THIS WEEK ON THE STAGE.

NEW AND OLD DRAMATIC MATTER IN GREAT ABUNDANCE.

"A Woman's Reason" at the Empire Theatre. "The Countess Gucki" at Daly's. "Burmah" at the American, and "Gentleman Joe" at the Bijou —All the Plays and Vaudevilles.

A new play is ready at the Empire for to-morrow night. It is "A Woman's Reason," the joint work of Charles Brookfield and F. C. Phillips, and it is brought from London, where it has done well. The theme is an elopement. A wife does not love her worthy husband, runs away with a former suitor, is unhappy in her sin, returns repentant, and is forgiven. That is the conventional story of the piece. But there is said to be excellent characterization, novelty of incident, and other merits to impart interest. The husband, a Hebrew, is to be played by Henry Miller, and the erring Christian wife by Viola Allen, while May Robson will figure as the sporting daughter of a clergyman, Edgar Davenport as a gentleman about town, J. E. Dodson as a curate, and W. H. Crompton as a financially embarrassed lord. Five others complete the cast.

The new play which has been in preparation at Daly's will be performed on Tuesday night. It is entitled "The Countess Gucki," and it has been derived from the German, further than which hardly anything is yet known of it outside the theatre. The understanding is, however, that the principal rôle is expected to prove suitable to Ada Rehan, who has not been fortunate in her recent assignments, and that she will find a full opportunity to employ her talents effectually again. If that be so, the large following of the favorite actress will rejoice. The subject of the piece is German in every respect, no attempt to "adapt" the work having been made. We shall get it in the form of a plain translation. Mr. Lewis and Mrs. Gilbert are in the cast and Charles Richman is a recruit.

A drama of love and war is "Burmah," which we shall see at the American on Tuesday night. It comes from the Drury Lane, where it was the spectacular production of a whole year. It has for its biggest sight a realistic representation of a battle between British troops and Burmese in a jungle. The vividness and completeness of the scenes of warfare, introducing many soldiers and much paraphernalia, astonished London, and it is promised that the American's stage shall be filled with the same things. Another act is placed in one of those big and resplendent London music halls to which all sorts of people resort. A third is in the fine chapel of St. George. The story so heavily illustrated seems to be of the kind usually told in melodramas of the same class. James E. Wilson, Henrietta Crossman, Dore Davidson, Max Figman, Eugene Ormonde, Minnie Dupree, and seven others are in the speaking cast, and they have had practice during a run of the play in Boston.

A fresh start will be made at the Bijou with "Gentleman Joe" on Thursday night. The unfortunate production of this burlesque at another theatre, with the chief part played by a substitute for the actor whom legal process forbade to appear in it, may have created a prejudice against the piece itself, notwithstanding its London success. But to estimate it before it is performed at the Bijou is surely unfair. James T. Powers will have the rôle which in London is played by Arthur Roberts. A company has been organized especially for the Bijou, a full set of scenery and costumes has been made, and no doubt "Gentleman Joe" will have a good chance to triumph, if it deserves to. It is a musical and farcical affair, similar in general design to the other semi-vaudeville entertainments which have been imported from England.

Among the changed bills of the week, those of Sarah Bernhardt give revivals of plays in which the genius of the great French actress has already been demonstrated in this city. She will appear three times in "Camille," twice in "Adrienne Lecouvreur," and twice in "Fedora." Her rôles in these pieces exhibit some of the best phases of her art.

Kathryn Kidder is still the heroine of this Napoleonic drama by Sardou, as she was during the first American season of it in Broadway, and Augustus Cooke is retained for his impersonation of "the man of destiny." The notable outfit of scenery and costumes is still handsomely in evidence.

The Star goes under the management of Walter Sanford, who will make Monday changes of play, after the manner of what are called "combination houses," and at lowered prices. The first bill is "Shaun Rhue," with Joseph Murphy once more as the brave and brawny Irish blacksmith, who sings and woos in a well-liked fashion. Mr. Murphy has been long absent from his New York following, and to them he will be welcomed back.

One of the recent English melodramas which have become popularly known in this city is "In Sight of St. Paul's," in which a particularly fine view of the interior of the famous London Cathedral is given with a dramatic purpose. The play is of a kind with its general class, and yet is new in many of its elements, and these have proved interesting and amusing. It is at the Columbus this week.

The black and white minstrelsy and vaudeville of Primrose & West go to the Grand Opera House. Here is an entertainment combining old-fashioned negroism and modern varieties in quantities and proportions which have been found to appeal most effectually to the taste in that direction, and to best satisfy the demand. Some of the names in the company indicate performers of good ability in their respective lines.

The layout of German plays at the Irving Place gives the first half of the week to "She Gets a Kiss," the farce already performed there. A new serious drama by Richard Nordmann, entitled "The Superfluous Ones," will be acted on Thursday, with what would seem to be a very excellent cast. Revivals of "Romeo and Juliet" and "Faust" further diversify a busy week for the Irving's genuine old-style stock company.

