REV. DR. MEREDITH'S PERIL

FLAMES DRIVE THE FAMILY OUT IN THEIR NIGHT CLOTHES.

Prompt Aid by Watchman Gallagher and Three Firemen who Happened to be Passing on Their Return from Mass—Furnace Heat Had Melted a Gas Pipe Joint.

The home of the Rev. Dr. R. R. Meredith, the pastor of the Tompkins Avenue Congregational Church, in Brooklyn, at 97 McDonough street, was injured by fire yesterday morning, and he and the other members of his household had an exceedingly narrow escape.

The house is a three-story frame structure, which the Rev. Dr. Meredith purchased four years ago and remodelled. An electric fire alarm wire connecting with the nearest American District Telegraph office at 1,458 Fulton street was one of the additions which Dr. Meredith made to the internal arrangements, but it was not owing to this precaution that Brooklyn escaped another fire sensation.

The family consists of the Rev. Dr. Meredith and his wife, their recently widowed daughter-in-law, and the three children of the latter, all under six years of age, and three servants. Young Mrs. Meredith, who slept on the second floor, was the first person up yesterday morning. She awoke a few minutes after 6 o'clock to light a gas stove and warm some milk for her baby.

There evidently was something wrong with the gas, for it went out suddenly after burning dimly for a couple of minutes. She did not, however, notice a smell of smoke, and as there was nothing to excite her suspicions that there was a fire in the house she returned to bed. Fifteen minutes later the cook, who had got up, went down stairs. As was her custom, she first went to the cellar to rake down the furnace.

On opening the door leading to the cellar she was driven back by a volume of smoke and flame, and she rushed up stairs crying "Fire! Fire!" at the top of her voice. Mrs. Meredith and her daughter-in-law and the other two servants heard her screams and jumped out of bed, but the Rev. Dr. Meredith, who occupied the back bedroom on the second floor by himself, remained sound asleep until his wife ran to his side and aroused him.

Already the smoke was pouring up from the cellar and some of it had reached Dr. Meredith's room. It was a trying moment for the imperilled family, and all felt that there was not an instant to be lost.

No one thought of clothing in the emergency, and Dr. Meredith, Mrs. Meredith, and their daughter-in-law each seizing one of the children in their arms started down stairs. Just at this instant Firemen Swaney, Hull, and Eagan, who are attached to Engine Company 14, in Herkimer street, broke in the front door, and, dashing upstairs, assisted in the rescue of the family, bringing them down stairs in the blinding smoke and through the parlor hall to the steps leading to the back yard. Blankets, cloaks, and other clothing were thrown out of the windows by the firemen, and Dr. Meredith enveloped the women and children in them while the firemen were fighting the flames.

Almost simultaneously with the escape of the family into the yard the engine from Herkimer street arrived, and in less than five minutes the two other neighboring engine companies were at the spot. It was due to the excellent judgment of Night Watchman Gallagher, employed by the American District Telegraph Company, that the firemen were able to respond with such promptness. Gallagher had been relieved from duty at 5 o'clock and was on his way home from early mass in the Church of Our Lady of Victory, when he discovered that a fire had broken out in the cellar of Dr. Meredith's house. When he was still twenty or thirty yards from the house he noticed a bright light shining through the cellar windows and saw little gusts of smoke issuing from the parlor windows. A few yards behind him were Firemen Swaney, Hull, and Eagan, who had also been at mass in the same church. He shouted to them to hurry, and when they came up on a run in response to his summons, he pointed to Dr. Meredith's house, and as they ran toward it he started to the nearest signal box and sent out an alarm.

The fire proved a troublesome one to handle at first. The flames spread from the cellar to the parlor floor and ate their way up stairs in the studding of the walls. Within twenty minutes, however, the fire was got under control, and the family were able to return to the rooms on the top floor. No damage was done to the bric-a-brac, books, or pictures, and $1,000 will cover the loss.

The exciting incident did not interfere with Dr. Meredith's Sunday programme. He preached in his accustomed manner in the morning, officiated at a funeral in the afternoon, and preached again in the evening. He made no reference to the fire in his discourses, but he received many congratulations from the members of his congregation on his escape.

It is believed the fire started by the melting of a lead pipe joint in a gas pipe near the meter by the heat of the furnace and the ignition of the escaping gas. The certainly would account for the failure of the gas stove to burn. Dr. Meredith possibly owes his life to the promptness of his wife in awaking him. At least a few minutes' delay would have been very dangerous.

THE COMING WEEK IN CONGRESS.

