CAUSE OF SAN JUAN FIGHT.

ADMIRAL SAMPSON NEVER MEANT TO FIRE A SHOT THERE.

He Was Looking for the Spanish Fleet and Sent His Tug Ahead to Reconnoitre—Morro Castle Fired on Her and the Forts Were Then Left in Ruins to Show the Spaniards That They Cannot Fire on Our Ships with Impunity—No Shot Was Intentionally Sent Into the Town, the Forts Being the Targets.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

ST. THOMAS, Danish West Indies, May 14.—Inquiries have been made from the United States regarding the facts about the opening of the bombardment at San Juan, the capital of Porto Rico, it being reported that Spain claims that the city was bombarded, and that the action of Admiral Sampson was an act of vandalism, to which the attention of the powers would be called by the Government of the Queen Regent. The contention of the Spanish Government that the city itself had been bombarded is false in every particular. There would have been no firing at all had not the foolhardy garrison at the Morro begun it.

Admiral Sampson acted at Porto Rico exactly as he did while on the blockade of Cuba. So long as the batteries there did not molest his ships his orders were that there was to be no shooting, but when the Spaniards fired on his vessels the latter were instructed to destroy the batteries.

These orders were not issued until the Spanish fire at different Cuban ports became so irritating to the American bluejackets that discipline was in a measure threatened; but as soon as the men learned that they were to no longer remain passive targets for the Spaniards, but were to return any shots against them, all grumbling against inaction ceased, and the world knows the disastrous results to the Spaniards at Matanzas, Cardenas and other Cuban ports which opened fire on the American warships.

There had been no change in Admiral Sampson's orders, as THE SUN'S correspondents following the squadron have reason to know; and when the warships arrived at San Juan there was no intention to attack the place. The American commander was looking for bigger game than the poorly defended Porto Rican capital. His orders from the Navy Department were to find and capture or destroy the Spanish squadron that was en route from the Cape Verde Islands, and it was this business that took him into the neighborhood of San Juan, he being desirous of learning if the Spanish squadron was there.

The squadron arrived off San Juan before daybreak on Thursday. The tug Wampatuck was ordered to take soundings in the channel and at once proceeded to do so. She was fully half a mile ahead of the fleet when she entered the channel, and those aboard of her kept the lead going at a lively rate.

It is supposed that Admiral Sampson had no intention at that time of entering the harbor itself, his object, when he found that the Spanish squadron was not at San Juan, being to learn for future use exactly how much water there was in the channel, and if any attempt had been made to block the way.

At any rate, while the Wampatuck was engaged in this work she was seen by the sentries at the Morro, and a few minutes later she was fired on.

Then, and not until then, did Admiral Sampson determine to teach the Spaniards a lesson in the danger of firing on the American flag.

"Quarters!" rang out aboard the warships almost before the report of the Morro gun had died away, the flagship having signalled for action. The fighting then began, as already described in the despatches of THE SUN. Just about three hours later the fortifications were in ruins, and Spain had another opportunity to claim a "glorious victory," which despatches received here say she has already done.

Most of the damage that was done to the town was caused by shot and shell passing either through or over the fortifications.

Notwithstanding any claim or contention that Spain may make the above authoritatively explains the reason for the bombardment of the fortifications, not the city, which your correspondent, who was an eyewitness of the whole engagement, reiterates was not fired upon intentionally.

DENOUNCED THE BOMBARDMENT.

Spain Will Call the Attention of the Powers to the Fight at San Juan.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

MADRID, May 14.—In the Chamber of Deputies last evening Gen. Correa, Minister of War, denounced the bombardment of San Juan, Porto Rico, as an act of vandals. The Government, he declared, would bring the outrageous action to the notice of the powers.

A despatch from Porto Rico to the *Correspondencia España* says that an officer and three soldiers were killed in the engagement at San Juan and thirty were wounded. The steamer Roata, it is reported, has reached San Juan with a cargo of coal. The buoys have been removed and the lights extinguished at Huelva and Algeciras.

There was great rejoicing in Madrid last evening over the victory of the Spaniards at San Juan and confidence is expressed that there will be a complete Spanish victory when a land battle takes place.

HERE TO WATCH OUR WAR.

The Editor of the London "Statist" and a Japanese Major the Latest Arrivals.

A. Mackenzie Hay, editor and part owner of the London *Statist*, who arrived yesterday on the Cunard line steamship Campania, says that he has come to study the effect of the war on business and particularly on prices. He said that as far as he had observed in London the war has not disturbed the value of American securities. The English wanted American securities and would grab them the moment they could get them cheap.

Major G. Shiba of the Japanese Army was also a passenger on the Campania. He is here to study the war.

Delay with Iowa's Troops.

DES MOINES, Ia., May 14.—The Iowa troops will not move on next Tuesday. The slowness with which companies are filled, and the length of time required to prepare and compare the muster rolls, make it certain that it will require several days to get the regiment mustered in. The commissions of the officers were signed by Gov. Shaw this afternoon, but not a man has been mustered into the service of the United States except the regimental surgeons.

