MENTICULTURE IN VOGUE.

MANY WOMEN IN NEW YORK THINKING THEIR ILLS AWAY.

"Don't Worry" Clubs and Thought Luncheons—Church Dignitaries Do Not Disdain to Hear the Doctrine—A Former College President Inadvertently Spoils a Seance.

"Menticulture," as it is called, has recently obtained a great vogue among New York people who have time to devote to it. It isn't anything like the Cinderella dances or the Horse Show, and you don't play it, as you do golf or tennis. You just think it. The harder one thinks, the further one advances in menticulture, and the things that are promised with advancement are so wonderful that in these promised rewards lies the incentive for thinking and the fascination of it.

The practicing of menticulture has been waxing ever since people came back to town in the fall. Once started, it spread like the measles. By the time the Horse Show came nearly all but the young and frivolous were thinking. Now, it is said, even the frivolous have ceased to frivol and begun to think.

It all began, according to the best information obtainable, in this way: Mrs. Blank spent October at Lenox. In the library of the house where she was visiting she chanced to find a monograph written by the late Prentice Mulford, who was found dead in a canoe down Coney Island way on May 30, 1891. Mulford was first a sailor, then a newspaper writer in San Francisco and New York, and finally became a Spiritualist and a medium. He gave up newspaper work to write pamphlets on topics akin to what is known now as Christian Science. In the pamphlet which Mrs. Blank picked up she found this text from Emerson:

"Hitch your wagon to a star."

The sentence caught her. She read it aloud and liked the way it sounded. Then she read further. The author of the monograph maintained that a man who would make up his mind hard enough could accomplish anything he set his mind on. Mrs. Blank was interested and got some more of Mulford's books. From these she learned some very alluring things about thought. She learned that, if one was ill, all he or she had to do was to think hard that he or she was well and health was restored. Now that struck Mrs. Blank very forcibly. She had long been a sufferer from dyspepsia. Physicians hadn't helped her and she had settled down to the thought of being a chronic dyspeptic. Now she had found a cure for the ill. Straightway she began to think she was perfectly well. That night, according to the story, she ate all sorts of things for dinner. When her hostess marvelled at her temerity, Mrs Blank smiled sweetly and simply said:

"Oh, I haven't been bothered with indigestion for a long time."

That struck the hostess as a bit queer, inasmuch as Mrs. Blank had complained of her old malady only that morning. However, she said nothing and in a few days Mrs. Blank returned to town. The story is that when she began at the top of her visiting list late in October all her friends remarked on how well she was looking. Afterwards Mrs. Blank revealed the secret. She told about the books she had read, the thinking she had done and the cure that had been effected. All the women of her acquaintance seemed to have something the matter with them and they became greatly interested in the thinking process.

They wanted to know more about it, and one day Mrs. Blank gave a luncheon to about a dozen friends and told all she knew about how to think. That was the beginning. Other luncheon parties were given by other women of Mrs. Blank's acquaintance, and at these the women told of their experiences at thinking. These think luncheons have now become a fixture.

A woman in upper Fifth avenue became interested, and concluded that there must be successors of Prentice Mulford still in the flesh. She searched for one and finally found one, a woman. This woman had a name for the process of thinking oneself into a desired condition of mind or body. She called it menticulture, and now that's what they all call it. Her creed was a little different from Mulford's. She held the doctrine of thought-transference.

According to this teacher, thought can be transferred from one mind to another as rapidly as the telegraph transfers words. All that is necessary is to think hard enough. She asserts, for instance, that a person's spiritual life may be made better by resolute thinking. Think of Christ and life as an example. Continue to think about Him. Think hard. Little by little the moral life of the thinker will improve. As he thinks, the thought crystallizes in action. The acts will resemble more and more the acts of the Exemplar. The only bar to absolute perfection, according to this philosophy, is the lack of ability to keep one's thoughts on the subject.

What is true of the spiritual life, according to the reasoning of this woman, is true of the physical life, only you must have assistance in improving your physical condition. In this assistance comes in the thought-transference. A person who is sound of wind and limb and mind meets a friend who has a cold or consumption or any other ill. The well person begins to think of an ideal healthy person. He sits up nights and Sundays and holidays with his friend thinking about his own healthy ideal of health. After a time the person who is ill catches a faint notion of this physically perfect person. Then the notion becomes clearer and finally he gets an unclouded mental picture of the physically perfect man. Once he has that idea he can think of no unhealthy person and that he cannot think of disease as anything else but perfectly well. As pain or illness of any kind is experienced only as the sensation is transmitted to the brain, the person who can think only of the physically perfect ideal cannot experience a sensation of illness.

This is the menticulture that is interesting the women so mightily and some of the men, too. At a luncheon of one of the devotees on Friday the parlors of her big house on North Washington square were crowded with those who had come to sit at the feet of the teacher. In the company was a well-known ex-college President and a high church dignitary. Before the lecture began, the lecturer said:

"Now there must be absolute quiet. It is impossible for thought to answer thought when there is the least noise. You can readily imagine how impossible it would be for a telegrapher to receive a message, if there was a great hubbub in his office. So it is with thought. Noise breaks the thread."