Now Brooklyn gets "The Fatal Card" at the Columbia at the hands of one of the Frohman organizations. This is the drama containing the sensational episode of a destructive explosion at the climax and much of really better material in the earlier portions. The second act is one of the best in modern London melodrama, with its representation of an unpremeditated murder of a banker by thieves.

Different from an ordinary play is "Down on the Suwanee River," which is offered to the Bowery at the People's. It consists of representations of negro life by negroes, beginning with the capture of an African tribe, enslavement in America, and final enfranchisement. The promise is that, besides a lot of plantation singing and dancing, there will be impressive illustrations of African savagery and American episodes.

A storm with electrical effects is a principal spectacle in "Shaft Number Two," a melodrama of life in the mines, and one which has already been accepted by congenial audiences on both sides of the town. Now it goes to Sanford's in Third avenue for a week. A big, manly miner and a little, maidenly sweetheart are the coupled figures in the adventurous love story, which runs roughly before it finally reaches happiness.

The unchanged bills are rippled here and there by incidents. For instance, "The Sporting Duchess" will celebrate John H. Stoddart on Thursday night, the sixty-third anniversary of his start on the stage. His comrades in the play will, after the regular performance is over, present a loving cup to him. There will be a gathering of managers and actors, and A. M. Palmer will make the address.

William H. Crane has had a crowded and notably fashionable audience at every performance of "The Governor of Kentucky" at the Fifth Avenue. Alterations intended to remove faults and increase merits have been made and Mr. Crane and his company pass into a second week with their rôles in the new play made definite in both matter and manner. The beautiful scenic mounting represents much money artistically expended.

The engagement of John Drew will necessarily end in two weeks at Palmer's, and so the duration of "The Squire of Dames" will be shorter than the merits and success of the new play would warrant. John Drew has found a congenial rôle in this Dumas piece. His control of other folks' love affairs and his mismanagement of his own provide comedy on an artistic level, and of the sort which he handles effectively always.

There has been a postponement of the revival of "The Prisoner of Zenda" at the Lyceum, and a prolongation of the term of "The Benefit of the Doubt," which play of Pinero's is most agreeably enacted by the stock company. Miss Irving's tipsy scene is an adroitly dainty treatment of a dangerous subject, and the audiences enjoy it hugely. Sidney Woollett's recitations are current morning entertainments of an artistic nature at the Lyceum.

Nobody knows how long "A Black Sheep" will gambol on the stage at Hoyt's. That it is there for the remainder of the season now seems certain. It is the same combination of vividly comic characters and vaudeville specialties which made popular successes of "A Trip to Chinatown" and "A Milk White Flag," and there is no apparent reason why it may not last equally long at the author's own theatre.

The Belasco war drama, "The Heart of Maryland," with its effectual blend of sentimental and sanguinary scenes, lasts well at the Herald Square, and as yet gives no sign of ceasing. A business feature of the management this week will be the running of special cable cars from points of suburban connection to transport excursionists. And the bell still swings with Mrs. Carter pendant from its silenced tongue.

There is fun in "The Strange Adventures of Miss Brown" at the Standard, and a lasting quality, too, if we are to judge by the prolongation of that farce's term in town. "It is a play that will not bear logical scrutiny," the management says, "and it was not written as a literary effort, but solely for laughter. Judged from that standpoint, it must be considered a success." No time is announced for an end of it.

One week remains to Stuart Robson at the Garrick and it will be devoted to repetitions of "Mrs. Ponderbury's Past," the Englished French farce in which the always divertingly droll comedian makes merry with the rôle of a husband who strays away from his wife. Next week the Rolland brothers will return to this theatre with "A Social Highwayman," which had to be sent away long before it was worn out.

This is the final week of "The Wizard of the Nile" at the Casino. It has had a good success there. The next Casino thing will be the production of "The Lady Slavey," for which ample preparation seems to have been made for a full duplicate of the London performances. It is a burlesque long current in the British capital, but it will be given here by an almost altogether American company and with new scenery and costumes.

A new negro song by Fay Templeton, who wrote the one with the refrain, "I want yo', mah honey," is promised in "Excelsior." That American burlesque is likely to occupy the stage of the Olympia Theatre the rest of the season, as it has been put into the entertaining condition required of such shows of handsome women and comical men, all of whom are permitted to utilize the best talents that are in them.

Chauncey Olcott continues "Mavourneen" for the second week of his engagement at the Fourteenth Street. That is the Irish drama in which the late Mr. Scanlan was immensely popular at the time when a fatal illness retired him from the stage, and in which Mr. Olcott became his successor, singing the Scanlan songs successfully from the outset, and eventually becoming sufficiently proficient as an Irish comedian.

For only a few weeks longer that excellent example of English musical comedy, "An Artist's Model," at the Broadway, will be repeated by the Edwardes company. The feminine beauties and masculine grotesqueries of this entertainment have made it rise high in the esteem of those who hanker after such entertainment. Col. Robert G. Ingersoll will lecture at the Broadway to-night on "Shakespeare."