A German Laborer Found Drowned.

The body of a man, apparently a German, was found yesterday afternoon in Whale Creek, a tributary of Newtown Creek, at the head of Greene street, Greenpoint. He was about 38 years old, 5 feet 7 inches in height, and wore a dark coat and trousers. Only a pipe was found upon him. The body had been in the water about two days, and the man appeared to have been a laborer. The body was taken to Gallagher's undertaking establishment at 204 Bedford avenue.

LEE DIDN'T LEAD HIS CLASS.

He Was Really Forty-fifth in a Class of Forty-nine at West Point.

The published statement that Gen. Fitzhugh Lee was graduated from West Point at the head of his class prompts the *Army and Navy Journal* to say:

"He was really number 45 in the Military Academy class of 1856, or five files from the left flank, the class numbering forty-nine. The head of the class was George W. Snyder, who died in November, 1861, at the early age of 28, having first won a brevet of captain for gallant and meritorious services in the defense of Fort Sumter, and that of Major for gallant and meritorious services in the Manassas campaign. There was another Lee in the same class, Charles C. Lee, who graduated number 6. He joined the South during the war and was killed at the battle of Glendale, Va. The only members of the class now in the army are Brig.-Gen. Thomas C. Sullivan, Col. John W. Barriger, Col. Edmund C. Bainbridge, Col. Richard Lodor, Col. Jeremiah H. Gilman, Capt. Charles B. Stivers, Major-Gen. James W. Forsyth, Brig.-Gen. John K. Mizner, Major James McMillan, and Major Herbert M. Enos, all on the retired list of the army.

"Among the deceased members of the class are David C. Houston, M. D. McAlester, and G. M. Fox as civil engineers; Herbert A. Haskell, Henry V. De Hart, Lorenzo Lorain, Thomas E. Miller, John B. Shinn, and Guilford D. Bailey of the artillery; George D. Bayard, Richard S. C. Lord, Wesley Owen of the cavalry; Joseph H. Taylor of cavalry and staff; Samuel S. Carroll, a general officer of volunteers, and J. McLean Hildt of the infantry. Seven members of the class were killed in battle or died of wounds, four on the Union side and three in the Confederate Army."

Commenting on this statement, an army officer said: "The West Point man whose stand is low finds lots of consolation in the records of many of our successful Generals. A large number of them were low-stand men. The advantage of high stand at the Military Academy, aside from the honor attached to it, is that it gives a man the most desirable billet after he is graduated, and in time of peace the advancement of the high-stand man is more rapid than that of his less fortunate classmates. When war comes the conditions change, and the laggards in study are sometimes the most successful in leading men."

NASSAU'S COUNTY COMMITTEE.

Republicans Outline Political Plans for the New County.

Many Queens County Republicans gathered at the Fifth Avenue Hotel yesterday afternoon to carry out the mandate of the Republican State Committee to organize a county committee for the new county of Nassau, as provided for by the last Legislature. The special committee appointed by the State Committee to organize this new committee, consisting of Messrs. O'Dell, Deubert, and Van Cott, were on hand to confer with Chairman William Barnes, Jr., of the Executive Committee of the State Committee. After considerable talk they adopted the following resolution:

"That for all purposes during the year 1898 the Republican County Committee of the county of Queens as it will be constituted upon the date of organization, June 14, 1898, or at any adjourned meeting thereafter, will be the supreme party authority in the territory now known as the county of Queens, except that for the purposes of calling a County Convention to nominate candidates for county officers in the county of Nassau, to be erected according to law on Jan. 1, 1899, the members of the County Committee of Queens resident in said newly-to-be-erected county of Nassau have authority to call a convention for said county, and be it further

Resolved, That the said County Convention for the County of Nassau above provided for be empowered to adopt a constitution for the General Committee of the county of Nassau and to elect members thereto, to take office Jan. 1, 1899."

BOY AND GIRL RUN DOWN.

The Boy Likely to Die from the Injuries Inflicted by a Runaway Horse.

The clanging of a trolley car bell yesterday afternoon frightened a horse belonging to Isadore Simons of 1252 Myrtle avenue, Williamsburg, which had been left standing in front of a store at 186 Graham avenue. The horse ran along Graham avenue and at Montrose avenue just grazed an open car. Half a block further on the wagon collided with a coal cart.

At Graham avenue and McKibbin street the horse ran down Lena Bittner, 6 years old, of 120 McKibbin street, and Abraham Levy, aged 7 years, whose parents live at 185 Boerum street. The girl was slightly cut and bruised. The boy appeared to have only a slight cut behind the left ear. Both were carried to their homes, and after the horse had proceeded another block it was stopped.