Then a great silence fell. The lecturer began her talk on menticulture and continued for nearly an hour. Then she told those present, each of those perfectly well, or supposed to be, to think of some friend who was ill, not necessarily very ill, but just a little ill, with rheumatism or gout, or something else, and all those indisposed to think about health. The thinking was to continue as long as one desired to stay, and those who went out must do so in silence.

Then the thinking began. No one knows how long it would have continued had not the proceedings been interrupted in a most distressing way. A half hour or more passed, when the meditations of the thinkers were interrupted by this exclamation:

"My stars! My train leaves in ten minutes!"

The exclamation was in a loud whisper, and everybody, all the women at least, turned to see who had interrupted the transference of thought. Those who looked up quickest had just time to see the figure of the former college President disappearing through the door. There was consternation on the faces of the thinkers for a few moments, and then the lecturer said:

"Those who think the catching of trains of more importance than the benefits of these lectures would better stay away."

"I think so, too," said a woman who sat next to Mrs. Blank. "I was just beginning to feel that my sick headache was leaving me. Men are a nuisance when thinking is to be done, any way."

"If such a disturbance occurs again I shall have to refuse to continue my lectures before this circle," said the lecturer severely.

This declaration met with a storm of protests and promises that such a thing shouldn't occur again, and the meeting broke up. Although the ex-college President has become greatly interested in the subject, he may have difficulty in gaining admission to another lecture.

So great has the interest in thinking become that the thinkers have divided themselves up into circles or cliques. Two or three of these circles are known as the Prentice Mulford branch. They stick to Mulford's teachings, much to the delight of the publisher of that writer's works. The pamphlets which he wrote and which until recently have had only a moderate sale are now almost in as great demand as "Trilby" was a year or two ago.

Then there is another set, who are members of "Don't Worry Clubs," organized by Theodore F. Seward. The members of these clubs disavow any belief in "Christian science" or "faith healing." They insist that their business is simply to make the mind as perfect a machine as possible, the end and aim being to people the world with better men and women—better mentally and physically.

The "Don't Worries" do believe, however, in thought transference. It is said that the feeling between the different kinds of menticulturalists is running high and that some of the women of one circle hardly speak to the women of the others.

The first public hearing given to a menticulturalist was that given to Miss Georgiana I. C. Andrews in St. James's Episcopal Church one night last week. Miss Andrews spoke by invitation of the rector of the church, the Rev. Dr. E. Walpole Warren. When it was known that Miss Andrews was to deliver a lecture in the church parlors some of Dr. Warren's congregation were shocked. They thought that Dr. Warren must be going daft to allow a Faith Cure woman, as they styled Miss Andrews, to speak in an Episcopal church. Miss Andrews spoke, however, and those who heard her, it is said, were impressed with what they heard. The speaker said that she was not a Christian Scientist or a Faith Cure healer, she simply a believer in the power of mind over matter.

Before Miss Andrews spoke, Dr. Warren explained that he had invited Miss Andrews to speak in his church, because he wanted to hear what she had to say. He said he wanted it understood that he neither subscribed to nor condemned her views. He said, however, that there could be no better place than the church in which to preach a doctrine founded upon truth. Yesterday afternoon Dr. Warren said that Miss Andrews said nothing that he had not heard before, and that he believed in some of the things she said and disbelieved other things.

CAUSE OF THE COLISEUM FIRE.

Carelessness in Handling Gasoline Caused an Explosion in the Building.

CHICAGO, Dec. 26.—The true story of the origin of the Coliseum fire was learned this evening. It has been suspected that the fire was not caused by an electric current used in operating an X-ray machine, and incendiarism has been hinted at. It was learned that a small can of gasoline was taken into the building by Murray Morley, proprietor of the X-ray apparatus. Morley denied with emphasis that he had either had gasoline in his exhibit space or had any use for it. He said he had been told on Friday afternoon before the fire that some one had tried to deliver to him a can of gasoline, but he had then said there must be some mistake, as he certainly had ordered no gasoline.

Half a dozen exhibitors said they knew a can of gasoline had been taken into the part of the building where the flames first were discovered. Frederick de Novas said he saw the can taken into Dr. Valentine's space, and the fire flashed first from there and not from Morley's exhibit. A. H. Wiggins of the Benson restaurant corroborates this statement.

Morley either made a misstatement or was mistaken. A five-gallon can of gasoline was taken into his booth and the fluid was used to keep his machine warmed to a certain degree of temperature by torches, such as street peddlers use with supply tanks three or four feet above the torches.

In Morley's employ was a young man named Murphy, and it was his carelessness that caused the destruction of the Coliseum and its contents. Murphy found that the gasoline tanks needed filling, and he took the five-gallon can, opened it and started to replenish the tanks without stopping to extinguish the blazing torches. In an instant the gasoline ignited. Murphy escaped with slight burns, but had to fly to save his life.