Speeches in the Senate and the Announcement of Committees in the House.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—The third week of the Senate will open with that body no better equipped for the transaction of business than on the day Congress first assembled, although it is more than probable that before the week is over the caucus committees will have agreed and the Senate committees will have passed into the hands of the Republicans. If the suggestions of some of the younger Senators are followed, it is not impossible that this week may find the Senate testing the strength of the two parties over the subject of the reorganization of the elective officers.

To-morrow Mr. Stewart will make his first silver speech of this session. On Thursday he introduced a resolution to direct the Finance Committee to inquire what effect the difference of exchange between gold standard and silver standard countries has upon the agricultural and manufacturing industries of the United States and report by bill or otherwise. This resolution will be the text for Mr. Stewart's first speech.

Senator Hill takes issue with Senator Cullom on his conclusions relative to the Monroe doctrine, and may address the Senate on the resolution now on the table early in the week, possibly to-morrow.

Senator White of California, who last week offered an amendment that all debate shall be relevant and confined to the subject directly before the Senate, will speak to the resolution on Tuesday. It is one of the many propositions now pending to change the rules of the Senate with a view to limiting debate.

The only thing that is expected in the House this week is the announcement of the committees by Speaker Reed, and when that is made adjournment for the holidays is anticipated. It may be that the Committees on Rules and Elections will be announced to-morrow, and in case that should be done a report from the former committee will probably be presented and discussed before the week closes. The House at present is operating under the rules of the Fifty-first Congress, and if the proposition to make two or three Committees on Elections, which has been under discussion, is to be carried out, a change in the rules to that effect must first be made. One change in the rules that is looked for in view of Speaker Reed's expressions of opinion thereon, is a reduction of the number constituting a quorum of the Committee of the Whole House from a majority of the full membership of the House. What figure will be fixed upon cannot be stated, but it is believed that it will not exceed 100, and may be considerably less. Speaker Reed is satisfied that such a change will materially aid in the dispatch of business, and be a means of inducing a more general attendance upon the sessions of the House.

Another Reading Clerk of the House.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—Robert Stockwell Hatcher of Lafayette, Ind., will to-morrow be appointed reading clerk of the House of Representatives, dividing the duties of that onerous place with ex-Lieut.-Gov. Lampson of Ohio, whose appointment was made a day or two ago. It is understood that the selection of these gentlemen has the approval of Speaker Reed, who insisted that no appointment should be made until the applicant had demonstrated his fitness and ability for the place. Mr. Hatcher served last year as reading clerk of the Indiana State Senate, and has a clear, sonorous voice. In personal appearance he resembles Gov. McKinley of Ohio.

Mrs. Lindsay Quarrels With Her Husband and Takes Poison.

Mrs. Hattie Lindsay, aged 23, of 155 Sand street, Brooklyn, had a quarrel yesterday morning with her husband, John Lindsay, which ended with his leaving the house and swearing that he would never return. Last night she attempted suicide by taking carbolic acid. It was discovered soon and she was taken to the Brooklyn Hospital. The doctors say she will recover.

Furniture Can Best Be Bought
Of Geo. C. Flint Co., 43 West 23d st.—Adv.

JERSEY'S LEGISLATIVE REFORM.

A Counsel to Advise on Bills, and Engrossers to Go.

TRENTON, Dec. 15.—Two reforms that are said to have the endorsement of Gov.-elect Griggs are to be attempted by the incoming Legislature. One is to engage a competent lawyer to act as counsel to the Legislature and the other is to do away with the Engrossing Clerks' departments of the two Houses and have the Legislature pass copies of the printed bills, which, officially authenticated by the President and Speaker, will be sent to the Governor, and after his approval be filed as the official law with the Secretary of State.

The idea of counsel to the Legislature is borrowed from New York, where a commission on legislative reform is now considering a similar proposition. It is hoped to do away with the reenacting of laws similar to those already passed; to prevent the passage of measures the unconstitutionality of which is apparent, and of others which repeal important laws that are not within the intention of the legislators. The counsel would also be expected to correct the crude bills presented by incompetent lawmakers and draft measures agreed upon by the committees of the two Houses, or when directed to do so by the Houses themselves.

The abolition of the engrossing departments, it is asserted, will save more than enough money to pay the salary of a lawyer of eminence and one who would have the confidence of the Legislature. For engrossing the bills in the two Houses it costs the State between $4,000 and $4,500 annually; besides this there is an expense of more than $1,000 for stationery and supplies, making a total of over $5,000. A part of this expense is made necessary by the practice that has grown of appointing incompetent men to positions in the engrossing department who farm out the work to men who can write, and then saddle a part of the expense on the incidental bill. But the expense is not the great objection. In recent years there have been numerous instances in which engrossed bills were intercepted between the Legislature and the Executive Department, and provisions inserted that were not in the bills when they were passed. In other cases bills have been mutilated. By doing away with the engrossing and using the printed bills, the members would have the proposed laws before them and know for what they were voting. Nowadays the presiding officer holds the engrossed copy, and if an objection is made to a provision he may be told that an amendment has been made that covers his objection, and find out when too late that he has been wilfully misinformed.

