ARE THE ROGUES TO ESCAPE?

QUEER FEATURES OF THE STATE BANK RESURRECTION.

The Lenox Hill's Condition Made Public at Last—Traces of the Conspiracy—The Sixth National and the Equitable Resume—Recipe: "Courage and Collats."

Another lump sum of $124,000 must be added to the net profits gained by the combine which was in brief control of the Sixth National Bank, the Equitable, and the Lenox Hill. Certified checks on the Lenox Hill Bank to that amount were presented against the Sixth National, its Clearing House agent, yesterday by another bank. This was something entirely unexpected, but the plan for reorganization had gone so far that the new development was not allowed to interfere with carrying out the plan. So the same syndicate which took care of the $250,000 in certified checks on the Lenox Hill and Equitable previously known to exist also took up the new obligations, making the total bad paper of this sort about $375,000.

Bank Examiner Hepburn refused to say where these new checks came from or by whom they were drawn. The Sixth National became liable on them under the rule of the Clearing House which makes a bank which clears for a non-member responsible for its paper. The Sixth gave the required twenty-four hours' notice at the Clearing House yesterday that it would no longer be responsible for any of the Lenox Hill's obligations.

It further became apparent yesterday, that in the efforts which are being made to rehabilitate the involved State banks, facts are being withheld or concealed from the public which are sufficient to send more than one man to Sing Sing. In fact, it was open talk among some down-town bank men yesterday that the negotiations were of a nature dangerously resembling the compounding of a felony. State Superintendent Preston refuses to allow the facts disclosed by the examination of the books of the two banks to be made public, possibly because he desires that they shall be laid first before the Grand Jury. He says, however, that it is no part of his duty to prosecute any bank officer who has violated the law.

SAVE THE EVIDENCE.

"The operations by which the Sixth National Bank and the two State banks, the Lenox Hill and the Equitable, were made insolvent, were the results of a conspiracy that failed," said a State official last night, "and the conspirators are giving up their swag in order to keep out of jail. They ought to be sent to jail, but the evidence may disappear, if the deal is consummated by which it is proposed to put the Lenox Hill Bank on its feet, the evidence may be destroyed to-morrow."

Already three checks for $50,000 each, certified by the Equitable Bank, and said to have been drawn by James A. Simmons, Pell Wallack & Co., and Satterlee & Co. have passed out of the keeping of the Sixth National Bank. These were the checks which made the Equitable Bank insolvent. President Jordan of the Western National Bank made them good to the Sixth National and paid the money to the Equitable, but according to Bank Superintendent Preston the checks have not been returned to that bank. "They are held," he said last night, "by persons who have advanced money on them. I know where they are."

Those checks were never entered on the books of the Equitable. Mr. Jordan said on Monday night that he had cancelled $178,000 worth of certified checks of the Lenox Hill Bank, which had been held by the Sixth National, and Chief Examiner Covell said that if this was so it would make the bank solvent. Yesterday Mr. Jordan had discovered that there was $124,000 more of the same sort of paper, and was trying to get that out of the way, although if Mr. Covell was right the bank was solvent already.

STATEMENT OF THE LENOX HILL'S CONDITION.

Some light is thrown on the condition of things by the statement of the condition of the Lenox Hill Bank, which is made public for the first time below. It is a complete statement as far as it goes. Chief Examiner Covell prepared it for THE SUN after Mr. Preston had consented to make it public.

"I will not consent at present," said Mr. Preston, "to Mr. Covell's making a detailed statement."

"For what reason?"

"I do not consider that it would be wise in the present panicky condition of the public."

He then gave Mr. Covell express orders as to the limit to which the latter should confine his statement.

This is the result:

Assets and liabilities of the Lenox Hill Bank as found by Chief Examiner Henry C. Covell on the morning of Jan. 31, 1890.

LIABILITIES.

Capital stock	$100,000 00
Due depositors subject to check	81,000 60
Cashier's checks	178 35
Due bank and bankers	777 56
Certified checks—regular	22,724 60
Certified checks—to "syndicate"	310,500 00
Certificate of deposit	2,000 00
Salaries and other expenses accrued	525 82
Rebate on bills discounted for unearned interest	2,050 98
Total	$528,762 00

ASSETS.

Bills discounted	$273,464 04	
Loans secured by collaterals	19,205 00	
Foreign collections	2,783 94	
United States bond, 4½ per cent. —$1,000 bond	1,045 00	
Cash available in safe	11,038 23	
Due from banks	39,139 76	
Furniture, fixtures, and and safe, estimated value	2,000 00	348,675 94
Deficit		$181,086 06

Mr. Covell threw out of the nominal assets checks for $175,000 as not good. These were drawn by persons connected with the bank-wrecking operations. They do not appear in the above statement. Had these been good, the bank would still have been practically insolvent.