The X-ray exhibit was directly under the Cuban Village, which occupied space in the north gallery. The performers in the Cuban Village all had narrow escapes. Some of the dancing girls were dragged out. They were dressing for the evening's performance and saved but little of their clothing. Two of them, scantily clad, were forced to walk several blocks before they found a hospitable house. Murphy has kept in hiding since the fire, but he admitted to several persons that his carelessness was responsible for the fire.

LATEST NEWS FROM DAWSON.

Very Little Prospect That There Will Be a Famine on the Klondike.

TACOMA, Wash., Dec. 26.—The steamer Farralon, arriving to-day, brings news that John McPherson and three others arrived at Skagway, direct from Dawson, on Dec. 19, just before the Farralon sailed. The McPherson party left Dawson on Nov. 7. Matters were then quiet in the Klondike metropolis, and preparations for an active winter's work and consequent large gold production were in progress. Supplies were being hauled from the Dawson warehouses to the mines, though more snow was needed to make the hauling good.

Prospects were never better along the Bonanza, Hunker, Bear and other creeks, and an output of $8,000,000 or $10,000,000 this winter was considered certain in spite of the food shortage. McPherson's party says there will be no starvation. Some far-sighted miners have large food supplies and will share a part of it with others if necessary. These and other late arrivals appear to think that the food shortage was purposely emphasized in September and October with the object of getting men with insufficient supplies to go down the river to Fort Yukon.

These Dawsonites and other Yukoners believe the Government is acting too late to get food into Dawson before private enterprise will have supplied the deficiency. The Canadian Mounted Police have nearly 100 tons of provisions and 200 dogs at Lakes Bennett and Tagish. These are being started toward Dawson over the snow trail.

All along the lakes and as far as Fort Selkirk are parties with many tons of provisions. These parties are working toward Dawson, and will arrive there during February and March. McPherson's party was frequently able to purchase supplies and fresh meat coming out. Camps along the trail are so numerous that parties leaving Dawson with short supplies are certain of obtaining plenty along the route.

BLUECOAT BADLY BEATEN.

He Says It Was Because He Couldn't Use His Nightstick—One Arrest.

Policeman August Schneider of the West Forty-seventh street station appeared at the West Fifty-fourth Street Court yesterday with both eyes discolored, one of them completely closed, and with several bad scalp wounds which, he said, had been inflicted by the fists and boot heels of five west side toughs. The policeman had one prisoner, Richard McDonald of 458 West Fifty-second street, whom he accused of having been one of the five men who had assaulted him.

In making his complaint the injured policeman said to Magistrate Deuel that if he had used his nightstick he would have escaped unharmed, and would have had at least two prisoners instead of one.

The assault on the policeman occurred on Christmas night, between 10 and 11 o'clock, at Tenth avenue and Forty-seventh street. Schneider said that the prisoner and his four companions had been creating a disturbance at Tenth avenue and Forty-ninth street and he ordered them to disperse. Soon after he found them at Forty-seventh street more disorderly than before, and he again told them to move on. This time the toughs resented the order. One of them dared the policeman to club them. As the bluecoat gave no sign that the challenge would be accepted, the five men set upon him and quickly overpowered him. After knocking him down they kicked him on the head. The appearance of another policeman caused them to take to flight, and only McDonald was arrested.

McDonald was held in $2,000 bail, and the case was continued until this afternoon.

RECEPTION TO MISS MAUD GONNE.

A Warm Welcome for the Irish "Joan of Arc"—Arbitration Denounced.

Irish Nationalists and members of the Irish National Alliance of Long Island gave a reception in the Empire Theatre, Williamsburg, last night to Miss Maud Gonne, the young Irish patriot. The Hon. Edward M. Grout, President elect of the Borough of Brooklyn, was Chairman. Miss Gonne, who was warmly received, delivered an impassioned address dealing with the wrongs inflicted by England on the Emerald Isle.

A committee representing the Ladies' Catholic Benevolent Association of New York State, through its Supreme Treasurer, Mrs. Mary E. McGuirk, presented to Miss Gonne an engrossed address in which every member pledged her support to Miss Gonne in the struggle for Ireland's freedom. There were addresses also by Andrew McLean, Luke D. Stapleton, James F. Egan, Thomas F. Larkin, and the Hon. Edward F. Fagan.

Resolutions protesting against the adoption of the proposed arbitration treaty with England were loudly applauded and unanimously adopted. Copies are to be forwarded to Senators Platt and Murphy.

ATTEMPT TO SWINDLE A RAILROAD.

Two Men Accused of Burning a Car After Removing Their Goods and Then Claiming Damages.

