MESSAGE NEARLY READY.

SOME TOPICS GOVERNOR-ELECT ROOSEVELT WILL DISCUSS.

The Document to Be Short—Will Give the Largest Share of Space to the Canals—Seth Low Lunches with Col. Roosevelt, and They Talk Over Appointments.

OYSTER BAY, L. I., Dec. 15.—The first draft of Governor-elect Roosevelt's message to the Legislature is practically complete. At least, its scope and the general nature of what he is going to say have taken definite limits and proportions. There will be six leading topics: civil service reform, the National Guard, excise legislation, the canals, labor legislation and the biennial session plan.

The message will be shorter than the usual documents of its kind. It will handle the subjects of which it treats in the most vigorous manner. The part relating to civil service reform will advocate the immediate repeal of the present so-called "starchless" law. President Low, who was Col. Roosevelt's only important visitor to-day, went over this section of the message with the Governor-elect very carefully.

In his speeches during the campaign Col. Roosevelt said repeatedly that he would put the National Guard on a thoroughly soldierly footing, officered by men of military efficiency and equipped with the latest and most serviceable weapons. In his message the Governor will tell the Legislature how he expects it to help him to bring about this result.

The message will not go into the excise question at any great length. A few modifications of the law, suggested by the way in which it has worked, will be proposed. But no startling or revolutionary alterations in the law will be advocated, so those who have talked with him understand.

The canals will be dwelt upon more at length than any other topic in the message. Col. Roosevelt has spent much time talking with men who are conversant with canal affairs. He even had a young engineer employed on the canal come to Oyster Bay and explain to him from an expert's point of view how canal matters stood. The section of the message relating to canal administration past and future will be couched in the most uncompromising language.

The Governor-elect's well-known view that what labor interests need is not so much new legislation as a strict enforcement of existing legislation will be emphasized once again. He will caution the Legislature to go slowly in making new laws. From this point the message proceeds by natural sequence to a consideration of the biennial session plan for which Gov. Black has always argued so strongly.

Besides going over his message with President Low, Col. Roosevelt discussed with him the awkward situation regarding the attitude toward each other of the candidates for appointment to the place of Commissioner of Labor Statistics. Every candidate is an Ishmaelite as regards the others. The friends of each one are for their friend and have no second choice. Henry Weismann continues to have some what the best of it. The indorsement of Seth Low was to-day added to that of Naval Officer Sharkey and the German-American Labor organizations. The chief obstacle in his way is the charge that he was once an Anarchist. Against this there is, to his credit, the fact that the Socialist Labor unions are opposed to him.

Labor circles in New York are said to be much agitated by information to the effect that George Gunton, the proprietor of an educational magazine, called on Col. Roosevelt yesterday and announced his candidacy for the place of Commissioner of Labor Statistics. Gunton did nothing of the sort. He likes to talk about labor men and problems. He is acquainted with Col. Roosevelt, and went out to talk to the Governor-elect. Col. Roosevelt heard all he had to say that was new about each of the five candidates who have been named for the place, and then declined to commit himself. It is possible that Gunton might be urged to serve the State, but he is not now a candidate for any place. He and Col. Roosevelt are perfectly agreed on that point.

The situation regarding the selection of a Superintendent of Public Works remains unchanged. Mr. Roberts is said to be a strong candidate. Mr. Hendricks is also said to be a strong candidate. There are some unexplained reasons those who know the name of the engineer to whom Col. Roosevelt offered the place, and who refused it, still cling to a hope that he may change his mind. To-morrow may bring forth something more positive about Mr. Roberts's candidacy. Col. Roosevelt told Mr. Low to-day that he would not deny that he was quite uncertain about this appointment. He might yet, he said, appoint some man whose name had not been suggested up to this time if he could find the right one.

Seth Low arrived a little after noon. He was expected. He lunched with Col. Roosevelt, and they talked over the message and the appointments. Mr. Low left in time to catch the 2:27 P. M. train for New York. No other visitors were expected. Some, however, came unasked and impeded the work on the message somewhat.

It is the plan of the Governor-elect to go to New York early Saturday morning. From the foot of East 125th street he will embark for Randall's Island. Alexander E. Orr and Edward M. Townsend, the President and Treasurer respectively of the House of Refuge on Randall's Island, will accompany him. They will inspect the place. It is the desire of the Governor-elect to become familiar with at least one of the State's charitable institutions before he goes to Albany.

Col. Roosevelt will give a dinner Saturday night to some of his friends. Among them will be Senator Platt, Seth Low, B. Odell, Jr., Elihu Root, Chauncey M. Depew, Joseph H. Choate and John Proctor Clarke. The dinner, it is said, will be distinctly outside of politics.

JERSEY REPUBLICAN CAUCUS.

Wood McKee to Be the Assembly Leader and Watkins the Speaker.

