TO AMEND THE RUM BILL.

A SUPPLEMENTAL BILL INTRODUCED IN THE ASSEMBLY.

It Reduces the License for the Sale of Ale and Beer to One-half the Regular Rate—Its Passage Depends on the Attitude of the Republican State Machine.

ALBANY, March 20.—The supplemental bill to amend the Raines bill, by authorizing the issue of special licenses for the sale of ale and beer alone, was introduced in the Assembly to-day by Mr. Bondy of Syracuse. It was not expected to make its appearance until the Raines bill had become a law, but Mr. Bondy was so certain that Gov. Morton would sign the Raines bill that he labelled his bill "An act to amend chapter —— of the laws of 1895," and dropped it in the box.

The supplemental bill is drawn on the lines heretofore suggested, and fixes the rates for special licenses at one-half the regular rate, except in the smallest places, where the minimum is $100. It also makes the presence of spirituous liquors upon the premises of a saloon conducted under the reduced license evidence of intent to violate the law, and provides that a revocation of the license and all the other pains and penalties named in the Raines bill shall follow.

The passage or failure of the bill will depend almost entirely upon the attitude of the Republican State machine, which is as yet undetermined. Senator Raines has declared that he will oppose any attempt to modify his masterpiece in any respect. Many of the other leaders in the Legislature, however, are disposed to favor the concession to the Germans and the brewing interests, and to regard it as a good political move for the party to make.

As has been pointed out in these despatches, there are enough Republican Senators who have at all times urged this amendment to the Raines bill to put it through with the aid of the Democratic votes. If they fail to do so, it will be because they have been called down by the State machine. In the Assembly the sentiment in favor of the change is believed to be still stronger, and it is said that Gov. Morton would gladly sign the supplemental bill if it passes both Houses.

Senators enough to pass bills were not present to-day, and the Senate went on to transact routine business. A number of unimportant bills were advanced in general orders to third reading.

Senator Higgins announced that on Wednesday next, at 8:45, a special train for members of the Legislature would leave New York city for Albany, arriving at 11:45. Senator Higgins added, "At the usual rate of fare."

The following bills were reported favorably in the Senate:

Senator Sullivan's, requiring railroads in New York city to carry firemen and policemen free, and giving these officers the use of telephones and telegraph lines free.

Senator Burns's, authorizing the appointment of a Commission to hear claims for work done and materials furnished on the new Croton Aqueduct.

Senator Brush's, authorizing the appointment of a Deputy Auditor in Brooklyn.

Also authorizing the appointment on June 1, 1896, of a Commissioner of Jurors, at a salary $5,000 a year, for a term of six years, for Kings county.

Also authorizing Brooklyn to borrow $26,000 to pay debts of the forms town of Gravesend.

Also relative to the transfer of unexpended balances of Brooklyn departments.

Also authorizing Brooklyn to borrow money to pay debts of the former towns of New Utrecht.

Also authorizing Brooklyn to appropriate $10,000 for the use of the Civil Service Commission.

The substitute New York School bill.

Bills introduced in the Senate:

Senator Sheppard's, authorizing the sale of ale or beer on the premises of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Home at Bath, the proceeds to go to the library and reading fund of the home.

Senator Mullin's, providing that delegates to political conventions shall be elected prior to the publication of the regular call for such convention.

Senator Coggeshall's, providing that American cheese shall be furnished prisoners and members of the National Guard while on duty at the State camp at Peekskill as a part of their food rations.

Senator Wray's, incorporating the American Title Insurance and Trust Company with a capital of $500,000, which may be increased to $2,000,000, with David Nettleton, Alex. Van Cott, Ernest G. C. Hay, John K. Erskine, Jr., and G. W. Scott as incorporators.

The following bills were reported favorably in the Assembly:

Mr. Kelly's, authorizing Albany to incur an expense to remove Union College to Albany.

Senator Guy's, establishing a public park in the Twenty third ward of New York city; also, providing for an addition to the building in Crotona Park, New York city, at an expense of $100,000.

Mr. Austin's, authorizing New York city to issue $9,000,000 gold school bonds; also, that the Sergeants of police in New York city be selected from patrolmen assigned as Detective Sergeants; also, authorizing the New York city Commissioner of Public Works to expend $1,000,000 for additional water mains.

Mr. Butts's, establishing Rose Hill place in the Twenty-fourth ward, New York city.

Mr. Austin's, providing that the new East River bridge may be located between Pier 57, near Broome street, and Pier 59, near Delancey street, on the New York side; also, providing for the establishment of a police signal system in New York city at an expense of $250,000.

Mr. Higbie's, for improving the Wallabout Market lands in Brooklyn.

Mr. Marshall's, increasing to $160,000 the amount to be spent on Brooklyn City Hall.

Mr. Forrester's, providing for the appointment of three Commissioners of Records in Kings county; also, creating a Board of Physicians and Surgeons for Brooklyn and abolishing the Brooklyn Department of Surgeons.