Besides these two reforms, the Governor elect is said to have a number of others in view which he will bring to the attention of the Legislature. In the mean time, Mr. Griggs is keeping away from Trenton to escape the importunities of the office seekers and the arguments of the politicians who are "agin" reform.

WASHINGTON TO THE JEWS.

The First President's Letters to the Jews of Newport.

In the souvenir book of the Hebrew fair appears a fac-simile of a letter addressed to the Jews of Newport by George Washington in 1790. The original is in the possession of Mr. Frederick Phillips of this city. It reads as follows:

"GENTLEMEN: While I receive, with much satisfaction, your address replete with expressions of affection and esteem, I rejoice in the opportunity of assuring you, that I shall always retain a grateful remembrance of the cordial welcome I experienced in my visit to Newport, from all classes of citizens.

"The reflection on the days of difficulty and danger which are past is rendered the more sweet, from a consciousness that they are succeeded by days of uncommon prosperity and security. If we have wisdom to make the best use of the advantages with which we are now favored we cannot fail, under the just administration of a good Government, to become a great and a happy people.

"The citizens of the United States of America have a right to applaud themselves for having given to mankind examples of an enlarged and liberal policy; a policy worthy of imitation. All possess alike liberty of conscience and immunities of citizenship. It is now no more that toleration is spoken of as if it was by the indulgence of one class of people that another enjoyed the exercise of their inherent natural rights. For happily the Government of the United States, which gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance, requires only that they who live under its protection should demean themselves as good citizens in giving it on all occasions their effectual support.

"It would be inconsistent with the frankness of my character not to avow that I am pleased with your favorable opinion of my Administration, and fervent wishes for my felicity. May the children of the stock of Abraham who dwell in this land continue to merit and enjoy the good will of the other inhabitants, while every one shall sit in safety under his own vine and fig tree, and there shall be none to make him afraid. May the Father of all mercies scatter light and not darkness in our path, and make us all, in our several vocations, useful here and, in his own due time and way, everlastingly happy.

"G. WASHINGTON."

It has been suggested that a copy of this letter be sent to Ahlwardt.

BIDS FOR THE NEW BATTLE SHIPS.

The Special Board Will Report in Favor of the Newport News Company.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—The Cramp Shipbuilding Company will to-morrow present final arguments in support of their plans submitted for the construction of the two battle ships, and the special Board appointed by the department to report on the propositions, having completed its work, a decision by the Secretary and an award is expected without further delay. Mr. Herbert said this evening that he would not delay a settlement of the question very long after the report is presented, and this statement is regarded as indicating that he has made up his mind not to refer the bid of the Cramps to Congress, but to authorize the construction of two vessels, and give the work either entirely to the Newport News Company or divide it with the Union Iron Works.

The Cramps' bids have been analyzed by several experts at the department who have found that their offer to build three ships for $8,000,000, the limit of cost for two allowed by Congress, is more than the Newport News Company's bids would be, at the rate they agree to construct two ships. The special Board, it is understood, will report in favor of the Newport News Company, but the influence exerted by the Pacific slope delegation has been so great that it is likely that one of the ships will go West, in order to assure support of that part of the country for navy appropriations. Naval officers are, as a rule, favorable to a division of the work on the ground that the Pacific coast will require battle ships and that it would be a saving in the long run to construct ships there, rather than to build them in the East and then send them on the long voyage around the Horn.

Commander Evans Dangerously Ill.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—Commander Robley D. Evans of the battle ship Indiana is dangerously ill at the Colonade Hotel in Philadelphia, and his friends are very much concerned about his condition. He appears to be suffering from rheumatic fever, with a complication of other diseases which are stubbornly resisting treatment, and he has grown rapidly worse during the last few days. The surgeon of the Indiana is in charge of his case, and spends almost his entire time with him, but he has in consultation several of the foremost physicians of Philadelphia. The Indiana is very nearly ready for sea, but it will be several weeks, if not months, before Commander Evans will be able to walk the deck. His tough and wiry constitution is what the doctors are depending upon now. A man of more delicate physique could not endure what he is suffering.