ATLANTA, Ga., Dec. 26.—Detective J. W. Connally lodged in the county jail here yesterday H. B. Carter and Frank Herrington, both prominent citizens of Brookville, Fla., charged with an attempt to defraud the Georgia Railroad. Carter ran a store at Brentwood, Ga., near the Georgia line, last August, and in the latter part of the month ordered a big bill of goods from Atlanta houses. Shortly after these arrived the car containing them was burned and Carter promptly claimed damages from the railroad. The officials put J. W. Connally, the Dalton sleuth, on the case. He had some of the ashes of the car analyzed in Atlanta and established the fact that the car was empty at the time it was burned. Then he decided that Carter had removed the goods from the car and fired it himself. He followed Carter to Brookville and became his clerk. Shortly afterward the missing goods began to arrive and were placed in the store. Connally compared the list with the invoice which he had, and arrested Carter and Herrington. It is thought that they are leaders of a big gang operating in Florida and Georgia.

Girl's Leg Broken by a Sleigh.

Carrie Schultz, 15 years old, of 230 East Eighty-third street, was knocked down yesterday afternoon at Eighty-eighth street and Avenue A by a horse attached to a sleigh. Her leg was broken. She was sent to Flower Hospital.

SEVEN CHICAGO HOLD-UPS.

SHOTS FIRED IN THREE CASES AND TWO MEN INJURED.

Arrests Made in Two Cases, in One of Which a Boy Had Been Robbed of $1.30—Serious Shooting Affray Where Five Masked Men Attempted Robbery—The Other Cases.

CHICAGO, Dec. 26.—The police seem powerless to check the highway robbers on the West Side.

An attempted daylight robbery of B. Simon's saloon on West Taylor street yesterday resulted in the serious shooting of A. A. Murray, a travelling man. Five masked men entered the saloon. Each carried a revolver.

"Throw up your hands!" was their command.

Simon and his son complied, and one of the robbers started toward the bar, when the leader noticed that Murray had not thrown up his hands. He ordered one of the men to shoot. At the first shot Murray uttered a cry and fell. The robbers ran into the street, firing their revolvers as they went.

Policemen Sullivan and Degnan, hearing the shots, hurried to the saloon in time to see the five men start west in Taylor street. Both policemen drew their revolvers and gave chase, firing as they ran.

The pursuit lasted for half a mile, when the fugitives managed to escape through an alley. The policemen then returned to the saloon, which looked as though an explosion had taken place. Tables were overturned, glasses and mirrors broken, and the floor strewn with broken glass.

In one corner lay Murray unconscious and covered with blood. A doctor was summoned and he ordered his removal to the hospital. At the county hospital the physicians found that the wound was painful, but not dangerous. Neither Simon nor his son was able to furnish the police with descriptions of the robbers.

A strange assault and robbery was committed in Meridian street yesterday afternoon, the victim being Charles Jacobs, 14 years old, who lives with his parents on West Fourteenth street. The alleged robbers are Theodore Beeming and Rose Smith. Both were arrested and locked up in the Desplaines street station. Jacobs, in company with a boy of his own age, left his home to attend a West Side theatre early in the afternoon.

While passing a house in Meridian street the Smith woman called the Jacobs boy and asked him if he would like to earn 10 cents. The boy said he would, and she led him into the house for the purpose, he was told, of starting a fire.

As the lad entered the door he was met by Beeming, who, it is said, with the aid of the woman, knocked him down. While the woman held him the man searched his pockets and robbed him of $1.30.

After the money had been secured he was pushed into an alley. He made his way to the Desplaines street station, where he reported the matter.

An attempted daylight robbery, during which one of the robbers fired two shots at Policeman Carfenty of the East Chicago avenue station, caused much excitement on North Franklin street, between Superior street and Chicago avenue, yesterday.

While Henry Thompson, a milk dealer, was in a house delivering milk, Thomas Cunningham and a companion threw the cans out of his wagon. When Thompson returned the thugs covered him with their revolvers and ordered him to throw up his hands. He refused and Cunningham fired. Policeman Cafferty heard the shot and tried to arrest the two men. Cunningham's companion ran, but Cunningham was caught after a chase of twenty-five feet, but missed, after a struggle he was arrested.

James Collins was shot in the left knee last night while resisting an unknown hold-up man at Seventeenth street and Armour avenue. Collins entered a saloon and asked the stranger to have a drink with him. The two left the saloon together and the other man attempted to rob Collins. He resisted, when his assailant drew a revolver and shot him. Collins was taken to St. Luke's Hospital. He will recover, but may lose the use of his leg. He could furnish no description of his assailant.

Max Tomm was held up while returning to his home on Emerald avenue last night near Thirty-fourth place, in Halstead street, by two men. The men secured $2 and a silver watch. They were unarmed.

H. B. White, 51 Seeley avenue, was held up by three men at Aberdeen and Van Buren streets at 9 o'clock last night and robbed of an $85 gold watch and some change. The men sprang upon him from the shadow of a building and covered him with their revolvers. White resisted, but was overpowered and robbed. He reported the affair to the police, but his assailants were not arrested.