The following bills were passed in the Assembly:

Mr. Armstrong's, fixing the salary of the attendants of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court.

Senator Burns's, authorizing Yonkers to use the proceeds of certain bonds issued for the purpose of erecting public buildings.

Mr. Scherer's, appropriating $400,000 to continue work upon the Capitol.

Mr. Coughlin's, providing that the Railroad Commission may modify rules established as to rate of speed of surface cars which have been established by local authorities.

Mr. Hughes's, amending chapter 19 of the Code of Civil Procedure so far as it relates to the courts of Justices of the Peace of Brooklyn.

Mr. Corrigan's, allowing savings banks to invest eighty-five instead of sixty per cent. of deposits in unincumbered real estate.

Mr. French's, compelling Fire Commissioners in New York city to hold open competitive examinations for positions in the fire service.

Mr. Andrews's, authorizing the Board of Education of New York to select a principal and vice-principal of schools.

Bills introduced in the Assembly:

Mr. Storm's, providing that assessors in towns of Queens county shall receive $1,200 salary.

Mr. Armstrong's, providing for the issuance of licenses to honorably discharged soldiers and sailors for hawking and peddling.

Mr. Corrigan's, providing for a Commissioner at a salary of $5,000, who shall have full charge of all the gas lighting in New York city and be appointed by the Governor. He is to have full charge of inspecting gas meters. The expense of his office is to be borne by the gas companies.

Mr. Austin's, the New York City Rapid Transit law amendments.

MRS. RUNNETT'S DEATH.

Anonymous Letters About It Sent to Hoeber May Result in an Arrest.

Coroner Hoeber appeared in the Yorkville Police Court yesterday afternoon as a witness in a hearing before Magistrate Flammer, which, at the request of Lawyer J. Aspinwall Hodge, was held behind closed doors. The hearing was to determine whether or not a warrant should be issued for the arrest of a certain person suspected of having written anonymous letters concerning the death of Mrs. Nettie Runnett, whose body was found in the area of Albert A. Nellis, a real estate agent of 251 West Seventy-sixth street. Mr. Nellis was arrested in January on the charge of having caused her death, but was declared innocent by a Coroner's jury.

Ever since the case closed Coroner Hoeber has been in receipt of typewritten letters referring to some of the persons concerned. It is said that the hearing yesterday was to determine whether sufficient evidence could be obtained to connect a person with the handwriting which appeared as witnesses at the hearing were three women, one of whom is a typewriter and stenographer. The other witness beside Coroner Hoeber was Dr. E. Parmly Brown of Fifty-second street and Seventh avenue. Ex-Surrogate Ransom was also present at the hearing because, so he informed Magistrate Flammer, he had reason to believe that one of his clients might ultimately be mixed up in the affair. Lawyer Hodge appeared in behalf of the person who desires to bring charges against the writer of the anonymous letters.

After remaining closeted for nearly an hour with Chief Court Stenographer Nugent, the witnesses left the Court House, the hearing having been adjourned until a future date by Magistrate Flammer.

EAST SIDE PARK SITES.

Citizens' Committee of Five Divided—Another Hearing Next Friday.

There is a divergence of opinion among the Citizens' Committee of Five, appointed by Mayor Strong to suggest a site for the proposed new park on the east side in the district south of Fourth street, east of the Bowery, and north of Catharine street. The majority of the committee have reported in favor of the two blocks bounded by Houston, Stanton, Pitt, and Sheriff streets. Chairman John B. Devins says a park here would wipe out Bone alley in Willett street and a number of slum tenements.

Dr. Kimber, who makes the minority report, says that the blocks bounded by Stanton, Rivington, Norfolk, and Clinton streets would, in his opinion, be a better site, being in the heart of a more thickly populated district. Besides, he contends that the residents of the district suggested by the majority are near Corlears Hook Park and Tompkins Park, while the others have no breathing space at all. His site is more expensive than the other, however. There will be a hearing in the matter before the Board of Street Opening at the Mayor's office at 11 o'clock next Friday morning.

THE "WORLD" TO THE RESCUE

When a Kindred Spirit Like This Falls Into the Hands of the Police.

A pupil of the Pulitzer academy of crime recognizing a kindred spirit in Harry E. Hissong, whom the police had arrested on suspicion as a pal of Paul Lorrimer, alias Lorraine, induced Magistrate Brann on Thursday to parole the prisoner and proceeded to publish three columns about the "outrage" of his arrest. This described him as a "prominent Ohio boy snitched by police, kept in a cell forty hours on no charge, and photographed as a rogue."