Railway Postal Clerk Arrested for Embezzlement.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—The Chief Inspector of the Post Office Department to-night received a telegram announcing the arrest to-day at Marshall, Tex., of W. A. Gilbert, a postal clerk on the New Orleans and Marshall Railway Post Office, for embezzling ordinary mail matter. The arrest was made by Inspectors Hamilton and Woods, and is said by Col. Wheeler to be a most important one. Much mail matter has been missed from that route, and the inspectors have been after the thief for a long time. They have a clear case, they say, against Gilbert.

DISTILLERS MUST HAVE LICENSES.

Distributing Points Not Covered by the General Permit.

OMAHA, Dec. 15.—Agent Hugahston of the Adams Express Company at Hastings was convicted yesterday in the Federal Court of selling whiskey without a license. Sentence has not been pronounced. This case will cause a revolution in methods of express companies throughout the country. The Federal law requires all persons handling spirits to have a license. Distillers save thousands of dollars annually by consigning goods direct to express companies who collect and remit. Under this ruling they will be forced to take out licenses for all distributing points, however small, and will not be permitted to depend on express companies. The case will be appealed.

BRADLEY FOR PRESIDENT.

WHY THE GOVERNOR OF KENTUCKY HAS ENTERED THE RACE.

He Thinks That a Man Who Could Win a Governorship in His State is Entitled to Consideration—Proposes to Seek Distinction as a Gold Standard Candidate.

LOUISVILLE, Dec. 15.—In the opinion of Gov. William O. Bradley his remarkable feat of converting Kentucky into a Republican State entitles him to serious consideration as Presidential timber. This ambition on the part of a man totally untried in national affairs may seem presumptuous to the country at large, but there is not the smallest doubt that Mr. Bradley is in earnest and that a campaign is to be made in his behalf. The day after his election, when newspapers and politicians were suggesting him for the second place on the ticket with McKinley or Harrison, he was disposed to accept the allotment, but his ideas have expanded since. To be the first Republican Governor in a State that has never had one before seems to him and his friends to warrant his aspirations to the Chief Magistracy of the nation. It may be that he is only putting himself in line for the Vice-Presidency, but a man who has already achieved what seemed the impossible is not likely to aim less high than the mark which all would like to hit. Intimate friends of the Governor say that he is in earnest, and although he is too sensible to announce himself openly as a candidate for the Presidency he will see to it that the lightning will have no trouble in finding him should it strike in his neighborhood.

It has been a long time since Kentucky has furnished a real candidate for the Presidency, although Mr. Carlisle has been voted for in National Conventions for twelve years. Since Justice Harlan went on the Supreme Court bench he has had the bee in his bonnet to some extent, but Gen. Ben H. Bristow, now a New Yorker, was the last to have his ambition seriously considered. After having waited this length of time it is reasoned that the State's ambitions will receive attention when presented in the person of a candidate who has just achieved so remarkable a victory as Gov. Bradley's. He is certain to be presented before the St. Louis Convention, and whether he gets any votes beyond those of Kentucky and a few scattering Southern commonwealths, he must be reckoned among the possibilities.

The new candidate is a man of great magnetism and of much ability as a politician, but his ambition is certainly looked upon as a joke in this State as yet. So, however, was his candidacy for Governor until a few months ago. It is a fact that Gov. Bradley, though far more successful and influential in his party in Kentucky for many years, has nothing like the respect accorded him that both Bristow and Harlan enjoyed. He is looked upon as a fair lawyer, but he by no means ranks at the head of the Kentucky bar, and has been known at Frankfort heretofore as a successful lobbyist during the sessions of the State Legislature. His professional practice has been good, and he has enjoyed a fair, but not a large, income. He is a poor man and has well his home at Lancaster as soon as possible, being unable to keep it up while residing at Frankfort.

Gov. Bradley does not look the typical Kentuckian. He is short-legged and fat, wears his hair and beard long, and dresses like a prosperous farmer. His eyes are slightly but smart, and are the only noticeable feature of his face. He is bluff and frank in his manners, and equally good with an anecdote on or off the stump. In fact, there are few story tellers who can equal him in entertaining a crowd. When he was only 25 he was the mouthpiece of his party for Congress against ex-Judge Milton J. Durham, who was President Cleveland's Comptroller of the Treasury during his first Administration. Young Bradley made a very active and surprisingly good canvass against the somewhat pompous Judge, and accumulated a store of anecdotes at the expense of his opponent which he has never since tired of repeating. No matter where he goes, roars of laughter begin as soon as Judge Durham's name is mentioned, and he can talk of Durham by the hour.

