bay gelding, 1885, by Beausire—Stickenoe; G. Crawford	330
Beausire, b. s., 1872, by Rysdyk's Hambletonian—Lady Bach; Fred Akers	360
Chestnut gelding, 1884, by Kenmore—Stickenoe; H. C. Wilson	220
Bay filly, 1886, by Woodlawn; A. R. Miller	80
Bay filly, 1887, by Woodlawn; A. R. Miller	80
Smith Mare, b. m., 1874, by Fortune—Fleetwing; H. McDonald	110
Barney, coach horse, ch. g., 1887; W. M. Burgess	80
Fan Hill, b. f., 1886, by Oak Hill—Nellie H.; G. Crawford	230
Sara Hill, ch. f., 1886, by Gold Hill—Nellie H.; Samuel Thorne	230
Surah, br. f., 1884, by Oak Hill—Sue Bailey; L. Jones	450
Sue Bailey, ch. m., 1879, by Star Almont, Jr.—Flora; L. V. Bell	420
Bronco Ben, cob, b. g., 1884, pedigree unknown; W. S. Brooks	260
Lady Wheeler, ch. m., 1870, by Flying Cloud; R. J. Moorehead	150
Folly, blk. f., 1886, said to be by Hambletonian Chief; C. A. Schultze	140
George, br. g., 1883, pedigree untraced; G. W. Saxe	300
Blink, gr. g., 1880, by Harold; G. H. Smith	270
Maid of the Mill, b. m., 1881, by Hemlock—Struggle; H. C. Wilson	110
Miss Werk, b. f., 1887, by Hemlock—Lady Van Wyck; H. Benedict	50
Dr. Donnelly, b. c., 1888, by Hemlock—Beatrice; E. W. Payne	345
Hemlock Midland, b. s., 1874, by Belmont—Missouri; J. C. Rich	120
Belle of Hopewell, ch. f., 1886, by Hopewell—Dora; P. C. Gordon	230
Hopewell, b. s., 1882, by Hemlock—Belle of the Ford; W. S. Force	150
Jennie Manners, br. f., 1887, by Hemlock—Minnie Manner; H. C. Wilson	200
Mary Irving, b. c., 1886, by De Witt—Lizzie Gill; J. Barnett	160
Rosa Clay, b. f., 1887, by De Witt—Lizzie Gill; Frank Gill	105
Lady Laura, b. m., 1883, by Hemlock—Lizzie Gill; H. Benedick	100
Reita Clay, b. f., 1887, by De Witt—Lady Laura; Frank Gill	100
Zuba Clay, b. m., 1875, by Doty's Black Harry Clay, dam by Hero; A. R. Miller	140
Daniel, b. c., 1888, by Hemlock—Zuba Clay; T. J. Tommy	90
Mary Downton, blk. m., 1871, by Herr's Mambrino Patchen—Colleen Bawn; W. S. Force	170
Rosa Clay, b. f., 1887, by De Witt—Lucy; S. M. Bixby	90
Beatrice, ch. m., 1881, by Washington Irving—Belle of the Ford; F. H. Powers	80
Sir John, b. g., 1888, by Washington Irving—Wild; S. M. Bixby	180
Midnight, br. g., 1888, by Hopewell—Fanny; W. S. Force	120
Total	$9,576

Average, $174.10.

The sale will continue four days longer.

A Female Squirrel's Prodigious Feat to Feed its Mate.

ANSONIA, March 18.—The Psalmist's injunction to the lazy man to go to the ant for an example of industry has lost its force for a Danbury farmer, who points to the squirrel as affording an instance of agility, quickness, and hard work. Last fall he stored several bushels of butternuts in the second story of his corn house, and recently he noticed that they were disappearing much faster than the legitimate demands for his family supply warranted. He discovered soon afterward that a squirrel, a small red one, which the farmers' boys call "chipmunks," had found a hole under the eaves of the building, and was stocking her storehouse with the nuts the farmer had gathered. As an experiment to learn how rapidly the squirrel had worked, he removed all but twenty of the nuts and set a watch upon them. Six hours afterward every nut was gone. The distance from the corn house to the tree where the squirrel had its nest was just eighty rods. In quick time the squirrel returning with little sprightly little animal had to travel a distance of 160 rods. Computation showed that the theft of the twenty nuts required just ten miles of travel. But this did not include all. Several times dogs frightened the squirrel, and it had to turn back, and twice the family cat got after it, requiring it to take a circuitous route to reach the storehouse. The nest was examined soon afterward, and a big, fat, lazy mule squirrel was found snoozing quietly while his little mate was performing a prodigious feat to supply him with food.

The Harbinger of Spring and Fresh Shad in Connecticut has Come.