On Saturday last Capt. O'Brien's men made a raid at 211 West Thirty-first street on a flat occupied by Lorrimer or Lorraine. There they found a great lot of stolen goods. There were tools and materials stolen from a dentist named Wilcox, a typewriter stolen from Albert Turner of 30 East Fourteenth street, and a lot of celluloid bows and strips stolen on Feb. 19 from 19 East Fifteenth street. When Lorrimer was arrested he said the stolen goods had been brought to his place by Hissong. He had in his pockets a number of letters from Hissong. When Hissong was arrested later letters were found in his pockets from Lorrimer. One of these related to a way in which Lorrimer was proposing to sell the stolen celluloid bows. These are about 1½ inches long, made of ¼ inch strips of celluloid, and held together with a common pin, which is then bent over to form a stick pin. The letter regarding them is as follows:

NEW YORK, 3, 7, '96.

MY DEAR FRIEND HARRY: I will send you full particulars. I have a couple of hundred thousand of those leap year knots. I want you to advertise in the different papers in your neighborhood in which you think people will BITE). The circular I send you I have in printed form. It is sent to those that send for particulars. THEN THEY BITE. Advertise like this:

"GIRLS and BOYS send for the LEAP YEAR KNOT. Infinite enjoyment for both sexes. Send for a set of them. Enclose ten cents in silver to cover expenses. Address"—to me if you are coming to New York; if not, tell them to mention which paper they saw the ad in, and you will get the royalty. YOUR ROYALTY will be about $600 per day.

However advertise and send me the clippings. You can AD to your own taste. You know best how to catch the FARMERS in your town. I send you a set of the Knots. I have every color there is. I hope you will understand this thoroughly. I expect to make $25 a day soon. The more you ad, the more there is in it. So do your work well or dont do it at all.

Yours truly PETE

Paul C Lorrimer

Hissong's letters to Lorrimer are not printable because of their references to women as a means of support, but these are extracts:

"I got a letter from Nolan the other day and I was so glad to hear from him it seemed like I was in old N. Y. again, and I wish I was. I have several swell girls who are dead crazy to go, but I am a little leary of bringing them there as they might not be up to time and then I would be in a hell of a fix and then I would have to dump them, and I would not want to do that, you know. But I may bring a couple at that. If I can get the one I am after now I will come sure, for this one is a winner. She is an old rounder and game as any you ever see. She has a fellow on her staff that has all kind of coin and she don't like him at all and I am trying to get her to get a bunch of his coin and then to the city we go, and I think she will do it, for she is in love with me, as the other day I was down to Toledo to see her and I got broke and I didn't get a thing of her only $50, and she said I didn't have to worry myself about paying it back, as there were plenty more where that came from. Well, I guess she is there—how about it?

"Well, I wish you were going to be here next week, as there will be more fun here than on the Bowery as there is going to be a big street fair. I am going to get a piece of the dough, too, as I have one of the slickest side men with me that you ever heard of, and he is capable of getting the green at any stage.

"I had a chance to go to Atlanta, Ga., last week, but I did not like the game. I was to work on the outside of the green board and stood all the chance of getting my head punched at all times, and you know that I always did like fighting. I tell you its bad on the eyes and hard on the complexion.

"What is Al doing now? Still working the street fake, or has he dropped into something else since I left these parts? I only wish I was back again. I bet I would get a job at something. What is Devine doing now—and what does Nolan do? I bet the same old gang is still together on 14th street. Well here is one of the gang that wishes himself back good and hard.

"Pete, I will be in N. Y. some time in December sure, that is if I have a job or not, as I have a little fake that I want to see the place, and I will make him stand the expense, and I will have the ladies go on ahead, and then I will have you be there to meet them and locate them some place till I get rid of this fellow who is coming with me.

"Well, Send the Sunday *World*.

"Next time you are down in Chinatown I wish you would get me a dollar's worth of dope [opium].

"Well, what's the prospect of my getting a female? I wish you would cop one out for me, as I want to stay in the city, and you know it costs like hell."

Hissong, the *World* informs its readers, has an income of $5,000 a year, and is sole heir to a fortune of $250,000. His picture has been printed in the *World* already, and he has demanded of Capt. O'Brien that it shall not be put in the Rogues' Gallery.

TRANS-HARLEM FRANCHISE BIDS.

Justice Beekman Refuses to Mandamus the Comptroller—The 100 Per Cent. Bid Good.

With inferences which the Court drew from the fabulous bidding last October for the railroad franchises above the Harlem, Justice Beekman of the Supreme Court yesterday dismissed the action of the Southern Boulevard Railroad Company for an injunction to restrain the Comptroller from proceeding with the bidding and to compel the Comptroller to award the franchises to the plaintiff company on its bid of 3½ per cent. of the gross receipts. The People's Traction Company's motion to compel the Comptroller to award it the franchises on its bid of 100 per cent. of the gross receipts, came nearer success, but went by the board because the city was not made a party to the action.