While one man held a revolver to the head of Edward Ziegler, a dental student, his companion search.d the clothes of their victim and took his silver watch last night.

In anticipation of a possible robbery, Ziegler had secreted $15 in his shoe, and this the footpads missed. The robbery occurred at Monroe and Robey streets.

All but two of the robberies occurred on the west side.

TO FOSTER PATRIOTISM.

A Junior Auxiliary to the Society of the Daughters of the Revolution.

At the last annual meeting of the General Society of the Daughters of the Revolution it was suggested that interest in the society and its principles might be augmented in the public mind by the organization of a junior rank for the purpose of including in its membership those who, by reason of immaturity of years, are not eligible to election to the older body. The suggestion met with favor, and a resolution was adopted authorizing the formation of a junior auxiliary under the direction of the Board of Managers.

Membership is open to daughters, under eighteen years of age, and to sons, under twenty-one years of age, of persons lineally descended from an ancestor who:

1. Was a signer of the Declaration of Independence, a member of the Continental Congress, Legislature or General Court of any of the Colonies or States; or

2. Rendered civil, military or naval service under the authority of any of the thirteen Colonies or of the Continental Congress; or

3. By service rendered during the war of the Revolution became liable to the penalty of treason against the Government of Great Britain, provided that such ancestor always remained loyal to the cause of American independence.

The Junior Auxiliary is especially designed for the children of members of the patriotic societies, its chief object being to "interest them in the study of the history of our country and its institutions, and thus to prepare them for enlightened and powerful citizenship, and to inspire them with reverence and love for our flag and devotion to the principles for which it stands."

All of the preliminary work in connection with the formation of the Junior Auxiliary has been completed, and the General Society Committee, composed of the presidents of the State societies, which are the units of the entire superintendence over it, announces that it is now prepared to receive applications for membership. A number of members have been already enrolled in the Auxiliary in this vicinity, the youngest being a girl 3 years old.

NOT A CASE OF YELLOW FEVER.

Still, as a Matter of Precaution, Purser Cochran's Funeral Will Be Private.

The death of William C. Cochran, the purser of the Clyde line steamship New York, at his home on Thirteenth avenue, near Fifty-sixth street, Blythebourne, on Saturday, has been under investigation by the Brooklyn health authorities. The attending physician, Dr. Wesley Sherman of Ninth street, as reported yesterday, pronounced it a case of yellow fever. Mr. Cochran arrived in this port from Hayti on Dec. 22. He had been ill on the voyage, but Dr. A. H. Doty, the Health Officer of the port, passed the vessel at Quarantine.

Dr. Frederick A. Jewett, Chief the Bureau of Contagious Diseases, said he did not believe the case was one of yellow fever, because Dr. Doty had allowed the ship to pass Quarantine. He said that the weather was so cold that even if Mr. Cochran had yellow fever there would be no danger of contagion. Dr. E. A. Wilson, the bacteriologist of the Department of Health, who made the autopsy yesterday, said that death was due to pneumonia and heart failure. He said that Mr. Cochran was badly marked with signs of jaundice, but he had not been able to diagnose any yellow fever. Dr. Jewett said that, simply as a precautionary measure, the funeral, which would take place this morning, would be private. He also remarked that a further investigation would be made.

Shipwrights Want an Eight-Hour Saturday.

A circular has been sent by the Shipwrights' General Committee of New York Harbor to all the employers, stating that the shipwrights have adopted an eight-hour day for Saturdays, to begin on Saturday, Jan. 8, 1898. The circular says that most of the employers are willing to grant the change. The resolution affects the organized shipwrights of New York, Brooklyn, and Jersey City.

The President at Church.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.—President McKinley attended services at the Metropolitan M. E. Church this morning, occupying his pew for the first time since called to Ohio by the illness and death of his mother. The inclemency of the weather did not deter him, as he especially desired to hear the Rev. Bishop Earl Cranston of Ohio, who occupied the pulpit in place of Dr. Hugh Johnson, pastor of the church.

Snow Unwheels the Bicycle Squad.

The snowfall yesterday morning kept the bicycle policemen off their wheels. They were seen on duty just the same, covering their beats on foot.

PRESIDENT MASO VERY ILL.

Friends of Cuba Alarmed Over His Condition—Blanco's Visit to Gen. Lee.

HAVANA, Dec. 24, via Key West, Dec. 25.—Advices from Puerto Principe, sent to THE SUN correspondent, say that the President of the Cuban Republic, Bartolomé Maso, is very ill. The news has made a great impression in the Cuban Army, for Maso is a man without enemies among the Cubans, beloved by all, and whose election was considered a happy solution of the problem how to avoid all possible discontent among the other candidates and their partisans.

Maso is a man of very feeble constitution and has been suffering for a long time from the hardships he endured during the ten years' war, beginning in 1868, and which induced a disease of the liver. Dr. Eusebio Hernandez, a famous physician in the Cuban Army and a candidate himself for the Presidency of the republic, has been summoned to Maso's bedside.