"I have reduced the value of the office fixtures and safe to $2,000," said Mr. Covell. "If the bank is to resume business these are properly worth $5,000, the sum which they represent on the bank's books. Adding the $3,000 difference to the $178,000, the sum which Mr. Jordan said he had cancelled would make the bank solvent."

TRACES OF THE CONSPIRACY.

What the ultimate object of the conspiracy was has not yet been conclusively shown. That there was a conspiracy is certain. The evidence is in the possession of the bank examiners and in the bank's books, and in the checks themselves. The operations began with the formation of the Equitable Bank. That bank certainly had a certificate of the deposit of $150,000 in the Third National bank before it got authority to begin business, and the Banking Department was satisfied then that the money was actually put up, but there has arisen a doubt about the latter fact recently. The $100,000 was the bank's paid up capital. It may be possible to produce the man who actually paid it up. However this may be, it is now known that the Lenox Hill Bank was bought in the same way that the Sixth National was afterward purchased, on tick, and paid for out of its own vaults. As matters stand at present, the only persons who can be held liable to criminal prosecution are the comparatively innocent cashiers. The real conspirators are hidden away behind them. Mr. Preston says it is no part of his duty to institute criminal proceedings against any one. If he finds a gang of thieves carrying off the contents of a State bank, all he is called upon to do is to recover the swag. Deputy Attorney-General Maynard says the duty of his department is ended in aiding Mr. Preston to protect the depositors and stockholders.

"Is it not better," Mr. Preston asked of THE SUN reporter last night "that the depositors should get their money in full than to appoint receivers and have them get only 50 or 75 per cent?"

If it should become a question between letting the rogues go and getting 100 cents for the depositors and catching the rogues and getting fifty cents for the depositors, the question, of course, would answer itself.

There is still a chance to punish the conspirators. The evidence is still in the hands of the bank examiners, and the Grand Jury is in session.

LABORING OVER THE LENOX HILL.

A majority of the depositors of the Lenox Hill Bank assigned their claims yesterday to President Jordan of the Western National and made him their trustee. Their claims and rights against the bank are to be "by him taken, reduced to possession, and held as to him best shall seem meet." This notice was posted on the bank window:

Depositors are advised not to sacrifice their claims against the Lenox Hill Bank, as arrangements are being perfected for the surrender of all certified checks known as "kiting checks," issued by "the syndicate," and used by them in their operations, thus insuring a speedy resumption. HENRY C. COVELL,
Feb. 4, 1890. Chief State Bank Examiner.

By order of Superintendent Preston, Mr. Covell could not give out details of the bank's affairs, but he did make a partial statement. He said that the exact figures of the deficit which he had discovered were $181,086.06. In addition he had found that $310,500 of checks certified by the bank were held by other institutions and now outstanding. Against these checks the Lenox Hill and other banks hold checks to the amount of $310,500, making a balance. Mr. Covell also stated that $31,000 worth of miscellaneous bonds are missing, for which the bank holds $29,500 worth of checks: one check for $22,000, signed by J. A. Simmons, and one for $7,500 signed by John Satterlee. Simmons's partner. It was said that Wallack had taken the $31,000 worth of bonds away with him when he left the bank, and that neither he nor the securities had since been seen. Mr. Preston said last night that it was true that Wallack had taken these bonds, but that they had been brought back to the bank a few hours afterward by a messenger. "Wallack probably took them to try to borrow money on them, and not succeeding, returned them," said Mr. Preston. The bonds are missing, however.

COURAGE AND COLLATERAL.

Mr. Jordan went to the bank in the afternoon and met Mr. Preston there. Together they went over the statement of Mr. Covell, and examined the bank's paper. They did not get through until nearly 6 o'clock. When they came out Mr. Jordan said that for the first time he had a clear idea of the bank's position.

"There is only one thing in the way now," said he, "and if we can remove that obstacle the bank may be put on its feet again. I find that there are certified checks on the bank out amounting to $124,000. These checks may give us some trouble. They have nothing to do with the 'kiting' checks, of which so much has been said, but were certified in the regular course of business. They are of the same nature as the $1,500 check of Philip J. Curry's, upon which he has threatened to begin legal proceedings. Now, if I can get this $124,000 out of the way I can see my way clear."

"How is it to be put out of the way?"

"By courage and collateral, sir."

"Whose courage and whose collateral?"

"If they will put up the collateral to cover the amount of these checks, I will see that the money is forthcoming," said Mr. Jordan, but he would not say who "they" are.

He said that he was going to see half a dozen gentlemen later in the evening. Mr. Jordan said that under no circumstances would a receiver for the Lenox Hill be appointed before Friday, no matter who applies for one. The case had been adjourned until then, he said. Before Friday he hopes that the $124,000 worth of certified checks may be out of the way, and that there will be no need for a receiver. The prospects of the bank's coming out all right were "hopeful, but by no means certain." If a receiver should be appointed, he would not care to assure the depositors that they would get fifty cents on the dollar.

Mr. Jordan said that he had the resignations of all the directors of the bank in his pocket. He had not formally accepted them.