These franchises were for the operation of railroads on twenty and a half miles of streets in the Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth wards. The People's Traction Company had obtained the consent of the Common Council to its use of these streets, but the franchises had to be sold at auction "to the bidder who will agree to give to the city the largest percentage of the gross receipts per annum." The sale came off on Oct. 9, 1895. The Southern Boulevard Railroad Company, which with the North New York City Traction Company is said to be a creature of the old "Huckleberry" railroad, stopped when its bid had risen 3½ per cent. The People's Traction Company and the North New York City Traction Company ran against each other up to 39 per cent. and a fraction, which was bid by the latter company, and then the People's Traction Company jumped to 97 per cent. for the first five years and 95 per cent. thereafter, which, with the statutory tax of 3 per cent. for the first five years and 5 per cent. thereafter, made the bid exactly the whole of the gross receipts. The People's Traction Company contended that this was the highest bid that the law allowed. The bidding between these two companies, however, went merrily forward until 6.975 and 1-10th per cent. was bid. Further proceedings were stopped by a temporary injunction. The Judge says the plaintiff's case fails because it did not make the highest legitimate bid.

"Within the limits of the gross receipts," says the Judge further, "the bidding is free and unrestricted by the statute, and it therefore cannot be said that a bid of the entire gross receipts is without statutory sanction. In fact, it would be impossible for either the Comptroller or the court to assume to define a limit inside of the maximum of the statute beyond which no bidding should go."

Any bid above the gross receipts he intimates would be illegal. This leaves the Comptroller, with an illegal bid in his hands and the 100 per cent. bid declared legal, to cipher out for himself what to do about it.

A 13-YEAR-OLD POISONER.

Gertrude Taylor Confesses that She Tried to Kill the Taylor Family.

ST. JOSEPH, March 20.—Gertrude Taylor, the thirteen-year-old daughter of Dillon B. Taylor of Craig, Mo., yesterday confessed to the poisoning of her parents and brothers and sisters on March 10. It was ascertained that she had bought the poison, and when confronted yesterday with all the circumstantial evidence against her she broke down. She hated her brother's wife bitterly, she said, and sought satisfaction.

Robert Taylor, the brother, has died, and four members of the family, including the father, are recovering, but slowly, from the effects of the poison. Gertrude Taylor was arrested yesterday, and had her preliminary hearing. Her bond was fixed at $1,000, which was given.

The Taylor family is one of the best in Craig, and the grandparents of the girl on the mother's side are rich. They say they will do all in their power to save Gertrude from the penitentiary.

Mr. Carlisle to Speak to Chicago's Laboring People.

CHICAGO, March 20.—Secretary Carlisle will deliver a non-partisan address before the laboring people of Chicago on April 15. The Secretary was originally invited to speak here last fall, but official engagements prevented his acceptance. The invitation was sent by Henry S. Robbins, President of the Honest Money League of Illinois, in response to the request of representatives of all the chief local trade unions.

THE CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM.

GOV. MORTON URGES THE NECESSITY FOR REFORM.

In a Special Message to the Legislature He Appeals for the Passage of the Pavey Bill, Which Abolishes the Trustees.

ALBANY, March 20.—Gov. Morton to-day sent the following special message to the Legislature:

"*To the Legislature:*

"For a number of years there has been a strong and constantly growing sentiment in the city of New York in favor of a reform in the public school system of that city. It has been conceded by all persons who are familiar with the subject that the laws relating thereto were in need of revision. While there have been frequent amendments, the general scheme has remained unchanged, though it was adopted when practically the whole city lay below Fourteenth street, and the upper portion was a sparsely settled and almost rural community. The law divides the responsibility for the educational system between the Board of Education (appointed by the Mayor from the city at large) and twenty-four local Boards of School Trustees (appointed by the Board of Education from each of the wards in the city), the trustees being charged with the employment of teachers.

"The plan was not an unusual one in the cities of the State at the time of its adoption, but has long since been discarded by the other cities, while, strange to say, it is retained in the metropolis, to the needs and conditions of which it is more illy adapted than perhaps to any community. The attention of the Legislature has for several years been called to the subject, but for one reason and another no practical results have been achieved. The people of our first city are entitled to primacy in the great bulwark of our institutions, the common school. A subject so close to the citizen as the education of his children demands the patriotic and elevated consideration of the lawmaking power.

"A comprehensive bill covering the administration of the public schools in the city of New York has been introduced, retaining, with somewhat limited powers, the trustees; another bill proposing nothing new for the system, except the abolition of the trustees, has been offered. The Senate Committee on Cities, having these bills in charge, has reported to that House a bill containing the provisions of the first mentioned bill, but abolishing the trustees and investing their powers and duties in the Board of Education.

"The committee bill has met with general approbation, including the earnest support of the metropolitan press, of a large number of thoughtful women and men, and of educators whose experience and qualifications make their judgment valuable. No opposition, as far as I am aware, has developed except that offered by persons directly or indirectly connected with the present system.

"The existing law is antiquated and wholly inadequate. The division of duty leads to confusion and uncertainty in administration, and renders it difficult to fix responsibility. It is respectfully suggested that any measure that retains the present system, must fail of accomplishing the ends desired.