ANSONIA, March 18.—One of the first signs the Connecticut River fishermen look for as a notice that the backbone of winter has been broken is the arrival of the "alewhop." When they begin to come up the river as forerunners of the annual migration of shad, the aforesaid fishermen are willing to take solemn affirmation that spring is actually here and the peas can be planted without fears of damage from a freeze. Usually the first alewhop, which, by the way, is nothing but the alewife of the ichthyologists, or American herring, arrives about the first of April, or, at the latest, the second week in that month. It is extremely rare that one is caught in the middle of March. This spring is peculiar in this as in many other things, for a big fat alewhop was caught in a seine in Wethersfield Cove last Wednesday. The news was sent up and down the river as rapidly as possible, for there is an implied understanding—a sort of unwritten law—among the shad fishermen, that the first man to catch one of these "harbingers of spring," will notify the others, that the shad seines may be overhauled, boats made ready, and preparations set on foot for the first run of shad. This is the reason so much importance is attached to the first alewhop, and only the weather prophets who predict more winter weather are asked to wager their wealth on their prophecies.

Eight Ducks at a Shot.

NORWICH, March 18.—So mild was the weather that a multitude of wild fowl lingered in the rivers and coves of the southern New England coast, and the shooting has been fine all winter. All kinds of ducks have been shot in this river and in the Connecticut almost every week since last fall, and ducks have been in the market constantly. Veteran sportsmen say that the instance is almost unprecedented. Some large strings of wild fowl have been shot since January. All the hunters have been lucky. Perhaps the best single shot at ducks was made recently by Clem Stannard of Westbrook, who killed eight black ducks with one heavily loaded cartridge. Edwin M. Smith of East Hampton shot a duck in a fresh-water pond the other day that had a salt-water eel eighteen inches long it its stomach.

They Don't Want Annexation.

WILLIAMS BRIDGE, March 18.—A large meeting of citizens of Williams Bridge, West Chester village, and Broxdale was held in Jerome Hall here this evening to protest against the bill introduced in the Assembly providing for the annexing of the town of West Chester to the city of New York. Supervisor Michael Rauch was Chairman. The meeting was addressed by Norman A. Lawior, ex-Assemblyman James H. Welwood, P. J. Kellett, and Henry Bischoff. A resolution that a committee be appointed to go to Albany and protest against the passage of the bill was adopted, and Robert McFarck, Horace Cahill, and Mark Skennion were appointed as the committee.

IN AND OUT DOOR SPORTS.

THE EVENTS OF YESTERDAY—GOSSIP FROM EVERYWHERE.

About the Base Ball Players—The Brooklyn Team on Hand—What the Fighters are Doing—Bowling, Athletics, Turf.

The Brooklyn players began to arrive early yesterday morning, and by night only three men were missing from the team. They were Clarke, Corkhill, and Caruthers. Among the first to arrive were Visner and Lovett, the new battery. From the looks of these two men they should do good work next season. His "Needles," Foutz, brought back his old-time smile, and he remarked "that they were going to get there this time." There were gathered in the old club house at one time yesterday afternoon these players: Collins, Smith, Visner, Lovett, Burns, Foutz, O'Brien, Hughes, Terry, Bushong, and Pinkney. They made the old club house ring with their merry talk. From the way the men spoke, they are going to do good work this season. A finer lot of men it would be hard to find. They are all in the pink of condition.

A special meeting of the New Jersey State League was held on Sunday at the Hoffman House, Rutherford, N. J. Applications for membership were received from the Jersey Blues of Hoboken and the Reorganized Marions of Jersey City. Passaic sent notice that at the next meeting, which is to be held on March 31 at the Elysian Fields, Hoboken, N. J., they would probably be ready to enter. Manager Bright produced the proper backing, and the Jersey Blues were admitted. The application of the Marion Club was laid over until the next meeting. The delegates present and a number of friends were then escorted to Carlstadt, where they were taken care of in a royal manner. The season will open the first Saturday in May. The guarantee plan was adopted.

The Base Ball Association of Columbia College held a mass meeting two weeks ago and elected officers for the ensuing year. The question of putting a team in the field this season was left to the decision of the Advisory Committee. This committee held a meeting on Friday and adopted the following resolution:

Resolved, That owing to the lateness of the season, the uncertainty of procuring grounds for training and games and various other causes, the Advisory Committee recommend that no attempt be made to place a University nine in the field this spring, but advise the Columbia College Base Ball Association to hold class championship games, and strongly recommend that next year the Association hold its annual election of officers and the temporary captain in the early fall, instead of the spring as has been the custom.

This resolution voices the general opinion of the students, and an effort will doubtless be made this spring to arrange a series of class games and organize class base ball nines. The freshmen have already formed a team and will soon be in readiness to play. They expect to meet the freshmen teams from several of the larger Eastern colleges.