THE SIXTH NATIONAL FIRST TO REOPEN.

The Sixth National opened its doors for business promptly at 10 o'clock yesterday morning. Vice-President Landon was in charge. Mr. Wetmore, counsel for Mr. Leland, was there. He said his client was ill, and would not be able to visit the bank yesterday. The only hitch in the programme arose on account of a misunderstanding regarding the delivery of the money which Mr. Leland had paid over to the Gallatin Bank for the use of the Sixth. President Tappen of the Gallatin, who is one of the new directors of the Sixth, got anxious when banking hours were reached, and the money failed to appear at the Sixth. He telephoned down to his own bank, and the reply was that they supposed the Sixth would send for the money.

HALF A MILLION IN A CAB.

"Two of you get a carriage and bring half a million in cash up here just as quick as you know how," was his emphatic order over the wire.

In considerably less than half an hour two clerks drove up with three or four large bags filled with bills of all denominations and some specie. The stuff was emptied out behind the paying teller's window, and the line of about seventy-five persons, with checks and drafts ready, received their money as fast as it could be counted out to them. But there was no great rush, and the amounts drawn were not large. It was clearly a case of "if I can have my money, I don't want it, but if I can't have it, I want it—bad." There was another and smaller line at the receiving teller's window, and large sums went through his hands before the day's business closed. Of course, the bulk of the day's transactions were through the Clearing House, the Gallatin Bank acting as agent for the Sixth. Finally, when the closing hour was reached, it was given out that there had been received during the day from depositors $350,000, and that the amount paid out was $175,000.

THE EQUITABLE OPENS ALSO.

At the Equitable there had been some delay in getting started. Cashier Smith of the Western National came back at 9:30 with the bags of money which State Examiner Trenholm had refused to receive the day before, and this time it was welcomed. The money was counted out—about $150,000—and the bank was then ready for business. Mr. Trenholm refused to permit the actual opening of the doors until he had received permission from the Attorney-General or the State Superintendent of Banking. At 11 o'clock Mr. Jordan of the Western National, Superintendent Preston, and two or three directors arrived. A directors' meeting was held, and the resignation of Cashier A. A. Courter was accepted. Nathaniel A. Chapman, a clerk of the Western National, was elected cashier. It was thought best to delay the opening until Mr. Chapman should arrive. In the mean time a lawyer named Tallman, with his client, Mrs. Minetta C. Marsh of the Arno, came in, and, learning that the former cashier, Courter, was in the building, declared that they proposed to secure his immediate arrest for fraud. Mrs. Marsh said she had deposited $440 about half an hour before the Equitable suspended last Thursday, and that Courter had accepted it without giving her any warning. The directors decided to pacify Mrs. Marsh by an immediate payment, so they opened the bank at just 1:10. The bank was open until 3 o'clock, but there was little money withdrawn or paid in. At the close of the day it was said that the receipts exceeded the expenditures.

SIMMONS NEGOTIATING.

At Simmons's office yesterday it was said on his behalf that he was too busily engaged in completing the terms of settlement to make any public statement.

TWO OF THEM.

Broker George Hamilton Pell was released on bail yesterday afternoon. His bond was signed by Frances A. Spaulding of Llewellyn Park and John McDermott of 105 Lexington avenue. Mrs. Spaulding is Pell's wife's sister, the daughter of Marvin Bates, and the wife of Thomas H. Spaulding. Mr. McDermott is a Washington Market butcher. Claassen is still in jail.

A CRY FOR BREAD.

Great Destitution in Greensville County, Va.—Failure of the Crops.

PETERSBURG, Feb. 4.—The failure of the crops in Greensville county, this State, has resulted in great destitution to the people of that part of Virginia, and as a consequence they have been forced to make an appeal for aid to the people of the whole country. Circulars, to which are signed the names of several hundred farmers of the county, are to be sent all over the Union, stating that the condition of the people is such that it would be charity to render them the asked-for assistance. The circulars say:

"The cry for bread has already gone up, and as the winter advances a wail for warmth will add an accompaniment of woe and suffering. The people of this land have always responded promptly and liberally to every call for help from their suffering brothers, and we, your earnest and urgent petitioners, beg you to turn not away from the cry of women and children for aid, and breathe a sigh of pity only, but turn to your abundance, and from it send assistance to this unfortunate yet suffering class of your countrymen. Buoyed with hope that our prayer for aid will be speedily responded to, we beg that all contributions will be sent to W. Samuel Goodyn and E. L. Turner, Emporia, Va., who will distribute the same according to our necessities.'

Why Some Copies of Editor Smith's Address Have Not Yet Been Delivered.