"I appeal to the Legislature to promptly enact a law abolishing the trustee system and making enlightened provision for the efficient government of the public schools on lines in keeping with the most approved methods and modern thought on this vital question. The importance of this subject and the advanced stage of the session constrain me to communicate my views in this manner to the Legislature.

"LEVI P. MORTON."

When the message was read in the Assembly it was ordered tabled and printed without debate. A discussion followed its reading in the Senate, but it was finally tabled and ordered printed.

"This is rather an unusual document," said Senator Cantor, when the message had been read. "I suggest that the Cities Committee and the school boards of ladies who are interested themselves so much in this matter go to see the Governor and have him frame the bill he desires. Perhaps the Governor has the right to send in a message on legislation, but to send in a message declaring what a bill should be is trespassing on the prerogatives of the lower House."

Senator Lexow (interrupting)—Is the Senator debating the Governor's message?

Senator Cantor—The message is before the Senate.

Senator Lexow—I move that the message lie on the table. There is nothing before the Senate.

Senator Cantor—I have the floor. The Governor has no right to suggest just what bills should be passed. The Legislature has to determine the measures to be passed and their provisions. When the bills reach the Governor he may ask that they be recalled for amendment or he may exercise his privilege of veto. It is thought to coerce the Legislature. Not only is the message not fair to the Legislature, but is unwarranted and impertinent.

Senator Stranahan—I am amazed at the remarks of the Senator from the Twenty-fifth (Antoy), knowing the usual fine sense of propriety. I am amazed at his criticism of the Executive. Had the Senator reflected before he spoke he would never have openly made the criticism. Like action has often been taken by Governors of the State. Precedents and practice have given the authority and control to the action. I know of many instances of the Executive sending in messages suggesting the enactment of specific legislation.

Senator Cantor—Give us an instance.

Senator Stranahan—Gov. Hill sent in a message suggesting specific World's Fair legislation, and also intimated that the legislation outlined in his message would be approved by him.

Senator Cantor—The Legislature was deadlocked on that measure then. The measure was a vitally important one.

Senator Stranahan—No more vitally important than this measure concerning the schools of New York city. I move that the message lie on the table and be printed.

The motion to table was adopted without further debate or objection.

The Pavey bill, which the Governor advocates, was reported favorably this morning by the Senate Cities Committee.

BROADWAY RAILROAD EXTENSIONS

Unconditional Consent by the Aldermen—Raines Bill Talk at the Board.

There was some Raines bill talk at the meeting of the Aldermen yesterday. Alderman Goodman offered a resolution condemning the bill and urging the Governor to veto it. The resolution was passed unanimously, the Republicans not knowing what they voted for. As soon as it had been passed Alderman Olcott asked unanimous consent for a reconsideration. This was granted.

Mr. Olcott then said he was in favor of the bill, but understood that a supplementary bill was now ready for presentation to the Legislature, and therefore he thought it unwise for the Board to act now. Mr. Olcott said that he could not give more information about the bill, but said that he understood great pressure was being brought to bear in its favor. On reconsideration the resolution was passed—23 to 4—Aldermen Schoen, Randall, Olcott, and Parker voting in the negative.

The Park Board asked the Board of Aldermen to consent that it shall let contracts for repairs to the speedway without public bidding, to the amount of $150,000. Under the rules, this was laid over for a week.

A. L. S. Reynolds of 368 Greenwich street asked the Board to impose a tax on all wagons from other cities delivering goods in New York, on the ground that New York delivery wagons are taxed in Brooklyn, Jersey City, Hoboken, West Hoboken, and Union. The request was referred to the Committee on Markets.

The Railroad Committee presented its two reports on granting extensions to the Metropolitan Railway Company from Broome street and Broadway through Broome street to Greene street, through Third and Fourth streets between Wooster street and Broadway, and through Cortlandt street from Broadway to West street. The majority report favored the granting of the extensions without any conditions. The minority report favored the granting of the extensions on condition that the Board of Aldermen reserved the right to order the company to issue transfers on all the connecting lines. The majority report was adopted.

Alderman Marshall introduced a resolution imposing a fine of $10 on any one sweeping the sidewalk after 8 o'clock in the morning between the months of March and August. Referred to the Law Committee. Alderman Goodman called up the report of the Excise Committee on Sunday opening, and moved that it be recommended as a supplementary measure to the Raines bill. It was passed unanimously.

Alderman Parker offered a resolution prohibiting vans, trucks, and express wagons from using Fifth avenue for traffic save for one block, and that the block nearest their destination. Referred to the Law Committee. The Board adjourned to March 26.

Sure Long Tong Is a Leper.

Dr. George H. Fox, the specialist who was commissioned by the Health Board to diagnose the case of Long Tong, who has been confined on North Brother Island as a leper, reported yesterday that Tong was suffering from genuine leprosy. Two Chinese physicians had disputed it.

Hood's Pills
Cure sick headache, bad taste in the mouth, coated tongue, gas in the stomach, distress and indigestion. Do not weaken, but have tonic effect. 25 cents. The only Pills to take with Hood's Sarsaparilla.