An hour after the boy reached his home he became insensible, and the father ran to the Stagg Street Police Station for a doctor. An ambulance from St. Catharine's Hospital, with Surgeon Slavin, was sent to the house. It was found that one of the boy's ribs was broken, his skull was fractured, and he had also received internal injuries. He was taken to the hospital, where it was said last night that he would probably die.

NEWS BY CARRIER PIGEON.

It Is from the Monitor Lehigh and Is Only Eight Days Old.

A carrier pigeon which had become too much exhausted to fly was found yesterday on the meadows in Jersey City near the Pennsylvania Railroad tracks. The bird was picked up by John Qualey of 2 Harrison avenue, an employee in the meadow shops. He endeavored to revive it, but without success. The pigeon had a ring on its left leg on which was marked "T. S. 887." A small piece of paper attached to the other leg had this written on it:

"U. S. S. LEHIGH, CHARLESTOWN NAVY YARD, BOSTON, Mass., May 6, 1898, 11 A. M.

"We dropped anchor at 11 o'clock yesterday. Will be tied up to the dock to-day for alterations and further repairs. Nothing further has been done regarding enlistment to date. All well on board. Weather mild and pleasant.

"E. MERRITT, Surgeon."

The Lehigh is one of the monitors which was fitted up at the League Island Navy Yard. It is thought that the pigeon lost its bearings, and was prostrated by hunger and exhaustion. The date of the message indicates that the pigeon left Boston on May 6.

RAN AWAY WITH OHLE'S ROLL.

Ohle Thought It Was a Joke, but the Stranger Didn't Come Back.

While Louis Ohle of 1111 Lafayette avenue, Williamsburg, was in the Minden House, at Kent avenue and Broadway, last evening, a man about 35 years old introduced himself as Dr. Carroll.

They had several drinks and Ohle paid the bartender from a roll of bills amounting to $60. After Ohle had replaced the roll in a pocket, Dr. Carroll playfully felt of the pocket. He abstracted the money and ran out of the place. Ohle thought Dr. Carroll had played a joke on him, and waited for his return. After waiting in vain for nearly an hour he came to the conclusion that Dr. Carroll was a thief, and he reported his loss at the Bedford avenue police station.

KILLED BY A TENSION SPRING.

Death of William Claypool on a Trolley Construction Car.

A flat construction car of the Brooklyn Heights Railroad, in charge of William Claypool and Motorman Charles Stacom, slipped the trolley yesterday afternoon just after leaving the repair shop at Fifty-second street and Second avenue, Brooklyn. Claypool tried to replace the pole. He did not succeed. The car was moving, and the pole got caught in the trolley wire and broke. The part of the pole to which the tension spring was attached struck Claypool on the back of the neck, killing him. He was 24 years old, and lived at Ninety-fourth street and Third avenue, Fort Hamilton. Motorman Stacom was arrested.

William Burke Missing.

Mrs. Mary Burke of 336 Central avenue, Jersey City, reported to the police yesterday that her husband, William Burke, 55 years old, has been missing since last Wednesday morning. Burke is an insurance agent. When he left home he had a small satchel and considerable money with him, and his wife fears that he has met with foul play. Burke is 5 feet 6 inches tall and has mixed gray hair, white mustache and chin whiskers. He wore a light Fedora hat, black coat, waistcoat and trousers, and laced shoes.

Costa Rica and Nicaragua at Peace.

NEW ORLEANS, La., May 14.—Visitors arrived from San José, Costa Rica, announce that articles of peace between that republic and Nicaragua were signed on April 27 on board the U. S. S. Alert in the presence of the American officers who strongly recommended it. The terms agreed upon were thoroughly satisfactory to both countries.

THE FRENCH ELECTIONS.

Some Interesting Results—The Rule Case May Be Shelved.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, May 14.—An analysis of the French election returns yields one or two points of interest. It was a matter of some surprise, although the public interest in the elections was much less than usual, that the polling was the heaviest on record. This is explained by the fact that this is the first election held in May. Heretofore the polling has been in August, which is the holiday season. Nobody was willing to forego his holiday for the duties of citizenship.

The Meline Cabinet is practically assured a substantial majority by the second balloting, on the 22d inst. A prominent member of the Meline Cabinet said to me in Paris on Wednesday that the Government expected to be partially relieved from the danger of dictation by the military party. The present Cabinet is pleased also by the failure of the Socialists to make great gains, which some feared. Premier Meline particularly rejoices in the heavy defeat of M. Jaurès, the Socialist leader, whose plea at the Zola trial was one of the most striking features of that famous case. This is really a matter for regret, for M. Jaurès undoubtedly represented the cause of truth and justice during the season of public insanity through which France has been passing. There is no doubt that M. Jaurès will be returned at an early date from some other constituency.

One result of the election and the modification of public passion and prejudice may be the quiet end of the Zola prosecution. It is now intimated that an arrangement may be reached by which the defence will let the case go by default and the sentence will be indefinitely postponed.

THE VERONA LAKE MURDER.