ALBANY, Feb. 4.—Among recent mail receipts at the Albany Post Office was a large number of separately wrapped and addressed pamphlets containing the address of Charles Emory Smith at the Union College Commencement last June. They were to alumni and friends of the college in this vicinity, and included copies addressed to ex-President Martin Van Buren, Gov. John A. Dix, J. Van Ness Yates, Noah Levinge, B. F. Butler, Romeyn T. Beck, Joseph Henry, and other well-known former residents of Albany whose deaths date back anywhere from twenty to fifty years. Ex-President Martin Van Buren died in 1862, but long before his death ceased to be a resident of Albany. J. Van Ness Yates was an Albany county Recorder in 1809, and from 1818 to 1826 Secretary of State, but he died in 1839. The B. F. Butler to whom a copy was mailed with the evident expectation that he was well enough known to make the inscription "Albany, N. Y." sufficient was Attorney-General under President Andrew Jackson, and died in Paris in 1858. Dr. Theodoric Romeyn Beck was principal of the Albany Academy from 1817 to 1848, but died in 1855. Hermanus Bleecker was a regent in 1822 and a well-known Albanian up to 1849, when he died. Gov. Dix died in 1879, and Joseph Henry in 1878.

A New Method of Stealing Chickens.

NEW LONDON, Feb. 4.—In Waterford chicken thieves have hit upon a new method of depleting poultry yards with much success. J. B. Palmer of Graniteville is the heaviest loser, and to him the discovery of the schemes due. When he entered his poultry yard last week he found one of his chickens apparently suffocating. Closer examination revealed to him about a dozen yards of fish line trailing from the chicken's beak. Then it dawned upon Mr. Palmer that some one had been fishing for chickens on his premises. The thieves' method was to bait a fish line with a worm, drop it conveniently near the poultry, and when the worm was swallowed it was an easy matter to capture the chicken without difficulty. As the farmers allow their fowl to roam freely about their premises and into adjacent fields the thieves do not lack opportunity to reap a harvest. Mr. Palmer's discovery, however, may cause the farmers to be more careful in the future.

Wine Until 3 A. M., Perhaps.

ALBANY, Feb. 4.—Senator Stadler's excise amendment allowing wine to be sold at public balls from 1 to 3 A. M. as passed by the Senate, has been considered by the Assembly Committee on Excise. They will report it favorably, probably to-morrow, and it is likely to be passed in time for the Arion, Leiderkranz, and other big balls that are to come in New York.

MR. TRACY OUT OF DANGER.

HE RECOVERS RAPIDLY AND IS REMOVED TO THE WHITE HOUSE.

The Funeral of Mrs. Tracy and Miss Tracy to Take Place To-day—Mrs. Wilmerding and Her Daughter Much Improved—The Fire Probably Caused by Escaping Gas.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—Secretary Tracy has displayed wonderful recuperative powers, and this morning he surprised his physicians by getting out of bed and dressing himself. He showed such strength that he was allowed to descend to the library and remain there during a portion of the day. He was not able, of course, to do anything without assistance, but showed more strength than he was supposed to possess. During the morning he was visited by the President and Secretary Noble. The former remained with him from 11 to 1 P. M. Gen. Catlin and Mrs. Stranahan were also with the Secretary for some time, and it was after a conference between those named that the funeral arrangements were determined upon. Mr. Tracy's physicians say that he is out of danger.

Shortly before 3 o'clock the President ordered his carriage to be sent to Judge Davis's house for the purpose of bringing Secretary Tracy over to the White House as his guest. A gentleman who had just left Secretary Tracy said that he wanted to walk over, as he felt strong enough to do so, but it was thought best for him to use the carriage. The Secretary was dressed in his ordinary clothes and wore no extra wraps. He walked down stairs across the sidewalk and into the carriage without assistance. His step was firm and steady and showed no evidence of physical weakness. His great sorrow had left its impress, however, on his features. His son, Mr. Frank B. Tracy, and Lieut. Parker, U. S. N., accompanied him to the White House, but were not called upon to render him any assistance. He stepped lightly out of the carriage, walked across the vestibule alone, into the main corridor, and took the elevator for the President's private apartments. The President and Mrs. Harrison awaited him there.

Later in the afternoon, in accordance with his request, he was taken into the East Room, where he saw the caskets containing the remains of his wife and daughter. They were covered with flowers, and branches of the sago palm were laid across the top and along the sides of each casket. The Secretary was very much affected by the sight.

Funeral services will be held over the remains of Mrs. Tracy and Miss Tracy in the East Room of the White House to-morrow morning at 11 o'clock. The Rev. Dr. Douglass, rector of St. John's P. E. Church, will conduct the religious services. The bodies will be temporarily deposited in the receiving vault at Rock Creek Cemetery until their final disposition is determined upon. The pall bearers for Mrs. Tracy will be Secretary Windom, Secretary Proctor, Attorney-General Miller, Postmaster-General Wanamaker, Secretary Noble, Secretary Rusk, Admiral Porter, Rear Admiral Rogers, J. E. Stranahan of Brooklyn, and Maj.-Gen. Schofield.

The funeral of Josephine Morell, the French maid who perished in the flames at the Tracy house yesterday morning, took place at St. Matthew's Church this afternoon. The girl had no friends or relatives in this city, and Mrs. Harrison took charge of the burial arrangements.