TRENTON, N. J., Dec. 15.—The Republican Assemblymen-elect held a caucus to-day and unanimously selected Acting Governor Watkins to be Speaker of the next House and Wood McKee of Passaic county to be the Republican leader on the floor. The selection of Mr. Watkins will prevent any further complications over the acting Governorship between the date of organization of the Legislature and the inauguration of Gov. Voorhees one week later. The caucus adopted a resolution indorsing for re-election the entire clerical force of last year, but the two Cumberland county members were unable to agree on the bill clerk and there was a contest. One member advocated the re-election of William H. Loppy and the other insisted on the selection of John W. Newlin, a newspaper editor at Millville. Essex and Passaic then each named a candidate and the Essex man, George Powell, was chosen over Loppy by a majority of two votes. The result of the caucus was that Essex will get twelve clerkships and doorkeepers in the next organization, while Cumberland will have only a boy page. The result caused some hard feeling. The caucus adjourned to meet on Jan. 9. In the interval an attempt will be made to induce Essex to give up one of her offices to Cumberland, and if unsuccessful the caucus will be asked to reconsider Powell's selection.

A resolution was adopted favoring a joint caucus on Jan. 10 to agree on a candidate for United States Senator to succeed James Smith. There are no candidates being considered exceeding Congressman John Kean of Elizabeth.

The Republicans made a new departure by voting 30 to 6 in favor of admitting newspaper reporters to the caucus. The resolution was offered by Mr. Guenther of Essex, who said the Essex County Republican Committee some years ago adopted that course and it worked well. The only opposition to Guenther's resolution came from Bradley of Union and Sturr of Passaic.

STEELE IS SATISFACTORY.

His Appointment Will Cause No Trouble with Brooklyn Republicans.

The announcement by Col. Roosevelt of his intention to appoint ex-Judge Hiram R. Steele as District Attorney in Brooklyn in place of Mr. Mazeau, who goes on the Supreme Court bench at the beginning of the year, has not, so far as can be learned, caused any feeling of dissatisfaction in Republican circles, although Mr. Steele has been classed as an Independent, and was one of Seth Low's most outspoken advocates last year.

Mr. Steele said yesterday that, although he had reason to believe that his appointment was assured, Col. Roosevelt was at perfect liberty to change his mind without any embarrassment to him. As to his policy, should he assume the office, Mr. Steele said: "The officials who have been indicted should have an earnest, careful and thoroughly searching trial in order that every bit of evidence should have its due weight.

"It is said that Mr. Steele is disposed to retain John E. Clarke in his place as First Assistant District Attorney in view of his thorough acquaintance with the business of the office and his fine record as a prosecutor. Mr. Steele will receive suggestions from the regular Republican managers in regard to all the appointments in the office, but at the same time he proposes to use his personal judgment in making the final selections.

THE FIRST ASSEMBLY BALL.

Brilliant Opening of the Dancing Season at the Waldorf-Astoria Last Night.

The first Assembly ball took place at the Waldorf-Astoria last night and the dancing season of '98 opened with unusual brilliancy. The decoration of the grand ballroom was most effective. There was an added coziness of effect, owing to the upper boxes being entirely screened off with palms. Alternating with these were big clusters of white chrysanthemums. Above the place where the stage usually is are two big mirrors, and these were garlanded with white roses. Hanging from the outer edge of the first row of boxes were Christmas wreaths of English box with holly and mistletoe. The orchestra stationed in the first balcony was screened off with exotics.

Mrs. Astor, Mrs. Vanderbilt, Mrs. Grand d'Hauteville, and Mrs. William Watts Sherman received the guests. All were splendidly attired in satin, brocade, and velvet, set off with embroideries, rich laces, and magnificent jewels. They stood in a Pompeiian bower, composed of asparagus vines and white roses. The dancing went on until after midnight in the usual informal fashion. Some of the débutantes, not as numerous this winter as heretofore, were at the ball. These were arrayed in tulle or mousseline de soie. The splendor of attire of the matrons and the older set of girls was a feature. Some appeared as if moulded in spangles, others as if great appliqué garlands had been tossed with tinsel on the richest silk or satin. At 12:30 o'clock supper was served in the Astor Gallery and East Room at small tables, each with its own clusters of carnations.

As there were more than 500 persons present, the cotillion which followed supper was a large one. It was led by Worthington Whitehouse, whose partner was Mrs. Almeric Paget. There was only one favor figure, and during this Colonial workbags were given out to the women and big boutonnières to the men. Those who did not care to dance in the cotillion had ample sitting out and promenading space. The room leading from the ballroom was adorned with a profusion of American Beauty roses and the wide hall with exotics and white roses.