The Governor is fortunate in being a man of strong individuality, whose traits and appearance are easily caught and retained in the popular mind. For twenty-five years he has worn a soft white hat in all seasons and upon all occasions. He has a fancy for sack coats, and patronizes the tailors of his home town. At the urgent solicitation of Mrs. Bradley he consented to wear a frock coat at his inauguration, but he carried his old white hat in his hand.

His appearance was in decided contrast to that of the retiring Gov. John Young Brown, who is grave, dignified, and well dressed in every respect. They did not misrepresent the two parties in Kentucky—one an aristocrat by inheritance and habits, the other one of the people, and making up in aggressiveness and good humor what he lacks in polish.

As a Presidency candidate it is worth noting that Mr. Bradley, while an ardent protectionist, will probably make his race as an advocate of the gold standard. His speeches in his State campaign were decidedly hostile to silver, though he did not touch upon the question of currency reform. Ill-natured people, not all of whom are Democrats, say that Bill Bradley doesn't know the difference between a greenback and a silver certificate.

A Republican Governor is still a rare bird in Kentucky, and is followed by a much rarer assortment of followers. The number of unknown men who are aspirants to important offices is extraordinary. Gov. Bradley is responsible for the statement that there are 5,000 applicants for the twenty-two appointive offices at his disposal, and few of these men had ever been heard of before. Under Democratic administration things were different.

Pretty much everybody knew who would get the offices, and there was no indecorous scrambling for the plums. When the appointments were given out it was noticeable, too, that they seldom went to young men, being generally bestowed upon old party workers.

HER BODY FOUND IN THE SLIP.

A Drowned Woman Had Seven Cents and a Religious Image.

Herman Johnson, a member of the crew of the lighter Layden, yesterday discovered a drowned woman floating in the dock opposite Pier 3 at Prentice's Stores in Furman street, Brooklyn, and towed the body to the slip, whence it was taken to the Morgue. The woman was about 45 years old, above the medium height, and of stout build, with dark hair mixed with gray. She wore a black suit, an astrakhan cape, purple corsets, dark alpaca underskirt, white stockings, and Congress gaiters. In the pockets were a pair of eyeglasses, a silver thimble No. 8, a white handkerchief, a pocketbook containing seven cents and a little image of St. Joseph. The body had apparently been in the water only a short time. It had not been identified at a late hour last night.

OBITUARY.

Addison A. Jayne died at his home in Orange on Saturday night. He was born in Smithtown, Long Island, in 1812, and at the age of 14 removed to this city. For ten years he was in the employ of the Methodist Book Concern, and then went into the carpet business, the firm being Young & Jayne. For twenty-five years he had been the cashier of the J. B. & J. M. Cornell Iron Works. Mr. Jayne was an ardent Abolitionist. His house was one of the stations of the "underground railroad," and many refugees were cared for there. He was a member of the Methodist Church, and a Republican in politics. He retired from business in 1885. Mr. Jayne was twice married. He leaves a widow and five adult children.

Joseph C. Lindsley died on Saturday night at the home of his son-in-law, Everett Frazer, in Orange. Mr. Lindsley was born in South Orange in 1813, and when a lad left for Boston, where he entered a large boot and shoe house and became the head of the house of Lindsley, Shaw & Co., at that time the leading firm in the shoe and leather trade in Boston. He was an enthusiastic abolitionist, and his house was one of the chief stations of the famous "underground railroad." He married Miss Abigail Gibbs of Plymouth, Mass., and three children survive.

Damon Greenlief, well known throughout Florida and in New York, died last night in Jacksonville, Fla., of heart failure. He was 61 years old and a native of Brockport, N. Y. During the late war he commanded the Fourth Regiment, Arkansas volunteers, which was with Grant's army at Columbus and Vicksburg. Col. Greenlief afterward coöperated with Banks in the Red River campaign.

Patrick McCullagh, a Harlem contractor, died on Friday at his residence, 55 East 123d street. He was at one time superintendent of John Roach's shipyards. He was Vice-President of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, and Treasurer of the Holy Name Society of All Saints' R. C. Church.

Daniel W. Bless, the founder of the firm of Bless & Drake, sadiron manufacturers and foundrymen, died at his home in Newark on Saturday, aged 57. He succumbed to an attack of pneumonia. His wife survives him. He was born in Mason county, Kentucky.

William Arthur McKeighan, Populist ex-Congressman from the Fifth Nebraska district, died yesterday morning in the insane asylum at Hastings, Neb.

Miss Phœbe Lincoln, cousin of President Lincoln, died at her home in Laharpe, Ill., yesterday, at the age of 67.

Old low prices on Cowperthwait's reliable carpets do their own talking. See them, at 104 West 14th street.—Adv.

Tiffany & Co.,
Union Square.