The transfer of "Chimmie Fadden" from reading matter to acted matter was a risky experiment which turned out well, partly because it was adroitly handled in making a play out of it, and partly because the public was ready to welcome the witty Bowery boy at sight, if only he proved amusing. Mr. Hopper has been fortunate, too, in having Mrs. Bates and Mr. Nash for companions in realizations of Mr. Townsend's creations.

A novelty in the variety shows will be the musical comedietta, "Criss Cross," which will come to-morrow at Keith's Union Square. It is written by J. J. McNally, an author of successful variety farces, and employs John Mason and Marion Manola. One specialty by strangers is also in the bill, and is done by the Mathias brothers, comical contortionists. The Johnson troupe and Delia Rocca hold over, Hewlett's marionettes are newly added, and among the remaining ones are Bernice Nata, the Vaidis sisters, Harker and Levy, Mlle. Olive, the Edisons, the Fitzgibbon trio, Billy Mack, McCarthy and Reynolds, and Cook and Clinton.

Startling feats are promised at Proctor's Pleasure Palace from Ella Zulla and Luiu, who will ride a bicycle across a wire stretched over the auditorium. The chief vocalists are Lilly Post and Sisterretta Jones, the leading fun makers are Haines and Pettingill and John W. Ransone, and, besides the Lockhart elephants, there are the Pantzers, Bonnie Thornton, De Veaux and Archer, the Abbott sisters, Mabel Russell, Gertrude Mansfield, Daisy Mayer, the Downiles, the Mosers, Monroe and Melrose, and the gypsy trio.

The Donatos, one-legged clowns, and the Anders are newcomers to Proctor's Twenty-third Street. The list also takes in Mlle. Pilar-Morin in pantomime, Charles Lifflon, Mason and Titus, Allertus, George Thacher, Lydia Dreams, the Beaumont sisters, Mlle. Fraserty, Valley Egan, Fisher and Mason, Mat Fromm, and Alonzo Hatch. Both Proctor theatres have concerts to-day.

Pastor's is the latest theatre to adopt ten-hour programmes. For this week it employs Gyorl Dalivka, her first appearance here; Tony Pastor, Pearl Andrews, Matthews and Bulger, the King sisters, Murphy and Kursale, Kitty Mitchell, Weston and Beasley, C. W. Littlefield, Maud Harvey, Lawrence and Harrington, Ben R. Harvey, and Allen and West.

With the music halls three hours of specialties make up the programme. At the Olympia a conspicuous entertainer is Fanny Wentworth, with a monologue that cleverly imitates amateur entertainers. Her companions include Virginia Arnold, wire walker; the Avolos, boyish horizontal bar performers; P. Castor Watt, whose nine changes of costume are made in full view; Sadie Alfarabi, an equilibrist; the Leamy sisters, with midair gymnastics; the Elliots, trick bicyclists; the Jees, who get music out of bricks and horseshoes that confuses the listeners' ideas of close harmony; Carl Hertz and the Kurachins.

A Parisian balladist appears at Koster & Bial's on Monday evening. She is Marthe Marthy, and gives imitations of animals and odd characters as well. La Roche, the gentleman who so shrinks from public notice that he keeps inside a big ball while he rolls it around, is continued, as are living pictures, Martinetti's pantomime troupe, Paul Cinquevalli, the Fagos, the Marlo-Dunham trio, Rosie Rendel, and Woodward's seals.

The Imperial puts forward Elena Leila, an imitator of Ellen Beach Yaw. She is experienced in grand opera and should prove an unusual vocalist for vaudeville. The medium for the display of her powers is a musical sketch entitled "The Singing Doll." Other contributors are the Diannes brothers, Ed. Lateil, the Romalo brothers, Faroum and Seymour, Eleanor Falk, and the burlesque, "The Prisoner of Sunday," in renewed version. A concert is offered at the Imperial this evening.

At Miner's Eighth Avenue the specialists for the week are led by Weber and Fields, two comical imitators of eccentric Germans, Gray and Conway, Lew Hawkins, Bonnie Lottie, Gus Hill, and Leslie's trained dogs are employed at Miner's Bowery.

An equestrian baboon and some trick ponies in care of Prof. Felix constitute the novelty at Huber's Fourteenth Street Museum. The gentleman with a mouth large enough to take in a six-inch saucer, a rooster band, a jackknife queen, and a strong man are also on the list. The farce by Charles Faye, entitled "The Black Detective," moves over to Huber's Eighth Avenue, and the west side is a-throb. A pie-eating contest and a bearded woman are conspicuous among the additions.

Keeney's band and the wax display are the two features of diversion at the Eden Musée.

RENTING VIOLINS.

Instruments Hired by Amateurs, by Students, and by Professional Players.

Violins are among musical instruments that are rented. They are hired by visitors to the city, by students, and by professional players. The visitor may be a professional player—he is more likely to be an amateur—perhaps from Europe or some other distant part of the world, who has brought no instrument with him, and now has occasion to play at the house of friends whom he is visiting. He can hire an instrument for any length of time he may desire.