Among those present were Mr. and Mrs. H. Mck. Twombly, Alexander M. Hadden, Miss Charlotte Whiting, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence H. Mackay, Payne Whitney, Mr. and Mrs. Almeric Paget, L. Townsend Burden, Jr., Miss Elsa Bronson, Alfred G. Vanderbilt, Mr. and Mrs. Ogden Mills, Miss Anna Sands, R. T. Wilson, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. M. Orme Wilson, Paul d'Hauteville, Miss Elsie Clews, Henry Clews, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Elbridge T. Gerry, the Misses Gerry, William Cutting, the Misses Morton, Mr. and Mrs. William Douglas Sloane, the Misses Sloane, Reginald Brooks, Mr. and Mrs. Moses Taylor, Miss Bishop, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Sloane, W. Watts Sherman, Mr. and Mrs. William Rockefeller, Lispenard Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. J. Ellis Hoffman, Mrs. Lindsay Hoffman, Chapin, Miss Marguerite Chapin, Thomas Cushing, Miss Cushing, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Payne Whitney, Miss Evelyn Sloane, Miss Hunt, Sir Roderick Cameron, Miss Isabelle Cameron, Miss Creighton, Webb, Henry Sands, Mr. and Mr. Edmund L. Baylies, Mr. and Mrs. Elisha Dyer, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. James A. Burden, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. J. Pierpont Morgan, the Misses Morgan, A. Muller Ury, Chauncey M. Depew, Miss Eleanor J. Robinson, Miss Augusta Robinson, William K. Vanderbilt, Cecil Lansdale, Miss Caroline Stokes, Miss Caroline Edgar, Miss Maizie Wood, Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Thompson, G. Beekman Hoppin, the Misses Delafield, Mr. and Mrs. W. Jay Schieffelin, Miss Hoffman, Mr. and Mrs. Frank S. Witherbee, Mr. and Mrs. P. L. Ronalds, Mr. and Mrs. Whitney Warren, the Misses Hewitt, Erskine Hewitt, the Misses Gurnee, Miss Whittaker, the Misses Bend, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Butler Hillhouse, Mr. and Mrs. W. Gerard, Jr., James Appleton, Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Harriman, Jr., H. O. Havemeyer, Jr., Frank L. Polk, Miss Virginia Fair, Mr. and Mrs. Hermann Oelrichs, Henry Roger Winthrop, Milton S. Barger, Ashbel Barney, Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton Wilks Cary, Reginald Ronalds, Mrs. Burke Roche, Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck, Miss Daisy Post, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd S. Bryce, Mr. and Mrs. Stuyvesant Fish, Center Hitchcock, Harry Lehr, Winthrop Rutherfurd, Miss Post, the Misses Gerry, Mr. and Mrs. Goodhue Livingston, Duncan McKa Livingston, Clarence Fahnestock, Schuyler Schieffelin, Bradish Johnson, Miss Blight, the Messrs. Reynal, Miss Derby, the Misses Barney, Mr. and Mrs. P. Cooper Hewitt, Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt, Jr.; John Jacob Astor, Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Oakley Rhinelander, Miss Mary Kearny, Mr. and Mrs. J. V. L. Pruyn, Wainwright Parish, Frederic Juilliard, Goelet Gallatin, Miss Barbey, Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Oelrichs, Miss McAllister, Mrs. F. K. Pendleton, Mrs. Trevenbeere, Ralph N. Ellis, Mr. and Mrs. Jules J. Vatable, Mr. and Mrs. George B. de Forest, Mr. and Mrs. Prescott Lawrence, Mr. and Mrs. Stanford White, Mr. and Mrs. T. Suffern Tailer, Miss Minturn, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Brown, Miss Eva Van C. Morris, Mr. and Mrs. Newbold Morris, Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Frelinghuysen, Miss Helen Y. C. de Peyster, William P. Burden, William K. Vanderbilt, Jr., Dr. and Mrs. Seward Webb, Miss Coster and Oliver De Lancey Coster.

SALARIES ILLEGALLY PAID?

Civil Service Suit to Make the Comptroller Reimburse the City.

Charles W. Watson has begun two taxpayer's actions against Comptroller Coler to recover the salaries paid by him to William Allen Butler, supervisor of the *City Record*, and the Rev. Charles A. Alden, private secretary to John W. Keller, Commissioner of Charities, for the months of January and February. Mr. Watson was one of the local Civil Service Commissioners under Mayor Strong, and he is now a member of the Civil Service Reform Association. Mr. Watson alleges that the offices held by these men were in the classified service, and, as neither man passed an examination, the Comptroller is personally liable for the amount he paid to them in salaries.

In his answer Mr. Coler says that Butler and Alden were appointed temporarily pending the preparation of rules by the new City Civil Service Board, and that as soon as these rules were formulated and approved by the Mayor both men were reappointed and paid upon certification of the Civil Service Commissioners.

BOTHER OVER SOLDIER VOTE.

Sorting It Is Laborious, and Getting It Counted Requires a Programme.