President Young's latest circular reads as follows:

Contracts for 1889: With Indianapolis—P. A. Hines, Jerry Denny, J. J. Glasscock, and C. F. Daily. With Boston—Wm. Sowders. With Baltimore—H. Kilroy. With Brooklyn—George J. Smith. With Jersey City—D. F. Burke and M. Landman. With St. Louis—John Boyle, E. Hudson, and U. Conn. With New York—R. M. Mason. With Hartford—J. M. Henry, E. Derby, and T. Lynch. With Milwaukee—E. L. Mills. With Des Moines—W. F. Hart and F. J. Manuel. With Denver—W. H. McClellan and W. Barnhigh. With Evansville—Albert Ike, E. J. Dundon, Wm. Gentleman, A. Tully, J. W. Shafler, Henry Bittman, and C. H. Calhoun. With Omaha—G. W. Bradley, F. Bennett, Jas. Mulligan, D. Richardson, and F. Weber. With Sioux City—R. Burke. With Hamilton—C. E. Springer and D. F. Garver. With Toronto—F. J. Barnett. With Quincy, Ill.—Wm. F. Collins, Charles Larkin, Fred Demarais, A. W. Henry, M. J. Kilridge, D. J. Corcoran, D. C. Murphy, F. Spil, Floyd Lauman, and Connie J. Doyle.

League Umpire—Wesley Curry.

Reinstated: By Cleveland—Jorge Pressser and T. J. Scheffler. By Worcester—John J. Kerry. By Wilkesbarre—Thomas Dowse, John Cuff, and Frank Brill. By Baltimore—Jas. McGinnis. By St. Louis—H. Lyons. By Columbus—P. C. Gilman, J. R. Manyan, G. Rhue, and J. E. Stapleton. By Lowell—James A. Cudworth. By Portsmouth—J. E. Canavan.

PHILADELPHIA, March 18.—Eddie Knauff, formerly one of the pitchers of the St. Louis Browns, signed a contract to play with the Athletic Club to-day. Manager Sharsig said: "Knauff is now in better condition than he has ever been before in his life. He has been playing indoors all winter with Mason's team, and he has pitched many good games. I do not believe I have made a mistake in signing him." The signing of Knauff gives the Athletics six pitchers, viz.: Seward, Smith, Weyhing, Mattimore, Paine, and Knauff. Weyhing has accepted terms, and is now on his way here from Louisville. Mattimore is holding off for big money, but he will be brought to terms before the season opens. "I will have plenty of pitching talent this year," said Manager Sharsig. "I will have Billy King of Princeton on June 1, and I expect to corral 'Lady' Baldwin before that time. Baldwin writes me that his arm is all right, and if it continues so until May he will sign with the Athletics. I have another strikeout in view, and if I get him I will have a pitcher."

Harry Lyons, recently released by St. Louis, signed a contract to play with the Jersey City Club to-day, as THE SUN said he would.

BOSTON, March 18.—John Morrill signed a Boston contract to-day and forwarded it to President Young in New York. This secures Morrill for Boston for another year at least, and settles the vexed question as to the location of the crack first baseman. Base ball men who had heard the news to-night were delighted, there having been some misgivings as to what course would be pursued by the triumvirs with regard to Morrill. It had been intimated that he would be released, and the base ball men in the city began to protest. When $10,000 Kelly began to get in his work for the captaincy by trying to belittle Morrill's work, the cranks became even more enthusiastic, and they supported "Honest John," and denounced his rival in unmeasured terms. Kelly's late performance, or rather the inability to perform, at the Elks' benefit capped the climax of popular disgust, and in the past three days the directors have been besieged with patrons of the game who declared they would boycott the South End grounds if the directors favored Kelly over Morrill. But until Morrill signed, the directors had nothing whatever to say with regard to Kelly.

He signed a contract to play ball in class A for a salary of $2,500. No other inducement was held out by the directors, but if there is any fat outside office he will be likely to get it. President Soden said to THE SUN correspondent: "We have done nothing about selecting a captain as yet. Now that Morrill has signed it brings him within reach as an eligible man, but we are by no means certain that we shall appoint him. If Wise doesn't sign I will have the choice of short stop between Ray and Morrill. Personally I prefer Ray for that position, for I think he can cover more territory than Morrill. He is younger, and can get around quicker. Of course he can't cover the bases as well as Morrill can, but as a whole I think he would be the better short stop of the two. On days when Kelly goes behind the bat Brouthers will be sent to right field, and Morrill will cover first. That is the way it looks now, but as I said before, nothing has been definitely arranged."

BASE BALL NOTES.

The Metropolitan Club will hold a meeting at 149 Broadway at 4 o'clock to-morrow afternoon.

Manager Crane has received a letter from Hankinson, in which he says that he would like to join the Metropolitans.