The Police Feel Sure They Know Who Killed Elmer H. Renner.

If there were any doubt before there is certainly none now that the victim of the murder at Verona Lake, in West Orange township, N. J., is Elmer H. Renner, who was formerly employed in R. G. Solomon's tannery in Newark as an assistant to Engineer Louis Rich, who identified the body on Friday afternoon. Yesterday several friends of Renner were found and taken to the Morgue, where they unhesitatingly identified the corpse. Meanwhile the police were in search of Renner's wife. They finally found her at 212 Morris and Essex Railroad avenue, where Renner lived previous to his leaving home three weeks ago.

She would not go to the Morgue to identify the body, but she identified the hat as one which her husband purchased at Moore's hat store, where she and Louis Rich accompanied him. She recognized a piece of cloth cut from her husband's trousers and the shoes he wore, telling where they were purchased and the price paid. Thomas Peabody, the man who sold the shoes, said that she was right. The police closed Mrs. Renner's mouth in some manner, but not until she had told one reporter that she had been informed that her husband had been positively identified and showed him a picture of the man taken some time ago in the costume and attitude of a prize fighter. She said that her husband left home three weeks ago to go to Lake Hopatcong, where he wanted to build a boat. He told her before he left that he had a quarrel with his partner in the project, and that the boat building was off, but that he would go to the lake anyway.

The police feel sure that they know the murderer now, but are not hopeful about catching him, as he left Newark three days ago. They will not tell whom they suspect, and nothing can be dragged out of the county officers about the matter except that there is no longer any doubt about who the murdered man is.

One of Mrs. Renner's neighbors said yesterday that Renner was a particular man, and when away from Newark was in the habit of returning every week for clean garments, and that his wife was greatly alarmed when he had been gone over two weeks. He was last home three weeks ago to-morrow, and where he spent the time intervening between that day and the day he was killed has not been ascertained yet. The doctors are sure that the man was not dead more than three days before the body was found, which was a week ago Friday.

MRS. CODY IN ALBANY.

She Will Be Tried in June on the Charge of Blackmail Made by the Goulds.

ALBANY, May 14.—Mrs. Margaret E. Cody, the prime mover in the unsuccessful attempt to prove that Mrs. Sarah Ann Angell of Champlain, Clinton county, N. Y., was married to the late Jay Gould in April, 1853, and that Mrs. John Pierce of Rock Springs, Wy., was the issue of that marriage, was brought here this afternoon from New York city by District Attorney's Officer Wood and was lodged in the Albany jail. She will be arraigned before Supreme Court Justice Fursman on Monday morning to plead to the two indictments for blackmail found against her by the Grand Jury on the complaint of George J. Gould and Miss Helen Gould.

Mrs. Cody will plead not guilty, and her trial will come on in the county court in June before Judge Clifford D. Gregory. She has not yet retained a lawyer, and has no idea which way to turn for aid. She is over 60 years of age, just how much over she does not know. She is confined in a large room on the second floor of the jail, not a block away from the boarding house where she lived when she wrote the two letters to the Goulds on which the blackmailing charges are based. When seen by THE SUN correspondent to-night she was crying and in a frantic state of mind. She was particularly indignant that she should be confined in such quarters. She said she was an aunt of Buffalo Bill and that she had taken care of him at her home in Western Missouri when he was between 10 and 15 years of age. She said she could expect no help from him now, as they have not been friendly in recent years. Mrs. Cody's home lately has been in Denver, and she went to New York a few days ago to arrange to sail for England and look after an estate there. She says she has been engaged to care for the interests of an American heir.

"I am innocent of this charge of blackmail," she said, "and have the necessary papers from Mrs. Pierce to prove the sincerity of my assertion."

Mr. John E. Searles Improving.

The condition of Mr. John E. Searles, Secretary and Treasurer of the American Sugar Refining Company, who has been confined to his home at 810 St. Marks avenue, in Brooklyn, since Wednesday by an attack of gastric fever, was said to have been much improved yesterday. Mrs. Searles said last night that her husband was resting easily, and that she was looking forward to his speedy recovery.

OBITUARY.

Dr. Lott Southard, one of the oldest and most influential of Newark's physicians, died at his home in that city early yesterday morning after being ill several years. He was 71 years old and was born at Baskingridge, N. J. He was the father of William Southard, a member of the First Troop of New Jersey, who fell dead from his horse at drill three weeks ago. It is thought that depression over his loss hastened the father's death. The remaining family consists of a widow, one son and two daughters.

William H. Wanser, the father of Brigadier-General and former Mayor P. F. Wanser, died yesterday at his home, 481 Jersey avenue, Jersey City, 75 years old. He was born in Willets street, this city, and was for many years engaged in the commission business in Washington Market. He had a stroke of paralysis about five years ago, from which he never fully recovered. The immediate cause of death was pneumonia, with which he was prostrated about ten days ago. A widow, one son and three daughters survive him.