Open Evenings until Christmas.

CAMPOS HASN'T RESIGNED.

Official Denial of the Report Sent Out from Paris.

MADRID, Dec. 15.—An official denial is made of the report published in the Paris *Figaro* that Capt.-Gen. Martinez Campos had resigned his command in Cuba.

INSURGENTS WIN A BATTLE.

Campos's Son Made a Prisoner—An Exchange Forced.

MADRID, Dec. 15.—A despatch to the *Imparcial* from Havana says that 800 insurgents surprised seventy-two Spanish troops who were foraging near Minas, between Nueltas and Puerto Principe.

The insurgents fired a volley into the Spaniards and then charged with machetes. The Spaniards made a heroic resistance, killing many of the rebels, but were themselves completely crushed.

A Lieutenant and twenty-three privates were killed, and the rest of the Spanish force, except four men, were either wounded or taken prisoners. A Spanish column has started in pursuit of the rebels.

The *Imparcial* also has a despatch from Santa Clara saying that Gen. Oliver has defeated Gomez and Maceo at Mabujina. The insurgent loss was heavy. The Spanish loss was five killed and twenty wounded.

HAVANA, Dec. 15.—A terrible combat took place on Dec. 9 at Minas, in Puerto Principe, between eighty Spanish troops, under Gruesa, and a party of rebels numbering 500 men commanded by Lopez Recio and Rodriguez.

The struggle was a sanguinary one, the rebels using machetes with terrible effect. The superior force of the enemy rendered a victory for the troops impossible.

Of the Spanish force 23 were killed, 8 wounded, 18 were taken prisoners, and 14 are missing. Among the rebels killed were Oscar Primelles, Eugenio Recio, and Angel Espinosa.

Commandante Caballeros was wounded. After the combat Lopez Recio sent the wounded troops to the Senado plantation. On the day following the fight the Spanish prisoners were set at liberty by their captors.

The son of Gen. Campos was recently captured, with sixteen other Spaniards, by the rebels under command of Capt. Rego, formerly editor of *La Discussion*, one of the leading Havana papers.

Rego disarmed his prisoners and then sent word to the authorities that exchange would be made if a detachment of troops were sent out to receive the prisoners.

"But we have no prisoners to exchange," said the chief of the detachment. When he met Rego on the open field, Rego still demanded a paper saying that an exchange of prisoners had been made, and, it being given, young Campos and the others were surrendered.

The paper will be sent to Washington and exhibited to Congress as Spain's acknowledgment of the belligerent rights of the rebels.

SPAIN'S ALLIES IN WASHINGTON.

Gen. Quesada Replies to Their Pamphlet Intended to Injure the Cuban Cause.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—In an interview to be published in the Washington *Times* to-morrow, Señor Quesada, Secretary of the Cuban Patriotic Association, answers the statements made in a pamphlet recently circulated among members of Congress and Government officials, with a view to counteracting the growing feeling of friendliness for the cause of the Cuban insurgents. Upon the matter of the reports allowed to be sent from the island of Cuba Señor Quesada says:

"We will leave the American press to defend itself of the two implied charges, duplicity or ignorance, but we cannot fail suggesting to the writer to recall that if the newspapers in this country have not been able to obtain exact news, it has been because the cable and the mail have been in the hands exclusively of and tampered with by the Spanish authorities, who would not allow any matter to go through but what was favorable to the Government.

"Did Martinez Campos give the order or not that all foreign correspondents should not go into the Cuban ranks? Were they not threatened with being shot immediately if they disobeyed? Does the writer know of the experience of every newspaper man who has refused to sell his American manhood and to dishonor his calling by falsifying reports of battles or concealing the horrible atrocities committed in the fields by the Spaniards?

"There has been no absence of 'presentment of the Spanish side;' on the contrary, every opportunity was theirs. The Spaniards will not admit a single defeat, and yet the Cubans have armed their men with Mauser rifles, used only by the Government. The Government has killed, acording to their official reports, more men already than they admit we have in the field; and how is it then we hear of transports bringing thousands of unfortunate recruits to fight for a toppling monarchy in America? Enough of such mystification. Spain never loses but the last battle, and she will lose it in Cuba.

"If the truth is not known it is Spain's fault. Let her welcome fearless and incorruptible journalists to Cuba and give them facilities. Let her ask the press of this country to name a committee of investigation, otherwise it will look as if she were afraid of the power of the American pen."

C. L. U. SNUBS GOMPERS.

It Refuses to Congratulate Him on His Reelection.