The soldier vote was the cause of more worriment in Mulberry street yesterday. The work of sorting it out to the election districts in which it properly belonged was a most troublesome task, and will not be finished today, though a couple of men were working at tracing out the nineteen hundred and odd addresses. When that is done comes the counting. The law requires that the ballot shall be handed to the election boards the day before the counting, which is on Tuesday. The point was raised that it would never do to let a couple of hundred men carry around the sealed ballots over Monday night. They might lose them. The children might be attracted by the gold seal on each envelope and take them to play with. A conference was held of the political managers, the police, and the election officials, and it was agreed to summon the election officials to the respective precincts on Monday, have the Captains hand them the envelopes, then let them give the envelopes back to be locked up over night in the Captain's safe, each inspector to get a receipt. The next morning the first half of the performance will be gone over again. The Captains will hand out the envelopes, and then they will be opened, the ballots counted, return made in due form, and the law will have been complied with at last.

SOLDIERS' VOTE IN BROOKLYN.

It Will Not Change the Result in the Close Districts.

The package containing the votes of the soldiers from Kings county was opened yesterday by County Clerk Wuest in his office in Brooklyn in the presence of representatives of the two leading political organizations. Secretary of State Palmer gave the total vote as 658, but it was found that this was one in excess of the exact number, the mistake occurring by the insertion of a vote of a Manhattan soldier. The votes were assorted according to districts to which the voters belonged and will be counted by the canvassers on Tuesday. It has been ascertained that the vote will not change the result in any of the close contests and that the Republicans have surely elected Davis to the Senate and Collier to the Assembly.

State Board of Canvassers Meet.

ALBANY, Dec. 15.—State Board of Canvassers met this morning and adjourned until to-morrow. The board will adjourn from day to day until Monday, as required by law, when adjournment will be taken until Dec. 28 or 29. By that time the returns from the soldier votes will have been filed with the Secretary of State, and the board will then make its canvass of the vote cast at the November election.

Naval Surgeon Lung Sues for Divorce.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 15.—Passed Assistant Surgeon George A. Lung, U. S. N., attached to the cruiser Philadelphia, stationed at Vallejo, has filed a suit for divorce, accusing his wife, Elizabeth Lung, of intemperance. Mrs. Lung, it is said, will file a counter suit. The Lungs were married in Philadelphia on Jan. 1, 1895. They have lived at Vallejo for several years. The complaint alleges that Mrs. Lung began to drink eight years ago and that her appetite for liquor has now become a disease.

EXPORTS BEAT BRITAIN'S.

THE UNITED STATES IN 1898 STRIDE TO THE FIRST PLACE.

We Shall Export This Year More Than $1,200,000,000 of Domestic Merchandise, Against Exports from the United Kingdom of Less Than $1,140,000,000.

Our exports of domestic merchandise in 1898 will amount to over $1,200,000,000. The United Kingdom will export domestic merchandise valued at less than $1,140,000,000. Our foreign trade in the past three years has grown by leaps and bounds, while England's has been at a standstill, and the United States Treasury and English Board of Trade returns at the end of this month will show that the place England has so long held as the greatest exporter of domestic products has been taken by the United States. Eight years ago, when England shipped to foreign countries her products to the value of $1,280,758,643 (the world's high-water mark), while our domestic exports amounted to but $845,900,603, it did not seem possible that before the end of the decade America would outstrip England and take her place as the greatest exporter of home-made products. Our advance, considering that in the middle of the decade we passed through one of the most disastrous panics in our history, has been wonderful.

November's export trade broke the record. The Treasury Department Bureau of Statistics' preliminary figures for the month show that our exports of domestic merchandise amounted to $127,483,467, exceeding the record of December last by $4,330,384. Including the few exports of foreign products, our exports last month amounted in all to $129,783,512. The December, 1897, record was $125,053,961, while the record prior to that was $117,185,926, made in December, 1896. The November exports show an increase of over $13,000,000 over those in last November, while the increase over the November exports of three years ago is over $42,000,000.

Sir C. T. Ritchie, President of the English Board of Trade, in a speech before the Croydon Chamber of Commerce the other day, calling attention to the critical state of the foreign trade of the kingdom, stated that while in the period 1891-97 the exports from France had increased 1½ per cent., those from Germany, Holland and Belgium 12¾ per cent., and those from the United States 18 per cent., the United Kingdom's exports had fallen off 5 per cent. Up to the end of October the English exports for the year had fallen off £2,600,000, while the imports had increased £14,000,000. He attributed the wonderful increase of our export trade to the development of our natural resources and said that our tariff was in a large part responsible for the decline of England's export trade.

The United Kingdom's exports of her own products last year amounted to $1,138,941,015, while our exports were valued at $1,079,834,294. The British lead of $170,000,000 in 1896 was cut down to $60,000,000. We are not only going to overcome this $60,000,000 this year, but we will lead the United Kingdom by from $60,000,000 to $90,000,000. The British total will probably be a little less than last year, while ours will be between $1,200,000,000 and $1,225,000,000. Our domestic exports for the eleven months of the year were $1,098,089,136, and a December total as low as the lowest December record in years would bring the year's domestic exports tens of millions of dollars above England's.