David W. Chandler died at his home in Bound Brook, N. J., yesterday in his fifty-seventh year. He served in a Massachusetts regiment during the war. Afterward he engaged in woollen manufacturing in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. In 1885 he became the superintendent of the woollen mills in Bound Brook. A widow and daughter survive him.

John R. Lockwood died at Saratoga on Friday night, aged 61 years. He was born in Saratoga and removed to New York, where he became a successful banker and broker. About six years ago he retired from business. A widow and two children survive him.

Bernard Silverman, a clerk in the Ewen Street Police Court, Williamsburg, died on Friday night at his home, 600 Lorimer street, in his sixty-first year. In 1873 he was elected to the Assembly. He leaves three sons and one daughter.

Houstoun M. Sadler, an old resident of Bath Beach, L. I., and formerly Highway Commissioner, died yesterday morning. He was a Confederate veteran, having served with the Palmetto Guards of Charleston, S. C.

Gilbert C. Smith, aged 66 years, a life-long resident of Huntington, L. I., died of heart disease yesterday afternoon. He leaves a widow and one daughter, Mrs. John S. Cairo.

ITALY'S GREAT RIOTS.

HUMBERT AND HIS DYNASTY WERE IN DANGER FOR A WHILE.

But the Troops Were True to the King, the Leaders of the Reds Fled Over the Border and the Revolution Was Quelled—Nearly a Half Million Reservists Were Called Out and About 5,000 Rioters Now Await Trial.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, May 14.—THE SUN'S Rome correspondent telegraphs that the worst of the trouble is believed to be over. Even the revolutionary leaders, most of whom are now in Switzerland, are urging their followers to slow down; and as the leaders show no disposition to take a share in the risks of the insurrection their advice will the more readily be followed.

It cannot be denied that the situation at the beginning of the week was very serious for King Humbert and his dynasty, and if the Republican chiefs had resisted instead of bolting across the frontier at the first danger of arrest the revolution would have been successful for a time at any rate.

One promising feature for King Humbert and Italy has been the efficiency, courage, and discipline of the army in a crisis which was calculated to test the best qualities of the best Continental troops. Premier Rudini may not be a first-class statesman, but he has great courage and some discernment. He quickly saw that the crisis was one for the military to deal with, and at his suggestion martial law was proclaimed and the work of suppressing the revolt was handed over to the War Department.

Three weeks ago 210,000 troops were serving throughout Italy, two-thirds of them on the frontiers. Since then there have been called out 80,000 of the 1878 class of reservists, 65,000 of the 1872 class, 20,000 of the 1874 class, 15,000 of the engineer and railroad corps, 26,000 carabinieri, and 10,000 cavalry. The total now with the colors is 426,000 men. The strain on the War Department has been great, but the organization has withstood it well. It is generally believed that the Government will have to ask an extraordinary credit of 40,000,000 lire, but some people think the cost will be cheap as a demonstration of the efficiency of the Italian military organization, at which some Continental critics have lately been disposed to sneer.

Another matter which has given much satisfaction to King Humbert and the Italian Government is the manner in which the middle classes have rallied around the throne. From every city and town of any size come offers to form volunteer corps, and old soldiers upon whom there is no legal call have eagerly proffered their services.

These are the consolations to be set against the awful waste of human life and property which the rising entailed. The latter must be estimated at many millions of lire. The former appears to have been grossly exaggerated by irresponsible correspondents. The figures are shocking enough, in all conscience. The following figures were gathered by the military and municipal authorities and sent to Rome, where they have not yet been published.

At Milan 276 persons were killed, including twenty-seven children and four women. Three hundred persons were wounded. The troops engaged against the rioters at Milan lost sixty-three killed and 103 wounded. Six hundred Milanese rioters are now in prison. Their trial by the military courts has begun. Nearly 5,000 other rioters in various parts of the country are similarly situated. Over 300 Republican and Socialist clubs have been dissolved by legal process, and the leading members will be prosecuted for the crime of inciting hatred between the classes and provoking disorder.

That indictment sums up the whole thing. These so-called bread riots were originally organized by Republicans. The rising degenerated into an anarchical revolt against society. It had no more to do with the scarcity of food than had the Chicago murders years ago. Mr. Leiter may therefore rest easy and complete his deal without fear that he is responsible for this terrible outpouring of Italian blood.

Premier Rudini said to me yesterday: "Italy has had a taste of what other European countries, particularly France and Austria, will experience sooner or later unless they make up their minds to bid defiance to the red spectre."

I am sending this despatch across the frontier.

The exodus of Americans and other foreigners from Italy during the past week put a heavy tax upon the capacity of the railroads, which were also burdened with the transport of large bodies of troops. The hotels of Paris, the Riviera, and Switzerland are thronged with these fugitives.

MISS TERRY AND SIR HENRY.