The Vice-President of the Republic, Domingo Mendez Capote, is in charge *ad interim* of Maso's office. Mendez Capote writes to a friend in Puerto Principe: "The illness of our good and honest Maso greatly alarms us, more on account of his delicate health than because of the violence of the attack itself. The loss of such a man would be a great misfortune for the republic of Cuba."

There is great indignation in Havana among the uncompromising Spaniards because Gen. Blanco personally called on Consul-General Lee to ask his interposition with the insurgent leader, Aranguren, to save Col. Ruiz's life. The story that *La Lucha* published here and that was cabled to New York, to the effect that the Russian Consul asked Gen. Lee to send his secretary to Aranguren's camp on behalf of Ruiz, is not true. The fact is that Captain-General Blanco himself, accompanied by Secretary Congosto, called at the American Consulate, 76 Cuba street. Not finding Gen. Lee there, they went to the Hotel de Inglaterra, where the Consul-General lives, and talked with him for about two hours. Then the American Consul-General decided, upon the formal request of the Captain-General, to send Mr. Tosca, a Secretary of the American Consulate, to the insurgent lines.

The uncompromising Spaniards here believe that the incident is humiliating to Spain, in view of the allusions in President McKinley's message to forcible intervention by the United States in Cuba. They consider that the step taken by Captain-General Blanco is an official recognition of the United States as a third party in the Cuban war.

The mission of Mr. Mandrigal, Consul of the United States in Sancti Spiritus, is believed here to relate to matters of much more importance than the mere delivery by Gen. Gomez of the belongings of the late American correspondent, Mr. Crosby. Mr. Madrigal, who has been promoted recently to a more important American Consulate in Colombia, and who is very well known here on account of the refusal of Gen. Weyler and Canovas's Cabinet to grant him his *exequatur* on account of his alleged sympathy with the patriots, is said to have been intrusted by the American Administration with the mission of receiving officially from Gen. Gomez the final word of the Cuban Commander-in-chief as to the possibility of a peaceful arrangement between Spain and the patriots. Every one here feels sure that Gen. Gomez's answer will be that the Cubans will accept only complete independence.

It is more than ten days since Mr. Madrigal started from Sancti Spiritus to the camp of Gomez, and up to this time nothing has been heard of him. It is certain that no premeditated evil could befall him in Gen. Gomez's camp. The General is a close friend of Madrigal, knew of his proposed trip, and wrote that it would give him much pleasure to receive an official representative of the United States. The dangers of the trip would come from the savage Spanish guerrillas who swarm around Sancti Spiritus and are not accustomed to respect even the passports issued by the Spanish Generals. Nevertheless the distance is so considerable and the roads are so poor that, for some days longer, there is no serious cause for concern.

FROZEN MEAT FOR RUSSIA.

New South Wales Arranging to Send the Meat to Vladivostock.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

SYDNEY, N. S. W., Dec. 26.—The Hon. George H. Reid, Prime Minister of New South Wales, and other Ministers, are arranging to supply Russia with frozen meat at Vladivostock, whence it will be distributed to other stations.

Seven hundred tons will be required in twelve months. The Ministers have cabled to Russia, giving the terms for the delivery of the meat.

Gen. French, who commands the military forces of the colony, says that he has not been consulted as to the advisability of assisting the Russian commissariat.

JAPAN'S DIET DISSOLVED.

The House Was About to Pass a Vote of Want of Confidence.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

YOKOHAMA, Dec. 26.—The Diet, which was opened by the Emperor on Friday, was dissolved yesterday, owing to the hostility of the Opposition in the lower house. The house was about to discuss a motion expressing want of confidence in the Government when the decree of dissolution was read.

The want of confidence motion would otherwise have been adopted, as a large majority of the members supported it. A change in the Ministry is expected.

BEETHOVEN'S MANUSCRIPT.

A Piece of Music Written by Him Discovered in Vienna.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

DRESDEN, Dec. 26.—The composer, Reinhold Becker, recently discovered in the library of the Society of Music Lovers in Vienna a piece of music in Beethoven's writing.

It proved to be a setting of Goethe's "Erl Koenig," which was composed by Beethoven in 1810. The melody is beautiful. The music has just been published in Leipsic.

The Duke of Newcastle Recovering.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Dec. 26.—The Duke of Newcastle, who has been severely ill, has so far recovered that, according to the *Daily Mail*, he hoped to be able to leave his room on Christmas Day.

SUBSCRIBERS TO CONTROL IT.

The Policy of the Bloomfield Record to Be Dictated by Their Votes.

The coöperative plan of conducting a newspaper is to be tried at Bloomfield, N. J., by S. Morris Hulin, the owner of the Bloomfield *Record*. His idea is to form a stock company, guided and controlled absolutely in principle and policy in conducting the paper by the vote of those who are carried on the concern's books as subscribers to the paper.