Our excess of exports this year will reach remarkable figures. November not only broke the export record, but made a new record for a month's excess of exports. While the exports were nearly $130,000,000, the imports were only $52,109,569, the exact excess of exports being $77,673,952. If the December excess is up to the average the year's "balance of trade" will come close to being $600,000,000 in our favor. Last year we thought $360,000,000 a great record. The wonderful progress of our export trade in this decade is apparent from a glance at this table:

	Exports.	*Excess Over Imports.*
1890	$857,502,548	$34,104,822
1891	970,509,646	142,188,703
1892	938,420,660	97,489,705
1893	876,108,781	99,859,857
1894	892,102,248	148,789,907
1895	824,860,136	28,190,789
1896	1,005,848,241	324,257,685
1897	1,050,714,807	357,112,204
1898	*1,230,000,000	*600,000,000

*Estimated.

Exports of foreign merchandise are included in the table. They are insignificant in this country, seldom amounting to $20,000,000 in a year. For the eleven months of the year the total exports from this country were $1,117,681,190, an increase of over $243,000,000 over the corresponding period last year.

With the new record for merchandise exports in 1898 will come a new record for gold imports, and a remarkable record for excess of gold imports over exports. The record of 1880 is already swept away. For the eleven months of the year the gold imports were $149,396,370, and the exports $14,975,316, an excess of imports of $134,421,054. The silver excess of exports for the eleven months was $22,048,103. In previous years, when our export trade has risen to abnormal figures, Europe has paid its debt largely through the increase of its sales of merchandise to this country. Now we are increasing our exports to unheard-of dimensions, and at the same time cutting down our imports. This year our imports will be over $100,000,000 less than last year.

Boston Symphony Orchestra Concert.

The Boston Symphony Orchestra gave its second concert last night. The audience arrived late, presumably on account of the interruption to traffic on the cable cars. But late audiences are to be expected at other musical performances than the opera. "Die Walkuere" on Wednesday at the opera began in the presence of a slim gathering. Twenty minutes later the auditorium was full. The concert began last evening with Tschaikowski's Fifth Symphony, the most Russian of all his writings. The orchestra played as admirably as usual. Only in some of the climaxes was there a noticeable deficiency in force. But Mr. Kneisel, who again conducted, brought the best results from the players at every other time. Saint-Saens's familiar "Rouet d'Omphale" was given with delicacy and a tempo that seemed somewhat more rapid than usual. "Les Preludes" of Liszt was the last orchestral number.

Willy Burmester was again the soloist. He played Beethoven's concerto in D major, and as encore a fugue by Bach. Herr Burmester showed again his unusual equipment on the technical side of his art—a possession which he never displays for its own sake merely. His tone is not large. That admits of no discussion. But he plays always with taste and refinement. Of his place among violinists there can be no doubt. Admirers of correct, finished and, from a technical point of view, exceptionally brilliant attainments will always find his playing delightful. In the Beethoven concerto he exhibited his respect for the classical nature of the work, and the dazzling movements he accomplished were always demanded by the nature of the work.

Mr. Kneisel conducted the accompaniment with the utmost sympathy, and the orchestra's share was worthy of the soloist's success.

Governor-Elect Lounsberry Names His Staff.

NEW HAVEN, Dec. 15.—Governor-elect George Lounsberry has completed his staff. The following appointments were announced to-day: Judge Advocate General, George H. Cowell of Waterbury; Surgeon-General, J. Francis Calef of Middletown; Paymaster-General, Heman O. Averill of Washington; Commissary-General, John W. Atwood of Plainfield; aides, John W. Lowe, Isaac M. Ullman and Rolin S. Woodruff, all of New Haven. Judge Cowell is a Yale and Columbia college graduate. He has been Judge of the Waterbury District court and a Representative in the Legislature for years. Dr. Calef is a Yale Medical school graduate and has been Middletown's Medical Examiner for years. Messrs. Lowe, Ullman and Woodruff are New Haven business men.

Little Americans at Williams.

BOSTON, Dec. 15.—The Executive Committee of the Anti-Imperialist League received to-day a letter from Williams College bearing the signatures of President Carter and several members of the faculty, protesting against Philippine annexation. The league will call a council to formulate an alternative for annexation.

HOW TO LIVE WITHOUT WORKING.

Frank Had Just Solved the Problem When He Was Arrested for Swindling.