A petition is being circulated in Harlem, and is being signed by hundreds of real estate owners and business men, asking that the New York Club be allowed to remain on the Polo Grounds this season.

Mike Tiernan was in town yesterday. He said that he was ready for work. He did not care to talk about his little trouble with the New York managers, but thought that it would be all right. He will probably go back to Trenton until to-morrow.

Manager Spence of the New Haven team arrived in this city yesterday to attend the meeting of the Connecticut Association in Jersey City to-morrow. Mr. Spence has got quite a team together. Among the latest players that he has secured are: Andy Dillon of last season's Lynns, Earnest Smith of the old Columbus Club, and T. H. Cahill of the University of Pennsylvania. All three are catchers. He has also secured Hornsby, Wagner, Miller, and Battery Fitzgerald of London, and Corcoran of Lynn. He says that he has fine grounds right in the heart of New Haven.

On Wednesday evening last the subscribers to the stock of the Hackensack Base Ball Association met at the Mansion House in that city and formally organized, and instructed counsel to file the necessary certificate of incorporation. The officers elected are: J. L. Van Buskirk, President; A. W. Godfrey, Secretary; John Van Buskirk, Treasurer; A. M. Davis, Manager. The four officers above named and Mr. F. C. Kempton, Jr., were elected directors for one year. The corporation will assume the New Jersey State League franchise, and accept the players' contracts and all engagements made for the Hackensack Athletic Club.

Pool Notes.

Michael B. Clark of Jersey City wants to play Charles Werner of Guttenburg a series of 21 games of pool for $25 or $50 a side. Werner will accept the challenge. The game will be played within two weeks.

A pool tournament will be inaugurated Saturday night by the New Jersey Athletic Club, to continue Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings of the following week, open to members. A handsome gold medal will be given to the winner.

Cock Fighting.

Two decidedly interesting cocking mains have recently been made, and with their decision the fighting feathers' season in this vicinity will be pretty much over.

WHAT THE FIGHTERS ARE DOING.

Foley Whips Howe.

A rattling finish fight was decided at a sporting resort in Jersey City at an early hour yesterday morning between Billy Foley, a pupil of Jimmy Larkins, and John Howe. They are residents of Jersey City, and laid claim to the title of bantam champion of the Second district. In order to settle the question, a number of sports subscribed to a purse. Foley appeared clad in shirt and trunks of white. He is 18 years old, and weighed 105 pounds. He was handled by his teacher, Jimmy Larkins. Howe appeared in white shirt and dark trunks. He was an inch or two the taller, and weighed 110 pounds. His second was Joe Brown. McGovern, Larkins's trainer, was timekeeper, and Tom Maxwell referee.

Two-ounce gloves were used. In the first round Howe had all the best of it and floored Foley six times. In the second Foley got in several hard blows on the stomach, but Howe kept banging away at the head. Foley went to the floor twice in this round. The work had been lively, and Howe puffed in the third for wind. Foley kept working in the vicinity of his opponent's stomach and ribs, while the opponent got in many face blows. Foley showed the most punishment in the fourth round, but he was the strongest, and, under the advice of Larkins, he began fighting for the head in the fifth. It was give and take at short arm in this round. In the sixth round Foley forced Howe all over the ring, and rained blows in rapid order on his face and neck, and wound up the round by flooring his man with an upper cut on the chin. Howe was a sorry sight when he toed the scratch for the seventh round. His face was puffed out of all shape, and one eye was nearly closed. Both men were game. Howe tried to do rushing in this round, but Foley was there every time, and finally fought Howe to a standstill. The latter seemed wholly unable to escape the terrible blows of Foley, and just as time was up he went down all in a heap, with Foley standing over him.

He was too weak to rise, and when assisted to his corner replied that he had received all he wanted. Foley was declared the winner and got the purse. Larkins took up a collection for the loser. The battle lasted twenty-eight minutes, and was a hummer from the beginning.

A Californian Wins.

Tom White, who arrived from San Francisco a few weeks ago, was matched against Frank McCabe of this city, a fortnight ago, for a twelve-round go, and on Sunday the men met with small gloves at the West Side A. C. rooms. A purse of $100 had been hung up for the winner. E. N. Thomas was referee, and W. Gallagher timekeeper. White weighed 125 pounds, or 5 pounds more than McCabe.

It was a vigorous but unusually scientific contest all the way through. For the first six rounds there was no apparent superiority in either man. Both landed body and face blows with effect, and each showed cleverness in stopping and dodging. After the sixth round, however, the Californian went in with even more determination, and planted his left fist on Boyd's neck and jaw time after time, without serious return. There were few clinches, but in those that did occur White showed himself to be a good in-fighter. The battle was given to White on points.

**McCarthy Offers to Fight Tommy