Students of music and beginners who may not want to invest in a good violin until they know whether they will follow music sometimes hire a violin; if they finally purchase it the rent is allowed as a part of the purchase money. Professional players sometimes hire a fine instrument with the understanding that the rent shall apply upon the purchase. The rent of a violin depends of course upon its value. For $2.50 a month one gets an instrument valued at $50; for $15 a month, an instrument valued at $600 to $1,000.

BLOWING FOR CROSSINGS.

Not Alone in the Open Country, but in the Crowded City, Too.

The locomotive is not the only engine that blows for crossings, the steam fire engine blows right here in the city. Here, for instance, is an alarm from a box down town, east of Broadway. Here comes an engine up Cedar street from the west, whistle going, "Whee-eet! wheet! wheet! whee-ee!" blowing for Broadway crossing.

Every driver and every gripman understands the signal, and every man holds up short, with the natural but striking result that at this point for the moment the roar of Broadway ceases. There is left a space narrow but well-defined and ample, and up and over rushes the steam fire engine, with the hose wagon following after.

Then the gap is closed, and the traffic moves on with its accustomed sound, and the people move along as before, except for those that are drawn down Cedar street after the receding engine, as into a vortex.

Confidential Information.

From the Chicago Daily Tribune.

The overworked bank cashier who was in need of a vacation had written to the agent of a steamship line to this effect:

"I am thinking of taking a trip to Central or Southern America. Please acquaint me with particulars relative to rates of fare, &c., to and from the various ports usually visited by tourists at this season of the year."

The answer came by telegraph:

"[Private and confidential.] One of our steamships will leave for Honduras next Wednesday. Shortest and quickest way out of the country."

POEMS WORTH READING.

Jameson's Unfortunate Ride.

With apologies to Alf Austin, P. L.

I.

Wrong! Is it wrong? Well, may be;
But we'll try it, boys, all the same.
Do they think we will stand like a baby
With a gold mine just over the plain?
They may argue, with good reason for it,
Go tell them they argue in vain.
As for reason, we English abhor it,
When gold is at stake in the game.

II.

Let lawyers and statesmen addle
Their pates over right and law;
But all that we care is to straddle
That gold mine and fill up our maw.
When men of our own blood are toiling,
And all that they get they must earn,
Our English blood heats high to boiling,
And order and reason we spurn.

III.

So we forded and galloped forward,
Those Dutchmen to bulldose and bluff,
But the rascals stood trenched on the nor'ward,
And handled us devilish rough.
When we came on the burghers lying
In a hollow with hills behind,
They thrashed us and sent us flying;
A reception both hot and unkind.

IV.

I suppose we were wrong, were madmen,
And long we'll remember that day,
But now we are wiser men, sad men,
And haven't got much to say.
We were wrong, dead wrong, in that foray,
But were Englishmen, full of vain pride,
And now we are awfully sorry
For Jameson's unfortunate ride.

ROBERT S. SUTLIFFE.

Don't Lean Out of Plumb.

Did you ever observe in your rambles about
The political scenes of the day,
How often reformers engender a doubt
By their overpunctilious way?
Their censorship always reminds me of those
Who beneath my inspection have come,
Attempting to strike a magnificent pose,
Have o'erdone it to lean out of plumb.

They lean too far back, and in fact become bent,
Most foolish the posture they take;
And instead of expressing their upright intent
They lead you to fear they may break.
They wish you to feel that they're honest and wise
And not at all crooked or dumb,
Yet there they will stand with their eyes to the skies
And unconsciously lean out of plumb.

In trade or religion, in politics, too,
If our rectitude we would disclose,
Stand modestly forth to the popular view
And don't try to strut or to pose.
For oftimes our eagerness may be too great,
At least it has happened to some,
And our efforts to tower in matters of state
Dwarf all chance as we lean out of plumb.

HARRY O. DOWD.

On the Campagna.

From the Saturday Evening Gazette.

Stop on the Appian Way,
In the Roman Campagna;
Stop at my tomb,
The tomb of Cecilia Metella.
To-day as you see it,
Alaric saw it ages ago.
When he with his pale-visaged Goths
Sat at the gates of Rome,
Reading his Runic shield,
Odin, thy curse remains!

Beneath these battlements
My bones were stirred with Roman pride,
Though centuries before my Romans died,
Now my bones are dust; the Goths are dust;
The river bed is dry where sleeps the king.
My tomb remains!

When Rome commanded the earth
Great were the Metelli;
I was Metella's wife;
I loved him, and I died.
Then with slow patience built he this memorial;
Each century marks his love.

Pass by on the Appian Way
The tomb of Cecilia Metella:
Wild shepherds alone seek its shelter,
Wild buffaloes trample at its base.
Deep is its desolation,
Deep as the shadow of Rome!

ELIZABETH STODDARD.

Susan Simpson.

From the Boston Globe.