Misses' & Children's
Coats & Fancy Reefers,
(sizes 4 to 12 years),
$3.25, $5.50, $6.50 & $8.00.
Imported Capes,
(for boys or girls, blue, lined with red),
$6.50.
Lord & Taylor,
Broadway & 20th St.

SALE OF LOST ARTICLES.

Three Hundred and Seventy Pocketbooks at Less than Two Cents Each.

There was plenty of opportunity for readin character at the sale of unclaimed packages left in the cars of the Manhattan Elevated Railroad, which was held in George Hill's auction rooms, 49 Eighth avenue, yesterday. Over 5,000 parcels were disposed of, and they included almost every imaginable article of wearing apparel as well as bundles that had been forgotten by people on shopping expeditions and some things that one would hardly expect to find in an elevated railroad coach. Umbrellas took the lead in the list of lost articles. There were 1,040 of them, of every hue and in every stage of decrepitude.

A close second to the umbrellas in point of number was the collection of handbags and pocketbooks, most of them women's pocketbooks. In fact, to judge from the preponderance of women's property in yesterday's sale, men are not, as usually supposed, the most forgetful creatures in the world. Everything was sold in lots yesterday, and the purchasers were not allowed to examine the parcels until they had been removed from the premises. This rule has been found necessary because the buyers on examining their purchases frequently found that they were not worth paying for, and refused to have anything to do with them. Now most of the buyers want to hurry their things away as quickly as possible to see if they have made a good haul.

The people who attend the sale form an interesting subject for study. Most of them are men. Some suggest the junk shop and others are second-hand dealers of an unmistakable Hebraic cast of countenance. Then there are odd characters who are seen only in auction rooms. They are the hopeless victims of the bargain-hunting habit. A few of these are known to every auctioneer. When the man who wielded the hammer at yesterday's sale entered he looked about carefully.

"Isn't Green here?" he asked anxiously.

"Here I am," said a voice, and Green was discovered wedged into the very front row. Nobody seems to know who Green is or what he does besides attending auction sales. He never misses a sale of unclaimed property, and yesterday he bought several hundred dollars' worth of stuff.

Yesterday a barrel of 240 books was sold for $1.25; a barrel of forty hats, ranging from shiny beavers to rough caps, went for eighty-five cents; a good-looking woman got a barrel of overalls for ninety cents. "Lot 307," shouted the auctioneer. "370 pocketbooks. How much am I offered?" There was a tempting sound about the offer of 370 pocketbooks, and the bidding was brisk until the lot was finally knocked down to a young man for $6. A few minutes later the young man's partner entered the room. "Say, I got a prize," said the purchaser of pocketbooks. "Three hundred and seventy pocketbooks at less'n two cents apiece."

"Hully gee!" responded the other with fine scorn: "I t'ot you knowed more'n dat. Dem's women's pocketbooks, an' you won't find a red in nary one of 'em."

The miscellaneous collection included pocket flasks, aprons, corsets, rubber tires for bicycles, mechanics' tools, and a lonely and very battered dummy.

"It must have been the most forgetful man in New York that left this," said the clothes dealer who bought the dummy for thirty cents, as he bore his prize away.

TESTING THE RACING LAW.

Eminent Counsel Argue the Matter Before the Supreme Court.

Argument was heard yesterday in the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, Justice Van Brunt presiding, in two cases brought to test the constitutionality of the Gray-Percy Racing law. They were the cases against Samuel B. Lawrence, President of the Westchester Racing Association, and Joseph Sturgis, who was arrested on Oct. 24 last at the Morris Park race track accused of registering bets. The cases were argued together. Counsel for the racing association included Elihu Root, John M. Bowers, Joseph Auerbach, and De Lancey Nicoll. Against them were Assistant District Attorney John D. Lindsay, ex-Judge Noah Davis, and Benjamin Steinhardt of the "Anti-pool Selling Amendment Committee."

The case was argued on an appeal taken by the District Attorney from the decision of Justice Ingraham sustaining writs of habeas corpus and certiorari and discharging the defendants. The argument was begun by Judge Davis, who took exception to Justice Ingraham's decision that "a horse race is not a scheme for the distribution of property by chance, by persons who have paid a valuable consideration for the chance." He explained the technicalities of pool selling, and declared that Col. Lawrence was properly charged with conducting and drawing a lottery.

"A bet," he said, "is a lottery whenever it is to be determined by chance, or where practice, skill, or brains can be thwarted by chance. A bet on a horse race is clearly such a chance." As to the question of pool selling, he said: "If the race-track manager or any person under any pretext receives money for pools, or records bets, whether the pool be stakes or bets, so long as the distribution is determined by the result of the horse race, he is guilty of pool selling and bookmaking."

Mr. Lindsay said it was mere quibbling to say that gambling was not an essential part of the business carried on by the Westchester Racing Association. Mr. Auerbach began by saying that he was grieved to see Judge Davis, whom he had always highly esteemed, associated with Mr. Steinhardt, "who is nothing but the paid counsel of Peter De Lacy."