Their Long Professional Association Is Likely to Be Severed.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, May 14.—A strange succession of disappointments and general ill fortune has had Sir Henry Irving for its victim in the past few months. Everything seems to have gone wrong with the great actor, and through no fault of his own. Some of his misfortunes are connected with his profession and others are of a personal nature.

The latest disaster which threatens is the rupture of the long association with Miss Ellen Terry, an event which not only London, but hosts of admirers in America and England will regard as a personal misfortune. Nothing definite can yet be said about the matter, but one of the rumors is that Miss Terry may, a few months hence, play with Mr. Tree at Her Majesty's.

MR. GLADSTONE'S CONDITION.

A Bulletin Issued Yesterday Says He Is a Trifle Stronger.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, May 14.—Mr. Gladstone was able to take some liquid food at noon yesterday. The bulletin issued this evening says that he is a trifle stronger. His doctors think there is no immediate likelihood of his dying, though at any moment there may be a change for the worse.

The weather to-day was pleasant, and a window in Mr. Gladstone's bedroom was opened. He lies in an apartment overlooking the south terrace, near which a cricket match was being played to-day. He lies for hours with his eyes closed, and seldom speaks. He recognizes visitors by their voices, and holds out his hand to them.

COVENT GARDEN OPERA.

The Season Opens Brilliantly—Success of American Singers.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, May 14.—The first week of the Covent Garden grand opera has been a brilliant success, although it was a dangerous experiment to put on the best casts at the very opening of the season, when fashionable London has not yet come to town. The audiences have been large and brilliant, and the De Reszkes, Eames and Nordica were all in excellent voice. Two features of the week were unquestioned successes, and were achieved by two American singers, Susan Adams as *Juliet* and Margaret Reid as *Siebel*.

GREAT TIDAL WAVE IN JAPAN.

Two Hundred Fishing Smacks with 1,500 Men on Board Reported Missing.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

YOKOHAMA, May 14.—A great tidal wave has swept the coast at Swate. Two hundred fishing smacks with 1,500 men on board are missing.

Rigo Pummelled by His Wife.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

BERLIN, May 14.—As Clara Ward and Rigo, her paramour, now at Budapest, were leaving their house on last Tuesday evening, they encountered Rigo's wife, who punched and pummelled him until he fled indoors.

Bettina Girard in Bellevue Again.

Bettina Girard, the former actress, walked into Bellevue Hospital yesterday afternoon. She came from her residence at 206 West Forty-third street, and was apparently out of her head. She gave her name as Sarah Smith. This is the fourth time she has been in Bellevue.

NOTES OF LEGAL EVENTS.

After holding the case for about four months, the Court of Appeals on Tuesday decided the Staten Island election controversy which involves the title to the office of President of the borough of Richmond. The parties in interest are Dr. John L. Feeny, Democrat, and Mr. George Cromwell, Republican, and the case turned upon the question whether certain ballots should or should not be counted under the provisions of the Election law. The first hearing took place at a Special Term of the Supreme Court held at White Plains by Mr. Justice Dykman, and the view which he took of the disputed ballots gave Feeny three majority in the borough. His decision was reviewed in Brooklyn late in December by the Appellate Division, which spent nearly three days in examining and passing upon the ballots in controversy, and finally directed a count which would give a majority of seventeen to Cromwell. An appeal was then taken to the Court of Appeals and argued in January. Judge Martin of that court thought that the case was not appealable and refused to pass upon the questions involved. Judges Vann and Edward T. Bartlett agreed with him, but, as a majority of the court deemed the order appealable, they consented to vote upon the merits. Six of the Judges, therefore, reviewed the ballots which had been considered at the Special Term and in the Appellate Division. As to the proper disposition of these ballots, however, they were unable to agree, the vote standing four to two. The majority voted to modify the decision of the Appellate Division in some respects and affirm it as modified, in accordance with an opinion written by Judge Gray. Judge O'Brien wrote an opinion in favor of greater modifications, and Chief Judge Parker concurred with him. Without a careful analysis of the directions contained in Judge Gray's opinion, it is impossible to say how the count will result.

The Senate Committee on the District of Columbia has made a favorable report upon the proposed Negotiable Instruments law for the District, which was passed by the House of Representatives on the 14th of March. This bill is the codification of the law relating to negotiable instruments which was recommended for adoption by the commissioners to promote uniformity of legislation throughout the Union, who represent thirty of the States. It is aptly described as an Americanized form of the English bills of exchange act and was drafted by Mr. John J. Crawford of the New York bar. The measure is already on the statute book in New York, Colorado, New Jersey, Florida, Virginia, Maryland, and Wyoming.