Sudden swallows swiftly skimming,
Sunset's slowly spreading shade,
Silvery songsters sweetly singing
Summer's soothing serenade.

Susan Simpson strolled sedately,
Stifling sobs, suppressing sighs.
Seeing Stephen Slocum stately,
Stopped she, showing some surprise.

"Say," said Stephen, "sweetest sigher,
Say, shall Stephen spouseless stay?"
Susan, seeming some what shyer,
Showed submissiveness straightway.

Summer's season slowly stretches,
Susan Simpson Slocum she:
So she signed some simple sketches,
Soul sought soul successfully.

Six Septembers Susan sweltered
Six sharp seasons snow supplied;
Susan's satin sofa shelters
Six small Slocums size by size.

An Actor's Proposal.

From the New York Clipper.

At this stage, dearest, let me speak;
You are my better part!
A life engagement, sweet, with you
Would satisfy my heart!

I'd study so to please your whims,
Un-wife of love I'd be
To serve in all that you might prompt
While seasons wandered by.

Oh, you would be my manager,
For better or for worse;
And what I'd sacrifice for you
I need not rehearse.

Each act of mine would please, I kn
No curtain lectures loud
Would make a spectacle of me,
Or life's play overcloud.

A good, far-seeing wife you'd be—
Who play the rôle are few—
To imitate your prudence, love,
At once I'd take the cue.

Your under-study, I'd be proud
To serve while life should last;
And you would never more complain
If I were in the cast.

The scenes might shift from well-to-do,
And poverty be mine;
But well I know that cheerfulness
Would still be in your line.

I sue to you, my bright soubrette,
Let naught your love debar:
But say that you'll accept and sign
To be my heart's fair star!

MONROE H. ROSENFELD.

Jingo Reflections.

If a man was goin' to reason from the way these
Mugwumps howl,
He'd suppose 'twas worse than treason just to cause
an English scowl;
It's their nature to take water; teachin'd never
change their notes;
You can't make a hog a trotter just by feedin' him
on oats.

Maybe I can't run a college, but my head ain't got so
dense
That I'm thinkin' patent knowledge's better stuff
than common sense:
'Spose our forts would be but trifles, now that Eng-
land's grown so strong,
What's a lot of ships and rifles got to do with right or
wrong?

Don't this nation suffer danger when a sister nation's
smitten?
Is this country, then, a stranger to a higher law than's
written?
What checked England's plan to crush us in the
gloom of civil fray?
Them big, blackened hulls of Russia's, lyin' sullen
down the bay.

Shall we, then, be quick to varnish all these scars;
not heed this call?
Let the nation's honor tarnish lest a gambler's stock
should fall?
Right is right, and sophists' prattle can't excuse us if
we shirk.
Better chance the ills of battle than prove faithless in
our work.

Why should we with fear be pliant? Who like Eng-
land understands
What 'twould mean to rouse that giant sleepin' in the
Western lands!
What cares she for such poor winnin's as the first few
days might send,
When, through all these proud beginnin's, she beholds
the awful end:

Sees again this mighty nation rise superior to the
hour,
Hand and brain and inspiration joined to forge re-
sistless power;
Sees that power her vessels banish from the ocean's
myriad ways,
Sees her naval glory vanish in the cannon's fearful
haze,

Sees her empire rent asunder, sees our meteor flag
once more,
Hears again the Yankee thunder o'er the English
Channel roar?
Sees—but no, she'll close the shutter, take a perch that's
somewhat lower,
And she'll sort of sadly mutter: "Ah, we've been there
twice before,
And we don't want nothin' more."

S. G. F.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

Where was Belle Isle located, the Confederate prison for prisoners of war? J. F. R.

Belle Isle is an island in the James River opposite Richmond. The famous Tredegar Iron Works occupy a part of the island; during the war the rest of it was used as a prison for Federal officers prisoners of war.

Please give the words of the hymn "Adeste Fideles," and the name of the author. G. W. R.

The hymn is ascribed to St. Bonaventura; but it probably is not by him, for it is not in any edition of his known works. It dates from the seventeenth or eighteenth century, and is of French or German origin, though it has been ascribed to a certain John Reading, whose name, however, is not among the names of accepted hymn writers. The hymn is as follows:

Adeste fideles
Laeti triumphantes;
Ven te, venite in Bethlehem;
Natum videte
Regem angelorum;
Venite adoremus Dominum.

Deum de Deo;
Lumen de Lumine,
Gestant puellæ viscera
Deum verum
Genitum non factum
Venite adoremus Dominum.

En grege relicto
Humiles ad cunas,
Vocati pastores approperant.
Et nos ovant!
Gradu festinemus;
Venite adoremus Dominum.

Stella duce, Magi
Christum adorantes
Aurum, thus et myrrhum dant munera.
Jesu infante
Corda præbeamus
Venite adoremus Dominum.

Æterni parentis
Splendorum æternum
Velatum sub carne videbimus.
Deum infantem
Pannis involutum
Venite adoremus Dominum.