On behalf of Sturgis Mr. Nicoll reviewed the testimony in the case, and said that there was no proof of "public" betting. The law forbade that, but there was no provision against private betting. Sturgis had merely recorded some private bets for his friend Orlando A. Jones.

Mr. Root criticised Judge Davis rather severely. He turned toward him and said: "You are engaged in an attempt to break down the proper restrictions which have been provided by the Legislature to guard a sport in which many gentlemen of the highest character take an interest. You are engaged in furthering the purpose of men hired by a gambler, who wishes to reëstablish his nefarious business of running pool rooms."

Here Judge Davis interrupted Mr. Root and said: "The association by which I am retained represents two-thirds of the clergymen of this city and of the State, and you have no right to asperse my motives."

Mr. Root, interrupting Judge Davis, said: "I regret that you are engaged with counsel who was convicted by the Court of Common Pleas of an attempt to impose a collusive case upon that court."

The remainder of Mr. Root's argument was taken up with discussing the law. Decision was, of course, reserved.

Not Much Hurt by a Three-story Fall.

Henry McKenna stood on a window ledge three stories above the sidewalk yesterday afternoon, when trying to drive a staple in the wall to hang a sign on, at 2,338 Third avenue. While a crowd stood below watching him, he dropped his hammer, and instinctively tried to catch it. He lost his balance and followed the hammer.

He turned two complete somersaults in falling, and alighted on his shoulders on the pavement. He was badly bruised, but is believed to have escaped serious injury. He was removed to Harlem Hospital. He is 28 years old, and lives at 28 Varick street.

COWPERTHWAIT'S
RELIABLE CARPETS. Examine this stock of Armenian Rugs at Massacred Prices.
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POINTS IN PERFORMANCES.

THE PRINCE IN "HENRY IV." WAS A VERY TIDY WARRIOR.

Some of the Readings of the Shakespearean Text—Caricatures of Cleveland and Dr. Parkhurst—Two Interesting Specialists.

In the fight at Shrewsbury, as the Tabers present this battle in "Henry IV.," *Prince Hal* is shorn of his glory. In the play, as it has come down to us from Shakespeare, there is a scene in the battle in which *King Henry* says: "I pr'ythee, Harry, withdraw thyself; thou bleed'st too much." But the Prince has no idea of retiring. His only response is to urge the King, his father, to return to the front; and a moment later, being pressed to retire, he exclaims:

"And Heaven forbid a shallow scratch should drive
The Prince of Wales from such a field as this."

These and several other lines show the Prince in the thick of the battle, wounded, bleeding, and often out of breath, yet always fighting. Not only are these little passages omitted in the acting in the abridgment of the play, but at the critical moment, when the two *Harrys* meet face to face and point to point, the little Prince, in the person of Julia Marlowe Taber, comes on the stage unstained, unwearied, unwarlike, seeming, for all the world, despite his clean and unused armor, like the "certain lord" wrathfully described by *Hotspur* in the first act as "neat, trimly dressed, fresh as a bridegroom." *Hotspur*, on the contrary, as Mr. Taber plays the role, appears in a terrible condition of exhaustion. He has lost his helmet, and has only a cowl of chain mail over his head; his face is profusely bleeding; he is so tired and so weak from loss of blood that he can scarcely stand; his knees bend and his whole body sinks down upon itself as if the man were at death's door and visibly dying as he staggers and wavers in his wretched feebleness. His head falls forward, his arms hang listless, his hands can hardly grip the hilt of his big sword. Thus he talks with the Prince, who, even with the whiff and wind of his yet unsmirched sword, might blow the collapsed *Percy* over and play with him without effort. When *Hotspur* makes a final endeavor to swing his blade once more it is a pitiful attempt, and the little Prince easily makes an end of him after a few violent strokes of sword on sword. As the great *Percy* completes the dying which he had manifestly begun before he met the Prince, the latter stands by, still fresh, unconcerned, unfatigued, and as clean as a whistle of the soil of battle. He, or she, is a very pretty thing to look upon; but the terrific hand-to-hand conflicts of this old-style battle, the frequent rushings of packed troops of armed men across the back of the stage, the grand talk of the mighty warriors, and the slaying of some in full view are not very real, at the best, to audiences of this day, and the failure to impart any actual sense of conflict and exertion to the Prince's triumph over the valiant rebel reduces the fine spectacular intention of the battle to a farcical aspect. Meritorious as the production is, it leaves our valiant *Prince Hal* without a vestige of the glory with which Shakespeare has clothed him.