Mrs. and Miss Wilmerding passed quite a good night and were better to-day. Mrs. Wilmerding suffers a great deal from bruises and shock. Miss Wilmerding is very much improved.

Secretary Tracy has received a great many telegrams of condolence. This is one:

LONDON, Feb. 4, 1890.

Secretary Tracy, Washington:
Accept deep sympathy of the citizens of London.
LORD MAYOR.

One from Annapolis, Md., addressed to Secretary Tracy, read:

The corps of cadets tender their heartfelt sympathy to you in your bereavement.

This evening Sir Julian Pauncefote received the following message, which was immediately sent to Secretary Tracy:

OSSMOSS, Feb. 4.—The British Minister, Washington: Queen deeply deplores calamity to Mr. Tracy's family; inquires after him and survivors. POSSONBY.

To the foregoing Secretary Tracy replied:

Mr. Tracy begs the British Minister to convey to her Majesty his sincere thanks for her gracious message of sympathy, and in reply to her kind inquiry to say that his surviving daughter and grandchild are out of danger.

The origin of the fire is still unknown. The District inspector has made an investigation and submitted a long and rambling report, which throws very little light upon the cause of the disaster, the only statement about it at all definite being that it might have been caused by the escape and subsequent explosion of gas.

PARIS, Feb. 4.—Mr. and Mrs. Whitelaw Reid have postponed the ball which they were to have given to-morrow evening, owing to the terrible calamity that has befallen the family of Secretary Tracy.

Midwinter Maple Sugar.

SCRANTON, Feb. 4.—Making maple sugar in midwinter is what some of the farmers in the neighborhood of Harford, Susquehanna county, did last week. Farmer C. D. Ransom tapped a lot of trees in the springlike weather of a week ago. The sap flowed copiously while the wind was in the northwest, and the farmer made a nice batch of sugar and a few gallons of maple syrup. He said the sap was not as sweet as it will be in the spring, and it took a good deal more time to boil it down on that account. The quality of the sugar, however, was as fine as that made during the regular season in March. Farmer Horatio Goddard of South Gibson tapped thirty trees last week and in four days, he said, he made enough syrup to sweeten the family's pancakes for six weeks or more. Farmer J. W. Livingstone of North Abingdon, also went into the maple sugar business for a few days. He is 68 years old, and has farmed it all his life. He said he had never made maple sugar in January before, and he tapped twenty trees and boiled the sap into syrup just to see how it would seem to do that kind of work in winter. The sap flowed freely, and he made nine gallons of syrup. Last Friday evening Ernest Harding gave a maple sugar party at his home in Harford. It was a jolly party, and it seemed as though spring had come.

Poisoned the Well Out of Curiosity.

WESTERLY, Feb. 4.—A strange crime was attempted by a 15-year-old boy named Rogers at Davisville, in a wild region of Rhode Island, recently. He was apparently actuated not by malice but by experimental curiosity. He put soda ash, kerosene, and blue vitriol in Carleton Chase's house well early one morning, having been inspired to do so by a desire to observe "how folks would act when they were poisoned." Mr. Chase drew a bucket of water, and the traces of the commingled poisons were so plain and thick and peculiar that he at once had the bluish-white curd on the bucket analyzed. Young Rogers denied any complicity in the crime, but he was easy to find companions of his who saw the poisons in his hands, and to whom he admitted that he was "going to try the stuff on Carleton Chase's well." Afterward he told still another boy that he had put the poison in the well. Rogers had a preliminary hearing before Judge Nathan B. Lewis in the Town Hall, at Wickford, this week, and was bound over for trial before the Supreme Court at Kingston on March 3. He got bail in $1,000.

Rogers is of a romantic mental turn, and is mostly and fond of reading about heroes that revel in crime and blood.

Kelly Issues a Challenge.

P. H. Black, the backer of Tommy Kelly, the Harlem spider, who whipped Chappie Moran last week, and won the title of champion 105 pound man of America, issued a challenge last night for Kelly to fight any man in the world for a purse and from $25 to $1,000 a side at 105 pounds, give or take two pounds, and weigh in eight hours before the fight, or 108 pounds, give or take two pounds, weighing in at the ring side.

Mr. Black is a firm believer in Kelly's prowess, and will bet heavily on the outside, should a match be made with one of the bantams. Referring to Chappie Moran's request for another fight with Kelly, Mr. Black said that it was a case of first come, first served, and if Moran got around with his backing first for another match he should have first choice.

BROOKLYN.

Assistant Engineer George Ingram of the City Works Department has resigned. He held the place, which is worth $4,000 a year, for ten years.

William Warbola, on returning last night to his house, 44 Reid avenue, found his wife Mary, aged 31 years, dead on a lounge. Heart disease is supposed to have been the cause.