Pro nobis egenum
Et feno cubantem
Pis foveamus amplexibus:
Sic nos amantem
Quis non redameret?
Venite adoremus Dominum.

Cantet nunc hymnos
Chorus angelorum;
Cantet nunc aula cœlestium,
Gloria
In excelsis Deo!
Venite adoremus Dominum.

Ergo Qui natus
Die hodierna
Jesu Tibi sit gloria.
Patris æterni
Verbum caro factum:
Venite adoremus Dominum.

If Arkansas is pronounced Arkahn-sah, why is not Kansas pronounced Kahn-sah? LITTLE TOPEKA.

We presume that the proper pronunciation is Kahn-sah. The pronunciation Arkahn-sah for Arkansas was given by an act of the Arkansas Legislature; probably an act of the Kansas Legislature would be required to effect "Kahn-sah."

Please give me a brief history of the British regiment known as the "Black Watch." C. D.

The Black Watch, formerly the Forty-second Regiment of Foot and now the Royal Highland Regiment in the British army, dates from about 1729. In that year six independent companies of Highlanders were raised to keep order in the Highlands. They were principally Campbells, and a dark tartan was devised for them, from which they obtained the name "Am Freicaedan Dubh," the Black Watch. In 1739 four companies were added, and the ten companies were brought to the Birks of Aberfeldy, near Taybridge, where they remained for nearly three years. In 1743 the Government wanted to send them to Flanders, but their enlistment did not require them to serve out of Scotland. The Government then enticed the Highlanders up to London, telling them that the King was anxious to see a Highland regiment. They paraded before Gen. Wade in London on May 14, 1743; and then learned that the King had gone to Hanover that very day. That night the men determined to march back to the Highlands, and eluding their officers, they started off, led by Corporals Malcolm and Samuel McPherson and Private Farquhar Shaw. They were overtaken at Oundle in Northamptonshire, and surrendered on promise of fair treatment. The three leaders were court martialled and shot; 200 hundred others were sent to serve in other regiments at Gibraltar, Minorca, Jamaica, and Georgia, the remainder were sent to Flanders. The Black Watch (then the 43d Foot) fought at Fontenoy. In 1749 its title was changed to the 42d Foot. In 1756 it was at Albany, and in 1758 was at the storming of Ticonderoga. A second battalion was raised, and both battalions were in this colony from 1759 to 1762; in this latter year they were at the capture of Havana. This regiment got back to Scotland in 1775, after an absence of thirty-two years. From 1776 to 1782 the regiment fought in this country and got back to Scotland in 1789. Thereafter it fought in Holland, Egypt, Portugal, Spain; at Quatre Bras and Waterloo, and got back to Scotland in 1816. It was at the battle of the Alma and the siege of Sebastopol; served from 1857 to 1868 in India (during the mutiny at Lucknow), in the Ashanti war of 1873, in Egypt and the Soudan from 1882 to 1888, and is now in Cape Colony. When the numerical designations were abolished in the early 80s, the Forty-second Foot became the Royal Highlanders; but after its campaign in Egypt the name of Black Watch was restored to it.

I have noticed in your paper the frequent use of the word "chortle," which from its context I took to mean "to chuckle" or "to glorify in secret." To-day, in looking it up for better understanding, I find that it is not given in the Standard Dictionary, nor can I think whence it is derived, except from the Greek "choros," which, however, means "to dance." Knowing how careful you are in the use of our commanding and conquering English language, I write to ask information as to the meaning and derivation of the word. E. N. C.

The word "chortle" is found in that well of English undefiled, "Through the Looking glass, and What Alice Found There," written by the eminent clergyman, geometrician, poet, philologist, and philosopher, Charles Dodgson, sometimes known as Lewis Carroll. The word occurs for the first time in the poem "Jabberwocky." The hero, having slain the Jabberwock, returns to his parent, who greets him thus:

"'And hast thou slain the Jabberwock?
Come to my arms, my beamish boy!
Calloo, callay! 'O, frabjious day,'
He chortled in his joy."

"Chortled" is a portmanteau word, composed of the words "chuckled" and "snorted;" these, used by a person of absolutely impartial mind, who did not care which he spoke first, become "chortled" very naturally, though we admit that they might have become "snuckled." A portmanteau word, it should be noticed, has two meanings packed in it. *Ubi Supra*, chap. vi.

When Recorder Smyth imposed a fine of $200 on Mr. Goff for contempt of court, was there any way of his (Goff's) appealing from the judgment? The writer, who is not a lawyer, but who was and is a great admirer of Judge Smyth, maintains that the action of the Court was subject to review, and that Mr. Goff, not having appealed, tacitly admitted the justice of the fine. Was not Mr. Jerome fined at the same time? My recollection of the affair is that he apologized to the Court, who then remitted the fine. In fine, was there, in 1893, any statute limiting the extent of a Judge's discretionary powers in disciplining any attorney for alleged contempt of court? G. D. V.