There are two weekly papers in Bloomfield, one of them being opposed to the setting off of Glen Ridge, the home of the wealthier class, as an independent borough. The *Record* sided with those who incorporated the borough because they couldn't get what they deemed to be their share of the improvements made in Bloomfield. Since it took that stand the *Record* says it has been boycotted, but without success, by the Bloomfield administration and its friends. Now Mr. Hulin says he is going to give the people of Bloomfield and Glen Ridge a chance to coöperate in continuing the *Record* as an independent paper.

FISHERMAN HUSSEY MISSING.

He Went Codfishing on Christmas Day and Has Not Been Heard From.

Daniel Hussey, 35 years old, a fisherman, hired a rowboat from Robert Dillon at Riverview pier, Gravesend Beach, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon of Christmas Day. He said he was going codfishing in the lower bay. Dillon advised him not to venture out in the channel, as the water was rough and a strong wind was blowing. Hussey pulled off shore, and up till last evening had not been heard from, nor had the boat been returned. William Martin of the sloop Beach Plum says that he saw the rowboat riding at anchor off the bell buoy a mile below Swinburne Island. The man in the boat was fishing. Hussey's friends fear that the boat has been capsized or that Hussey has been carried out to sea.

ON TRACK OF A FIRE FIEND.

TELLTALE EVIDENCE LEFT IN THE TONTINE HOTEL BLAZE.

The Man Who Started the Fire Left a Waistcoat with Certain Papers In It Which Are Said to Reveal His Identity—The New Haven Detectives Expect to Arrest Him Soon.

NEW HAVEN, Dec. 26.—The detectives of the local Police Department have been at work since yesterday morning, hoping to solve the attempt at arson on the Tontine Hotel, where a hundred lives were in jeopardy on Christmas morning.

To-day's developments have been so satisfactory that the detectives say they know the name of the man and that they will have him under arrest before morning. The story given out to-night tends to prove that there is a conspiracy, and that the man whom the police are now seeking was in the employ of the man who inspired the attempt to fire the Tontine. This is the third attempt to burn the building.

The Tontine went into new hands in June last, and the new proprietor, George T. White, was for several years with Heublein Bros. of Hartford, and later with their branch house in New Haven. He has managed the house with success and also in such a way as to secure the enmity of certain persons. The fire was discovered about 5:20 o'clock by the night watchman, John Burton.

The incendiary registered as R. Locke of Newark, N. J., shortly before midnight on Friday. Locke paid his bill in advance and was shown to the room by Burton. The stranger carried a telescope valise, and did not once allow it to leave his hands until the room was reached, declining all offers of assistance from Burton. This incident aroused Burton's curiosity, and when he returned to the office he said to Mr. Poole:

"No. 19 acts suspicious. I am going to watch him."

That Burton was correct in his deductions was shown by later developments. From that time the hours passed without incident until 5 o'clock. Then Burton made his rounds and found everything all right. Ten minutes later, however, it occurred to him that he would take a look at room 19. As he reached the third floor he heard a peculiar noise and, looking up, saw Locke, partly dressed, descending from the fourth floor with his arms full of newspapers. Burton asked Locke why he was wandering about the house, and not receiving a satisfactory answer, made a rush up to the fourth floor and just at the landing discovered a bright light coming from room 9, in the front of the house.

Knowing that the room was unoccupied, Burton forced the door and found it ablaze. In his haste the man who had set the fire had left behind him a waistcoat, a pair of rubbers and the telescope valise. It was in the pockets of the vest that the evidence revealing the man's identity was discovered. There were found a cheap watch and chain, a compass, and a case of small camel's hair brushes, such as stage people use in making up. The most important discovery, however, were a number of blank billheads and a promissory note. The billheads bore the advertisement of J. L. Merigan of Hudson, Mass. Merigan's business was dealing in paints oils, varnishes, turpentine and benzine. The promissory note, which was signed by Merigan, was for only $7, and was made payable to R. English.

This showed pretty clearly that the name Locke was an alias, and that something at least was known of the incendiary at Hudson. Locke's or English's method of escape from the hotel was daring. He first dropped from the window, a distance of 4 feet, to a shed, then 7 feet to another shed, and then 10 feet to still another shed. From this shed he slid down a water conductor, a distance of twenty-five feet, to the ground. Then he went out of the gate on the Court street side and in plain sight of several policemen. From there all trace of him was lost, and though an hour later several hotel and saloon in the centre of the city was visited and all the trains were closely inspected, nothing more was heard of him.

TEN-FOOT MINCE PIE.

Race Track in Sugar on the Top of It with Dolando Winning.

A big mince pie was turned out at the New York Pie Baking Company's plant at Corlears Hook on Christmas eve. It was built to order on plans drawn by William Thompson, President of the pie concern, who decided to surprise his friend Johnny Meehan, the owner of the race-horse Dolando, known as the Pride of Park row.