Leopold Frank of 134 East 127th street was held in $300 bail for trial in the Harlem Police Court yesterday on two charges of obtaining money under false pretences. He got a job four months ago as clerk with Theo. Winninberg, who keeps a large dyeing establishment at 1989 Second avenue. Two months later Mr. Winninberg found a discrepancy in Frank's accounts. The young man was discharged, but was not prosecuted, because his offence was only trivial. Young Frank then devised three schemes to get money, and first put them into operation among the customers of Winninberg. His first scheme was to go to a customer's house and recite a pitiful tale about a sick brother, who, he said, was at home dying. His parents were in need of money, he said, and if the lady would only let him have $10 for a few days they would be deeply thankful. This plan was worked wherever he was convinced the people had money.

Another scheme was to go to the residences of some of Winninberg's customers and ask the men if they had any clothes they wanted cleaned or dyed. In many cases he succeeded in getting some very fine garments. He would take these clothes to another dyeing place, and, after having them repaired, would go to a pawnshop and get whatever he could on them. Another scheme was to represent himself as coming from Winninberg's to collect a bill. If the woman he saw did not owe any money she would say so; if she said she would pay it a certain day Frank would make a proposition to settle right there with her by making a big discount.

He continued to work these schemes until two weeks ago, when some of the people who had been caught by his glib tongue began to grow impatient about their property. Inquiries were made by some of Mr. Winninberg's customers, who wanted to know when they were going to get their clothes or the money they had loaned young Frank. Winninberg was so besieged with complaints and angry people that life became unbearable. He went to the Harlem Police Court and got a warrant for the young man's arrest, but Frank could not be found.

Yesterday Frank went into the store of Miss Jennie Abrams at 337 East Ninetieth street, and tried to work the "sick brother" scheme for the loan of $5. Miss Abrams had heard of the swindling schemes and she chased him out of the store. Frank started to run down First avenue with a crowd at his heels yelling "Stop thief!" Policeman Hamill of the East Eighty-eighth street station grabbed Frank and took him to the Harlem Police Court. There were a dozen people ready to enter complaints against the prisoner, who, they said, had swindled them out of money and clothes. Jacob Wolf, a tailor of 1881 Lexington avenue, said he had given Frank $10 worth of clothes to be dyed a month ago, but that he never brought them back. William Abrams, a liquor dealer of 21 Clinton street, said that young Frank came into his place on Dec. 6 and secured $10 on the "sick brother" dodge. Samuel Paulle, who lives at 2 West 133d street, said that Frank came to his house on the 29th of last month and took away with him clothes valued at $65. The clothes were to be cleaned. They have not been returned.

The police say that Frank succeeded in collecting at least $600 in money and clothes in less than six weeks. He was held for trial.

TROUBLES OF THE SCHRUMPFS.

Wife Alleges Cruelty and Husband Says She Is a Fortune Teller.

Vice-Chancellor Pitney heard testimony in Jersey City yesterday in the suit of Mrs. Helena Schrumpf of Spring street, West Hoboken, for separation from her husband, Gottfried Schrumpf. The plaintiff alleges cruel treatment on the part of her husband. Schrumpf retorts that almost her entire time is taken up with looking into the future for other people as a fortune teller and attending her society meetings, and that she neglects her household duties.

Mrs. Schrumpf testified that her husband struck her on Aug. 14, 1897, and called her vile names. She admitted that she told fortunes, but said that her husband never objected to her making money in that way. The money she made was used to purchase a lot in West Hoboken and to help build a house.

Helena Schrumpf, an 18-year-old daughter, testified that her father was always cruel to her mother. He said mean things to her.

"What did he say?" asked former Judge Hudspeth on cross-examination.

"Oh, I wouldn't repeat his language here," replied the witness, shuddering. The question was pressed, but the young woman firmly refused to answer. The witness admitted that her mother allowed her father to leave the house frequently in the morning without breakfast, and that she objected to her spending so much time at lodge meetings.

"Did you ever hear your mother swear at your father?" asked Judge Hudspeth.

"Oh, yes; more than once," replied Miss Schrumpf.

"What words were used?"

"I wouldn't mention what she said."

"Did your mother tell fortunes?"

"Yes, she did. She went to women she knew in Jersey City and Hoboken."

"You heard your father object to your mother telling fortunes, did you not?"

"Well, once in a while."

The witness said that lodge friends of her mother called on her frequently. The hearing will be continued next week.

ROBBERY BY NIGHTHAWKS.

This Cabman Had a "Spotter" to Pick Up Gold-Bearing Drunks for Him.

How certain nighthawk cabmen of the Tenderloin rob their fares was brought out yesterday in the General Sessions when John Strout was on trial for robbing Leonard S. Davis of 160 West Forty-sixth street.

Terence Reynolds, known in the case as a "spotter" for Strout, turned State's evidence and told the story.

"I spotted Davis," he said, "in Silver Dollar Smith's saloon at Thirty-first street and Sixth avenue and tipped off Strout. I told Strout Davis had a lot of sparklers, a gold watch and money. 'We got Davis outside and I got into Strout's cab with him. 'When he goes to sleep,' said Strout, 'you pinch the stuff!'"