A resolution congratulating Samuel Gompers on being elected President of the American Federation of Labor over John McBride caused a storm of opposition at the meeting of the Central Labor Union yesterday. It read as follows:

"*Resolved*, That we find in the reelection of Samuel Gompers as President of the American Federation of Labor a reason for special gratification, because it indicates a vigorous and timely resistance to the crafty tactics of those Socialists who unwisely insist upon the disruption of trade unions as the condition precedent to their coöperative commonwealth."

A delegate got up and declared that the passage of such a resolution would be preposterous.

"What do we want to get into a conflict with the Socialists for?" he said. This resolution would be like waving a red rag before a mad bull."

"Well, let the bull come on," said Delegate Edwards of the Hexagon Labor Club. "We're not afraid of the Socialists."

An amendment was proposed to the effect that the reference to the Socialists be stricken out. Then a substitute for the whole was proposed in the form of a motion that the Secretary should send a congratulatory letter to Gompers. The substitute was put and lost. It was then decided, as the amendment was the same in intent as the substitute, to put the original motion. The original motion was lost. A division was called for, and it was lost again. The friends of Gompers were not satisfied. They demanded a roll call. The roster of each union was called and the motion was lost a third time.

"DR. DARKHORST" ON THE STAGE.

Newark Christians Protest Against a Travesty Upon Reform.

The Christian Citizenship Union of Newark made a protest on Saturday against the performance of "Dr. Darkhorst," advertised to take place in the Krueger Auditorium last night. They applied to the police to stop the performance. A large audience gathered in the Auditorium, the curtain went up, and the play went on to a finish without interference. It was given in German, and Adolph Phillip is credited with the authorship. The principal character is a ministerial-looking old gentleman who bore a slight resemblance to a well-known reformer. The play was lively, and the audience seemed to enjoy the mishaps of *Dr. Darkhorst*.

Death Came as He Slept.

When John Hagan of 571 Kent avenue, Williamsburgh, got home on Saturday evening he told his wife he was sick. She advised him to lie down on a lounge while she prepared some broth. When she finished it and went to the lounge to give it to him, she found him asleep. He was breathing regularly.

She waited until nearly midnight. Then she shook him, but he didn't move. She could not hear him breathe, and she called in some neighbors. It was then found that he was dead. It is thought that he was stricken with apoplexy. He was a laborer, 53 years old.

HANNA BESIEGING PLATT.

SEEMS TO THINK THAT IRONCLAD COMPACT MENACES M'KINLEY.

The Ohioan's Advance Agent Put in Four Solid Hours Last Night with the Tioga Chieftain—Got Little Encouragement—Morton's New York's Candidate, You See.

Over a month ago THE SUN printed the story of the ironclad compact entered into by Quay of Pennsylvania, Platt of New York, Clarkson of Iowa, Fessenden of Connecticut, Hobart of New Jersey, and their friends in the Eastern, Middle, and far Western States to control the nomination for President in the next Republican National Convention. It was explained then that this compact is not directed against any candidate, Reed, McKinley, Allison, Morton, Harrison, or Cushman K. Davis. The "combine's" purpose, as explained in THE SUN at the time, was that no candidate should be selected, who, if elected, would keep up the practice of making the Cabinet officers mere clerks.

Republicans of national renown talked this matter over at the Brunswick Hotel dinner a month ago, and they continued the discussion in the Arlington Hotel in Washington during the sessions of the Republican National Committee last week, when St. Louis was selected as the Convention city. Very many people have an erroneous impression about this ironclad compact. As was just said, it is not directed against any candidate. The Hon. Mark Hanna of Cleveland, Gov. McKinley's warmest friend, seems to think that it is. He has had four sessions with Mr. Platt in the last three days. Last night Mr. Hanna spent four hours with Mr. Platt in the Tioga chieftain's private rooms in the Fifth Avenue Hotel. The conference between these two Republicans did not end until just before midnight.

THE SUN told yesterday morning how Mayor Strong attempted to negotiate with Platt in the effort to nominate Corporation Counsel Francis M. Scott to be one of the three candidates for the Supreme Court bench on the mongrel ticket, and that Platt rejected Strong's overtures. More of the story was told last night at the Fifth Avenue Hotel. It was to the effect that Strong's messengers to Platt promised that if Scott could be got rid of, Strong would name any man to succeed Scott as corporation counsel that Platt might select.

Recurring to the interview of Mr. Hanna with Mr. Platt last night, it may be said that Mr. Hanna received little or no encouragement for McKinley in New York State. Mr. Platt and all his friends are for Gov. Morton. That is the stereotyped reply to Hanna and to all others who consult Mr. Platt.