The pie is ten feet in diameter and four inches thick. The crust was cast in sections and then set in place by four pie moulders. Sixteen pounds of butter were used in shortening it, and twenty-four pounds of flour in making it. The insides of the pie weighed eighty pounds. The pie was baked in a steam oven, and when it was cool Mr. Thompson sent for a New Year's cake-icing architect and the architect built a frosted race track on the roof of the big pie. He added a judges' stand and a bunch of sugar race horses, Dolando winning. Here it might be well to state that the funeral crowd on Park row always refer to Dolando as a sugar race-horse.

When the icing architect's work had been completed five pie moulders lifted the big pie on a pie stretcher and carried it out to a two-horse truck. Then the big pie was driven up to Mr. Meehan's house, opposite Mount Morris Park. In trying to get the pie sidewise through the doorway the pie handlers broke it. Then they took it into Mr. Meehan's parlor in pieces and put it together on four tables. News of the breakage was sent to the Corlears Hook pie foundry. A squad from the pie repair gang went up to Meehan's house and repaired the breaks.

The pie was on exhibition all day Christmas. Yesterday all the neighbors called to look at it. To-day it will be sawed apart and sections of it will be sent around to Meehan's friends.

The President of the pie bakery, Mr Thompson, won several thousand dollars on Dolando last season.

ADDRESSED BY A BRITISH M. P.

J. Havelock Wilson at Yesterday's Central Labor Union Meeting.

J. Havelock Wilson, the English member of Parliament who attended the late convention of the American Federation of Labor at Nashville as a fraternal delegate, was introduced to the Central Labor Union yesterday. He is a stout, florid, pleasant-looking man with a very pronounced London accent. Besides being a member of Parliament he is President of the Firemen's, Sailors' and Dock Workers' Union of England.

Mr. Wilson said that the labor unions here were more active than in England, but the members of unions in England were much more liberal in the payment of dues, and it is not unusual for a union in England to have a treasury balance of a million dollars.

"I shall be here for two months yet," he said. "My mission is to organize the English seamen. It might seem odd to come from England to organize English seamen, but a seaman's home is on board his vessel, and English seamen are to be found at every port. We want to amalgamate the Seamen's unions of Great Britain and Ireland and America. We expect ultimately to see all the trades in the world united. It may not be so long as you think before the labor of the world will be united under one federation. It depends on the labor of the unions whether that time is near or far off."

THE ANNA WEISS MYSTERY.

The Woman Was Killed Nine Years Ago and T. S. Stockton Is Now Arrested.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 26.—The arrest of Thomas S. Stockton, suspected of complicity in the murder of Anna Weiss, nine years ago, revives interest in a peculiar mystery. Stockton is a thief and admits having served in the penitentiary.

Anna Weiss was found dead on Union avenue on June 27, 1888. She was on the verge of maternity. Mrs. Lobrman, mother of two notorious pickpockets, is responsible for Stockton's arrest.

She says that her brother, Paul Ritter of Nauvoo, Ill., took her to Anna Weiss's body on the night of the murder, and that he is also implicated in the affair.

Two Young Men Arrested for a Chicago Murder.

CHICAGO, Dec. 26.—Mike Romelius was arrested yesterday in South Chicago, and early this morning John Akacz, his companion on the night that old Katharine Bolitz was strangled and robbed in her house in Commercial avenue, was caught near Waukegan by detectives who went there in search of him. The police believe both of these young men have knowledge of the crime.

Suicide of War Veteran Worsett.

Gaius C. Worsett, 60 years old, a printer, committed suicide yesterday by inhaling illuminating gas, in his room at 171 Duffield street, Brooklyn. He was a veteran of the war of the rebellion and a member of Horace Greeley Post, G. A. R., of this city.

SPARKS FROM THE TELEGRAPH.

Work at the immense plant of the Troy Steel Company on Breaker Island, has been indefinitely discontinued. Several hundred men are thus thrown out of employment.

Brakeman Frank Combe, 30 years of age, a native of Long Island City, was crushed between the cars at Port Jervis on Saturday night and instantly killed. He had been railroading but four months.

The long established dry goods houses of G. V. S. Quackenbush & Co. and Loomis, Evans & Co. of Troy have consolidated, and after Jan. 1 will be known as the G. V. S. Quackenbush Company. The firm of G. V. S. Quackenbush is one of the best known in northern New York. The firm of Loomis, Evans & Co. has been in existence two years.

"AUNTY JULIE" DEAD.

An Old Colored Woman in Whom Plymouth Church People Were Interested.

Julia Moore, who was affectionately known as "Aunty" to the members of Plymouth Church, died at her home in Hart's alley, in the rear of 182 High street, Brooklyn, on Saturday afternoon. She would have been 74 years old on June 9 next. She was born in the lower part of Brooklyn, and had lived in Hart's alley for about fifteen years. About thirty years ago she entered Plymouth Church on a Sunday morning. She was a colored woman and was quite timid about going into so big a church. Subsequently Henry Ward Beecher became interested in her and she soon became known to the entire congregation, who learned to call her "Aunty Julie."

After Mr. Beecher