Strout drove around for an hour, but Davis didn't go to sleep. When they got to Sixty-fifth street and the Boulevard Davis wanted a drink. The two got a drink for him and brought it to him and then got into a fight because Reynolds hadn't yet robbed him.

Reynolds said that Strout then went through Davis's pockets and took his watch, diamonds and money.

"All I got out of it," he declared pathetically, "was a 50-cent piece dated 1805, and when I went to spend it the bartender kicked and I got arrested."

Davis was thrown out of the cab as soon as he had been robbed. When he came to himself he went to the police. His watch and other valuables were found in pawn in Third avenue.

The jury convicted Strout and he may get twenty years.

Post—Hoppin.

The Brick Presbyterian Church was thronged yesterday afternoon at 3 o'clock, when Miss Katherine Beekman Hoppin was married to Allison Wright Post. The bride entered on the arm of her father, William Warner Hoppin. The bridesmaids were Miss Ethel Phelps, Miss Lena Morton, Miss Loys Swan of Utica, Miss Alice Post, Miss Elizabeth Emlen Hare and Miss Meiga Wood, niece of the Countess of Stafford. Miss Esther Phelps Hoppin, a sister of the bride, was the maid of honor. Arthur Turnbull was best man. G. Beekman Hoppin, the bride's brother; William Willis Reese, George Thornton Warren, Edwin S. Lewis, Valentine G. Hall and James W. Appleton were the ushers. The ceremony was followed by a small reception at the residence of the bride's parents, 47 West Fifty-third street.

Gay—Fanning.

BOSTON, Dec. 15.—Eben Howard Gay of Boston, a member of the Calumet Club of New York and the Country Club of Boston, was married this evening to Miss Cornelia Fanning, formerly of St. Paul, and well known in New York and Boston society. The wedding took place in King's Chapel, the Rev. Howard N. Brown officiating. Members of the Boston Symphony Orchestra furnished the music. William Gay, brother of the bridegroom, was best man. Miss Bixby of Roxbury was maid of honor, and the Misses Caroline and Marion Gay were flower girls. The ushers were Judge W. W. Wells of New Brunswick, Hull Gray, Assistant District Attorney of New York; Harrison B. Hodges, Addison Wilmurt, Cecil Hodgman, and W. K. Kress of New York, and Henry R. Grant and George L. Clark of Boston. A reception at the Tuileries followed the wedding.

Milligan—Wilkes.

PORT JERVIS, N. Y., Dec. 15.—Judge W. J. Milligan, Chief Deputy Collector of Internal Revenue of Philadelphia, and Mrs. Carrie Wells Wilkes of Port Jervis were married at 8:30 o'clock this evening at the bride's home, 26 Hammond street, by the Rev. George E. Gillespie. There was orchestral music and singing by Miss Marie Louise Gummer, the soloist of a New York city church.

GREAT BOOM IN OUR IRON.

THE OUTPUT NEVER SO GREAT, YET THE DEMAND EXCEEDS IT.

Present Capacity of United States Furnaces Establishes a New World's Record—The Trade Looking Forward to Even a Greater Boom at Home and Abroad in 1899.

From all the iron centres come reports of the great boom in American iron. During November the furnace capacity was increased, and the coke and anthracite plants at work are turning out more pig iron than they have ever done before in this or any other country. The 235,528 gross tons capacity of American furnaces on Dec. 1 is a new world's record. Furnace stocks have been further depleted, and outside of the steel works producing their own iron, there is not enough pig iron to last three weeks. The furnace stocks sold and unsold, amounting to over 800,000 tons on July 1, have been gradually cut down, and on Dec. 1 the total was less than 550,000 tons.

This is usually a dull season in the iron trade, but the mid-month market reports to the *Iron Age* show heavy buying and a consequent rise in prices. Everybody is looking forward to a still greater boom in 1899, both in the domestic and foreign trades. Here are some specimen reports:

Birmingham—"Pig Iron—The demand for the season of the year is heavy. The buyers were more anxious to secure the iron than the sellers were to part with it. The leading interest booked sales for 30,000 tons and declined orders for an equal amount, conditions and price not being acceptable. Compared with last year the export sales for this year, ending on Jan. 1, will show an increase and will approximate close to 250,000 tons. This trade has grown up to shipping facilities offered and will increase as they increase."

St. Louis—"Pig Iron—Encouraging reports are given this week, there having been some heavy buying, and at an unusual period for early delivery in 1899. Sales have been made to upward of 8,000 tons and prices are a trifle higher, an advance of 25 cents a ton having been announced by a Southern furnace. Buyers' disposition to hold back, usually manifested at this season of the year, is not seen and indications are that confidence is felt in the market. The export trade is stated as leading domestic sales in many instances and inquiries seem to justify continued foreign orders."