The police learned last night that John Jewett in a drunken rage had recently attacked his wife Catharine with a piece of wood at their house 110 Harrison street and knocked out her left eye. Mrs. Jewett refused to make a complaint against her husband or go to the hospital.

NEW JERSEY.

The Post Office of Weehawken was closed yesterday and will not be opened until Washington Weehawken will hereafter have their mail delivered to them by a letter carrier from Hoboken.

The Jersey City board of Trade will give its annual dinner to-night at Taylor's hotel. Dr. Leonard J. Gordon will preside. The principal speakers will be Gov. Leon Abbett, Mayor Cleveland, and ex-Mayor Collins.

Mark Guleskt, the bouncer in A. A. Newman's concert hall in Jersey City, was arrested yesterday accused of robbing his employer of 18,000 cigars. His rooms were searched, and in addition to a lot of cigars a quantity of whiskey, ale, porter, and a lot of soft stuff was found. It was valued at several hundred dollars. He was locked up. He will have an examination to-day.

THE SUN'S ECLIPSE.

Experiences of the Lick Observatory Party who Landed at Cayenne.

BOSTON, Feb. 4.—Two of the astronomers from the Lick Observatory in California, Profs. Burnham and Schaeberle, who journeyed to Cayenne, French Guinea, to observe the total eclipse of the sun last December, are now visiting Harvard University. Their experiences differed from those of the astronomers who visited other parts of the globe. The astronomical instruments startled the natives, and when the party landed from the steamer they were surrounded by a chattering, half-clad crowd, who guessed that the visitors were foreign invaders armed with a new-fangled sort of Gatling gun. The French fortress is a few miles from the town, and the natives are pretty familiar with weapons of warfare.

On the day of the eclipse the professors resorted to the actual use of cannon. Everybody knows that unenlightened people regard with superstitious dread any extraordinary darkening of the solar orb. Eclipses of the sun, particularly when they are total, fill their minds with forebodings of war, famine, and death. When, therefore, through the announcement of the astronomers, the common people learned that the sun was about to hide his face, they become more than ordinarily terror stricken, and imagined again that the astronomical instruments were death-dealing agencies, and that they would be used to annihilate the town during the period of the eclipse. For this reason the astronomers were careful not to expose their precious apparatus to the possibly violent curiosity of the mob. After the instruments had been fixed for the observation of the eclipse they were surrounded by small cannon, which increased the apprehension of the natives, but nevertheless kept them at a respectful distance. They were manned by convicts, who proved intelligent and faithful.

Entire success attended the scientific work of the expedition. Early on the morning of Dec. 22, the date of the eclipse, the weather was unfavorable, as it had been almost ever since the party reached Cayenne. The sky was dark and cloudy. Between the moment when the earth's shadow began to creep over the surface of the sun and the period when the sun was totally obscured there were two showers. The second rainfall, occurring only half an hour before the totality of the eclipse, was so violent that it was necessary to cover the instruments. At no time were the heavens quite clear. Still the conditions were fairly favorable to the purposes of the observation. When the photographs were taken, and these were the chief objects of the work, there was only a slight haze. Photographs were successfully made of the corona. About a dozen negatives altogether were obtained, of which four were developed with satisfactory results at the point of observation. The remainder will receive the attention of Profs. Burnham and Schaeberle when they get back to San Francisco. As yet they are unable to define the scientific results of their observations. Before doing so they will have to study carefully the negatives made at Cayenne, and also compare them with those secured from various other stations. It may be said, however, that these negatives show as much of the corona as any photographs heretofore taken. The plates used were of the most sensitive kind, made especially for this expedition, and the times of exposure were varied between wide limits. The corona observed at Cayenne very closely resembles that seen in California on Jan. 1, 1889. It is elongated at the sun's equator, but short at the poles.

WERE GRAVES ROBBED?

A Ghastly Find of Coffin Plates that Startled Bristol.

MIDDLETOWN, Conn., Feb. 4.—A mysterious affair is reported from Bristol, near the old copper mine in this State. A few days ago Mary Gilbert, housekeeper for William Sheldon, went into the woodshed, and as she shut the door the jar rattled down from a beam overhead a queer-looking package. She did not pick it up, but on the following day she pulled it open, and was horrified to find in it three coffin plates. The package also contained an old wallet and some worm-eaten papers. No name was found on the papers, and the pocketbook was so old and mouldy that it was turned up. The coffin plates were shown to a reporter yesterday. They show marks as though they had been torn from coffin lids. One was oval in shape and bore the inscription:

ALICE BROOKS,
Died October 14, 1886.
Aged 59 years and 6 months.

On the reverse side were figures which are supposed to represent the price of the plate. Another plate was rectangular, with a curved border slightly raised and was inscribed:

MARY INGALLS,
Died March 1, 1862.
Aged 65 years.

The third plate was square and flat, with curved ends, and the inscription was:

MRS. DOROTHY VATCH,
Died February 9.
Aged 75 years.