Since the visit of President Edward Lauterbach of the Republican County Committee to Ellenville last week, the word has been passed around to the engineers, oilers, fixers, and feeders of the party machine in this county that Gov. Morton is to be considered a candidate, and that only tried and true friends of the Governor must be chosen as delegates from this city to the National Convention. To instruct them, the machinists say, every delegate must be in thorough sympathy with the State and county machine, and particularly must not have been tainted with the suspicion of having favored the nomination of some other candidate. Every effort will accordingly be made by the machine men to capture the Congress district Conventions which will be held in February or March, and all that the county organization will do during the next two months may be considered as directed toward that end. There will, for instance, be some amendments to the constitution of the organization, making the basis of representation in conventions the vote cast for Republican candidates instead of an inflated enrollment. The district which at present seems in greatest danger of capture by anti-machine men is the Ninth, where John J. Collins and John Simpson, between them, seem to control the delegates to the Congress Convention.

The Platt outfit, from present indications, will have seventy out of the seventy-two delegates from New York State in the Presidential Convention. You may figure it any way you please, but in the end these figures will be pretty near correct. After looking it all over, the Hon. Mark Hanna of Cleveland, after his interview with Platt last night, said:

"Out."

HEDGES-MILHOLLAND FIGHT.

Neither Likely to Lay Out the Lauterbachers in the Twenty-fifth.

A queer contest is going on among the Republicans of the Twenty-fifth Assembly district. It is a struggle for the leadership of the minority faction. For several months the State Club in East Twenty-second street has been the headquarters from which have been sent out the orders to collect the anti-Platt Republicans of the district under the leadership of John E. Milholland. Mayor's Secretary Hedges has been the Brookfield leader there. He conducted all the factional fights in the district until this last one at the recent primaries, when Cornelius N. Bliss took the job off his hands. Mr. Bliss enlisted John E. Milholland as his aide and directed the campaign. The result was that the Lauterbach men won in the district by a vote of nearly 2 to 1.

The reason Mr. Bliss took the saddle, it is asserted, is that Mr. Hedges is considered not to be an ultra anti-Platt man; that he is not a Republican who believes that the Republican party in the State will be saved from the demolition bowwows only when Platt is set aside as leader. So, Mr. Bliss is said to have asked Mr. Milholland for leader in the Twenty-fifth and to be helping him in every way to secure the leadership. Mr. Milholland has not been backward about helping himself, and has been working like a beaver in the departments to get places for his constituents. His last accomplishment in this direction was to secure a $1,600 place in the Fire Department for Robert C. Breckenridge, one of the best of the fighting Republicans of the district.

Although the Mayor's Secretary had no part in the primaries many of his friends were elected delegates to the Assembly District Convention, and they do not propose to join with Mr. Milholland just to fight Platt. They propose to hold a caucus at the Blaine Club tonight to nominate candidates for delegates to the County Committee. The Milholland men, whose slogan is "Down with Platt," will caucus at the Hotel Bartholdi, and the Platt-Lauterbach men, who are said to have a majority of the delegates elected, will get together at the Chimney Corner, Sixth avenue and Twenty-fifth street.

The struggle is to determine whether the friends of Hedges or those of Milholland shall receive the most votes. The Hedges men cannot be prevailed on to vote for Milholland, who is said to be a candidate for delegate to the County Committee.

DEMOCRATS IN DANGER.

Republicans Want the Clerkships in the New Court in Brooklyn.

On Jan. 1 the new County Court will take the place of the old Court of Sessions in Brooklyn. It will be presided over by Judge Hurd (Dem.) and Judge Aspinall (Rep.). The present twenty-one employees of the Court of Sessions, whose salaries range from $1,200 to $3,500, are all Democrats, and there is a plan to displace most of them. County Clerk Saffen, who is a partisan Republican, contends that he will be the head of the new County Court, and have the power of appointing all the clerks. To clear up any doubt there may be in the matter, a bill will be presented at Albany early in the session to clothe him with such power.

Advises a Longer Term for Mayor.

Mayor Schieren of Brooklyn is of opinion that the public service would be benefited by extending the term of Mayor from two to four years, and making him ineligible for a second term. "This," he said, "would place the Mayor in a proper attitude before the people. He could be more independent in his actions, and would not be obliged to curry favor for his party or political friends."

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Chain Purses
Boxes for Sweets
Thermometers

A MOTHER FINDS HER BOY IN JAIL.

The Parents Had Separated and the Son Is Under Sentence for Theft.

A woman who gave her name as Maggie Johnson and who said she lived at 81 Forty-third street, South Brooklyn, called at the county jail, in Jersey City, yesterday to see John W. Corcoran, a boy of 15