

MRS. ASTOR GIVES A BALL.

THE FIRST LARGE PRIVATE FUNCTION OF THE SEASON.

Her Residence in Fifth Avenue and the Adjacent One of Her Son, John Jacob Astor, Thrown Open to the Guests, of Whom There Were About Five Hundred.

Mrs. Astor last night gave the first large private ball of the season at her residence, 145 Fifth avenue. It was a very large and brilliant affair, the guests numbering close to 500.

The decorations in the ball room consisted chiefly of a few palms, and necessary of American beauty roses in vases. The walls of the room, which is also the art gallery, are hung with paintings.

The supper at midnight followed the first informal dancing, and afterward there was a cotillon, the couples dancing in the main ball room.

The gowns worn by the guests were unusually beautiful. They were of silk, satin, and brocade, some embroidered in silver or gold.

ART NOTES.

The exhibitions at the Avery Gallery in Fifth avenue and one of the best held there this season before the holidays.

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SOROSIS TALKS OF HOME.

IS THE WAY WE LIVE NOW BETTER THAN THE OLD OR WORSE?

Suppose the Dear Old Grandmother Miss Fostered New White House. Others are the Club and Hospitality Consists of Teaching a Nation. There Are Compensations.

Sorosis began the new year with a fine meeting yesterday in the new hall room of the Waldorf. The discussions were lively from start to finish.

"When the ladies on the negative drew a picture of the quiet old-time home, with its old-fashioned flower garden abloom with marigolds, pinks, and hollyhocks, with its open log fire, food as its mother and daughter working side by side at tasks that modern machinery had done, many of you will sign for the lowly old-fashioned that, and agree with the small boy who, when asked if he wanted a mansion in the sky, replied, 'No, I don't. I live in the top flat of a seven-story house and have to run all the errands.'"

"The performance of the woman who danced at the Sherry dinner has been on view for two years in several of the up-town photograph shops, representing her in a costume which exhibited her freely enough to satisfy any ordinary demands for the realism of the densest center, and the best center of the industry as an in that environment considered too objectionable for such unrestrained exhibition.

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LIVE TOPICS ABOUT TOWN.

The Brooklyn Writers' Club, an organization of amateurs that has been held up to fame in the columns of THE SUN whenever the occasion warranted, has a sturdy rival in New York which operates under the name of a Guild.

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NEW PUBLICATIONS.

The Puritan is Mr. Munsey's latest conception—the newest thing from his publishing house.

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The Puritan is now on sale, and can be had from your newsdealer. If he has sold his supply, he will get you a copy. You should have this first number of THE PURITAN. You will like it, and, besides, everybody wants first numbers of publications; everybody will be sure to have the first number of THE PURITAN. If for any reason you cannot get it from your newsdealer, you can get it direct from the publisher.

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A JOURNAL FOR GENTLEWOMEN.

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SYNDICATE BUILDING SOLD.

The Big Skyscraper at Nassau and Liberty Streets Under the Hammer.

The new skyscraper known as the Syndicate Building, at the southwest corner of Nassau and Liberty streets, was sold under foreclosure proceedings at the Broadway Real Estate Sales Company yesterday. The ground on which the building stands was purchased by Flack & Bowling in 1884, and in May, 1895, was sold by them to the syndicate.

After stating the terms of sale, Auctioneer Woodland announced that the property would be sold to the highest bidder, and that the bid should be accompanied by a check for \$100,000.

The bid was made by the syndicate, and the property was sold to them for \$1,500,000, or about 10 cents per foot of frontage.

GIVING LAND TO RAILROADS.

Nearly Half of Minnesota Was Granted to the Great Northern.

St. Paul, Minn., Jan. 1.—State Auditor Dunn in his report to the State Legislature said that the grants of land to railroad companies by Congress and by the State to aid in the construction of the 3,200 miles of railroad in Minnesota, amounting to 20,000,000 acres, had a total value of \$1,500,000,000.

The State Auditor also reported that the State had granted to the Great Northern Railroad Company 10,000,000 acres of land, valued at \$750,000,000.

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THE ALBANY CENTENNIAL.

The Aldermen Cut Out the Appropriation for Mayor Thatcher's Exclusive Hall.

ALBANY, Jan. 1.—The plans for the celebration on Wednesday of the one hundredth anniversary of the establishment of the State Capital at Albany seem to have got into a beautiful mix-up, and this is true particularly of the arrangements for the big ball to be held in the evening. The committee appointed by Gov. Morgan to take charge of the celebration, consisting of Mayor John Roy Thatcher, Assemblyman O'Grady, and Senator Nisbaum, Mr. Thatcher took the lead in making the arrangements, and appointed a sub-committee for the ball, with himself as chairman.

As the time for the celebration approached it became evident that Mr. Thatcher intended to make the ball a very small affair. The price for tickets was made \$10, and they were not offered generally for sale. In order that the general public might not be entirely left out in the cold, Mr. Thatcher arranged to make a little parade for the benefit of the poor.

The parade was held on Monday night, and was a success. The music was well played, but the parade was not very attractive.

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