Pittsburg—"When it is considered that we are in the midst of December, always the dullest month of the year, the tonnage being entered by the mills for the various forms of iron and steel is simply marvellous, and is a forerunner of what may be expected in 1899. There is a heavy demand for all kinds of iron and steel, and prices are firm and higher."

Chicago—"Pig Iron—The market is boiling. Seldom, if ever, has such a large tonnage been placed in the same time in this district as during the past week. It is estimated at not far from 100,000 tons. A number of furnaces represented here have sold all of the iron they can conveniently deliver next year, and have retired from the market."

New York—"Export inquiries continue heavy. The bids for 32,000 tons of rails for Victoria, Australia, are to be opened on the 17th. An inquiry is now in the market for 200,000 tons of rails for Asiatic Russia, delivery to extend over two years."

The Treasury Bureau of Statistics reports that the total exports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof during October, 1898, footed up $7,299,895. For the first ten months of 1898 they were $67,290,560, as compared with $51,303,017 for the same time in 1897, and $38,857,645 in ten months of 1896. This shows that in two years they have nearly doubled.

THANKFUL FOR SMALL FAVORS.

Thieves Who Break Into a Church Scrawl a Sentiment on the Blackboard.

Robbers got into St. Simon's Protestant Episcopal Church and the parish house adjoining at Concord, Staten Island, at daylight yesterday, and took two pairs of gymnasium slippers and two sweaters. When the pastor, the Rev. H. Newman Lawrence, entered the building at 4 o'clock he found the cross and a pair of vases from the altar lying on the floor. The box containing the communion service had been forced, but the service, which is silver plated, was not disturbed. The room had been ransacked and vestments and other articles were strewn on the floor.

In the parish house, where the sewing societies of the church are accustomed to meet, work baskets, sewing articles and half-finished clothing were scattered about. The thieves scrawled this on the blackboard in the parish house:

THANKS FOR WHAT WE'VE GOT, SEE:

BALM IN CHECK AND LETTER.

The Continental Match Factory Makes Up with the Passaic Firemen.

PASSAIC, N. J., Dec. 15.—The Fire Department has received a check for $100 from Charles D. Shrady, manager of the Continental Match Factory, which is owned by Edwin Gould. A few weeks ago there was a fire in one of the factory buildings, and it was so well handled by the firemen that only the building where it originated was damaged. At previous fires the City Fire Department had been excluded from the works.

The factory maintained a fire brigade of its own. The last blaze was too much for the factory firemen, and they were glad to turn it over to the Passaic department. In the letter accompanying the check Mr. Shrady said he regretted the past differences between the management of the factory and the Fire Department, and that in the future the factory firemen would coöperate with the city force.

Loving Cup for Judge Fitzgerald.

Just as Judge James Fitzgerald of the General Sessions was about to go into court yesterday a delegation of business men, headed by Michael Levy of 7 John street, called upon him bearing among them a silver, gold-lined loving cup. Mr. Levy, acting as spokesman for the party, presented the cup to Judge Fitzgerald, declaring that the cup "Is not as deep as the esteem of the givers nor as precious as the sincere friendship which they offer, but the silver is as sterling as your judicial character and the gold lining as bright as the future that we hope is before you."

Judge Fitzgerald accepted the cup in a fitting reply. The delegation which presented it consisted of about fifty men, some of whom had served as jurors before Judge Fitzgerald. The same delegation called upon him just before the late election and offered to support him in his canvass for Supreme Court Justice.

Two hearts can make a love affair, but it takes three, at least, to make a home, and one of them must be that of a baby. The young married couples that start out in life with the idea that children are nuisances, and that they do not want and will not have them, are the kind that you read about every day in the newspapers—in the divorce column. A home without children is not a home. God and Nature never intended that there should be a place called home that did not resound with the patter of childish footsteps.

There are tens of thousands of homes that are childless because of the ill-health of the wife and would-be mother. There are tens of thousands of other homes childless because the little ones have died almost as soon as they were born. In both cases Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription is a sovereign remedy. It acts directly on the delicate and important organs that make wifehood and motherhood possible. It makes them well, strong, vigorous, virile, and elastic. It does away with the dangers of maternity. It banishes the usual discomforts of the expectant period and makes baby's advent easy and almost painless. It insures the little new comer's health and an ample supply of nourishment. The prospective mother prepares herself for maternity by taking the "Favorite Prescription" and gives her child a fair start in life by giving it a strong and well developed body. Thousands of homes that were childless, to-day echo with babies' laughter, and bless this great medicine. Thousands of women who were weak, nervous, despondent invalids, are to-day happy, healthy wives and mothers because of this medicine. Medicine dealers sell it.

Constipation kills slowly—but it kills. Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets cure it.

WILLIAM W. WHITEHILL MISSING.

**A Cigar Manufacturer of Warren