None of the plates is of much value, as all are apparently silver plated. Whence they came from and how they came where they were found Mr. Sheldon would like to find out. No one has so far been able to solve the mystery, and no one knows of the persons named on the plates. The death records in Bristol do not contain the names given in the years indicated on the plates. Mr. Sheldon erected the house where he lives some thirty years ago, and has been the sole occupant ever since. No graves have been found torn open in the local cemeteries.

A Bridge Sinks Under a Train.

PEORIA, Ill., Feb. 4.—At 6:30 P. M. last night, as the Ohio, Indiana and Western freight train No. 116 started over the iron bridge spanning the river at Bridge Junction, the first span of the bridge suddenly sank, precipitating the engine, tender, and three cars into the river. Three men were in the cab, Engineer William Neville, Fireman C. O'Brien, and Head Brakeman F. M. Lewis, all of Urbana. The fireman and the brakeman were buried under the engine in eight feet of water, and the engineer was pinned in the cab with his head just above the water, where he died.

Brave Engineer Speer.

From the Savannah News.

Engineer Speer of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad is a brave man. Engine No. 138, which he was driving with a freight train between Trenton and Summerfield, having lost a plug from its boiler, the escaping steam forced him and his fireman to leave the cab. At this instant a coupling broke between the tender and the first car. The engine started madly on a runaway, the two men clinging to the rear end of the tender. Then Speer, who knew that train No. 48, from the west, was nearly due and there would be a fearful collision, put his coat over his head, dashed through the scalding steam, and closed the throttle just in time to flag the coming No. 48.

Giving the Play a Chance.

From Life.

He—Let's go to the theatre to-night, and ask the Bragdon-Ivers to go with us. Do you think I'd better get a box?

She—Oh, no; don't get a box. What's the use of it? The Bragdon-Ivers are not very talkative, you know, and I am so hoarse I can't talk above a whisper myself.

The Police Said "No."

Jack Fallon was at Cronheim's Theatre in Hoboken last night to meet all comers. The man who stayed three rounds was to get $25. Pat Farrell, who once fought Jack McAuliffe, thought he could earn the money and put on the gloves. There were more than 100 sporting men from this city in the theatre, and they all shouted for Fallon. Farrell was lively on his feet, but he couldn't hit a hard blow.

In the first round he kept well away, but Fallon got in four or five hammerers, and at one say with a light tape in return. It was evident that Fallon would have to do more work in the second round or Farrell would get the money. After a minute's sparring Fallon led with his left and Farrell ducked to escape. Then came a clinch, and Fallon seized Farrell about the waist with his left and used his right to punch with. He refused to let go his hold at repeated calls of break, and hit Farrell probably a dozen blows, when a policeman stepped on the stage and stopped the fight.

Worthy of Their Hire.

The smallest salaried men in Government employ are Post Office Inspectors Comstock of New York, McAtee of St. Louis, and Bennett of San Francisco. They are on the pay roll at the Post Office Department for $1 a year.

SPARKS FROM THE TELEGRAPH.

Gen. Oppels will retire from the post of Governor of Metz.

Justice Churchill, before whom and a jury the Frost divorce case was tried at Owego last week, ordered a new trial yesterday on all the issues.

Arthur F. Dow, a leading merchant of Littleton, N. H., who had been missing since last September, has been found near Seattle, Washington Territory, where he is ill.

Judge Mason of the Superior Civil Court at Dedham, Mass., has rendered a decision denying the motion for a new trial in the famous Snow Alley case.

Edwin Wilder Goodell, 20 years old, second son of Gen. Arthur A. Goodell, shot himself dead yesterday at Worcester, Mass. He suffered severely from la grippe a few weeks ago, and had had die of despondency ever since.

A dispute has arisen at Woburn, Mass., on the question as to what shall constitute a day's work under the State Board of Arbitration list of prices, and about 100 men in several of the leather factories have quit work. The strike may extend to all the factories.

Highest of all in Leavening Power.—U. S. Gov't Report, Aug. 17, 1889.

Royal Baking Powder
ABSOLUTELY PURE

The Royal Baking Powder is absolutely pure, made from the most wholesome materials, and produces finer flavored, sweeter, lighter, more wholesome and delicious bread, biscuit, cake, pastry, etc., than any other baking powder or leavening agent.

Food raised by it will keep sweet, moist, fresh and palatable longer than when raised by yeast or other baking powders.

Being of greater strength than any other baking powder, it is also the most economical in use.

These great qualities warrant you, if you are not using the Royal Baking Powder, in making a trial of it.

LABOR CRISIS IN LONDON.

Bosses Unite to Combat the Tyranny of Labor Unions.

LONDON, Feb. 4.—The owners of docks, wharves, and warehouses in this city, finding the tyrannical demands of labor unions and the strikes that follow them a great detriment to their interests, have also formed a union to combat the tyranny of the laborers' unions. It is supposed that lockouts on one hand and strikes on the other will immediately follow.

CONSUL LEWIS'S DOINGS.