There was no appeal from the Recorder's judgment. Every Judge has the power to punish for contempt of court, committed against him in his presence. It is a matter lying wholly within his discretion. Contempt not committed in the presence of the Court is punishable differently. Mr. Jerome apologized, and was not fined.

Can you tell me the facts of Archbishop Hughes's connection with the "draft riots"? Did Secretary Stanton telegraph "Hughes" that he would be personally held responsible for the riots? Also, was the Vatican ever suspected of influencing Northern dissensions, especially the draft riots, during the civil war, and was Rome considered a silent ally of the Confederacy? W. J. B.

Archbishop Hughes had no other connection with the draft riot than that of any reputable New Yorker; he tried his best to stop it. He invited the Roman Catholics, "who are now called in many of the papers rioters," to come to his house in their full strength on July 17. About 4,000 came, and the Archbishop asked them to "stop these proceedings and support the laws, of which none have been enacted against you as Irish and Catholics." We don't believe Stanton did anything of the kind. The Vatican was never suspected of influencing Northern dissensions. Rome was not an ally of the Confederacy.

1. What kind of implements are used to catch whales, seals, and other large and vigorous sea animals? 2. Can you refer me to any book devoted to this work? 3. Is there any New York or Philadelphia or Boston company engaged in this business? 4. How much money is invested in the business of catching whales, porpoises, seals, &c., by Americans? J. W. H.

1. In whaling, harpoons thrown by hand, harpoons fired from a gun especially made, lances with explosive heads, which take the place of harpoons, and lances with which to kill the whales struck by the ordinary harpoons, are used. In sealing, lances are used at sea (guns are forbidden); on land the selected victims are clubbed to death. 2. There is no recent book on the subject. The Treasury Department in 1889 published "Fur Seals and Fisheries of Alaska;" "The Fishery Report" for 1887 gives details of the whale fisheries. 3. Some New Bedford firms still send out whaling ships; no such vessels hail from New York or Philadelphia; a few vessels may come from Boston. 4. In 1889, the year on which the census of 1890 is based, the capital invested in the whale and seal fisheries was $2,081,636; 101 vessels were employed, and 3,513 persons. The principal sealing company now is the North American Trading and Transportation Company.

Thomas F. D.—You'd better drop poetry.

John T. Murray—Rangoon is in Burmah, at the mouth of the Irrawaddy River.

J. Bosier, Jr.—The standard gallon in use in this State contains 231 cubic inches.

POLITICAL NOTES.

Ex-Alderman Keohan is the lowest bidder for the Custom House carting contract. He is backed by James W. Boyle.

The assessed value of the Westchester county territory annexed to New York last year was $7,071,481; this year it is $16,896,025—more than double.

The Populists have selected July 22 as the date and St. Louis as the place for holding their National Convention this year—the same convention city as the Republicans have chosen. The claims of Chicago, Dallas, Tex., and Kansas City were considered by the Populist National Committee. The date of the Convention is eighteen days later than that of the Populist Convention held in 1892. In 1876, 1880, and 1884 there were Greenback party Conventions; in 1888 there were two Labor party Conventions. In 1892 the Populists absorbed the Greenback and Labor men.

From the very latest reports at hand the delegates from the Southern States to the St. Louis Republican Convention will be pretty evenly divided in their preferences between Reed and McKinley; the Eastern delegates between Morton and Reed, and the Western delegates between McKinley and Allison. A two-thirds majority is not necessary to nominate in a Republican Convention.

The report of William Plimley, Commissioner of Jurors, for the first quarter of his tenure in office, is at hand. The facts shown by it are not altogether encouraging. The gross fines imposed on absentee or delinquent jurors during this period were $118,000, but the amount actually received was $495. There is a provision of law that the fees of the Commissioner of Jurors shall be turned over to the Chamberlain and applied toward the reduction of the city debt, and with this provision of law Major Plimley seems to have complied by turning over as his fees for the quarter reported the sum of 20 cents. The expenses of the Commissioner of Jurors' department for collecting $495.20 fines and fees during the quarter covered by Plimley's report were $8,426.54.

The John Simpson Association will hold its ball at Everett Hall on Friday, Feb. 21. The Reception Committee, on the card of invitation declares, reserves "the right to reject all objectionable persons." And eject them, too, if necessary, see?

These are the sources of revenue of the sinking fund for this year: Market rents and fees, $285,000; market cellar rent, $5,000; licenses, hackney coaches, pawnbrokers, junk dealers, second dealers, $90,000; dock and slip rent, $2,000,000; street vaults, $100,000; revenue from city investments, $2,300,000; interest on deposits, $75,000; assessment, $75,000; railroad franchises, $250,000; surplus revenues of interest fund, $1,500,000; Brooklyn Bridge (profit), $150,000; miscellaneous, $70,000.

The total receipts of the State Treasury for corporation taxes in 1895 exceeded $2,000,000; in 1894 they were $1,796,000. The cash balance in the State Treasury on Jan. 1 was in excess of $1,000,000.