Both the lines and the words of Shakespeare are often stumbling blocks to actors and causes of offence to their audiences as the actors use them. Even the most intelligent and scholarly actors are apt to fall foul of the meanings of their lines if they have only their cues to guide them, and no sure directing mind to control their intonations in their responses to one another. Error in the way of speaking the lines is so common that probably no Shakespearean production, since the phrases of Shakespeare passed out of our common conversation, has been wholly free of it. The admirable stacing of the first part of "King Henry IV." by the Tabers, despite intelligent and excellent personations in it, has this defect. A simple example of mere misreading occurs in the conversation between *Harry Percy* and his wife. *Lady Percy* is trying to persuade *Hotspur* to tell what takes him away, on the eve of his departure for active war against the King. Part of their talk runs:

Lady Percy: I fear my brother Mortimer doth stir
About his title, and hath sent for you
To line his enterprise. But if you go—

Hotspur: So far afoot, I shall be weary, love.

Mr. Taber quite misses the running connection of the lines; he does not appear to interrupt Lady Percy at the middle of her sentence, and he seems to stop his own phrase at "afoot" and to begin a new sentence with "I shall." This looks like a rather stupid blunder.

The value of a new tag to an old specialty is well illustrated by one of the current performers at the Olympia Music Hall. He is Amann, and is given to impersonating such types of mankind as the hypocrite, the miser, and the man of contented mind, following them with representations of men whose looks are known the world over, the copies being attained by means of a mobile face and a large outfit of wigs and whiskers. There's nothing new in this, because for years we have had views of celebrities that all looked a good deal like the impersonator, Bismarck having French features or Napoleon a Teutonic cast of countenance, according as the entertainer hailed from Paris or Berlin. But this imitator, after essaying Gladstone, Gens, Grant and Lee, and the two stock favorites Bismarck and Napoleon, and showing all to have a marked family resemblance and a strong of German blood, turns to caricatures of Presidents Cleveland and Dr. Parkhurst. Both of these are announced beforehand, and wisely, for the first, at least, would hardly be recognized. After posing for a moment in counterfeit of Mr. Cleveland, the mimic dons a twaddling cloth cap and disposes it fowlwise upon his shoulder. At that instant a shot is heard from the wings and a property duck is tossed in on the stage. The likeness of Dr. Parkhurst is better, and he poses for a half minute with a stern frown. Suddenly the orchestra strikes up the "couchee-couchee dance," and the frown becomes sterner and is accompanied by gestures of expostulation. But after a few strains his features relax, a knowing wink and grin succeed the expression of severity, and the performer walks off with arms and legs moving in time with the music.

Three specialists of unusual deportment are in their first week of continuous show employment at Keith's Union Square. One of these is Arthur E. Miller, a baritone, who sings such stock pieces as "Palms" and the "Yeoman's Wedding Song" as earnestly and carefully as if he were being tested as a candidate for grand opera honors. His singing is well liked, though the manner of the listeners suggests that if he would turn his attention to descriptive songs, something with a sore-hearted mamma, a forlorn daughter, or a palsied papa in it, he would bring his talents to a better market. The same is true, in lesser degree, of George H. Wilder, a flautist. His instrument is quite as shiny as that of the strongest-lunged woman cornetist that ever rent the air with brassy tones, but from the gods' standpoint it is open to the same criticism that the Kentucky colonel made of Paderewski: "It's right slick, but not sufficiently sarchin'." The trills that keep the player's fingers moving rapidly from one end of the instrument to the other are proof of his command of it, and he wisely concludes his first selection with strains employing enough semi-quavers to blacken an entire page of music. That brings him an opportunity to play "Love's Sweet Song" less showily, and it goes straight to the mark. Following the flautist is Jessie Couthud, who is straight from the lyceum entertaining, or her manner leads her. Three songs of imitation and two recitations make up her offerings. In the singing she copies amateurs' renderings of a negro ballad, an Irish comic song, and a shrill tenor with stanzas of mawkish sentiment. In them no advantage is taken of the specialist's ability to exaggerate. One of the recitations glorifies Yankee characteristics comically, and is the safest and surest of material. The other is a long and serious story of a man returning to his home after six years in prison for killing a rival. It is the first item of the specialty, and if it is wise to put the best liked thing last, as so many performers think it is, then this recitation should be reserved for the ending.

IMPRESARIO CHU FONG GUILTY.

Convicted of Giving a Play on Sunday—His Theatre License Forfeited.

Chu Fong, the manager of the Chinese theatre at 5 Doyers street, was convicted yesterday afternoon before Judge Fitzgerald, in the General Sessions, of violating the Sabbath law. He was charged with presenting a drama with costumed actors on the night of Sunday, July 14. He gave bail to appear next Wednesday for sentence, his conviction will cost him the theatre license, and he called on the Mayor in the afternoon with Lee Quai and Hom Yee to get a new license. The Mayor had gone to Philadelphia, and Clerk Burrows said he would not give a license until the Mayor returned on Monday. But the theatre will remain open until final judgment in the case. Chu says he will appeal.

Casino Must Use that Advertising Curtain.

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, in an opinion written by Justice Williams, decided yesterday that Canary & Lederer, lessees of the Casino, must hang in their theatre the advertising curtain designed and controlled by