More Alleged Crookedness in Our Consular Service in Tangier.

TANGIER, Jan. 11.—The *Times of Morocco* to-day, under the caption of "A Plain Unvarnished Tale," says that a few days ago a poor Moor came to the editor in great distress and asked his advice. He said he had been oppressed by the Sheikh of his district, and having heard that Christian protection was to be had in Tangier at a moderate price, he went to Tangier to make inquiries. There he fell into the hands of United States Consul Lewis and two Jew usurers, and Lewis gave him a document certifying that he had become a citizen of the United States and that the treaties relating to such citizens must not be violated in his case by Moorish officials. For this document the man was to pay $85, but as he had no money the Jews advanced it, taking a mortgage on all his property.

They subsequently demanded immediate payment, though it had been stipulated that the money was to be paid in six instalments. As he could not pay, he was thrown into jail, and is now in danger of losing all his property. The *Times of Morocco* adds:

"The only thing to be done to save this unfortunate Moorish family from ruin and death for his alleged crimes is for government to settle the claim of the Jews and pay all the expenses that have been incurred in and about the matter. They had no manner of right to send a representative here, and maintain him in his position, year after year, to swindle and then imprison poor, hard-working people."

CRUELTY TO CHILDREN.

An Englishman Criticises the Doings of Mr. Gerry's Society.

From Dunlap's Cable News Company.

LONDON, Feb. 4.—John Faulkner, Secretary of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, was interviewed to-day concerning the recent action of the New York society in its treatment of children both on the street and on the stage. He said:

"The American law is much more rigid on the question of children upon the stage than it is here in England. In England we leave the decision very much to the discretion of the magistrate, with the condition that the children upon the stage must be provided with a license. If a magistrate sanctions a child going on the stage by granting a license, we do not interfere.

"I regard the English law regarding children peddling in the streets as very much superior to the American law. No child here under 10 years of age is allowed to peddle papers or matches, or any other children between 10 and 14 permitted to peddle after 10 at night and before five in the morning.

"There is one evil here I should like to reach by legislating, but I fear it is impossible—the carrying by girls of 6 and 8 years old of their baby brother or sister. It is a sight seen daily on the streets, and medical evidence proves it is frequently the cause of illness and deformity in the children who do the carrying."

Our War Ships at Toulon.

TOULON, Feb. 4.—The United States squadron of evolution, Admiral Walker commanding, arrived in the harbor to-day. The influenza on the vessels of the fleet has abated. The new cruisers worked well under steam and sail. As specimens of American shipbuilding and forerunners of the new navy of the United States, they are regarded with curiosity by naval experts.

The Yorktown was delayed at Port Mahon, Minorca, to bury Sergeant Crane, who died of influenza.

Parnell and the London Times.

LONDON, Feb. 4.—Mr. Soames, the solicitor for the *Times*, says that the *Times* will only pay ordinary costs to Mr. Parnell, and that Mr. Parnell is not released from the payment of the interlocutory costs which were awarded to the *Times*, nor from the costs of the abortive Scotch and Irish actions. He says that the statement that the *Times* proposed the compromise is inaccurate.

Shocking Scene at an Execution.

PARIS, Feb. 4.—A shocking scene took place at the execution of the murderer Durand on Monday. As usual, the convict was not informed of the hour of doom till a few minutes before the time. He screamed and fought violently, but the executioners dragged his head through the lunette of the guillotine and held it there till the axe fell.

Decided Against the United States.

COPENHAGEN, Feb. 4.—Sir E. J. Monson, British Minister to Greece, to whom as arbitrator was referred the dispute between the United States and Denmark, arising from the Butterfield claim for damages for vessels lost boar St. Thomas, West Indies, many years ago, has decided in favor of Denmark on all the points involved.

Two Big Ironclads for Russia.

LONDON, Feb. 5.—Russia has ordered two large ironclad frigates to be built in England, to be provided with the biggest engines and the heaviest Krupp guns. Four of the greatest firms in Europe estimated for the contract, but the Czar insisted that the ships should be built in England.

The Landwehr on a Peace Footing.

PESTH, Feb. 4.—In the Hungarian House of Representatives Baron Geza de Feiervary, the Minister of Military Service, introduced a bill fixing the strength of the landwehr on the peace footing of twenty-eight regiments of infantry and sixty squadrons of cavalry.

No Cabinet Crisis in France.

PARIS, Feb. 4.—The *Temps* denies that there is at present a Cabinet crisis or any material divergence of views between Ministers on measures of a critical nature. The difference that did exist between M. Constans and M. Tirard has been reconciled.

The Czar Won't Recognize New Brazil.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 4.—It is authoritatively reported that the Czar has declared that he will not recognize the Brazilian republic during the lifetime of Dom Pedro, the dethroned Emperor.

Plotting To Kill Archduke Ferdinand.

VIENNA, Feb. 4.—The papers here report the arrest of one Panitza, connected with a