The United States Circuit Court of Appeals in this city has refused to interfere with the order of Judge Lacombe denying a motion for an injunction to restrain the Collector of the Port from destroying certain teas the importation of which is forbidden by the act of Congress passed in 1897, and entitled, "An act to prevent the importation of impure and unwholesome tea." This statute empowers the Secretary of the Treasury to establish uniform standards of the purity and quality of all kinds of teas and their fitness for consumption, and provides for the exportation of such teas brought to this country as shall not conform to the prescribed standards within six months after a final examination thereof. In case they are not exported within this period, it is made the duty of the Collector to destroy them. The constitutionality of the act is questioned by many American tea merchants, and it will be tested by an appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States from the decision of the Circuit Court of Appeals.

Congress may learn a lesson in economy from the judgment just recovered against the United States in this city by John W. Jacobus for his fees and expenses as Marshal in conveying six Chinamen to the Pacific coast to be returned from San Francisco to China. The Federal statute entitles the Marshal to 10 cents a mile for each prisoner, deputy marshal, and guard making the journey, and the amount adjudged to Mr. Jacobus was over $5,000. This seems pretty liberal remuneration for taking six meek Celestials across the continent.

We find a queer head note in the case of Stabenau vs. the Atlantic Avenue Railroad Company in the latest pamphlet number of the Combined Official Series of New York State Reports. "A motorman of an electric car," says the reporter, "who sees little girls near the track start to run across it *when they have no need to do so*, but when they have time to get across if they do not fall, is not negligent in failing to make any attempt to stop the car until one of them falls." It is impossible to see how the question whether the little girls have need to cross the street or not can affect the conduct of the motorman, and there is nothing in Judge Gray's opinion in the case which implies such an idea on his part. He does say that nothing required the little girl who was hurt to run over the crossing in front of the car at the time she attempted to do so, and that she could have reached the other side of the track if she had not fallen, but this was merely a statement of the facts, and could not have been intended to mean that the negligence or care of the motorman was to be judged with reference to the absence of necessity for the child's action. His conduct was to be passed upon in view of her apparent ability to cross in safety, no matter what motive impelled her movements.

Mr. Justice McAdam of the Supreme Court, speaking at a public dinner on Monday, took occasion to criticise the prevailing methods of appointing referees by his judicial brethren, referring sarcastically to some of their selections as "legal lights" and declaring that "men appointed as referees by the Supreme Court should be really representatives of the bar and men of recognized eminence." So far as his remarks were intended as a rebuke to political or personal favoritism in the appointment of referees they were most commendable, but is it not going too far to insist that references shall be given only to lawyers of distinction? There is a large class of minor references, such as computations in foreclosure, which prominent practitioners would not take, and in which the work can be done just as well by young men fresh at the bar, who have character and capacity, and to whom the small fee is exceedingly welcome. Then there are many other lawyers, of more age and experience, who are well known to their fellows to be capable of performing excellent services as referees, and yet whom no one would ever dream of characterizing as men of recognized eminence. The rule of fitness without favoritism will secure competent referees, without insisting also upon professional prominence in all cases.

A conflict of opinion has arisen between the Appellate Divisions of the Supreme Court in the First and Second Departments in reference to the verification of the annual report of a corporation. The annual report of the F. J. Kaldenberg Company was verified only by the President of the corporation, who at that time was exercising the functions of the Secretary and Treasurer, those officers having previously resigned. The Stock Corporation law requires that such a report shall be verified "by the oath of the President or Vice-President and Treasurer or Secretary." In the case of Noble vs. Euler (20 Appellate Division Reports, page 548) the Appellate Division in Brooklyn affirmed a decision by Almet F. Jenks, Esq., as referee, holding that under the circumstances the verification by the President alone was a substantial and sufficient compliance with the statute, because when the report was made, "the person who verified it was to all intents and purposes the President, Secretary, and Treasurer of the F. J. Kaldenberg Company." A contrary view has been taken here by Mr. Justice Patterson, Presiding Justice Van Brunt, and Judge Morgan J. O'Brien, in the recently decided case of the Manhattan Company vs. Kaldenberg, where they hold that the law contemplates and demands a verification by two officers, and that a verification by one will not suffice under any circumstances. Justices Ingraham and McLaughlin dissent, and agree with the Court in the Second Department. The difference will now have to be settled by the Court of Appeals.

RAILROAD BUSINESS IN 1896-7.

Gross Earnings, $1,116,612,254; Expenses, $747,562,398; Dividends, $57,000,279.

WASHINGTON, May 14.—The preliminary report on the income account of the railways of the United States for the year ended June 30, 1897, prepared under the auspices of the Interstate Commerce Commission, has just made its appearance. The number of lines represented in the report is 743, whose total mileage on the date named was 180,027, a decrease of 1,955 miles from the number covered in the report for the previous year. This accounts for about 97 per cent. of the total railway mileage of the United States. From passenger service the roads earned $314,859,516; from freight, $773,598,253. The other earnings, such as car mileage, switching charges, rents and interest on investments, were $28,155,484. The gross earnings for the year were $1,116,612,254. The operating expenses amounted to $747,562,398. The gross earnings per mile of roads was $6,202, a decrease of $118 a mile from the earnings of 1896. The net earnings were $2,050 a mile, against $2,072 in 1896. Mile earnings have steadily decreased since 1892, in which year the gross earnings were $7,213 and net earnings $2,404.