Maryland is a State in which the possession of a euphonious name is not always a prerequisite to political success. In the Third Congressional district in the Terrapin State, including nine wards of the city of Baltimore, the rival candidates at the last election were Mr. Booze, Republican; Mr. Rusk, Democrat, and Mr. Cluck, Prohibitionist. A candidate who has figured actively in the Senatorial caucus of the Republicans in Maryland is Mr. Mudd. When Isidor Rayner was last elected to Congress his two opponents were Spates, Republican, and Spamer, Prohibitionist. In the Congressional contest of 1890 Mr. Stump and Mr. Gluck were rival candidates, and at the same election for local Councilmen Mr. Brandy was defeated in the Sixteenth ward, and the three candidates in the Eighteenth ward were Mr. Spindler, Mr. Axt, and Mr. Metz. One of the leaders of the Prohibition party in Talbot county is John Jump and the former Chairman of the Prohibition party in Maryland was Mr. Silk. Among the prominent Republicans in Maryland are Mr. Shuck, Mr. Snook, Mr. Nock, Mr. Belt, Mr. Trax, and Mr. Tuck.

The vote in the Seventeenth Assembly district, in which there is a vacancy through the death of the elected member, Mr. Kerrigan, whose successor will be chosen at a special election, was as follows last year: Democratic, 3,863; Republican, 2,081; Socialist, 204, and Prohibitionist, 22.

Though New York State has never had the naming of a Republican candidate for President in a National Convention, the nomination for Vice-President went to New York in 1876, 1880, 1888, and 1892.

The date fixed for the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, July 7, is later than is the rule in the matter, and indicates a shorter canvass. The Democratic National Convention in 1868 met on July 4, in 1876 on June 27, in 1880 on June 23, in 1888 on June 6, and in 1892 on June 21. The two exceptions were in 1872 and 1884. In the former year nominations for the Democratic party had been made in advance by the Liberal Republican Convention, which assembled in Cincinnati on May 1, and in the latter year the date of the Chicago Convention, which nominated Cleveland and Hendricks, was set for July 11. This year the Democratic Convention follows the Republican by exactly three weeks.

The claim is made by some Republicans that Mr. Dingley, the Republican leader on the floor of the House of Representatives and Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, is a statesman destitute of humor, which certainly his Republican colleague from Maine, Thomas B. Reed, is not. Mr. Dingley is said to take a serious and sedate view of all public questions. It was a marked absence of any sense of humorous appreciation which contributed more, perhaps, than any other cause to make turbulent, unsatisfactory, and unpopular the Administration of Andrew Johnson as President of the United States.

The number of liquor saloons in the State of Ohio, notwithstanding the provisions of the Ohio Dow law, so called, was 15,817 at the end of 1895, more than the total of any State in the Union, with the two exceptions of New York and Illinois. As a measure for diminishing the number of saloons the Dow law in Ohio has not proved to be a success. This law, which some rural Republicans in New York desire to imitate, was introduced into the Ohio Legislature by a gentleman named Dow, who was no relation to the more celebrated temperance reformer, the Hon. Neal Dow of Maine. Neal Dow was the candidate of the Prohibition party for President in 1880, and secured in that contest 10,000 votes, of which (such appears to be the ingratitude of States) only 93 were cast in Maine and 2,616 in Ohio.

Of 1,771 breweries in the United States, 289 are in New York, 251 in Pennsylvania, 174 in Wisconsin, 122 in California, and 100 in Illinois. These are the States which have no breweries: Arkansas, Florida, Maine, Mississippi, North Carolina, Vermont, and Wyoming.

Charles A. Fischer, as assignee of William E. Demarest of the Cromwellian Board of Aldermen, has filed with the Comptroller a claim for $54,000 for salaries.

There are now eleven district courts in New York city for the disposal of the constantly increasing volume of business. The number of district courts is practically the same as it was twenty years ago. In 1874 a new district court (the Tenth) was established with jurisdiction over the annexed district joined to New York in that year, and in 1884 the former Seventh Judicial, or Yorkville district, was subdivided by the establishment of the Eleventh District Court on Eighth avenue. A bill is now pending in Albany to increase the number of district courts in New York from eleven to thirteen, the two additional Judges to be elected in November.

Foreign Notes of Real Interest.

Death is dead. He was four times Mayor of Cambridge, England.

Charles Dickens's faithful servant, Ann Cornelius, who was the first person named in his will, has just died at Peckham.

"Shamus O'Brien," a new opera by Prof. Villiers Stanford, is to be brought out soon in London by Sir Augustus Harris.

Hugh Miller, son of the author of "The Old Red Sandstone," died recently in Scotland at the age of 45. He had been for many years employed on the geological survey of Scotland.

By a vote of 47 to 10 the fellows of the Royal College of Surgeons have agreed to give diplomas to women; the council of the college must pass on the vote, however, before it can go into effect.

The North Sea-Baltic Canal has stood the test of the first hard frost better than was expected. While navigation was completely stopped in the neighboring firths, sailing vessels passed through the canal without any impediment.

Charlotte Brontë