During the year there was paid in the way of fixed charges, interest on bonds, &c., $347,339,332, leaving $55,878,160 for dividends and surplus for the year. The dividends declared amounted to $57,290,579, showing a deficit of $1,412,399 in the income account of the railways as a whole. Against this, however, it should be stated that the deductions from the income previously mentioned included about $30,000,000 of dividends paid upon the stock of leased lines and rentals.

SLEEPY HOLLOW SCHOOLHOUSE.

Superintendent Skinner Overrules the Decision to Sell the Property.

ALBANY, May 14.—The old Sleepy Hollow schoolhouse in Tarrytown described by Washington Irving is to be preserved. Superintendent Charles R. Skinner of the State Department of Public Instruction to-day decided to sustain the appeal of James R. Fountain and others from the action of a special school meeting held in Union Free School, district No. 2, town of Mount Pleasant, Westchester county, on March 30, 1898, when the sale of the old schoolhouse was ordered.

The schoolhouse was reconstructed thirty years ago, and the Dutch tiles, specimens of the desks, and parts of the blackboard existing in the time of Washington Irving were preserved. A large number of the voters of the district opposed the sale of the building and appealed from the action of the meeting. Superintendent Skinner decides that the proceedings were irregular, and so the schoolhouse will not be sold at present at any rate.

JOE BERNSTEIN MARRIED.

The Bride Miss Annie Morris of the Bohemian Burlesque Company.

Joe Bernstein, one of the crack featherweight boxers who have tackled champion Dixon, was married in the old City Hall in Brooklyn yesterday. The bride was Miss Annie Morris, a member of the Bohemian Burlesque Company. Alderman David Stewart officiated.

New Supreme President of the A. P. A.

WASHINGTON, May 14.—George W. Bowers of Clinton, Ia., was to-night elected Supreme President of the American Protective Association by the executive council, succeeding J. W. Echolls of Atlanta, Ga. Mr. Bowers was the founder of the order.

Textiles for the Army.

From the Textile World.

Some of our textile mills are already supplied with sufficient orders for goods for army purposes from the Government to keep them running full time, in some instances day and night. The demand will affect both our cotton and woollen mills. There are very few of the latter that are now manufacturing all-wool flannels, such as were made thirty years ago. This fact has an interesting connection here, due to the demand, for army purposes, for goods of this character, which have been superseded, for ordinary wear, by knitted fabrics. The result of the demand for flannels, more particularly 6-4 dark blue blouses and 3-4 blouse linings, will induce a number of our mills to change their machinery over to this class of fabrics. They will all have to be made, and this will take time, as the market is practically bare of them. It will have the advantage, however, of removing much of the pressure in other directions, which is a matter greatly to be desired.

The Government stands in great need for cotton material for tenting purposes, and the strictures are very rigid for a first-class fabric, the standard of the Government being that the goods shall stand a fire hose being played upon them for three-quarters of an hour before the water shows through. This is regarded to be an essential feature in tenting supplies for use in Cuba during the rainy season. Cotton ducks and drills will be in great demand, and advertisements are already in the papers for proposals for such goods for Government use. The goods in want are eight ounce, ten ounce, and twelve ounce duck. The new tan color, fast-dyed goods are especially wanted; the deliveries to commence on or after July 1 next.

Blue kersey cloth for overcoats and trousers, for the soldiers and marines, will be wanted, and rush orders have already been placed with some mills for them. These demands on the part of the Government may have such an influence upon manufacturers that our textile mills may find themselves well supplied with orders before they know it.

MARINE INTELLIGENCE.

MINIATURE ALMANAC—THIS DAY.

Sun rises....	4 45	Sun sets..	7 11
Moon rises.	1 54		

HIGH WATER—THIS DAY.

Sandy Hook.	3 53	Gov. Isl'd.	4 05
Hell Gate..	5 58		

Arrived—SATURDAY, May 14.

Ss Campania, Walker, Liverpool May 7 and Queenstown 8th.
Ss Augusta Victoria, Ksempff, Hamburg May 5 and Southampton 6th.
Ss Burgermeister Petersen, Kelterer, Stettin April 25 and Shields 30th.
Ss Patria, Briand, Marseilles April 22 and Naples 26th.
Ss Pontiac, Owen, Gibraltar.
Ss Strius, Nielsen, Stettin.
Ss St. Leonards, Pugh, Antwerp.
Ss Orwell, Gibb, Singapore.
Ss Strathdee, Currie, Sagua.
Ss Ocean, Cassens, Rotterdam.
Ss Maori, Coyle, St. Louis.
Ss Reynolds, Mullan, Sunderland.
Ss John Sanderson, Smith, Sunderland.
Ss Navahoe, Proctor, Philadelphia.
Ss Old